

# Chorus Chatter
















News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

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## Note and Rest Symbols

If you've wondered what the shapes of the notes and rests mean, here's a quick course for you. In music, each duration is indicated by the use of a note (duration of sound) or a rest (duration of silence). Every note value has a corresponding rest. Here are the most common:

Note name	Symbol	Corresponding rest	Is equivalent to
Whole note			
Half note			
Quarter note			
Eighth note			
Sixteenth note			

In the chart, each note or rest is half the duration of the note or rest above it. The actual duration of each note varies according to the tempo (speed) of the song. In most (but not all) cases, the quarter note represents one beat, so a half-note would usually be held two beats, a whole note four beats, and an eight-note a half-beat. There's a lot more to it, but these basics will help explain some of the mystery of those "spots" on a page of music. *The Harmonizer*



Singing at the Good Samaritan auditorium in September.



**Tom Addis** is a familiar face in the audience at The Aristocrat, where he often sings along with us. He was born in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1928, the 11<sup>th</sup> of 11 children. His family moved a lot, living in El Paso, Abilene, Corpus Christ and Harlingen, some of them at several different times.

Tom attended high school in Corpus Christi and El Paso, where he graduated. Along the way, he worked at Crawford Sash and Door in El Paso, which gave him the background for his career in millwork.

In 1949 he and his first wife, Beth, were married. Shortly after, the Korean Conflict developed, and facing the draft, Tom enlisted in the US Air Force. He was stationed at Sheppard AFB in Cheyenne, Wyoming before being transferred to San Antonio. There his woodworking skills served him well, and because Beth was pregnant, he avoided being shipped to Korea. Eventually, he became the only carpenter in the Special Services Division.

He left the USAF in 1955, returning to Crawford Sash and Door. When the company relocated because of a highway project, it was renamed Addco Millwork, and Tom became a co-owner.

Meanwhile, Beth had developed some problems and eventually died by suicide in 1967. Later, he married Marcy, one of Beth's friends. He adopted her children, David and Diane, creating a blended family with his son, Larry.

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Along the way, he bought an old school bus and worked with the family to convert it to a camper. In 1971, Tom bought a big old house in El Paso and began restoring it. Eventually, he bought and remodeled several rental properties before downsizing to a smaller house and selling the rental properties.

He had a heart attack, followed by a second one while in the hospital, which led to bypass surgery in 1982. After recovering, he quit his job with Addco, bought a 32-foot motorhome and travelled with Marcy for about a year before buying a mobile home. There, he continued to pursue his woodworking interest, using the spare bedroom as his shop.

Following another heart attack in 1992, he and Marcy moved to the Eugene, Oregon area where a son lived. Tiring of the rainy climate, they moved to California. In 1998, Marcy won a huge sum in the Oregon Lotto, which supported them in San Diego. About that time, Tom was misdiagnosed and told by his doctor that he had six months to six years to live. Here he is at The Aristocrat, some 20 years later!

With his oldest son living in El Paso, he and Marcy decided to move to Las Cruces 18 years ago. Here, he says, they had a house that included a large indoor swimming pool. After Marcy developed Parkinson's Disease, they moved together to The Aristocrat in 2012. Although she died a few years ago, Tom continues as an Aristocrat resident, and it's always good to see him when we perform there.

*Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.*



**Bob Hope**, who lived to be 100, was asked shortly before he died where he wanted to be buried. He said, "Surprise me."

## One-Dimensional

This describes something that has no depth, and after looking at our leadership positions, it seems they resemble that. Other than the director position, which is covered by Chuck and Ray, the other jobs that keep the chorus going don't have any backup.

We have:

Joanie-Accompanist

George-Sound System and Announcer

Joan -Music Folder Preparation and "Sunshine Committee"

Joy-Rhythm Accompanist

Jo -Call facilities before performances and call members without e-mail

Gayle- Prepare calendars

Marilyn- Transpose music to different keys

And there probably are others I may have overlooked. In each case, a single person is responsible for the job. The point is, if one of them got hit by a potato chip truck or something, we'd probably have to suspend our activities. Scary, but it could happen! None of us is getting younger (don't we wish).

What we really could use are backup or standby helpers for Joan with the music folders, George with the sound system, and probably an extra director on standby in case both Chuck and Ray

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can't make a performance. Even more important, we really should have a backup for Joanie, because without her, we really couldn't put on a performance. "The show must go on."

On a similar note, I belonged to the British Car Club, which recently broke up because no one stepped up to be the Prime Minister (President) and form a Parliament (Board). All their monthly meetings, website and various activities (including the annual car show in Mesilla each April) will end.

We don't want that to happen to Young at Heart, so if you have a little time and ambition, let one of the board members know (Ray, George, Joan or Joy). We'll find a place to use your time and talents in a way that will work for you and the chorus.

you to), pick a song that will fit our theme for the month and check our library listings on the website to see if we already have music for it. We have a lot of music (several file cabinets full). Otherwise you will have to come up with the music.

Check with George once you have a song in mind, as we have to limit it to three performers each month. You'll need to get together with Joanie to go over the music. Also, Marilyn Gioannini, our previous accompanist, has offered to work with anyone who needs to practice their music. Especially if you live on the east side of town, this might be a good option for you. We're looking forward to seeing some new (or newer) people up there, so give it a try.



If there were cellphones at the Red Sea

## Special Performance Scheduling

In order to keep things simple for anyone who wants to sing a solo or put a duet or ensemble together for the middle part of our monthly programs, George now is the go-to guy. If you are interested in doing something (and we encourage



**Jim Maxon** (shown here with his wife, Jackie), was born and grew up in El Paso. Having lived in Santa Fe and Las Cruces for a combined 30+ years, he surrendered his Texas citizenship long ago and proudly calls New Mexico home.

Jim's university studies were at UTEP, SMU, and AGISM (Thunderbird), resulting in a Master's Degree in International Relations. He has a diverse work background, primarily in business: owned an import/export company and retail store, managed a branch facility for a tri state distribution company, and for the past 20+ years, consulted in leadership and organization

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behavior, helping Fortune 500 companies create healthy workplace environments and develop better leaders. Jim retired in 2017 and now has time to sing with us.

Between Jim and Jackie (they are a blended family), they are blessed with 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. The bad news is that none live anywhere near Las Cruces, so they dedicate a good bit of their time to being on the road visiting them. Also, they spend the summer and early fall months living in Cloudcroft.

Jim says he probably was introduced to singing in Boy Scouts, sang in the chorus in high school, and performed in a couple of Broadway musicals. Later in life, he primarily has been singing in church choirs and on worship teams, along with being a song leader at his Rotary Club. Music is a universal language that both impacts and unites us, and he is grateful to have the opportunity to contribute!



*Joan dances with Walter, a familiar resident at Northrise Morningside.*

**Bob Shade** celebrated his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 4<sup>th</sup>. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, we sang for him and his fellow residents at Solstice (formerly Golden Mesa), a fitting program to also recognize his service in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Here are a few photos of the day. Sixteen of us stayed for lunch with Bob and his daughter, Laurie Shade-Neff.



Bob and his daughter, Laurie.



Our Veterans up front for the Service Songs



Some of our members at lunch with Bob.