

## ***A great summer for barbershop!***

### **Vegas, baby!**

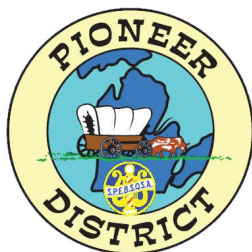
What a fantastic contest at international! Exceptional performances by all competitors, as witnessed by the scores. Pioneer was well-represented with G-FOURS (College), MAJESTYX (quartet), and of course the MOUNTAIN-TOWN SINGERS from Mt. Pleasant. Well done, all of you. And of course we had our own **Al Fisk** in the judges' pit.

### **Harmony University**

"The best week in barbershop" is a phrase often repeated, and it is true. This year, we had a new venue, Belmont University in Nashville. Gorgeous campus, plenty of ice cream, and great classes. We had a good number of Pioneer guys in attendance, including OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET. Board member **Paul Ellinger** was part of the Faculty, teaching his Supercharging Your Chapter/Wavebox Singing material.

Special congratulations go out to Board member **Evan Boegehold**, who is now officially a Music Judge candidate. Way to go, Evan!

Don't forget to plan for our Fall Convention in Muskegon in October. It's a great opportunity to sing with your friends, and experience the wonderful fraternity of Barbershop.



## 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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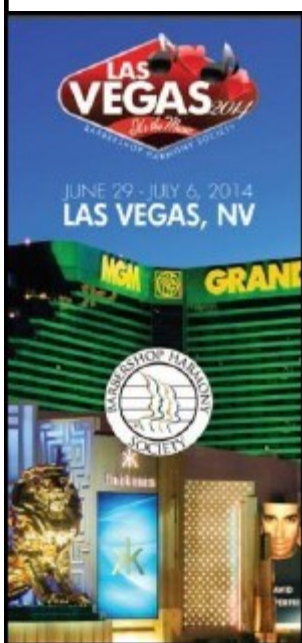
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## Pioneer District Officers' Corner

Paul Ellinger, VP of Member Development

I have been working with multiple chapters in person on how to grow (Monroe, Huron Valley, Livingston, and Rochester). I have also spent several hours with the director of a new chapter that we hope to launch in a little over a month in Marquette, Michigan! I also have started the Pioneer Superchargers and have led two full day training sessions, and initial indications are we are making a difference! If your chapter would like to participate, just let me know! Pioneer HO!

## International Convention in Las Vegas



Our new Gold-Medal quartet is **MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS**, from New Zealand; with a final score of 89.5%. Their win was not a complete surprise, following their 2nd place finish in Toronto last year, Portland the year before, and Kansas City the year before that.

“Most of all we want to thank all of you...I truly believe that this is the greatest community of people in the world...in a world that has so much turbulence and so much trouble right now...if everyone just sang, the world would be a beautiful place, right?”

**Matt Gifford** of the **MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS**, receiving their Gold Medal in Las Vegas.

### **MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS own the press**

Maybe it's their infectious enthusiasm. Maybe it's their road-of-perseverance story. Certainly it's their undeniable, accessible talent. Regardless of the cause, our new champs have taken the media by storm on their return to the South Pacific, with national television, radio, and print stories dominating the news. Follow their press coverage on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/musicalislandboys](http://www.facebook.com/musicalislandboys) or on the HQ blog [bit.ly/bhspress](http://bit.ly/bhspress).



### **An interview with Gold Medal Bass Matt Gifford is on Gold Medal Moments:**

<http://www.patreon.com/creation?hid=712084&rf=183328>

## Our other medalists are:

### Quartets

- ◆ FOREFRONT– Silver
- ◆ MAIN STREET– Bronze
- ◆ A MIGHTY WIND– Bronze
- ◆ LEMON SQUEEZY– Bronze

The Collegiate quartet winner was THE ACADEMY from the Sunshine district with a score of 80.9.

The VOCAL MAJORITY from Dallas were the chorus winners with a score of 96.8, followed by the MASTERS OF HARMONY from Santa Fe Springs, scoring 95.1.

- ◆ GREAT NORTHERN UNION– Bronze
- ◆ SOUND OF THE ROCKIES– Bronze
- ◆ ZERO8– Bronze

## How did our Pioneer District reps do?

They received great scores, but the competition is tough!

MAJESTYX placed 49th overall, with a score of 76.1. **Paul Howe** wrote that, “Lead **Jamie Carey** reported “a bit of a sore throat” during the competition. A visit to the hospital afterwards revealed a sinus infection and strep-throat. Talk about lousy timing and bad luck! A clip of MAJESTYX’s tag is at: <http://tinyurl.com/p7kurdg>

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS had the smallest number of singers on stage, with 26, and ended up in 31st place, with a score of 75.3.

Pioneer District representatives G-FOURS tied for 21st place with a score of 70.3.

The score sheets for all three of our competitors at International are available on the district site. <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/contestsummary/contmenu.htm>

## Videos, interviews, and photos:

See the MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS, THE ACADEMY, and the VOCAL MAJORITY at [bit.ly/bhs2014champs](http://bit.ly/bhs2014champs) (All performances are copyrighted arrangements of public domain songs, with permission granted by arrangers **David Wright** and **Tom Gentry**. Share these widely, and embed in your chapter web sites.)

**Toby Shaver** has a convention recap in his Gold Medal Moments at [Gold Medal Moments - 018 - Vegas Recap](http://Gold Medal Moments - 018 - Vegas Recap)

Convention Photos are usable with attribution at:

- ◆ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/98652904@N08/sets/>



- ♦ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/shawnyork/sets/>
- ♦ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/photosbydanwright>

## National Anthems

This will get your heart pumping – “The Star-Spangled Banner” sung by 7,000 singers inside the MGM Grand Garden Arena July 5.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htu34wMcbE4&feature=em-uploademail>

And for those of the Canadian persuasion, check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxFyN8CBz4&feature=em-uploademail>

But Brits and Kiwis had to be satisfied with an octet and a quartet (albeit, a Gold Medal quartet!).

## Pioneer District members at the Convention



Some Pioneer competitors and non-competitors at the convention. L to R. James Masalskis, William Stutts Jr., Steve Wheeler, Al Zaeske, Dick Metz, Doug Weaver, Dan Bezaire.



MAJESTYX having dinner.



MAJESTYX on convention webcast.



Evan Boegehold was there, the first time as the frontline director of MountainTown Singers.



MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS enjoying the convention.



Aaron Wilson got to sing "It Happened In Monterey" with OC TIMES at *Sing With the Champs*.



William Stutts, Jr. sang "Last Night Was the End of the World" with OLD SCHOOL at the *Sing With the Champs*.



Now that he resides in Fort Lauderdale, FL, **Craig Johnson** (Bass of EBB N' FLOW) competed in the collegiate contest with FRIM FRAM PRODUCTIONS out of the Sunshine District, which placed 20<sup>th</sup> with a score of 70.7.



The new G-FOURS sextet (tongue in cheek).

## G-Fours Experience at Las Vegas

by Cody Harrell, G-FOURS

Las Vegas, Nevada, Sin City. Often portrayed in movies as the wildest place on the planet, Vegas was constantly buzzing with the effervescent glow of bright neon and starry-eyed people hoping to strike a Nevada gold mine of hapless fortune.

Enter barbershoppers, stage left.

