



Hello Pioneer!

What an exciting time for the Pioneer District – three quartets in the contest in Toronto! That hasn't happened for a long time. I know all of you join me in wishing all of quartets - The Party, Majestyx, and Ebb n Flow - the very best.

Please keep in mind that you can show your financial support next month at the Windsor Send Off Show on Friday, June 7. This is a huge undertaking for our quartets (and the Mountain Town Singers) and they will greatly appreciate all of the support that they get that night.

Even if your chorus can't have a representative at the Send Off Show, you can still help by sending a check to the Windsor chapter to be presented that night.

I hope to see you in Windsor!

As many of you know, the Pioneer District Director of Youth in Harmony position has been open for the past few months. It gives me great pleasure to announce that Evan Boegehold of the Mt. Pleasant chapter has accepted the job. He has great enthusiasm and a lot of good ideas. I am confident that we are going to see big things happen with Evan in this position.

As many of you know, the Pioneer District was a proud sponsor of the most recent Youth Chorus Festival in Orlando at the Mid-Winter Convention. The district's chapters help raise \$10,000 for that sponsorship. At the convention in Traverse City, the Pioneer District Board of Directors voted to try to become a sponsor once again for the 2014 Festival in Long Beach, California. We are asking each chapter to do what they can to help us achieve that goal. I am also pleased to announce that this year we also have two donors in the district who have pledged to match the \$10,000. In other words, if we raise \$10,000, it becomes \$30,000 for the Youth Chorus Festival.

I know that many of you have never been to a Mid-Winter Convention and may wonder why we put so much importance on the sponsorship. I encourage you to watch the video in the link below. I think it will tell you all you need to know. (This is not the video that was shown a couple times at the convention in Traverse City. It is the one we had hoped to show there.)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_EtGRmJvMQ

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Doug Weaver
President, Pioneer District

If you want to "Keep the Whole World Singing," it's time to let the world know.





TROUBADOUR

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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.

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Breaking News: Pioneer competitors at International

IT'S OFFICIAL!!! For the first time since 1998 (FIREPOWER!, ONYX, POWER PLAY), the Pioneer District will send THREE Adult Quartet representatives to the 2013 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention in Toronto!!! District winner THE PARTY, will be joined by wildcard choices: EBB N' FLOW, and MAJESTYX!!!



THE PARTY



MAJESTYX



EBB N' FLOW

They join College Quartet qualifiers Wavelength and Pioneer chorus reps Mountain-Town Singers.

Pioneer District Officers' Corner

James O'Dell, Public Relations and Marketing

Greetings Pioneers,

I hope you all are watching our Pioneer District (<http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict>) pages. They are doing a great job of posting all the 75th-related information as it comes out. Aren't our Facebook administrators doing a great job with all the interesting videos, pictures, and *Throwback Thursday* posts! You guys are doing a fantastic job. Have you noticed all that our chapters are doing? Keep up the momentum by continuing to invite them to your chapter meetings and when they come making them feel welcome and showing them a good time. As someone I know says, "So....where do you like to do your singing?"

As I read the touching stories of recipients who are moved emotionally and quartets who are energized by the reactions, I think of our society's Mission and Vision (<http://www.barbershop.org/about/vision-a-mission.html>). I like to condense it into three areas...fun, camaraderie, and enriching lives, which are all accomplished through our love of singing. On Valentines Day the enriching lives part takes center stage as we enrich the lives of our recipients. But oh how our own lives are enriched and filled with fun/camaraderie as we have an impact on our community.

So how are we going to continue this momentum? What are we going to do to enrich the lives of our members each week? How are we going to perform to enrich the lives of our audience at each performance? As we continue through our society's 75th year, let's remember the incredible feeling that we had on Valentines Day by enriching the lives of our audiences at every performance and every chapter meeting.

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Joe McDonald, Chapter Support and Leadership Training

I have a favor to ask. Would you please help spread the word about the 2013 Harmony Explosion camp? Details can be found at: www.mountaintownsingers.org

Chapters that sponsor students might start thinking about their 2013 plans and individuals/chapters that contribute to the camp scholarship program will be contacted soon.

John Baker, Pioneer District Historian

Now that contest is over, I am looking for the most current pics of quartets and choruses to add to my Toronto display. Please send me a jpeg of your group with name.

Ron Eubank, Contest & Judging

Thank you to competitors and attendees alike! We in Pioneer got to host and see a really great weekend of singing!

As usual, apologies for any glitches, screw-ups and/or delays along the way - we just hope you enjoyed the performances as much as possible!

See you all again in Kalamazoo, October 18-20!

Paul Ellinger, Membership Development

Have you been noticing anything different in Pioneer lately? I sure have, and I'm loving it!

We've got THE PARTY (woo hoo!) going International AND it is VERY possible that both EBB N' FLOW and MAJESTYX will be invited as well! Possibly THREE, count 'em, THREE quartets from Pioneer going to International!

But, that's not all. There are all kinds of things happening in Pioneer. Let's start with the quartets. Two years ago at the Spring contest there were only two quartets that scored above 70; last year there were four. This year there were EIGHT quartets scoring over 70!: THE PARTY, EBB N' FLOW, MAJESTYX, FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, CHORDIOLOGY, WAVELENGTH (college contest and Midwinter reps - way to go guys!), RIGHT ON Q, and G-FOURS (college contest). Not to mention that the THE BLENDY BOYS would likely have made it nine quartets scoring in the 70s and with BAND OF BROTHERS and SINGERS LOCAL #4 at the cusp of 70 not to mention that with quartets like META-4 and QUAD PRO QUO charging hard we could have nearly a dozen quartets scoring in the 70s in the next year! And you know what comes after 70s, don't you? The 80s. Pioneer, HO!

Did you notice that we had TWO college quartets scoring over 70 again? We had two

quartets this year and two quartets last year that scored over 70. Previous to last year, when have we had two college quartets score over 70? Ummm --- never. Pioneer, HO!

And how about our Midwinter Seniors Reps, HARMONY ROAD? They scored 37 points higher than their score just 90 days ago at Midwinter. This will really move them up in the rankings and they have nine more months to prepare! Additionally, we had three Seniors Quartets scoring in the 60s (HARMONY ROAD, CLASSIC FIT and OLD RULES, with LIMITED EDITION and ON THAT NOTE toeing the line). You might ask, "When was the last time we've had three Seniors Quartets scoring in the 60s in the same contest?" It hasn't happened for 20 years! Pioneer, HO!

And let's not forget our 2013 District Chorus Champions, the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter who are again consistently scoring 70s. Way to go D.O.C!

I'm thinking that with Quartet Boot Camp, Top Gun, and quartets helping one another, we are really seeing the benefits. I'm telling you there are amazing things afoot here in Pioneer and there is even more to come. I won't let the cat out of the bag, but a guy I know named **Cliff Dake**, is working on some really awesomely cool stuff for choruses too! Yep, we are going places in Pioneer. Get involved and be a part of it, you might even earn some Treasure Hunt points (not sure what I'm talking about? Go here http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/District_Events/ScavengerHunt/ScavengerHuntActive.htm It's SO fun!). Pioneer, HO!

It was just a great event in Traverse City. Thanks to all of those that made it happen (**Roger Lewis, Doug Weaver, Don Kill, Jerry Ditto, Doran McTaggart, Ron Eubank** and all who had a part in the success of the weekend) with special thanks going to the Traverse City Chapter for hosting. And here is a special little note for you as well. Did you know that even though all of QUAD PRO QUO was at the convention this weekend, they sat out of the competition just so they could donate their time to making the weekend better and more enjoyable for the rest of us? You guys rock! Thank you QUAD PRO QUO and all who put the needs of others before their own to make this past weekend a fantastic event!

Amazing things are happening in Pioneer. Be a part of it!

Pioneer, HO!

Pioneer District Convention – April 19-21 – Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City

A great weekend! A total of 20 quartets and 14 choruses sang.

The International Quartet competition was won by THE PARTY, scoring 76.1, and drawing much laughter from the audience at their creative parodies. They will represent the District in Toronto. EBB N' FLOW and MAJESTYX tied for 2nd and were just outside the range necessary for automatic qualification. THE ALLIES, from Ohio and

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singing out of district, scored 83.5, and will also compete at International.

THE PARTY (Kevin Morey – T, Toby Shaver – L, Mark Spear – Br, and Wally Krause – Bs) was born from the ashes of PARTY OF FOUR in 2009 (when that name was no longer available). They have represented us twice at International – 2009 in Anaheim, and 2010 in Philadelphia.

In the Seniors Quartet competition, last fall's winning quartet, HARMONY ROAD, won with a score of 64.9, with their new Lead, **Bro. Giles Hanover**.



HARMONY ROAD: Jim Johnson—Bs, Tom Ennis—Br, Gene Hanover—L, Alan Coombs—T

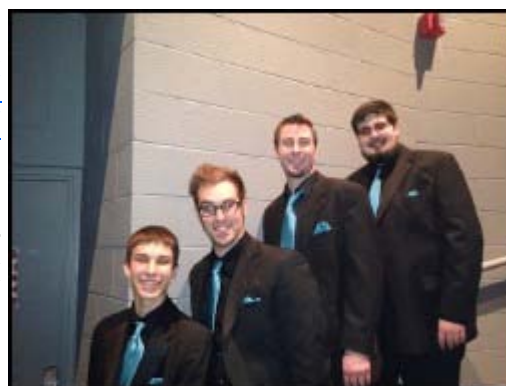


THE PARTY: Kevin Morey—T, Toby Shaver—L, Mark Spear—Br, Wally Krause—Bs

Three quartets competed in the International Collegiate Quartet contest, with WAVELENGTH (Central Michigan University and Farmington High School) narrowly besting the G-FOURS from Michigan State University.

The chorus and quartet scores and results are all online at the Pioneer district site, <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/contestsummary/contmenu.htm>, thanks to Steve Sutherland.

Twelve choruses competed on Saturday. Congratulations to the Detroit-Oakland GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS who wore the proud faces of 2013 Pioneer District Chorus Champions.



