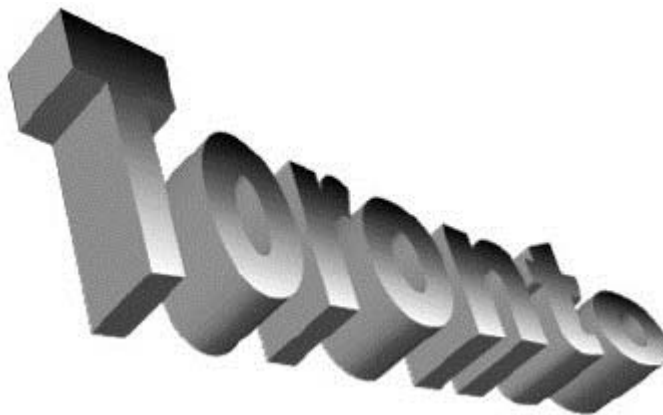
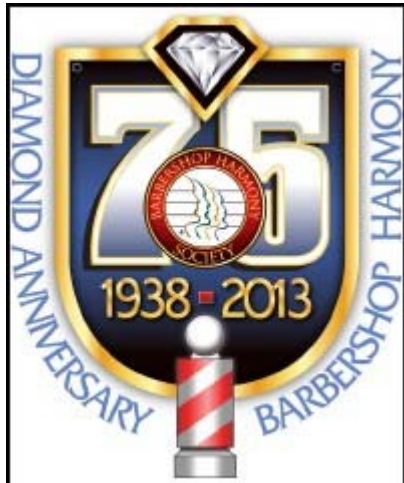


Volume 2 Number 3

August 2013



The Party



Ebb N' Flow



TROUBADOUR

Official publication of the Pioneer District, Barbershop Harmony Society

Co-editor—John Cowlshaw: cowlsha@comcast.net
Co-editor—Tom Ennis: tom@tenniswithouutt.com
Co-editor—Greg Humbel: ghumbel@comcast.net

<http://pioneerdistrict.org>



PRESIDENT

Doug Weaver
861 Reeds Hollow Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616.706.3787
dweave@comcast.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT & HARMONY FOUNDATION

Brian Dunkel
5872 Green Road
Haslett, MI 48840-9783
517.339.3422
MSUdunk@aol.com

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dan Bezaire
393 Harvest Lane
Belle River, ON Canada N0R1A0
226.363.0522
dbezaire4@cogeco.ca

SECRETARY

Jim McMahan
3080 E Lois Ave
Midland, MI 48640
989 631-5093
Cyn5093@charter.net

TREASURER

Larry Parker
1416 New York Ave
Lansing, MI 48906-4538
517 372-8389
lparker437@aol.com

CHAPTER SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Joe McDonald
510 South Franklin
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
joecab2@hotmail.com

CONTEST & JUDGING

Ron Eubank
4272 Browning Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269.470.2088
roneubank@sbcglobal.net

EVENTS

Roger J. Lewis
20125 12 Mile Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014-8497
rjlewisemc@aol.com

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Cliff Dake
27123 Barra
Novi, MI 48377
248 860-0046
CliffDake@yahoo.com

Financial Development

Brian Dunkel
5872 Green Road
Haslett, MI 48840-9783
517 339-3422
MSUdunk@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Paul Ellinger
1496 Copeland Circle
Canton, MI 48187-3446
517.812.5757
ellinger.paul@gmail.com

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Evan Boegehold
1531 East Bellows Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
(304) 692-8222
boege1et@cmich.edu

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

James O'Dell
7319 Warwick Dr
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734.223.7080
jandjodell@comcast.net

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Rob Pettigrew
6986 Alber Rd.
Saline, MI 48176
734 252-9762
Rob@chordiology.com

PIONEER DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS



1944 HARMONY HALLS: 1966 AUTO TOWNERS: 1971 GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT: 2003 POWER PLAY



CHORUS CHAMPIONS
1953 GREAT LAKES CHORUS (GRAND RAPIDS)

QUARTET CHAMPIONS



SENIOR QUARTET CHAMPIONS
2010 RESISTING-A-REST

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The Troubadour is a quarterly publication by the authority of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society. All articles and photos not by-lined are by the editor (or are unknown/anonymous) and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of members or officers of the District. Space will be made available for opposing views relevant to any issue. Nothing will be published that is in violation of the Society's Code of Ethics.

In This Issue

	Page
Pioneer District Officer's Corner	
Sponsoring the Youth Chorus Festival	5
Standing Ovation Program	7
International Convention, Toronto, 2013	
From the Pioneer District Facebook Site	7
Meet Our International Champions	7
From William Stutts Jr.	10
MountainTown Singers at International	10
Special Tribute To the Nylons	11
Next Year's International Conventions	11
Report—Chapters	
Battle Creek	12
Detroit-Oakland	12
Flint	13
Grand Rapids	13
Gratiot County	14
Hillsdale	14
Huron Valley	14
Kalamazoo	15
Lansing	15
Livingston	18
Monroe North	19
Mt. Pleasant	20
Muskegon	20
Pontiac-Waterford	20
Rochester	21
Traverse City	21
Wayne	21
Windsor	22
Report—Quartets	
4GVN	22
Bidin' Our Time	23
Chordiology	23
Classic Fit	24
Ebb N' Flow	24
Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir	25
G-Fours	26
Limited Edition	26
Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet	27
Sound Idea!	29
Wavelength	29
Harmony Road	29

	Page
Report-Events	
4th Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade	30
Preparing for Brigade	33
Frankenmuth Dead Creek Picnic	35
Got Harmony Day Camp	36
Harmony Explosion Camp	37
Quartet Boot Camp	38
Flash Mob	39
BBBBB—Barbershop-Beer-Beans-BBQ in the Barn	40
Pioneer District	
District Fall Convention	40
District Convention Photographer	40
David Gillingham Stepping Down As Director of MTS	41
New Youth Chorus Being Planned in Pioneer	42
Pioneer District Internet Sites	43
Pioneer History	43
Craft	
Circle of Fifths	43
Media	
Favorite Old Barbershop Songs	44
Barbershop Me	44
Justin Verlander Sings a Tag	45
Transitions	
Lowell Boyer	45
Dave Donnelly	46
Ted Franklin	46
Floyd Barckley Roach	46
Letters	
Aaron Wolf	47
Troubadour Business	
Multiple	47
Upcoming Events	
Bush League	48
No Borders Youth Chorus	48
Calendar	49



Wavelength



MountainTown Singers

Pioneer District Officers' Corner

Sponsoring the Youth Chorus Festival

by Brian Dunckel, Immediate Past President & Harmony Foundation Regional Representative

[Return to TOC](#)

I know you heard at convention in Traverse City, by District President **Doug Weaver**, that Pioneer will again seek to become sponsors of the Youth Chorus Festival to be held at the Mid-Winter Convention in Long Beach, CA; but what is your chapter doing about it? Hopefully, you have given it some thought as to how your chapter can raise funds to support this endeavor. The price tag is steep- \$10,000, but WHEN we succeed at it that \$10,000 will be MATCHED not by one but TWO generous donors- thus making it \$30,000 for the festival!

[What] is YOUR chapter going to do its part? This begins the time that we have a LOT of summertime inter-chapter activities. Perhaps if you are hosting one, you could hold a special 50/50 raffle that night with proceeds going towards Pioneer's goal; or perhaps just an old fashioned "pass the bucket" for donations. Maybe you could hold a tag contest and charge \$5 per quartet to enter with the donations going to the Harmony Foundation. There are LOTS of opportunities- get creative and help us to our goal in this worthwhile endeavor. If your chapter does not have plans for such an event, it's not too late to invite a chapter or several to join you for some upcoming meeting- all it takes is a little planning, some extra refreshments and the desire to have fun together! If not, please plan something for your chapter members to support us in this endeavor. If you haven't yet met RJ, I encourage you to watch the video whose link follows. Here is a young man, who like many young people, obviously struggles daily to "fit in" at school, with others around him- yet through a Harmony Foundation Scholarship to last year's Youth Chorus Festival, and OUR MUSIC-he has found a place that he fits in just perfectly! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_EtGRmJvmQ

Tears rolled down my cheeks as I viewed this for the first time, as they have the countless many more times I have viewed this video! This, my friends, is the power of our music and what we do! I have NO DOUBT that you too will see the importance of our donations to the Harmony Foundation in this Pioneer District endeavor, and will begin to explore opportunities for your chapter to "make a difference" in the lives of youth across our country and the world! Make sure that EVERYONE in your chapter has the chance to see this video as well. Show it at a chapter meeting, or preface whatever you are going to do at your inter-chapter event with the video. I don't see how anyone could NOT be compelled to support whatever method that you choose to raise funds to contribute towards Pioneer's planned sponsorship of this wonderful event! I can't express the pride I felt as EVP **Dan Bezaire** and I stood on the stage last winter in Orlando representing Pioneer, nor comprehend the many thank you's we received from other barbershoppers and the young people who were beneficiaries of our collective efforts!

Individuals, you too can make contributions to the HF- contact **Sean Devine** at the Foundation sdevine@harmonyfoundation.org and he will get you signed up for regular monthly contributions to be deducted from your checking account or billed to your credit card. I'm sure that you will find, like my wife and I have, that it is the easiest and most rewarding way you can impact the lives of young people AND sustain our great hobby!

Canadian members, you too can contribute to support the youth movement as well, through Sing Canada at <http://www.singcanadaharmony.ca>

[Return to TOC](#)

Thanks for your support as we again show that Pioneer is truly a pioneer in leading the Society!

Standing Ovation program

by Cliff Dake, Pioneer District Music and Performance VP

Hello Chapters & members of Pioneer,

The standing Ovation program is up and running. **Al Fisk** will review your event with great positive feed back for improving the success for future events. Please contact Al Fisk with the date of your next event. His contact information is located on the Pioneer web site.

International Convention, Toronto, 2013

Chorus Competition: The Mt. Pleasant MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS tied for 25th with a 76.9 score (out of 29 choruses).

Collegiate Quartet Competition: WAVELENGTH tied for 23rd with a score of 69.1 (out of 26 quartets).

Quartet Competition: THE PARTY placed 34th out of 48 with a score of 76.7
EBB N' FLOW tied for 42nd out of 48 with a score of 76.1

There were a LOT of quartets very closely bunched from 32nd through 42nd place with just twenty-four total points separating them.

From the Pioneer District Facebook Site

Did you see how well our groups represented us at the 2013 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention in Toronto? Since scoring was changed in 1994, this international contest was the first time that our district had two quartets AND the chorus representative score over a 76.0!

Great things are happening in Pioneer! SHARE your appreciation for these great groups in our district: MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS, THE PARTY, and EBB N' FLOW quartet.

Meet Our International Champions

from BHS Website

MASTERPIECE WINS QUARTET GOLD

Three past-champion singers plus a hot young lead combined to bring MASTERPIECE the gold medals in Saturday's world championship competition in Toronto.

