

RMD Weekly

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARMONY COLLEGE

The Rocky Mountain District hosts it's weekend version of "Harmony College" Feb 3-4-5 in Estes Park. Called "Rocky Mountain Harmony College" (formerly known as "H.E.P."), this is YOUR opportunity for music and performance development as an individual singer, as a quartet, even for entire choruses (chorus coaching sessions available).

Early bird registration (\$65) is available until January 15...deadline coming SOON, less than 2 weeks!!

It is time to inform your chapter of the HUGE opportunity that awaits, once per year here in the RMD (and then once per year for the week-long Society event now known as "Harmony University" in St. Joseph, Missouri). PLEASE, tell all members that after the Jan 15 deadline, the regular registration fee of \$80 for Rocky Mountain Harmony College takes effect. Early bird registration is THE WAY TO GO. Attached is the basic registration form, and ALL FORMS are available on the District website www.RMDsing.org.

Below is a slightly edited article from "On the QT" advising quartets of the benefits of "Quartet College" at Harmony University. If your quartet can do both, GREAT...but your quartet should AT LEAST get to RM-HC for the training available right here in the District. Remember, our headline faculty and performers are "4 Voices"...International gold medal quartet in 2003 (and International Collegiate Champs before that!)

WHY MY QUARTET SHOULD GO TO (ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARMONY COLLEGE...and) QUARTET COLLEGE IN 2006

Paul Ellinger, lead of Chordiology, reflects on the experience of Quartet College

I really don't know where to start to tell you how talented, caring, demanding, encouraging, fun-loving and dedicated each one of our coaches were. Everyone just wants you to get the most out your week. Each and every session with the coaches are tailored to YOU and YOUR needs as an individual and as a quartet. You could spend the entire session singing (which makes sense) or if the need was there, you could spend the entire session talking. For those that have never attended they may say; "WHAT!?! Talking and NO singing!?! " That's right! NO Singing. We spent time talking about stage fright. Something that I'm sure many of us suffer from and many of us could learn a LOT by just talking about it with coaches that have seen and heard it all. We would talk about a piece of music that we were presenting and decide how we were going to get the "message" of our "story" across to those that

may be listening. Thus, coming to the realization that you can do this with presentation, body language, facial expressions, timbre of your voice, movement of the music, and yes even chord structure. I guess what it comes down to is "feel the music" and then let everyone else around you in on your "experience". When you "feel" the music so many other things (good things) just "happen".

It is because of the dedication of these men that make Quartet College "go", that we moved to a different plane when performing and experiencing our music. I say, "our" music, because the encouragements revolve around making each piece yours and telling the story as it was meant to be told with your own flavor. There are so many actors that have and will play the lead role in Fiddler on the Roof; and although, at the end of the night the daughters will be married off, "Tradition" will have been sung and every line will have been delivered. No two of the actors will have delivered all of the lines in the same way. This is the beauty of music. The story is yours to tell.

What it comes down to is if you try to explain Quartet College/Harmony University to people . . . it is this. When you take the Society staff, the best staff of coaches and singers on the planet that can be brought together in one place, participants that are eager and ready to learn and mix in appropriate portions of encouragement, fun and camaraderie; then you've got the makings of some of the best musical experiences for which one could hope. Yes, you can go to a Broadway show, watch a Celine Dion concert, but you don't get to participate. This is what Harmony University is all about. Your participation . . . at Your level . . . at Your pace and with Your best interest always at the forefront.

If there are quartets out there that have not gone to Quartet College ever before as a part of Harmony University, my entire dissertation to them on the subject would be . . . **"GO!"**

Thanks to Paul Ellinger for this overview and admonition. Of course, the same can apply to Rocky Mountain Harmony College, where similar courses and similar coaching is available from similar faculty.

If you have any questions, contact RMD Music and Performance VP Shawn Mondragon at Drac888@aol.com (but first, go to the District website www.RMDsing.org which is loaded with information and answers to questions).

Please circulate this information on your chapter website, in your chapter bulletin, via chapter Email roster, announce it at meetings...and get EVERYONE the fair opportunity to sign up NOW at the Early Bird discount.

Thanks.

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