WAVELENGTH: Chris Cordle—T, Kenny Davis—L, Evan Boegehold—Bs, Kaleb Lenneman—Br



Detroit-Oakland GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS
Photo by Aaron Wilson



A happy Steve Sutherland.
Photo by Aaron Wilson



Great Lakes Harmony Brigade Chorus directed by William Stutts Jr.

Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY and Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS also scored in the 800-point range.

The audience also got a chance to hear 32 of this year's Great Lakes Harmony Brigade members sing three of their songs. The performance is online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?> If you liked them, come hear the full, better-prepared group sing in Okemos June 1 - more than three times as many men and songs.

David Calland represented the BHS in his first term as an International Board Member. He has taken THE ALLIANCE CHORUS to International thirteen times, winning two bronze medals. He was a Medalist in UPTOWN SOUND. His current quartet, THE ALLIES, has won 5th place International, and we had the pleasure of hearing them sing at the convention, as they earned an 83.6 in order to qualify for International in Toronto.

The convention ran smoothly, thanks to **Roger Lewis, Jeff Woodworth, Don Kill, Ron Eubank, Larry Parker, Brian Duncel, James O'Dell**, and the host chapter crew – **Jason and Amy Lynch, Chuck Jewell, Dawn Spear, Chad Hall, Aaron Gramza, Linda Nugent, Amy McCall, George Tatro, Phil Knapp, and Maurie Allen.**

Weather interfered with the arrival of three of the judges, requiring a few extras to be called into service Friday evening.

Mt. Pleasant put on its fund-raising show Friday evening. **Aaron Bouwman** and **Steve Warnaar** led the Joe Barbershop CELEBRATION CHORUS thru "Celebrate Harmony" by **Joe Liles**, and "Sweet Adeline." The Traverse City Central High School "MEN OF NOTE" entertained the crowd at the Saturday evening show. You can hear them (at 36 minutes) in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NS5UmJmOUYo>

Doran McTaggart once again showed why he is a master emcee. Thanks to **Greg Humbel** for once again managing the Big Screen. **Aaron Wolf** ran the AHSOW woodshedding room. The Sunday morning worship service was led by **Phil Knapp**, and featured THE SHORELINERS, QUAD PRO QUO, and LIMITED EDITION quartets.

An added feature of this Convention was a wineries tour Friday afternoon to Peninsula Cellars, Chateau Chantal, and Chateau Grand Traverse. And the QCA raffled off appearances by MAJESTYX, EBB N' FLOW, and THE PARTY.

QUAD PRO QUO mic tested Friday night. "While we were in the back hall waiting, we found this pedestal and ice serving bowl and faked as if it was the "mic testing trophy."



QUAD PRO QUO clowning it up.

Pioneer District history display

by James Hall

In between all the competitions and tag singing and special classes and sight seeing and catchin' up with old friends, did many of you get to appreciate the WONDERFUL Pioneer District history display which was located in the Barbershopper shop?

It was created by District Historian **John Baker** and was simply an amazing collection of photos, newspaper clippings, artifacts, and more chronicling the great quartets, choruses, and leaders who helped "pioneer" many things in the Society's first twenty years as well as all the fun we've had since.

House of Delegates Meeting

as recorded by John Cowlshaw, *Troubadour* Editor

President **Doug Weaver** convened the meeting.

James O'Dell (PR and Marketing) emphasized that the 75th anniversary celebration goes on all year.



Cliff Dake (Music and Performance) spoke of the Top Gun workshop Feb 22-3. Over 200 people attended the follow-up show. Sponsorship will be taken over by the QCA in 2014. The Standing Ovation program will be revitalized. There are plans for a Top-Gun-type program for choruses, and a Music Mentor program for directors. Harmony Boot Camp is July 20. Many chapter websites have old, erroneous information.

Joe McDonald (Chapter Support and Leadership Training) spoke of the Pioneer Scavenger Hunt. There have been mailings to all 27 chapters, but in addition, individuals can post their points online. http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/District_Events/ScavengerHunt/ScavengerHuntActive.htm

David Calland (International Board) said that 51 states and provinces have received 75th Anniversary proclamations from their legislative bodies. The Toronto convention has 5200 registrations already, 19% above Portland registrations at this time last year. Harmony University enrollments are also up; a featured presenter will be **Tim Sharp**



David Calland at House of Delegates (HOD).

of the American Choral Directors Association. Calland also described the Society's 23K project.

Sean Devine (Harmony Foundation) described the celebration April 11 in Times Square, which featured a flash mob and a program emceed by **John Miller** that included RINGMASTERS and New York mayor **Michael Bloomberg**. Three Pioneer directors have been granted scholarships to attend Harmony University Directors' College. Pioneer District has 144 participants in the Ambassadors of Song program and 24 in the President's Council. Of the 2012 contributions from Pioneer District, \$18,802 came back to the District, including \$4000 directly to District programs. The latter is what helped Pioneer be a \$10K sponsor of the Youth Choruses last January, two-

thirds of whose participants had no prior exposure to barbershop. Awards were handed out for Harmony Foundation financial participation.

President Doug Weaver recommended *Visions of Excellence*, in which twenty-five of our best BHS directors tell their secrets. "Every chapter should get one for directors."

One new officer was announced - **Evan Boegehold** (Bass of WAVELENGTH) takes over the Youth in Harmony program.

The attendees confirmed the unification of the five-member Pioneer Board of Directors and the eight-member Pioneer Management Team, now coalesced into one thirteen-member directorship, a move taken by most other districts also.

Larry Parker (Treasurer) announced a District balance of \$97,011.



Doug Weaver and Sean Devine at HOD.

Greg Humbel (*Troubadour* co-editor) urged the use of Constant Contact to be automatically linked to new issues of the *Troubadour*. Delegates praised the "spectacular job" being done by the *Troubadour* editors.

Roger Lewis (Events) spoke of available slots for convention hosting – beginning Fall, 2016. Harmony Explosion is July 11-13, and there is a three-minute video online to enlighten prospective enrollees and sponsoring chapters. Click on *Camp Video* at <http://mountaintownsingers.org/>

Doran McTaggart distributed tickets to the Windsor Send-Off Show, June 7. He also encouraged viewing of <http://www.musicmonday.ca/> where **Chris Hadfield**

(first Canadian astronaut) invites everyone to “fill the skies with music” on Music Monday, May 6, supporting the Coalition for Music Education.

75th Diamond Anniversary of the Society

Yes, 75 years ago, on April 11, 1938, 26 men met for a songfest on the rooftop of the Tulsa Club in Tulsa, OK! It was quite a week.

On the Today Show, our current champ RINGMASTERS appeared, singing “I Can't Give You Anything But Love” for Today hosts and the gathered crowds. They also performed “Eight Days a Week” for **Hoda** and **Kathy Lee**.

Ken Hatton, from BLUEGRASS STUDENT UNION said, “RINGMASTERS did us proud with not just one - but two - spots on NBC's Today Show this morning, and they knocked it out of the park! It's really HARD to get national media exposure, and ... the guys did their best in a very dynamic situation.”



RINGMASTERS on the Today Show.

Then there was a special “Songfest in Celebration” that evening with the RINGMASTERS and several New York Area Choruses.

For the next month, you can re-hear the RINGMASTERS on the Today Show and experience a delayed viewing of the evening show, visit the RINGMASTERS' website, buy their album or “watch more barbershop,” all on the BHS home page. <http://www.barbershop.org/> or directly at <http://tinyurl.com/cgrmww2>

In Nashville

The BHS staff came out to hear the mayor's proclamation and you can hear that on BarbershopHarmony38 at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2aWLxWOWFM>

In Pioneer...

Battle Creek

by Roger Lewis

Celebrated our anniversary by holding a "SONGFEST AND CELEBRATION" April 11, on the roof top (well top floor) of the McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek! Lots of singing, lots of quartets, a birthday cake, and fun for everyone!

Kalamazoo

by Lud Ouzoonian

Celebrated our 75th anniversary with A CELEBRATION AND SONGFEST, an evening of singing, guest quartets & ensembles, pizza, cake, munchies, and refreshments,

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Thursday, April 11, at the Transformations Spirituality Center.

Windsor

by Dan Bezaire

Held a Harmony Explosion at Tecumseh Mall Saturday, April 13 to top off Barbershop Harmony Week. "A stellar cavalcade of a cappella music, an enriching blend of vocal talents from the always exciting SUN PARLOUR CHORUS. In addition we are bringing in some of the talented vocal flair of selected area school concert choirs. All to help celebrate the Society's 75th Diamond Anniversary".



Windsor Chorus at Tecumseh Mall.

Representative **Jeff Irwin** presented us with a resolution passed by the legislature declaring this week to be Barbershop Harmony Week in Michigan. We had about a dozen barbershoppers on hand for the presentation in the Rotunda at the Capitol and it was a terrific opportunity for us. We sang a few songs and had a good time.

HUGE thanks to **Greg Humbel** of Huron Valley and **Mike Hansen** of Lansing for making that happen.

You can read the full-size proclamation yourself on the Pioneer District Facebook page at the April 13th entry at <https://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict?fref=ts>

Singing Valentines

East Jordan Double Quartet

by Dick Hartrick

My small (eight-man) ensemble in the small northern-Michigan town of East Jordan delivered 55 Valentines yesterday (at \$25 per), netting over \$1,200. The bulk of those funds will be used to help purchase textbooks that the East Jordan High School Class of 2013 will distribute to schools in Peru as they take a post-graduation trip there to work next June. We spread a lot of joy and drove a lot of miles around here yesterday.



Harmony Hunters "BE!"

Pictured is one of the quartets I sang with yesterday ... we were HARMONY HUNTERS "BE!" The other quartet was HARMONY HUNTERS "EH?".

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Lansing “Adventures In Radio”

by James Hall

I organized a quartet made up of **Don Terpe** (T), **Tim Oliver** (L), **Mike Hansen** (Br) and myself (Bs), which was invited to sing on a morning program on station WILS, news radio 1320 AM. Friday February 8, these guys got up early and made their way through a winter wonderland of snowy roads (six inches fell the night before and all schools were closed) and navigated through bad directions (unfortunately given by me) to make it to the radio station by the 8:30 am appointed time.