Singing music ranging from **Kathy Mattea's** "Where've You Been" to American classics "Tennessee Waltz" and "Sweet Lucy Brown," the quartet emerged from a pack of fifty quartets at the contest.

[Return to TOC](#)

Experienced singers Bass **Brett Littlefield** and tenor **Rob Menaker** sang in 1996 champion NIGHTLIFE; baritone **Alan Gordon** sang in 2004 champ GOTCHA!; and lead **Patrick Haedtler** previously sang in international competition with THE CRUSH.



MASTERPIECE

The top five finishers were, in order::

1. MASTERPIECE -- 8041 points, 89.3%
2. MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS -- 8002 points, 88.9%
3. A MIGHTY WIND -- 7924 points, 88%
4. MAIN STREET -- 7825 points, 86.9%
5. FOREFRONT -- 7758 points, 86.2%

MASTERPIECE has just published its first recording, *Nice & Easy* with songs "Bang Goes The Drum," "Nice & Easy," "Deed I Do," "The Heather on the Hill," "Stormy Weather," "Hi-De-Ho," "San Fernando Valley," "Tennessee Waltz," "Where've You Been," "Sweet Pea," "Joyfully I'll Travel On," "At the Crossroads."

TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS CHORUS WINS "WORLD SERIES OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY" IN HOMETOWN AIR CANADA CENTRE

Singing a hilarious medley of parody songs set in a vegetable garden, Toronto's NORTHERN LIGHTS Chorus captured the gold medal in the international barbershop chorus contest Saturday night.

"The Age of Asparagus," "Corn Free," "Lettuce Entertain You" and "Beet It" were among the classics lampooned by the 73-member chorus, which has earned second place five times in the past.



Toronto's NORTHERN LIGHTS

Toronto beat the WESTMINSTER Chorus by a mere 2 points, 2831-2829, a mere 0.06% margin. It is the first win in the chorus contest by a non-U.S. chorus since the Scarborough DUKES OF HARMONY captured titles in 1977 and 1980.

[Return to TOC](#)

More than 1600 singers participated in the contest. The top finishers were:

1. TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS, 2831 points, average 94.36%
2. THE WESTMINSTER CHORUS, Los Angeles, 2829 points, average 94.30%
3. ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS, Alexandria, Virginia, 2750 points, average 91.7%
4. SOUND OF THE ROCKIES, Denver, Colorado, 2693 points, average 89.8%
5. THE ALLIANCE, Columbus, Ohio, 2602 points, average 86.7%

NEWFANGLED FOUR WINS COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP



NEWFANGLED FOUR

The NEWFANGLED FOUR, a quartet hailing from the Los Angeles area, beat out 25 other young quartets from around the world to capture the college championship.

Singing old standards "Mistakes" and "Georgia Mae," the quartet posted A-level scores comparable to those in the open division contest.

The NEWFANGLED FOUR quartet consists of **Joey Buss**, tenor, from Huntington Beach; **Jackson Niebrugge**, lead, of Los Angeles; **Ryan Wisniewski**, baritone, of Las Vegas; and **Jake Tickner**, bass, of Discovery Bay.

The foundation of their barbershop success has been as members of the WESTMINSTER CHORUS, a two-time barbershop champ that sought its third gold medal, but was edged by the TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS Chorus. "We haven't spent a lot of time with coaches," said tenor Joey Buss. "Because singing with the chorus every week is like a clinic in barbershop excellence."

As champion, the quartet earns bragging rights, notoriety, and a springboard to the big contest, which has increasingly been dominated by past college champions, and off-shore quartets such as 2013 champs RINGMASTERS, natives of Stockholm, Sweden.

The top five college quartets were, in order:

1. The NEWFANGLED FOUR, Cal State Long Beach
2. The SUNNY BOYS, Bowling Green State University, Florida National University, Miami Dade College, Western Michigan University
3. The CON MEN, Capital University
4. The NEW EDITION, Schoolcraft College, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri- St. Louis
5. PHANTOM FIFTH, University of North Texas

All Toronto scores are available at:

<http://www.harmonize.ws/HarmonetReporter/scores/2013/scores13.htm>



Part of the Pioneer contingent in Toronto posing in front of the well-received Pioneer History Display by John Baker.



A perk at convention: Jacob Welty got to sing Bass with members of 2006 Champions Vocal Spectrum (Tim Waurick, Eric Dalbey, Jacob, Jonny Moroni)

William Stutts, Jr. published two videos on YouTube of the Toronto convention.

"Keep the Whole World Singing" 75th Anniversary Convention in Toronto

After an incredible week of barbershop music, we all close out the week of International with the singing of "Keep the Whole World Singing."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtdJYYlesmQ&feature=youtu.be>

74 years of Barbershop International Champs 2013. This was an exhibit in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention in Toronto this year. The exhibit had originals and some recreations of the outfits worn by our International champions. Take a stroll down memory lane and remember these great quartets

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=2C_pr_I-YCo

MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS at International

by Tom Ennis

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS appearance at the International Convention in Toronto was a bitter sweet one. Sweet, was that we were there representing the Pioneer District. Bitter, was that we knew this would be the last time we would appear under the direction of "**Doc**" **Gillingham**. He had made it known to us earlier that this would be his swan song with the chorus.

We didn't delude ourselves going into the contest that we would make the top twenty.

[Return to TOC](#)

After all, we came into Toronto seeded last. But, we were determined to make this our best appearance. This one was going to be for the Gipper...er Doc.

EBB N' FLOW joined the chorus ranks for this trip down memory lane. **Ben** (baritone of EBB N' FLOW) **Krinke's** little brother sang with us. He also sings baritone and seems intent on following in big brother's foot steps. **Kaleb Lenneman** joined us from WAVELENGTH. **Craig Johnson** would savor this, his last appearance with the chorus, as he would soon be heading to Florida to work on his masters degree.

We had heard over and over again that the acoustics on stage would leave everyone feeling isolated, that you'd feel like you were singing by yourself, so sing the plan. Don't back off. Don't be safe. I must say, that for this singer, it felt different than any of our past internationals. To a man we really left it all out there, on the stage. It wasn't the highest we have ever scored at international nor was it the highest we ever placed at international. But, it felt like it was and that's what counted. That is after all, what it's all about. Have fun and give it your all. Don't leave the stage feeling like you could have done more. The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS didn't.

Special Tribute to the NYLONS



Platinum-selling recording artists the NYLONS received Honorary Membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society. The NYLONS represent the birth of contemporary a cappella, bringing style, original compositions, and a dancefloor mentality to a broad popular audience that had never heard anything like them. In many ways, the NYLONS were the godparents to a new generation of singers, inspiring a resurgence of collegiate cappella over the last 20 years.

Plan ahead for next year's International Conventions

Mid-Winter – Long Beach, CA Jan 28 – Aug 2, 2014

Summer – Las Vegas, NV June 29 - July 6, 2014



Reports—Chapters

Battle Creek

Battle Creek's recent performances have included:

May 11 – Cabaret Dinner and Show, at Convis Township Hall in Marshall

June 19 – Marion Burch Adult Day Care, Battle Creek

July 10 – Relay for Life Dinner, United Methodist Church, Marshall

July 19 – Relay for Life Race, United Methodist Church, Marshall

Detroit-Oakland

D.O.C Picnic

About 85 people took advantage of the splendid weather to gather at the Sylvan Lake Community Center Monday, July 22, for the annual D.O.C. picnic. The new venue brought out a large group (15) from Pontiac-Waterford; also present were 'barbershoppers' from Rochester, Wayne, the SHORELINE SOUND Sweet Ads chapter from Royal Oak, and many spouses and friends. Burgers, brats, and Famous Dave's ribs, as well as many salads and side dishes, were on the menu. **Joe DeSantis** and **Pete Peters** organized the event.

Ray Sturdy emceed the evening's show, which included many jokes told by aspiring **Doran McTaggart**s. A goodly number of them were real "groaners," but the best were deemed, by judges **Jim Kunz** and **Zaven Melkonian**, to be those of Rev Graham of TODAY'S SPECIAL.

The BIG CHIEF chorus under the direction of **Fred McFadyen** began the evening's entertainment, and the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS, with Jim Kunz, finished it off. In between were four quartets - CLASSIC FIT, SERAPHIM, BIDIN' OUR TIME, and TODAY'S SPECIAL.



The venue, Sylvan Lake Community Center



Jim Kunz, leading the D.O.C. chorus

D.O.C's GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS are one of the choruses invited to the Top Gun Chorus coaching event, Saturday, August 24, Canton, MI. They will work on their contest songs:

--For Sale, One Broken Heart
 --Looking at the World Through Rose-Colored Glasses

The chorus is scheduled to sing at Henry Ford Village on Sunday, November 3.

Flint

The chapter show, "The Melody Lingers On," was presented May 4, at the Church of the Holy Family, Father Bush Hall, in Grand Blanc.

The Flint ARROWHEAD Chorus will hold its chicken dinner fund raiser, October 13, at the Flint Masonic Temple.

Grand Rapids

In June the GREAT LAKES CHORUS was chosen to sing the National Anthem for the playoff games of the Grand Rapids Griffins hockey team. They must have been good luck because the Griffins won their first three playoff games. But on June 14, the magic ended. However, the Griffins still came back (in the away game) to win their first ever Calder Trophy.



Great Lakes Chorus singing the National Anthem at a Griffin's game.

The chorus's recent schedule included:

July 9 - Forest Hills Inn (Fundraiser),
 July 21 - First Congregational Church, of Greenville, MI
 August 4 - First United Methodist Church, of Lowell, MI
 August 5 - Harmony@Harmony Brewing Company (Fundraiser)

And upcoming,

August 27 - Annual GLC Corn Roast, 5-10 pm, 2765 Bauer Rd., Jenison. This is a men's only event at John Baker's house. Come one, come all.

Gratiot County

The MIDSTATESMEN participated in the Highland Festival Parade, Saturday, May 25, 2013.

Hillsdale

by Roger Brook

TOWN & COUNTRY CHORUS spring concert HOMETOWN MEMORIES was Saturday, May 18, at Markel Auditorium, Sage Center, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI.

The Chorus presented a collection of songs from the 50's and 60's featuring hometowns and hometown memories as it traveled across the US. Quartets from the chorus added to the concert. The feature quartet was the FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, featuring our own **Don Slamka**.

Other performances included:

June 23 – Singout at Weslet UMC, Bryan, OH
 July 16 – Singout at Brooklyn Living Center
 July 24 – Singout at Hillsdale Hostel event
 August 17 – Singout at Litchfield Sweet Corn Festival

Huron Valley

On May 28, the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS paid a visit to the Monroe North chapter for a night of fun, fellowship, and barbershop at Monroe Missionary Baptist Church.

