

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District - January 2009 - Online Edition #12

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

CANADA NIGHT 2008

Huron Valley Wins The "Old Oakland Bucket"



Tom Uicker
Detroit-Oakland Chapter

Friday, Nov 7th (the first Friday of November),
Detroit-Oakland Chapter's Annual Interchap-
ter Party--CANADA NIGHT!!!

St. Aidan's Parish Hall, 17500 Farmington Rd
in Livonia (between 6 & 7 Mile Rds).

Chapters put together mini-choruses- -10 to
16 singers with or without a director to hold
a mini-chorus contest for the traveling tro-
phy-- the "Old Oakland Bucket." The defend-
ing champs were the guys from Motor City
Metro Chapter.

The \$10 admission charge includes food and
drinks, both beer and soft drinks. This is tra-
ditionally a "stag" night, but we do allow for
female directors.

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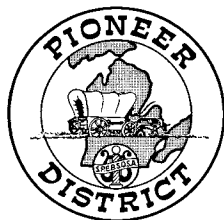
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January 2009 Pioneer Troubadour

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Pioneer District members: DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO EDITOR. Mailing data are furnished by the Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 Seventh Avenue North Nashville, TN 37203-3704. Please furnish change of address to your Chapter secretary and the Society with your name, Chapter name, Chapter and member number, and your old and new addresses. Copies not deliverable at the time of mailing will not be forwarded.

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Pioneer Online

The monthly online Troubadour publication, the digital archives of print issues, and the PioNet newsgroup are all available free at the District website PioneerDistrict.org



Chordiology 2007 District Champs

Canada Night

(Continued page 3)

Dave Spizarny, bass
Chordiology
Chordiology.com Blog

Thursday, November 13, 2008
canada night 2008 (dave)

Canada night 2007 was our first district function as District Champions, and this past Friday (Nov 7th), Canada Night 2008, was our first district function as Former District Champions. Memories fade with time, so it's hard to decide which event was more fun. I'll read last year's blog before I decide.

Cliff and I met at Paul's house, and Rob made the journey with the Huron Valley guys, as he was directing them in the mini chorus contest. After we finished throwing pillows at Paul's kids, we made the drive to Livonia.

The first bad thing about being Former District Champs is that they make you pay for your tickets. But the beer is still free, so all is not lost. Although we've petitioned the Feds for a ticket bailout, and I'm confident that the check is in the mail.

IanTimology, my other quartet, was in the

house, and it didn't take long before we sang our contest set. Frank Adams, famous for his first class Bass in FrankJeffology, was also there, and he did a great job on his contest tunes. Too good, in fact. I could see the guys looking at him and smiling, and then looking at me and frowning. Hopefully, Frank is too busy to sing in a quartet – unless you non-Chordilogists are looking for a good Bass – then Frank's your man.

Paul set up the 4-track gizmo, and several quartets volunteered to sing and listen. From what I heard, I don't think they were as disappointed as I was the first time I used Satan's machine.

In addition to singing, Canada night is about eating, and eat we did. Burgers, Dogs, and Barbershop – Is there anything more American? Feel free to use that as the name of your next quartet.

Cloud nine carried the Champs in on time, and the program began with something big, as Something Big! sang two smooth and cool songs, and soon the chorus contest was on. Aside: Our Champs sound better every time I hear them, and I've been listening for years.

In the end, Huron Valley won the Chorus contest, which means that they keep the honored bucket for a year and defend their prestigious award next year. Way to go, homies.

Something Big!! dealt with the pressure of being judges like the Champs they are, as their judging was entertaining and clever. If you've never been to a Canada Night, you are missing a great time.

Apparently, being FORMER champs still impresses some people, especially after a night of free beer, as they asked Chordiology to sing a couple songs. Earlier this week, Cliff's voice went on vacation, and when I heard

him say hello, I knew we were on sick leave too. Still, Cliff had enough voice and energy to sing two songs, and the crowd was way too kind.

All in all, it was another great night of singing, fellowship, and fun. Seeing the new Champs higher than Ben Franklin's kite reminded me of Canada night 2007, and I'm amazed at how strong those memories remain.

Then, like I did on Canada night 2007, I went home.



Chordiology 2007 District Champs



Four To Go



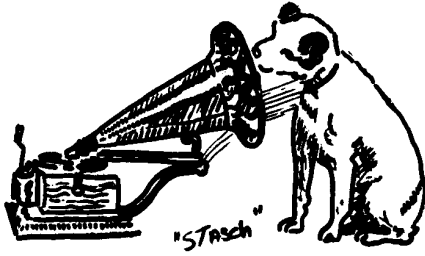
Detroit-Oakland's Gentlemen Songsters Chorus



Pontiac-Waterford's Big Chief Chorus



Windsor's Sun Parlour Chorus



Listening To Canada Night

Paul Ellinger
Chordiology lead

In case you missed Canada Night 2008, now you can catch a recap on www.Chordiology.com. That's right we brought our 16 track recorder and recorded quartets, choruses, pick up quartets, the judges comments, Rob's VERY funny joke, and much much more.

Just put on your headset (I'd highly recommend listening with your headset on if possible as everything was recorded in full stereo sound and you'll get the full benefit this

way) and then go to http://www.chordiology.com/canada_night_2008 and listen to snippets of groups like:

* THE Canada Night Singers!!! (This was everyone singing together and it was awesome!)

* The Huron Valley Harmonizers (the evening's Winners of the coveted BUCKET "Trophy")

* Something Big (current District Quartet Champs)

* Macomb's Guardian's of Harmony (current District Chorus Champs)

* Chordiology (Hey! I know these guys!)

* Some Big Chord Thingiology!! (Something Big and Chordiology join forces)

* IainTimology (Famous for their contest performance in the Spring)

* Windsor Sun Parlor Chorus (the guests of honor!)

* Detroit Oakland Chapter (our hosts for the evening split their chapter into A & B)

* Pontiac Waterford - The Big Chief Chorus

(Great friend's of C4!)