We went on-air, and I think it went quite well! During our 11-minute slot, we were able to: give a Singing Valentine over the air, advertise our Singing Valentines, talk about our Celebrate Harmony show, give a membership plug and mention where and when we meet every Tuesday, speak to how barbershoppers support youth vocal music, promote our new chapter website, and just in general give a positive impression of barber-shopping. It was a lot of fun! You can hear it at <http://1320wils.com/assets/files/2-8-13 Capital City Chordsmen.mp3>

Host Tony really enjoyed it (the word he used was “awesome”) and later when I asked **Larry Parker** if he got any Singing Valentine requests after our radio spot, he said we got such a good response that we sold out of our Singing Valentines. Now, I’m sure that part of it was the other good advertising we were doing but the time on the radio certainly didn’t hurt!

Jeff Markham posted this quartet (Don Terpe, **Steve Warnaar**, Larry Parker, and **Larry Wise**), singing for **David Andrews** and his wife Monica at Gracie’s Place in Williamston. Dave is on WILX News 10, Monday mornings on 99.1 WFMK.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=424496734295714&set=vb.407645859247594&type=2&theater>

Livingston Lamplighters

by Ralph LeRoy, VP Public Relations

One of the things we have adopted over the many years in our chapter is inviting men not in standing quartets to spend the day with us, sing the songs they know yet enjoy the whole of the day’s festivities. And at the end of the day we all have great stories to share about how our singing brought joy, love, and sometimes tears to our Valentines. Shown here is THE JESTERS QUARTET, **Mike Cooley** (T), **Bob Kullberg** (Br), **Ralph LeRoy** (Bs), **Tom Crane** (L) with long time Lamplighter **Phil Stendel** (Br) and **Steve Hesse** (T), a newcomer, singing with us to the staff of the Livingston Press & Argus, our local newspaper. Video at: <http://www.livingstondaily.com/videonetwork/2165515298001>



MountainTown Singers

Here's one of our many quartets singing for the chorus in preparation for Singing Valentine's day!!!

Muskegon



Muskegon Chorus at Hennessey's Pub, Valentines' Day



MTS QUARTET: Kevin Smerdon—T, Kevin Chamberlain—L, John Scheide—Bs, Joe McDonald—Br

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet has Biggest Singing Valentines Year Ever

OTHQ delivered 28 individual performances and sang in three restaurants for 1/2 hour each, bringing joy and smiles to over 500 people. As usual we sang at private homes, nursing homes, the hospital, businesses, offices, the Senior Center, and anywhere anyone asked us to sing. We donated five free gigs including a Singing Valentine donation to Memorial Healthcare's Annual Dinner/Auction/Dance Fund Raiser.

Our three most notable gigs of the day were as follows:

- We sang for the employees of the Shiawassee County Court House. Employees came from their offices into the rotunda area. OTHQ sang from the third level of the Rotunda. WOW, what acoustics! A great place to practice, but then again the sound would be all downhill if not singing there.
- We sang for the local Martial Arts School. Each year the owner has a special on Valentines Day for the mothers of the students. He sells roses to the fathers. As we sing, the roses are handed to the kids who in turn give them to their mothers. The cool part of the performance was that everybody, students and parents, all gather around on the mat as we perform. While we were singing two little girls about 7-8 years old threw roses at our feet. When we finished singing they yelled out "Encore, Encore." Then they ran up to us and gave each member of the quartet a BIG HUG!!! That was cool. A true GOLD MEDAL MOMENT!!

- A lady bid on our donation to the Hospital Auction/Dinner/Dance. I called her to set an appointment and she said she would like us to come to her home. When arriving at the home we usually say that we are there because somebody 'loves them.' She responded with, "yes, that's right, I LOVE ME!" We were ready to sing but she said, "just a minute" and then went across the living room to where she had a tripod set up and her video camera. She asked if it was OK to videotape us and recorded the whole performance. Prior to moving to the Owosso area she and her husband often went to the Rochester Chapter Shows.

We ended our long day at the Wrought Iron Grill where we sang table to table for over 100 people.

We are very happy to have **Tom Smeltzer** of the Grosse Pointe Chapter as our new bass.

Here is a link to OTHQ's 2013 Singing Valentine for **Patti Bell** at Knecht's Dentist office in Owosso MI. <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=305039772932914>

Parts Unlimited

Delivering singing valentines made for a very busy day for PARTS UNLIMITED. **Bill Osterhouse, Charlie Martin, Kevin Lenneman, and Bob Fox** arose early on Thursday morning, put on their tuxes, and delivered their first songs (a card & candy) to a beautiful lady in rural Westphalia before the lady left for work about 8:00 a.m.

Deliveries were scheduled one after the other until the last one, at 6 p.m., to **Don Funk's** lady friend at Harry's Place where Don treated the quartet to dinner. Thanks again Don!

We traveled over 200 miles to Westphalia, Charlotte, Grand Ledge, Holt, West Lansing, East Lansing, and parts in between. **Larry Parker** did an outstanding job in lining the trip up and providing background material. We understand that a large number of requests had to be turned away because the Chapter did not have enough quartets (two) to handle them all. But you know what? Although tiring, it was a great day and lots of fun.

We went into offices, schools, a handicap workshop (what a marvelous response), a coffee shop, restaurant, two retirement homes, several residences, etc. It was a real joy to see such happiness on so many faces! A plethora of funny incidences and happy tears and hugs occurred along the way. And our Chapter treasury is nearly \$800 richer.

The guys are all looking forward to next year!

Pontiac - Waterford Chapter

The 2013 Singing Valentines program was run on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, though most of the 36 paid presentations were on Thursday.

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There were numerous other freebies. Total number of love-greetings was 60, to twelve hundred people.

Busiest quartet was BIDIN' OUR TIME (**Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye, Dick Johnson, Roger Holm**). Over three days, they presented 27 SVs, drove 420 miles, and crossed the intersection of Union Lake and Commerce Road an uncountable number of times. One was to the "dressed-to-the-nines 95-yr old girl friend" of an 85-yr old fellow gym acquaintance of Mike Frye's.

LIMITED EDITION (**Tom Blackstone, Jeff Doig, John Cowlshaw, Charlie Perry**) was on the road Thursday delivering ten Singing Valentines, and also presenting one whole Valentines show, to a total of 168 people. The SV's were to Ferndale Electric, Tom Blackstone's daughter's 8th grade science class at Cranbrook Schools, a luncheon party at Gino's, Goldner Walsh Nursery, a Milford residence, Clarkston Hot Yoga, and the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The show was a 45-minute production at Lockwood of Waterford, where the quartet sang fourteen songs, arranged in a progressive sequence thru the love-lifetime of a Boy and Girl, from their shy meeting, to their final passing on.

4GVN (**Jack Teuber, Bob Greenwood, Eric Domke, Greg Moss**) had thirteen gigs.

THE ROMANTICS (**Eric VanPoucker, Mike Kramb, Ray Sturdy, Chuck Murray**) sang nine gigs, including at Chuck Murray's old hangout, Macphee's Restaurant in Ortonville.

Thanks to **Duane Roy** for administering the Singing Valentine program.

Vocal Accord

by Raleigh Bloch

I just had to share this with you. My quartet, VOCAL ACCORD, did a Singing Valentine for a teacher here in Factoryville, PA. The teacher was working one-on-one with a six-year old boy. We went in and sang her a song and the boy started working on his lesson. We stopped and presented a rose and sang the second song. The boy started working again on his lesson. The teacher followed us out of the room and told us they were trying to get his boy to respond. He was not doing his lessons and was a problem in class. This was the most responsive she had ever seen him. We were later contacted by the teacher and she said they thought that it was the music. They have since given him a CD player with ear buds and they are letting him listen to songs without words. He has turned around 180 degrees. He's doing his lessons. They are neat and he is no longer a problem in class. All this because of a Singing Valentine. We are in the process of documenting this and I hope to report it in the Harmonizer.

Wayne Chapter

by Frank Adams

Members of Wayne Chapter's HARMONY TOWN CHORUS went to the Livonia City

Hall on Valentine's Day to do our annual sing-out for their employees. This was our 13th year. While we were there a crew from Detroit's Channel 4 News station did a video of us and showed it on their 5:00 TV news program. Click below to take a look.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/Night-came-Signing-sentiment-of-love-on-Valentine-s-Day/-/1719418/18553820/-/eow7yuz/-/index.html>

Windsor Chapter

This is the production put together by **Dan Chase** of Chase Media as he travelled around with Dan, Roger (in for Rick), Rob and Tom, all of the quartet INTRIGUE delivering Singing Valentines. <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=559299447428523&set=vb.163563057002166&type=2&theater>

Reports – Chapters

Detroit-Oakland

D.O.C. show, Feb 16

We sold 395 tickets for the matinee and 463 tickets for the evening performance or a total of 858 tickets sold. The big sellers this year were: **Steve Sutherland** with 33; **David Kemp** with 30 tickets sold; **Gary Carpenter** with 29; **Pete Peters** and **Malcolm Travis** each with 26; and **Earl Berry** with 25. We had 37 members selling tickets; while we had 41 members on the risers in the show.

Earl Berry did a fantastic job with both the luncheon and the Afterglow.

Flint

Flint's Spring Musical Dinner show on May 4 was "The Melody Lingers On" featuring the music of **Irving Berlin**. Guest quartets were RIGHT ON Q and CHORDIOLOGY.

Flint held an open house on April 13 at Holy Family Church in Grand Blanc, and is looking forward to the Dead Creek Picnic, June 18, in Frankenmuth.

Gaylord



The HARMONYMEISTERS sang.



The new board being installed.

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QUAD PRO QUO entertained.

Grand Rapids

The Grand Rapids Griffins (hockey team) made the playoffs and chose the GREAT LAKES CHORUS to sing the National Anthem at their first home playoff game on May 1.

