

50 Years of “Maximum Load”

That’s what you get when you combine a barge, car headlights and 65 people with a song in their hearts...

As a snowball rolling downhill gathers size and momentum, so has Spring Sing! Started for just plain fun and to swap songs at a Saturday night party,



Spring Sing took off and became a joyful institution. As best we can recall, the whole idea arose at a Palmer Square rehearsal in Princeton, New Jersey. Wat Stewart wanted to have a singing party to introduce the Palmer Squares to the Revelers of Plainfield and the Suburban Squires of Philadelphia. Wat and Dick Sly had formed the Squares in 1956, and it was a natural to get the Squares together with Wat’s former group, the Revelers, and with the Squires, who were well-known by many in Princeton. A barge party was planned on the canal at New Hope in May 1957.

1 1957 Palmer Squares *New Hope, PA – The Barge*

The barge left New Hope and headed upstream at three in the afternoon. On board were the Palmer Squares, the Plainfield Revelers, the Suburban Squires, and a group of singing wives who, later that evening, made their first appearance as the Opposite Sextet. Sixty-five people made that barge trip, a maximum load for the boat. In the barge’s front hold was a huge supply of ice and beer. The party was well underway by the time it arrived at its destination. On the way, some enthusiasts, inspired by the canal water, had swum a length or two, others jumped in, some might have been nudged. The barge was anchored in an isolated grove, and hamburgers, hot dogs, grills, and charcoal were taken ashore for a cookout.

3 1959 Opposite Sextet *Lake Carnegie, Princeton, NJ*

Spring Sing under a Tent
Attending were the Squares, Squires, and Revelers, plus the Roaring Twenty, the first mixed group at Spring Sing. We also had our first mystery group—this time the Nassoons from Princeton University; their performance was a big success. During the afternoon, the big entertainment was a softball game played between the tenors (4) and the basses (7). A buffet supper was provided, catered by the Opposite Sextet. It was also the first chance for us all to see the Squires’ new red jackets. Wow! Another first found NBC’s Monitor staff auditing our concert. The following week, excerpts from the program were broadcast and we were (at least we wanted to believe we were) national figures.

4 1960 Revelers *New Hope, PA – Phillips Mill Inn*

With the Revelers in charge, the site was Phillips Mill, north of New Hope. Returning were the Sextet, Squires, Squares, and the Roaring Twenty, plus two new groups, the Augmented Eight from Washington, and the Spare Parts from Hartford. The Augmented Eight has been a participant in Spring Sing ever since and has brought enthusiasm, humor and a variety of music. The Spare Parts wowed everyone with their close harmony arrangements. In fact, they set a new standard of excellence for Spring Sing and opened our ears to what superb harmony could be. It was the beginning of the end for *The Yale Song Book* as a major resource for arrangements. Tommy Thomas and Ede astonished us with their yodeling in the courtyard, and Dick Barrett entertained on the guitar. One early guideline, to avoid singing the same song in two Spring Sings, evolved at this time, as did the general agreement not to sing an arrangement introduced by another participating group. 1960 saw “uniforms” being adopted by each singing group; the result of those red jackets, no doubt.

The plan was to sing on the front deck of the barge, the singers to be spotlighted by car headlights.

2 1958 Suburban Squires *New Hope, PA – The Barge*

Hosted by the Suburban Squires, included the Squares, the Revelers and the Sextet back on the barge in a “return to the scene of our past triumphs!” One thing the Squires and Squares were known for was their showmanship. Their audience contact was a high point and indicative of their relaxed style. Opposite Sextet is official, and “Perfidia” returns.

5 1961 Roaring Twenty *Andalusia, PA – The Barn*

The Roaring Twenty took over at the Barn in Andalusia, Pennsylvania. It was fun and the Squires, Squares, Sextet, Revelers, Augmented Eight, and Spare Parts all came back, but again some new faces appeared on the scene. The Clef Dwellers, an all-female group from Washington, became the second group to uphold the distaff side and did a super job. The Commuters (actually, the Commuters’ Singing Society of Lower Railroad Avenue!) wanted everyone to know that “the Squires



and the Roaring Twenty aren't the only groups in Philadelphia." This year they started an attendance string that wasn't interrupted for 15 years. At the Barn a new dimension was added. A two-record album was recorded and sold to all participants. We even had local Philadelphia disc jockey, Pat Landon, as MC. It seemed that Spring Sing had really arrived as an institution, and "Mack the Knife," sung by the Squires, took the prize for the most fascinating song.

The yodeling by a man and his wife from two barn doors for hay, about 200 ft. away? – That would be Tommy Thomas (Yale Whiffenpoof) from the Spare Parts, and his wife Edith. They certainly were one of the special features of a number of Spring Sings. – Gordon Johnson

6 1963 Commuters

Andalusia, PA – The Barn



The Commuters refused to let the music stop! They insisted on reviving Spring Sing at the Barn in Andalusia and invited the Squires, Squares, Sextet, Augmented Eight, Spare Parts, and the successors to the Roaring Twenty, the Counterparts. Oh, how we remember their skillful renditions of Swingle Singers tunes. For the first time, however, the Revelers did not appear. This was the first loss of a founding group. The Revelers disbanded for lack of first tenors. (It was ever thus.) The Sextet was on sabbatical.

