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# The Colorado Songster

## SONGSTER ENDURES

Wow! The "Songster" is beginning its 10th year of publication with this issue and is now reaching almost 1,400 Coloradans with information about the vocal jazz and contemporary a cappella scene in our state.

And that music is really booming. Take a look at page 5 if you don't believe me, and while you're at it, put some of those show dates on your calendar so you can enjoy the excellent work of a wide variety of good groups bringing vocal music to you wherever you are.

Our website [[cvjs.org](http://cvjs.org)] and 700-member message board [[colorado-acappella@yahoogroups.com](mailto:colorado-acappella@yahoogroups.com)] support the Songster's news with digital communication to keep info flowing between quarterly issues. And by the way, the CVJS website is currently undergoing a *major overhaul*, so be patient while **Val Carr**, our new webmaster, reworks some of the information for you.

*One last item:* You'll see an article on page 4 about the resurgence of Colorado's **Rocky Mountain Vocal Jazz Camp**, formerly operated by **Julie Williams** [who is now deep into statewide VJ activities in the programs offered by the *Colo Music Educators Assn.*]

Long time supporter of VJ /a cappella (and UNC grad) **Paul Falk** and his hand-picked advisory board have acquired the heavy responsibility of making that happen. In addition, with his relocation to the Fort Collins area, Paul has also agreed to be the **CASA Rep** for northern Colorado. Oh, and tons of thanks are due **Nic Widhalm** of Curious Gage for the years of work he put into the CASA position as well as maintaining our website. — took two people to replace him!

Well, enough of this. Let's get on to the current news.  
— **Rol Sharette**, CVJS program director  
and CASA Colorado Ambassador [ ]

## COLORADO SINGS A CAPPELLA!

Here's a remarkable musical and marketing project for our Colorado a cappella groups to consider. But if it's right for your group (*or you know of a group that fits the bill*), you'll need to act *very quickly*. Why? — because the participants will have been auditioned and selected by **March 1**.

Recording producer **Tony Huerta** (*Sonic Audio* — see pg 5) and Univ/Denver group singer/organizer **Andrew Hoag** (*Colorado A Cappella* president) have put together a plan to create a **compilation CD to include only Colorado talent!**

This is really a terrific idea and could be a catalyst to bring more groups and talent into the popular entertainment pool in Colorado. The program is intended to represent our state and feature the talented vocalists that perform and support the a cappella music produced here. You have only to look at page 5 to appreciate that this music has graduated to the mainstream of musical interest here.

Who will be included? If you have an a cappella group, of any size, that you feel fairly represents what is happening in Colorado, you can very likely be included — and here's an important point, you also very likely can afford it. Here are some of the particulars:

Interested groups will be auditioned to determine that their level of performance represents our state well; that doesn't mean "pro," but a group must sing well and must effectively represent its genre, school, college, and style. These auditions will be held, as much as possible, at a time and in a location convenient for the group.

The CD producer, as final arbiter, will intentionally seek a diversity of approach that, among those selected, reveals an ability in Rock, Jazz, Blues, DooWop, Gospel, Pop, Classical or other style that lends variety to the compilation.

There will be approximately 18 selections on the CD and 18 different groups singing them. The only cost to each group is \$25/hr for the initial tracking of its song. This cost at Sonic Audio would normally be \$75/hr, but is lowered by 2/3 for this project only. The producer will cover costs of editing, mixing, mastering, royalties and duplication. This in itself, provides an astounding opportunity for your group, if not previously recorded, to learn the demands and techniques of professional studio recording.

With the above production expenses covered, the groups will be able to purchase copies from the producer at \$10 each for themselves and resale for profit as they see fit.

Check out more detailed information on the *Sonic Audio* website: <http://sonicaudioproductions.com/ColoradoCD.aspx>.

If your group is interested in being involved in this CD project, email: [tony@sonicaudioproductions.com](mailto:tony@sonicaudioproductions.com) or call *Sonic Audio* at **303-778-0370** with questions or for an audition.



The Boyz are  
Comin' to  
Town!

**Plan ahead!**

If you're  
a guy group fan,  
you've gotta see  
this show!