The Great Lakes Chorus Barbershop Breakfast Club meets at 10 a.m. on the third Thursday of every month at the New Beginnings Restaurant in Standale near Grand Rapids for food, fish stories, and a couple barbershop tunes.

Gratiot County

The chapter sang at the Breckenridge Center Feb 16 and March 9.

Hillsdale

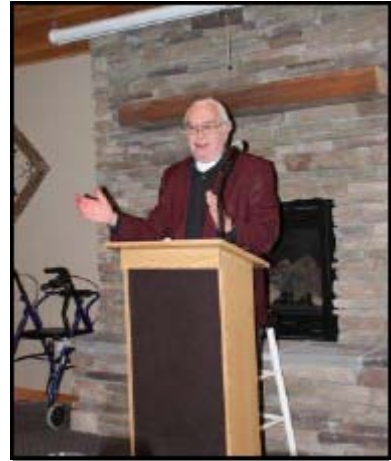
TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS did a benefit concert for **Jason Shaneholta** on Sunday, April 14 at Montpelier High School, Montpelier, OH.

Holland

by Art Lane and John Peters

Holland's show, May 4, was part of the annual Tulip Time Festival, the weeklong celebration of Dutch heritage, crafts, music, food, and of course, hundreds of thousands of tulips. MAJESTYX, the 2012 District Quartet Champs, was the featured quartet, and the 75-man Diamond Anniversary MegaChorus included the Holland WINDMILL CHORUS and men from nearby chapters including Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS, Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN, Gratiot County MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS, Muskegon SHORELINE CHORUS, Battle Creek CEREAL CITY CHORUS, and Livingston County LIVINGSTON LAMPLIGHTERS.

This show, with its multi-chapter chorus and range of quartets, celebrated harmony, celebrated the Society's 75th anniversary, celebrated the 68th year of the Holland Chapter, and celebrated the contribution of Holland's **Willis A. (Bill) Diekema**, arranger of 200 songs. Also featured were THE EXTENSION CHORDS, still going strong and



Hank Hedges was the installing Officer.

celebrating their own initial triumph as Pioneer District Champs of 1952.

In addition, attendees heard those favorite sons of Gratiot County, THE WHOLE NOTES, and on the distaff side, a Sweet Adelines foursome gaining notice for humor as well as ringing chords, LIVE IT UP!

The show was held in Holland's downtown Knickerbocker Theatre. The Afterglow party was held in our Harmony Hall."

Huron Valley

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS presented *Chords & Cuisine*, March 10 at matinee and evenings shows, at Stony Creek Methodist Church. Chords & Cuisine is a cabaret-style event, meaning that the ticket price includes a meal, the show, and also a dessert bar.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the *Chords & Cuisine* 2013 show yesterday. It was an awesome two show day!!! We would like to thank our chapter quartets ON THAT NOTE, WHAT 4?, and META-4. Also thanks to WINE BEFORE BREAKFAST, a bluegrass band, and the Sweet Adelines quartet, NOVELTY SHOP.



The HARMONIZERS sing to the diners.



The HARMONIZERS celebrating at Boneheads BBQ in Willis, MI.

So, where do you do your singing? Nine new voices in the last eleven months have found that they do their singing with the Harmonizers. All under 30 and several under 20 years of age. Exciting times!

Kalamazoo

by Lud Ouzoonian, President - Kalamazoo Chapter

Wow, What A Night! On Thursday evening, April 11, the MALL CITY HARMONIZERS hosted a Songfest/Celebration for our Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th anniversary. The public had been invited through a series of media articles, interviews, and appearances, which were arranged by **Michael Sobel**, our Chapter's VP of Marketing & PR.

On this cold and rainy evening, we had set up the room for 70 people and wildly hoped for maybe 100. They began arriving around 6:30 pm and then started streaming in. We moved the food and beverage tables into the hallway to make room for all of the remaining chairs (200 total). When we were finally able to start the program, at 7:10, all of the standing room had been filled and people were straining to see and hear the program through the three doorways. Our best estimate is that 250 people came out to celebrate the Society's 75th anniversary!!!!



MALL CITY HARMONIZERS singing to a standing room, overflow crowd of 250 people. Photo by Mary Flegal



Larry Flegal, our oldest active member at age 91. Clair Branch in background. Photo by Mary Flegal

After our Chorus sang a couple of songs, we had a wonderful performance of three songs by FERMATAKZOO, which is a local group of young (20s and 30s) guys and gals who love to sing a cappella. Their director is **Zach Ruegsegger**, a former member of our Chapter. Our thanks go to all of FERMATAKZOO, for helping make this a very, very special evening.

FERMATAKZOO was followed by a parade of quartets, including our chapter quartets BY DESIGN, HARMONY COUNTS, and FOUR GOT TO



FOUR GOT TO SHAVE: Lee Derksen—T, David Dolph—L, Al Grieser—Bs, Patrick Hall—Br. Photo by Mary Flegal

SHAVE. After breaking for some food and anniversary cake, we were very happy to have **William (the Tag Meister) Stutts** here, all the way from Huron Valley. He teamed with our director and his son, **David and Jonathan Woolf**, to teach the audience to sing a tag.



Swager brothers. Photo by Mary Flegal

More quarteting followed the tag singing with a performance by a quartet composed of Chapter member **Adam Swager**, his brothers, **Karl** and **Luke**, and **Dennis Perry**. Luke's 16 year old son, **Isaac**, joined in on a couple of songs. The Swager brothers hope to become active again with our Chorus after their children have grown. To end the evening, David Woolf led our Chorus and the audience in singing "Keep The Whole World Singing"!



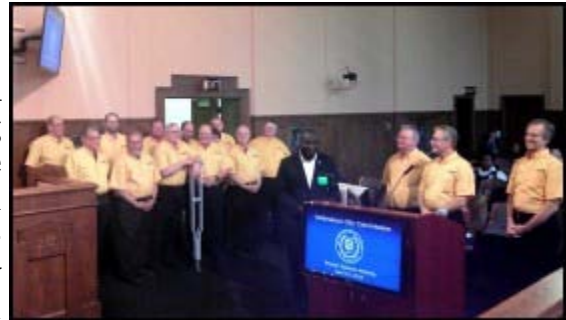
75th anniversary cake.

Thanks, to everyone who had a part in making this event a huge success. A real, heartfelt thanks also for all of the Barbershop lovers who came out for our celebration.

Wow, What a Night, Part 2!

We had a second wonderful evening when we went to the

Kalamazoo City Commissioners meeting, on April 15th! We were there to receive a proclamation from the Mayor of Kalamazoo, **Bobby Hopewell**, declaring the entire month of April to be *Barbershop Harmony Month*. After accepting the proclamation from Mayor Hopewell, I said that our Mall City Harmonizers wanted to thank everyone by singing a very, Very, VERY special song. After the first few words, Mayor Hopewell recognized it and began dancing around the podium and singing along with us. He encouraged the City Commissioners to join in and most of them did. Finally, most of the citizens attending the meeting joined in. After we finished singing, we received a thunderous standing ovation from the crowd and high-fives from Mayor Hopewell!!! The song was, of course, "I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo."

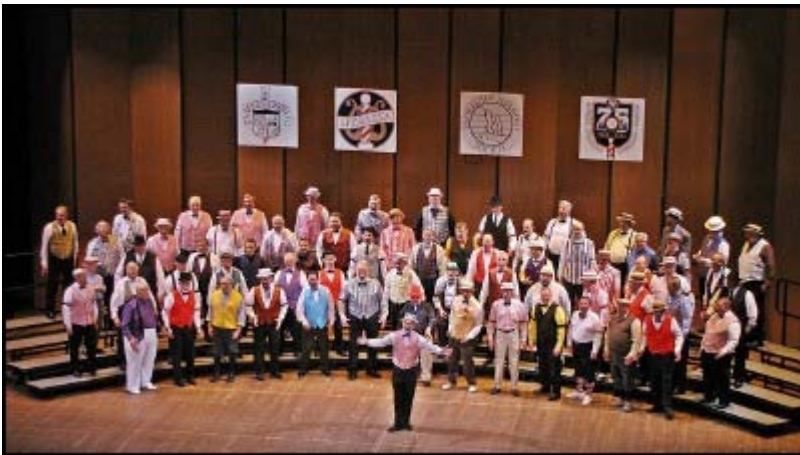


Mayor Hopewell, with the MALL CITY HARMONIZERS and David Woolf—Director, Ludwig Ouzoonian—President, and Gary Mon-

Lansing

Celebrate Harmony Show

by Doug Weaver, President, Pioneer District



75 man Celebrate Harmony chorus. Photo by Michael Baribeau

Last Saturday night, the Pioneer District presented its first "Celebrate Harmony" show in the beautiful Wharton Center in Lansing, Michigan, hosted by Lansing's CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN. Barbershoppers from six Pioneer chapters joined together in a 75-man chorus to sing seven of the songs from the 75th Anniversary song package. It was a great success! Later in the year, the same package of songs will be

sung on three more chapter shows - Holland, Grand Rapids, and Gratiot County. Barbershoppers from around the District will also be singing on those shows. It is a great way to celebrate our 75th anniversary!"

Radio Ads

by James Hall

Here is a “peek behind the curtain” of the creation of our radio ad this year. Our 1-minute ad was played on WXLA 1180 AM (“Timeless Favorites”) 40 times over a two-week period the last two weeks before the show. And the ad’s creation went very well, especially in comparison to the frustrations we had in the past.

The song “Celebrate Harmony” provided perfect background audio for the ad and we had a recording by an International Champion, VOCAL SPECTRUM’S **Tim Waurick**.

Obtaining permission to use it was very easy. I worked with a BHS marketing representative in Nashville, writer of the song **Joe Liles**, and singer Waurick. They all gave approval to use it for free, and Tim Waurick even sent a “clean” version of the song without the scripted show voice-over.

Then, I partnered with the radio station to trim the song and write a script for the voice-over, and soon we had a radio ad!

Finally, our webmaster extraordinaire **Jeff Markham** combined this audio with our online animated ad that the Lansing State Journal created for us and the result was a very effective tool to help us advertise the show in a classy, professional way.

