

# TROUBADOUR

Hello Pioneer!

As my term as President of the Pioneer District comes to an end, I would like to take a few moments to look back to highlight what a great year 2013 has been here in Pioneer.

At last fall's convention I told you about the Forum that was to be held in Las Vegas. Almost the entire Board of Directors took part in the Forum, and much of what has happened this year came about as a direct result of those meetings. Our board members have continued to meet, and the spirit of co-operation and support has been amazing to see. This turned into new offerings at our Leadership Academy, an improved and expanded Quartet Boot Camp, Quartet Top Gun, and Chorus Top Gun. This trend will continue, as plans are already underway to build upon these programs.

Pioneer was also a leader when it came to celebrating the Barbershop Harmony Society's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Celebrations took place all around the district on April 11, including a Kalamazoo City Council meeting, a presentation in the Rotunda in the Capitol Building in Lansing, and a songfest on the top floor of the McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek. Even more importantly, several of our chapters adopted a package of songs put together by the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, led by Pioneer's own **Roger Lewis**. Four chapters – Lansing, Holland, Grand Rapids, and Gratiot County – used this package on their chapter shows and welcomed singers from around the district to take part. The result was much larger choruses on the shows, and at least 30 singers sang on all four shows. If you did not get a chance to attend one of those chapter shows, you had another opportunity to hear this package of songs by the CELEBRATE HARMONY CHORUS at the Fall convention.

As we look at how successful those shows were, and how much fun the singers had doing them, wouldn't it be great if we didn't have to wait for another significant anniversary to do something like that again? It might not be possible for 2014, as most chapters are well along in plans for next year's shows, but it sure should be possible for 2015. This year there was a set list of songs from which to choose, but the Music Teams of the choruses could certainly come up with a theme for future shows, and it would be a great thing for all involved. Something to think about.

A full Forum does not take place every year. This year's event, called a Mini-Forum, took place in Nashville in November, and we sent incoming President **Dan Bezaire** and four other official representatives. This year the meetings were a little different.

As you may recall, in 2011, Roger Lewis, **Brian Duncel** and I visited every chapter in Pioneer. As part of that visit we did a survey of each chapter, asking what they wanted or needed in terms of support. Those visits took place

throughout the Society, and every chapter was surveyed. It has taken a while to compile the results of those surveys, but we now have them, and there were some overwhelming similarities throughout the Society. The top four most common needs became the focus of this year's Mini-Forum, and representatives spent the weekend in Nashville brainstorming, sharing ideas, and looking for ways to meet those needs.

We looked at those topics and chose four board members to be our representatives.

- The first topic was STRATEGIES to help with recruiting new members, new musical leadership, and new patrons. Our representative was Director of Membership **Paul Ellinger**.
- The second topic was STRATEGIES to provide more frequent visits from and communication with District and Society staff officers. Our representative was Director of Marketing **James O'Dell**.
- The third topic was STRATEGIES to provide coaching help to chapters. Our representative was Director of Music & Performance **Cliff Dake**.
- The fourth topic was STRATEGIES to help chapters plan and implement shared activities. Our representative was Director of Chapter Support and Leadership Training **Joe McDonald**.

Here is my challenge to all of you. If you have ideas, questions, or comments on any of these topics, you now know who to talk to. And you can expect to hear from your representatives. We made a significant investment in District funds to send these guys to the Mini-Forum, and you have the right to expect results. Toward that end I have asked our four representatives to each plan to address a General Session at January's Leadership Academy about their experience in Nashville, and to talk about what the future of these strategies will look like here in Pioneer.

We asked what you needed. You gave us very clear responses. Now we are going to make it happen.

As my time as your District President winds down, I am very pleased with the direction that I see us going here in Pioneer. I have visited almost every chapter, either by attending a chapter meeting, chapter show, or other event of some kind, and I am here to you tell that there are some great things happening. Highlights for me were taking part in the Celebrate Harmony shows, but I think the greatest thing I have seen was the night that Huron Valley and Monroe North got together just to sing. Both choruses sang, quartets sang, VLQs sang, and a great time was had by all. I know that those kinds of events used to be commonplace, and it sure would be great to see more of them.

And remember – If you want to “Keep the Whole World Singing,” it's time to let the world know.

Doug Weaver  
President, Pioneer District



## 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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## Pioneer District Officer's Corner



by **Roger Lewis**  
Pioneer District  
Vice-President  
Events

As we continue to work toward making our "contest" weekends more of a "convention" with new opportunities for our attendees, it also adds to the workload. Although I can do the initial research, I'd like someone to take over the monitoring and the details of the activity.

Some thoughts about what is needed, using the examples of the winery tour in Traverse City, the "make your own wine" tour in Kalamazoo, and the planetarium visit.

The person would need to become familiar with each activity, be able to post enthusiastic descriptions on the *Pionet* and website, take the reservations if required, write announcements for the MC, follow up with the tour location with reservations, etc. In Traverse, we needed to rent a bus -- it might happen in other locations. Perhaps act as a tour guide for the group that goes on a tour. Basically, do what needs doing.

I'd invite them to one "pre-convention" meeting -- probably 4-5 months prior to convention.

If you're interested, and have some experience in planning and hosting group events, please reply to me.

Incidentally, it could be the wife of a barbershopper.



by **Brian Dunkel**  
Pioneer District  
Harmony Foundation  
Regional Representative

Starting this Fall, the Harmony Foundation and the Contest & Judging program are teaming up to auction off a single seat at every Society contest session held including Division, District, Prelims, Mid-Winter and International. If you've ever wanted to test out your judging chops, you can bid on a seat in the Judge's pit at our upcoming Pioneer District Fall Convention and be a "Judge for a Day".

This is an auction where the winner of each contest session (Friday night Quartet Semis, Saturday Chorus Contest, and Saturday night quartet Finals) gets to hobnob with the judges and sit in the pit during the session that they win. Opening bids start at \$40 for each session.



All Funds received go to Harmony Foundation International, to help defray the expenses for such efforts as the Collegiate Quartet Contest, Youth Chorus Festival, Youth Harmony Workshops, Harmony Explosion Camps, and Harmony University Scholarships for Music Educators.

Here again is the information, and directions you need to have the "Best Seat in the House."

#### WHAT DO I GET FOR MY WINNING BID?

- A great seat in the judging area for your selected contest session.
- A special guest judge name tag.
- A complete set of judging and scoring forms for your selected judging category.
- Following the convention, a chart showing how your scores compare to the official panel members in your selected judging category.
- An invitation to join the official panel in their "green room" and snacks at intermissions associated with your selected contest session.
- The chance to sit in and observe the evaluations sessions after the contest.

### Pioneer District Convention

It was cold and wet outside, but inside the Kalamazoo Radisson Plaza Hotel, the warm glow of barbershop singing prevailed.

14 choruses and 18 quartets (including two 'Ology quartets) sang in the Fall contest. 316 singers crossed the stage as competitors.

In the quartet contests, **PLAYLIST** is the new District Quartet Champion, with a score of 69.6%. Lead **Toby Shaver** joined with Tenor **Jay Edwards**, Bari **Brandon Ciesielski**, and Bass **Evan Boegehold** (our Youth in Harmony VP) to take the Gold, singing: "When it Comes to Lovin' The Girls," "Bright Was the Night," "Come Fly With Me," and "Over the Rainbow." They received their awards from last year's winner, **MAJESTYX**.



PLAYLIST

META-4 sang a sweet set Saturday night ("You're Nobody Til Somebody Loves You" and "You Are So Beautiful" with a fine Tenor post) to lift them into second place.



META-4



BUCKET LIST

BUCKET LIST was third, and also the highest Seniors quartet, edging out last year's winner, HARMONY ROAD, and giving them the honor of representing Pioneer at the Winter Senior Quartet contest in Long Beach, CA.



WINDFALL

WINDFALL, from Traverse City, won the Novice Quartet championship. (**David Curtis-T**, **Floyd Brooks-L**, **George Tatro-Br**, **James Fegan-Bs**)

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET got some of the loudest applause with their comedy routine, which concluded with **Jacob Welty** posting while doing a handstand.

An oddity was that CODA HONOR and

CLASSIC FIT were in an exact tie, not only after the semifinals Friday evening, but after the finals Saturday evening.

In the chorus contest, it was close between the three Plateau 1 competitors, (those who scored more than 800 points in their last competition). But in this post-**Doc Gillingham** era, the Mt Pleasant MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS scored 74.0 to win and gain the honor of representing the Pioneer District at the Summer Convention in Las Vegas. They sang "Still Crazy After All These Years" under director **Jeff Rayburn**, and "Kodachrome" (unusual for being about photography, rather than love, or barbershop) under an energetic Evan Boegehold. With the most men on stage (41), D.O.C. sounded very solid to come in second, scoring 71.8 with "For Sale, One Broken Heart" and "Looking at the World Through Rose-Colored Glasses." Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS was third, with a score of 70.3.



### Most Improved Chorus – Grosse Pointe

(Livingston got a 5-point reduction from the judges because “Home On the Range” had too much Tenor melody and not enough Circle of Fifths, not a major issue, except that it reportedly cost them Most Improved Chorus.)



Chorus directors line up after the chorus contest.

Most popular songs in this contest were:

- “Hello, My Baby” four times
- “Bright was the Night” three times
- “I Didn’t Want to Fall” twice
- “Let the Rest of the World Go By” twice
- “When It Comes to Loving the Girls” twice

Departing from tradition, the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS replaced pole cats with songs from the 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday package – “Celebrate Harmony” and “Muskrat Ramble.” This reduced the size of the chorus (to ~26) but was fun for those who had learned those songs and had sung them in four chapter shows around the District this year. **Kirk Wood**, Holland Director, directed the chorus.



The JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS.

**Gary Plaag** was the Society Board Representative and emcee of the chorus competition. He spent much of his inter-chorus time reporting on events at the international level. For example, last summer's Harmony University was treated to a gold-medal quartet's presence, but unlike most years, RINGMASTERS stayed around for the whole week, interacting, singing tags, teaching classes, etc. The Society was prepared to offer free convention registrations to a few of the 76 young people that attended HU. But due to the generous donations of the HU attendees, all 76 were offered this subsidy.

**Doran McTaggart** emceed the evening show with a new mix of jokes.

**Doug Weaver** opened the evening show 15 minutes early in order to show a video from Nashville that included:

- CEO **Marty Monson** announcing honorary membership for THE NYLONS, mentioning ROCKAPELLA, TAKE 6, and CASA as descendants. **Paul Cooper**, director of the Battle Creek chorus, was one of the original Nylons.
- The fine-singing 2013 Collegiate champions, THE NEW-FANGLED FOUR.
- **Mike Rowe** of the TV show, Dirty Jobs, expressing the importance of **Fred King** as a mentor in his life.
- **K. J. McAleesejergins**, National Development Officer at Harmony Foundation, introducing **R.J. Tavaras**, a young lad with severe speaking disability, who has been gathered into the arms of the G-20 chorus in Fall River, MA, and who sang "Heart of My Heart" fluidly, as he was joined by **John Miller**, KJ, and other leadership.
- ...and describing the new mission of the BHS - instead of looking in the mirror, looking out the window, responding to the global crisis in community singing, providing our harmony tradition to folks that are depressed, unfulfilled in their lives; and doing it by connecting with music educators. KJ recently visited New Zealand and was encouraged to learn that barbershop has actually been integrated into the school curriculum there.



