



NED's NEWS

A monthly newsletter for members and friends of the
Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



APRIL 2022

1946 - 2022 / 75+1 years!

Vol. 5 / Issue 4

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About "LINKS"

Links to online web pages and email addresses are provided here in this PDF doc throughout in text - and images.

Almost all are interactive - just hover & select and your browser will do the rest!

District Web Page:
NEDistrict.org

Society Web Page:
barbershop.org

BHS Member Center
Login here: **MEMBERS**

Submit articles and other information for the NED News to Ed Fritzen:
elfritze@gmail.com

The deadline for the next **NED News** is Sunday, May 15

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1. Letter from the ... *VP of Choral Director Development*

Hi Folks!

I've had the opportunity to present a talk about memorizing music to a few choruses around the district, so I thought I would share some of the tools with you in **NED News!**

Memorized music was one of the hallmarks of the barbershop style that brought me to this art form. Many of the pieces I had done in other ensembles, I quickly forgot since we were using sheet music in concert. I wanted to be able to sing the songs while doing dishes, around campfires, etc.

While looking for a way to make this topic more interesting, I thought of my training as a teacher around the way different students learn concepts. Not all students learn through the same modality: some learn best using pictures, some by hearing the teacher talk, and others by working with their hands to construct something that pertains to the concept. So I thought I could help our singers by guiding them toward a learning style for memorizing music that might fit them best.

This site (link) has a series of 20 questions that can inform you of your learning style preferences as an auditory, visual, or kinesthetic learner. There are also other learning styles that I'll mention at the end. Please take the survey and then find the memorizing tips that suit your learning style below. I hope you find a new technique that can help you get past the words and notes learning, so you can start to make the music!

I. Auditory Learners

A. Listen to your part only on the learning track.

1. Pay attention, not just background music.
2. Introduce the other parts using the "pan" function, if available. Or use Audacity.
3. Eventually sing your part with only the other three parts playing.

B. Speak the lyrics of a section of the song 3-5 times without mistakes.

C. Speak the lyrics in the rhythm of the song. (also good for vowel purity!)

D. Speak the lyrics as a poem. (also good for word emphasis and phrasing!) >>>



NED Western Regional Convention Saturday BIG SHOW • 7:15PM • April 30 • Queensbury High School

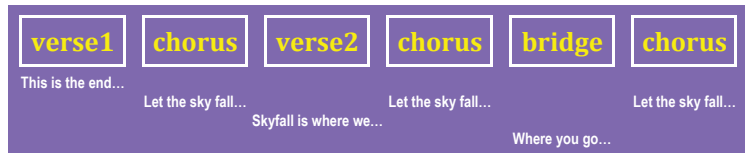


E. Learn one section of the song. Put the music down and practice just that part.

F. Work backwards! Learn the tag, then the section before it. Each time you practice, you are reinforcing the end parts you've learned.

II. Visual Learners

A. Draw a map of the song, like so:



B. Write down the lyrics in your own handwriting.

C. Create images in your head that go along with the lyrics. Play the “movie” when you start singing the song.

Example song (link).

D. Draw the images of the song out as a “graphic novel.”

E. Look at the music while you listen to the learning tracks, even just to see the notes go up or down.

F. Highlight the different sections (intro, verse, chorus) in different colors.

III. Kinesthetic Learners

A. Sing sections “on repeat.” Learn by doing.

B. Make up sign language gestures for the song. Act out the song.

C. Make up a dance for the song.

D. Sing from the start until you make a mistake. Then stop and go back to the beginning. Only practice the correct words and notes.

Here are some bonus learning styles that may resonate with you!

IV. Social Learners

Social learners show preference towards groups and collaboration. Some, but not all, will gravitate towards leadership within a group. Some of the qualities often associated with this type of learner include being extroverted, a good communicator, and being empathetic.

A. Ask for sectional rehearsals or practice with your section

before rehearsals.

B. Talk about the song as a group at a rehearsal. How does the song make you feel? What emotions do you want the audience to feel? What life experience do you have that relates to this song?

C. Think about each sentence. Why did the lyricist word it this way?

Ex. Ed Sheeran’s *Photograph* - *So you can keep me inside the pocket of your ripped jeans:*

Why did he use “Keep” vs. “put” and “ripped jeans” vs. “old jeans?”