G-FOURS had an incredible week, to say the least. For a group of four first generation barbershoppers that have been society members for no more than five years individually, we couldn't have asked for a more worthwhile experience. While our performance was slightly wracked with nerves, we learned a lot about what it takes to perform well in front of thousands on an international stage. And the best part? Well, that's to come.

When we arrived on Sunday evening, we went to secure our hotel rooms for the week. After nearly a half-hour of deliberations, the hotel staff came to tell us that they had overbooked queen rooms for the first two days we would require two rooms. However, they wanted to know if it was okay to move us into the \$500 a night king executive suite. For free. To say the least, we didn't refuse!

The day after our performance was nearly more memorable than the day of the performance. While waiting in the hallway to head down to the convention center, I heard

some errant singing coming down the hall. As the voices drew closer, I noticed the group that was approaching was no other than the future 2014 gold medal champions, **MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS!** They said hello and even remembered me and **G-FOURS** from the night before and wished us well into the future! Let me tell you, they did not disappoint.

After the quarterfinals, the quartet got a chance to coach with PRS judge and incredible mind, **Gary Plaag** (shout-out to **Evan Boegehold** for setting us up!). Gary had been working two quartets that made it to the finals, **THROWBACK** and **A MIGHTY WIND**. We worked with Gary for nearly an hour and a half and he transformed the way that we saw barbershop presentation. We are very much looking forward to working with Gary in the future when he visits the **MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS!**

We also had the pleasure of singing with the 2014 CBQC chorus that performed on the Saturday Night Spectacular before the quartet finals. Singing with quartets from all over the country and the world was a humbling experience for us as musicians and performers. We hope to be a member of the 2015 CBQC chorus in Pittsburgh and represent Pioneer with higher hopes and a much stronger performance.

And, the tagging. I know I was up until after 5:30 a.m. singing both Friday and Saturday night, getting to ring a few with guys from **INSTANT CLASSIC** (new 8th place!) and **THE ACADEMY** and hundreds of new friends! We hope that we left a favorable impression of the Pioneer District in both the collegiate and adult barbershop world. We **CANNOT** wait to try again in Pittsburgh.

We wanted to give a HUGE shout-out to everyone who donated to our trip and made it possible. Without the support of the Pioneer district, we never would have been able to make this trip happen and represent you all in our singing, manners and barbershop spirit. Another big shout-out to **Al Fisk** and **William Stutts Jr.** for hanging out with us a lot in Vegas and making sure we were ready to go on Tuesday. We would have been a lot worse off still if they weren't there to listen to us and talk us through the process.

Finally, know that we are working hard for the fall contest and to prepare for Pittsburgh in a year. We want to take our talents to the Pioneer stage and sing our best, no matter the result. Being a barbershopper and a Pioneer district member is all about the spirit of singing and being a friend to those who need it most. When you see us in the fall, feel free to ask us about our time in Vegas and **PLEASE** make us sing your favorite tag with you. We have a few events lined up between now and Christmas time (and would love to sing for any chapter show!) and are very excited to be able to sing on afterglows and with anyone who would like to sing with us!

## Reports—Chapters

### Battle Creek

The CEREAL CITY Chorus is preparing for its Fall Dinner/Barbershop Show on Friday, October 24, at 6:30, at Convis Township Hall. It will be a great dinner and two hours of great music... the CEREAL CITY Chorus, THE HARMONY HOUNDS, SECOND ENDING, and other guest performers.

### Detroit Oakland

The chapter picnic was held Monday, July 28 at the Sylvan Lake Community Center. **Mike Kramb** orchestrated it. The chapter provided the grilled meats, and the members added salads, side dishes, and lots of deserts. Barbershoppers came from all around, including Pontiac-Waterford, Grosse Pointe, and Livingston. It was a bit chilly, so all events happened indoors. Many quartets sang and other groups, including a **D.O.C. chorus of 22 guys singing one of their songs from last year's show.**

The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS have been invited to the Top Gun Chorus Coaching, August 16.

### Flint

Flint hosted its Dead Creek Picnic June 24.

In August, they performed at “Back to the Bricks” car cruise in downtown Flint, and they sang the national anthem at the Loons Baseball Game in Midland.

### Grand Rapids

by John Baker

Following the April Spring Convention, our 2014 District Champions found themselves off and running. But first they had to say good bye to an old friend of the chapter. Ray Grutter, bass of the FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY passed away in May and the chapter was there to say its final goodbyes in song. The SHADES OF GREY were on hand to share in song with former FCCC tenor **Ron Thomet**. There were **some tears, but mainly laughter as stories of Ray's life were shared by friends and family.** Each son told his version of who Ray loved the most. But we all agreed, he will be greatly missed.

May 17<sup>th</sup> the chapter said goodbye to **Dan Winer** who was leaving for a new employment opportunity in North Carolina. Dan, a member of past quartet, the FOUNTAIN STREET FOUR and current Bush League Champion FACE OFF, said his farewells at a small gathering at the home of chorus member **Ben Krotje**. Good Luck Dan from all of us here in Grand Rapids.

June began with the Chorus singing at their new home, Second Congregational Church

in Grand Rapids. Director **Jamie Carey** took the chorus through “Sweet Hour of Prayer” and “Gospel Medley” for two services on June 1st.

On June 8th, after a long drive from Traverse City where MAJESTYX performed on the Traverse City chapter show, Jamie and the quartet, along with two other chapter quartets, OLD RULES and SHADES OF GREY, joined the GREAT LAKES CHORUS on the Calder stage in downtown Grand Rapids for the Festival of the Arts. The chorus wowed the crowd with their repertoire and brought veterans in the crowd to their feet with the “Armed Forces Medley.”

On Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Chapter celebrated with its 71<sup>st</sup> Great Lakes Invitational show at the Women’s Literary Club in downtown Grand Rapids. Five chapter quartets, OLD RULES, FACE OFF, SHADES OF GREY, HARMONY ROAD, and MAJESTYX entertained at both afternoon and evening shows between chorus tunes. During the evening activities a special tribute to long time member **Jack Schneider**, who was presented with an Award of Harmony by GLC President **Jim Johnson** in appreciation for all he has done since joining the chapter in 1955. Jack has been BOTY in Grand Rapids three times, show chairman of the GLI for 28 years, and **inducted into Grand Rapids chapter’s Hall of Fame**. Jack was the Pioneer District secretary for several years and is a member of the Pioneer District Hall of Fame. The presentation at GLI was a surprise to Jack who was called from his seat to the front of the stage by former member and MC of the evening **Mark Savage**. Jack received a standing ovation from the GREAT LAKES CHORUS and the audience. Jack was treated to a luncheon at the Cottage Bar where he had spent plenty of time wetting his whistle after many a GLC rehearsal in the past. A personal Thank You, to Jack for all his hard work and dedication to our chapter and to the Pioneer District.



Award presented to Jack Schneider (on left) for 60 plus years in the GREAT LAKES chorus.

After a short break the chorus was performing from the steps of Second Congregational Church during a Community Lawn Ice Cream Social, sharing the spot light with the Calder City Concert Band. It was a beautiful day for and outdoor concert.

July began with the Chorus at the Fifth Third Ball Park, singing the National Anthem at the West Michigan White Caps game. The chapter enjoyed the day watching their team play ball and enjoyed the fireworks that followed. The month ended with a split performance by the chorus and SHADES OF GREY singing at the Lowell Show Boat water front.