Spring Sing was back on the beam and was alive and kicking. But now we realized the importance of planning and gratefully acknowledged the efforts of the host group.



7 1964 Augmented Eight / Clef Dwellers

Alexandria, VA – Gadsby's Tavern

The Augmented Eight put on a fantastic show at Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, a landmark in American history and a landmark for Spring Sing



as well. Participating were the Clef Dwellers, who assisted the Augmented Eight with the arrangements, Squares, Squires, Spare Parts, Counterparts, and Commuters. Particularly memorable was the special female quartet called the Smoke Rings (also known as Fenno Heath's harem—one member was his wife), who were mystery guests this year. We also recall Wes Oler's R-rated jokes and his Y sweater (for Yeshiva University), the party at Gadsby's Tavern inside, and a wonderful afterglow outside, held later in the evening in the garden. The high brick walls produced reverberations—it was like singing in the bathroom. A new plan began to evolve: the Spring Sing weekend. Many groups stayed over and discovered the joy of a late-night swimming party in the "closed" motel pool, as well as revival by means of a Bloody Mary on Sunday, and a Spring Sing reprise at the fascinating home of the Clark Cliffords.



The A-8 hosted Spring Sing in May of 1964 at Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria. Because the Spare Parts had come from so far away, and would be staying overnight, we organized a Sunday brunch at the home of Clark Clifford, advisor to many presidents and father of Dick Barrett's wife, Joyce. (It was an optional affair for \$5 extra cost.)

This photo shows Frank House, bass, J.B.C. "Tommy" Thomas, tenor, and Johnny Newlands, Spare Parts tenor and music director, at the Sunday brunch following Spring Sing 1964. Frank House's facial expressions during each performance were a Spare Parts trademark and Tommy Thomas' memorable yodeling with his wife Edie enlivened many Spring Sings.

8 1965 Palmer Squares

Princeton, NJ – The Chapin School

Palmer Square member, Pete Henderson, was headmaster of The Chapin School, so was able to arrange for this great venue for our gathering. This sing included the Squares, Squires, Sextet, Augmented Eight, and Spare Parts. Commuters, Counterparts, and Clef Dwellers "rested," and we decided we needed to expand.

9 1966 Spare Parts

East Haddam, CT –

Goodspeed Opera House

The ninth was special. All active groups were back in good voice at the Goodspeed Opera House, a restored building on the Connecticut River at East Haddam. One group planned to arrive by seaplane. The Spare Parts, our hosts, did a marvelous job of preparation, and the Squares, Squires, Sextet, Augmented Eight, Counterparts, and Commuters were joined this year by two new groups. The Off Sounders from Greenwich made their first appearance, and the fabulous new addition from way out west in Detroit, the Grunyons, brought the house down at their first performance. They opened with the quiet, "Their Hearts Were Full of Spring" and ended with "Ain't Got Time to Die."

We remember three renditions of "Moon River" and the after-hours party at the Banner Lodge! The afterglow was sung on the Opera House grand staircase. A two-record album was made to commemorate the occasion. (Word has it that Tony Erdman still has 122 albums in his cellar awaiting eager buyers.)

10 1967 Suburban Squires

Andalusia, PA – The Barn

The Squires were hosts for the second time. The Barn in Andalusia again was the setting with outdoor performances from the balcony. The Squares, Sextet, Spare Parts, Augmented Eight, Commuters, Grunyons, Off Sounders, and Counterparts attended, and this time two new groups made their debut. The Witherspooners (labeled the Private Parts, after an introduction got out of hand) were first-rate show people, accompanied by gut bucket, banjo, and guitar. The Windjammers turned up in 1967 and were enjoyed by all. Bob Tyson, super MC, kept us laughing. "Now I give you Jim Hickox, arranged by Barty Bartholomew." Special memories include "Cherish" by the Squares and the pink beer goblets! An innovation of after-dinner dancing was introduced on this occasion, although most of the vocalists seemed to seek out distant corners for a few more songs.

By now, 10 years after the first barge ride, the biggest change seemed to be in the music—the arrangements—and the willingness to move away from Sigmund Spaeth and *The Yale Song Book*. Bill Gard, Wally Collins, Jim Buck, Riggy Sly, Johnny Newlands, Roo Brown, Don Williams, Sally Sword, and others all made their mark, not only on their own groups, but also inevitably on all of the singers with their talented arrangements. In recent years, Rob Northrup, Jack Gilbert, Bill Cline, John Knapp, James Winn, George Bassett, and Dave Robinson all helped their respective groups.