D. Understand the lyrics in order to memorize the lyrics!

V. Logical Learners (i.e. baritones! Haha, not always, I know)

Perhaps unsurprisingly, mathematical learners err towards careers in programming, accountancy, science, research and other number and pattern-oriented careers. Some qualities associated with mathematical learners include pattern recognition, good with numbers, and predisposition towards grouping and classification.

A. Look for patterns in the song. Does it repeat? What are the differences between the notes in the first, second and third verses? How many “Na na nas” are there?

B. If you know music theory, perform chord analysis and look for patterns.

C. Come up with a mnemonic device to remember verse lyrics. (i.e., ‘Heart of my Heart’ has ‘South Dakota’ for ‘sweetest’ then ‘dearest.’)

D. Make a flowchart for the song.

So, I hope you find a few techniques tailored to your learning style in this article and that you will try out something new on your next song! Physiologically, memories need to move from short-term centers to long-term centers in your brain. Frequent repetition and practice will enhance your memorization techniques, as well as practicing before bed. Good luck, NED! Your directors will thank you!

~ Dan Falcone

NED VP - Chorus Director Development

dan.falcone@dresden.us

2. Eastern Regional Contest Results *(Hyannis, Cape Cod - April 8-9)*

Congratulations to all the competitors at our Eastern Regional Convention. This serves as a summary of the results. Full score sheets can be found on our website. <https://www.nedistrict.org/scores>

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Sweet and Sour</i> | Granite & Pine Division Quartet Champion |
| <i>Points North</i> | Granite & Pine Division Men's Quartet Champion |
| <i>Sweet and Sour</i> | Granite & Pine Division Mixed Harmony Quartet Champion |
| <i>Inside Track</i> | Granite & Pine Division Seniors Quartet Champion |
| <i>Second Nature</i> | Patriot Division Quartet Champion |
| <i>Second Nature</i> | Patriot Division Men's Quartet Champion |
| <i>Rhythm Method</i> | Patriot Division Women's Quartet Champion |
| <i>Why Not?</i> | Patriot Division Mixed Harmony Quartet Champion |
| <i>Trade Secret</i> | Patriot Division Seniors Quartet Champion |
| <i>Forte'</i> | Patriot Division Novice Quartet Champion |
| <i>Greenlight, Points North, Sweet & Sour</i> | International Qualifiers |
| <i>Downeasters</i> | Granite & Pine Division Chorus Champions and Men's Chorus Champion |
| <i>VoxStars</i> | Granite & Pine Division Mixed Harmony Chorus Champion |
| <i>Voices United</i> | Patriot Division Chorus Champion |
| <i>Narragansett Bay Chorus</i> | Patriot Division Men's Chorus Champion |
| <i>Voices United</i> | Patriot Division Mixed Harmony Chorus Champion |
| <i>New Sound Assembly</i> | Patriot Division Small Chorus Champion |

3. One Person's Experience at our Eastern Regional

*The following was submitted by **Bob Bernard**, of the Providence, RI chapter - **Narragansett Bay Chorus** (host chapter) relating his experiences at our **Eastern Regional Convention** in Hyannis, Mass. - April 8-9. It's published here as a public thanks to him and to our hard working Board and Events Team who make these conventions possible. Thank you, Bob!*

My adventure begins with a phone call asking me if I would be willing to pick up a contest judge at the airport and drive him to the hotel on Cape Cod. I was happy to say yes with the understanding that I would not be attending the NBC chorus rehearsal that evening. I added another night for the hotel because the judge was arriving on Thursday.

When I received an email with the information for all the drivers and judges, I noticed that my cell phone number was incorrect. I contacted **David (Scarchilli)** (host-chapter co-chair) and he thanked me for the correction. As I reviewed the same document I noticed that my name was also spelt wrong and would be easily confused with another member of the chorus. David was glad to make the correction. I had two judges to pick up. Thursday morning early I sent a text to both judges. I had an immediate response from **Kevin Keller**, informing me that he was not arriving until the next day. I passed this on to David. It was a pleasure chatting with **Bill McLaurine**, the administrative judge, as we drove to the convention site in Hyannis.