I feel that the moral of the story is not only that great teamwork can create success, but that often the “higher up” members of the Barbershop Harmony Society can be great to work with and will do what they can to help our hobby. And this is one of the things that make barbershopping so great!

New Chapter Website

by Jeff Markham

The CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN is proud to present a new Chapter Website! The chorus has had a website for many years with great presence and this year the chorus has decided to give the website a new look and a new destination.

<http://harmonize.com/capitolcitychordsmen>

The CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN is looking forward to sharing the love of barbershop and our craft via social media!

Livingston Lamplighters

President Doug Weaver sat in on a Lamplighter rehearsal tonight and even sat in with a quartet or two. It was great having you there tonight Doug and come back any time!



Doug Weaver sings with Lamplighter quartet, George Normandie, Jason Hall, and Scott A. Turner.



Lamplighters at SELCRA Daddy Daughter Dance.

The chorus performed at the SELCRA Daddy Daughter Dance, February 10, at Brighton High School. What a great time we all had. There are eighteen photos at

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151590951738054.543197.201356048053&type=1> such as this one.

Monroe North

The Monroe North FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS put on a dinner cabaret at Salute Special Events/ The Roc Wine Bar in Flat Rock, Saturday, February 16.

I would like to say CONGRATULATIONS to the Monroe North Floral City Harmonizers on their cabaret. As with many of us, they have had some smaller membership numbers the last few years and so have not put on a show of this type. Well those guys have been working hard and things are moving in the right direction down there. I am glad to see them 'back in the saddle' with a new show package. Would you all please join me in sending them a note of encouragement and support. Great Job Guys!

James O'Dell
Pioneer District Marketing & PR

Pontiac-Waterford

by John Cowlshaw

St Patrick's Day

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS had two sing-outs for St Patrick's Day.

Friday, March 15, the chorus sang at Lockwood of Waterford. **Freddie McFadyen** lead the 25 men of the BIG CHIEF CHORUS through a ten song set that included romantic barbershop songs, Irish songs, and show songs. BIDIN' OUR TIME added songs extolling two Irish women, Peggy O'Neil and Mother Machree.

The seventy or so residents of Lockwood seemed very appreciative, both of our singing and the green jello and goodies that were distributed by **Beth Selbee** and her staff.

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BIG CHIEF CHORUS sings at Lockwood of Waterford.



Residents at Lockwood of Waterford.

Tuesday, March 19, we continued our annual St Patrick's Day tradition of singing at Canterbury on the Lake. The 37 men enjoyed the wonderful acoustics, as **Tom Blue** led us thru an 11 song set, including three Irish songs and our Traverse City contest set, "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" and "Cabaret." The benefit of many, many repetitions was apparent on "Cabaret."

Tom handed over the conducting reins to Freddie for "McNamara's Band," and a few drops of perspiration later, we navigated the key change between verses. Quartets added three more Irish songs. LIMITED EDITION sang "That's an Irish Lullabye," and BIDIN' OUR TIME featured **Mike Frye** and Freddie McFadyen solos.



BIG CHIEF CHORUS singing at Canterbury on the Lake. Photo by Alisha Shelton

The audience of 100 and the chorus mingled afterward on the main floor enjoying green beer and Baileys, and a few more songs.

The whole 41-minute performance is now on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/LYsCoDb7J-8>.

Clarkston Community Band Concert

Director Tom Blue had known **Shelley Schwaderer Roland**, Music Director and Conductor of the Clarkston Community Band, thru their joint work at the summer camps at Blue Lake. Ms. Roland invited the BIG CHIEF CHORUS to join them in a concert at the Clarkston High School Performing Arts Center February 22 as they prepared for competition the next day.

The chorus led off with a set of eight songs. Then the chorus joined the audience of 135 to enjoy three numbers by the band, "Hungarian Attack March" by **Franz Liszt**, and two

modern numbers, a suite written in memory of the 9/11 attack, and a lovely Danzon by **Arturo Marquez**.

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS also sang at Elmhaven Manor, February 22.

The chorus is looking forward to its High School Harmony night, May 28, with students from Milford and Waterford districts attending.

Sault Ste Marie

The Sault Ste Marie Northland chapter featured ROUND MIDNIGHT at their show, April 13, featuring another creative script by **Bob Shami**.

Bob wrote: "King of The Road" is an adaptation I wrote of **O. Henry's** story that portrays the hobo hero "Soapy" as a dignified gentleman with a problem: the approaching winter, something we know all too well in these parts! Soapy sets out to get arrested so that he can be a guest of the city jail for a few months instead of sleeping out in the cold. It does not go well for him! Soapy seems a man "doomed to liberty."

Many of the songs accompanying the drama were familiar old favourites, not the least of which was the title song, **Roger Miller's** classic 1964 tribute to the hobo as a "man of means, by no means".

The Northland Chorus also sang at The First Presbyterian Church in Sault Michigan, on Sunday, January 20, 2013. Here's their service, where they are featured (from 12 to 22 minutes) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgdIrAcC3fY>

Traverse City

The CHERRY CAPITAL Men's Chorus sang in Williamsburg, April 14, for the Acme Heritage Society Fundraiser.

REPORTS - QUARTETS

Chordiology

CHORDIOLOGY had several recent performances.

On March 15, we sang for the folks at Northridge Church, in Plymouth, MI at their "Sweets & Beats." We sang for them back in 2011 and are thrilled to get a chance to come back!

On April 27 we sang on the Schoenbrunn Valley Chorus Show in New Philadelphia, OH.

The April Fool's joke is on you, if you bought **Paul Ellinger's** April 1 announcement

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based on his discovery that Walgreens has a line of products called *Ology*. “After years in the making and months of negotiations, building off from a Barbershop relationship, CHORDIOLOGY is proud to announce their partnering with Walgreens with our own brand of personal care products and household items. We are very excited about this! And it gets better, because the deal is that for every product sold, a portion of the proceeds goes to the Pioneer District general fund. Please check out the products at: <http://www.walgreens.com/q/ology> . They are great products and you can expect *Ology* product jingles coming soon sung by none other than CHORDIOLOGY!”

Four Man Fishin’ Tackle Choir

4MFTC had a busy spring. On March 9, we sang on the Lima Beane Barbershop Show in Lima, Ohio. On April 27, we sang at the Fostoria Lake Plains 1st Annual BBS Show, in Fostoria, OH. On June 22, we will sing at the Summit City Chorus BBS Bandstand Show in Fort Wayne, IN. Looking further ahead, we will be on the West Shore Show in Whitehall, MI.

Impulse

IMPULSE sang at the Plymouth Historical Museum, Friday, April 19.

Limited Edition

All the young men in choir at the Milford and Lakeland High Schools, and their feeder middle schools - Muir, White Lake, and Oak Valley – joined the 7th Annual Huron Valley Men’s Choir Workshop and Tour on Friday, April 12, going to Spring Mills Elementary (200 students), Lakewood Elementary (400 students), and Brooks Elementary (70 students).

LIMITED EDITION joined the 100+ young men, leading warm-ups, joining them in several songs, singing a few of their own, and teaching them tags on the bus between schools.

Milford Vocal Program director **Maryann Lambrecht**, and the other four teachers, kept emphasizing the “multi generational aspect as really powerful for the kids and the staff, the message that you can sing when you are grown up, to stay involved in music; men sing, dads sing. It is so big and so important. It is hard to believe our students don't know these things but they don't.”

Despite the fact that a few of the senior high school singers could sing rings around LIMITED EDITION, they were genuinely appreciative and respectful, almost in awe that we would take time out to spend a whole day with them, and listening carefully to anything we had to say about “ringing a chord.”

In the eyes of the 4th and 5th graders, you could see a gleam of hope that one day they would be able to sing with these “men.”



Students at Lakewood Elementary School awaiting the Men's Choir Tour.



META-4 at the Ann Arbor City Council April 4.

The quartet also led the Men's Ensemble, and sang, at Milford's Spring Celebration. As Tenor **Tom Blackstone** said, "This was one of the highlights of my barbershop career."

Meta-4

META-4 sang for the Ann Arbor City Council April 1 in response to their declaration of April 7-13, 2013 as Barbershop Harmony Week.

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

by Don Horton

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET had the pleasure of singing at the Roseville Masonic Lodge Saturday night May 4, 2013. The event was a dinner to honor the widows of the deceased members of the Roseville Masonic Lodge. There were about 80 people in attendance for the event. This audience was very receptive to our Song line-up which included: Muskrat Ramble, Introductions, Lida Rose, Java Jive, Maggie, I Love You Truly, McNarmara's Band, Hello Mary Lou, and we always close our shows with The Irish Blessing. We give thanks to God for blessing us with the opportunities to share the talents he has provided us with audiences throughout the Mid-West. It is such a joy to know that we touched someone and made them a happier person if only for a short while. We promoted the Grosse Pointe Chapter Guest Night on May 14th and it appears that 5-7 men appeared very interested in attending. We had a request for Down by The Old Mill Stream. It was nice to Woodshed that song with one of the guests who sang with us. Always another *gold medal moment* when sharing Barbershop with the general public.



Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet with new bass, Tom Smeltzer.

On That Note

A new quartet, ON THAT NOTE with Tom Blackstone—T, Paul Teska—L, John Cowlshaw—Br, and Jim Windak—Bs, had its first public performance at Huron Valley HARMONIZER'S "Chords & Cuisine," March 10, and competed for their first time, in Traverse City.

Harmony Road

by Tom Ennis

After representing the district in Orlando, FL. at the midwinter international convention, HARMONY ROAD was faced with needing to replace our lead, **Bill Edmunds**, because of an impending relocation. We feel we were fortunate to land **Gene Hanover**, the director of the Michiana-Metro LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS and former lead with the 1998 district champions, UPSTAGE SOUND.

The quartet put in some pretty intensive rehearsals as we scrambled to prepare for the spring competition in Traverse City. We were very fortunate and humbled to not only make the final round on Saturday but to leave Traverse City as the new senior quartet champions.