Thanks to the urging of Wat Stewart and Wally Collins, the Grunyons joined Spring Sing in 1966 at the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, hosted by the Spare Parts. The Grunyons added a vocal jazz style to the program, but they broke tradition in several other ways. They opened their program with a slow ballad ("Their Hearts Were Full of Spring"—not bad for a Spring Sing theme!). They totally ignored the uniform dress code, and because of travel distance, they caused Spring Sing to add a Sunday component, which has happily been the case ever since. — Bill Gard

11 1968 Grunyons

Detroit, MI — Players' Club

In the Heart of Detroit, rated by many the greatest Spring Sing yet, this was the first full weekend affair. (It had to be if you went 600 miles to get there!) The Grunyons were hosts and the Squires, Squares, Spare Parts, Augmented Eight, Off Sounders, and Commuters all traveled to Detroit to spend the two-day weekend. Lost to Spring Sing were the Counterparts, who broke up, and whose mixed voice harmonies would be missed. The site of Spring Sing was the Players' Playhouse on Saturday with brunch at the Parcells' home on Sunday. Tyson: "I want to report a dandelion!" Highlight of the weekend: a truly mysterious group, which turned out to be the Arbors. Fantastic!

Memories come back of the double-decker, red London bus used for transportation, the pitch pipe tie clasps, the stags housed at the motel, couples hosted and housed all over the Detroit area by Grunyons and friends, the shell that made acoustics perfect for the singers in the Playhouse and, of course, the Arbors. It was the Detroit Spring Sing that gave birth to the great god Pan, who now toots his horn on the Spring Sing program every year. In 1968, a full stereo tape recording was made. Pan makes his first appearance.

12 1969 Off Sounders

Greenwich, CT — Belle Haven Yacht Club

The Off Sounders were in charge and the Squires, Squares, Opposite Sextet, Spare Parts, Augmented Eight, Commuters, Grunyons, Windjammers, and Private Parts were all on hand with special guest, Barty Bartholomew. One advantage to introducing new groups is the change of dimension it gives, the variety of ideas and arrangements contributing to the change. The Peddler's Pack brought folk music arrangements and performed with humor. A new look and a new sound were added when the Grace Notes, 16 good-looking Greenwich gals, came aboard to become the newest participants. The Belle Haven Club, overlooking Long Island Sound, was a beautiful location. All participants received music books with arrangements contributed by each of the groups. The weekend format was repeated and the hosts and hostesses made the participants most welcome. There was a smash rendition of "Washington at Valley Forge" (Private Parts), George Stothoff's hilarious ad lib comments, the first rendition (by the Grunyons) of "I Found Love," and the Geist family singers who performed for the first time at Sunday Brunch.

13 1970 Commuters

Philadelphia, PA — Playhouse in the Park

This year's Spring Sing became "singing in the round" since the performance was at the Playhouse in the Park next to Belmont Mansion, a landmark in the center of Philadelphia. The Commuters were second-time hosts and singing with them were the Squires, Spare Parts, Augmented Eight, Grunyons, Off Sounders, Peddler's Pack, and the Windjammers. This year the Private Parts and Opposite Sextet were taking sabbatical leave. The Palmer Squares had broken up and another founding Spring Sing group was lost.

Sunday saw a reprise of most groups singing at brunch and a continuance of the social fun. Over recent years, the biggest complaint has been about the lack of time to socialize with all the great people associated with Spring Sing. This continues to be an unfortunate shortcoming, but Sunday has helped.

14 1971 Augmented Eight

McLean, VA — Potomac School

The Augmented Eight took their second turn as hosts at the Potomac School in McLean, thanks to its headmaster, A-8 bass Lew Kimball. The program was a long one with two sets in the afternoon and one after supper. The Commuters, Opposite Sextet, Spare Parts, Grunyons, Off Sounders, Windjammers, Private Parts,



Peddler's Pack, and Grace Notes were all on hand, plus two super additions. The Suburban Squires took a sabbatical. The new groups were: The Two By Fours, Boston's claim to musical fame. Assured, enthusiastic, and melodious, they came on strong and became regulars immediately. All Good Children were something else: eight voices, four of them named Sly, five with pitch pipe experience, all soloists—and the sound! Potomac School auditorium broke into pandemonium when AGC conquered the crowd with "Come On In." Their skilled harmonies set a new level of achievement. It was AGC's first public performance and it was actually intended only as a one-time thing. The reception persuaded them to continue, which they did for three more years.

On a weekend in Washington, when massive demonstrations were going on downtown, Potomac School on Saturday and the Hanes' home on Sunday were the essence of escapism—to song. Some memories of the weekend include the "instrumental" smash "Freddie Feel Good" by the Grunyons, "People" by the Geist family, 3:00 a.m. singing in the Key Bridge motel pool, and the gals of the Private Parts tap dancing in their hot pants to the tune of "I Want To Be Happy."