On June 12, Growth Award from BHS

We received a letter and an award from **Marty Monson**, the CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It was a Notable Award for our symbol of growth during the "Operation Harold Hill" membership drive. In the past year Huron Valley has added ten new members - a mix of brand new and returning members to the Society. We are honored by this recognition and know it is only scratching the surface of how far we can grow. The letter from Marty said, "We hope that we'll see you at the 2013 International Convention in Toronto. A small reception will be held in your honor."

Dead Creek Picnic June 18

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS traveled up to the "Dead Creek Picnic" at Heritage Park in Frankenmuth, MI. The event was hosted by the Flint ARROWHEAD



Growth Award from BHS.

Chorus. Barbershoppers from all over the area came to have brats, beer, and barber-shop!!!!

Here is a pic from this past week's rehearsal with the ladies of the VOICES IN HARMONY. We are looking forward to our October 5 joint show at Washtenaw Community College. Tickets and show information coming soon.



Huron Valley and Voices In Harmony.

Kalamazoo

June 7 – The MALL CITY HARMONIZERS sang at the Art Hop Singout, in the downtown Kalamazoo Mall.

July 24 – The chorus sang at Plainwell Concerts in the Park.

August 5 – The chorus sang at the Kalamazoo County Fair.

The Annual Show will be Saturday, Sep 21, 6:59pm – 9:29pm, at the Dalton Center Recital Hall at Western Michigan University

Lansing

from May 21, *Woodshedder*

More than just Tulips on the Holland Show

by James Hall

Nine members of the Lansing chapter were a part of the Holland Chapter show on May 4, which was one of the many events during the city's popular *Tulip Time Festival*. Held at the historic Knickerbocker Theater in downtown Holland, the many tourists had direct access to walk right into the show and add some barbershopping to their many Dutch-related pursuits.

This was also the second of four "*Celebrate Harmony*" shows that our chapter is connected with, and it was a lot of fun. The "Mega Chorus" as they called it, had 59 or 60 singers in it, and chapters represented in addition to Holland (and director **Kirk Wood**) were Lansing (and director **Steve Warnaar**), Grand Rapids (and director **Aaron Bouwman**), Gratiot County (and director **Chuck Moerdyk**), Battle Creek, Muskegon, and Livingston County.

The show format was similar to our show, but with fewer total quartets and no intermission. This made for a compact, 90-minute show that the audience seemed to enjoy. The show script used much of the Society's "Celebrate Harmony" script, so it was filled with history about the songs and the quartets that sang them. The Knickerbocker is an intimate performance venue with 500 seats, and it was almost full.

To start the show, the curtain opened to an empty set of risers on stage, while the chorus members entered from the back of the auditorium down the two aisles simultaneously. On the way to the stage, I heard several comments from the audience of "Wow -- look at all of them!" as the continuous stream of singers filed smoothly onto the risers by row, with each man dressed in his own old time barbershop quartet outfit. One interesting addition to the show was having Tulip Time Festival's "Town Crier," dressed in traditional Dutch garb, step to the stage, ringing his bell and reading the official proclamation from Holland's Mayor announcing Barbershop Harmony Week.

Although there were several pitch pipe snafus (is this a trend for these shows?), the chorus songs went pretty well, and the audience especially seemed to like the energy of "Old Piano Roll Blues" and the patriotic attitude from "Arms Forces Medley."

After the chorus sang, the M.C. brought on the quartets: The WHOLE NOTES (from Gratiot County chapter), The EXTENSION CHORDS (1952 District Champs from Grand Rapids and Holland chapters), LIVE IT UP! (a fun Sweet Adeline quartet), and finally 2012 District Champs MAJESTYX (from Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant chapters. MAJESTYX was especially entertaining, and some of my favorite songs that they sang during the show and afterglow were "Mona Lisa," "Please Kind Sir," and "A Rainy Night In Rio."

After the show, the Holland guys hosted an afterglow at their barbershop hall, which is actually an immersion experience in Pioneer District, Barbershop Society, and Holland Chapter history. Outside the hall, they clearly announce to all who pass, who they are with their window displays: a quartet of 3 ft high singing barbershopper heads, several distinctive WINDMILL CHORUS signs, and a 5 ft tall windmill with a blade that rotates. As you enter, you can't help but notice the 300+ mounted photos on the wall of great quartets and choruses, as well as various plaques, trophies, and other barbershop-related memorabilia. If you love barbershopping and especially barbershop history, the hall itself is a treat!

The 'glow featured more music from the show quartets and also Holland's own BREAK TIME, as well as lots of jokes about Irish drunks. In addition to the music, the home-made food was delicious. Personally, I also enjoyed spending time catching up with old friends and singing some tags, and helped close out the 'glow at midnight before starting the trek back home. If you missed the show and 'glow, you missed much! But remember -- you get another chance to sing on a Celebrate Harmony show later this year (September 28 in Gratiot County).

Celebrate Harmony Chorus Wows Audience in Grand Rapids

from May 28 *Woodshedder*

by James Hall

I'm happy to report that 18 of our Lansing Chapter members were able to participate on the Grand Rapids shows on May 18, and if you weren't there, you missed out on a busy and fun day. This was the third in the series of four "Celebrate Harmony" shows (with the 4th coming September 28 in Gratiot County), and the 66-man Combined Chorus again had barbershoppers representing six different chapters. Grandville High School has a beautiful auditorium and their music room and hallways were filled with trophies and photos that paid tribute to their wonderful music program.

The chorus seemed to take GREAT LAKES CHORUS director **Aaron Bouwman's** directions to heart and generally sang with a smooth, controlled sound that the audience enjoyed, while our own **Steve Warnaar**, the Midstatesmen's **Chuck Moerdyk**, as well as GREAT LAKES CHORUS Assistant Director **Pete Westers** all directed a song each. The audience for both shows was small but appreciative and seemed to especially like the energy of "Muskrat Ramble" and "Piano Roll Blues" and the heartfelt tribute of "The Arms Forces Medley."

After the chorus sang, the show featured a parade of quartets from the Grand Rapids chapter, including MAJESTYX (2012 Pioneer District Quartet Champ), HARMONY ROAD (2013 Pioneer District Senior Quartet champ), SHADES OF GREY (1999 Pioneer District Senior Quartet Champ), and new quartet OLD RULES.

The show concluded with a contest set from the GREAT LAKES CHORUS and a finale with all performers.

Between the afternoon and evening shows, many of the Lansing and Gratiot County members ate and sang songs at a local restaurant and the serving staff and customers got their own taste of barbershop, with a sampling of Celebrate Harmony show songs and other favorites.

Thank you to all Chordsmen who made the trip to West Michigan and helped in another successful Celebrate Harmony show with our brothers from around Pioneer!

The Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN also performed June 18 at the Lake Lansing Bandshell along with several of its quartets.

They will sing on Sunday, September 15, 3pm – 6pm, at the Grand Ledge Opera House.

from July 30 *Woodshedder*

The CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN performed the National Anthem and entertained the audience at the Lansing Lugnuts game and fireworks show this past Friday.

[Return to TOC](#)



The CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN prepare to sing the National Anthem at a Lugnuts baseball game.

Livingston

The LAMPLIGHTERS have had a busy summer.

On May 2, they sang at the Brighton Downtown Merchant's Ladies Night Out, strolling down Main Street.

On May 10, they sang at the Howell Opera House, performing both downstairs and upstairs.

On June 8 they sang at the Marion Township Fair, in Howell.

On June 9, the Livingston Lamplighters had a great time performing for the people at Village Fox Run. What a wonderful audience they were!

On June 29, they sang at the V. A. Hospital in Ann Arbor.

On July 4, they performed in the Brighton 4th of July parade.



The LAMPLIGHTERS sing at Marion Township Fair.



The LAMPLIGHTERS under the direction of Mike Firestone opens the show, Fox Run.

On July 10, while many of us were thinking of the International Contest in Toronto, there were many great things happening in Michigan over the course of that week! Great job to the Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS for this performance!

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151761684038322>

On August 3, they performed at LeCon-course de Livingston in the tent area.



Paul Keiser leading his troops.

Monroe North

by Doug Weaver

A great time last night at the joint chapter meeting with the Monroe North FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS and the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS. Both choruses sang, the whole group sang several pole cats, and several VLQs sang. There were also a couple Brigade quartets, a registered quartet (META-4) and even a Pioneer Board quartet. All in all, a very fun night of singing.



Chris Berry directs Huron Valley and Monroe North.

[Return to TOC](#)

Mt. Pleasant

On June 1, the Cheboygan Opera House had its annual "Barbershop at the Opera House" night, featuring the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS and a couple of their quartets - MOUNTAINTOWN CONNECTION and WAVELENGTH. There were also cameo appearances by two well known quartets from the past, THE PATHFINDERS and BLUE RIBBON COALITION.

Of course, the chorus represented the District at International in Toronto.

Then, on July 13, they hosted the Harmony Explosion Camp Show, at Staples Concert Hall on the CMU campus.

On July 30 - Gladwin Performance in the Park, Gladwin, MI

Now they're preparing for their November 2nd Annual Show, featuring THROWBACK, at 7pm, in the Plachta Auditorium on the CMU campus.

Muskegon

Taste of Muskegon was June 15 at Hackley Park.

Pontiac-Waterford

3rd Annual BCC High School Night, May 28

It seemed the fates were against us when torrents and tornadoes, over-heated cars, and locked storerooms threatened the evening.

Pete Mazzara had donated his QCA prize (a free performance by EBB N' FLOW) to the chorus. **Nate Masterson** arrived from Lowell, **Craig Johnson** from Mt. Pleasant, and **Garrett Gillingham** and **Ben Krinke** from East Lansing.

They joined us for two hours, presenting a program of seven songs, then teaming up with Milford High School men for "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," teaching a



Director S. Annette Jurcevic leading the SHORE-LINE CHORUS



BCC and high school guests. By Jeff Doig



Connor Keliikuli (stepping in for Nate Master-son), Garrett Gillingham, Nathan King (for Craig Johnson), and Ben Krinke. By Jeff Doig

couple of tags, and finally just being one of the foci of clusters that formed and sang, around the room, enjoying barbershop.

Twelve high-schoolers participated, from Milford, Lakeland, Walled Lake Northern, and Rochester Adams. They had to practically be pushed out the door at 9:30. Thirty-five Big Chiefs, and four guests, enjoyed the evening.

An 8-minute video summary of the evening is online at: <http://youtu.be/xhNDqI4EOaM>

Rochester

The Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY Chorus sang at the Madison Heights Memorial Parade on Saturday, May 25. Then on May 25 and 26, they sang at the Rochester Heritage Days.



The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY, May 25.

Traverse City

The CHERRY CAPITAL Men's Chorus presented their 47th Annual June *Night of Harmony*, Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9 in Lars Hockstad Auditorium at Central Grade School in downtown Traverse City. Guest quartet was EBB N' FLOW.