**Arvada Center**  
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Great News!



## Dazzle Jazz A Cappella!!

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A new vocal jazz era in Denver! Show your support for A Cappella in Colorado. Be on hand: \$10 at the door.

\* \* \* \* \*

### *Where's Mr. Tim??*

Everybody's askin' about **Tim Jones**, "A Cappella Entrepreneur" and **Moosebutter** 'flounder' (always fishing for a new lyric).

Well, we have it on good authority that Tim is nowhere here, but may be extant in a village in southern Nevada where 'face' likes to hang out occasionally. It's just a 'gamble' of course, but you may be able to catch him doing his thing somewhat more backstage than usual and coping with a malady known as "Toxic Audio," made flesh in a cappella world, but now producing entertainment on "The Strip" in — yes — Vegas.

Good luck, Tim!



**University of Northern Colorado Vocal Jazz Festival** will take place in Greeley **April 24, 2008**. Vocal groups of various sizes from elementary to college and community level from all across the United States and Canada will participate. There will also be educational workshops by nationally recognized artists and clinicians! Complete information including registration forms are available at [www.uncjazz.com](http://www.uncjazz.com). Thursday evening's performance will feature the **Northern Colorado Voices** and world renowned vocal sextet, "Take 6."

Participants in the day's events will take home awards signifying their level of accomplishment in the Vocal Jazz field. The **UNC Jazz Festival** has long been internationally recognized as one of the most prestigious educational and artistic activities in the field of vocal music. This is an unforgettable experience for serious musical artists.

Call **970-351-2394** for more information.

## Special Events are Coming Up!

Check the "What's Happenin'" calendar for the complete list of everything we know about, but take a special look at the following four **exceptional** events fast approaching:

How about bringing the 2003 Sweeps A cappella champs over from Australia [!] to sing in one of our schools? And to add a little interest, why not have the 1996 champs warm up the audience? Got the money to go to that show? You bet. Pull out that 10-spot and you're invited into one of the classiest and most artistic harmony shows you will ever see or hear. On **Thursday, February 7**, take that \$10 bucks to **Hinkley High School** on Chambers near E. Colfax just off 270 in Aurora to catch **m-pact** and **Idea of North** and you'll hear half of the internationally acclaimed a cappella show called "**One Voice**" that wowed audiences in the Far East last year. Don't miss this one! Check it out on **page 2**.

How many times have you seen **Bobby McFerrin** — live, not on the tube? If you've seen him in concert even once, you'll know that's not enough — especially when he has brought along his astounding a cappella "**Voicestra**" to add to the evening. The CSO is sponsoring the appearance of this remarkable combination at **Boettcher Concert Hall** on **Saturday, March 8**. Go to [www.coloradosymphony.org](http://www.coloradosymphony.org), then click on "**March**" and "**8**" to find Bobby and the ticket window. Don't worry, just be there! Don't miss this one either!

Of course, once a year you get the opportunity to hear up-and-coming groups try out for the 'Big Time' at our annual **Rocky Mountain Harmony Sweepstakes**.



This spring it's being held on **Saturday, March 15, 7pm, Ranum Auditorium** in Adams County — **80th & Zuni**. Always a great show, this year hosted by last year's champs, **face**. The weekend includes a competitor reception and an afterglow you'll want to include. Go to the CVJS

homepage for complete ticket information and for other activities surrounding the Sweeps weekend.

And if these weren't enough, UNC-Greeley has pulled out all the stops this year for their opening show by bringing in Quincy Jones' favorite group, **Take 6!** They'll share the stage on **Thursday, April 24** in Greeley's Union Colony Center with the always slick UNC house quintet, **Northern Colorado Voices**. Check out the ad on **page 2**. Talk about entertainment? Colorado's got it!

Now, an added attraction: What to get your honey for **Valentine's Day**? Easy: A **Barbershop quartet**, sent on **February 14** to your place or a cafe in the Metro area to surprise him/her with a couple of those romantic ballads in four part harmony. Call **720-938-2859** to set it up.