Thursday evening I had a call from David. Since I was already on the Cape, would I mind helping the riser people, set them up on Friday at noon. I told him that I had a luncheon scheduled for noon with several family members. He responded with "family comes first." I did offer to help until 11:45am, if he needed me. >>>

Friday morning it was very quiet as my wife Jean and I walked to the convention ballroom, about 10 am. I saw all the risers and other equipment laying on the floor. This is the exciting part of the story. I had seen many important faces at a few dozen division and district contests, but didn't know most of their names. These are some of the people who make everything happen. First was **Bob Bradley**. We chatted, and I mentioned that I would love to help set things up but needed to leave by 11:45. He introduced me to **Ed Durkee**, and we began setting up all the items for the stage. I finished in time to make it to my luncheon appointment on time. I also met and chatted with **Alan Lamson**, his wife, and also **Steve Salamin**. I then sent a text to David for him to take the day off as all the equipment was all in place.

My wife **Jean** had been asked to assist with the VIP Section of seats. And this afforded me a chance to meet some other important people. What I was learning was something I already knew. That a handful of people do an extraordinary amount of work to keep our divisions and district running smoothly. When everything was finished Saturday evening, I could not stop myself from helping to take down all the risers and equipment and haul it to the truck in the rear. There were several other volunteers and we worked together well and were pretty efficient in completing the work. I look forward to other opportunities to serve. What I have come away with from this experience is a great appreciation for all the wonderful hard working dedicated men and women who sacrifice and serve to allow us ordinary barbershoppers to enjoy a carefree contest and concentrate on the beautiful music and skill of the those who compete and entertain us. I now know many of the special souls that make things happen. I had a rare opportunity to socialize and get to know these committed members of our great society. I thank them all for their service to us.

Sincerely, **Bob Bernard**

4. Singing is Back with Manchester's *Outdoor A Cappella Festival*

The ***Silk City Chorus*** and ***MOSAIC*** return to performing at an ***Outdoor A Cappella Festival***.

The Manchester Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society will stage an exciting afternoon festival of a cappella music on May 7 (rain date May 8). The event will feature a variety of a cappella groups from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. Both Manchester chapter choruses, the ***Silk City Chorus*** and ***MOSAIC*** will entertain you.

Several quartets will be there! ***Round Midnight*** is a top 10 quartet that has been together nearly 20 years. ***VOCE*** placed 6th at the 2019 Sweet Adelines world championship. ***Destination*** recently placed third at the 2021 Barbershop Harmony Society Northeastern District contests.

Our special guest coach is the well known ***Deke Sharon***. Deke is frequently referred to as the "Father of A Capella." He led the ***Pitch Perfect*** films and produced the TV Show ***The Sing Off***. He will coach groups that arrange for a session in advance, and

conduct an a cappella workshop from the concert stage.

Our Chapter will continue its tradition of hosting exciting young performers. Performance opportunities are being offered to local High School and College groups, making this event a true celebration of a cappella music in Connecticut.

The Festival will be on the grounds of the Glastonbury Elks Lodge, located at 98 Woodland Street, South Glastonbury, CT. The Festival will also include a variety of food trucks and local vendors on site.

General admission, "seat yourself" tickets are \$15. Students and Seniors - \$10. Age 5 and under is free. Limited reserved seating is \$25. This is an outside venue, only the Reserved seating will have the chairs.

Afterglow to be held at the Elks Lodge following the festival.

For tickets, see outdooracappellafest.org - or please call Bob McCarthy at 860-468-5922.

5. Request for Articles

In celebration of the **NED 75th Anniversary** as a district it was suggested to me that perhaps we can publish in the newsletter some articles written by some of the district's distinguished members who might have some recollections or stories about the early days of the Northeastern District. I have some men in mind, who I will ask directly, but I thought I'd ask the entire district first. You can submit any articles to elfritze@gmail.com. Thanks!



6. Recognitions

The Nor'easters Honor Larry Larochelle

The *Nor'easters Barbershop Chorus* based in Bath, Maine, recently honored **Armand "Larry" Larochelle** for his 46 years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Besides contributing his great bass voice to the chorus and quartets within the chorus in the greater mid-coast (Maine) area, Larry served for many years as the chorus librarian and a faithful and effective fundraiser for the chorus. He remains an active member.

The chorus is grateful for his contribution, but so are the many audiences who enjoyed his rich bass voice.



Harpswell Man Honored by Nor'easters Barbershop Chorus



Lee Johnson (former Harpswell Animal Control Officer) has been honored by the *Nor'easters Barbershop Chorus* of Brunswick with heartfelt thanks for his service to the chorus as President of the Board from 2015-2021. His efforts and dedication as President were greatly appreciated by the Chorus Board and membership.