On Tuesday, July 23, they sang in a Habitat For Humanity Partnership Concert at Bellaire Middle/High School in Bellaire, MI.

On August 18, they will sing at Leland United Methodist Church at 3p.m.

On Sunday, August 25, they have a morning sing at Church in the Park, Sunset Park.

On September 15, they will sing at Kalkaska Church of Christ.

On Sun, September 29, they sing in the Safe Harbor Partnership Concert.

Wayne

by Frank Adams

The Wayne Chapter HarmonyTown Chorus presented their annual show this year on Sunday, June 9, "Diamonds & Gold." *Diamonds* referred to the Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th Anniversary. The chorus also chose favorite 'Musical Gems' from the 69 years of Wayne Chapter history, some of the 'Diamonds' from past performances.

[Return to TOC](#)

The *Gold* referred to guest quartet, the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2010 Senior Quartet Gold Medal International Champions, RESISTING-A-REST. It was a golden opportunity. The show was at the Village Theater in Canton.

The chorus also sang June 15 at the Canton Liberty Festival, on the main stage.

Upcoming concerts include:

Thursday, November 21. Noon Time Concert at the Livonia Public Library. Free concert open to the public

Sunday, December 8. Annual Christmas Show at the Livonia Public Library Auditorium

Windsor

On June 7, the Windsor Chapter sponsored its annual *Windsor Send Off Show*, at the Macadonia Hall in Tecumseh, as a fundraising event to raise funds for our representatives to attend the 2013 International Convention in Toronto, ON.

On October 26, the Windsor SUN PARLOUR CHORUS will present "Celebrate Harmony," the chapter's 69th annual show. In addition to the chorus and chapter quartets (INTRIGUE, JUST 4 KIXX, MERI MADICS, and COUNTY CONNECTION), our featured quartet will be the Sweet Adeline comedy quartet IN A HEARTBEAT. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Report—Quartets

4GVN

by Wayne Oberstadt

On Sunday June 30, Brightmoor Christian Church in Novi had their annual Patriotic Celebration with the Choir performing during two services. Our Tenor, **Wayne Oberstadt** sings with them. 4GVN was once again invited to sing to a crowd of 500+ people during the outdoor picnic that immediately followed, strolling from table to table, and singing to families of all ages.

Some Kodak moments:

A man in full uniform was coming back to eat with his family. He was so fit, he looked like he might be on active duty – but it turned out that he was a parachute jumper in Panama during the late 60s! We asked him to remain standing because we had a song for him, and we did "God Bless America." He was surprised and delighted (as was



4GVN

[Return to TOC](#)

everyone around him), and he felt extremely honored and excited that we sang for him. It actually was OUR honor.

We sang the “Irish Blessing” for one of the Youth Pastors, as he and the Youth Group were getting ready to head out the next morning to the Dominican Republic on a missions trip. He was very appreciative and thanked us for the perfect send-off prayer!

A couple of the guys from the Choir stopped to listen to us, and were surprised to hear one of their choir mates singing Barbershop Harmony! They hung on every chord and cheered us on! They even shot video of us on their phones! <http://tinyurl.com/lfaqzpl> We just received a Facebook post from one of the guys, **Weimar King**, who said that he sent the video to his Madrigal Choir Director in Florida, and that he was very impressed. Weimar wrote, “Looking forward to hearing more of you guys. You've garnered the attention of a director in Florida who has had touring ensembles which sang for the Pope. The cream really does rise to the top.....and you appear to be enjoying the experience. Rock on, Wayne & guys!”

There was a young woman who tracked us down and asked us if we would sing for her parents, so we followed her to their table and sang “Heart of my Heart.” Her father was very emotional and in tears by the time we finished!

Bidin' Our Time

During the second week of June, BIDIN' OUR TIME presented Barbershop Harmony to the music classes of six different schools, in West Bloomfield, Waterford, and Rochester, to about 400 students. **Roger Holm** wrote, “The West Bloomfield class was their “elite” vocal jazz group of - I think it was 14 kids (10 seniors had graduated from the group). They were excellent singers, and so polite and attentive! A thoroughly delightful time for us! The class at Kettering was their Chamber Chorus of 20 some, plus some band members, including their band director, who sang along with the kids. **Mike Frye** promptly recruited him for our chorus!! Same comment - excellent singers, polite and attentive!”



BIDIN OUR TIME at the D.O.C. picnic.

Chordiology

CHORDIOLOGY returned to Harmony University in St. Joseph, MO, July 28 – August 4. Paul led a session on “Supercharging Your Chapter,” Rob attended Director's College, and Cliff & Dave soaked up as much as they could in Harmony College.

On August 11, the quartet provided the service music for Bethel Church in Manchester, MI. This 100-year-old stone church in a rural setting is near **Rob Pettigrew's** house.

On October 5, CHORDIOLOGY will be singing in a joint show with the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS and the local Sweet Adelines Chorus, VOICES IN HARMONY.

Classic Fit

Jeff Spires has decided to leave the quartet for personal reasons. "We want to thank Jeff for his love and singing efforts to get us the Bush League Championship and a second place in the Pioneer Seniors Competition." He will be replaced by **Roy Gurney**. Roy was the long-time baritone of BORDER CROSSING.

Ebb N' Flow

(May 28) "Excited to be singing at the BIG CHIEF CHORUS' "High School Night" to-night!" (This was a QCA raffle-win to **Pete Mazzara** of the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter, and was used to promote barbershop to high school guests.

(June 7) We found out last week that our tenor's passport had expired and he wouldn't get a new one in time for this Friday's Windsor Send-Off show. (He'll have it by International though!). Fortunately, a good friend of ours has offered up his time to fill in for Nate. You might know him from singing tenor in a little quartet called PRESTIGE. **Mr. Gordie Howe**, ladies and gentleman! Pumped.

(July) We had an absolutely wonderful past week in Toronto. What an honor it was to cross the international stage once again. Such an unbelievable feeling; so proud and honored to represent the Pioneer District to the best of our ability!

As many of you may know, our bass Craig has accepted a graduate assistantship at Nova Southeastern University in Florida where he will pursue his masters degree. This means the next two years will serve as a bit of a sabbatical for us. We ARE NOT viewing this as "the end", as it doesn't feel that way. If after two years, Craig comes back to Michigan (which he'd like to) and everything lines up, we WILL be back. However, we will still be available for shows as long as it fits in with when Craig will be back visiting the mitten's *cough* Christmas shows *cough*!

These past couple years have been such a whirlwind. We all are so grateful and feel so very blessed to have been singing for so many of you. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the chapters that have had us on their shows. You all have been so incredibly hospitable and encouraging in every sense of the words.

To the individuals involved in making our album - **Jenna Chabot**, **Andrew Cote**, and **Tory Miller** - thank you so very much for your hard work and dedication; we're so happy to have been able to record something that people can listen to whenever they please. (It will be on iTunes soon!)

To our coaches, past and present: **TR Gerard, Douglas Wayland, Dave Calland, Casey Parsons, Puck Ross, Cindy Hansen**, the members of PRESTIGE, and **David Gillingham**- you all have made us better singers, better performers, and better musicians; all of our achievements are directly related to every single one of you; without you all, we'd be lost and yelling tags in a stairway somewhere. We should also include [OC Times Quartet](#) in this category. Though none of you have coached us, opening for you this past fall in Mt. Pleasant was one of the most memorable experiences of our lives. Before we even met you, we were already heavily influenced by the quartet in so many ways, but being able to just spend time with you all had such an amazing effect on us; not a week goes by where we don't think about that Saturday back in October.

Finally, to all of our supporters and individuals that we have been able to meet after shows, etc.- your words inspire us more than any trophy ever could; being able to reach you on a personal level has been the most special thing to us all. Hearing how a song that we have sung has touched you, has in turn touched us. This is why we love this hobby and this is what singing barbershop is all about.

See you soon,

Nate, Garrett, Ben, and Craig

A big THANK YOU is in order for Ebb N' Flow, the 2011 Pioneer District Champions, who are going on a sabbatical. You have been a great representative for our district across the country and around Michigan and Ontario.

Please wish the quartet good luck, and SHARE with them your appreciation for their hard work and service to the Pioneer District!

Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir

April 29, just back from a great time in Fostoria, OH. I think they must have been close to selling out the auditorium. A wonderful audience and a great bunch of guys in the chorus! Neil was back singing in his comfortable position as bass and Don did an awesome job over in bari. Thanks to Bob and Sandi for opening their home for the after after glow. A good time was had by all.

On June 22, the quartet sang with the SUMMIT CITY CHORUS at their BBS Bandstand Show in the Arts United Center in Fort Wayne, IN. "Just back from Ft Wayne, IN. Had a great time with those fellas last night in downtown Ft Wayne. Thanks to the chapter/chorus for making us feel so welcome and allowing us to help put on what was a very fun show!"

On September 14, the quartet will perform in Whitehall, MI at the WEST SHORE CHORUS show.

G-Fours

“Hello Everybody! We are really excited to be teaching and performing at our Harmony Camp this weekend! We rehearsed for around four hours yesterday on our new tunes, as well as our old tunes, with Gold Medalist **Carl Dahlke** of the AUTO TOWNERS! We also performed at the annual Dead Creek cookout in Frankenmuth.

“This weekend, we had the pleasure of performing as the boy's clinician quartet with the annual GOT HARMONY? youth chorus! Thank you so much to **Joan** and **Jill Kienitz** for inviting us to the camp and all the campers who made it a very fun time! We hope to see you all next year!”

Here's a video of the quartet performing “The Shadow of Your smile” tag.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151504011284601&set=vb.181608508661708&type=2&theater>

Limited Edition

LIMITED EDITION did a return engagement for the Eastern Star ladies and their guests (~100) at the Birmingham Masonic Temple, Wednesday night, June 19. The twenty-minute performance highlighted the many traditions from which a cappella barbershop songs are derived.

Vocal jazz, ala Peggy Lee - “It’s a Good Day”
 Broadway barbershop - “Lida Rose”
 American Gospel, New Orleans jazz - “Saints Go Marching In”
 Religious hymns - “It is Well With My Soul”
 Pop doo-wop - “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do”
 Tags - “Ebb-Tide”
 Country Western - “Sold (The Grundy County Auction Incident)”

Sunday, July 21, provided a beautiful weather window for a “Musical Soiree” in **John Cowlshaw’s** back yard. In the planning for three months, the concert lasted a little less than an hour, and it featured 17 songs by John’s two quartets – LIMITED EDITION and ON THAT NOTE. **Paul Teska** had come down with laryngitis; but the beauty of a Harmony Brigade-repertoired quartet like ON THAT NOTE is that other local Leads know the repertoire and can step in. We were delighted that **Aaron Wilson** was available.



