

SALTNET GUIDLEINES (updated Dec 6, 2005)

WELCOME to the Saltaires mailing list for members of the Saltaires chorus family. This is a restricted list, i.e., subscriptions must be approved by the list owner/moderators, thus ensuring that all announcements and discussion on the list be kept "within the family" - to encourage openness.

My intent in creating this list contains many objectives. The SaltNet is a way for leadership to communicate to the chorus, the chorus to communicate to leadership, and the chorus to communicate to each other. I believe all aspects of barbershop participation will be enhanced if there is a great sense of brotherhood. Communication and convenience aid close friendships, and there is only so much time on chorus night for fraternization.

Education and timely information is also critical to choral and individual progress. Leadership has "top down" communication, but sometimes there can be a perception that only a few make all the decisions. In such a forum as this, "bottom up" or "grass roots" contributions beginning with dialogue can also become a vital part of a thriving group. There are those among us with great experience, knowledge, encouragement and enthusiasm to pass on but may not have an "official" position to do so. The hope is to provide an environment where everyone will feel comfortable contribute to allow people a voice that do not already have one.

The following are proposed guidelines to ensure a high "signal to noise" ratio in the quality of posts - which will retain valued contributors. Such attention and consideration to such standard "Netiquette" will be greatly appreciated.

1. Posts made to the Saltaire list must not be forwarded or posted anywhere else without the express written consent of the author(s).
2. SPAM is ABSOLUTELY forbidden. SPAM is defined as unsolicited e-mail and includes (but is not limited to): chain letters, commercial advertisements, fake requests for charitable acts, and other it-might-be-true-so-I'd-better-tell-everyone-just-in-case scares/hoaxes. I strongly suggest that you have current virus protection software, and whenever you get a virus warning in your e-mail, that you check this site immediately for verification:

<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>

Though seemingly harmless, "feel-good" messages of friendship, caring and kind thoughts, are just considered clutter by many experienced users of e-mail. These messages most often include requests to forward the message to X amount of people to 'brighten their day' but are in reality just another type of chain letter. Please do not forward messages of this type.

3. Please do not abuse the list with non-barbershop related content. (However, an on topic, well-written post, followed by a short "PS: I have some office equipment to give away to anyone who wants it," should not be considered a major breach of etiquette.)
4. Forwarded e-mail to this list is forbidden, with reasonable exceptions such as:
 - A. Harmonet posts that might be relevant to something we're discussing or would like to discuss.
 - B. Private e-mail messages, with the permission of the author, that might inform us of the status of a former member, the health of a sick member (including extended 'family'), and the like.
5. File attachments are permitted. But it must be directly chorus related. And please use VERY good judgment - do NOT sent large files (anything larger than a few hundred Kilobites).

6. Before pressing "SEND", consider if your post should be personal or public. Be substantive publicly. I would appreciate a simple "Atta boy Rog, I agree with you!" in a private note - but is not appropriate publicly. Some members get email from work, so care must be taken not to avoid unnecessary abuse by sending a note to everyone that only is important for one or even a couple members. (Editing out non-essential quoting in reply is appreciated.)

6. PLEASE keep things positive! Think twice, OK, 3 times, about offering well meaning constructive criticism. The SaltNet is not the place to vent personal grievances and discontent. Yes, there will likely be disagreements and differences of opinion. Such diversity of thought can also be helpful and expected. Going thru the process of confronting issues is what again leads to harmony. But, PLEASE, REMEMBER YOUR AUDIENCE. (See below.) There are real people behind those keyboards!

Each would do well to avoid the risk of being considered a "complainer/whiner". I put this under the "I can't exactly define it, but I know it when I see it" category. :) Frankly, it doesn't take a mental giant to perceive a problem – but it takes a wise man to know how, and to whom, to express his ideas on how to remedy a situation. A public proposal/complaint should rightly mean that a person is willing to volunteer to take responsibility to be part of the solution. However, first consider if such a response is more appropriate if directed to the BOD or music committee.

Please be patient as people learn the ropes. Things may change as we go along. Have fun, play nice, and keep your dog on a leash. And before you click "SEND" don't forget a doggie pooper scooper! :)

Roger Motzkus
Saltaire Moderator

PS: As additional reference, I'm appending this post with past Masters of Harmony President Bob Lally's good advice for all of us to follow. :-)

My Brothers in Harmony -

As a veteran of the Harmonet wars and longtime mailing list participant, I would like to venture a few thoughts about our approach to an Email List. While it's useful to fabricate a list of rules, or FAQ as it's sometimes called, I think we can also approach this whole thing with just a modicum of common sense by utilizing a few simple precepts.

1) The list is or will be what we as a whole make it to be. That can be anything from a place for chapter business type announcements to a forum for the interchange of ideas pertaining to chorus' development and performance to the sharing of personal information that may be of interest to the rest of the group. It will certainly serve as an insight into the various personalities involved with all the risks and benefits that entails. :-)

2) It may help to use as a rule of thumb the visualization of standing in front of the chorus and making a general announcement. Imagine a normal rehearsal at break time complete with outside guests seated behind you listening. We don't all get the opportunity to do that so there may be things we think of that would be of interest to the majority of the folks present, or questions we would like to get an answer to, and we're pretty sure someone in the room has that answer. When you have all this firmly in your mind, try to imagine your reaction if somebody else made that announcement. Would you think it was pertinent or stupid or even be insulted by it? This is also a way to consider short, non-specific responses. Imagine someone makes a brilliant observation in front of the chorus and the next week someone stands up and says, "Amen to that!" or "Good idea." Or even "Huh?" with no reference to what they're replying to.

3) Most of us have heard at some time in life the axiom, "praise in public, criticize in private." This is really good advice for a mailing list. If you want to compliment someone for doing a great job, this is a great opportunity to share that with others. If, on the other hand, you want to let somebody know that they're consistently singing out of tune or that their most recent posting proves your contention that they're mentally deficient, you might want to express that by sending them a private post couched in what I would hope would be a very constructive manner. Again, would you want to stand up in front of the whole group and say it?

4) If you have strong opposing feelings about somebody's post and want to respond, go off-line to compose your response, wait a while, and if you still feel the same way, go ahead and send it.

5) Consult the manual that came with your computer and reread the section that deals with use of the "delete" key. When you've mastered it, use that key to deal with Email messages that you consider stupid or irrelevant instead of firing off a salvo condemning that sender for his misdeeds.

6) Lastly, enjoy this unique opportunity to become enlightened about the personalities of your fellow singers. With the (Saltaires List) you get to do it every week.