The chorus performs concerts in the Mid-coastal area, sometimes as fundraisers for local charities, and sometimes just because they like to sing. At Christmas, they sing at various assisted living facilities and nursing homes in the area, and at Valentine's Day, they deliver Singing Valentines to men and women at their homes or places of employment.

HXNE provides top-notch vocal coaching and choral instruction in one unique, dynamic and FUN weekend!



You know this! It's an awesome 3-day FUN, educational, enthusiastic, encouraging and energizing **SINGING MUSIC CAMP** for ALL high-school students. There's a track for Peer Leaders and Music Educators, too!

Thurs.-Sun., August 4-5-6-7
<https://www.nedistrict.org/hxne>

Please! WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We really could use your support today!

- **Advertise!** Post/share in your schools/communities!
- **Recruit** youth! Guys and gals in schools!
- **Donate** directly to HXNE (online).
- **Donate** through your chapter!
- **Sponsor** a "camper."
- **Attend** the big **Saturday Night Showcase!**
- **Discover** and **use** the marketing tools -online- to promote!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW - Early-bird rates in effect!

Thank you for your support and assistance!

Learn more about this amazing singing opportunity for youth:

Contact: Andrea Bossie, Camp Director - hxne@nedistrict.org

7. NED Events & Other Important Dates —

Now on the [District Calendar](#) (link).

Organizers: Please submit/provide/verify your future event date, time and link. Attending? Look at the online calendar!

| DATE | DAY(S) | EVENT | INFO (PDF LINK) | LOCATION |
|-------------|-------------|--|------------------------|--|
| Apr. 29-30 | Fri.-Sun. | NED Western Regional Convention and Contests | SELECT | Queensbury (NY) High School. |
| April 30 | Saturday | BIG SHOW at Western — featuring <i>OC Times & Parkside Harmony!</i> | SELECT | Queensbury (NY) High School. |
| May 7 | Saturday | Chapter Show: Manchester, CT, <i>Mosaic & Silk City Chorus</i> OUTDOOR A CAPPELLA FEST (<i>afternoon and evening event</i>) | SELECT | Elks Lodge & Pavilion, Glastonbury CT |
| June 4 | Saturday | Chapter Show: Danbury, CT - <i>Mad Hatter Chorus</i> | SELECT | First Congregational Church of Danbury |
| July 3-10 | Sun.-Sun. | BHS International Convention | SELECT | Charlotte, NC |
| July 24-31 | Sun.-Sun. | BHS Harmony University | SELECT | Loyola University New Orleans |
| Aug. 4-7 | Thurs.-Sun. | NED Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast (HXNE) | SELECT | Worcester State Univ. |
| Aug. 5-7 | Fri.-Sun. | NED Harmony College Northeast (HCNE) | SELECT | Worcester State Univ. |
| Aug. 19-21 | Fri.-Sun. | Meredith Bay Barbershop Jamboree | SELECT | Meredith, NH |
| Sept. 16-18 | Fri.-Sun. | New England Harmony Brigade 9th Annual Rally | SELECT | Marlborough, MA |

* Please note ~ Chapter Secretary, Marketing VP, Events VP: **INFO links** are provided to your web site event or calendar listing, if available. Links cannot be provided to Events on other social media sites (e.g. Facebook).

8. Video of the Month

Just in case you missed this on the BHS YouTube Channel, released just last week - here's *Off The Chart*, one of the NED's International Seniors Quartet Contest Representatives, at the 2022 Midwinter, with their performance of **Craig Minor's** arrangement of **Steam Heat**. Way to go guys!

<https://youtu.be/q3y8buqwJDC>



FALL DISTRICT • SAINT JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK • CANADA OCTOBER 21-23

PASSPORT SERVICES

GOT PASSPORT?

PROCESSING TIMES

EXPEDITED

Processing takes
5-7 weeks

United States of America

ROUTINE

Processing takes
8-11 weeks

Processing times do not include mailing times. Mailing times vary across the country. Check your application status online at passportstatus.state.gov. It may take up to 2 weeks from the day you apply until your application is "In Process."

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports.html>

Please send articles of interest to Ed Fritzen by **Sunday, May 15** for inclusion in the next **NED•News**. elfritze@gmail.com