

HAPPINESS EMPORIUM GOOD NEWS! GOSPEL QUARTET

About Us

Every now and then, in Quartet singing, four guys who have been singing in other groups for years find their musical paths crossing - and something special happens! The Happiness Emporium was formed in December, 1972, and right away they sounded like a winner. In their first year and a half they won 4 contests and placed in the Top 10 in International Competition. Then, a year later, in June, 1975, the Happiness Emporium was proclaimed the International Champions of Barbershop Quartet singing.

The members of the quartet have a combined total of over 125 years of quartet experience. They have sung with 7 District Champion quartets, and have sung for audiences all over the U.S., Canada, England, Sweden, Ireland and the countries of Central America while performing on an educational cruise, Semester at Seas. Two of the members have toured Pacific military hospitals on USO tours with their previous quartets. They have led two tours to Ireland, where the H.E. was the featured quartet of the Irish International Barbershop Convention.

The Emporium is a remarkably versatile singing group, equally proficient with "pure" barbershop arrangements, modern harmonies, gospel, show tunes, country, nostalgic medleys and comedy. One reason for the success of the Happiness Emporium is the matched unit sound of four excellent voices. Each of the four is often featured in solo numbers backed up by the other three. Word has gotten around that the H.E. is no ordinary quartet. They have performed for countless conventions, coast-to-coast barbershop shows, variety shows, radio and TV, the Grand Ole Opry, on New York's Broadway, and London's Barbican Centre.

The quartet has preserved their special sound on eleven CD audio recordings and a DVD video since winning the International Championship. Recently they've added a digital download store, which works in conjunction with their main website. This new feature makes it possible to download individual songs instead of ordering complete albums. Sample cuts from each of the CDs are available to hear at the recordings section of the website.

The Happiness Emporium has recorded four all-gospel albums, "Beneath the Cross", "Beneath the Cross II", "Golden Gospel", and Golden Gospel II. The last two gospel albums feature instrumental accompaniment in a crossover style combining both barbershop and southern gospel. Some call it GospelShop. Others call it Northern Gospel. Some just call it good!

The quartet took over the Good News! gospel quartet program following the retirement of three of the founders; Jerry Fairchild, Joe Mazzone and Dale Deiser. Good News! albums are offered in barbershop gospel style, including music arrangement folios and learning CD's. Since taking on the Good News! ministry, the quartet has released four new gospel learning folios and the associated learning CD's in the Good News! series. They are Volume VIII - "Tell the Story", Volume IX - "Faith of Our Fathers", Volume X - "The King and I", and Volume XI - "Northern Gospel".

New features of Volume VIII and IX included learning CDs with both part predominant tracks (for learning) and part missing tracks (for rehearsing and singing along with the Good News! Quartet). Another new feature included special package pricing for quartets, (the Quartet Special) including all necessary folios (four), four learning CDs (one for each part) and a bonus full mix CD to hear how the final product sounds as done by the Good News! (Happiness Emporium).

Volumes X & XI include more new features, including instrumental accompaniment. The rehearsal and performance tracks are available, along with the traditional arrangement folios and learning CDs.

You can request a catalog for all Happiness Emporium and Good News! products from the address that follows or pick one up at their recordings table at performances. Their recordings and barbershop gospel arrangements may be purchased at performances, on the H.E. website, or from Happiness Emporium, 4110 Lorene Drive #303, Estero, FL 33928. Performance bookings may be arranged by email (rodlead@hotmail.com) or by calling 612-978-8237. (During May through October, call 507-645-5750.) The address of their internet website is www.HappinessEmporium.com.