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If using e-mail, the address is and it is the fastest method of sending articles. Send typewritten articles to the editor/publisher. Good quality photographs with a good contrast may also be accepted for articles. Be certain to identify all the people in the photograph.

Change of Address

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Make cheques payable to the Ontario District, SPEBSQSA and submit with advertisement to the editor.

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Subscription rate: *Others, \$10 / year (US Funds).* ✱

Fascinating!

By Waldo Redekop, Trillium Editor

In my over 30 years in this hobby, I have been privileged to take part in or witness some very enjoyable events. One such event that I found fascinating took place on Saturday, November 4, 2006.

Donna and I got out of bed before 5 a.m. (as did many of the *Toronto Northern Lights* members) to be in London for the *Ontario Music Educators Association's* conference. **John Kirby** had said that **Dr. Gage Averill** was to give the keynote address and was using TNL for a demonstration. TNL was also going to be teaching a master class on barbershopping following the keynote address.

Prior to the address, the *Ontario Provincial Honour Band 2006*, conducted by **Dr. Mark Hopkins**, performed. This band with 46 members (according to the program) gave a magnificent performance of some very hard to play pieces. The band members are chosen from demo tapes sent in and the members come from many schools in Ontario. They met the previous Sunday at which time they saw the music for the first time. During the week they gave concerts in various locations, culminating with the Keynote Address Performance.

Dr. Averill gave a brief history of barbershop music using a power point demonstration and actual recordings from the 1800s. He used the TNL as a demonstration chorus to allow the audience to hear what it was that he was talking about. Spontaneous standing ovations from the very attentive audience of music teachers were a delight to behold.

After an intermission in which OMEA members went to various workshops, those who wanted to hear the master class demonstration of barbershop music stayed in the auditorium. The director of TNL, **Steve Armstrong**, then gave a class, most of which a lot of us non-music teachers did not really understand.

Steve talked about how barbershop music is based on the circle of fifths and how the progressions are made (amazing what I learned at *Harmony College North*). He said that he would hold up fingers to indicate which number chord they were at so that the teachers would understand the progression of chords.

As Steve started out, when he held up his fingers for the third chord, a number of heads in front of me were shaking sideways as if to say he was wrong. Steve realized he had missed a chord and apologized (the heads nodded up and down) and he would start over. Fascinating how all those teachers could hear this. I just sat there and said to myself, "Isn't this great barbershop music?" and was immersed in the moment. Maybe this is why the music judges often differ in their scoring from mine at conventions when I think someone else sounded better. Needless to say, I'm not a music judge, but still, I do enjoy fine music, and a lot of it is being sung during this season.

So, from Donna and I, **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. Here's wishing next year is even better for you than this year. ✱



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