August began with the GREAT LAKES CHORUS, SHADES OF GREY, OLD RULES, and MAJESTYX singing at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Towards the end of the program, **Al Smith** thanked the veterans who were in the room and others who could not make it to the room but were watching via closed circuit TV from their rooms throughout the facility.

*Continued on Page 40*

## Gratiot County

from Dave Davis, VP of Marketing

The MIDSTATESMEN'S "Spring Sing" was May 13 at the Alma Masonic Home. It was an opportunity for chorus President **Scott Johnson** to present a \$500.00 check to the music directors of each of three different school vocal music groups:

- ◆ Liz Loyselle of Breckenridge High School
- ◆ Kevin Smith of Ithaca High School
- ◆ Georgia Guie of Alma High School

The MIDSTATESMEN Chorus performed six songs, and three MIDSTATESMEN Quartets also did a great job. The three High School music groups put on separate programs



Scott Johnson presents check to Kevin Smith of Ithaca High School.



High school chorus performs at *Spring Sing*.

- chorus, quartets, solos - as well as all combining with the MIDSTATESMEN Chorus on a couple of songs. This received a great applause from the audience. A Sweet Adelines Quartet **SHAKE EM' UP** who have successfully sung in several competitions did a great job also with two lively songs.

The MIDSTATESMEN traveled to Sheridan, MI to sing on the SHERIDAN LYONS CLUB VARIETY SHOW Friday and Saturday, June 27, 28.

They also supported the Ithaca Blood Drive, July 1, by supplying singers all day long.

On July 23, they sang at the Ice Cream Social in St Louis at its Community Center.

## Grosse Point

The chapter has revived the *Pitch-Pipe* bulletin.

## Hillsdale

What a fantastic show we had. Thank you **Deb Slee** for the picture. We had great feedback from the audience. We are glad to hear that you had just as much fun as we did. **Thank You all for attending this year's spring show.**



The Town and Country performed June 19 at the park in Quincy, MI.

The chorus also sang as part of the August 10 morning worship service at Adrian First United Methodist Church.

## Holland

The Holland chapter will be co-hosting the Fall District Convention with the Muskegon chapter.

## Huron Valley

from William Stutts, Jr.



The Town and Country Chorus performing on their Spring show in May.



Jim Windak welcomes Zak Stratton into the chapter.

May at Huron Valley had some wonderful things happen. We added a new member (and a tenor at that!) by the name of **Zak Stratton**. We are happy to have him on the risers.

A few members went down to Cincinnati on May 4 to see the SOUTHERN GATEWAY Chorus show featuring the 2006 International quartet champions, VOCAL SPECTRUM. Members **William Stutts, Jr.**, **George Jackson Jr.**, Zak Stratton, and VOICES IN HARMONY member **Joelle Laginess** enjoyed the whole show from the front row. William and Joelle also had a "gold medal moment" chance to sing the

"Lover Come Back" tag with **Eric Dalbey** (lead) and **Jonny Moroni** (baritone). You can see the tag at <http://tinyurl.com/q2b337m>.

A chapter quartet, ALGORITHM, (with HVH director **Rob Pettigrew** filling in on baritone) celebrated Mother's Day May 11 with a touching performance of "Tura Lura Lural" at the Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, in Ann Arbor. <http://tinyurl.com/psvlmsf>

Three members of the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS participated in the May, 2014 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, and two of them, **Iain Willox** and William Stutts, Jr, came away with a gold medal for winning quartet, WITHIN EARSHOT. The 3rd member, **Paul Teska**, was voted "the barbershopper I came to Brigade to sing with."

A pickup quartet from Huron Valley went to sing at the Classic Car Show at the Chelsea Retirement Community on June 14.

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS got a chance to be with some of our other Pioneer brethren at the Dead Creek Picnic on June 24 in Frankenmuth. This was our 3rd year coming up to the Flint chapter summer shindig that was full of brats and barber-shop!



Zak Stratton, our newest tenor, gets his first taste of being in a public quartet with Paul Teska, Jim Windak, and George Jackson, Jr.



Pickup quartet with William Stutts, Jr. (Tenor - Yes, you read that right!), Jason AuBuchon (Lead), Jim Windak (Bass), Tom Taylor (Bari)

We all come to our chapter meetings every week and have fun. But the one thing about that is, why don't we share that with more of the community? So, HVH decided to take it "to the streets!" On July 8, we took to downtown Ann Arbor and just sang to people as they were eating outside. Our guidelines were

to sing one song they know, i.e. "Under the Boardwalk," Hello Mary Lou" etc. and then leave. Unless they wanted to hear more. That way you always leave them wanting more. The smiles on people's faces were infectious and it helped to chorus get used to performing. This is why we sing. Not for only our enjoyment but also for other people's enjoyment. And you never know who you may meet. Maybe a possible new member. A video of the chorus's performance is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/ncf4et9>



Huron Valley HARMONIZERS performing at Dead Creek Picnic.





META-4 performing at Frankenmuth.

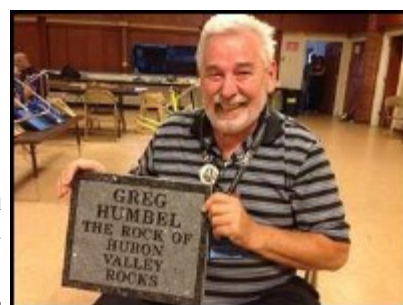
In every chapter, there is one guy that does A LOT for a chapter. That guy for us has been **Greg Humbel**. He has coordinated many events for the Huron Valley **HARMONIZERS**. He is now in sunny Florida. I am sure the winters will be too much to handle. At the end of our chapter meetings, we sing "Keep the Whole World Singing" and end it with a shout of "1-2-3 Huron Valley Rocks!" Well, we thought that Greg has been a "rock" and foundation for us over the years and we wanted to show our appreciation with this "rock" award.



This photo was taken by a Cafe Zola employee and posted on their Facebook site, with the message, "Pleasant surprise from Huron Valley Harmonizers!"

Greg adds, "The Award is engraved in Monument Stone. I had someone lift it into my car for its ride to Florida. It will be placed on our Lanai. What a beautiful way to remember this great chapter. **I've been a member of the Society since 1979, moved to Ann Arbor in 1990 and joined HVH. I let my membership lapse in 1995 while raising our family and starting a business. I rejoined the Society and Huron Valley in 2002.**"

Huron Valley had a great time at our chapter meeting on July 22. Huron Valley and Monroe North are planning a joint show for Sept. 20 in Monroe at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts. We also had a visit from the Livingston **LAMPLIGHTER** quartet, **JESTERS**. They were getting coaching before rehearsal from our director, Rob Pettigrew. They regaled us with two awesome songs.



Greg Humbel with award from the Huron Valley chapter.



Huron Valley Harmonizers enjoying a rehearsal.

## Kalamazoo

from Michael Sobel

Our chorus's "signature song" (not surprisingly!) is "I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo", which was sung/played by **Tex Beneke** and the Glenn Miller Orchestra in the 1942 movie "Orchestra Wives" (there's a little trivia for ya!). And it was nominated in 1943 for an Oscar as best song (though didn't win). At the time, Kalamazoo College here had a competition to find a ***Gal From Kalamazoo*** to promote the city and also to help raise money from War Bonds. They chose **Sarah Wooley** (you heard the story and saw her photo at last year's show).



JESTERS entertain at HVH chapter meeting.

A couple of months ago my quartet, **BY DESIGN**, did some singing at a 90th birthday party for a woman here...and it turns out that she was friends of Sarah Wooley. (Her name was Dorothy so of course we sang "Over the Rainbow" for her!) And through her I've connected with her daughter, Melinda, who still lives here. I had invited her to come to our chorus/quartet sing-out at the annual Art Fair that they had on June 7th at a nice park in downtown Kalamazoo. And she showed up, along with her daughter, Sarah.

So here's a photo we took of our chorus (at least much of it!) with Melinda and daughter Sarah...and with "the original" Sarah being represented, as well. Thought you'd find it an interesting story. And certainly one of those experiences that makes "Barbershopping" so much fun!



Kalamazoo Chorus with Melinda, Dorothy, and picture of Sarah Wooley

## Lansing

### Success!

by James Hall

We have five members who have joined our chorus in the last year and a half, and all of them are making significant contributions. Yes, I'm talking about **Bill Young, Joel Schneider, Dean Aaronson, Ted Rahl**, and **Mike Wibert**. Over the last several months, all of them have done one or more of the following:

- ◆ sold 20 tickets or hundreds of dollars in ads for our Wharton show
- ◆ brought us a paying performance opportunity
- ◆ helped get the Chordsmen on television
- ◆ started serving on our Board of Directors or in another volunteer role
- ◆ had a featured role out front for one of the Wharton Show songs

My guess is that they are so active and enthusiastic because this hobby is new and fun and exciting for them. And the rest of the reason is that they're simply good guys!

### Interchapter Visits

On May 27, the Battle Creek Barbershop Chorus visited Lansing. We had a great evening of fellowship with the men of the **CEREAL CITY** Barbershop Chorus as they came to Lansing. LOTS of quartetting and smiles throughout the night. And we had so much fun, we'll head to Battle Creek this coming Monday to return the favor. Thanks for making it happen, Al Zaeske and Rob Halsey!

### Charlie Martin on D. L.

Assistant Director **Charlie Martin** was injured this past week (in June) in a dirt bike accident. After taking a tumble, he got back on his bike, returned to his truck, and



drove home. His neck apparently became very painful and stiff, so he went to the hospital where they discovered he had broken a vertebra in his neck. Charlie remains hospitalized at this time and needless to say, will likely be out of action for a while.

#### Lake Lansing Band Shell Performance, June 13



Capitol City Chorus singing in the Lake Lansing band shell.

#### Quartet Sings for Flower Lovers

by James Hall

On Saturday June 14, **Alan Zaeske** organized a pickup quartet to sing at the Simpson Brother's Greenhouse in Ovid for their Customer Appreciation Day. **Don Terpe**, **Kevin Lenneman** and I joined him and we had a lot of fun serenading small groups of customers as they shopped for summer flowers and enjoyed the free lunch. We also sang for the cooks serving up burgers and staff workers tending to the plants.



Lenneman, Hall, Zaeske, and Terpe. FLOWER POWER.

#### Charlotte Relay for Life

The Chordsmen were honored to be a part of the Charlotte Relay For Life June 20. It was a dark and stormy night... that found us "Singin' In the Rain" for the Charlotte Relay for Life. A huge thank you to everyone that sang with us. Special thanks to the folks from Owosso and Jackson that made the trip, and EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS to Director **Steve Warnaar** for coming off vacation a couple of days early to direct,

following the injury to assistant director Charlie Martin. Here are photos of our two quartets who performed.



RELAY FOUR (Don Horton, James Hall, Joel Schneider, and Don Terpe)



PARTS UNLIMITED (with fill in lead Kaleb Lennemann, Bob Fox, Kaleb Lenneman, and Bill Osterhouse)



TAKE NOTE with Dan Templin, Mike Barger, Charlie Russel Martin, and Al Blankenship in Grand Ledge, MI

TAKE NOTE quartet backstage at [Grand Ledge Mudge's Follies](#) (June 26-27). Even though lead Charlie Martin was in a neck brace from a serious injury, he decided "The show must go on!"

Lansing's performance at the Grand Ledge Opera House has been changed from September 14 to Sunday, September 21. But we are definitely happy to be on the Grand Ledge Opera House schedule again, especially since they have a high demand for their space from other performers and special events. Last year was our first year there, and the show went really well. The seats were near-

ly full, and singing to an appreciative audience in an intimate setting worked really well.



Grand Ledge Opera House

The theme of most recent *Harmonizer* (May/June 2014 issue) was all about “Inter-Chapter Collaboration” focusing on three chapters from Wisconsin, Illinois and Kansas and how they did joint shows together. And along with this theme, the editors decided to give a brief mention of our Michigan four-chapter collaboration project again (it’s on page 15). I guess this just shows that good ideas are worth repeating, or at a minimum, mentioning a second time in a national magazine! - James Hall



Lansing sang in the Williamston Summer Concert Series, July 3.

## Livingston

from Jason Hall

The Livingston Lamplighters have been busy these last three months!

In May, they began working with **Paul Ellinger**, from the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS, and his “Supercharge Your Chapter” program, which has been highly successful. We have three new guests that have been attending on a regular basis with a 4th that just attended his first meeting on July 21st. Pictured below are **Jason Hall**, Paul Ellinger, and **Doug Wilkinson**.



[Return to TOC](#)





The Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS sang May 8 at *Ladies Night Out* in Downtown Brighton, Michigan



The Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS performed at Marion Township Heritage Festival June 7.

On June 9th, at part of the Supercharge Your Chapter Program, the Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS took their weekly meeting to the streets of Brighton, holding their rehearsal at **Ciao Amici's Italian Restaurant**.



Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS at the Ciao Amici Restaurant.

On June 12, the chorus strolled the streets of Howell during Howell's Pink Party.  
<http://www.howellspinkparty.com/>



Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS in downtown Howell.



FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND entertained the ladies at Mr. B's Rustic Tavern.





These girls challenged **FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND** to a sing-off in front of First National Bank during the Pink Party! You can hear them at: <http://tinyurl.com/nhbbtwf>

The Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS sang June 12 at the Historic Courthouse Amphitheater as part of the Michigan Challenge Balloon-fest celebration.

On June 19th, the LAMPLIGHTERS performed for the **Brighton Men's Senior Club's** dinner at the American Spirit Center in Brighton.

On June 30th, the LAMPLIGHTERS entertained the residents of

Emeritus Senior Living Facility in Brighton. We were lucky, not only to sing to a packed room, but the full chorus was present!



Don Carrier accompanied by Gary Gordon.



The LAMPLIGHTERS were part of Brighton's Annual 4th of July Parade as part of the Brighton Barbershops float.

Emeritus is one of our favorite venues as it allows us the opportunity to sing with **Don Carrier**, who has been a Barbershopper for over 50 years. Don was able to participate in a rousing rendition of "Keep The Whole World Singing" per his request!

On July 23rd, we had the honor of entertaining the guests at God's Kitchen at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Howell.

And.... On July 28th, the Livingston Lamplighters were invited to attend De-

troit Oakland Chapters Annual Picnic in Sylvan Lake where we sang a few songs and had more than a few bites to eat!

*(All LAMPLIGHTER photos by Lisa Hall)*



Two newbies being supported by their Barber-shop Brothers — with George Normandie (T), Liam Keiser (L), Doug Wilkinson (L), Jason Hall(B) and Lou Maglione(Br).

## Mt. Pleasant

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS represented the District at the International Convention, July 4.



MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS warming up prior to going on stage in Las Vegas.

In addition to the webcast shout outs, we'd like to give an even bigger shout-out to those who have helped us along the way: THANK YOU to our coaches, **Gary Plaag**, **Michael Lietke**, and **Dr. Annette Thornton** for your dedication and support for us along the way!!!!!!!

The chorus also sang:

- ◆ May 14 - Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce "Business After Hours." 6:00pm, **Freddie's Tavern**.
- ◆ May 31 - Cheboygan Opera House Show.
- ◆ June 9 - **Program for the Lions Club's 75th Anniversary at the Comfort Inn in Mt Pleasant.**
- ◆ July 12 - Harmony Explosion Camp Show, 6:30pm, Staples Concert Hall on the CMU campus.
- ◆ August 6 - Performance at Doozies Ice Cream Parlor in Mt Pleasant, MI.

## Muskegon

Marty Monson at Muskegon

In the May/June 2014 issue of *The Harmonizer*, Barbershop Harmony Society CEO **Marty Monson** speaks to the staff at headquarters about a recent visit he had in the Pioneer District. The Muskegon **SHORELINE** Chorus hosted Monson and, after just **one rehearsal, they left quite an impression.** "Their glory years of being district champions (1956, 1960) and representing Pioneer at International (1959-1961, 1964, 1966) are behind them but, under the direction of **Annette Jurcevic**, they appear poised to return to prominence."

Published online on May 21, 2014 at <http://tinyurl.com/q8sqlq3>

## Pontiac-Waterford

Milford High School Day, May 6

**Maryanne Lambrecht** brought six of her young men from Milford High School to our chorus rehearsal on Tuesday night, May 6. The boys knew “When The Saints Go Marching In,” “Can You Feel The Love,” and “Take Me Out To The Ball Game” to sing with us.



Young men from Milford H.S. sing with Pontiac-Waterford chorus.

GLHB

Seven present and past Pontiac-Waterford singers participated in Great Lakes Harmony Brigade on May 30 and 31: Clockwise from Left: **Chuck Murray, Ron Arnold, Jeff Doig, Ray Sturdy, John Cowlshaw, Charlie Perry,** and **Tom Blackstone.**



Past and present members of the Pontiac-Waterford chapter at GLHB.

Dick Johnson, June 3

**Roger Holm** organized a work party June 3 to sort thru our revered departed senior member **Dick Johnson's** major barber-shop belongings. Thanks from Roger to Lennie, John, Jeff, Mike, Howard, Freddie, and Jack.

The chorus met at Pierce Middle School to bus to Fish Hatchery Park for **Log Cabin Days**. Under summertime temperatures and threatening skies, the chorus of 24 sang an eleven-set, opening with “The Star Span-

gled Banner” and closing with “Irish/Keep.” **Freddie McFadyen** explained the BHS history to the audience of about 70, and **Jack Teuber** put out the good word about our August 15 and November 1 dates. Two quartets sang. 4GVN sang the Spiritual Medley and the “Dum-Dum Song.” TODAY'S EDITION (McFadyen, Frye, Cowlshaw, Perry) sang “Old St Louie” and “Breaking Up.”

Lockwood of Waterford, July 3

It wasn't the easiest of engagements, what with many Chiefs out of town over the 4th of July weekend. But eleven men showed up at Lockwood of Waterford to help 70 residents celebrate the 4th of July.



Pontiac-Waterford chorus singing at Fish Hatchery Park for Log Cabin Days.



**Freddie McFadyen** led five Leads, three Basses, one Baritone, and one other Tenor thru the same song list used for Hatchery Days. Two ad hoc quartets formed. – **SIN NOMBRE** (Teuber, Greenwood, Cowlshaw, Northey) and **QUARTET #2** (McFadyen, Greenwood, Cowlshaw, and Moss) – who added three songs – “It’s a Good Day,” “Breaking Up,” and “Can You Feel.” As Freddie said, “They’re one of our favorite groups to sing to; they are always so responsive.”

Supporting Harmony Explosion, July 10-12

**Maryann Lambrecht** writes: “Thank you once again. This year we will be sending a quartet: **Melvin Jackson** (T), **Tiger Xamountry** (L), **Zach Dahlmann** (Br), and **Jason Spelic** (Bs). “The BIG CHIEF Chorus will be sending \$400. I will be sending \$425. Each of my boys will contribute \$25.”

Detroit Tigers Sing, August 15

The BIG CHIEF Chorus has been chosen to sing the National Anthem at the Detroit Tigers game (vs. Seattle Mariners) August 15.

The Pontiac 56th Woodshed contest “is in doubt. The last several years we have had conflicts with Michigan State and Michigan Basketball. Currently we are at a standstill as to how to proceed. Events like the D.O.C. Picnic and Canada Night have kept alive the true spirit of inter-chapter harmony.”

Barbershoppers of the Month for May and June were **Gene Downie** and **Jim Owens**.

Fall Show, November 1

Guest quartets for our fall show will be RUSTY PIPES, ALLURE, and G-FOURS.

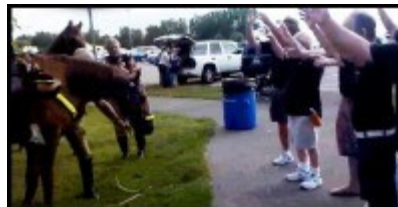
## Rochester

by Al Fisk

On Mayh 24, the Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY Chorus did our annual gig for the Rochester Heritage Festival (after singing for the Madison Heights Memorial Day Parade in the morning). We finished the weekend by singing at the Rochester Memorial Day Ceremony. Thanks to our directors, **Matthew Tipton** and **Mike Hartrick**. Shout-out to all who serve. Thank you.

The Guardians had a group of singers that strolled Borden Park in Rochester Hills for the fireworks and we just had to sing for the horses.

The Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY put on a show, June 1, at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in St. Clair Shores. The show, entitled “An Evening of Harmony in the Barbershop Style,” featured RIGHT ON Q.



Singing to the horses.

From Chuck Murray

The Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY have “returned to the streets” to launch their 2014-2015 Annual Fund Drive! Each is equipped with an “Ad/Donation Kit” including lots of new resource materials. The Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY are part of a national 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, which is also designated a “public charity” by the IRS. That means donations may be “tax deductible” for some donors!

The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY is introducing a new, Annual Ad Booklet this year, based on the Traverse City Chapter’s “Pioneering Success” with their new Annual Ad Booklet. Thanks to **Chad Hall** who shared much with us to help make this possible! The booklet offers significant “value added” for our ad customers, as it will be passed out at all chorus performances throughout the Annual Fund Year.

There is also a significant increase in the number of different categories of donations now offered! We can accommodate even the highest of “prestige donors”! The quality of the ad booklet has been increased to a semi-glossy cover and better inside page material. This improvement represents the desire of this chorus to significantly improve their singing, as well as present a positive image in the community!

## Saginaw Bay

by Ralph Brown

We made our third appearance at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bay City, MI to help the Bay City Elks Lodge #88 celebrate Flag Day. Every Elks Lodge throughout the Country must conduct a formal celebration by Charter mandate.



HARBOR SOUNDS sings at Memorial Park in Bay City, MI.

This year they also held a “Walleyes for Warriors” program the same weekend. There were free fishing trips out to the Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron for any veteran wanting to go. Boats and fishing gear were furnished without charge for any active/inactive, reserve, or retired veteran.

After opening remarks our chorus, HARBOR SOUNDS, sang background for a local Judge who sang our National Anthem. The Bay County Veteran's Council Color Guard posted the colors. A local Boy Scout Troupe then posted the flags that have evolved to the present flag with 13 stripes and 50 stars; quite a learning experience.

Mixed in with a few short speeches by attending dignitaries we sang the “God Bless America/ God Bless America medley”. A three-volley gun salute was followed by “Taps,” and then we sang “Let There Be Peace On Earth.” Following closing remarks we, along with the other attendees and participants, were treated to a ice cream social in nearby tents.



Being a veteran myself I look forward to this event each year with great anticipation. Any Chapter not having an activity on Flag Day should contact the closest Elks Lodge and give it a try.

## Traverse City

The CHERRY CAPITAL Chorus' 48th annual show was June 7 in Lars Hockstad Auditorium. "Adventures on Harmony Highway" was led by "tour guide extraordinaire, Interlochen radio host **Kate Botello.**" The chorus featured "songs from across the country in a night of toe tapping melodies and irresistible harmonies, with a cappella selections both old and new. Joining the chorus were small ensembles, as well as special guest district champion quartet **MAJESTYX**, with joyful singing for the whole family.



The CHERRY CITY Chorus sings in Lars Hockstad Auditorium for their 48th annual show.

## Windsor



SUN PARLOUR Chorus and guests sing during May "Guest Night."

SUN PARLOUR Chorus had a terrific guest night on Monday, May 12. Great program, and we had about 15 guests come out and try their hand at barbershop singing. It was especially nice to see some university and college students out and enjoying themselves.

From William Strong

Well, the spring weather was **n't very good in Windsor** but the singing sure made up for it. Our chapter quartets were out and about spreading the good word and our chorus was as well.

We did compete in the spring in Grand Rapids and the judges were very fair in telling us what we needed to know and some of the things we already knew.

Our chapter, once again hosted the Pioneer District Send-Off Show. [See District Events, below]

Our Chapter recently participated in a Seniors Expo where we had a booth set up and were able to tell visitors of the benefits of Barbershop singing. Time will tell if we will **reap new members or not. Chapter quartets did some “sing abouts” and what a good way to get out the barbershop message.**

It should be mentioned that we are so proud to have our own **Dan Bezaire** as our **current District President. This man is like the “Scarlet Pimpernel.” He’s District President, directs our chorus, sings in a fine quartet INTRIGUE and still finds time to partake in two or three “Brigades” a year. So great to be young.**

## Reports—Quartets

### 4GVN

My Quartet, 4GVN, just finished doing our 4th annual sing-out for Brightmoor Christian Church's Patriotic Celebration Picnic. We couldn't ask for a better crowd of people to sing for! They are so appreciative! We put smiles on a lot of faces today, including a 92-year-old WWII Veteran **who had tears of joy when we sang “God Bless America” for him! And this reaction, “I just got barbershopped!”**



### Doctors of Song

from Ralph LeRoy, member of The DOCTORS OF SONG and The JESTERS Quartets

Here is a little information about our DOCTORS OF SONG Quartet. We have all spent some serious time in hospitals as patients and have now rearranged our schedules to donate our talents to our local hospitals. Here is a copy of the email we sent to our local hospital contacts.

*Dear Friend of the Doctors of Song Barbershop Quartet. We thought you might be interested in our recent activities in our area hospitals. Please pass this newsletter on if you have a connection with an area hospital staff member or a local clinic where patients are spending time with a treatment and could use a little cheering up.*

*Ralph LeRoy, Bass for The Doctors of Song Quartet*

The mission of the DOCTORS OF SONG Quartet is to provide an uplifting community experience by ministering to patients, their families, and friends in area hospitals, clinics, and medical centers. Through the universal language of music the quartet uses their voices to lessen anxiety and stress while offering comfort and cheer.



Recent sing-outs have included

- ◆ St Joseph Mercy Volunteer Luncheon (Howell)
- ◆ St Joseph Mercy (Brighton) to folks in the large waiting room waiting to get lab work done
- ◆ La Vina Dialysis Center (Brighton)
- ◆ VA Hospital (Ann Arbor) several areas, ending up in a sunlit patio putting on a small show for patients, nurses, doctors, and caregivers.

## G-Fours

G-FOURS was recently featured on the Michigan State University College of Communications Arts and Sciences web site: **"Student Quartet Wins District, Headed to International Contest."**



G-FOURS

## Limited Edition



LIMITED EDITION.

LIMITED EDITION retreated on the weekend of May 2-4 to **Tom Blackstone's timeshare** at Mountain Run Resort in Boyne Falls. It was a serious rehearsal of our eleven Brigade songs, with about eight hours spent – Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. We al-

so ate at four fine restaurants - The Weathervane in Charlevoix, Café Santé in Boyne City, Barrel Back Restaurant on Walloon Lake, and Mountainside Restaurant in Boyne Falls for breakfast. We sang to our engaged public at every **chance we had. Two fellows at Pearson's Bar in the Boyne Mountain Resort (Avalanche Bay complex)** said with awe that they had never heard a cappella music live before, and one was a talented 17-year-old saxophonist! At Barrel Back, an extended family of ten men (up for the weekend to open their cottages) listened with appreciation.

LIMITED EDITION was given a tip jar by our waitress (a professional musician who knows what counts!)



Charlie and Tom with tip jar.



She contributed the first dollar bill.

LIMITED EDITION sang at the Milford High School Spring concert May 1. About 250 students listened to **Maryanne Lambrecht's** student choirs, including the Men's Ensemble, which LIMITED EDITION also mentored and joined in song ("Saints Go Marching"). On its own, LIMITED EDITION sang "Come Fly with Me," and "Swing Low/Swing Down Chariot Medley."

LIMITED EDITION performed at the Clarkston Independence District Library's Summer Reading Program on Tuesday evening, July 15. The hour-long show included 15 songs and a light-hearted script imagining that the songs were being sung on a geographical tour thru America, Africa, and Europe. The small (31) but appreciative audience included seniors from Lockwood of Waterford who had bused in to hear us.

### **Majestyx**

The quartet sang May 3 at the Battle Creek Caberet. "We were joined by the Battle Creek Chorus as well as HARMONY HOUNDS, PATCH CHORDS, BUCKET LIST, and 4 D MINORS. It was a great night of barbershop!"

In June MAJESTYX sang on the annual "Got Harmony" show in Davison, MI. as well as the Traverse City chapter show and the Great Lakes Invitational.

### **Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet**



OTHQ — with Jacob Welty, Tim Oliver, Tom Smeltzer, and Don Horton in Williamston, MI.

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET now has its own YouTube Channel <http://tinyurl.com/nuwakg7> where six videos are posted.

**Don Horton** arranged for Black Jacket Films to come and videotape the quartet's performance at the Wharton Show this year, using multiple cameras. You can learn more at <http://blackjacketfilms.com/Wordpress/>

OTHQ sang Jacob's arrangement of "The Old Rugged Cross" May 16 in Grand Rapids. The hymn has a Michigan connection. It was written in 1913 in Albion, MI by **George**

**Bennard.** Don Horton's niece is married to a relative of Bennard.



## Reports—District Events

### Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, May 30-31

The fifth Great Lakes Harmony Brigade was held Friday and Saturday, May 31-June 1, in Okemos, MI. Assembling to sing together and to compete for several prizes were 17 Tenors, 19 Leads, 19 Baritones, and 22 basses. That was just about right to form 22 randomly drawn quartets with a few tenors, Leads, and Baritones doing double duty.

Activities began early Friday when about 30 early arrivals spent the morning singing to three music classes at Okemos High School. **William Stutts, Jr.** led the singers thru a program of five of the Brigade songs, plus an explanation of the Extreme Quartetting Harmony Brigade concept, and barbershop in general. The students also were taught a tag (“Let it Go” from *Frozen*) and received a promotional pitch for this summer’s Harmony Explosion Camp at Central Michigan University. The camp pitch was reinforced by a number of students who had attended previous years’ Harmony Explosion Camps.

In the afternoon, the rest of the 77 Brigadiers arrived from around Michigan, plus California, Missouri, Texas, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Indiana, and Canada. In the lovely spring weather, spontaneous quartets began to form around the parking lot, in the hallways, and in the Okemos Conference Center. At the end of the weekend, nine of the singers were awarded the “tramp” award for having sung with all the singers in the three other voice parts.

At each dinner table, assigned foursomes chose a quartet name, received their song assignment from among the eleven arrangements that had been chosen for this year’s brigade, went off to practice, and returned in an hour to compete. Usually the top ten quartets move on to the Saturday night finals, but a tie for 10th place increased this year’s number to eleven. In addition, a Wildcard quartet is chosen on Saturday from the individuals who were not part of the finalist quartets.

Saturday evening brings two events – a public performance and the competition between the twelve quartets. For the show all the men joined together as a chorus to sing the song-package. The eleven songs were hung on a light script by GLHB co-organizer **Mike O’Donnell**. The show also included two guest quartets –CHAIN GANG from the Cardinal District and



GLHB chorus sings at the Saturday public show.

CHICAGO TIMES, a multi-medaled quartet from Illinois. Three “step-out” quartets were also chosen from the Brigadiers, including LIMITED EDITION, who was selected to sing “Kiss the Girl” to the audience, which seemed to appreciate a respite from the same eleven Brigade songs.

Then came the competition, in which each finalist receives their assigned song from GLHB co-organizer **Rob Halsey** as they approached the performance stage.

The winning quartet was **WITHIN EARSHOT** (Bud Burrill, Tenor; Iain Willox, Lead; William Stutts, Jr, Baritone; and Rick Mangas, Bass). **ON THE FLY**, and **NO SHOES REQUIRED** placed 2nd and 3rd in what was reported by administrators to be a very close contest.



CHICAGO TIMES was the Guest Quartet and judging panel for the weekend.



WITHIN EARSHOT celebrates their win with **ON THE FLY** and **NO SHOES REQUIRED** in the background.

About 23 of this year’s singers were newbies, offering hope for the future of the local Brigade movement.

With near unanimity, **Paul Teska** was awarded the annual trophy for “Who did you come to sing with?” Paul’s recent diagnosis of terminal cancer led to his fund-raising response, a concert March 16 that raised over \$11,000. The videotape of Paul’s day has gone viral and had a deep impact on barbershoppers everywhere.

<http://tinyurl.com/mkxzkh9> Although energy-challenged, Paul was able to compete with his assigned quartet.



Trophy, Who did you come to sing with?



Paul Teska (2nd from left) competing with his

This year's eleven songs were:

- ♦ "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover" (arr. Ed Waesche)
- ♦ "Love Me" (arr. Aaron Dale)
- ♦ "You Brought a New Kind of Love to Me" (arr. Larry Triplett)
- ♦ "Down Where the South Begins" (arr. Bill "Buz" Busby)
- ♦ "Where the Southern Roses Grow" (arr. David Wright)
- ♦ "Georgia on my Mind" (arr. David Harrington)
- ♦ "Smilin' Through" (arr. Ed Waesche and Lou Perry)
- ♦ "Swing Low Chariot/Swing Down Chariot Medley" (arr. Vagabonds)
- ♦ "Lazy Day" (arr. David Wright)
- ♦ "Stormy Weather" (arr. Brian Doepke)
- ♦ "What'll I Do?" (arr. Ed Waesche and Renee Craig)

Brigadiers learn their music from part-training tracks recorded, this year, by **Tim Waurick**, **Ryan Griffith**, and **Jordan Litz**.

A Harmony Brigadier has a full schedule each year to choose from: North Carolina, Northern Pines, Lone Star, Great Lakes, Atlantic, High Sierra, New England, and Indiana. These affiliated Harmony Brigades share leadership and repertoire. Participation in the Brigades, however, is by invitation only, with a current member sponsoring one's application and vouching for his skill and dedication. But what an experience! Not many Barbershoppers get to sing in such a fine chorus or compete with died-in-the-wool quartetters in their own locale.

For more about Harmony Brigade, see the Lorin May's article "Extreme Quartetting: the Harmony Brigade Experience" in the July/August, 2007 issue of the *Harmonizer*.

Mike O'Donnell and Rob Halsey received Certificates of Appreciation from the Association of eXtreme Quartetting Harmony Brigades, Inc. for organizing the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade in 2010.

*All GLHB photos by John Cowlshaw*



Mike O'Donnell and Rob Halsey with their certificates.

## Great Lakes Harmony Brigade: A Personal Story

by Jeff Doig



They say that a picture can be worth a thousand words. So why does this guy appear to be shooting himself?

My name tag said that I was a newbie this year, but I had competed in the first GLHB and because of voice problems I went to the second year but did not compete so as not to **jeopardize the others' chances of winning.** So I took photos, and sang a little with the guys.

**After this year's competition we learned that my quartet PAZAZZ was one of the quartets that made it through to the final round.**

out what your quartet will be singing. No time to practice, just step up and sing. Yep, you draw the song out of an envelope, and **Rick Mangas** and **Duane Henry** would call the quartet over and tell them, "Just Don't Suck." I draw our song and it's "Where The Southern Roses Grow," not one of my favorites. But now I start thinking, "I want to do this song well."

So here's what I saw, what I thought, and what was going through my mind. Just before you step onto the stage is when you find

Here we go, not a bad start, but I can't think of the first lead pickup, which one is it, there are so many in this song, And your quartet can't help if you, as the Lead, don't give them their pickup. They just kind of have to stand there. OK, stumbled a bit on the first one and again on the second. Starting to panic a little now. Looked at the **judges and they're just staring at us. Got through the next one, and I think, I'm home free.** Then the unthinkable. Nothing, my brain went blank, could not think of a word, let alone a phrase. A total blank, and the deadly silence. At this point I dropped my head and turned as if to walk off stage in shame but really still hoping that somehow the words would return. How does a Lead forget the words, for gosh sakes. Looking around at the audience, I wanted to drop through a hole in the stage. Then off to my right I heard my Bass in the distance still singing the song, just what I needed to get back on track, and, just as quickly as they left me, the words returned. Although it was a little too late for the competition, there was still time for a decent ending. Now really upset with myself I took charge and belted out the remainder of the song.