15 1972 Private Parts / Opposite Sextet

Princeton, NJ — The Hun School

The scene this year was the Hun School in Princeton with the Private Parts and the Opposite Sextet sharing the hosting duties. Opened by a fabulous rendition of "Day by Day," the program was a full one with the newcomers, the Foxheads of Baltimore, being introduced along with regulars: Squires, Augmented Eight, Spare Parts, Commuters, Grunyons, Off Sounders, Peddler's Pack, Two By Fours, All Good Children, and the Grace Notes. Additional entertainment was provided by veteran University Glee Clubber, Jimmy James, aged 75, who sang his version of the great songs of the '20s and '30s. In the afternoon, the Squires showed they could throw Frisbees during their performance. In the evening, following an informal afterglow, there was dancing in the Hun School common room. Sunday brunch was a joy at Whip and Sally Buck's lovely home. Remember Bess Bonnier on the piano and the "three-ring circus" of musical variety going on simultaneously? As a result of the '71 and '72 affairs, it was recognized that Spring Sing could easily get too big. Following the '72 event, a steering committee was formed to attempt to deal with logistics, control of timetables, invitations to new groups, and, in general, to provide some overview and guidance to the planning groups of each successive host organization. Regular sabbaticals were instituted to help keep the Spring Sing a manageable size.

16 1973 Two By Fours

Concord, MA – Concord Academy

The Two By Fours went all out. Not only did they provide excellent facilities at the Concord Academy in Concord, Massachusetts, but they also made it possible for visitors to see the birthplace of the American Revolution at Concord and Lexington. The program in the school auditorium was preceded by a fife and drum performance by costumed Minutemen who had marched up the road from the middle of Concord. They played to a rapt audience. The afternoon performance was recorded on videotape and shown at Sunday brunch at The Vale (Lyman Estate) in Waltham, Massachusetts!

Participating were the Spare Parts, Augmented Eight, Grunyons, Commuters, All Good Children, Peddler's Pack, Off Sounders, Grace Notes, and a visiting group from Tufts University, the Beelzebubs. The Private Parts "rested" in 1973. The Beelzebubs provided a delightful change of pace with their young look, their young sound, and their repertoire of contemporary tunes. Alas, both the Squires and Sextet were missing, and after 17 years we no longer had a founding group in the active category.

The Squires' sabbatical became permanent as they broke up after 25 successful years of entertaining from Philadelphia to The Greenbrier. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Grunyons, the Geist Family, the Sharettes, and AGC. Sunday was delightful at The Vale and memories of Concord are a joy. We all hoped that next year, Frank House would learn his "spare" part to "Johnny Schmolker"!

17 1974 Spare Parts

West Hartford, CT – The Renbrook School

Once again, the Spare Parts did an outstanding job of hosting at the Renbrook School atop Avon Mountain in West Hartford, Connecticut. Welcomed back were Augmented Eight, Commuters, Peddler's Pack, Grace Notes, AGC, and the Private Parts. Missing were the Off Sounders, the Two By Fours, and Grunyons (sabbaticals). But the newest arrival took both long-distance and musical honors. Out of Boulder, Colorado came the New Wizard Oil Combination and Spring Sing had a new inspiration (if not a new patent medicine!). Their performance was outstanding and new challenges faced the old-timers.

Evening plans provided three different areas for informal singing and plenty of socializing. Brunch on Sunday was held on the terrace, where all groups had a chance to do a short reprise. Acoustically the terrace was super! A mixed group called Greenwich Mean Time made a guest appearance—in unforgettable red slinky dresses! Also, there were "boaters" for everyone and a hot dog wagon!

Alas, House still hadn't learned "Johnny Schmolker." As a result of the Spare Parts' efforts, a record album of one song by each of the groups ever to perform in Spring Sing in recent years was pressed and distributed.

Heard in the hall, after the Wizards' first performance in Boston: "Do you think they sang well enough to be asked back?" ... "I think they sang well enough not to be asked back!"

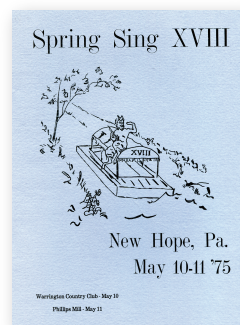
18 1975 Peddler's Pack

New Hope, PA – Warrington Country Club

Nostalgia was mixed with song as New Hope, Pennsylvania once again became the site. The Peddler's Pack provided the host duties and in spite of early word that the basement of the Polish Shrine would house the affair, we convened at the Warrington Country Club for the annual festival of song. The Two By Fours and Grunyons returned along with Commuters, Augmented Eight, Foxheads, Off Sounders, Grace Notes, and Wizard Oil, but with the Spare Parts on sabbatical and the Windjammers disbanded. The afternoon program started with Scots pipers performing and ended with dinner in the main dining room.

After dinner saw an invitational performance by the Family Jewels from Northern New Jersey, group singing led by John Baldwin, "I Found Love" (now the group sing number), and an informal afterglow featuring combined groups doing common numbers. On Sunday, Phillips Mill and the barge rides brought us back to scenes of Spring Sings 1, 2, and 4. The performances were by the Sharettes, the Seventh Sound from New York City, a welcome "Sunday Only" song by the Private Parts, and a surprise visit by a hastily reconvened Suburban Squires singing—of course—"Washing Dishes."