As the *Troubadour* goes to press, we will be performing on the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Invitational show, May 18. We have also set our sights on going back to the midwinter convention in Long Beach, CA. next January and will be working hard to achieve that goal.

Reports – Events

Top Gun

by Paul Ellinger

What a great success!!! The big goal for the evening was to allow the general public to see what it is we do and for it to be fun and approachable for them. As a result, I got the names and phone numbers of *three young* guys that wanted to join on the spot! And I know of at least *three* others that others were talking with! I think the Wayne chapter is going to get some new members out of this and it would be nice if the DOC chapter were to get some as well depending on where people live.

No one took a count, but I would say that there were about 200 VERY enthusiastic people in attendance with about half being people new to a barbershop performance. So, six (and possibly seven) potential new members, and how much did it cost us? Zero dollars and zero cents. We used the cattle call alternative from the stage and talked with people afterward. That figures to about 100 people new to barbershop and about 50 were male and about 35 were of singing age (there were a lot of kids with their families in attendance). In other words, almost 20% of the available men showed interest there on the spot!!! Additionally, I can't tell you how many people were asking, "When can we do this again?" I will continue to say this, we do not have a product issue.

Let's keep allowing people to hear what it is we do and allow it to be approachable and personally invite them.

Thanks, goes out to so many people and these quartets: MAJESTYX, BLENDY BOYS, EBB N' FLOW, CHORDIOLOGY, META 4, and CLASSIC FIT.

PIONEER, HO!

The 56th Annual Quartet Woodshed Contest

... was held Friday evening, March 29, 2013 at the Pontiac Country Club. As usual, admission was free and the club bar was open.

Attendance was a light twenty-two (was it the Sweet Sixteen, or Good Friday, or the pleasant change in the weather?) but organizer **Dick Johnson** soldiered on. Four quartets competed, with a loose interpretation of the usual rules, and LADS & DADS came out on top, according to the judgment of the esteemed judges of CODA HONOR: **Ray Study**—Br, **Dave Montera**—Bs, **Paul Keiser**—T, **Aaron Wilson**—L. They sang "On Moonlight Bay." Emcee **Mike Frye** had a whole set of new jokes.



Winning quartet - LADS & DADS - Jeff, Zaven, Mike, Dave.

Pioneer District

Pioneer District Facebook

by Craig M. Johnson, Bass, EBB N' FLOW Quartet

Good morning Pioneer Faithful! Are you on Facebook? Do you want to stay up-to-date on what is happening in the Pioneer District? Look no further than "Pioneer District Barbershoppers" at <http://www.fb.com/pioneerdistrict/>.

Just in the last week the Pioneer District Facebook account has posted items like:

- The TC Contest Draw (with links to your favorite quartets and chorus' Facebook pages)
- News articles featuring PIO Choruses and Quartets
- Photo albums featuring our district quartet champs from years past
- And much, much more!

Better yet, you can still access this page even if you DO NOT have a Facebook account! 534 of us are already connected...will you be next?

Pioneer History

by Jim Styer, Sarasota FL

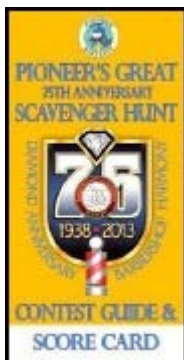
The Pioneer District Facebook site has begun highlighting the history of the Pioneer District by decade. First, you'll see the 1940s. The district champion quartets, and several other facts and figures you may not have seen before. Keep checking back for a new decade every week! <https://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict>

This recalls that at the Pioneer spring convention in 1988, the district celebrated the society's 50th anniversary with a 50-foot "world's longest cake.

And at the convention in 1990, the district celebrated its own 50th anniversary with a 63-foot display of greeting cards from around the world and guest **Betty Cash**, daughter of the society's founder.

Pioneer's Great 75th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt

by Joe McDonald



It is really simple to register for the Scavenger Hunt Contest on the Pioneer Website. Go to the district homepage, click on the image of the booklet, select the registration option and enter your information on the form. Click "Submit" when you have the information entered, and you're done!

If you are entering a group, just use the "submit another form" option at the end and keep going.

Logo Banners Available

by James Hall

Several chapters, who banded together for the Lansing show and are also doing combined "Celebrate Harmony" shows (Grand Rapids, May 18 and Gratiot County, Sept 28), pooled their money to create four "Logo Banners" which we'd now like to share with other chapters. YOUR chapter could use them to enhance YOUR chapter show or other special event!!

The banners AREN'T a long, traditional banner, but instead are 42" by 42" and each have one logo on a white background. The 4 logos are:

- the BHS 75th Anniversary "black" logo
- the current BHS logo
- the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. logo
- and the original red and blue Society logo

They were professionally printed from high resolution images, printed on 1/4 inch foamboard and look GREAT. They all have two grommet holes in the upper corners for potential hanging.

We are asking for a suggested donation of \$50 for use of the four banners. Please let me know if you are interested in potentially borrowing these banners.

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International Barbershop Harmony Society



Celebrate the Society's 75th Anniversary with us in Toronto!

Links to additional information about visiting Canada are accessible from the "Visiting Canada" section of the CIC Web site at:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp>

There is a fine set of 60 historic barbershop photos at: <http://www.barbershop.org/celebrate-harmony-societys-75th-anniversary.html>

23K Project

The 23K Project is named for the present membership of the Society. It seeks to *reach out and touch* every single member of our society with a personal telephone call.

Project 23K callers will ask each member for his ideas about things that he would like to see added, changed, improved, or deleted in order to make his barbershop experience a better one. Each member will also be given the opportunity to send a message to our CEO and society President. There will also be a call to volunteer with future society projects. Finally, a data base of skills and talents is being compiled. Each member will be queried about his own personal skills and talents.

We need 200 callers. Callers are being asked to make 100 calls in a six month period. That is approximately 4 per week. Each call takes from 15 to 25 minutes. A special web site has been developed to make the entire process completely user friendly.

Those who are sincerely interested in becoming callers and wish to make a commitment to become a member of the society's largest volunteer force, working on the

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society's largest outreach in history, should contact **Bud Laumann** at <mailto:budl@comcast.net>.

Those who do so will receive an invitation to join the team along with complete calling instructions. Once they accept that invitation, they will receive log in instructions for the dedicated project website.

Spotlight On A Chapter – Rochester Guardians of Harmony

by John Cowlshaw

Taking 2nd place in the chorus contest this spring was the Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY chorus, a fine result for a chorus that is technically only four months old. The members of the Rochester chapter and the Macomb County chapter voted overwhelmingly to merge, under the Rochester charter, a merger that took effect on January 1, 2013, although it had been in the works for some time. The merger brought together the established brand and competitive experience of the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY chorus with the long tradition of community involvement of the Rochester Chapter. The new chapter has 53 members, of whom 28 were on stage Saturday. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at University Presbyterian Church, 1385 S. Adams Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

I interviewed directors **Matthew Tipton** and **Michael Hartrick**.

Troubadour: How was the decision to merge made?

Rochester: The *decision* was not made quickly or lightly and took many months. We did two shows together and entered two contests together (with all Rochester members becoming dual Macomb members) before deciding if this was the right way to continue. In the end, our problems were much the same, but our strengths were complimentary to one another and our values, while not the same, were also complimentary. We felt we would be able to *adopt* each other as we were, without having to lose anything we valued. So when it came to the final decision point and the actual merger, it was not nearly as difficult as it could have been.

Troubadour: What did BHS require for you to merge the choruses?

Rochester: The BHS was mostly concerned with us following the letter of state law for merging organizations and making sure all members were given a chance to speak up and vote. Both organizations had to have a separate meeting and vote of the membership.

Troubadour: Last fall, Macomb sang the same two songs – “Bright was the Night” and “Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair” – to a score of 62.7. Your 69.9 this spring is a fine increase. How has that much improvement occurred so quickly?

Rochester: The judges finally saw the light. *Big* ☺. In actual fact, we changed very little over the last year in our approach. We have simply remained steadfast in our commitment to singing quality. That doesn't happen quickly, as the scores might suggest. The payoff, from our perspective, was quite delayed. When the payoff isn't immediate, it can be hard to maintain your resolve. **Matt:** I will confess I had my own doubts at times. I was nowhere near giving up, but I am very happy

we were able to bring that performance to that stage at that time. The validation was worth the wait.

Troubadour: I think the last time that Rochester competed was spring, 2010, three years ago, with only 12 men on stage.

Rochester: Mike: Well we did compete as Macomb members in the last two competitions, of course. However, competition has never been a priority in the Rochester chapter. It was one of the bigger issues that had to be worked out prior to merging. We had to be sure competition was not going to become a *drag* or distract us from our mission to support our community. **Matt:** Our concern as Macomb members was the mirror opposite. In the end, it was an easy blend however. Supporting the community is our primary mission and going to contest and being judged frequently is a tool to make sure that the support we give is of the best quality. Something the community can be proud of.

Troubadour: Your Music, Presentation, and Singing scores this spring were about 68, 70, 72. That is a bit of a spread. Were you surprised that your Singing scores were that much higher?

Rochester: Matt: Considering we spent the *majority* of our time on singing and some on presentation and a bit here and there on music, I would say the judges nailed it. The scores were as consistent as I can ever remember. Surprised? I was *pleased*.

Troubadour: How are the directing responsibilities divided up?

Rochester: Matt: We draw straws. Well, not exactly, but close. I am the director and Mike is assistant. I have the preponderance of the training, but Mike is extremely capable and a quick study. **Mike:** It is our goal for both directors to be able to direct all songs equally. We are darned close to that goal and we trade off directing duties in rehearsals quite a bit with the other director usually remaining out front to coach.

Troubadour: How is repertoire decided?

Rochester: We are still pretty new here. But the two of us just talk a lot and work out what we think is best. There isn't too much formula to it. Right now we are just trying to maintain a list and keep track of what we know and how well. With the merger, that in itself is difficult enough.

Troubadour: You meet at the University Presbyterian Church in Rochester Hills. Has it been tough on Macomb members to make the geographical switch?