LIMITED EDITION, with Jim Windak and Aaron Wilson, of ON THAT NOTE, waiting in the

[Return to TOC](#)



Neighborhood guests enjoying John Cowlshaw's back yard soiree.

Twenty-eight neighbors responded to the flyers. They showed their enjoyment by milling around afterward; several tried out "tagging" with the quartets.

After the audience finally dispersed, the two quartets and wives continued with a potluck supper. What a wonderful day.

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

From the June 4 *Woodshedder*

"The Adventures of F-150, a "Pickup" Quartet

by Stan Williams

Last week **Dave Toman** told Director Steve about Judy's hospitalization, and Steve mentioned during the Lead/Tenor sectional that he'd be interested in joining a quartet if one was going to go up and do a few numbers.

I recruited Al Z to join us, and **James Hall** readily agreed to join in.

I proposed we be called the "YOUNG INTUNES" as a play on the name the Young Interns. But for a number of reasons (well at least two) that name was rejected and we went with the old F-150s standby.

Judy was surprised, and thrilled with our performance, and called for several of her nurses to come to hear us. A number of other nurses and patients/visitors stopped outside the door during our half hour or so visit.

Judy was not quite as pleased with David though when she found out he knew about it ahead of time, and didn't tell her. She said "we never keep secrets". Hopefully we helped keep him out of the doghouse by having him join us to sing one to her personally.

A little 2 or 3 year old girl was enjoying our singing, and joining in as we warmed up out in the parking lot. Then, as we were singing for Judy, here's the little tike and her grandma out in the hallway listening in again. I heard her say something about "papa," and grandma said that her papa was down the hall. So, before we left, we located his room (we could hear her singing as we went down the hall) and sang one for Papa, grandma, and his room mate.

[Return to TOC](#)

All in all, a very pleasant half hour or forty five minutes that cheered up a lot of people, and shared our love of Barbershopping with many others.

From the June 4 *Woodshedder*

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET TREK to Rochester NY
by Don Horton

Celebrating 50th Anniversary and 71st Birthday. WOW!!! What a trip.

James and Jacob experienced Niagara Falls for the first time and got to see them, both in daylight and under the lights. They also had the pleasure of seeing them in the bright 90 degree sunlight and in the dark of a very rainy night on the same day. In addition, we provided entertainment at a Canadian Welcome Center, a Tim Horton's donut shop (free donuts for our entertainment their). We entertained at Niagara Falls both in the afternoon sun and the night rain. Pretty Neat!!

We had the GREAT pleasure of meeting the very loving family of **Jim & Carol Cumer**, celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary with Jim also celebrating his 71st Birthday. We sang 13 songs in our planned performance and then, talk about Woodshedding, Jim asked us if we could sing a couple of his favorite songs, "Down by the Old Mill Stream" and "Dinah!!!" (Someone's in the kitchen). Thanks to the fantastic woodshedding of Jacob, James and yours truly, we pulled it off with about 70% accuracy. Jim nearly broke down when he told us that WE MADE his day. His kids put on this intimate Surprise House Party for him and Carol.

Jim is a 44 year volunteer fireman who loves to fly. Carol is a Registered nurse. They shared family stories and we shared Barbershop stories and then had a nice dinner with the whole family. After dinner we brought the house down when we sang "Marylou" to the one male cousin who had been "pickin" on us all night. Even James got down on one knee and Doc held the "heckler's" hand. The whole family now calls him, of course, "Marylou". We sang "Zippity Doo Dah" (but guess what, I forgot to take the blue jay) but our heckler friend covered us nicely by placing a BLUE cold drink cup on his shoulder and made loving faces to the cup as we performed.

Singing at restaurants, gas stations, and any place we stopped was fun! The icing on the cake happened on Monday. The counter lady at the Holiday Inn *EXPRESS* we stayed at in Woodstock Ontario videoed us singing "Muskrat Ramble" to her and several other guests in the lobby on our way out. The cool part is she insisted we reposition ourselves so the Holiday Inn *EXPRESS* sign behind the counter was visible in the video. She assured us it would be on the Holiday Inn Facebook page on Monday June 3, 2013. Check us out. This was another "GOLD MEDAL MOMENT" in the Life of OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET.

Thanks to **James Hall** for filling in for Bass **Tom Smeltzer** who was having his fun at the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade.

P.S. Ask James to sing "Brown Squirrel" for you. He did a magnificent job on learning that song in 10 days.

Sing-Cheerily-Yours,
OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET
Jacob, Tim, Don, Tom & (JAMES da Man)

Sound Idea!

The quartet will perform at Redford Theater, Sept 13-15.

The Music Man, Starring **Robert Preston** and **Shirley Jones**, will be shown.

"Shirley Jones will appear live at all three shows, and be available for autographs.

"All 3 shows will include a live performance by the Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras and a strolling barbershop quartet – SOUND IDEA!"

September 13 - 8:00 p.m.

September 14 - 8:00 p.m.

September 15 - 1:00 p.m.



SOUND IDEA!

Wavelength

A busy summer awaits our International Collegiate Quartet Representative to Toronto, WAVELENGTH Quartet!

We're excited about our upcoming gigs this year! We've been asked to sing the National Anthem for the GL Loons on Memorial Day weekend--we get to sing in front of 15,000 minor league baseball fans! Then we are honored to be the teaching quartet of the 2013 MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS' Harmony Explosion camp! A huge thanks again needed for everyone's support and encouragement! "Keep the whole world singing!!"

Our one-year anniversary is just around the corner!!!! WE CAN'T WAIT!!

Harmony Road

Your District Senior Quartet Champion has been spending most of its time working on new music and preparing for the fall convention in Kalamazoo where the plan is to qualify for the Midwinter Competition in Long Beach.

On May 18, HARMONY ROAD appeared on the GREAT LAKES CHORUS' Great Lakes Invitational.

On July 16, we had a great time (and a wonderful meal) when we sang at Forest Hills

[Return to TOC](#)

Inn for a fundraiser for the GREAT LAKES CHORUS.

We look forward to coaching by **Mike O'Donnell** on August 19 and then on August 28 we will spend the evening being coached by the fantastically talented **Cindy Hansen**.

On October 12 we will be performing on the Michiana-Metro Chapter's annual show at Brandywine Elementary School in Niles.

And don't forget the fall convention in Kalamazoo, October 18-20. We'll be there. How about you?



HARMONY ROAD

Reports—Events

4th Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, 2013, May 31-June 2

by Mike O'Donnell

The 4th annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade was held 5/31 - 6/2/13 at the Okemos Convention Center, Okemos, MI. Due to many last-minute cancellations the number of participants was down this year but we still fielded twenty quartets.

If you're not familiar with Harmony Brigading (or eXtreme Quartetting) think of it as Bush League on steroids. It is a "by invitation only" weekend of non-stop quartetting. Each man who applies receives a booklet of 11 championship-level arrangements and a learning CD of their voice part 4-5 months before the meeting. Their job is to learn the songs dead cold so when they show up they can sing them with as many different combinations of singers as possible. One of the highlights of the weekend is everyone who wants to try and sing with every man not of his voice part. If you reach this goal you get the *Tramp Award*. Nine men accomplished this!

The weekend started off with many men coming in Thursday night so we could get up early to go sing at Holt High School for two music classes. Then, it was over to Okemos High School for two more classes, an hour break and then back to Holt for the last two classes. We started warming up at 6:30 a.m. (that's not a misprint!) under the direction of **William Stutts, Jr.** and then car-pooled to the schools. We sang three songs for them, let them pick a quartet from those who raised their hands by voice part, and promoted the Lansing Chapter and the Harmony Explosion camp at CMU! We were done by 3 p.m.!

At the Friday night supper we are assigned tables to sit at and there we discovered who the other members of our quartet would be for the Friday night contest. The quartets all have to come up with a name. Once they do, they tell the contest administrator and get the song they will sing. Some of the names are quite... creative! We have about an hour to prepare and then it's showtime! Three judges score each performing quartet. Based on their score the top ten are chosen to sing Saturday night after the show.



Holt vocal students singing to the GLHB.

Saturday morning we have a business meeting and pass out memberships to those who qualify. A Chorus of first and second year guys sings for the rest of us. This year was a first because there was only one bass in that group, but he nailed his part. Section unity was amazing! ☺

After lunch was chorus rehearsal time on the eleven songs we learned. Each director is given about ten minutes to run through the song/s he directs. This is mostly for the benefit of the singers to see how the director actually directs and to add any choreography! There is some down time after the rehearsal except for the top ten quartets who try to run through all eleven songs. The reason for that is because, for the finals, each quartet draws a song at random and immediately sings it...no rehearsal time!

Showtime was at 7:30. Attendance was disappointing, but that didn't deter the men from singing all eleven songs as if they were singing for 1000 people. Our guest quartets were The HARMONY HOUNDS and EBB 'N FLOW. The HOUNDS spun their humorous magic and cast a funny spell over everyone there. I've seen those skits 15 - 20 times and they are still just as funny as the first time I saw them! EBB 'N FLOW showed why they deserved to qualify for the 75th Anniversary Convention in Toronto this July. These guys can flat out sing and I'm expecting great things from them. One of the things that really came across was how much they enjoyed singing with each other!



HARMONY HOUNDS

After a short break to take down the risers, reset the stage, and put back the tables and chairs, the finals contest was held. There were some funny moments during the contest and some really good singing as



The Great Lakes Harmony Brigade Chorus.

well. It's actually pretty amazing how well guys can sing after singing almost non-stop for two days! Sunday morning found the guys at the breakfast area at the Comfort Inn getting ready to head home after another good meal. The board wrapped up the weekend with another meeting,

Harmony Brigade singing isn't for everyone. But, if this sounds like something that might appeal to you please contact me with any questions. We are planning another great weekend of song for 2014. It will be our 5th anniversary and we are planning a few new things to spice up the weekend. I can be reached at: BBSMike@comcast.net.

Yours in XQ,
Mike O'Donnell, Pres
Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

Additional Notes by John Cowlshaw

Sixty-five men from Michigan and around the country and Canada gathered for the two-day experience. The selected songs included: "I Want You, I Need You, I Love You," "Mona Lisa," "Sold (Grundy County Auction)," "When I Fall in Love," "Bye, Bye, Blues," and six others.

The weekend got off to a wonderful start singing for high school students. Under the direction of **William Stutts Jr.**, about 20 men convened early Friday to sing at Okemos and Holt High Schools to six different groups of students. Nice to be cheered like rock-stars! William led us thru a program of four of the 2013 Brigade songs, three by the chorus, and one by an impromptu quartet of guys picked out by the students. Each performance included an explanation of what brought us together for the weekend, a promotion of this summer's Harmony Explosion, the teaching of a couple tags, and Q&A.

By late afternoon, men had arrived from as far away as Los Angeles and Florida. Each man gets a “dance card” with all of the participants listed by voice part. One attempts to sing with as many other voices as possible, while firming up all eleven songs. (This year there were nine “quartet tramps,” i.e., guys who sang with every other member, filling their cards.)