* 4 To Go (a newer quartet comprised of seasoned Veterans)

* Local Color IV (4 guys I hope who make it official!!)

* And More!

Again, these are only snippets as we can't post full songs. Some are beginnings and endings of songs, some are endings only and some are the fun stuff in the middle, but we hope you enjoy what's there and think about going to the next Canda Night! And don't forget! Uncle Sam Night is not too far away and it's a GREAT TIME!!!

Lastly, thanks to those who have been patient while we worked on mixing each and every one of the groups, edited them and then looked for an effective method of posting them all to the site.

By the way, if you're looking for Rob's hilarious joke, look for Chordiology - When Did Rob Get to Be so Funny. Trust me. It's worth a listen. I heard it for the first time on stage that night and almost lost it for good.

Isn't singing fun!?!



Something BIG!! 2008 Champs & Judges

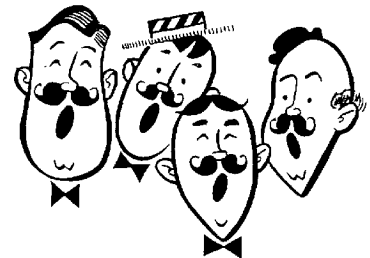
Canada Night Something Else

TR Gerard
Something BIG!!

Something BIG!! would like to thank the Gentleman Songsters of the DOC for putting on a great "Canadian Night". We enjoyed our role as "honorary judges" of the chorus competition, and a great competition it was "won" by the Huron Valley Chapter. The HVC will back next year with the "Old Oaken Bucket" to defend their title. Members of the Guardians of Harmony and the Sun Parlour Chorus also competed. Pontiac-Waterford Chapter and the DOC Gentlemen Songsters also had competing min-choruses.

I even noticed fellow Bachelor of Harmony, Aaron Wolf in the crowd. Chapter quartet, Four-To-Go also performed. For the rest of you Pioneer members, you missed a great

night of fun, food, singing, and beer; all for \$10! How can you beat that! Well, you could have Chordiology there too! Last year's champs came with their mixing board recording anyone who wanted to could sing and be recorded. Paul Ellinger served as the engineer, and the singing went on past Midnight. A good time was had by all!! Thanks again to all who came out, and thanks to the DOC for hosting a great barbershop event.





Annual Uncle Sam Night In Canada!

Bill Strong
Program VP Windsor Chapter
Lead Sun Parlour Chorus
Lead Desperate Measures

As the old year gears down and we approach the New Year, we at the Windsor Chapter

wish all our friends in the Pioneer District a Happy, Healthy and Harmonious New Year.

I'll also take this opportunity to remind everyone of our upcoming Windsor Chapter's Annual Uncle Sam Night taking place on Friday, January 16, 2009 Uncle Sam Night at the Knights of Columbus Hall 2407 Columbus Centre in Windsor.

This a great evening of singing and fellowship and a great opportunity to celebrate the great relationship between our 2 great countries.

This annual event is always a great evening of four part harmony and a chance to start the year off with a bang. Guests are welcome (stag) and what a great time to bring out a friend who might be interested in singing. All choruses and chapter quartets are invited to sing

Bar opens at 7:30 and dinner will be served at 8:30. Cost is \$10.00.

For reasons that are obvious we need to know how many people from each chapter will be attending. Please notify myself at 519 733 3931 or bstrong@mnsi. net or Doran McTaggart at 519 948 0637 or doranmct@aol.com no later than January 14th. We need the Program VP from each chapter to

be responsible to take on this job. This really important in order that no one goes home hungry.

If directions are required please call or email.

O yes, did I mention that our District Champs "Something Big" will be in attendance. That should be reason enough to come over to Windsor and be well entertained.

We will make arrangements with the Customs People to give you quick entry into Canada however we have no influence with US Customs for your return. You know that I'm just fooling.

To the best of our knowledge 2 pieces of photo id are required to reenter the US. These should be appropriate id such as "photo" driver's license or other photo id's. Of course passports are preferred. Same requirements for entry into Canada We look forward to seeing all our Pioneer pals on January 16th 2009. We ask that a responsible person in each chapter contact Doran (519 948 1037) or my self (519 733 3931) with numbers of members who are attending in order that we can provide enough food for everyone.

We look forward to seeing all of you on the 16th and a Happy New Year to one and all.

The Barbershop Breakfast Club

Western Michigan Barbershop Music Social Club
GreatLakesChorus.org/bbc

Snowbird Picnic Michigan Potluck In Florida

The Barbershop Breakfast Club
Western Michigan
Barbershop Music Social Club
GreatLakesChorus.org/bbc

Snowbird Potluck Picnic

Florida-Michigan
Feb 19th 2009 Noon

Marlyn and Bernie Poelman
Community Building

27110 Jones Loop Rd, Punta Gorda, Charlotte, Florida 33982

Take I-75 to the airport exit 161 at Punta Gorda. Turn left or east and go about 3/4 miles to Ventura Lakes, a mobile home park. Turn left into park and follow road to the Clubhouse go through two 4-way stops. The clubhouse will be on your left. All are welcome!

More information

Gary 'Twig' Branch
twig35@charter.net
Home (616) 677-3251
Cell (616) 540-7376



Singing Valentines Networking

Ed Bax
Guardians of Harmony

Ed bax here from the Guardians of Harmony. Yes they talked me into being the Singing Valentine chairperson. So it's time to coordi-

nate our efforts again and share e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers for Singing Valentines. No it's not too early to start. Getting set now will make it easier to make the media contacts and do other promotions starting in January. Sharing the contact info will make it beneficial for referrals when the requests come in that are outside our travel areas. This year could be a hard sell with the economy and all. So you might want to re-think your pricing strategies. Take another look at the SV manual that is in the BHS web site.

734-634-6743 (cell) The email contact will be sv@guardiansofharmony.org but you can also reach me at ejbax@hotmail.com or by my cell phone, text messages work too.

