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## Fund Raising Forsyth Singer Style

Bill Rowe



I felt it was necessary to include a picture for the uninitiated and for those who might have thought I just can't spell. This is a **pasty**, originally a Cornish creation brought to this area by Cornish immigrants who came here to work in the copper and iron mines. It has since been adopted by almost everyone in the area.

"What is a pasty?" you say. Well the crust is made up of flour, lard, salt and

water. The ingredients are diced potatoes, beef, pork, rutabagas and onions with salt, pepper and parsley for seasoning. There are variations, but ours is basic and deemed the best by many of our faithful customers.

Making pasties is very labor-intensive, even with mechanical dicers for the vegetables. The plus is that all of the Singers and significant others get to spend a lot of time together and generally have a good time even though it is a lot of work. The only immediate benefit is free breakfast on the Saturday when we put together all of the previously-prepared ingredients and make the pasties.

I guess you could say this is a tried and true fund raiser, as we have been using it for most of our 30 years. The pasties weigh over 3/4 lb each and currently sell for \$2.50, which makes a cheap meal. Since the labor is free, we clear about \$1.00 per pasty and make between 500 and 700 pasties about 4 times a year. Pasties are best when eaten fresh, but freeze well. We have sent them as far away as Seattle, Washington. The condiment of choice is ketchup, but some use gravy; my personal choice is dill pickle juice (I think I'm the only one favoring this).

Our best guesstimate is that over the years we have made and sold over 54,600 pasties. As a result the chorus has been able to cover bus and motel costs for Singers and significant others for all of our trips, including all International Sings, and one mini sing in Hamilton, Ontario, as well as district sings out of the area, 3 sets of uniforms over the years, and music as required. We have also been able to keep our dues at \$12.00 per year.

## Another Outstanding WUM District Sing

Vicki Holsworth, Negaunee Director

The Negaunee Male Chorus hosted the 2006 Wisconsin/Upper Michigan District Sing in Ishpeming, Michigan, on Saturday, May 13, 2006. The

weekend started with a reception on Friday night, hosted by the Negaunee Chorus. As near as we can tell, we sang every song we knew and even a few we didn't. It was lots of fun and a great start to the weekend.

An appreciative audience at historic W.C. Peterson Auditorium was treated to "Music of America," enthusiastically performed by about 120 of our district singers. Each individual chorus performed three

pieces to interpret the "Music of America" theme. Individual Chorus performances included: Marquette's "American Ladies," Gwinn's "All the Gold in California is Down in the Cotton Pickin' Valley," Munising's entertaining version of "Romantic Rock 'n' Roll," Nicolet's "Amber Waves of Grain," Milwaukee's new, energetic director leading them with "Spacious Skies" selections, and Negaunee's "From Sea to Shining Sea," all sub-themes coalescing into a grand night of singing the "Music of America."

This year's "Afterglow" format offered something new. Each group performed one or two selections individually, and then performed a favorite number from the common repertoire; all choruses joined for a final massed number. It was loads of fun, and the house was rocking with sounds of boisterous singing. And those fun loving Milwaukee guys stole the show with a "torchy" duet by Rob Clark and Steve Erdmann, with their sizzling rendition of "All I Have to Do Is Dream" by the Everly Brothers. Those Milwaukee boys sure know how to have a good time!!

The 2006 Wisconsin/Upper Michigan District Scholarship Recipient was Danielle Holsworth, daughter of Dan and Diane Holsworth of Champion, Michigan. Danielle recently graduated from Westwood High School in West Ishpeming, where she was a member of the very popular local group, "Voices in Motion." She performed with Regional, State, and All-State Honors Choirs. A member of the National Honor Society and the Youth Advisory Committee, she also finds time to play tennis and baseball, and was a member of the 2003 state championship girls' basketball team. She is an incredibly talented young lady with a vibrant personality. She is attending Northern Michigan University this fall.

## So What Do We Look Like Now?

 Ric Addenbrooke

[This is an excerpt from the Chairman's summer article posted on the Website.]

I want to break the question down to three segments to evaluate from my perspective; then you be the judge of your perspective and send me a note ([rica@pce.net](mailto:rica@pce.net)).

"Are these ideas doing - what our mission says - we want?"

- Are these ideas doing

Well, in the context of projects and work done in the Association the last fiscal year, the items discussed as needing attention were addressed; they were prioritized for need and checked against current resources, assigned champions or mentors available and placed into operations as progress allowed. We may not have feedback to date on much of the accomplishments – communications still requires the troops to answer – but, yes we are working, talking, thinking and "doing"!

- what our mission says

The area of "mission" may be in contention with some, as the Association does not have a mission statement other than what we post more as a motto: Good Singing, Good Fellowship, Public Service. (This was discussed a couple years ago, and we determined to leave as is.) The issues wanted then must be determined by the membership to meet the needs of their singing, fellowship, and service; the representation they establish must bring these items to the attention of the Association. Members wishing a change must be heard and responses made to all of interest. Thus, until we define an official "mission statement," our mission remains to do the best we can to observe "Good Singing, Good Fellowship, Public Service," for the members in this Association.

- we want?

The "we" of this part is the Association, all of us together, as a corporate group. It is also at times the parts of us – a chorus or district, a committee chair or officer, the Executive Council; and the individual member is of foremost importance. We are the Association in so much as we represent the whole, or parts of the whole.