K.J. McAleesejergins

A local a cappella group, FERMATTA KAZOO, four young women and three young men, sang beautifully their two-song set.

CLASSIC FIT turned over the Bush League trophy to 2013 winners, FACEOFF.



Long-delayed passing of the misplaced spittoon.

## Bits & Pieces:

**Roger Lewis** has retired from judging (Presentation) as of last summer when he decided not to attend re-certification school. In honor of his 28 years as a Presentation judge, he was presented a plaque, signed by all of the BHS movers and shakers.

**Greg Humbel** maintained the Big Slide tradition at this recent convention with 65 slides.



Past Event VP Jerry Ditto and Greg Humbel on the Sound and Light Board

A new Youth Chorus is being started in Pioneer District, coached by 3<sup>rd</sup> generation BBShopper, **Aaron Pollard**. It will begin rehearsing one Sunday a month, in January, in the Lansing area.

How does **James Masalskis** (MAJESTYX) get that deep, resonant bass voice ? Could it be the liquid supplement that he carries around with him and sips? (Dr. Schultz's Antiplague Formula. <http://healingtools.tripod.com/supertonic.html> )

The Lansing chapter hosted this convention.



Registration desk right outside the auditorium.



BOBJOHNOLGY, one of two Ology quartets. John Mamish, Bob Wallace, and MAJESTYX.



Attentive audience at convention.

Additional photos, Courtesy of Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites.

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## Chapters

### Battle Creek

The Cereal City Barbershop Chorus sang at the Calhoun County Fair in Marshall, August 12.

### Detroit Oakland Chapter

D.O.C was one of the two choruses taking part in the first Pioneer District Chorus Top Gun coaching workshop.



DOC being coached at TopGun.

### Flint

The Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus sang at the Courtland Center Mall, Saturday, September 14.

“Our numbers were back in the mid-20s for Tuesday’s rehearsal, with most of us fully recovered from our Labor Day travels, so it’s only natural that we bounced virtual balloons in the air and imitated bagpipes. (It is amazing what the director can get these guys to do. Of course, you only have to mention “open fifths”, and the basses start paying attention!)

“We tweaked our positions on the risers, dug a little deeper into our contest set, and practiced begging with the tag, “Brother, Can You Spare a Dime” before getting totally confused with multiple paper versions of a piece we almost already know – sorry about that, guys!

“Thank goodness we had enough time left to enjoy a few pieces that ARE ready to sing

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Saturday at the Courtland Center Mall.”

On Saturday, October 12, the chorus sang at the Pix Theatre in Lapeer Michigan. The audience was treated to “four-part barbershop harmony as sung by the men of FLINT ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus as well as the ladies of the HARMONY GATEWAY Chorus.”

On October 13, the chapter held its annual chicken dinner at the Masonic Temple in Flint.

### Convention

“We had quite a mountaintop experience at convention this last weekend, with 21 of us putting on a good performance of our contest set and earning some of the highest scores we’ve received in recent history. In fact, we were only five points shy of posting our highest total score yet under our current director, and only six points shy of winning our plateau.



Flint chorus warming up at convention. (Photo courtesy Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites)

“Ignoring the numbers, this performance FELT like it was our best yet, and we confirmed that feeling last night as 21 of us watched and listened to the DVD of our performance. (Thanks to Bob and Mike for bringing your equipment!) With the help of our judges during evaluations, we’ve already tried some of the things that will help us gain those additional points, and THEN some, so we are primed! (Did you know that Doug wants to win the district championship?)

“There’s no time to rest on our laurels, so we started dusting off a song we’ll be singing at

St. Christopher Episcopal Church in Grand Blanc on November 10, 2013 at a fundraiser sponsored by the New Century Chorale. Then we read through a brand new “duet” our chorus we’ll be singing with the Fenton Lakes Sweet Adeline Chorus at the Fenton United Methodist Church on December 8, 2013.”

### **Gaylord**

The Gaylord HARMONY MEISTERS sang at The Brook in Roscommon, Tuesday, September 17; and they joined the other choruses at the Gratiot County “Celebrate Harmony Show” in Alma, Michigan on September 28.



## Gratiot County

The Gratiot County show was held on September 28 in the Alma High School auditorium. Entitled “Celebrate Harmony – A Salute to the Barbershop Harmony Society’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary,” it included the Gratiot County MIDSTATESMEN Chorus and other visiting Michigan chapters. Several quartets also performed.



G-FOURS performing on Gratiot show.



OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET performing on Gratiot show.

## Huron Valley

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS performed August 18 at the 2013 Ypsilanti Heritage Festival at Riverside Park. The show also featured the quartet META-4.

On August 26, the chorus participated in the Saline Community Fair Parade.

The chorus participated in a day of Top Gun coaching and putting on a free performance in Canton at the Calvary Baptist Church Saturday, August 24.

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS entertained about 75 guests, Saturday, September 14, at the Spotted Dog Winery, located at 1100 Woodland Dr. E in Saline, MI. Spotted Dog owner, **John Olsen**, has hosted this event for the last half dozen years. Guests got to sample the variety of wines produced there, and to buy their favorites, all while listening to the HARMONIZERS, plus two quartets, META-4 and ON THAT NOTE.



Rob Pettigrew directs the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS at Riverside Park.

“It is always a ton of fun and we would like to thank ON THAT NOTE and META-4 for being our quartets for the evening. Thanks to everyone that came out!!!”

The winery donated a portion of the proceeds from the evening's sales to support the HARMONIZERS.

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS performed September 17 at the Cobblestone Farmer's Market in Ann Arbor, a good opportunity to buy some fresh local produce and listen to some great a cappella music!



Huron Valley HARMONIZERS being coached at Top Gun.

### An Afternoon of Barbershop Harmony



Huron Valley singing at Spotted Dog Winery.

October 5 might have been the University of Michigan homecoming football game, but five miles to the east, at Washtenaw Community College, a near sell-out crowd of 400 fans enjoyed a joint concert by The Huron Valley Harmonizers and the Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines Chorus.

The HVH opened the show with a set of songs under the direction of Rob Pettigrew and William Stutts, Jr. Four Sweet Ads quartets each sang a song. After intermission, the Millennium Middle School Ensembles, from South Lyon, sang several songs under the direction of Angie Badish. Then,

three male quartets sang – ON THAT NOTE, META-4, and CHORDIOLOGY.

Voices in Harmony performed their scripted, costumed set called “It’s a Great Day for the Irish.”

Finally, all singers joined to sing “Lida Rose,” with the descant, the youngsters showing their excitement to sing with the backing of 100+ adult singers.

The Ypsilanti Courier had an extensive pre-concert writeup. <http://t.co/zlTF97fkDH>

### **Hillsdale**

The Hillsdale TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS had a number of recent sing-outs. On August 17, they sang at the Litchfield Sweet Corn Festival. On September 8 they sang out at the Jonesville United Methodist Church.

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And on September 24, they performed at the Hillsdale County Fair, in the Nichols Band Shell.

They are preparing for their December 15 TCC-American Cancer Society Benefit Concert at the historic Michigan Theater in Jackson.

## Kalamazoo

The Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS performed their annual show Saturday, September 21. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show was held at Western Michigan University's Dalton Center Recital Hall.

- The show featured:  
MAJESTYX - the 2012 Pioneer District Champions. "They are awesome."
- MALL CITY HARMONIZER Chorus and Chapter Quartets - who entertained with great songs from the past and the present.

The Afterglow was held at the Best Western Suites of Kalamazoo, where attendees enjoyed food, camaraderie, and a lot more singing.



Kalamazoo quartet BY DESIGN singing at Macy's, Kalamazoo...to a couple of dudes who could have cared less!!!

## Lansing

Lansing presented their show "Celebrate Harmony 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show" reprise, at the Grand Ledge Opera House on September 15. As **James Hall** wrote:

"In life, who doesn't like a second chance when they've missed out on something great?"

"Well, with our September 15 "Celebrate Harmony Reprise Show" at the Grand Ledge Opera House, we gave people this special opportunity. For our fans who missed our Wharton Center show, here it came again, but at only half the price!"

"Although our show didn't have "UP ALL NIGHT" or the 70-man chorus we put on stage in March, it DID have the same theme and most of the songs and quartets which were featured on our earlier show, KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, PARTS UNLIMITED, THE PATCH CHORDS, and TAKE NOTE and our old-timey barbershop outfits and our historical BHS logo banners."

"We split the proceeds of the show with the Opera House."





TAKE NOTE, The official quartet of Grand Ledge! L to R: Mike Barger-Br, Al Blankenship-Bs, Charlie Martin-L, and Dan Templin-T



PARTS UNLIMITED at Grand Ledge show. They recently finished second at Bush League.



Some of the boys down by the river at the Grand Ledge Opera House.



PATCH CHORDS at Grand Ledge show.



KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR at Grand Ledge show.

On September 28, the Lansing chorus participated in the Gratiot County show, as did their quartets, G-FOURS, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, and PARTS UNLIMITED.

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## Volunteer Fair: A Great Chance to Share about Our Hobby

by James Hall

Our chapter has been looking lately to make connections in the community and also start developing an “Altruistic Purpose” from the Supercharging Your Chapter program. So, on Wednesday, September 25, our chapter joined 26 other community organizations at the Volunteer Fair hosted by the Delta Township District Library.

Each organization had a table to display their information, and chorus director **Steve Warnaar** and I were on hand to share about our group. We had a good time chatting with attendees and representatives of other organizations, showing off our website and distributing chorus brochures and Storm Front postcards.

Also, we based our conversations around a new description of our group: ***“The Capitol City Chordsmen/Lansing Barbershop Chapter is a non-profit group whose goal is to spread joy through barbershop harmony, support music in our schools and make a positive contribution to our community.”***

With this in mind, we basically had four goals for the evening:

1. Make connections with charities and non-profit groups that we might be able to support by singing at their event or helping them in other ways.
2. Make connections with people in schools so we can support their music programs.
3. Tell potential singers that we are always looking for more members.
4. Promote our upcoming performances.

## Wharton Show Preview

by Steve Warnaar

I wanted to give you all a preview of the chorus' half of the Wharton show.

Picture a small town circa 1960 which will be represented by the chorus. A young city slicker shows up looking for Ed Harmon. The first song will be "That Railroad Rag" the train that brings him to town.