Following dinner, men were grouped randomly into quartets, given one of the eleven songs to present, an hour to practice, and then to perform in the evening contest. Ten of the 20 quartets were chosen to go on to the Saturday night finals by the three judges, **Roger Lewis**, **KJ McAleesejergins**, a charismatic promoter from Harmony Foundation, and **Matt Snell**, a vivacious Michigan high school music teacher with lots of talent but new to barbershop.

In the afternoon, all voices joined to practice the eleven songs as a chorus.

The evening show began with that choral presentation, interspersed with interesting historical tidbits from emcee **Rob Halsey**.

The second half featured two “step-out” quartets from the chorus plus special guests HARMONY HOUNDS, and EBB N’ FLOW.

After that, the room was reconfigured for the quartet finals. Top place went to WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? CHICKEN? (Bass: **Steve Zorn**; Lead: **Mike O'Donnell**; Bari: William Stutts Jr.; Tenor: **Paul Keiser**)

There has been some decrease in GLHB attendance over the four years, and experienced quartet singers are urged to consider this wonderful opportunity, next year.



WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? CHICKEN?

It is also a shame that more folk don’t take advantage of the Saturday night show, which this year, once again, only drew 57 people to what is a remarkable musical experience. (Where else can one hear a barbershop chorus of this caliber, live, without going to International?)

Photos of the 2013 GLHB are now online, thanks to **Aaron Wilson**, at <http://www.harmonybrigade.org/glhb/>
Click on [GLHB 2013 Photo Recap](#) or just click on [Photos from the Weekend](#)

Preparing for Brigade (and learning music in general)

by John Cowlshaw

Why do I put myself thru this? I sang in the 1st and 2nd GLHB, but only took photos at the 3rd.

[Return to TOC](#)

This 4th year, since the rest of my quartet, ON THAT NOTE, was going, I thought that I should, especially since we were a quartet that was defined by our “Brigade-ness.”

The CD and scores of 11 songs arrived around the holidays.

At first it's just mind-play, putting off the real work. Make a spread sheet of the 11 songs, their order in the book, the order in which I will learn them, neat printed starting dates. (Two I already know, two more I have to learn by Pioneer District Convention in April; and I'll put off the optional “Bye Bye Blues” til the end.) Now I have a nice neat orderly schedule sheet of titles and keys and starting dates for learning each one.

Horrors! Woe is me, that schedule covers up a million words, flats, sharps, surprising melodic lines, changes of tempo, pickups, pauses, holds, incidentals, twists of word order. “Oh my; oh me, oh my!” (To quote from “Undecided Medley”)

Time to get to work. A new song every two weeks. I start by just listening to the song three or four times. I'm trying to get the flavor of the song. Is it a rhythm song? A melody song? A lyrics song? Sometimes I listen to the four-part track to catch the melody. Sometimes Bari-dominant to just hear my part.

Then I type out the lyrics, it adds to my muscle memory of the lyrics. Then I just read the lyrics out loud, as if an actor in a drama, trying to get the message.

Next I just try singing thru the song a few times with score in hand and the Bari-dominant track going. Looking for the problem areas. Key changes. Mood and tempo expressed by the recording artist. I'm sloppy, of course, but that's ok at this point.

I use *Jodix Free WMA to MP3 converter* to convert the CD files into mp3s so that I can upload them into Audacity. As the music scrolls by in Audacity, a simple slider allows me to shift the right-left balance. I can see the phrases and breathing points because the volumes are pictorialized. I can highlight the song, or just a section, and then use the tempo slowdown in the fast and tricky parts. And the highlighted area can be repeated and repeated. (And repeated!)

Now it's time to block and tackle. A phrase at a time. Until I can sing along accurately with Tim, or Sean or Simon. Then without them. Then the next phrase.

At this point I pretty much know the music, but not the words. There are still some tricky spots in the music, and I can annotate my lyrics typescript so that it becomes a pretty complete cheat sheet.

Since I'm not a multi-tasker, I may spend some time just saying the lyrics as the music plays, then humming the music without the words (a la **Jay Giallombardo**). The recording artist is so patient!, correcting my word mistakes time after time.

Then something marvelous happens. Gradually, in bits and snatches, the right word begins to pop into my head.

[Return to TOC](#)

The coming melodic line I can see out there ahead of me. I'm ready - for the pickup, the pause, the funny transition. I no longer sing thru the rests, and I nail the pickups. I am singing my feelings and word-sounds and conveying the message.

It begins to be fun! And I think, "Hey, Brigade is not so bad after all." Looking forward to the weekend, and re-meeting all those old friends!

Frankenmuth Dead Creek Picnic, June 18

by Doug Lynn

We had a great time at our chapter picnic last night. Five different choruses showed up and 10 to 15 quartets entertained an audience of approximately 130 picnic goers. In addition to the Flint Chapter we had the Pontiac-Waterford, Grosse Pointe, Huron Valley chapters, and six guys from Bay City-Saginaw. College quartet, G-FOURS capped off the evening with a great performance that had the audience standing. Special kudos to **David Longroy** for the sound system, **Dave Lonsbury** for the saurkraut and especially to organizer and chief brats cook, **John Voss**. Thanks to all the quartets and everyone who worked so hard to make this a terrific night of barbershop music.

by John Cowlshaw

The weather was ideal for the 'shoppers, spouses, and guests gathered at the Heritage Park pavilion on the Cass River for the Flint ARROWHEAD Chorus' Dead Creek Saloon picnic and evening of singing.

The Flint chorus sang their welcoming song, "Only a Batch of Sauerkraut," which includes the five-second rule – spilled sauerkraut is safe to eat if scooped up within five seconds. No sauerkraut, beans, or bratwurst was actually seen breaking that rule.

Other choruses singing were Pontiac-Waterford (which arrived by bus), Grosse Pointe, Saginaw Bay, and Huron Valley. Members were also present from Rochester-Macomb, D.O.C., Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, and Lansing.

Many quartets sang, including AMAZING GRAYS, BIDIN' OUR TIME, BUCKET LIST, G-FOURS, LIMITED EDITION, OLD RULES, OLD TYME HARMONY QUARTET, ON THAT NOTE, and WHAT FOUR?, plus a few that might have been missed.



Pontiac-Waterford chorus arrives by bus.

Dave Flattley emceed the evening, and **John Voss** directed the concluding "Keep the Whole World Singing."

John Cowlshaw's photos are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/mtcdf5w>
 Herb Judd's photos and videos are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/lxbnynh>



Flint ARROWHEAD Chorus



G-FOURS



John Wearing, T. C. Conner, Lee Hanson, Roger Lewis

Got Harmony Day Camp – June 22

The SONG OF THE LAKES Sweet Adelines Chorus teamed up with Flint ARROWHEAD Chorus to host its sixth annual *Got Harmony Day Camp* Saturday, June 22, at Davison Senior Center. Participating students — young men and women aged 11-25 — received training and instruction for vocals, choreography, four-part harmony, and performance techniques. According to a press release, students in the camp traveled from as far away as Grand Rapids, Detroit, and London, ON, with most of them from Greater Flint and Lapeer areas.

Faculty quartets included music specialists ARTISTICALLY INCLINED and Michigan State University's G-FOURS.

After a day of camp, the students performed in the Got Harmony Benefit Show in the Davison High School auditorium. The show featured the two faculty quartets, along

[Return to TOC](#)

with Region no. 2 award winner STUDIO4, and NATURALLY, Region 17 champions.

Funds raised go toward future vocal music youth programs.



ARTISTICALLY INCLINED

Harmony Explosion – July 12

by Don Horton

I counted 40 young men and 23 young ladies having a great time at Harmony Explosion Camp last Saturday night. They put on a fine show with guest quartets and coaches WAVELENGTH and SHADES OF JADE along with directors **Joe Cerutti** of the Alexandria HARMONIZERS and **Erin Odell-Cook** of the GREATER RICHMOND CHORUS in Richmond Virginia.

The two choruses, the combined chorus, WAVELENGTH and SHADES OF JADE put on a great 1½ hr show with three songs each, including choreography. The chords rang “brightly.” It was nice to see **Al Fisk** there critiquing the show and the



Harmony Explosion Camp combined chorus with Joe Cerutti.

happy faces of **Kevin & Julie** (proud parents of Kaleb) **Lenneman, Larry and Carole Parker, Don & Sandy Horton, Doug Weaver** and wife, and **Don Slamka** and family.

Jeff Rayburn welcomed the attendees and introduced emcee **Joe McDonald**.

The Hillsdale Chapter sponsored nineteen young men and women to the Harmony Camp this year. WOW! Nice work, Hillsdale. Lansing sponsored two young men from Okemos. (Pontiac-Waterford also sponsored two.)

[Return to TOC](#)

Quartet Boot Camp, July 20

Fourteen quartets took advantage of the Quartet Champions Association's sponsoring of the 2013 Quartet Boot Camp. It was July 20 at the Conference Center in Okemos, from 9:00 to 5:30. The coaches from the QCA who volunteered their time included:

Mike O'Donnell, Roger Lewis, Al Fisk, Br. Giles Hanover, Matt Tipton, Carl Dahlke, Toby Shaver, Mark Spear, Steve Warnaar, Dave Spizarny, Cliff Dake, Paul Ellinger

And the quartets included:

LIMITED EDITION, INTRIGUE, SOUND IDEA!, SOUND WAVES, WHOLE NOTES, BREAKTIME, SHARP ATTACK, SHADES OF GREY, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, CLASSIC FIT, THE JESTERS, OLD RULES, BY DESIGN, CODA HONOR, (HARMONY COUNTS had to withdraw due to the death of their Lead, Barckley Roach.)

There were three individual coaching sessions, of about an hour and a half each.

There were also breakout sessions on: "All you want to know about competing," "How to bring a song to life by better interpretation," "Organizing your rehearsals," "Improve your show package," "Everything you wanted to know about judging," "Marketing your quartet," and "Be a better singer."



Quartet Boot Camp participants.

A fine box lunch was presented.

by Roger Lewis

What a great day! Here are some of the comments from the quartets that participated, responding to "HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT TODAY?"

"Good coaches, felt like I took home some concepts to achieve goals."

"Great day, good stuff; all coaches were super; "I'm Worn Out", but I feel great."

"Learned much, great fun, will be back."

"This was a well-spent day and will jump at the next chance for direction at Bush League. See ya there."

"Great! The coaching was very helpful."

"Different ideas, but we learned something from each coach. Each was positive and helpful."

[Return to TOC](#)

“Great experience! Cured some problems. Got a game plan on how to improve”

“Great! Appreciate the diversity of the coaches. Each focused on a different aspect of quartet singing, as was our experience today. Assume the scheduling is designed to accomplish this diversity for each quartet. Bravo! A very successful and beneficial day!”

“I had a great time and learned much. I think I even may have retained some. I hope to attend again.”

“Thank you for putting this on. We appreciate your efforts.”

Will you be at next year's Quartet Boot Camp? Now is a good time to begin thinking about attending. A quartet doesn't have to be a registered quartet to attend. You do need to know a few songs and be able to sing them as well as you can.

Suppose you sing in a Singing Valentine's Quartet and you like what you experience -- just keep it going and come to QBC!!

Flash Mob, July 26

Paul Keiser proposed to his girlfriend, Danielle, at the corner of 4th and Main, in Royal Oak, Friday, July 26, by having a quartet (**Tom Blackstone**, Paul, **William Stutts Jr.**, **Jim Windak**) sing “I Want You, I Need You, I Love you.”



Quartet singing to Paul Keiser's girlfriend.

That might not have surprised her, but she was certainly surprised when she stepped into the Caribou shop where about 35 to 40 regional Barbershoppers from D.O.C., Pontiac-Waterford, Grosse Pointe, Huron Valley, Wayne, and about half of the Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS sang “Sweet and Lovely.”



Keiser flash mob inside Caribou shop.

BBBBB Barbershop-Beer-Beans-BBQ in the Barn, July 27

by Roger Lewis

Over 40 guys came out for singing and listening (OK, maybe some came for the BBQ and the Beer?), and we were entertained by seven Senior quartets and eight All-Ages quartets, judged by RESISTING A REST! The Senior quartet FOUR ROSES and the AA quartet MAN UP won, and a total of thirteen quartets tied for second place!! Great fun, with performances by HARMONY ROAD, PATCH CHORDS, HARMONY HOUNDS and by our International Senior Champs, RESISTING A REST!! Twelve chapters were represented!! Hey -- does this sound like the "Good Old Days"? (Isn't there a song like that??).



Roger Lewis, directing the BBBBers

Pioneer District

District Fall Convention

Will be October 18-20, 2013, at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel. Registration is \$35 per person, if received by Larry Parker (1416 New York Ave. Lansing, MI 48906-4538) by September 20, otherwise \$45.

Go to the Pioneer District web site for forms and information.

http://pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm

Rooms are reserved through Discover Kalamazoo, the convention bureau, and are done on line.

1. On the above web site, click on [Fall 2013 Hotel Reservation Form - Online on the "Discover Kalamazoo" web site](#)
This takes you to the Discover Kalamazoo web site.
2. You'll see a number of conventions listed. Scroll down to the Pioneer District and click on make reservation
3. Select the dates. Note that the default arrival date is October 16. You can change that to your actual arrival date.
4. The room choices are a two bedded room or a king bed room. Both are \$109.
5. Continue to make your reservation.

District convention photographer

by Roger Lewis

Yes, we are looking for a new photographer. **Andrew Isbell** has told me that he

[Return to TOC](#)

cannot continue. I've received a lot of response regarding a new photographer. Thanks so much. I will put together specs that I can email to the prospects.

David Gillingham Stepping Down as Director of MountainTown Singers

by David Gillingham

Dear Pioneer friends,

After eight years as the Musical Director of the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS, I have made the decision to “hang up the pitchpipe”. I have made this decision based on several factors: 1) my anticipated retirement from Central Michigan University as Professor of Composition in May of 2014, 2) my return to quartetting, and 3) my writing schedule (upcoming commissions). After being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2011, my ensuing treatment and battle with the disease caused me to change my priorities. I am sure that all of my colleague directors in the Pioneer District will agree that being a director requires much physical and emotional stamina. Eight years of this rigor has taken its toll and I am ready to focus my energy in other directions.



Dr. David Gillingham

This coming year I am composing a major concerto for Bass Trombone and Wind Ensemble. The piece is being written exclusively for **George Curran**, Bass Trombonist of the New York Philharmonic (and who is a CMU alum!). CMU has given me some release time this year to complete the project, but, unfortunately, I have three other commissions for band to complete as well. Hence, time is a valuable commodity for me this year.

My resurgent interest in quartet singing has precipitated some “trial singing” in the district with three other guys. This is exciting for me. When you are my age, you hope that the voice will still “work” when other parts of your body don’t work anymore!! In a couple years, Linda and I plan to move from Mt. Pleasant to an area where we can regularly hear a major symphony orchestra and where I can have an opportunity to sing with a major barbershop chorus. So, I am hoping my voice can make the grade for both quartet and chorus singing!

I started the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS in the fall of 2004, after a hiatus from the Barbershop Harmony Society of quite a few years. In the late 80’s and early 90’s, I founded a very successful college men’s barbershop chorus at CMU called *CENTRAL HARMONY*. This chorus was started because I dwelled a lot on the barbershop style in my Ear Training/Sight Singing classes on how the style was a great way to “train the ear”. Finally, there were a multitude of men interested in pursuing the style and the chorus was born. In fact, we created a course number for the chorus and it is still on the books. In fact, college men wishing to get credit for singing with the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS can do so every semester under the same number (Mus 188: Men’s Barbershop). When my composition career started to take off in the 90’s, I found that I no

longer had time to direct CENTRAL HARMONY. This was unfortunate as our concerts every semester were extremely popular and most were “standing room only” in Plachta Auditorium! Therefore, in 2004, I couldn’t stand my absence from barbershop any more and started calling people and began looking for college men interested in singing this contagious four part harmonic a cappella style. **Jeff** and **David Rayburn** were at the top of my call list and.....the rest is history!

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS chorus is an eclectic group of guys. Only several men are from the Mt. Pleasant area. The rest of the men drive from various locations in the central Michigan area (Indian River, Harrison, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Canadian Lakes, Midland, etc.) or are college students at Central Michigan University. The college students that have graced this chorus over the years have brought me joy beyond any expression in words. The mission of the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS has been, from the very beginning, to bring young people to this great hobby. We have seen many young and enthusiastic guys come through this chorus and we have seen many leave and continue to enjoy the hobby in locations all around the United States. We have felt a great sense of satisfaction in nurturing all of these young men. They are our future and we can be assured that this society will go on forever.

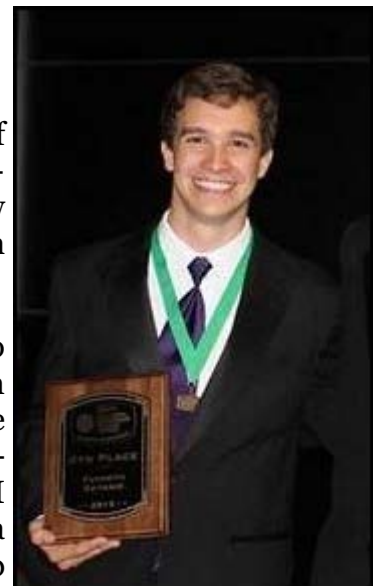
I believe that the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS have made a difference in the Pioneer District by adding many new young members and by singing at a high level. And, hopefully, I have made a difference in the lives of the members of the chorus. They have certainly made a difference in my life! The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS is comprised of some of the greatest guys I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. The leadership of the chorus is phenomenal. The chorus will go on and I am confident that it will rise to the challenges ahead.

In Harmony,
Dave (“Doc”) Gillingham

New Youth Chorus Being Planned in Pioneer

Aaron Pollard, the coach of WAVELENGTH and Lead of NEW EDITION which placed 4th in the International Collegiate Quartet contest in Toronto, is planning to start a new Pioneer District Youth Chorus. Aaron’s dad, Craig, is on board.

“I am starting this youth chorus because I am really excited to get youth involved in barbershop in the Pioneer District! I am interested in this because of the enthusiasm that I saw at the MountainTown Youth Camp the past two years as a counselor! I haven’t contacted any youth yet because my dad and I are working on details for finding a place in the Lansing area to rehearse! We want to compete in the Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival in New Orleans in January 2015!



Aaron Pollard holding his 4th place trophy.

“Anybody interested in singing can contact me at aaronpollard2315@yahoo.com I will add them to the master list of youth to be contacted when all of the details are finalized sometime this fall!

“Also I would love to know who I can contact, once we get rolling, about mic testing the 2014 Fall chorus contest! Thank you!”

Pioneer District Internet Sites:

<http://pioneerdistrict.org/>

http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm

<https://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict>

Pioneer History

from the Pionet Facebook site

“For today's Throwback Thursday, we go back to 1998. ONYX. FIREPOWER!. POWER PLAY. These three quartets represented the Pioneer District in Atlanta for the BHS International Contest.

“Check out these small preview clips on iTunes of ONYX and FIREPOWER!, maybe even download their songs, and stay tuned throughout the day for more flashbacks to the last time PIO sent three quartets to International!”



Craft

Circle of Fifths

by John Cowlshaw

“When did Barbershoppers first discover that they were using the circle of fifths?”

The Circle of Fifths is a pictorial representation of the sequence in which barbershop music moves thru the keys. I suppose that progression around the circle of fifths has always been a part of barbershop.

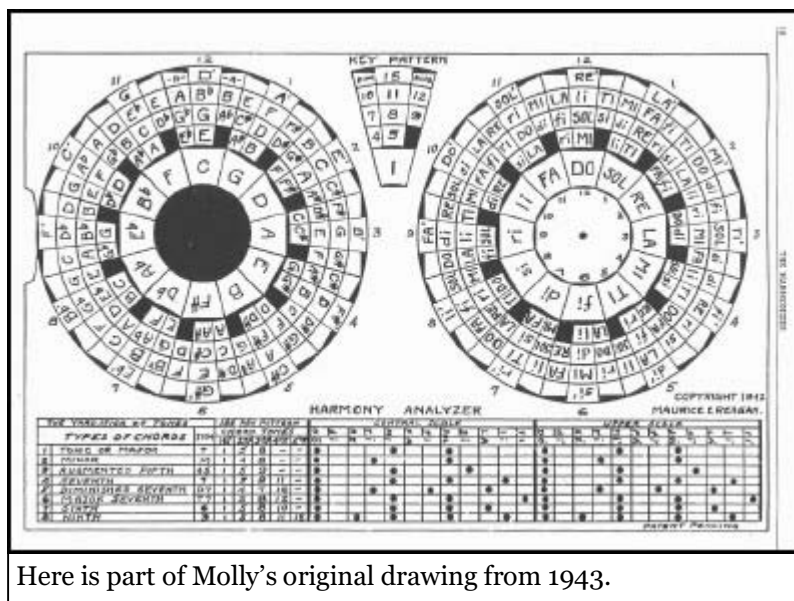
But when did barbershoppers realize that is what they were doing? When did barbershop practice meet up with music theory? Was the phrase used in the earliest judging criteria?

I posted this question on the Harmonet May 7, and immediately got this response from **Brian Lynch**.