Don't stop here! There's much more to check out on the inside — including 45 a cappella shows on page 5. []

— **Rol Sharette**



## GET THOSE SINGERS IN CAMP!



What does it take to make a nationally recognized musical training project work? If you ask Julie Williams, she will probably shrug off the question, but many of us know how hard she worked to turn a dream into reality for hundreds of vocalists over the 8 years she worked at it. We all admired what it became right away, and as it grew, it gained accolades and attention from the best of the great talent assembled to teach and mentor its campers for a week each summer in the mountains above Denver.

Then Julie understandably said, *"I really can't do this anymore."* — and the camp's future was in doubt.

It took a year of consideration and planning, but many folks who had worked for her since the beginning said, *"We can't let this happen"* and devoted themselves to bringing the vision back — up US-285 at *Deer Creek Camp* near Bailey. One of those, **Paul Falk**, gathered former counselors, campers and faculty, including *Amy Nelson, Aubrey Hamrick, Matt Jacobs, Candice Ledford, Allen Matthews* and *Camille Harris* to plan, with Julie's cooperation and advice, how to make it happen in 2008.

Of course, this isn't just a matter of getting together and announcing the dates. A training project like this involves close to \$40,000 in expenses for some 70-80 students and faculty. It's a big deal. Our young VJ entrepreneurs are conscious of the responsibility they undertake, but are not worried about the outcome. With the return of many valued faculty and the enthusiasm of music teachers and supporters across the state and beyond, they intend to keep RMVJC on track and to grow it to a sustaining level.

To quote 2008 director Paul Falk, *"This year we plan to use local staff members as much as possible. Many familiar faculty will return, but we are about to secure exciting Blue Note vocalist Jackie Allen, along with her bass playing husband Hans Sturm, as our first 2008 guest artists. Our students can also look forward to*

*working with a few new staffers like Chicago's Leslie Beukelman. We are extremely pleased to be a part of RMVJC's return, and thankful to all those who are helping us out year round."*

The Camp will re-open under the tax exempt umbrella of the *Colorado Vocal Jazz Society*. This will not only save on some expense, but will enable supporters, parents and companies to contribute funding that may be deducted from federal (and state) income taxes. Many of those parents and professionals fully understand and appreciate the Camp's value in exposing high school and entering college students to training that will give them a "head start" in their further education and professional careers. More information, including registration forms, will be available soon at [www.rmvjc.com](http://www.rmvjc.com).

We encourage you to help make the amazing *Rocky Mountain Vocal Jazz Camp* a sustaining reality by offering such a donation. Please do so by contacting the new organization at [rmvjc@comcast.net](mailto:rmvjc@comcast.net). [1]

### Sonic Audio Productions

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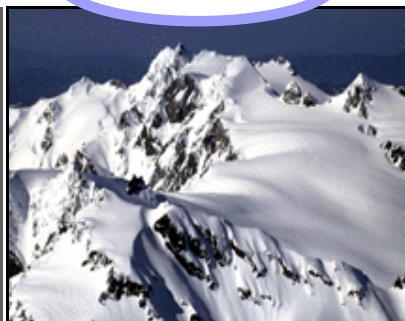


### Make note of these Resolutions . . .

- Sing in the shower  
— then sing in a choir.
- Learn three new songs  
— with actual melodies.
- Compliment three singers every day  
— but mean it.
- Think symphonies but relish those small ensembles.
- Return all the music you borrow.
- Break out in song for no reason at all.
- Stop blaming others for wrong notes.
- Sing in the shower some more.



### CVJS



COLORADO VOCAL JAZZ SOCIETY  
A Voice for Contemporary A Cappella and  
Vocal Jazz Performance in Colorado

*"Music to match our mountains."*

### Newsletter Mailing . . .

Does the information here speak to any of your interests? Are you willing to let us keep you better informed about in vocal jazz and contemporary a cappella activities around Colorado and elsewhere?

We would very much like to keep your name on our list, or add it if you're not there now. Just send your name, address, phone number and email address to:

COLORADO VOCAL JAZZ SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 18535  
Boulder, CO 80308-1535

CVJS is also available at:  
Message Service: 888-WIZ-CVJS (949-2857)  
CVJS Website: [www.cvjs.org](http://www.cvjs.org)  
Yahoo Message Board: [colorado-acappella](http://colorado-acappella)  
Let us know how we can keep in touch.