Through a series of pranks and misdirection, he is sent all over town hunting for *Harmon, E.* We go "up a lazy river", we look at the town picnic in "If the Lord be Willin'". We head over to the fairgrounds where the circus just opened. We check "over the rainbow" and down to the "Little white church in the valley"

We even check out the links at the golf course (song to be released after contest).

And to close out our half we'll sing a medley of rain songs - foreshadowing the imminent "Storm Front."

Additional details will be released piecemeal as the script committee comes up with hilarious and clever segues that tie our little story together neat as a bow, but you can be sure we won't stop being creative until it is 100%, unconditionally, money-back-guaranteed, entertaining.

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## Livingston County



Jacob Turner being welcomed.

On Monday, August 5, we welcomed our newest member, Congratulations **Jacob Turner**! The torch has been passed from Father to son!

Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS were honored to perform at Le Concours de Livingston, Saturday August 3, at the Gronow Estate in Howell, MI. This annual event, benefitting Livingston Love INC, provided an afternoon of fun and lasting memories. Attendees could listen to live music, treat themselves to wine tasting, and also tour the Maritime

Museum and view antique automobiles.

"This is a very worthy fundraiser for Love INC, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to meeting basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and money management in accord with the teachings of Jesus Christ."

## Michiana Metro

The LIGHTHOUSE Chorus performed at the Berrien County Youth Fair for the Tractor Pull on Monday, August 12.

The chorus's fall show was October 12 at the Brandywine Elementary School in Niles. "Featured quartets were our own REVELIERS (great fun) and HARMONY ROAD, the 2013 Pioneer District Senior Quartet Champion!"

Unfortunately, due to a family medical emergency, **Br. Giles Hanover**, the chorus director and lead of HARMONY ROAD, was called away before the show ever started. Minus the director and one quartet, the show went on and was a smashing success.

## Monroe North

On September 15, the Monroe North FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS sang at the "Somewhere In Time" Car Show on the Main Stage at Elizabeth Park in Trenton, MI.

## Mt. Pleasant

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS took part in Central Michigan University's MainStage August 25. "Come out and tell Jim, Evan, and Jake where you like to do your singing!"



Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS warming up for contest.

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS held an open house on September 4.

The Annual show, *ACAPELLAPALOOZA 2!*, was held Saturday night, November 2, in the Plachta Auditorium on the campus of Central Michigan University.

“Our featured quartet of the evening was the hilarious 4 MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOIR. Also singing on the show were two excellent A cappella groups from CMU. CENTRAL HARMONY is a mixed A cappella group, and FISH N CHIPS is an all-male A cappella group on campus.”



Tri-fold poster used at the MainStage event.

An afterglow was held at the Buck Horn Golf Course where the fun and camaraderie continued until the witching hour.

## Pontiac-Waterford

### BIG CHIEF CHORUS Picnic, August 16



The BIG CHIEF CHORUS enjoying their annual picnic.

The 2013 BIG CHIEF CHORUS picnic was held in beautiful weather at **Bob and Eileen Marshall's** home on Sylvan Lake, August 16. Thirty-seven barbershoppers and their partners feasted on the brats and hot dogs and assorted dishes. The evening was not complete until barbershop songs were sung.

### Sean Devine's visit to the Big Chief Chorus, September 17

Sean was in town for several days, visiting the Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS and Pontiac-Waterford, doing a little coaching, and meeting with Pioneer District officers.

He joined President **Jack Teuber**, **Ray Sturdy**, and LIMITED EDITION at Heroes Restaurant for an early dinner Tuesday night, September 17. After a few warmups, we sang “Come Fly With Me” and “No More Sorrow” to the surprised diners, who erupted in applause.

**Sean Devine** was born in Hershey, PA, moved to California in 2001 to pursue a career in music, performing full-time with the professional doo-wop group, THE ALLEY CATS. He joined the MASTERS OF HARMONY and the WESTMINSTER choruses, and became the Lead in the newly formed quartet, OC TIMES. The “OC” has the double meaning of honoring O. C. Cash, and being formed in Orange County. OC TIMES won the Gold Medal in 2008. In July 2008, Sean joined the staff of Harmony Foundation, where he has responsibility for about five districts. He moved back to Hershey, PA this year.



At Heroes Restaurant: President Jack Teuber, Charlie Perry, Jeff Doig, Ray Sturdy, Tom Blackstone, Sean Devine, and John Cowlshaw.

At chorus rehearsal, Sean led a warmup that included the “ng” sound which Sean uses to aid forward placement. We alternated between hum, ng, ooh, and bubbling, as we did the 8-tone scale breakout, and as we sang “Heart of My Heart.”

After Director **Tom Blue** led us thru the first half of our show rep, Sean gave an articulate summary of the work of Harmony Foundation, emphasizing its support of Harmony University and the Youth Programs of the Society.

Ray Sturdy, **Dave Montera**, and **Tom Blackstone** joined Sean to sing “Good Luck Charm.” Then Sean joined LIMITED EDITION to sing “Sold – Grundy County Auction.” Interesting point: When the members of OC TIMES first heard **John Michael Montgomery’s** “Sold” they went to their favorite arranger, **Aaron Dale**, to ask for an arrangement. Turns out that Aaron Dale’s wife had gone to school with Montgomery. The quartet introduced the song in 2006.

The quartet sings about one gig a month, and they use that entire weekend as their rare opportunity for rehearsal, since they are dispersed around the country. Coming up, they’re going to join in Los Angeles for a recording session for a new album.

Sean talked about how they choose their repertoire. Three rules: No rubato. Sing to a girl, not about her. And ask something of her.

He was asked about vowel-matching. He said that the quartet spends zero time on it. But the reason is that their two choruses emphasize it so strongly that the right vowel formations were just their natural way of singing.

Emphasizing the growing international flavor of barbershop, Sean said that BABS, the British Association of Barbershop Singers, has invited six top quartets to Harrogate, England May 23-26 for their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention. OC TIMES, VOCAL SPECTRUM, CROSSROADS, GAS HOUSE GANG, RINGMASTERS, and STORM FRONT will all be there.



## BIG CHIEF CHORUS Fall Show, November 2

The Pontiac-Waterford BIG CHIEF CHORUS had its annual show, Saturday night, November 2 at Waterford Mott High School's Performing Arts Center.

It was entitled "Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Barbershop," with its own original script, developed by members **Jeff Doig** and **Pete Mazzara**. International Semi-Finalist INSTANT CLASSIC and six in-house quartets interspersed their songs into a script that honored the long tradition of the Society as well as the 70-year history of the chapter.

The curtains opened to the scene on the rooftop in Tulsa, where **OC Times** and **Rupert Hall** waited for men to arrive, singing "There's a Meetin' Here Tonight." Several polecats were then sung, including the little-known verses to "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," and "Sweet Adeline."



O.C. Cash (John Cowlshaw), Emcee (Jeff Doig), and Rupert Hall (Charlie Perry) with members of the "Meetin' Here Tonight" ensemble



A misunderstanding: Dick Johnson as the Big ChIef

Along the way, the chorus reprised a song from the hilarious 2003 show, where the director, dressed as an Indian chief turns to direct a chorus dressed as *chefs*, and singing a parody of "Let's Get away from it all." "I'm so tired of this dull routine. Aint gonna cook no chili beans. Back in Paris at cooking school, they said we'd be famous....and make money too! ..."

The audience of ~600 appreciated the history, the parody, the ringing chords.



Big ChIef parody troupe.



Rest of the Big ChIef parody troupe.

## Rochester

The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY performed at Arts and Apples in Rochester, September 7.

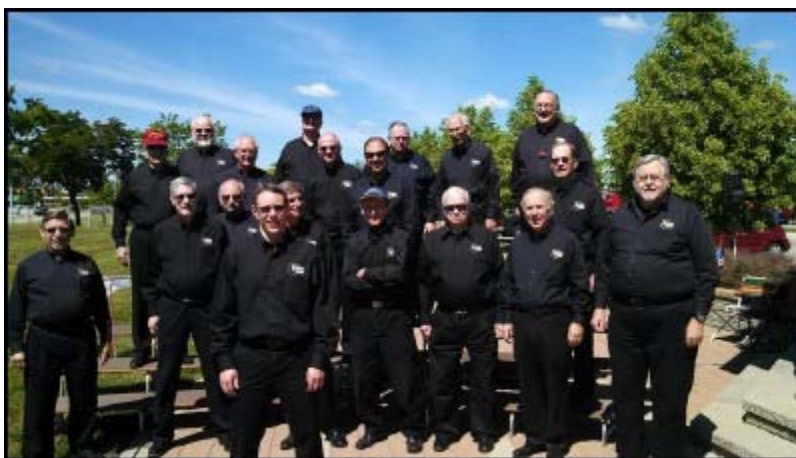
On October 5, the chorus presented their Fall show, at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester. *Roses of Success* featured the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY - the newly merged and freshly minted chorus of Rochester and Macomb County Chapters. The featured quartet was COMMON CORE from the Columbus, OH area, which placed 23<sup>rd</sup> at Toronto. Also performing were RIGHT ON Q and CLASSIC FIT.



COMMON CORE



Hands up Matt Tipton. GUARDIANS OF HARMONY at *Roses of Success* show.



GUARDIANS OF HARMONY at *Arts and Apples*.

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## Traverse City

The CHERRY CAPITAL Men's Chorus had another partnership concert Sunday, September 29 at the Central United Methodist Church of Traverse City. It was a benefit for the Safe Harbor organization.

## Wayne

The Wayne HarmonyTown Chorus had a busy fall.

November 11: Open House celebration for Veteran's Day at Waltonwood Senior Living Center.

November 21: Noon Time Concert at the Livonia Public Library.

## Windsor



Windsor on stage at convention. (Photo courtesy of Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites)

## Reports—Quartets

### Bidin' Our Time

by Mike Frye

On August 3, 2013 BIDIN' OUR TIME had the pleasure of singing at the 80th birthday party for **Jack Miesel** in Highland. Jack sang with our chorus during the Christmas Holidays a few years back. He was very active in the Optimist Club and is a friend of many in our chorus. The place was packed with people. I'm guessing about 150. We were very well received and there was food everywhere.

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On August 9, 2013 we had the pleasure of singing for **Shobha Chandra** MD who was at her last day of work after 45 years as a pediatrician. The request came from her son in San Francisco, CA. who is also a doctor. Her practice was in Waterford with Drs. Bauer and Chandra on M59 by the airport. She was totally surprised and we were received very well by her and her small staff and a few patients that were hanging around. About eight people were in attendance. It was very private and not a lot of fan-fare.

### Bidin' Our Time "looks out the window!"

In the last five months, BIDIN' OUR TIME has sung to over a thousand students, teachers, and administrators. Their eleven Barbershop demos have been at Waterford Kettering High School, West Bloomfield High School, Rochester High School, Rochester Adams High School, Troy Athens High School, Waterford Mott High School, Van Hoosen Middle School, and Avondale Middle School. This is in addition to all of the other singouts they've done, which have now reached a total of 48 gigs, plus seven as step-outs in chorus.

Lead **Mike Frye** has promoted our High School nights to twenty-one regional high schools, garnering many requests for BIDIN' OUR TIME to visit to demonstrate barbershop to the high school singers.

### October 2

At West Bloomfield High School the quartet sang to 180 students, faculty, and administrators from 7:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. One of the students responded that he sings in a quartet that practices before school, 7 a.m. or earlier. The quartet offered him any help they may need.

"To say the least, those visits were one of the highlights of the quartet's existence. Their [students] attentiveness and willingness to listen and learn was overwhelming; it raised goose bumps," Mike said. "By planting the seed in these young minds that Barbershop Harmony is fun and exciting, it is well worth the time spent."

"Please tell the group what a wonderful gift you shared with my students," said **Sheryl Hauk**, the Choral Director and Fine Arts Curriculum Coordinator at West Bloomfield High School, and the MSVMA District 4 Co-Manager.

### October 18

BIDIN' OUR TIME performed at Troy Athens High School. The experience was awesome and the kids participated with enthusiasm. We had the choirs as well as the concert band and the orchestra students in attendance.

### October 24

BIDIN' OUR TIME had the pleasure of singing at both Waterford High Schools. What an amazing experience. At Mott High School there were 83 students present. We sang for them, taught them, and in return they sang for us. During their warm-up we

thought Director **Tom Blue** was there. **Mrs. Budzinski**, the director and an ex-student of his, uses all of his warm-up techniques. She is very talented.

At Kettering High School there were 111 students choral groups and the band. They were also very receptive and were in the learning mode. **Mrs. Harness** is very supportive of us and encouraged those interested in our style of a cappella music. There were some very promising prospects from both schools.

### October 30

We visited Avondale High school and sang for three different classes and faculty.

Afterwards we sang for the administration and office staff plus numerous kids and staff that stopped us in the hallway and asked us to sing for them.

As usual the students were very attentive and welcomed us greatly. **Mr. Cornwell**, the Vocal Music Director, is very talented and has a very good program that has won many awards. He is also a very good friend of Tom Blue's. We promoted a lot of goodwill that day. The total students we sang for was approximately 128.

### **Harmony Road**

Brothers and Sisters in Harmony,

HARMONY ROAD, your 2013 Pioneer District Senior Champs, were on the road again the last week in September with a visit to the Benton Harbor-St Joseph Chapter on Monday evening. Yes, they are still in there singing their hearts out every Monday.

We were met warmly and had a chance to sing our songs for them. We had a great time both singing for and with them. Afterwards we afterglowed with them at the local Big Boy where there was more singing, imagine that, and the customers had a great time as well.

Thanks to **David Mohr**, **Don Richmond**, and all the guys of the FRUIT BELT CHORUS.

If you would like a visit from HARMONY ROAD, simply drop us an e-mail to [contact@hrquartet.com](mailto:contact@hrquartet.com) and we would be happy to see what we can do.

Happy Singing!

Br Giles (Gene) Hanover FSD, Lead

HARMONY ROAD, 2013 Pioneer District Senior Champion

[www.HRQuartet.com](http://www.HRQuartet.com)

### **Limited Edition**

LIMITED EDITION sang at Bakers of Milford on Thursday, August 1 for a reunion of retired GM safety engineers. **David Martin** organized the event and about 45 GM

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engineers and their wives were present to hear the quartet do a 9-song set.

Of particular relish to the group of engineers was a parody of “Sweet and Lovely” designed with their careers in mind:

*Last night alone, on our way home,  
You turned and said to me (to me).  
“Love this car so, and I want to know.  
Why is it first in safety, in safety?”*

*Smart and clever, that’s what G M’s team was;  
Crash dummies and air bags and those kinds of things.  
Made this car safe for us (for us)*

*Soon we’ll travel  
We’ll drive this car with pride.  
I will smile all the while  
We take our (ride) take our ride.  
I will smile all the while  
We take our GM ride (GM ride).  
(Laughter and applause!)*

LIMITED EDITION, with guest tenor **Wayne Oberstadt**, was transformed into LIMITED O’DITION for the White Lake Historical Society’s fundraiser at Fisk Farm in Waterford, Sunday, September 8. The quartet sang a repertoire of about 15 songs to the ~150 attendees. First, they sang with an audio system that projected their voices throughout the venue. Then they roamed and sang to local groups, sometimes with wood-fire smoke in their faces. A young female trombonist said, “You guys rock! Especially your bass.”



LIMITED O'DITION at the Fisk farm. L to R. Doig, Colishaw, Perry, and Oberstadt.

On a cool, sunny Sunday, September 22, LIMITED EDITION performed at the Milford Historical Society’s 37<sup>th</sup> Home Tour. Five homes had been selected for this year’s tour, the fourth that LIMITED EDITION has participated in, and the quartet entertained those lined up to tour each home. Singing from noon to 5 pm required a brief break at the Milford House for lunch, to re-energize, and to rest the vocal apparatus.

## Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

by Don Horton

Over the summer, the quartet has been very busy with the quartet activities. First we

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went to the International in Toronto and had a ball singing in the subway, hotel lobbies, and restaurants throughout the week.

We sang for 60th, 65th, 75th, 80th, and 90th Birthday Parties, all over Michigan during the past two months including a Three-Generation Party in Farmington Hills. Grandpa Sherman turned 87, Son John turned 57 and Grandson Matt turned 27.

Last Sunday, we sang for a Bridal Shower in Novi. The theme for the day was Ladies Hats, pretty cool, lots of pretty girls and they looked great in their wide-brim hats.

Next week, is a performance at Marquette Retirement home in East Lansing, then on to a 50th Wedding Anniversary, then coaching with **Al Fisk**, prior to Lansing Chorus coaching session.

In September, we had a coaching session with **Chris Noteware** and one with **Cindy Hansen**, a Wedding in Detroit, (on Friday the 13th), and performed on the Grosse Point Show on Friday the 27th and then the Gratiot Co. Show (3:00 & 7:30 p.m.). OTHQ is performing with the Chorus, but is also the Guest Quartet on both shows along with G-FOURS.



Jacob, Tom, Tim, and Don with a happy couple.

We worked hard on four contest songs for the Fall Contest: "You Are My Sunshine," (arranged by **Jacob Welty**), "Piano Roll Blues" (new interpretation & SP), "What Does It Take To Make You Smile" (written lyrics, melody and arrangement by Jacob) and "I Never See Maggie Alone" (with new lyrics and Interpretation & SP) per coaching session with **Paul Ellinger** at Quartet Boot Camp in July).

We have four or five bookings between November 1 and June 30, 2014, as well as performing with the Chorus on the Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Christmas Show in Charlotte. Additional bookings include the Delta Township Library on Nov. 14 and the Owosso Library Rededication, Ice Cream Social on July 1, 2014.

This past Sunday, we performed at the St. Johns Methodist Church Service held in the Park in St. Johns at 10:30 a.m.

Thanks to **Darrell Neves** who will be filling in on bass for Tom. Darrell has been working hard for the past 5 weeks or so to learn some of our music. We look forward to the opportunity to blend Darrell's deep resonant voice with ours.

We apologize for missing several chorus rehearsals during the past several months due to a variety of reasons; Jacob's surgery, coaching sessions, rehearsals, many performances, and vacations etc. We will be prepared to sing with the Chorus in competition



in the fall contest and are registered to sing in the Quartet Contest.

### A Musical Proposal

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET was the catalyst for George Howarah to Propose Marriage to his girlfriend Celia on Sunday evening October 13, 2013 on Main St.in Royal Oak, Michigan.

After George and Celia finished a nice dinner at a restaurant a half a block away, they strolled down the street and stopped to hear the quartet.

The quartet, commonly called OTHQ then sang "Sweet and Lovely" and changed the words at: "...Sugar and Spice and everything nice you're all a girl should be..." to "George is here and Celia My DEAR you're all a girl should be." You should have seen Celia's face wondering who we were and how we knew their names.

George then proceeded to kneel and ask the question, "Will You Marry Me?" and the answer was YES!!! Many passersby enjoyed the whole event but most did not realize that this was a true LIVE wedding proposal.



The Proposal.

OTHQ continued to entertain shoppers and diners for another 30 minutes or so. Just another way to promote our GREAT HOBBY with public awareness. OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET booked another performance for a Retirement Home in West Bloomfield, Michigan from their efforts.

### **On That Note**

ON THAT NOTE joined the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS in two of their recent chorus performances, at the Spotted Dog Winery, and the joint concert by The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS and the VOICES IN HARMONY Sweet Adelines Chorus.

### **Sound Idea!**

by Wayne Oberstadt

...performed at the Redford Theater during its showing of *The Music Man*, starring **Robert Preston** and **Shirley Jones**. Shirley Jones appeared live at all three shows.



Tom Blackstone, Paul Teska, Jim Windak, and John Cowlshaw; ON THAT NOTE.

We enjoyed performing for the audience at the Redford Theatre, and Shirley Jones. We received so many compliments on our sound from staff and patrons alike! A special Thank You to our spouses and families for putting up with the extra rehearsals and time away from home! Also a big thanks to all our relatives, friends, and fellow Barber-shoppers for coming out and supporting us and the Redford Theatre!



SOUND IDEA! with Shirley Jones.

A gal who was one of the volunteers at the theatre asked us if her daughter could sing the "Dream" patter along with "Lida Rose," and we told her, "Sure!" Well, her daughter came over with three of her girlfriends, and they all knew the song, so they ended up singing it with us! The Mom videotaped the whole thing.

*Music Man* audiences were approximately 1500 people Friday and Saturday and around 1000+ on Sunday afternoon.

Here are videos of the quartet singing "Just in Time." [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-ILTYHrp90&feature=player\\_detailpage](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-ILTYHrp90&feature=player_detailpage)

and "Sincere" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=HZnjTCnKAcQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=HZnjTCnKAcQ)

## Report—Events

### Top Gun Chorus Coaching

August 24, Calvary Baptist Church

Hello Pioneer!

Something very special is happening in our district today. Our first ever Chorus Top Gun is taking place, and it is an amazing event. Two of our choruses, the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS of the Detroit Oakland chapter and the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS are spending their day being coached by two of the very coaches in the Barbershop Harmony Society. **Kevin Keller** from St. Louis and **Brian Barford** of Cincinnati are working with both choruses today, and it is a treat to watch.

Doug Weaver  
President, Pioneer District

That evening, the two choruses presented a concert at the church for whoever could afford the free price. They were joined by two quartets, CODA HONOR and NIGHT SHIFT.

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More photos at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.638817829486415.1073741834.331643116870556&type=3>

“On behalf of the Huron Valley chapter, I'd like to give a HUGE thank you to the Pioneer District, and our Music and Performance VP **Cliff Dake** for putting together a fantastic full day of coaching! Our chorus made some very significant progress after a day of coaching from two of the Society's very best -- Brian Barford, and Kevin Keller -- and we're looking forward to taking what we've learned and building from there.”



D.O.C. director Steve Sutherland, coaches Brian Barford and Kevin Keller, HVH directors Rob Pettigrew and William Stutts, and organizer Cliff Dake (VP, Music and Performance).

“I hope that our chorus earns another opportunity to be invited again, and that even more choruses will be able to attend next year -- it was such a valuable day. Pioneer is once again leading the way with this type of event, and the more choruses that take advantage of it, the better our entire District will become. These are exciting days for Pioneer!”

“Many thanks, too, to all of you who attended the free show Saturday evening and brought friends. It turns out that much of the crowd had NEVER attended a barber-shop event before, and this was one of their first times hearing barbershop choruses (and quartets) perform! How cool is THAT??!”

Pioneer HO!!!

Rob Pettigrew



NIGHT SHIFT



CODA HONOR

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## BUSH LEAGUE

August 23, 24, Gaylord

by John Cowlshaw

The 67<sup>th</sup> annual Bush League Quartet Contest was held in Gaylord (as it has been since 1996). Headquarters were the Quality Inn, and performance venue the beautiful Evangelical Free Church.

Ten quartets competed for top honors. The gold-medal quartet, getting its name on the historic spittoon trophy, was **FACEOFF**, singing “So Long Mother” and “When It Comes to Loving the Girls.” Old-timer **Jim Johnson** brought a couple of newbies from Grand Rapids to win it all. (Members: **Paul Slack T**, **Ben Krotje L**, **Dan Winer Br**, Jim Johnson (Bs)) It is Jim’s 5<sup>th</sup> Bush League win, his first as bass, his others being as Tenor.



FACE OFF: Dan Winer, Jim Johnson, Ben Krotje, and Paul Slack.



MAJESTYX

**PARTS UNLIMITED**, from Lansing was second. (**Bill Osterhouse, T**, **Charlie Martin, L**, **Kevin Lenneman, Br**, **Bob Fox, Bs**) **SHARP ATTACK**, from Rochester was 3<sup>rd</sup>. (**Roger Davison, T**, **Gordon Kummer, L**, **Don Kondor, Br**, and **Mark Hawley, Bs**) Their scores were all around 65.

Other quartets got their scores and rankings privately. Altogether, choruses that were represented included D.O.C., Grand Rapids, Gratiot County, Huron Valley, Lansing, Livingston, Pontiac-Waterford, and Rochester.

The judges were **Ken Fisher**, Singing, **Jan-Ake Westin**, Music, **Jamie Carey**, Presentation, and **Ron Eubank**, Administrator. Ken and Jan-Ake are from Ontario. Ken is Bass-section Leader of the gold-medal **TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS** Chorus.

The guest quartet was **MAJESTYX**, 2012 Pioneer District Quartet Champions, with **Jamie Carey (L)**, **Pete Westers (L)**, **Steve Wheeler (Br)**, and **James Masalskis (Bs)**. Their Master Class Friday evening was on vowel-matching. All four participated in the post-contest coaching sessions, Saturday afternoon.



A special delight was hearing the new quartet, FATHER-SON COALITION with Jamie Carey and his son Cole on tenor, and Pete Westers and his son Silas on lead. The sons are 10 and 15. Silas's lead was strong, and Cole held a final tenor post like you wouldn't believe. As Jamie said, "Years from now, you'll be able to say you heard them back then."



FATHER-SON COALITION

The Gaylord Chapter HARMONIE MEISTERS sponsor the Bush League competition, with **Dale Hanson** and **Erv Erickson** serving as emcees. And their 21-member HARMONIE MEISTERS chorus sang on the evening show, directed by **Marlyn Byrd**. They were followed by performances by the three medalist quartets, and last year's winners, CLASSIC FIT. Then MAJESTYX wowed the audience.

Following the show, about 150 people gathered at BJ's Restaurant for the afterglow, where many quartets sang, and libations flowed.

The Bush League competition is supported by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs.

### Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Corn Roast

August 27, Baker Farm  
by John Baker



HARMONIE MEISTERS performing at the afterglow at Bush League.

What a great evening - special Thanks to OLDE RULES,

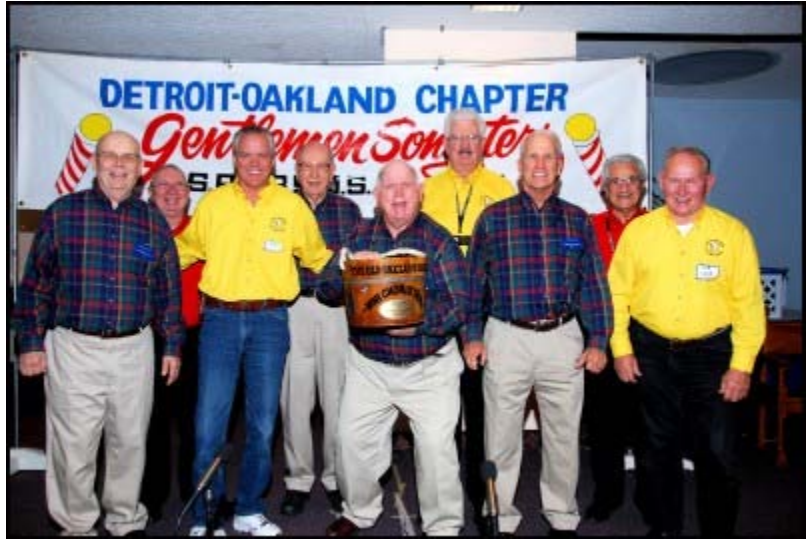
FACE OFF (our 2013 Bush League Champions), SHADES OF GREY and District Champs, MAJESTIX! We had 35 guests show last evening. It might have been the threat of rain that kept many away. We stayed dry and kept the Harmony ringing until 11ish when the last quartet MAJESTIX left our backyard. The rain finally came in @ 11:55pm. Another Thanks to **Pete Westers** who brought in multiple door prizes and **Jamie Carey** with his special donation too. Thank you to all from GR, Holland, Muskegon and Bay City folks who made the evening special. Until next year!!

## Canada Night

November 8

At last night's Canada Night event, the Mini-Chorus from the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter won the coveted *Old Oakland Bucket*. Under the direction of **Fred McFadyen**, the chorus sang "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do" in front of a judging panel representing four District Chapters. The Mini-Chorus consisted of Leads

**Bob Greenwood** and **Mike Frye**, Basses **John Northey**, **Bob Wallace**, **Roger Holm**, and **Zaven Melkonian**, Baritones **Dick Johnson** and **Eric Domke** and a solid Tenor sung by Fred McFadyen. The *Old Oakland Bucket* will be brought to a future Pontiac-Waterford meeting for all to see and savor for the next twelve months.



In Harmony,  
Zaven Melkonian

## Reports—District

### Meet Playlist, Our New District Quartet Champions

**Toby Shaver** has been the Lead of perennial Pioneer favorites PARTY OF FOUR. But who joined up with him this past August to form PLAYLIST, our new District Champions?

Bass **Evan Boegehold** is our district Vice President of Youth in Harmony, and the new director of the Mt Pleasant MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS.

Baritone **Brandon Ciesielski** sings with the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus.

Tenor **Jay Edwards** has a long history in Pioneer (after moving from Bowling Green, OH, where he got a Music Education degree and sang under Barbershop Hall of Fame member **R. D. Mathey**.) Jay became a charter member of the Motor City Metro Chapter and CITY LIGHTS Chorus, where he began singing with Pioneer District legends **Scott Turnbull**, **Dave Drouillard**, and **Sean Praetzel** as GANGBUSTERS who took third in the 1991 Pioneer District contest. After a 16-year hiatus from barbershop, he joined **Pete Burns**, **Steve Pauling**, and **Joe Queen** to form SINGER'S LOCAL #4, which finished as high as third place in District Competition, but has since disbanded.

### Pioneer Youth Chorus

A new Youth Chorus is being started in Pioneer District, coached by 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Barbershopper, Aaron Pollard. It will begin rehearsing one Sunday a month, in January, in the Lansing area.

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From Aaron:

Men, welcome to the 2014-2015 Pioneer District Youth Chorus!

I have just created a Facebook page "The Voice Barbershop Chorus." Please check it out – at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1425072894387733/> - and tell everyone you know to get involved. BARBERSHOP!

I am really excited to get this going. I want to get as many guys 30 and under involved as possible, so invite every person you can to this page so we can get the information out.

We are shooting for our first rehearsal on Sunday, January 19th from 2-6pm. It will be in the Lansing area. As more details are firmed up, we will get them out to you. This chorus will be competing in January 2015 in New Orleans, LA for the Barbershop Youth Harmony Festival. BARBERSHOP!

Aaron's email address is [aaronpollard2315@yahoo.com](mailto:aaronpollard2315@yahoo.com)

### **Fundraiser for Youth Singers**

**Paul Teska**, Lead in Huron Valley HARMONIZERS, Great Lakes Brigade, and the quartets, ON THAT NOTE, WHAT-4?, and KEYLESS ENTRY, has been diagnosed with metastatic esophageal cancer.

He intends to sing as often as he can and for as long as his voice holds up. And he wants to spend his remaining time, in his words, "planning a benefit to help our youth get involved in something that changed my life, Barbershop singing. The details on this will be coming soon. I would like everyone to know that I am ready to accept whatever comes my way and want you to know that I have no fear, just sadness for those that depend on me whether it is taking out the trash or holding that E post. I wish you acceptance and serenity, for that is what comforts me."

His journey and details of the fund-raiser will be on CarePages, at <http://www.carepages.com/carepages/PaulAndChrisT>

### **Archive Issues of Troubadour Now On-Line**

Thanks to **John Baker** for furnishing, and **Steve Sutherland** for uploading, 38 archive copies of the *Troubadour* to the Pioneer Site.

The earliest added was December 1949, Volume 1, No. 2, with the very first issue soon to be added.

Check out our history at:

[http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour\\_Menu.htm](http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

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## Harmony Platoon

Attempts are being made to initiate a Harmony Platoon in the Pioneer District. Here is what it is like in the Far Western District:

Quartet singers in FWD have been having fun since spring of 2012 at every convention with a new activity called Harmony Platoon. Several hundred men have now participated. Platoon has expanded to the Evergreen District this fall. Now with the 2014 Mid-Winter convention coming to FWD we are going to share our fun with the rest of BHS.

What is Platoon all about?

Two months prior to the convention quartet guys who register get high quality learning tracks and music to five songs they will be singing in Long Beach. Starting a day before the “official” convention opening, guys will participate in two “random draw” contests and a “Dance Card”, enabling them to sing with all others not on their same part. “Self-selected” quartets emerge from this activity and participate in another fun contest.

What songs will we sing?

FWD Platoon has now sung 20 songs from the BHS Music Premiere Series. We have chosen the four that our guys selected as their top favorites for you to sing in Long Beach, and added one from David Harrington that was rated among the top “treasured old songs” in a recent survey:

“Hello My Baby” (**David Harrington**)

“Paper Moon” (**Clay Hine**)

“I’m Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter” (**Jim Kahlke**)

“Just In Time” (**Dave Briner**)

“Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans” (BHS)

## Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Greetings, Tiger fans:

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia <http://www.sinfonia.org/> is a music fraternity that many barbershoppers belonged to in college (MSU – Gamma Epsilon chapter – ‘78). The BHS has teamed up with PMA, as it has with other music organizations. There is even a Facebook group of BHS/PMA members. In recent years, during International, we have met to discuss issues/events, how we can contribute to barbershop/music ed., and sing our songs.

I have been asked to: 1) see if any Pioneer folk are PMA members, and 2) see if there is any interest in gathering at our district conventions. I’m not sure how this would work – spend money to rent a room, meet in the hotel restaurant, introduce ourselves/backgrounds, sing our songs, etc.



First step: If you are a PMA Sinfonian, contact me privately. Let me know how you feel about a gathering. If there is enough interest, I will pursue the issue. I realize that convention weekend is chock full of activities for those who wish to engage. If we meet, I will do my best to make it convenient, brief, and worth your while. Thank you. Peace.

Al Fisk  
Music Judge  
[alfisk@comcast.net](mailto:alfisk@comcast.net)

## Bulletin Editors Workshop

**Roger O. Morris**, from Highland, MI, attended the Bulletin Editors workshop held at the Salt Lake Society reunion. (From the recent PROBE moter)

## District Photos

I am deeply sorry for the way things went this last Spring getting out the photos. There is no excuse for it taking this long, so I will not make one up. All photos, including disks have been mailed, with the final disks going out 9-10-13. If a chapter is still missing their photos come next week, please let me know and I will make sure they have been sent. Again, I deeply regret the way this was handled.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Isbell  
Forever Always Photography, LLC

## Reports—International

### Harmony University

by Paul Ellinger

Well, as you may expect Harmony University is absolutely fantastic! The general sessions are great, the classes are great and the faculty is unbelievable. (I don't know how I got to be on the faculty, probably a scheduling error).

Anyway, there are all kinds of things to do and see and experience here, and one of the super-cool things this year is that there is an overwhelming feel of openness and sharing.

In other words, if you want to sing with the RINGMASTERS, or talk to **Tim Waurick** or **Sean Devine**, or sing a tag with the lead of STORMFRONT, or have lunch with **Joe Liles** or Society CEO **Marty Monson**, or talk arranging with **Tom Gentry** at dinner or over ice cream ask **Steve Armstrong** how the TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS came up with their Vegetables Medley, it's all here and much, much more.

From Pioneer I have seen **Chris Cordle**, **John Tyler**, PIO EVP **Dan Bezaire**, President **Doug Weaver** (man, that guy IS everywhere!), **Kerry Foley**, **Charlie Martin**,

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**Chuck Moerdyke, Cliff Dake, Rob Pettigrew, Dave Spizarny, Nels Carlson,** and probably several other guys. **Ken Gibson** was here with his grandson Lucas too, and Lucas was great during the Next Generation Chorus' performance of "Mission Impossible."

It would be great to see YOUR name on next year's list of attendees, so make plans NOW! Harmony U is one experience you will not regret.

Also, as an added bonus, Harmony U is moving to Nashville. Not only is it closer, but round trip airfare from DTW to Nashville is \$212. Beat that!

You should go next year, 'tsall I'm sayin'.

HU 2014 will be here sooner than you know it.

Well, back to the fray of all the fun, fellowship, and singing! Pioneer, HO!

Paul



Pioneers at Harmony University, in front of Max, the Griffin.

"Some of our Pioneer barbershoppers at Harmony University this week. What a great experience! — with Rob Pettigrew, Cliff Dake, Nels Carlson and David L Spizarny at Harmony University on the campus of Western Missouri" from Doug Weaver

## Champion Toronto Chorus on YouTube

BHS has just posted the second song of the set that our new International Champion chorus, Toronto Northern Lights, performed in Toronto last month. "If I Can Dream."

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUdjE\\_7htio&feature=em-uploademail](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUdjE_7htio&feature=em-uploademail)

Word is that their first number will never be officially put online because it was a medley of so many songs that the copyright fees would be too expensive.

## Fall 2013 BQPA/Pioneers Festival Report, September 4-7

Well, another excellent Festival of "do-it-yerself" quartetting in the old style has chor-dially come, and alas, gone. Nearly 70 singers and guests populated the BQPA/Pioneers' room at the Hillside Best Western, just outside of Chicago, for our traditional "pick-up" quartet contest Friday evening, the 6th of September, and more than 100 were on hand for our Saturday evening parade of quartets. But we were ALL there, really, to SING! In QUARTETS! For HOURS!

Wednesday, the 4th, saw the arrival of die-hard quartet singers and the golfing barber-shoppers who would be leaving for the links early Thursday morning. (Barbershopping addicts of the golfing vice said, when they returned from their Thursday rounds, that they had sung on every tee, but one wonders if the course marshal really would have stood still for that.) Registration opened Thursday afternoon, and quartetting really got underway, with folks also putting their names in the voice-part bags for the draw for the pick-up quartet contest held Friday evening.

Friday dawned and the golfers perversely decided to go out and do it again, and then professed to have had good rounds when they returned late in the day, although nobody quoted any scores. They all got back in time for the draw for the pick-up quartet contest, so golfers and everyone else scrambled about, trying to find their other three voice-parts. Rehearsals for the competition then continued until moments before the contest started.

The competition was fierce and well-fought, resulting in the presentation of medals to the champs, who were very well-received. The winning quartet included Lead singer **Norm Starks**, the composer of "Sweet and Lovely." (Guess what they sang?) After the announcement of the top five, and presentation of ribbons, plaques and medals, woodshedding and other informal QUARTET singing resumed and went on into the wee hours.

On Saturday evening, after we all had a full day of singing, in QUARTETS, six guest quartets appeared in a parade which featured CHICAGO NEWS, GADZOOKS, our own RANDOM SAMPLE (from the Minneapolis area), and Q'D UP. Once the parade had concluded, quartetting resumed and lasted well past midnight, as usual.

We had a BLAST, like a four-day afterglo! Joe Barbershopper was very well represented, and we also had quite a number of folks who sported medals of one color or another from as far back as 1948. We weren't really there to listen – we were there to SING! In QUARTETS! And we DID! For HOURS and HOURS and HOURS!

The next BQPA/Pioneers Festival will be held at the Embassy Suites in Tempe, AZ , April 9 through 12. If you enjoy singing in quartets, with no pressure or assigned music, please join us in Tempe. You can find details on the BQPA/Pioneers website, <http://www.bqpa.com/>. Come sing with us next April!

Tom Noble, President  
BQPA/Pioneers

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## Judging Parameters Reviewed, Renewed, Refreshed

by Kevin Keller, Society Contest & Judging Committee Chairman

The Contest & Judging (C&J) Community recently completed its "Category School". At Category School (held every three years), all existing certified and candidate judges meet to certify as well as discuss issues of the day for their categories.

In the past, we've not done a good job of communicating changes that were decided or directions taken other than changing the Rules and Category Descriptions (and hoping you would read them!!!). If C&J wishes to drive certain behaviors and skills, why would we wait until after you competed to tell you?

That changes this year with this effort. Furthermore, we have created a blogsite for each category so you can read the high-level changes and then if you have questions, you can ask the Category Specialist for more details. They won't share every detailed conversation but will certainly share any rationale for a change, course direction, etc., as well as provide more detail. Feel free to ask away!

Follow the discussions here:

- Singing Category <http://www.barbershophq.com/?p=2099>
- Presentation Category <http://www.barbershophq.com/?p=2098>
- Music Category: <http://www.barbershophq.com/?p=2092>

One major change is that the Society has sanctioned "review of performance scores."

*A "scoring variance" is defined as when at least one judge awards a song with a score that is significantly higher or lower than the other scores from the panel. If a statistical variance occurs with a set of scores given for a performance of a song, the judges within the category will have the opportunity to review their sheets and potentially change their scores. [Read the full description here.](#)*

"It has no name, other than "Variance Process." It is a change to our scoring process. Headline writers (not the judging community) in search of a catchy phrase dubbed it "instant replay," and introduced some confusion. Here ends the use of that term.

## BHS Chief Visits ACDA

by Scott Dorsey, in Choral Net

Marty Monson, the CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society, recently paid a visit to the American Choral Directors Association in Oklahoma City to meet the staff and discuss the ongoing collaborative efforts between the two national music organizations.

"My ACDA visit was very encouraging," said Monson. "Our continued development and alignment of similar visions keeps making forward progress. Together, we will strive to



Marty Monson, CEO of the BHS

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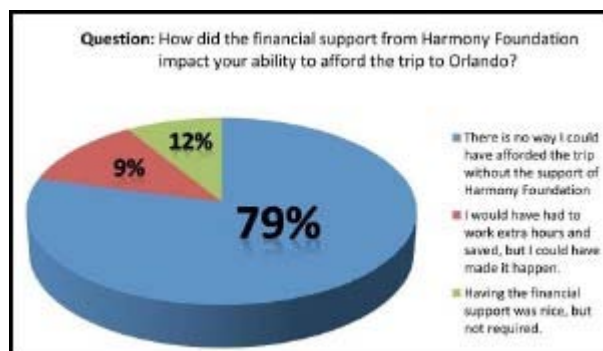


Keep the Whole World Singing."

The staff enjoyed the opportunity to meet the BHS head. "Marty's and BHS's passion for getting young men singing was clearly evident, something many ACDA members share," said **Sundra Flansburg**, ACDA Director of Membership Development. "I'm eager to see how we are able to build on these encouraging conversations to benefit our members and the choral profession!"

### Harmony Foundation's Impact On Young Singers

The pie chart below shows how the financial support of the Harmony Foundation impacted the youth who attended the mid-winter convention in Orlando, FL.



### Joe Cerutti to Lead Youth in Harmony Activities

Cerutti will oversee a crucial portfolio of Society activities, including:

- Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest
- International Youth Chorus Festival
- Youth Harmony Camps and Harmony Explosion Camps
- Music educator outreach
- Chorus director development

Read the entire article here: <http://www.barbershophq.com/?p=2140>

### SPOTLIGHT ON A CHAPTER: MONROE NORTH CHAPTER - FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS

Barbershop harmony came to Monroe, MI in January, 1964 with the charter application for the Monroe Chapter, SPEBSQSA - FLORAL CITY CHORUS. The chapter chartered with 22 members. In three years it grew to 38 members, and reached a peak of 48 members on stage at the 1976 Pioneer Convention in Dearborn, MI. Monroe is known as the Floral City, because of the large number of commercial flower growers in the region.

In August, 1973, the FLORAL CITY CHORUS hosted the CRAWLEY CHORDSMEN (the first chorus established in the UK) from Crawley, Sussex, England

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(BABS – British Association of Barbershop Singers) after the British chapter had traveled to Toronto on a performing tour. The FLORAL CITY CHORUS along with the 20 or so members of the CRAWLEY CHORDSMEN performed several joint shows in Monroe and surrounding areas. This week-long gathering formed many good friendships and an invitation by the CRAWLEY CHORDSMEN to travel to England to perform.



The FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS at Convention, 2013  
(Photo courtesy of Forever Always Photography, LLC)

In June of 1974, members of the Monroe Chapter along with members of the Lima, Ohio Chapter, and the HARMONY HOUNDS from Battle Creek, traveled to Crawley. The two week trip was highlighted by the Monroe chapter along with the HARMONY HOUNDS performing at the first convention of contest of BABS.

In the 1982, with membership dropping below 20 members, the FLORAL CITY CHORUS moved the chapter to Temperance, MI, just north of the Ohio state line. Along with members from the Toledo Chapter of the Johnny Appleseed District (JAD) they merged to form the STATE LINE CHORUS of the Monroe Chapter of about 40 men. After several years, and declining membership, the Monroe area members returned to Monroe and re-chartered in 1989 to form the Monroe North Chapter, FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS.

The chorus meets Tuesday evenings at the Monroe Missionary Baptist Church. There are 21 members on the rolls, and a typical rehearsal fields about 14 men, three or four men in each voice part. Rehearsals run from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and include 15 to 20 minutes of warm-up, going through their repertoire with special attention to two or three songs, and some time for quartetting. New songs include “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” and “Yesterday.”

**Chris Berry** is their Director. He joined BHS and the Monroe chorus in 1996. In 2002, he took over the reins as director following **Toby Shaver** (1999) and **Dave Granada** (2000-2001). Chris’s day job is as Executive Director for the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

In 2011, the FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS were invited by the Pioneer District Board to attend the Spring convention as “Chapter of Honor.” They sang, but not for score. This led to their participation in the 2013 Spring Convention for which they worked very hard and scored a fine 56.6, “a good achievement for us,” with twelve men on

stage. They sang “A Wink and a Smile” and “Ain’t Misbehavin’.” They are hoping to return to competition next spring.

Recent singouts have included a dinner cabaret at Saluté in Flat Rock, and “Somewhere in Time,” a car show in Trenton, MI. And they have shared several reciprocal rehearsal nights with the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS. But their recent emphasis has been on building membership. October 22 was a successful guest night, with ten guests attending, three or four of whom are good membership prospects. How was this so successful? Most members invited several guests, and the chapter ran a media blitz for two previous weeks in the Monroe Evening News.

The only organized chapter quartet is META-4, this Fall’s silver medalists in the District, in which Chris sings Bass. A couple other quartets have come and gone including: THE MIDNITERS, FLORAL CITY FOUR, LONG AND SHORT OF IT, CHORDIAL FOUR, and III ON KEY.

Recently deceased members were **Paul Stotz** and **Thomas Mehlhose**. Their energy and joy for singing will be missed.

## CRAFT

### Jamie Carey on Vowels

**Jamie Carey** did his presentation on “Vowels 101” at Bush League, and at Fall convention. Here is his summary of how to sing the six main target vowels:

AH – Like “Ma” Keep the soft palate high, raise the inside, don’t force the jaw down, show the top teeth slightly, keep the upper lip slightly raised, like biting an apple.

AW – Like “Dawn” Don’t swallow this vowel, yawn it. Again, keep the teeth separated in the back of the mouth.

OH – Like “Know” Keep lots of space inside your mouth, make your mouth look like the vowel – O – keep the corners of the mouth in.

OO – Like “Moon” Hoot, practice like a hoot owl in falsetto. Don’t pinch the vowel, as you would if something smelled and you said, pee-eeewwww.

EE – Like “We” Sing through an OH vowel shape. Keep the space inside, don’t let the mouth get wide or flat. Practice with a “chee.”

EH – Like “Wet” Lots of space, soft palette up, tongue down, like hot mashed potatoes in your mouth.

### Practice vs. Rehearsal

by Dick Johnson from Great Falls, MT

Of all the Directing/Coaching/Counseling I have done, there is one common thought I always leave with my guys/gals. There is a PROFOUND difference between PRACTICE and REHEARSAL.

PRACTICE is what you do at home, in the car, or whenever/wherever.

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REHEARSAL is perfecting what you've been PRACTICING. This usually happens on Chapter meeting night. That time is NOT, as I have stressed, to be called "Chorus PRACTICE."

You are wasting the time (and \$\$\$ ?) of your coach/director -- to say nothing of your fellow members that DO practice -- by waiting until Chapter meeting night.

PRACTICE may not lead to PERFECTION, but it sure leads to a more fruitful and rewarding REHEARSAL.

## MEDIA

### Roots of Barbershop Harmony

**Jim Henry's** 2001 article on the roots of barbershop harmony was reissued in the August 8 *LiveWire* and is available as a six-page PDF at <http://tinyurl.com/myfkfjc>

Dr. Jim Henry is, of course the bass of CROSSROADS, the director of the 160-voice AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY since he was 27 years old, but also a Ph.D. in barber-shop history.

If you're a Barbershopper, the odds are good that a certain **Norman Rockwell** print is hanging on some wall in your house. You know the one I mean. First appearing on a 1936 *Saturday Evening Post* cover, the scene depicts four men, one with lather on his face, warbling a sentimental ballad: the quintessential barbershop quartet.

Barbershop quartets often are characterized as four dandies, perhaps bedecked with straw hats, striped vests and handlebar mustaches. These caricatures of the barbershop tradition are not only a quaint symbol of small-town Americana, but have some historical foundation. Barbershop music was indeed borne out of informal gatherings of amateur singers in such unpretentious settings as the local barber shop.

### Saturday Spectacular Highlights Now Online

from *LiveWire*

Maybe you've heard about it already--how 6,000 people in Toronto cried and clapped and cheered as a young man transformed by barbershop music and culture stood on the stage with a gold medal around his neck and sang in a quartet. How the entire history of the Society was celebrated as a springboard to our future, how heroes and fellow travelers light the way to a much broader vision of our Society.

Now you can see it! The Saturday Spectacular highlights are now online. Watch the video now, and share it with your friends. This is why breathlessly, every week, we help you see and believe that what's ahead is even grander than what's happened thus far.

<http://tinyurl.com/p7ghfmz>



## Masterpiece Online

Barbershop Harmony Society has uploaded Tennessee Waltz-Masterpiece (2013 International Quartet Champion) , or “How long can the bass take the melody away from the tenor without suffering a penalty?” Check it out here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEJBKoSoot8&feature=em-uploademail>

## The Psychoacoustics of Harmony Perception

by Norman Cook and Takefumi Hayashi. *American Scientist*, 2008

Reviewed by John Cowlshaw

Centuries after three-part harmony entered Western music, research is starting to clarify why different chords sound tense or resolved, cheerful or melancholy.

The perception of harmony and dissonance is universal to all cultures. Stable or unstable combinations of tones evoke the very same feelings in people who have never heard "western" music as they do for those of us who grew up on a diet of Mozart, Sondheim or The Beatles. The reason for this common perception, according to Cook, is that the major or minor modality of musical chords is a direct consequence of the complex waveform of these pitch combinations.

The reason I am reporting on this, is that the whole theory doesn't work if you treat just the pure sound of a pitch. You have to include the higher frequency overtones that we barbershoppers love to talk about. And, (get this), the authors say, “The perception of chords—whether they are 3-tone triads, 4-tone tetrads or more complex chords and cadences—is likewise influenced by upper partials. In a triadic chord, as in a 2-tone interval, the frequencies with the greatest amplitude are usually those of the fundamentals, the three distinct notes that are written in the musical score. The upper partials usually have smaller amplitudes, but give the chord a rich feeling that we might call its overall "sonority." On rare occasions—**such as in barbershop quartet singing**—the upper partials may reinforce each other to such an extent that they are almost as strong as the fundamentals, and this creates the much-coveted illusion of a *fifth voice*.”

The article proposes a fundamental theory as to why 7<sup>th</sup> chords demand resolution, and why ringing chords are satisfying.

The abstract is online at <http://www.americanscientist.org/issues/page2/2008/4/the-psychoacoustics-of-harmony-perception>

For the full article, those without a subscription to *American Scientist* will have to visit their neighborhood library.

## Quantum Physics Meets A cappella

by Tim Blais from BBS *LiveWire*

One response: “I listened to this whole YouTube piece several times today.....I love it..

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Ya'll need to check it out!!!!!! These are HIS lyrics...This dude is singing his masters thesis, no musical instruments, just him singing all parts and then master mixing. I still don't know if his thesis is in Music or Physics? This is Queen...."Bohemian Rhapsody"...same album as "We are the Champions, of the World." This cat is unbelievable...and kudos to the guy who did the mixing...it's perfect.!!

<http://tinyurl.com/mln27uf>

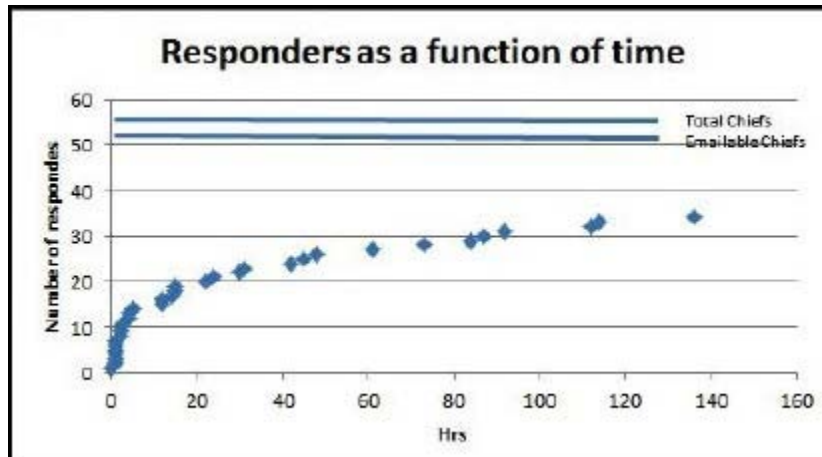
## E-Mail Test

by John Cowlshaw

How effective is email distribution to barbershop chorus members?

I wanted to measure "how quickly" and "how thoroughly" the email messages make it to the membership. So I sent out a simple email, explaining this was a test and the recipient should just hit "Reply" and send it back.

Here are the results, as number of respondents as a function of time.



Out of 55 Big Chiefs on our roster, 51 claim to have email. In the first two days, 27 responded, and 34 within a week. 17 were not reachable in that time period.