Looking forward to sharing plans and info.

Ed Bax Ed and Pat Bax ejbax@hotmail.com

28334 Gita Ct.
Livonia, MI 48154

Gregory P Humbel
Huron Valley Harmonizers

It's time again to be thinking of Feb 14th

I recent years several chapters combined forces to advertize regionally .

Interested? Give me a call!

Gregory P Humbel
Guardians of Harmony, Lead
Huron Valley Harmonizers, Lead
Marketing , Huron Valley
Barbershopper of the year
Huron Valley, 2003, 2005
313-815-6212
ghumbel@comcast.net

Bill Auquier
Big Chief Chorus

Greetings Team Valentine

Big Chief Chorus Singing Valentines-- -February 13th and 14th

Contact Bill Auquier 248-762-1880
bill.auquier@bigchiefchorus.org
Website www.bigchiefchorus.org



Hawaii Cruise

Doug Weaver
Witte Travel
Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus

We had choreographer Cindy Hansen, Kim Hulbert (of San Diego), Rich Knight (of Gas House Gang), Vocal Spectrum, and ZING! (2008 7th place SAI quartet). There were almost 400 people in our group (my biggest group to date) and we had workshops and classes all week leading up to the show. In addition to passengers from the U.S., we had people from Australia, New Zealand, Germany, England, and Canada traveling with us. It was an incredible week.





Brand New Secretary Manual Bring To COTS

Larry L. Parker
Lansing

The Society has published a brand new 2009 edition of the Secretary's Manual and a Sec-

retary's Exhibit Manual. Just go to barbershop.org, click on the Document Center, click on each manual and print them. It would be a colossal advantage for you and your chapter if you brought them to COTS, January 3-4, 2009. There are many changes within the manuals. New and continuing Secretaries will surely need them!

If your Chapter Secretary does NOT have E-mail capabilities, it might be a nice gesture for someone to print the manuals for him.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

See you at COTS?



Blood Donations And Coupons

Rick Anderson
2009 COTS Instructor
Pioneer Marketing & PR
Cell: 734-953-6306
randerson@tdktca.com

I hope all is going well and that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. The below information was just released from the Society regarding the Singing For Life blood donation drive. The Marketing & PR committee has created the attached flyer to help drive attention to our 2009 blood drive and help focus attention on the Barbershop Harmony Society in three ways - Singing For Life, Singing Valentines and the American Harmony - the movie. If you have any questions, please let me know. SFL, Singing Valentines and American Harmony - the movie, will all be discussed at length at our upcoming COTS/Leadership Academy on Saturday & Sunday,

January 3-4 in the Marketing & PR class! Please join me!

Regarding the flyer, instead of using adhesive labels, I would be glad to modify the pdf file with your chapter's contact and discount information printed directly onto the flyer. Just e-mail me off-line.

Together, we can make this year's Singing For Life a district-wide success!

You provide the gift of life, we'll provide the gift of barbershop harmony. Spring 2009

May is known to have low blood donor turnout due to travel and holiday plans. This is also a time when blood is needed most because of the increased number of travel-related accidents.

In an effort to help with this problem, the Barbershop Harmony Society has teamed up with this blood collection center to host Singing For Life! You have an opportunity to participate in an awesome community event. While you donate your gift of life, your local Barbershop Harmony Society Chorus (and other organizations) will perform for you. Get entertained while you donate! This would be a great event to add to your schedule.

Check with your Blood Center personnel on the Singing For Life event details.

Because your local Chorus appreciates the donation of your time and dedication, we are offering the attached coupons.

Singing Valentines
Barbershop Harmony Society chapters around North America will be providing quartets to perform for your special valentine.
Let a quartet sing to your Valentine this February.
[CHAPTER LABEL]
is providing the following discount.
[DISCOUNT]
Expires after February 14, 2009. Prices and packages vary per participating chapter Only valid with participating chapters.

American Harmony - the Movie
This movie shows the fun of the barbershop harmony art form. We want you to experience the harmonic excitement of this documentary.
More information and to view the trailer, go to www.AmericanHarmony.com
[CHAPTER LABEL]
is providing the following discount.
[DISCOUNT]
Only valid with participating chapters.



Metropolis at 2008 Pio Spring Convention

Metropolis Retiring July 2009

International Bronze Medalist quartet Metropolis of Far Western District (West Coast area) who competed as an out of district quartet in the 2008 Pioneer District Spring Convention has announced their retirement. They have two members originally from our own District. Bob Hartley and Brian Philbin of 1985 District Champion quartet The Ivy League harmonize.com/IvyLeague and were Pioneer International Reps in 1986 & 1988-90. This note from The Ivy League Bio page on the QCA website, "Entertaining, inventive, popular and sometimes wacky quartet (who can forget their Nudists routine at International in 1990). The quartet formed as college students and really got going when they sang all summer at Cedar Point in 1982."

Brian Philbin, Bob Hartley, James Sabina
Kelly Shepard, Metropolis
harmonize.com/metropolis

To Our Dear Friends, In the spirit of our truly International Annual Convention, it is with hope for the future and affection for our good fortune in the past that Metropolis announces our Swan Song performance. Our final bow will take place on the World Harmony Jamboree during the International Convention in Anaheim, California in July 2009. We've been so blessed by the International community that we felt this would be the most appropriate place for us to say good-bye.

Over the past 12 years, Metropolis has endeavored to bring as much fun as possible to our appearances and to the reputation of our hobby in general. Our goal, from the beginning, was to have the best time possible, singing at the highest level possible and en-

tertaining audiences everywhere we could, as often as we could.