Rochester: Matt: One of the problems we had at Macomb was that very few members lived close. The *average* drive to rehearsal was about 40 minutes. The average change in driving time was about a 10 minute *decrease* in drive time for former Macomb members. There are a couple of guys that have to drive further now. It wasn't a non-issue, but nobody complained once it became obvious that the merger was the best thing for the group.

Troubadour: What outside coaching have you had during the recent period?

Rochester: We have availed ourselves of the BHS staff members as they visited the district. That has been quite valuable and is recommended to any chapter at any level of accomplishment. But our most valuable coaching up to this point has been internal. We ask members to step out and observe and comment often. Some have quite a bit of experience even if they aren't coaches per se. The fact that the members have a sense of what we have been working on and are trying

to do - where we have been and where we are going - is something an outside coach cannot provide. And sometimes the least experienced have the most interesting take and are more likely to remind us that even when we aren't as good as we'd like, we are still pretty darned good.

Troubadour: Your announcement of merger said that "plans are being made to increase the number of quality musical performances in the Rochester community." Can you talk about that?

Rochester: Macomb was never able to establish good community ties. It wasn't for a lack of trying, but they never really "struck a chord" with their surrounding community. Rochester has a wonderful community involvement but hasn't always been able to provide the best musical performances for some of the events they were requested to sing. We really hope this new chapter will be able to not only support the community with our presence but with a musical quality that will be valued and remembered.

Troubadour: Do you intend to compete twice a year?

Rochester: Yes. Until we win and have to sit out, of course. ☺

Troubadour: How many (and which) registered quartets are now affiliated with the chorus?

Rochester: RIGHT ON Q (2010 district champs) are all members, though Rick has a conflict that keeps him from rehearsing and performing with the chorus. We have two from CLASSIC FIT (current Bush League champs and senior contenders) on the risers as well as two from SHARP ATTACK. There is at least one other unregistered quartet in our ranks.

Troubadour: If any new singers wanted to join you, what should they do?

Rochester: Stop by! We are really working hard to get singers in the Rochester area through our doors. And we are having some success with that. But, as I am sure most any member can understand, our level of commitment can be a bit daunting for the uninitiated, starting with a three hour rehearsal every week. We try to emphasize that we are not exclusive, and we really aren't. But our commitment to our craft has been a stumbling block for some good quality singers who have visited... and it can be discouraging. But like our contest success, we expect that eventually there will be a payoff.

Troubadour: Do you still have post-practice gatherings?

Rochester: We still gather as we have for years at Eastside Mario's on Crooks just north of M-59. All are welcome there, too!



The Guardians singing at the Vietnam Veterans Celebration, weekend of March 30

MEDIA

CASA Nominees

The Contemporary a Cappella Society of America (CASA) has announced its 2013 nominees, including several Barbershoppers:

Best Barbershop Album:

Birds Gotta Fly by SHOWCASE

Colorado My Home by SOUND OF THE ROCKIES

Nice & Easy by MASTERPIECE Quartet

Best Barbershop Song:

"Ebb Tide" on *Higher* by **Tim Waurick**

"If I Had My Way" on *Birds Gotta Fly* by SHOWCASE

"Save the Bones for Henry Jones" on *Love Bein' Here* by AVERAGE JOES

"Stormy Weather" on *Nice & Easy* by MASTERPIECE Quartet

Play That Barbershop Chord

The *first-recognized* barbershop tune, with the lyrics, "Mr. Jefferson Lord, Play that Barbershop Chord," is sung by **Judy Garland**, backed up by a quartet of singing waiters, in the movie, "In the Good Old Summertime." It was also part of GOTCHA!'S gold-medal performance in 2004.

True To The Tradition

It is fascinating to view the parallel efforts of jazzmen, Blues artists, and Barbershoppers, to make sure their modes stick around. **Jason Moran** is a 38-yr-old jazz pianist of such creativity to have been awarded a "genius" MacArthur grant in 2010, and appointed the artistic adviser for jazz at the Kennedy Center in 2011. But here is how he refers to his link to the past: (from the March 11th *New Yorker*)

Moran's playing feels modern, but he doesn't regard himself as an innovator. "I'm not an isolationist, and I'm not obsessed with trying to do anything new," he said. "I feel as attached to history as my teachers might have been. I'm trying to do what they did—keep it free and open. I use their language and reshape it. The ones who have passed, when I meet them at the big gate they're going to ask me, 'Did you take care of our music?'"

Quartet

by John Cowlishaw

Dustin Hoffman's new movie, *Quartet*, is a fine movie, especially for "mature audiences." Hah, not because of language or sex or violence, but rather it's about retired musicians coping with their aging.

What I hadn't realized from the reviews is that the plot is not only about retired musicians, but the actors and musicians are actually "retired" British musicians and actors. Hoffman must have put out an unusual "cattle call" for participants, because the musicians he hired – and who play in the Beecham Home for Retired Musicians in the movie, are all experienced pros. So too with most of the actors who play non-musician parts.

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Life Could Be a Dream

... is playing at Meadow Brook Theatre thru May 19. SH-BOOM! Featuring hits of the 1960s this new musical features such songs as “Earth Angel,” “Unchained Melody,” “Get a Job,” “Easier Said Than Done,” and 20 more doo-wop hits. (Michigan Premier)

A Complete Guide to Contemporary A Cappella Singing

Wayne Oberstadt found this fine site linked to ACDA. <http://www.brodymcdonald.com/?p=136#comment-11>. Here you will find “Repetition is the mother of all learning” applied to vowel sounds.

What singers need most is consistency. In order to make that happen, they must treat every bit of singing as a chance to enhance. We should not let repetition be for warm-ups, sight-reading or drills. We should build a mentality of repetition into every rehearsal.

Let’s take vowel purity as a test case. How many pure vowels are there anyway? I tend to stick to 7: EE (meet), IH (hit), EH (red), AH (father), AW (tall), OH (boat), and OOH (moon)... We can base almost ALL singing off of these seven, then add variation as needed.

So, assuming we’re working from seven vowels, then every time we sing, we’re practicing our consistency producing those vowels. Around 90% of our singing is on vowels, so taking the mindset of constantly practicing vowel production always is nothing but beneficial. When a vowel is corrected in rehearsal, an OK singer will think “I need to sing taller on this note,” but a great singer will think “all my AH vowels need to be like this.”

The Grammy Awards New Category: Music Educator Award

For every performer who makes it to the GRAMMY stage, there was a teacher who played a critical role in getting them there.

This award is open to teachers in either public or private schools (not private coaches) from kindergarten through college. The first award will be presented during GRAMMY® Week 2014. The winner will be flown to Los Angeles to accept the award, attend the GRAMMY Awards, and receive a \$10,000 honorarium. The nine finalists will receive a \$1,000 honorarium.

Deke Sharon On Barbershop

Deke Sharon’s homage to barbershop has received wide circulation. See the full article at: <https://www.casa.org/content/acamartialart> but here are excerpts:

You're young, you're scrappy. You want to be the best. You started singing in school, like everyone: choir, maybe a couple musicals. Karaoke with some friends, talent shows. Then some collegiate a cappella.

But you don't want to just be fine. That's not enough. You want to be great. You want technique, you want moves. You need to learn karate... except contemporary a cappella doesn't have a traditional refined martial art... does it?

It does. It's called Barbershop. And you're about to get the best schooling a young'un can.

Sharon then lists its attributes: blend, tuning, dynamics, rubato, phrasing, rehearse, performance, community.

"I'm not saying you have to learn Barbershop to be a great a cappella singer... but I am promising you if you do sing Barbershop, you'll be better than if you don't."

[Deke Sharon founded CASA (and other stuff), makes TV shows (*The Sing-Off*), movies (*Pitch Perfect*), sings (THE HOUSE JACKS), produces albums (*Straight No Chaser*, *Street Corner Symphony*, *Committed*, *Nota*, *Bubs*), wrote a book (*A Cappella Arranging*), publishes sheet music (Hal Leonard), and custom arranges music (over 2,000 songs)].

The Sing-off Lives Again

<http://insidetv.ew.com/2013/03/13/the-sing-off-renewed/>

Brace yourselves, a-caholics! The ultimate TV a cappella competition returns to NBC!



The Sing-Off was never officially canceled after its super-sized third season, which earned lackluster ratings in fall 2011, but NBC passed on picking it up for a fourth go-round in 2012. Still, in the time that has transpired, a cappella's popularity has surged. The Sing-Off's Season 3 winners, PENTATONIX, have become viral staples with their inventive covers and originals, (outselling *The Voice* winner, **Javier Colon**) and the huge success of PITCH PERFECT (for which

Deke Sharon arranged the music) has breathed new energy into the genre.

The upcoming season's structure is expected to return to the holiday format used in Seasons 1 and 2.

Phonation: Vocal Cords In Motion

by John Cowlshaw

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The March 4, 2013 *New Yorker* has an article on vocal medicine entitled “*Giving Voice: A surgeon pioneers methods to help singers sing again.*” By **John Colapinto**. It features **Dr Steven Zeitels**, founder and director of Massachusetts General’s Center for Laryngeal Surgery and Voice Rehabilitation. It is he who operated on Grammy Award winner **Adele**. He’s also worked on **Steven Tyler**, **Keith Urban**, **Roger Daltrey**, **Cher**, **Lionel Richie**, **James Taylor**, and **Julie Andrews** (after her unsuccessful surgery by a different surgeon), apparently all successfully.

The article is relevant to us because:

- it describes fresh young clear-sounding vocal cords
- how they perform their function, (the guitar string analogy is wrong)
- how vocal stress, not aging per se, deteriorates the cords
- Zeitels’ surgical procedures for repairing them

After reading it, I got real interested in vocal cords (vocal folds) in phonation and found the following excellent videos. I’ve arranged them in an appropriate sequence.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&v=JzyHKYQzPBk&NR=1> This is a clear, though static, cartoon of the anatomy of the whole vocal apparatus, but it doesn’t show the cords vibrating.