“John, you are correct in your suspicion that circle of fifths movement has been long understood as a vital component of barbershop harmony. One of the early giants of the Society, **Maurice "Molly" Reagan**, published his “Clock System” in The Harmonizer

back in 1943 -- and you can read it today online at http://barbershop.org/harmonizer/Harmonizer_vol2_no4_may1943.pdf

“You can also read about Molly Reagan in the Heritage of Harmony History book”
http://barbershop.org/history/HeritageofHarmony_50Years.pdf



Here is part of Molly’s original drawing from 1943.

For example, in the inner circle on the left, starting at 3 o’clock, and moving counter-clockwise around the circle, an A7th chord can resolve to a D7th chord, to a G7th chord, back to C. That’s what “Five Foot Two” does. It feels right, harmonically.

Media

Favorite Old Barbershop Songs

The BQPA (Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association) is a break-off group from BHS devoted to preserving the old-time barbershop quartetting of the past. They meet semi-annually. They recently posted a listing of 101 all-time favorite BBS songs at: <http://www.bhsadmin.org/bqpa/oldsongssurvey.cfm>

Sort of resembles the list that is used each year at the Woodshed contest.

Photos and write-up of the April, 2013 BPQA gathering in Tempe, AZ are available at: <http://www.bqpa.com/Documents.html>

BarbershopMe

Is an organization dedicated to the spreading of barbershop quartet content via the interweb. “If you have anything you want to tag us in or post on our behalf just let us know!!! The barbershop world will appreciate it.”

[Return to TOC](#)

Administered by **Matthew D Gorman**.

https://www.facebook.com/BarbershopMe?directed_target_id=0

Detroit Tiger Justin Verlander Sings A Tag

Pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, **Justin Verlander** made his Barbershop debut one evening in a hotel lobby during the Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention.

The Society's convention was held in Toronto, Ontario, where Justin and his team had just won against the Toronto Blue Jays. Justin's team was staying at one of the hotels where many barbershoppers had swarmed lobbies, stairwells, and other nooks to sing tags.

Verlander was sitting in the lobby when he heard a bit of ringing music, and he was quick to applaud one of the quartets upon finishing a tag. "We didn't realize where he was, as soon as we finish this tag, we just hear this slow clap from behind," says **Brandon Youngblood**, 27, who sings with the quartet BEAST MODE, out of Boston.



Justin Verlander sings tag with BEAST MODE.

The boys invited Verlander to sing a simple tag with them, and though he was hesitant at first, he sang a tag.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYDE8O9fghw>

Transitions

Lowell Boyer

Lowell Boyer joined the Gratiot County Chapter of SPEBSQSA, inc. in January, 1947, approximately a year after its charter was issued. Since then he served the chapter in every capacity from President to assistant director to show chairman to treasurer and everything between. His active membership continued until just weeks before his death on July 17, 2013, at the age of 95.

Over the past 65 years Lowell had sung in four registered quartets. The longest running foursome was the IMPUREAIRES, spanning over 20 years. As the bass in the Gratiot COUNTRY GENTLEMEN, he held his own against two tenors and a lead. In the early 50's these fearless fellows sang live on the Alma, Michigan radio station on Sunday afternoons. They adopted the radio name of the TIMBERTONES, reflecting their sponsorship by a local lumber company.

Over the course of his singing career, Lowell sang in 65 consecutive MIDSTATESMEN'S

[Return to TOC](#)

annual Fall Shows. Before retiring from carpentry in 1980, he was a part of every one of the chapter's Pioneer District competitions. For 25 years he held a dual (winter) membership in the Harmony Hills chapter of Zephyrhills, Florida. Singing in the chorus and various quartets, he had performed in 23 of that chapter's annual shows.

While not a prominent figure on the District or National level, Lowell, through his love of Barbershop harmony and the fellowship it creates, has set an example for "Joe Barbershoppers" everywhere.

A memorial will be held at the 1st United Methodist Church in Alma, MI on Saturday, Sept 7 at 11 a.m. There WILL be singing and lunch!

Dave Donnelly

Dave Donnelly, age 72, passed away peacefully Saturday June 22, 2013 at Covenant Health Care surrounded by his family.

"The HARBOR SOUNDS Chorus of the Saginaw Bay Chapter sang their farewells to our brother Dave Donnelly at Wednesday evening's life celebration June 26 and again at today's funeral. Dave was a stalwart lead in our chorus for well over 30 years and one of the genuine good guys."

Ted Franklin

Ted Franklin, a baritone in the MIDSTATESMEN Chorus, died April 17, at the age of 54.

Floyd Barckley Roach



Barck Roach, 71, a member of the MALL CITY HARMONIZERS and the Lead of HARMONY COUNTS quartet, had retired as a teacher and cross country coach from Portage West Middle School in 2009.

He was on his way to a quartet gig at a local church Sunday morning when he apparently drove off I-94 after suffering from a medical emergency and struck a tree.

Mike Sobel, the vice president of marketing and the newest member of the MALL CITY HARMONIZERS, said that Roach really helped him to become comfortable singing with the group. "Barckley really kind of almost became a mentor to me those first couple of rehearsals, you know, and he made me feel comfortable, made me feel like maybe my voice was okay, and would work, and so I always was very appreciative of him for that."

The service was August 1, at Langland's Portage Chapel in Portage, MI. The Kalamazoo chorus sang:

- The Lord is in this Place
- I'll Fly Away
- Irish Blessing

[Return to TOC](#)

Letters

Greetings everyone,

Samantha and I are moving for at least nine months if not more permanently. She has a position in Portland following her MS from UofM here.

I'll miss everyone in Pioneer and wish you all the best. **Malcolm Travis** is going to be taking over my position as District Educator and Certifier for AHSOW (the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders). Malcolm is a humble but enthusiastic woodshedder who understands both the technique involved and the need to simply encourage everyone to enjoy the process of discovering and creating new harmonies by ear.

Thanks to everyone who has come by and woodshedded with me over the past few years, and to those who inspired me either recently or encouraged me when I was first getting started with my college quartets (The EXTREMES, PIO college reps 2004!). Also to the guys who stuck with MOTOR CITY when I was directing back in 2005 to 2009 (?) don't remember the exact dates. We didn't compete, but we did a lot of great quartetting and fun stuff (Canada Night mini-chorus champs a couple years!).

I owe my barbershop enthusiasm to all the great folks in Pioneer. It has been a life-changing experience and a pivotal place for me in several ways, from challenging the assumptions of classical theory I learned in school to presenting me a different more community-oriented, welcoming, participatory form of music-making (in contrast to the audience/spectacle form of classical and pop music).

I could go on about what this has meant to me over the years. I love you, Pioneer district! Maybe I'll be back to visit some day or see some of you at an International.

I don't know how involved I'll be or how much time I'll have in the future, but AHSOW is appointing me the DEC for Evergreen District, so I'll stay active in that way at least.

In harmony,
Aaron Wolf

***Troubadour* Business**

You can stay in "CONSTANT CONTACT," with *Troubadour* direct email sign up. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/bpeey57>. Each time a new *Troubadour* issue comes out, you will be notified with a simple email, reminding you to go to the Pioneer District web site to read it online. http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ADS for the *Troubadour*. Send them to Greg Humbel at ghumbel@comcast.net

Fall Issue– November 15, 2013; deadline for submission – November 1

[Return to TOC](#)

If the entry for your chapter or quartet looks a bit skimpy in the current issue, that might be because the Troubadour editor had to scavenge for news on your Web Site or Facebook site. Why not help him out next month?

Upcoming Events

Bush League – August 23, 24

The Gaylord Chapter and Pioneer District will be putting together the 67th Annual Bush League Contest and Show of Champions on August 23 and 24 . . . If your quartet is a bit sickly, come up and be judged by our panel of certified judges and then be coached by those judges and the members of MAJESTYX . . . they will give you the prescription for improving your quartet . . . and then . . . on the Saturday night "Show of Champions" the HARMONIE MEISTERS will be singing a salute to our 75 years that will feature two new arrangements by their *Lone Arranger*, **Dale Hanson** . . . "One Fine Day" and "Lullaby in Ragtime."

More information is available at the Gaylord Chapter website - <http://www.harmoniemeisters.org/>

The North Country is alive and well, so come on up and play some golf, go fishin' and enjoy a good show! That's all the North has to offer . . . Lots of fun! ! !

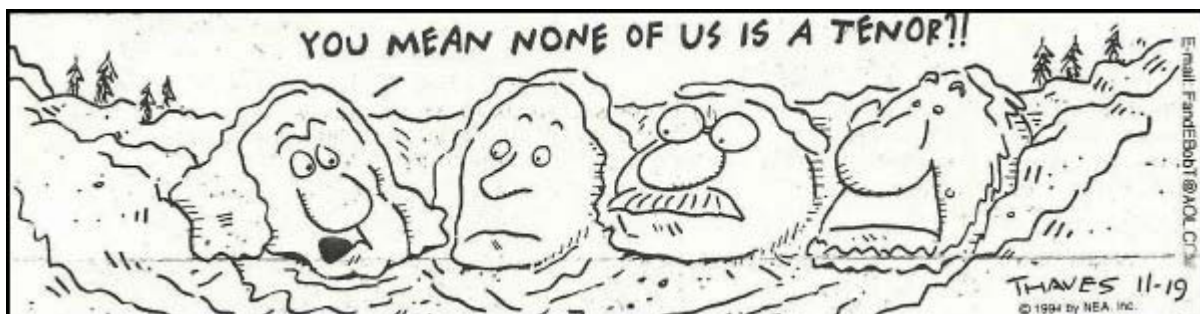
Dale Hanson

No Borders Youth Chorus – December 26

On December 26, 2013, the third annual NO BORDERS Youth Chorus will perform at Carnegie Hall as part of the USA/Japan Goodwill Concert. Participation in the performing chorus will be open to all men ages 30 and younger. The 2013 performance will include five songs with special guests LUNCH BREAK.

Several members of the Pioneer District have participated over the last two years, and you could be next! Check out the page below for more information!

www.nbmconsort.org



[Return to TOC](#)

Calendar

Aug 23,24 Bush League, Gaylord

Aug 24, Chorus Top Gun, Canton

Aug 27, Annual GLC Corn Roast, 5-10 pm, 2765 Bauer Rd., Jenison

Sep 21, Kalamazoo Mall City Harmonizers Show, 6:59, Dalton Center Recital Hall at
Western Michigan University

Sep 28, Gratiot County Celebrate Harmony Show, 3 and 7 p.m., Alma H.S. Auditorium

Oct 5, Huron Valley Show, with Voices in Harmony

Oct 18-20 District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel

Oct 26, Rochester Chapter Show

Nov 2, Pontiac-Waterford Show, with Instant Classic

Nov 2, MountainTown Singers Show, with Throwback, Plachta Auditorium

Nov 8, Canada Night, hosted by D.O.C.

Jan 11, 2014 Pioneer Leadership Academy

Mar 8, 2014 Lansing Annual Show, with Storm Front