The "want?" is something yet to be discovered. Yes, I left the "?" in on purpose! I have written in prior articles that communication needs to improve to a two-way action. We need to hear more from the membership, continually. Yet, for those items we get discussions on, I believe this Executive Council has done well to come to agreements and consensus or ask for more information brought to the next meeting.

What do we want? Obviously, “Good Singing, Good Fellowship, Public Service,” – a lot more feedback would help, please.

What the AMCA is trying to do, and the plans the officers are working on, are being reported to the membership, the districts and the Executive Council. I don’t feel the communications are good yet, and I have heard that from several sources. We are seeking member involvement at all levels and expect response to that request to get things done. Many projects depend on an *active* membership.

We have the AMCA BIG SING, in Eau Claire, scheduled – please be involved! We seek members for offices – please be involved! There are projects, programs and initiatives throughout the Association – please be involved! The work done to rejuvenate the AMCA this year depends upon active members – please be involved!

I tend to cultivate an optimistic view where I can, but I would be pleased to hear from you about concerns and suggestions. I trust your “snapshot” of the Association is near as good as mine. As we start this next year, I wish all choruses a great season of Good Singing, Good Fellowship, Public Service. I hope every member has enjoyed a great summer and has come back full of vigor and ambitions. Thank you very much for your help and encouragement.

## Songs of the Sea, Sailors and Their Ships

 Al Robertson

[Once again, Dr. Al presents us with some very useful and interesting notes about the music we sing.]

Musicologist, collector and performer of folk music, Tom Scott, classified sea chanteys into two categories: work songs and foc’sle melodies; the latter sung by sailors not on watch.

### WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE DRUNKEN SAILOR

Traditional English Chantey

Arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

This is known as a "Runaway" work song when four or more deck hands would drag a long length of heavy rope up and around the length of the deck in rhythm with the melody. This was done to lay it out for measurement or drying; when measured and spliced it would be used to replace, repair or augment standing rigging or the ship's anchor cable.

(Robert Shaw Choral Series #51053; Lawson-Gould Publishers; Alfred Music, distributors)

### LOWLANDS

Traditional English Chantey

Arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

This capstan- or anchor-raising chantey's melody is said to derive from an old Celtic or English ballad. The image of a dead loved one’s appearing in a sailor's dream is found in Irish AND Scottish folklore. Scott reported that he had heard this version from elderly former sea captains who sailed out of Nantucket or New York City. This intricate arrangement of a simple melody transforms it into a major choral work of evocative imagery and power.

(Baritone solo section with four part harmony - best performed a capella)

(Robert Shaw Choral Series # 51059; Lawson-Gould Publishers; Alfred Music, distributors)

### HIGH BARBARY

Traditional Chantey

Arranged by Arthur T. Hall

In its original form, with no change in rhythm or tempo, this could well have been either a work chantey or sung as a foc’sle song. While piracy along the Mediterranean coast of Africa existed for centuries, events came to head in 1805, when the U.S. Congress declared war and President Jefferson sent a small fleet to battle the Barbary pirates and bombard their stronghold ports.

(Yale Glee Club Series #15; Published by G. Schirmer Inc., New York)

### THE DRUMMER AND THE COOK

Comic English Music Hall Song

Arranged by Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Although Scott attributed its origin to a late 19th century English music hall ballad, it eventually made its way to the seaman's repertoire as a foc'sle ballad. The lyrics tell of the romantic progress of a traveling salesman, a "Drummer" in the vernacular of the time and his partially-sighted love, a professional cook. At the wedding ceremony, her eye that "gliffed" the parson actually stunned him, while the other eye's glance killed the church clerk who was recording the marriage in the Parish Register.

(Robert Shaw Choral Series # 51057; Lawson-Gould Publishers; G. Schirmer sales representative)

## A New Season Startup

 Ric Addenbrooke


[This is a teaser from Ric's latest article on the Web. Please go read the whole thing, and while you're there, look at all the other information David Thomas provides ([http://amcofa.net/x/06Startup\\_Addenbrooke.shtml](http://amcofa.net/x/06Startup_Addenbrooke.shtml)).]

**Start a new season with positive words of encouragement.**

**Set pace for moving faster, better right up front.**


**Accommodate Web writings, focus on other officers' contributing.**

## Email Contacts Needed!

 Ed Armbruster

We must have reliable e-mail contacts in every chorus. We are asking for each chorus to designate two e-mail contacts for the purpose of receiving any news and delivering that news to the chorus at the soonest opportunity. We have been preparing to answer to the membership for some time and now we need to hear from them. Go to Ric's Web article ([http://amcofa.net/x/06Startup\\_Addenbrooke.shtml](http://amcofa.net/x/06Startup_Addenbrooke.shtml)) and use the Submit Chorus Contact Names button. Please!!

## What is Your Chorus Doing This Fall?

 Ed Armbruster

As always, this newsletter is only as good as the material YOU send me. I'm always looking for descriptions of interesting activities in which your choruses are involved. I'd like to send out another edition before the Christmas season hits in earnest (I know, a lot of your groups are already working on the music). E-mail me at [ed\\_armbruster@msn.com](mailto:ed_armbruster@msn.com) with your reports. Don't worry about how they're written; that's the job of an editor. Just get me the information!