<http://vimeo.com/13591762> Now here is a great cartoon of the vocal cords in motion during the mechanism of phonation. Notice how muscle contraction brings the vocal folds repeatedly together and how that generates “pulses” of air, which are the actual vibration that we hear. (Lots of ignorable anatomical terms.)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpOXecWC5Dw> Now we see the vocal folds in real video. It looks like the folds are moving slowly, but that is because a stroboscopic light is only illuminating the folds periodically. Notice how a high pitch is generated by stretching the length of the vocal folds. The cricothyroid muscle contracts and lengthens the vocal cords at the higher pitch.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=fvwp&v=bowRggzZ2q4&NR=1> Just a few seconds of this one give you the idea. The vocal cords are moving so fast that it looks like they are stationary.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=UpOXecWC5Dw&feature=endscreen> Now here is a similar view, stroboscopically. Again, just a few seconds suffices.

The next two videos are quite similar, but emphasize different points.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=tfXCdRhxxdk&feature=endscreen> Wonderful 9-minute video in which a surgeon prepares a patient for a laryngoscopy. The role of stroboscopy to slow down the apparent movement of the vocal cords begins at 7:40.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=HI3gqArxr_8&feature=endscreen This 10’-long video is more focused on pathology than the previous video. You can start at 2:18.

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Then it gets VERY good. At 3:37, he turns on a strobe light. Vocal nodules are calluses. Notice how they affect the motion of the vocal cords, as a function of pitch. Slow motion at 5:18. Jumping in pitch at 5:40, and even two simultaneous pitches. Look at the mucus (phlegm) at 6:15. Look again at 7:22. Clearing out the phlegm is not harmful (7:58). This is a trained singer (9:16) and is shown here without strobe so it looks like the folds aren't actually colliding.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=-XGds2GAvGQ&feature=endscreen> Now here is what it looks like in a quartet, as four beautiful voices perform a Kyrie, despite looking like four hungry chicks.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BghlooOjAxE> This is a Fox News report on a National Geographic story on the surgeon, Dr. Stephen Zeitels, in the New Yorker article and his work with **Steven Tyler** of AEROSMITH, whose folds suffer 780,000 collisions during just one concert. Zeitels repaired them.

TRANSITIONS

David Allen

David was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, and he had two loves for many years - Barbershop and Magic. He was quite the historian of Barbershop in Battle Creek and the Society. He also performed magic for many years and attended the Abbott magic festival in Colon, Mi for over 30 years. Age 71.

Dale Bekker

Dale was a former Pioneer District Historian, quartet guy, and chorus singer in the Holland chapter, died at age 79.

Dennis Dakin

Dennis was a member of the Macomb County chapter who died suddenly on December 28, 2012, at the age of 63.

Milt Darling

Long time Macomb GUARDIAN member, Milt Darling, passed away on February 16. He had been inactive for the past five or six years due to illness. Milt sang in the bass section and was a key player in our using the First United Methodist Church as our rehearsal sight for many years. His funeral was Feb 20 at the Will and Schwarzkoff Funeral home in Mount Clemens. Milt is survived by his wife, Polly.

Dan Davey

Passed away March 16. Dan sang with the old Oakland County Chorus and was in several quartets. Dan was cremated. Donna said she plans to have some sort of memorial for Dan, probably in April.

Cliff Douglas

Sad to report that a wonderful barbershopper and friend Cliff Douglas passed away in

Port Charlotte, Florida on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. Prior to moving to Florida several years ago, Cliff was a long time member of the Pontiac Chapter. Cliff was 83 years old. He was the Bass of the District Champion CURBSTONE SERENADERS. Also sang with the HARMONY KNIGHTS and THE SOUND OBJECTIVE. A sweeter Bass voice would be very hard to find.

Gene Harrington

Passed away April 1 after many months of failing health. Gene was a 40-plus-year member of the Society and a member of many quartets including three senior champions going back over 20 years, most notably THE VERY IDEA which was also a Bush League champion. Gene had been a member of many choruses in the southeast Michigan area over the years and made many appearances in international chorus competitions, most recently with the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY.

Gene was seldom seen without his beloved wife, Linda who passed away just two months ago. Gene and Linda were well known throughout the district and a fixture at such gatherings as Harrisville and "SlamkaFest" or anywhere their motor home would carry them. It is hard to imagine them apart from one another and a blessing they did not have to endure separated for long. A memorial service for Gene and Linda was held May 10 in Warren, MI.

R. David Mittelstadt

Age 82, of Florham Park, N.J., died quietly on April 6, 2013, after a brief illness. Many Pioneers knew him from his participation at Sage Lake. The memorial service was at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Florham Park, NJ on, April 11.

Ev Nau eulogized, "How ironic that Dave was laid to rest on the Society's 75th birthday. May we all take a moment to reflect on his many contributions and ask ourselves the tough question: who will take his place? Who will provide the next level of inspiration, education, fellowship, and joy that Dave did? RIP, Dave. You may be gone, but your work will serve us well as we once again learn to share harmony in all its aspects. It truly is the least we can do."

Austin Quinn

Austin passed away March 5. He was 88.

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS sang before the Rosary at the William Sullivan Funeral Home Thursday evening, singing "Precious Lord, "Hands of Time," and "Irish Parting Prayer," under the direction of a damp-eyed **Freddie McFadyen**, who was Austin's first director. Twenty-four members showed up, and another seventeen the next day to sing at the service at the beautiful St. Mary Catholic Church of Royal Oak.

Austin attended the 1981 SPEBSQSA International Convention in Detroit. He soon joined the Oakland County chapter. Over the years Austin has been a dual member of Wayne, City Lights, Macomb, and the Pontiac-Waterford chapter, singing under directors he has admired, and always singing Lead. He attended five Harmony College sessions.

Merle Schultz

We are sad to report the death of Merle Schultz, a 16-year member of the Rochester Chapter and the Lead in THE LAST GASP quartet. Merle died at home on March 12th.

The funeral was held at the Pixley Funeral home, followed by a luncheon at Golden Eagle. Thanks to the Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY and other barbershoppers that came, and wanted to come, to honor Merle Schultz last Saturday. He was a great friend to each of us who had the chance to know him. He liked being the chorus Sunshine guy, and, as Secretary, he always remembered our birthdays and something about each of our families.

Don Lewis, bass of THE LAST GASP recalls, "About 10-11 Years ago, Merle, **George Schmidt, Bill MacNeill**, and I decided we would like to try our luck at forming a quartet. We felt very lucky to get Merle, with his wonderful lead voice, because he was always in demand to sing tags and songs with other guys.

In trying to decide on a name, we figured out that we might be, collectively, the oldest aged registered Society quartet, and when George suggested THE LAST GASP, nothing else seemed to fit. Our name always seemed to get a chuckle.

WE ARE ALL GOING TO MISS MERLE."

William Shier, Jr

Pass away on April 18. He was a member of the Grosse Pointe chapter.

Dr. Robert Andrew Westover

Passed away November 1, 2012, at the age of 71, a member of the Gaylord chapter.

Letters

James Hall, Lansing

Yes, I'll echo other people's notes: GREAT job on the Troubadour. Guys all over the district really get a lot out of it, and I know how much work it is!

Jack Teuber, President, Pontiac-Waterford Chapter

John, Tom, Greg,

What an amazing and thorough work of covering events of interest to the Pioneer District. A well-written Troubadour. Thank you.

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.
(Summer Issue– August 15, 2013; deadline for submission – August 1)

Upcoming Events

May 31 - Jun 2

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos

Saturday, June 1

Mt. Pleasant Chapter Show at the Cheboygan Opera House

Friday, June 7

Windsor Send-Off Show, 7:00 pm. Macadonia Hall, Tecumseh ON

Come on out and see all our Pioneer District Quartet and Chorus International reps perform for you. This fundraising event will help raise funds for our reps to attend the 2013 International Convention in Toronto, ON.

Sunday, June 9

Wayne HarmonyTown Chorus annual show “Diamonds and Gold”

Village Theater of Canton

50400 Cherry Hill

Canton, MI

Tuesday, June 18

Dead Creek Picnic, Frankenmuth MI, 6:00 p.m.

June 22

Got Harmony Day Camp (All youth, ages 11-25) and evening Benefit show
Davison Senior Center

June 30-July 7

International Barbershop Harmony Society Convention, Toronto

July 11-13

[MountainTown Harmony Explosion Camp](#)

A three day camp for youth aged 14-20 focused on singing, fun and friendship.

Saturday, July 20

Harmony Boot Camp

July 28 – Aug 4



[Return to TOC](#)

August 23, 24
Bush League, Gaylord, MI

Saturday, September 28
Gratiot County Show 3 p.m. &
7 p.m, Alma HS Auditorium

October 18-20
District Convention Kalama
zoo Radisson Hotel

Saturday, October 26
Rochester Chapter Show



MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS
THE MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS PRESENT
THE 3RD ANNUAL
MOUNTAINTOWN HARMONY EXPLOSION
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
JULY 11, 12 AND 13TH, 2013
AN EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE FOR VOCAL STUDENTS

Event Includes
Three days vocal training
(Two accomplished clinicians)
Concert at conclusion of event
(World class concert hall)
Two nights lodging on campus
(Supervised. Linen provided)
Eight meals
(All dietary needs accommodated)
Perform four songs
(Sheet music with part specific learning tracks
provided in advance)
Two award winning quartets
(that work with small groups of students)
Camp shirt and Concert CD
Saturday afterglow
Fun. Fun. Fun.

AGES 14-20
CAMP FEE \$225

MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND GREAT MEMORIES!

find us on Facebook

"This camp introduced me to the world of barbershop, and I love it. The people involved are incredible!" Jerry K.

"I love the camp so much! It feels like I have family here and I really know these people." Emily M.

"Literally, the only thing wrong with this camp is, it ends!" Mike W.

INFORMATION: 989 560 6181

The basses must sing way down low,
And the leads up an octave or so,
The tenors range high
While the baritones try
Singing notes that the others don't know.
[Ariel S. Bean]

Barbershopper **Bill Hanna** of Hanna-Barbara Productions produced this cartoon years ago for SPEBQSA convention-goers:

