

September 2011 Edition



A newsletter expressly for Desert Aires Members

September 2011

What a Bash!

by Larry Callagher

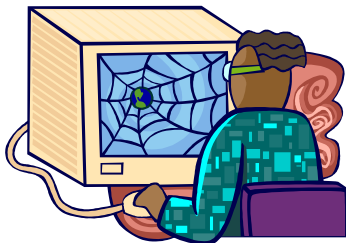
Special points of interest:

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Checkout Your Chapter's New Website

www.desertaires.net

Check out the latest Buddy List and Sing-Outs plus learning tracks and sheet music for the 2012 Show.



Well, most of you missed it again. The Arizona Division annual Fred Koch Memorial Bash was held Friday and Saturday, August 19th and 20th, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tempe.

There were attendees from every chapter in Arizona. We had, I believe, 12 guys there on Saturday (10 were in the VLQ) and 5 or 6 were there Friday. There were several visitors from outside Arizona, most notably Don Salz, who hails from the Sacramento CA area and is the son of our own Joe Salz.

The weekend began with folks arriving and checking into the hotel on Friday afternoon. Open wood-shedding and casual singing filled the time until the Parade of Quartets in the evening. The show started with the Arizona Youth Chorus directed by Dan Ryan. Dan invited men from the audience to join the young men and they performed two numbers.

PHX introduced the division to their new lead singer Lenny Miller, and brought back their old bass Curt McLees. There are great things in store for this new combination. Also performing was "**Priority Male**" a Jazz/Rock ensemble of ten ASU students. Great singing and lots of fun.

The evening was capped off with a performance by **Audacity**, the 2009 International Seniors Quartet Champion.

Saturday started off with the Annual Deserts Knights Memorial Golf Tournament. The coveted traveling green championship Blazer was won by Ray Murray of the Mesa Chapter. It was reported that every participant in the tournament shot a score lower than the temperature (116).

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Bash Photo courtesy of Dave Starcevich's fiancé, Christine Till



Our VLQ was well represented at the Bash. Thanks to Larry Callagher for organizing our efforts and to all those who participated. Mark your calendar for next August for the 2012 Bash.

Music Notes: Tenuto

Tenuto can mean either hold the note in question its full length (or longer, with slight rubato) or else play the note slightly louder.



A Little Humor to Fill the Page

An amateur pilot wannabe, I knew I'd finally made progress with my flight training the day my instructor turned to me and said, "You know, you're not as much fun since you stopped screaming."

Harmony Lines



Spotlight on New Member: Carl Spencer



A Nebraska native, Carl was a farmer, an educator, a minister and a project manager.

After teaching ten years, Carl developed and managed several projects in teacher education. He joined Battelle in Columbus, developing and managing several projects including an ongoing project with the Department of Energy to evaluate security programs and document work procedures.

Carl's formal education includes a Masters degree in American History and a Doctorate in Continuing Education.

His wife is a former college president at community colleges in Dallas TX and Farmington NM. Together they have eight children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Prior to his move to Arizona, Carl was an active member of the Four Corners Harmony Chapter in Farmington for seven years.

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest member and a baritone, Carl Spencer.

What's Behind the Song? Did you know this?

Sweet Adeline

Richard Gerard wrote the lyrics to the music that Henry Armstrong created in 1903. Gerard worked for the New York Post Office and the song was his only claim to fame. He composed this ballad of humble sentiment that has broken the hearts of more than bar-room quartets.

Gerard admitted to an interviewer that the song was inspired by a girl who worked at the music counter of a New York department store.

According to the story, about this time Gerard and Armstrong happened to see a poster announcing the farewell concert tour of the famed prima donna, Adelina Patti. That was it! The girl in the song would be Adeline and the title shortened to, simply, "Sweet Adeline".

Today this song is not only a favorite with members of the Barbershop Harmony Society, but has also furnished the name of *The Sweet Adelines, Inc.* for female singers. John J. Fitzgerald—JFK's grandfather—used "Sweet Adeline" as the theme song for two successful campaigns that resulted in his being elected Mayor of Boston!

Harmony Lines

for Desert Aires Members

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So many songs;

so little time.

-J. Vincent

What a Bash! (Continued...)

Saturday evening consisted of a VLQ contest (we won, but didn't get the prize). There were three contestants; Mesa (et al); Greater Phoenix; Sun Cities. There was one novice quartet which was formed the afternoon of the event.

Out of, I think, nine "Luck of the Draw Quartets", four sang "Sweet Roses of Morn". I had the honor of singing in one that sang a different song. The quartets that sang something else were very popular.

The weekend was a tremendous success. A great time was had by all.

- Larry Callagher

Sing Out Performances Planned Through 2011

Mark your calendars for these performances for the Desert Aires Chorus with our "Erin Go Broadway" show:

Friday, October 14th at 6:00 PM at Glencroft Retirement Center in Glendale

Friday, October 21st at 3:30 PM at Heritage Palmeras in Sun City

Sunday, October 23rd at 2:30 PM at Theater Works in Peoria

Wednesday, October 26th at 7:00 PM at Grandview Terrace in Sun City West

Thursday, November 10th at 7:15 PM at Luke AFB in Peoria

Friday, November 18th at 2:30 PM at Montecito Retirement Center in Peoria

December 2nd or 9th—Glendale Glitters; Actual date and time TBA

Friday, December 16th at 10:00 AM at Banner Olive Branch Senior Center in Sun City