And so to the future. Plans were firmed up for Spring Sing 19 to be held in Baltimore under the direction of the Foxheads. Later plans include Greenwich (Grace Notes) and "Yes, Virginia, there really is a Boulder, Colorado." (New Wizard Oil Combination)



19 1976 Foxheads

Garrison, MD – Garrison Forest School

Bicentennial enthusiasm and gorgeous May weather reigned for first-time hosts, the Foxheads. One of the highlights of the Saturday dinner at the Pikesville Hilton was a "goof" put on by the Foxheads and a "ringer" group. Buck Walsh, Foxhead founder and pitch, was also the adult supervisor of the prep school group, the Gilman Traveling Men. They would rehearse at Buck's house every week and, over time, became the farm team to the Foxheads. To kick off the Saturday dinner singing, the Foxheads did one number, and then started a second song, which was terrible. After a few bars, Buck stopped the group, blew the pipe again and restarted the song. The second attempt was worse than the first. Buck got visibly agitated on stage, scolded the group loudly in front of the audience, and gave them one final opportunity to get it right. When that attempt failed, he threw down the pitch pipe, and yelled, "You guys are terrible; the waiters could sing it better!" He stalked off the stage, and went around the banquet hall forcibly grabbing waiters by the coat and ordering them on stage. The rest of the Foxheads stomped off, embarrassed. When he had enough bodies on stage, Buck showed the waiters the music, gave them a few seconds of instruction, blew the notes, and proceeded to direct them in the song. Of course, they sang it flawlessly, to the amazement and delight of the audience. After the song, Dick Cover of the Foxheads came up and revealed to the audience that the young men in waiter's coats were actually the Gilman Traveling Men, who then sang a set of their numbers for the house. The Sunday brunch and reprise were at the Greenspring Valley Hunt Club.



20 1977 Grace Notes

Greenwich, CT – Greenwich High School



Memorable Friday night dinner at Libby Flynn's. Beer was served in glass mugs emblazoned with Spring Sing's first female Pan. Thirty-two-member Grace Notes upstaged everyone with

a perfectly executed kick line. Boudinotes were the mystery group Saturday night at the Marriott and the Sunday reprise at the Riverside Yacht Club featured Ex-Whiffs from New York City.

21 1978 New Wizard Oil Combination

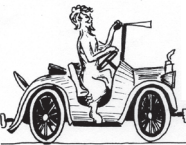
Denver, CO – Central City Opera House



Drop-of-a-pin acoustics at 8,000 feet. Thanks to the venue's proximity to the famous "Fall on the Barroom Floor" bar, we found out the hard way about drinking alcohol at high altitudes. Some of us had trouble singing, and some of us had trouble even walking around! We were housed in University of Colorado dormitories, and we ate buffalo meat for dinner. A glorious brunch was served on Sunday at the Governor's Mansion. Boudinotes in nudie T-Shirts sang, "Monday Night Football Always Gets Me Down" to the Broncos head coach, Red Miller.

22 1979 Grunyns

Detroit, MI – Orchestra Hall



We enjoyed great acoustics midst the dust of renovation at Orchestra Hall. The Arbors blew everyone out of the water—again. The

Radisson Cadillac was renamed the Radisson Edsel by guests who stayed there, and Phil Skillman was temporarily arrested by airport police. Sunday singing took place by the fountain at the Renaissance Center, and atrium balconies provided the perfect setting for more yodeling.

23 1980 Augmented Eight

Washington, DC – Library of Congress



Friday evening, each active group had a separate suite for hospitality and rehearsal. The bar atop the Hotel Washington provided a breathtaking nighttime view of the city and the White House. The Saturday

event in the Coolidge Auditorium opened at the Library of Congress with John Ziegler on harpsichord rising from the middle of the stage, "Spring time, time to sing, 'tis time to assemble voices..." The Spring Sing Collection, the world's largest collection of a cappella music, was presented to the Library of Congress during the program and we enjoyed lunch on the mall and group photos with the capital as a backdrop. Sunday singing took place at the Kennedy Center overlooking the Potomac.

24 1981 Boudinotes

Princeton, NJ – Princeton University

This was the first official Friday buffet, held at Nassau Inn, and the Katzenjammers were the guest group. The Nassoons co-hosted on Saturday in Alexander Hall at Princeton University, after which Woody Geist announced the engagement of daughter, Libby, to Bill Howard



of the Augmented Eight. As a cost-saving measure, the Boudinotes baked 500+ brownies for box lunches. Saturday night entertainment was a cabaret by Roo Brown. The first hymn sing was held at Princeton Chapel.

Sunday brunch was at Bedens Brook Club.

25 1982 Two By Fours

Boston, MA – Sanders Theatre

Friday evening at Faneuil Hall recognized "old-timers" from groups that had not sung together for 10 years. Saturday opened with a marching, dancing, banner-carrying band of Two By Fours and kin. Silver Revere bowls were given as favors. The chapel service was at St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Sunday brunch was at City Hall.