A good guess is that some of these 17 really don't use their email systems, and the others would like to but their computers are too "junked up."

If you fall into that last group, there is free software out there to clean up a computer.

I use Iobit's Advanced System Care. One chapter member took my advice, installed it and found 13,000 issues on his computer and corrected them, speeding up his computer. You might give it a try. <http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html>

## Singing Exercises Reduce Snoring

A UK study found that a program of vocal exercises designed by a choir director helped reduce snoring.

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The clinical trial showed that the singing exercises, which strengthen certain throat muscles, also alleviated symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea, a condition in which people stop breathing during deep sleep.

Snoring and obstructive sleep apnea can result from weak muscles in the soft palate and upper throat (the pharyngeal muscles).

Serious singers improve the tone and strength of these muscles by practicing certain vocal exercises. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/265011.php>

## Barbershop Music Database

Eric Grimes writes: “Try this website: <http://bsmdb.com> One of my favorite sites. You can look up any quartet or chorus that has competed from 1994 to the present as well as by song which shows who performed the song and what the score was.”

## Barbershoppers.org

**Roger Chick** has just formed a new social network for Barbershoppers, <http://barbershoppers.org>

“Feel free to use the site to promote your group, your events and to share and discuss all things barbershop.”

## Score Sheets

All the score sheets anybody ever wanted:  
<http://www.harmonize.ws/HarmonetReporter/scores/scormain.htm>

## Favorite Old Barbershop Songs

**Montana Jack Fitzpatrick** has now provided the winners of BQPA/Pioneers’ voting survey of the top-ranked barbershop songs of all time. The top 25 are listed below. All are available on Harmony Marketplace.

1. From The First Hello To The Last Goodbye
2. I’m Alone Because I Love You
3. A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet
4. Little Pal
5. Darkness On The Delta
6. If I Had My Way
7. All Dressed Up With A Broken Heart
8. Lida Rose
9. For Me And My Gal (The bells are ringing)
10. Five Foot Two Eyes Of Blue
11. Danny boy
12. I Want A Girl Just Like The Girl
13. Love Me And The World Is Mine

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14. Don't Cry Little Girl Don't Cry
15. Chordbusters
16. Hello! My Baby
17. Dear old girl
18. Girl Of My Dreams
19. Sittin' on top of the world
20. Always
21. Somebody Stole My Gal
22. Yes Sir That's My Baby
23. Sweetheart of Sigma Chi
24. By The Light Of The Silvery Moon
25. Oh how I miss you tonight
26. Tell Me You'll Forgive Me
27. Shanty In Old Shanty Town

There was a three way tie for 25th.

## Transitions



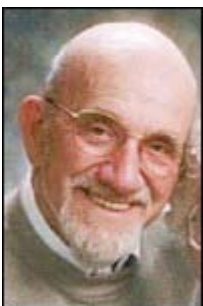
### **Reed Abt**

Died at the age of 88; he passed away April 19 in Royal Oak. Graduated from Cass Tech in 1942 and Lawrence Institute of Technology Civil Engineering in 1955. He was a member of D.O.C.

### **Jack C. Drennan**

from Lynn Pierce

Jack passed away in his sleep September 16, 2013 in Ft Myers, FL at the age of 73. He had been battling Alzheimer's for over three years. Jack will be cremated and buried at sea. His wife Peggy said that there may be a memorial service at some time in the future but no decision would be made for a while.



### **Larry Flegal**

Kalamazoo Chapter's oldest member, Larry Flegal, passed away Sunday, October 13th at the age of 91.

Larry sang lead for over 16 years with the MALL CITY HARMONIZERS. He was born in Kalamazoo and graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1940. He served proudly in the Navy during World War II. He was a letter carrier for 31 years in Kalamazoo. Larry is survived by Mary, his wife of 72 years.



### **Thomas N. Mehlhose**

Tom Mehlhose, passed away Monday September 23, 2013 at the age of 74. He had been a member of the Monroe Chapter for ten years, but had been in declining health.

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He proudly served his country for 21 years in the Michigan Air National Guard, retiring as a MSGT in 1983. His employment included Wyandotte Chemical for nine years and Ford Motor Co. Woodhaven Stamping Plant for 32 years, retiring in 1997 as a Foreman.

His hobbies included trains - real life and toy trains, hunting, garage sales, auctions, old cars, sports, air shows, and collecting anything and everything.

**Eric (Rick) Meldrum** (age 72)

Rick was very active for a number of years until family and work took him away from his "hobby," but, he still had an appreciation and love of singing. He and his brother Randy were part of the Saginaw Bay Chapter and as a family gave a great deal to the perpetuation of the chapter.



**John Nolte**

John died September 22 at the age of 88. John was a 27-year member of the Pioneer District, who had sung with the Macomb County, Detroit Oakland, and Rochester chapters. He also was a piano player. He moved last year to an assisted living facility in Napier, IL to be near family in Chicago. The funeral service was held October 5 in Rochester.



**Dave Pearcy**

from Wes Tomlinson

Dave suffered a debilitating stroke Monday, August 26, and he passed away that Wednesday afternoon.

Dave was the barbershopper's barbershopper----totally dedicated to the sound of a four-part chord, ready and eager to sing at any occasion. He was at heart a baritone, but when he let it be known that he could also do a beautiful and accurate tenor, that was basically the end of his baritone career. Dave was THE tenor section of the Rochester HEART OF THE HILLS CHORUS, and he continued as a key tenor in the Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY.

The funeral service was Wednesday, September 4, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Rochester. The Guardians sang "I May Never Pass This Way Again," and "Swing Down Chariot."

from John Cowlshaw

My quartet, ON THAT NOTE, spent the whole afternoon with Dave Pearcy's quartet, HARMONY PRESERVE, in dual coaching sessions at this year's Bush League, and will always remember the grace with which he apparently did his last barbershop singing.



### **Thomas Richard Pike**

Tom sang with the Kalamazoo Chapter of BHS while living in Richland Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan. He earned three degrees from Purdue University, including a PhD in Industrial Mycology and Biochemistry. He was employed for many years by the Upjohn Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan. In addition to singing Barbershop, Tom enjoyed a variety of genres, including instrumental to opera. He sang in church choirs, the "Sometimes Singers" and played the trumpet. Tom is survived by his wife Susan, five children, two sisters and a brother, as well as the mother of his children, **Roberta Warnock**.



**Louis Stark** died at the age of 85. He had been a member of D.O.C.



### **Paul Stotz**

from Homer Sterner, President— FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS

Paul Stotz of Dundee died September 17 at the age of 80. Paul was a member of the FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS for 49 years. Paul retired as a carpenter in 1979.

"He will long be remembered as a Barbershopper. Memorials may be made to the Monroe North Chapter, FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS."



### **Lowell Wolfe**

from Margie Kruse

"It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Lowell Wolfe. Lowell was a long-time member of the Battle Creek Chapter, the Pioneer District and the Harmony Hounds before moving to the Sunshine District where he became a member of the Sarasota Chorus, the Sentimental Seniors from within that chorus and numerous quartets. Lowell lost his battle with Alzheimer's Disease August 28."

## **Editorial—The elegant simplicity of good barbershop singing**

by John Cowlshaw, reprinted from *Smoke Signals*, October, 2013 issue

It was so enjoyable to listen to **Sean Devine**-embedded quartets at our chorus rehearsal. Sean has an enjoyable voice, it's clean, it's on pitch, it's expressive. But is it great? Is this a voice that, if you heard him on *America's Got Talent*, you would call your friend and say, "You gotta hear this guy?"

I don't think so. The qualities that make Sean so good don't really become evident until you hear him in a championship quartet. Then you realize that the little things that might not be apparent from a solo voice are very subtle and show up in the ringing of

the chords of the quartet.

So if you heard OC TIMES on *America's Got Talent*, you would call your friends, your neighbors, and say, "You gotta hear this group!"

There's a certain simplicity to good barbershop singing that is so elegant and hard to master, so subtle. But that is required to achieve the ringing that we prize.

## Letters

Hi, John, **Tom Noble** here, President of BQPA/Pioneers...

Want to thank you for your mention of our organization in the August issue of the *Troubadour*! **Montana Jack** and **Keith Eckhardt** put together the survey [of top songs] for us, that resulted in that list, and culled it down to the top 25 now listed on the website. Ultimately, we may try to publish the full list. We're also in the process of finalizing a key listing of about 200 favorites, so we don't all have to rely on fading memories to figure out in what key a song ought to be sung (for men's voices, anyway...)

Again, we appreciate your mention, and the links you published.  
Tom Noble, President, BQPA/Pioneers

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Hi fellow Pioneers,

I am about to leave the land of the Auto Industry and join the Sunny Orange country of Florida. With sadness I must leave behind a part of a great barbershoppers man cave. I have a 1957 barber chair in excellent original condition. If you have a place for this and are interested further contact me.

**David Walker**

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Nice work, John. It was great reading and the pictures really make a difference. There is a lot going on in the Pioneer District. Thanks for doing this.

**Tom Blue**, Director, Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus

## Troubadour Business

### Advertising Special!

To help defray cost of the *Troubadour* we will be offering a multiyear rate for the first five advertisers in the *Troubadour*.

Contact **Greg Humbel** for details at [ghumbel@comcast.net](mailto:ghumbel@comcast.net)

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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](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

## Deadline: Next issue

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ads for the Troubadour.  
Winter 2014 Issue– February 15, 2014; deadline for submission – February 1

## Calendar 2014

Jan 11, Leadership Academy  
Jan 19, Pioneer District Youth Chorus, 2-6pm, Lansing area  
Jan 28 - Feb 2, International Midwinter Convention - Long Beach CA.....  
<http://www.barbershopconvention.com/longbeach>  
Feb 22, Detroit-Oakland Chapter Shows (2 pm & 7:30pm)  
Mar 8, Lansing Annual Show – with STORM FRONT  
Apr 25-27, Spring District Convention in Grand Rapids, host: Grand Rapids  
Jun 13, Send-Off Show – Windsor  
Jun 29-Jul 6, International Convention, Las Vegas, NV.....  
Jul 19, QCA Quartet Boot Camp Okemos Conference Center  
Aug 22,23 Bush League, Gaylord, MI  
Oct 17-19, Fall District Convention, Muskegon, host: Muskegon/Holland  
Oct 25, Rochester Chapter Show  
Nov 1, Pontiac/Waterford Chapter Show  
Nov 24-29, Comedy Quartet Cruise.....



## 2015

Jan 6-11, Midwinter Convention, New Orleans  
Jan 11-18, 7-day cruise on the Norwegian Dawn with CROSSROADS, GAS HOUSE GANG, will dock in Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, and Costa Maya  
Apr 24-26, Spring District Convention in Battle Creek, host: open  
Oct 16-18, Fall District Convention in Kalamazoo, host: Hillsdale



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