From that time, we've managed 3 appearances on National Television (two of which continue in syndication to this day) and have averaged more than 21 shows per year, totalling over 450 performances on 270 different shows in 37 different States and 5 Canadian Provinces. In the past 9 years, we've been honored to have been asked to travel overseas on many occasions to educate and perform for barbershoppers the world over, beginning with the first Russian Barbershop Festival in 1999. Since then, we've returned for the third Russian festival in 2001 and subsequently repeated these same duties at the BABS Convention in 2003, the Pan Pacific Convention in 2004 and, in 2007, we educated and sang for the the IABS Convention, the BABS convention, the Holland Harmony Festival and the Tokyo Barbers Show. We'll be returning to England once more to educate and perform with the Cottonwood Chorus in Bolton this coming February.

Achieving medalist quartet status at the International level was certainly a tremendous bonus, as was becoming the first barbershop quartet to win the National A Cappella Championship.

We've made so many friends that we can scarcely count them, regardless of what our FaceBook profile says. :-)

We're currently pressing our final group of products, including our DVD in PAL and NTSC format, as well as our CD and will cease selling them on our website within a week of our appearance on the World Harmony Jamboree. After this time, we will provide a limited number of loaner copies of the DVD of our performance free of charge for private showings at Youth Harmony events. We're currently working with the Society to provide them in an organized fashion directly from Headquarters for this purpose, in order to protect the copyrights associated with the production of the DVD, as well.

We've been blessed to have had the opportunity to entertain you and enjoy your company and we wish to take this opportunity to honor our coaches and inspirations: the members of The New Tradition, The Ivy League and 139th Street Quartets, Greg Lyne, Cindy Hanson, Kim Hulbert, Mark Hale, Sandy Robinson-Marron, Jim Kline and our coach, friend and mentor Lloyd Steinkamp.

We'd also like to send special thanks to our "substitute tenor", Royce Ferguson, as well as

our very first tenor, Ken Potter and our dear friends Rob Menaker, Jeff Baker & Brett Littlefield, who have always been at the ready to assist us in whatever manner we've needed. Rob and Pat Menaker, in particular, for opening their home to us so often without hesitation, so we'd have another place to rehearse every other week.

Metropolis wouldn't be what it is without our former baritone, Mike McGee and we'd be remiss if we didn't recognize our MetrophyWives, Doreen, Naomi, Tamar & Mandy, MetroTeen Becky and MetroTots Jennifer, Sydney, Lindsay and Isabelle - we couldn't have done it without their support (and permission)!

We hope to see all of our friends at the World Harmony Jamboree to see us off - our love to you all! Pax, harmonia (peace and harmony).



Metropolis at 2008 Pio Spring Convention



The Ivy League 1985 Pioneer Champs



The Ivy League 1990 "Camp Sunshine, where the sun is always shining and the moon is always full"



Video PSAs & American Harmony 501(C)(3) Non-Profit Organizations

Todd Wilson
Barbershop Harmony Society
Director of Marketing
110 7th Ave. North
www.barbershop.org

You asked. We listened!

#1 – The VIDEO PSAs Are Here!

Here are two ways to present the benefits of singing to prospective singers in your area using the Barbershop Harmony Society's new video Public Service Announcements:

1) Visit the main page of the Society's new website <http://www.barbershop.org/> to view a new 60-second video Public Service Announcement (PSA) promoting membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society. Do yourself a favor and ask the webmaster for your chapter and district website to embed the YouTube code for this video on your chapter's website to display the benefits of singing barbershop to everyone that pays your chapter an online visit.

2) Don't overlook the opportunity to hand-deliver a DVD with a standard definition version of this PSA (and others available) to your local TV and cable broadcasters to attract more guests to your next meeting. Commercial broadcasters are required to allocate a certain portion of their schedule to airing Public Service Announcements from 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations like your barbershop chapter. These PSAs are a great way to build awareness for barbershop in your community and are available for download on the Video PSA page of the new Society website. <http://www.barbershop.org/videopsa.aspx> Shot in standard definition, these video are presented in wide-screen 16:9 format. These five files are marked as either international or local. One of your members with a computer and the right vid-

eo editing software can probably add some titling and perhaps a voice-over with your local contact information. If you're looking for a cool website that can present you with links to TV stations in your community, consider visiting. <http://www.mondotimes.com/index.html> Given adequate notice, Danielle Cole in our marketing department can even provide your chapter with the contact information for the TV stations in your community. Her email address is dcole@barbershop.org and her phone number is 800.876.7464, ext 4137.

#2 - American Harmony - the best movie about barbershop ever made....honest!

How would you like to show this movie in your home town to all your friends as part of the grand opening nationwide? Well you can. It's easy. Please read about this project via the attached and UPDATED PDF or online at www.barbershop.org/americanharmony about how to make this happen. Complete a short survey for us, and we'll get you started right away. The survey closes on December 1st so don't delay.



PROBE Contest Bulletin & PR Of The Year

Art Lane
Bass, Holland Chapter
Editor, The Windmill Blade
PR worker, Holland Chapter
PROBE Contest Coordinator

ENTRIES INVITED FOR PIONEER DISTRICT
BULLETIN EDITOR OF THE YEAR
AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER OF THE
YEAR

Attention, chapter bulletin editors, PR guys, vice presidents of Marketing and Public Relations, and chapter presidents:

Now is the time to organize your chapter's entries for the 2008 Pioneer District Public Relations Officer of the Year contest and the 2008 Pioneer District Bulletin Editor of the Year contest. The deadline for submissions will be Jan. 20, 2009.

This notice is aimed not only at bulletin editors and PR men, but at presidents and Marketing VPs for a reason: Sometimes the

men who do the chapter's word work are too modest to enter these contests. Presidents and VPs can urge them to enter. Or, of your editor or PR man has done a good job the past year, just gather up the information listed below and send it in for them. Your chapter could win an honor without singing a note!

Here are the contests:

BULLETIN EDITOR OF THE YEAR

All bulletin editors who have published at least six monthly issues in a year are eligible for the district contest. To enter, submit six copies each of two consecutive issues. One copy of each issue must be off-press, that is from the original run; the others may be later copies.

Editors of weekly bulletins should submit six copies each of eight consecutive issues.

Even without competing, any editor may submit bulletins for judges' comments no matter how many or few issues published. No score will be given if so requested. The experienced barbershop journalists who do the judging are happy to offer suggestions and discuss with editors how to make a bulletin a more effective servant of the chapter

The district bulletin winner will be announced at the convention in April. The winner of the district contest will be entered in

Society-wide competition, the results to be announced at the International convention in July.

Information about the contests run by the Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE) may be obtained at www.harmonize.com/PROBE/ including copies of the score sheets used to judge bulletins.

ONLINE BULLETIN CONTEST

Anyone in the Pioneer District who would like to enter his online bulletin may go for information to the PROBE site above.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR

A public relations entry should include a description of the work done by the entrant, backed up by commentary on planning, execution and follow-up, with copies of news releases, pictures, newspaper clippings, posters, correspondence, programs, thank-you letters, etc A notebook or scrapbook is a good way to package such material.

There are two PR entry classifications: PR for a major special project or PR for a chapter's year-round program.

The winning district PR entry will be submitted for the Society-wide contest.

(If your chapter PR guy has done good work but does not enter this contest, officers

should not hesitate to assemble the information and send it in themselves.)

Entrants in all PROBE contests must be members of PROBE both for the year in which the work was done (2008) and the year the contest was held (2009). Entrants may bring their memberships up to date, if necessary, by sending PROBE dues of \$10 a year for 2008 and 2009 to:

Dick Girvin, PROBE Secretary-Treasurer
34888 Lyn Ave.
Hemet CA 92545

PROBE dues are legitimate chapter expenses and chapters are encouraged to be sure their editors and PR men belong to PROBE. Besides contests, the organization offers bulletin and PR tips and a wealth of material suitable for use in bulletins.

Are you proud of your chapter's bulletins and PR work? Then use these contests to tell the world!

ENTRIES

Send your entries by Jan. 20 to the PROBE district contest coordinator:

Art Lane
Box 250
Douglas MI 49406

Questions: 269-857-2781 or artlane@wmo1.com

A New Chapter Formed!

Jackson's The Cascades Harmonizers

Jessica Thompson
and Del Sparks
jessings34@aol.com
djsparks@sbcglobal.net

A NEW CHAPTER is forming in Jackson! Are



you currently without a chorus or quartet? Are you missing that part of your life? Well GREAT news for you! The Cascades Harmonizers will be holding their first meeting on:

January 15th at 7:00pm
Place: Jackson Symphony Orchestra Building (downtown Jackson)

SPECIAL GUESTS: RESISTING ARREST and MOXXY

We are really looking to start something

special with a strong focus on quartet singing and as well as singing as a chorus. Are you looking to learn some new skills? Find 4 guys to sing with? This is the place.

If you are currently singing in a chorus please feel free to join us for fellowship and fun on our first meeting night as we get things rolling, you won't regret it!

Any questions please just ask! We look forward to seeing you there!

Chapters In Action



Battle Creek Chapter Cabaret

Battle Creek Chapter Cabaret

The Battle Creek Chapter is presenting a dinner and music cabaret show, November 22, 2008. Tickets are only

\$22.50. The show will feature music from the Battle Creek Chapter, Moxxy, and Sidekicks



Grand Rapids Chapter Director Search

Great Lakes Chorus
GreatLakesChorus.org

The Great Lakes Chorus is beginning a search to replace its current director who will be leaving by the end of the 2008 calendar year. Current director, Dr. Curt Struyk, will be retiring as director and the chapter

will need to have someone in place as soon as possible.

The Great Lakes Chorus is a very active chapter in the Grand Rapids community, has become increasingly competitive in recent years, and has begun to draw more and younger members to its risers over the past several months. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who has skills as a director and a passion for barbershop singing.

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to chapter president, Doug Weaver, via this email michaelbaribeau@yahoo.com



Curt Struyk
2008 BOTY

12/16/08
installation dinner

2008 BOTY Curt Struyk,
Chorus Director
Wildcard bari

President - Doug Weaver,
IPP - Jim Gillette,
Secretary - Eric O'Brock,
Treasurer - Jack Schneider,
VP Chapter Development - Bill Robbins
VP Program and Special Events(a shared position) - Paul Slack and Mike Odle
VP of Publicity - Robert Ryan,
VP of Music and Performance - Curt Struyk,
VP Youth in Harmony - Dan Winer,
Chorus Manager - John Trestrail,
Chorus Librarian - Derek Hatley,
Chapter Webmaster - Mike Baribeau,

Board Members: Orson Coe, James Masalskis, Mike O'Donnell, Al Smith and Jim Westveld

12th Annual Christmas Show

December 13th, 2008, the 12th annual Grand Rapids Barbershop Chapter Great Lakes Chorus Christmas Show direct by Curt Struyk at the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church who also graciously provide us with our weekly rehearsal hall.

The Show featured performances by Grand Rapids quartets Grand River Serenade, Barbershop Style, Harmony Transfer, the new quartet the Fountain Street Four and 2008 District International Quartet Representatives Wildcard. Also performing were beautiful choral arrangements sung by the 30 men and women's member chorus Jenison High School ChamberSingers directed by Les Rowsey.

I was unable to sing this year's Christmas Show but I got the pleasure of listening to the chorus sing from the audience for the first time. It's a lot

different from being on the risers and although I really enjoyed the show I was really itching to be up there on stage with them (or sanctuary chancel). It goes so fast I wish I could take notes but I'm so busy taking pictures it makes it tough. What stuck out were fine performances by Barbershop Style with that funny bit with sunglasses and Grand River Serenade. Grand River Serenade

even got to sing again in act 2. Harmony Transfer had some touching and some funny songs, plus a joke with a pair of women's nylons that got big laughs. Fountain Street Four, a brand new quartet of young men one of whom is a member of our chorus did a wonderful job! Wildcard got a standing ovation with beautiful sacred songs. My only regret is not standing to encourage an ovation for

the Jenison High School ChamberSingers who were absolutely fantastic! And then of course the Great Lakes Chorus who have a really warm sound and persona, plus they had a few choreography jokes that were hits. I wish I could hear the chorus sing again at the next gig in spring but I'll be too busy having fun singing with them!



Great Lakes Chorus



Barbershop Style



Great Lakes Chorus



Grand River Serenade



Harmony Transfer



Fountain Street Four



Wildcard



Jenison High School ChamberSingers



Jenison High School ChamberSingers



Jackson Chapter

Cascades Harmonizers

See this issue's announcement, "A New Chapter Formed! Jackson's The Cascades Harmonizers"



Lansing Chapter Silver Bells In The City

Excerpt from silverbellsinthecity.org

The 24th Annual Silver Bells in the City will take place on Friday, November 21, 2008 in downtown Lansing.



Silver Bells in the City, which attracted more than 120,000 in 2007, annually features an Electric Light Parade followed by the lighting of Michigan's official Christmas tree and a firework show (weather permitting) over the State Capitol.

The entire evening is also filled with free family entertainment including free admission to Lansing's cultural institutions, horse-drawn wagon rides on Washington Square, and performances by more than 50 local arts and cultural institutions throughout downtown Lansing.

photos by Paul Howe
Capitol City Chordsmen

Yes, I know it isn't even Thanksgiving yet, but here we are singing in the Holiday season at Silver Bells in the City at the 200 block of South Washington Square. With a wind chill in the low teens, it's small wonder director Steve Warnaar (pictured directing in large fluffy mittens) and most everyone were dressed more like an abominable snow person than carolers. Most of us would have been in a better Christmas spirit if it weren't for scalpers charging us \$10.00 to park. (Thanks in large part to the mindless maneuverings of Mayor Bernero.)



The Patch Chords; Larry Parker, Doug Pearson, substitute tenor Don Terpe, and Rich Harlow



Singular; Brian Pianosi, Mike Craig, Larry Wise, and Steve Whittaker



Something BIG!! Don Terpe, Jason Kerschke, T.R. Gerard, and Steve Warnaar

Van Atta's

Nov 23, 2008 Haslett, Mich. Van Atta's Greenhouse & Flower Shop mini chorus performances by CCC mini-chorus Weekend Agenda, Singular, The Patch Chords, Something BIG!!





G. Lynn Webster New Director

by Don Horton
Lansing Chapter
Capitol City Chordsmen
Search Committee Chairman

Please welcome G. Lynn Webster as your NEW DIRECTOR of the Lansing Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society Inc. At a Special meeting of the Board of Directors held on Monday night December 22, 2008, the Board accepted the recommendation of the Director Search Committee consisting of Doug Pearson, James Hall, Steve Waarnar, Mike Craig and Chairman Don Horton. The contract was made official after President Bill Mason signed it Monday night.

Lynn was the favorite choice of the members per the evaluations completed after each audition of the candidates. The credentials that Lynn brings to the Chapter are very impressive including but not limited to his experience in Vocal Music, his Arranging skills, Public Relations and Graphic Design, Leadership qualities, and Enthusiasm etc.

Lynn has attended many of our Lansing Chapter shows over the years and has been vocal coach and arranger for The Calvary-Men and Stronghold southern gospel quartets. A retired Vocal Music schoolteacher he now brings his talents into the World of Barbershop. We encourage ALL members of the Lansing Chapter (approximately 70 strong) to come and see Lynn in action on Tuesday night December 30th, 2008 at 7:00

p.m. sharp.

Lynn is on target with our Music Team and our Vision Team in carrying out the plan, which expects to be finalized by late January. The plan will begin a new image for the Lansing Chapter with emphasis on Better Singing, Increased Membership and more Public Appearances in 2009.

The member survey indicates that members are willing to commit to the goals being set by the Vision Team which includes among other things member commitment to set attendance standards, and singing standards to improve the quality of the chorus and to promote membership growth.

Lynn will be attending cots along with nearly 20 other chapter members. Vicki Gibson has accepted to be our Chapter Mentor to help us carryout our plan. Now is the time for each member to recommit your efforts to the Lansing Chapter. We have 11 more weeks of rehearsal to put on a "GREAT" Wharton Center show on March 7, 2009.

Please see Larry Parker for tickets and show program AD forms.

Guardians OF Harmony

Macomb County Chapter Clintondale HS Auditorium

by Dave A., President,
Macomb County Chapter

(this event has already occurred)

Harmony Lovers, looking for something fun to do this Saturday Afternoon? Then come over to Clintondale High School Auditorium for a fun filled show with The Guardians of Harmony. Yes, that's today (nov 15, 2008). The fun is provided by Novelty Shop and the ever loveable Doran McTaggart. The Harmony is provided by the Guardians Chorus and a vocal Jazz group called Prime. Prime's bass is none other than the Vagabond's Norm Thompson.

Tickets are just \$15 and can be purchased at the door. Enter the auditorium at Clintondale off the 15 Mile Road parking lot. It is located on the north side of the road just west of Gratiot and just east of Little Mack. Come on over for a fun time.

Hey, I bet you would like to know what time that show starts! The show begins at 2:59, not 3:00, but 2:59. The doors will open at 2:30. Plenty of parking in the lot close by. So it's a cold rainy day and what better could you find to do than come to our show.



Mount Pleasant Chapter

Dinner Show

(this event has already occurred)

The fourth annual dinner show presented by the MountainTown Singers will be held this

coming Sunday, November 9th. Dinner is served at 4:30 pm with the show commencing at 6:00. Dinner show tickets are \$75 per couple, \$40 for single and \$15 for show only tickets. There is a \$10 ticket for students for the show only. Dinner tickets sales close this Wednesday while show only tickets will be available at the door. A show poster can be viewed at www.mountaintownsingers.org. Resisting-a- rest will be our featured quartet. The chorus will premier our latest chart: Mansions of the Lord which is not a barber-shop arrangement but a real tear jerker that demonstrates the versatility of the chorus. Please direct any questions to Joe McDonald at jocab2@hotmail.com.



Pontiac-Waterford Chapter

52nd Annual Woodshed Contest

by Dick Johnson

The 52nd annual Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Woodshed Contest was successfully held Friday October 10th at the Pontiac Country Club. Over 40 "would-be" Woodshed Badge winners formed 13 quartets, picked songs from the 85 songs on the song-list board, huddled in room corners, worked up arrangements and performed in front of Nightshift, the judging quartet. (Nightshift also graced the evening in song).

The winning quartet, named "Bud-Lite" with lead Mike Frye (BCC) Tenor, Hank DeMars (Gross Pointe) Bari, Dale Petroski (Gross Pointe) Bass, and Dave Anderson (Macomb)

Lead, sang "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles." They are all winners of the coveted 2008 Woodshed Badges. The Flint Chapter had the highest percentage of participating members, so they will have their chapter's name engraved on the "Bennington Trophy" for 2008. Other chapters present were DOC, Gross Pointe, Macomb and Frank Thorne.

Len Barnes kept the evening rolling as MC. All of the 20 plus BCC members...Barnes, Butcher, Cheyne, Dabbs, DeNio, Doig, Frye, Greenwood, Holm, Johnson, Legato, Lilly, Mahacek, Mann, Maxfield, Melkonian, Myre, McFadyen, Pioch, Schreiner, Shew and Teuber... helped make the evening a success by pitching in to register members as they arrived, run the 50/50, register quartets, erect and take down the woodshed and provide tasty snacks. Thanks to all. And, in some kind of (modern-day) record, fourteen of the Chiefs participated in quartets - McFadyen, Frye, Schreiner, Shew, DeNio, Teuber, Doig, Mahacek, Melkonian, Holm, Howard, Butcher, (Dick) Johnson, and Greenwood.





64th ANNUAL SHOW

by John Cowlshaw

It has been a long time coming (gee, half as long as Barack Obama and John McCain have been on the campaign trail) but Saturday night, November 1, it all came together in a fine performance of American History. The audience of 500-plus stood for the cho-

rus's singing of "Star Spangled Banner." With the huge back-lit flag behind, it set the tone for this multifaceted, twisted but patriotic history of America, as told by Grandfather Bill Holmes to his Grandson, bedbound Billy (Ross Ensign). Getting out the "big book," Grandpa described how the country was begun by a group of "good men," and the chorus responded "When Good Men Sing." The Founding Fathers Quartet (Local Color IV) sang of the opening of the West with "Shenandoah." The awesomeness of that West was described in "America, the Beautiful." Then the four faces of Mount Rushmore (Four to Go) arrived to joke about forming a Heavenly quartet and singing, "Everything's Coming up Roses."

What about Ben Franklin's kite? It flew across the stage above the chorus. Lightning flashed, thunder roared, and a dazed Ben Franklin stumbled onstage to conduct the world premier of Tom Blue's arrangement of "American Trilogy." Then, to the dramatic repetition of the horns, Northbound Sound entered from the four directions to sing the

"Armed Forces Medley." The chorus responded with Ellis-Island-arrival Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," and Four Wheel Drive sang the contemporary "God Bless the USA." As the chorus sang its final number, "This is My Country," it came forward off the risers to the footlights in a large semicircle, waving flags and firing pops. Without intermission, our two guest quartets sang - Chordiology and elmoTHUMM. The show concluded with the chorus, decked out in their tuxedos, singing "Precious Lord," "Irish Parting Prayer," and "Keep America Singing."

Thanks to so many people - Tom Blue for his vocal inspiration and moving us to the next level with his Trilogy arrangement, Fred McFadyen and Dick Johnson for assisting in the directing, Ron Clarke as show chairman, Bill and Ross for their humorous acting, Pete, Jeff, and Ron for the script, Jeff as Manager, Donna Bevington as Stage Director, Jim Owens for tickets, Ross Ensign for advertising booklet, Bruce Brede for organizing the Afterglow, and all of us for helping create the ideas and energy for carrying this out.



Making A Case For elmoTHUMM

Zaven Melkonian, Bass
Big Chief Chorus
Four Wheel Drive Quartet

I cannot say enough about our guest quartets (oops, one is a quintet), "Chordiology" and "elmoTHUMM". Both received thunderous applause and rave reviews from a very

appreciative audience. We are all familiar with our super talented barbershop brothers, "Chordiology", but I'd also like to make a case for "elmoTHUMM". To those of you in the district who have caught their act, you know the depth of their talent. Some chapters may be hesitant to feature a non-barbershop, a cappella group as guest performers on their show. Make no mistake.....these guys are GOOD!!! Book 'em for your next show and you'll see what I mean. You can contact them through Paul Ellinger, who sings lead in both groups.





elmoTHUMM

Paul Ellinger
Chordiology

Thanks Zaven. We had a GREAT time as well. If anyone would like to learn about what Zaven is talking about you may try www.myspace.com/elmoTHUMM and you can get an idea of the sound we put out: 50's and doo-wop, 60's and motown, 70's and classic rock (we love doing classic rock a capella!), 80's and pop, 90's, today's, country, reggae, et cetera. We do all of our own arrangements and you might even find some things on www.youtube.com as well. As a point of interest, we have 5 members who all sing lead and I only sing lead on about 2 songs out of

about 50 songs in our repertoire.

I'll apologize now for talking about something on the Pionet that isn't strictly barber-shop, but elmoTHUMM works with schools, colleges and the general public to spread the word of a capella singing and let people know that the BHS is a fantastic way for guys (and gals) to keep singing after they finish with school!

Chordiology, is thankful for really cool dads by the way. If you read the latest blog that should be posted tomorrow, you'll know what I mean. Anyway, thanks again, Zaven.



Christmas Singouts

by Jack Teuber

December was a very busy month for the durable members of the Big Chief Chorus. Weather and appreciative audiences were the story line for the 2008 Christmas Sing-Outs. By the end of the month, the chorus had sung together at eighteen different

venues. The audience for the month totaled 1,162. The chorus sang well and was greatly appreciated at the Waterford Tree Lighting on December 1st. There were no reports of anyone slipping or falling on the crisp, icy metal stage. The weather continued to be a factor at the Holly Dickens Festival, as the Bus Tour enjoyed a wintry day that turned to an icy rain by the Holly presentation. Thanks to Tom Blue, the chorus was able to sing its normal thirty minute performance in a record ten minutes and quickly get in out of the rain.

A performance at the Super Chief Coney Island, home of the Big Chief Coney Dog, was led by Ross Ensign and Fred McFadyen. A downsized chorus of sixteen entertained a Standing Room Only audience at the restaurant. Delicious cookies were provided to the chorus as a result of their efforts.

The weather was really a challenge on Friday, December 19th. The chorus of eighteen

men entertained an audience of forty-eight Oakland County Parks and Recreation employees. Tom Blue led the chorus for this annual event. Tom was available as all schools in Oakland County were closed. The County warned that the roads were too hazardous for unnecessary travel. The chorus enjoyed the buffet provided by Oaks Management. There was ample, delicious food provided as they had planned on 125 guests. Those guests with better judgment must have stayed home. Chorus members Mann, McFadyen and Northey, with no concept of fear, traveled an especially great and hazardous distance to attend. The chorus wrapped up the Christmas Season on December 23rd at Canterbury on the Lake.

We were delighted to be joined this season by the following ten guest singers: Dick Chapman, Tim Kelly, Gary Kibbe, Bob Kleemann, Gary Manley, Pat Newkirk, Bill Schoen, Roger Socotch, Bob Stephenson, and Jerry Twomey.



Singing at Inn at Cass Lake, Dec 16, 2008



Warm up at Lakeland Place, Dec 16, 2008



Celebration; Jack Teuber, Bruce Brede, Greg Moss, and Bill Dabbs

Christmas Celebration

by Bruce Brede

Our Celebration Barbershop Quartet, like the Big Chief Chorus, has had a busy December singing Christmas carols to over 500

people in our community. It began on December 8th & 9th with two evening singouts at Waterford Oaks as fifty-six Oakland County seniors were bussed in for coffee and song while on their Light Tours. Then later that week, Celebration entertained thirty-two seniors at a luncheon at Woodward Hills Nursing Home and then went directly to a St Joseph's Mercy Hospital Christmas luncheon for a long program of Christmas carols for ninety-six hospital volunteers. The following week began with the first of seven more singouts for our Show Program Ad Sponsors. Monday, December 15, was at Suburban Ford for 28 and then a dinner crowd of 34 at Copperstones. The following Saturday, Celebration had its own "bus tour" by car starting with breakfast crowds at Copperstones for another 28, on to Everybody's Cafe for 24 and Big Apple for 54. Then on to 60 customers at Tenuta's Foodlane, who opted out of the BCC Bus Tour this year due to economic conditions, and finally on to Pete's Coney for 80 total in two luncheon shifts...

two sets of about six carols each. All in all, there was great appreciation shown for the Quartet, the BCC and the Chapter. We were once again reminded that many residents consider us an important and integral part of the Pontiac, Waterford, Lake Orion and Clarkston communities.



Celebration sang a special song to Hazel Inscho, age 104, a number illustrated here by Keith, Newkirk, and Owens



Rochester Chapter

Director Search

by Dick Hartrick,
Rochester Chapter
dick758@aol.com

At the November meeting of the Rochester Chapter's board Andy Brenz announced that after ten years his arms had grown weary and that at year end he would be stepping aside as Musical Director of the Heart of the Hills Chorus. Well, year end is fast approaching so it's appropriate to publically thank Andy for his long-term dedication and bid a fond farewell to his directorial presence and style.

Mike Hartirck, the chorus' young, energetic assistant director will take the reigns as interim-director while the chapter searches for a new front line director.

Anyone interested about the opportunity of becoming the next director of the Heart of the Hills Chorus should contact Dick Hartrick, email preferred, dick758@aol.com

Windsor Chapter

Sun Parlour Chorus

See this issue's announcement, "Annual Uncle Sam Night In Canada's"



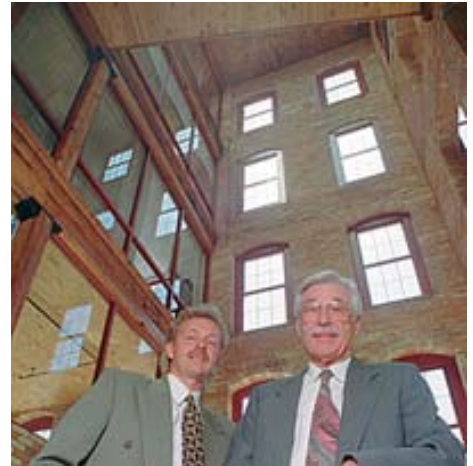
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www.harmonize.com/doc/doc.htm



Gentlemen Songsters Meet:
Monday, 7:30 pm
Starr Presbyterian Church
13 Mile & Crooks Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48301



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The Patch Chords
Music and Mirth

(517) 521-3218
Roger

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Larry

Dave and Rick Anderson & Dave and Roger Walker



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Singing With Dad

Contact Dave (Rick's dad) at (586) 286-4860
or e-mail: PDSing@comcast.net

CALENDAR: 2009 Events

January 3-4 COTS
February 27-28 Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show
March 7 Lansing Chapter Show
April 17-19 (Note different weekend!) District Convention Traverse City
August 21-22 Bush League Quartet Contest and coaching, Gaylord Chapter
September 12 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
October 16-18 District Convention - Kalamazoo
October 24 Rochester Chapter Show
November 7 Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

Chapter Locations