26 1983 Off Sounders

Purchase, NY – SUNY Center for the Arts

The Bosstones brought down the house Friday night at the Rye Hilton. Other guests included Boston Uncommon, and the Arbors made a surprise appearance. Sunday brunch was at back at Riverside Yacht Club.



27 1984 Spare Parts

Edgartown, MA – Martha's Vineyard

Spring Sing left the continent—by ferry, even! One of the most delightful changes of scene yet. At the Whaling Church in Martha's Vineyard, Bosstones were officially inducted. A bird-watching outing was led by Wally Collins, and Cahoots was the guest group Saturday night.



28 1985 Foxheads

Baltimore, MA – Walters Art Gallery

A privilege to have our Saturday event and dinner among famous works of art! Cahoots became an official Spring Sing group. We enjoyed exploring the Inner Harbor, and glorious weather created Spring Fever. We had a very moving Sunday church service at the Old Otterbein United Methodist Church downtown. Lew Kimball of the Two By Fours delivered the homily; the lessons were read by Bill Gard of the Grunyns, and Tom Parr of the Foxheads; Doug Krieger of the Grunyns was the organist. The choir was made up of the Foxheads and Cinquepace, a group of ladies including a number of Foxhead wives, who sang "I Am" by Hilliard and Smith, and "Gaelic Blessing" by Rutter.



29 1986 New Wizard Oil Combination

Keystone, CO – Keystone Resort

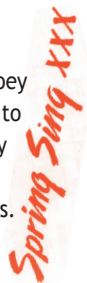
It was 20 degrees above normal weather, which provided wonderful hiking and sightseeing opportunities, but there was still snow for those who chose to extend their stays. We had fun staying in condos, and the Wizards delivered individualized food orders to each kitchenette. Jay Tracey debuted as Ursula Buckafury. There was a Saturday night cookout and many of us left the square-dancing floor with bruised shins. A vocal workshop with Arbors was conducted on Sunday.



30 1987 Grace Notes

Greenwich, CT – 1st Congregational Church

Friday night at Laddin's Terrace featured guests Brock and The Rockets and Bob Bushnell's quartet, Manhattan Sounds. Gooley Spring Sing 30th birthday cake was served to 400. A stuffed doll named Ursula Buckafury appeared in the balcony. Saturday night was held at the Hyatt with Dis-Grace Notes. Sunday saw a reprise of our repertoires as well as the venue: Riverside Yacht Club.



31 1988 Grunyns

Ann Arbor, MI – Rackham Auditorium University of Michigan

"I Found Love" was played on the campus carillon. Breakout rooms were used for the first time on Sunday at the Michigan Union. Boudinotes became Double Treble and The Grateful Alive. Guest groups were the Sharette Family, Noteworthy, Four Guys, the Mercyaires, and jazz pianist Bess Bonnier. Grunyon Gary Corbin rescued Double Treble in a broken-down airport van.



32 1989 Bosstones/Cahoots

Cambridge, MA – Harvard University

At Paine Hall, Grateful Alive added men and became Jersey Transit. Brock and the Rockets made a return visit, along with Peking and the Mystics, Boston Uncommon, Second Wind, and the Copley Cats. We enjoyed an afterglow slideshow (with music!) of the previous day's performance, which was put together by Bosstone's Spider Alton.



33 1990 Counterparts/Cahoots

Lake Harmony, PA – Pocono Manor

Everyone together in the same place for a second time. Golf and horseback riding amused many. The Wizards were on sabbatical. "Guest" appearances were made by our old friends the Suburban Squires and Peddler's Pack.



34 1991 Augmented Eight
Washington, DC – Georgetown University
 Counterparts were on sabbatical.

Friday night entertainment by the gospel group, The Ambassadors, rocked the house. Spring Sing Offspring entertained on Saturday evening at Gaston Hall: two groups with a Holmes on their roster were featured, Brock and the Rockets and Take Note, along with Jacques Stewart and harmonica virtuoso Pierre G. T. Beaugregard IV. Sunday brunch was at the Department of Labor.



35 1992 Double Treble / Jersey Transit

Princeton, NJ – Alexander Hall, Princeton University

First arrangers' workshop was held led by Fenno Heath, Ed Wolff, and Bill Gard. Opening number included alums from Opposite Sextet, Private Parts, Suburban Squires, Palmer Squares, Revelers, All Good Children, and Boudinotes. Guests were Bay Tones, Noteworthy, Out of the Orange, and the Whiffenpoofs of 1949-50.



36 1993 Two By Fours
Waltham, MA – Lindsay Auditorium at Bentley College

At the Directors workshop in 1993 in Waltham, Duncan Holloman gave a mini-workshop, "the instrument and making it sing," about vocal production with great diagrams of anatomy (not that kind) and good discussion of how to care for your voice and how to produce sound properly. Don Loose, an outstanding vocal coach from Ohio, presented a workshop "on the sound," that covered principles of maximizing blend and vowels. Bob Stone spoke "on the style," and George Bassett spoke on the use of rehearsal tapes—a critical item for Cahoots but useful for every group.



37 1994 Spare Parts
Hartford, CT – Central Baptist Church, Wadsworth Athenaeum

Friday at Clarion Hotel reception, then Center Church for Voices of Hartford concert. We spent all day Saturday at Central Baptist Church and we were welcomed by Lt. Gov. Eunice Groark.



Sunday was back at the Clarion. Participating groups: Spare Parts; Jones Falls Express (the former Foxheads); Grace Notes, Wizards, Double Treble, Augmented Eight, Cahoots, Off Sounders, Counterparts, Two By Fours, Boss-tones, and Jersey Transit. Saturday night dinner was at the Wadsworth

Athenaeum in Hartford, the fabulous art gallery, which has been open longer than any other in the United States!

38 1995 Grace Notes / Off Sounders
Greenwich, CT – First Congregational Church

This was the first time we had private dinner parties in local homes (Grace Notes and Off Sounders hosting) on Friday night, which was very well received. The Saturday program was at the First Congregational Church in Old Greenwich, and lunch was a picnic box lunch (catered by Susie Morton) in beautiful Binney Park right across from the church, and the weather was gorgeous. There was a dinner dance at the hotel Saturday night with the Belle Haven Club overlooking the water.



39 1996 New Wizard Oil Combination

Estes Park, CO – Rocky Mountain National Park

Determined to provide some real mountain atmosphere for their eastern guests, the Wizards came up with an Estes Park neighbor, the YMCA Family Compound at Rocky Mountain National Park, about 45 miles northwest of Denver. Yes, a bit of a project getting there, but so glorious once our singers and their families were settled in. Friday evening headlined m-pact, an aspiring quintet of UNC grads (who, a week later, were crowned the national champs of the annual Harmony Sweepstakes), along with vocal jazz group Boplicity and another Colorado ensemble, Poor Boys. Saturday everyone gathered breathlessly (literally) in a small acoustically excellent auditorium for offerings by all of the Spring Sing groups, plus a reunion of the Boudinotes. That evening, things loosened up, western style, with an authentic square dance in the clubhouse. In the morning, a glorious sun filled the sky and a covering of fresh snow greeted those who made the hymn sing, and later a reprise of most of the groups, some departing to make the long trip (with two hours lost) back to the east. Those who stayed over were treated to a nature hike, at over 9000 feet, guided by the Wizards' own Oak Thorne. Hard to leave such a beautiful—both scenically and musically—locale.



40 1997 Grunyons
Detroit, MI – Henry Ford Museum

Noteworthy and Lakeshore Jive were first-time guests, along with the Detroit Chamber Winds.



Singing in this great historical museum was a treat, our voices echoed off the vintage automobiles. The rest of the festivities took place in and around Greenfield Village and the Dearborn Inn.

41 1998 Counterparts
Lake Harmony, PA – Pocono Manor

Held in the pouring rain, but it didn't matter because we didn't have any traveling to do. And yes, with a convention, the clowns were overhead... and in the elevators and hallways, adding another dimension to the space! The guests were Double Treble and the Heaths. There was lots and lots of woodshedding. The best, though, was simply that we were all in one place, for all meals, for all events, and the camaraderie was special, as evidenced by the recent marriage of Martha Gard, then director of Noteworthy, to Sam Stott of the Wizards!



42 1999 Augmented Eight
Chevy Chase, MD – 4-H Center,

Inspired by the clowns at Spring Sing 41, the theme was "Circus in D.C. Under the Big Top." We all were surprised by the modest room charges (thanks to 4-H) and had a great dinner trip on the Potomac, floating through the city at night on the *Cherry Blossom*. Friday at Chevy Chase Club, we had guests Brock and the Rockets, Take Note, Tone Rangers, and the Tonics.



43 2000 Jersey Transit
Cape May, NJ – Convention Hall

Spectacular Lake Shore Jive became our newest member group. We enjoyed the beach, the boardwalk, and salt-water taffy. Roo Brown became the first female to be given a Pan Award. Salt air and easy walking distances were a pleasure, and hilarious guest group, DaVinci's Notebook, had people in tears.

44 2001 Lake Shore Jive
Chicago, IL – Chicago Children's Museum

In 2001, Spring Sing came to Chicago, Illinois for "2001—A Vocal Odyssey," hosted by Lake Shore Jive. Noteworthy joined as our newest group. The countdown began on Friday evening at the Hyatt Regency Chicago with dessert, drinks, and a guest performance by Sugarhouse Voices. The annual Spring Sing performances lifted off on Saturday morning at Chicago's historic Cultural Center in the intimate Claudia Cassidy Theatre. The crew refueled with Chicago-style stuffed pizza in the ornate



Preston Bradley Hall, then decompressed into the night at Chicago's Children's Museum on Navy Pier. The highlight of the evening was an inspiring performance by the incomparable Arbors. Re-entry brought Spring Sing back to the Chicago Cultural Center for a rollicking reprise. And we finally splashed down over lunch in the Cultural Center's beautiful Rotunda of the Grand Army of the Republic.

45 2002 Noteworthy

Windsor, Ontario – Capitol Theater
Spring Sing went international! We took over the Windsor Hilton and performed Saturday at the Capital Theatre across the street. We had as a guest group Sound Investment from Atlanta. We did the reprise on Friday night instead of Sunday morning and we received Spring Sing umbrellas as useful memorabilia!

spring Sing 2002



46 2003 Off Sounders

New Haven, CT – Yale Art Gallery
Friday night saw us restaurant hopping around town, and convening for dessert at the Omni Hotel, where we got to do some extra singing. The Saturday performances were at the Yale Art Gallery auditorium. The Saturday night gala was at the New Haven Lawn Club, with performances by the Whiffenpoofs and the Conn Artists.



47 2004 Grunyons

Orlando, FL – Disneyworld
Spring Sing 2004, hosted by the Grunyons, convened in Orlando, Florida, at the Walt Disney World resort. (Sure, it makes no sense geographically, but the group that originally had been tapped to host Spring Sing 47 couldn't swing it.) The Contemporary Resort was headquarters for the weekend and the ballroom stage, previously made famous by Richard Nixon's "I am not a crook" speech, became the site for our 47th reunion. Guest groups Sound Investment, from Atlanta, and Coda from Barcelona, Spain, wowed the audience with their performances. Spring Singers were able to enjoy the beautiful weather, lounging by the hotel pools, or visiting one of Disney's theme parks. The Saturday night dinner at Epcot's China Pavilion was



topped off with a spectacular fireworks show that would not be deterred by a little rain (Disney broke out a case of rain ponchos for all). Woodshedding in the dome of the pavilion had to be halted so that everyone could catch the last monorails back to the Contemporary. The singing continued on the monorails and into the lounge on the top floor of the hotel. Mickey Mouse was our special surprise guest at Sunday's farewell brunch, the end of a magical weekend for all.

48 2005 Grace Notes

Greenwich, CT – Greenwich Academy
We transported everyone from the Westin Hotel in Stamford to private Grace Note homes for dinners Friday night (a logistical nightmare, but somehow everyone got to where they were supposed to be). The Saturday program was held in Massey Hall at Greenwich Academy. Innovations included a joint pre-concert warm-up with Alexander Constantine leading us, as well as introductory videos presented by each group as they came on stage. Another Alexander-inspired innovation were the optional a cappella workshops at the Westin after the Saturday singing and before dinner at the hotel. As for dinner at "Club A Cappella," we were treated to a really entertaining performance by Alexander's mixed a cappella group from Greenwich Academy and Brunswick School, the Mahertians. We were delightfully surprised when Brian Williams, of NBC, introduced the Mahertians in his mellifluous tones—his beautiful, talented daughter sang with the group. Yet another innovation occurred at the pre-brunch reprise program at the hotel on Sunday morning, with the Friday night dinner groups (Remixed Voices) performing the song they had learned together on Friday night. We all really enjoyed having a chance to learn and sing new music together. Spring Sing 48 presented quite a few new approaches to the weekend program, all of which were favorably received.



49 2006 New Wizard Oil Combination

Boulder, CO – Boulderado Hotel
Looking for something different, New Wizard Oil Combination sent each group an early questionnaire hinting at some ideas for the fourth-ever Spring Sing in the Rockies. The local committee was searching out possibilities in three areas: a mountain resort (daunting travel), downtown Denver (ho-hum, another

city) and a guest ranch ("dude" to you; and none large enough). Three of the questionnaires came back with the unexpected suggestion of "Boulder," so the Wizards tried to find ways to make that affordable, yet exciting. According to reports, they succeeded and, with its unique downtown grouped facilities, along with a "10th anniversary" appearance by now world-famous m-pact, folks seemed to have a great time. The unique Kokopelli Pan from 1996 again became our mascot. Spring Singers were treated to a sampling of this "28 square miles surrounded by reality," and even took home some of the mysterious "Wizard Oil" they had heard about for 30 years—actually Rocky Mountain Sunscreen in disguise.

The six hosting venues, all within a one-block radius, proved adequate and the 100-year-old Hotel Boulderado was a favorite of all who came to visit.

50 2007 Counterparts and Cahoots

Philadelphia, PA – Independence Seaport Museum
Welcomed to Philadelphia in historic party fashion by Ben Franklin and the Mummies. Friday night started with eight amazing alumni group performances, and Saturday featured cameo performances by many former singers. Newcomers were two outstanding high school guest groups: Shipley School's Madriguys, and Marple Newtown's Aleatoric—who got everyone up and dancing. Other highlights: walking down 35 years of Spring Sing memory lane, woodshedding in the atrium, and group sings aided by Wizards' songbook.