OK, that explains the picture, but here are some of the other things that I thought and observed. I got into a conversation earlier with **Ray Henders**, the tenor of **CHICAGO TIMES**. We were discussing competition and how his quartet would always score low. He said they would try to sing their songs perfectly for the judges. "But there is always going to be mistakes, no matter how hard you try to be perfect." So they stopped trying to please the judges and just performed for the audience, and their scores went up. Case in point, my performance, I tried to sing it perfectly, and after the crash I didn't care about the competition anymore and finished the song with more confidence on



stage than I can ever remember before. Lesson learned.

Seeing the judges' faces as I messed up the words, looking out at the guys in the audience, seeing the look on their faces, I realized that they felt my pain and there was nothing they could do to help either. And, oh yes, you guys in the back that were trying to help by giving me hand signals as to what word was next (our own little game of charades), thanks, you didn't think I noticed, did you?

All in all the weekend was phenomenal. And I'm not going to let a thirty-second memory lapse take away any of its grandeur. Even though, as the photograph shows, I wanted to shoot myself at the time.

### **Send-Off Show, June 13**

by William Strong

Our chapter once again hosted the Pioneer District Send-Off Show, and as always it was one of the high-lites of the year. Lots of good singing with several choruses entertaining us as well as our international chorus representatives, the **MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS** from Mount Pleasant under the direction of **Evan Boegehold**. Not to be outdone we heard from our Quartet reps **MAJESTYX**, our college reps **G-FOURS**, and lastly our seniors **BUCKET LIST**. It does not get much better than this and all in one place. Oh, did I mention that all of this was made possible by our **Doran McTaggart**. He puts so much effort into this evening. For those of you who have not taken a trip across the border and enjoyed this event you are really missing out. Not only missing some great singing but also the opportunity to support our worthy competitors and wish them well. Mark your calendars for next year, June 12, 2015. Always the second Friday in June.

### **Dead Creek Picnic, June 24**

by Mike Frye

The **BIG CHIEF** Chorus along with several members of the Grosse Pointe Chapter boarded a brand new Oakland County Parks and Rec Bus and headed for Frankenmuth for the annual Brat Fest. This was probably the largest gathering of Chapters and quartets at the Brat Fest in a long time.

The BCC was represented in song not only by the chorus but by three quartets. **Gil Schreiner** made his debut singing in front of the public and he did great.

A new senior quartet called **ROLLS VOICE** made its debut, consisting of **Doc Gillingham, Bruce LaMarte, T.C. Conner**, and **T. R. Gerard**. Of course they were outstanding and a force to be on the lookout for in the near future.

There were also former District Champions **RIGHT ON Q** singing well, along with the up-and-coming college quartet **G-FOURS**. Not only are they very good but they are quality young men.

Several other quartets performed to round out an enjoyable evening. Thanks again to

the Flint Chapter for being the host of this event and for the invitation.

Photos by Herbert Judd from the Dead Creek picnic

[https://picasaweb.google.com/117274343507121371738/BarbershopDeadCreekJune242014?authkey=Gv1sRgCL\\_tlt-v0ofxJA](https://picasaweb.google.com/117274343507121371738/BarbershopDeadCreekJune242014?authkey=Gv1sRgCL_tlt-v0ofxJA)

## Harmony Explosion, July 12

This year's Harmony Explosion Camp show featured SHADES OF JADE, AFTER HOURS, and The Harmony Explosion Choruses (both young men and young women), at the Staples Family Auditorium in Mt Pleasant. Similar to the GLHB, music and learning tracks are sent out ahead of time to the kids but it's still amazing what these young people can do over the course of this short camp. The show was phenomenal and was kicked off by our district International Chorus representative, MOUNTAIN-TOWN SINGERS. After that, the kids and teaching quartets took over and put on an unforgettable show.

## Quartet Boot Camp, July 19

by Greg Moss

A full day of singing in the middle of the summer? Getting through a two-song selection – **maybe 30 times (or was it 130)? Getting coaching from some of the district's top quartet members?** Throw in a warm-up session, lunch, and a short workshop and you **end up with the Pioneer District's Quartet Boot Camp on July 19 in Okemos. The Boot Camp** is supported by the District and the Quartet Champions Association, covering most of the cost as well as providing the coaches who volunteer their time. For a quartet to attend, it's only \$50, which hardly covers much more than the lunch.

4GVN (Wayne, Bob, Eric and Greg) was one of ten quartets who attended. Some had been to Quartet Boot Camp every year since it started and others, like 4GVN, were first-timers.

Even the simple warm-up songs were cool because there was a balanced blend of all **four parts perfectly "shot-gunned" around the room. It wasn't a wall of sound; it was** more like the purest surround sound.

Besides the warm-ups, the opening session included a presentation by the leaders of **the district's youth chorus (teens to 30-year-olds).** THE VOICE is practicing monthly for the Youth Chorus Festival in New Orleans in January. The Society and Foundation are supplying room and board, and the Pioneer District is asking for donations to cover the travel. (<http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/YIH/YIH.htm>)

On to coaching session #1. Each quartet was asked to prep two songs; so we had two **where we were confident of all the words and the notes: "The Spiritual Medley" and "Ridin' Down the Canyon."** We started with "The Spiritual Medley," and we were off and ... stopping! As in being stopped after one chord!! The coaching: You guys need to take a good, solid tune-up. Blow the pitch, sing the tune-up note, and look at each

other to confirm that everyone is ready to start.

“The Spiritual Medley” has lots of words that end in “m” or “n,” and we worked on holding out the vowel so we didn’t close on the “m” and “n.” The word “well” also shows up a few dozen times, and it’s easy to chop the word instead of singing through it. Sound familiar? There were also experiments with dynamic changes and breathing.

After lunch, there was a choice of workshops. We elected to stay together in **Roger Lewis’** workshops: Better interpretation and Better show packages. Overall, some good tips in both. For example, always “sing to an audience” even if you are by yourself in the shower or the car. And, start a show with your second best song and end it with your best song. Encore? No. But just in case you are forced into one, plan ahead and know what you would sing.

There were two more coaching sessions in the afternoon, each one lasting about 90 minutes. Same two songs; continued feedback on vowels, dynamics and breathing. We were surprised that only one of the coaches was familiar with “Ridin’ Down the Canyon”! The last said he had never heard it! We even had a chance to sing with a few of the coaches. But by 5 o’clock, we were tired and so were the coaches.

There was a short closing session and evaluation, but the singing didn’t stop there. We stopped for dinner at a nearby restaurant, where a couple had come in with their two girls. So, of course, before we left we asked if we could sing for them – “Heart of My Heart” – from dad to mom. Mom had a hard time holding it together; then she told us it was their 13th anniversary -- a perfect ending to our day!

## Reports—International

### New BHS President



**Don Fuson** from the Central States District was elected to the top post in the Society, with a term of office beginning January 2015. Current Board Member-at-Large **Skipp Kropp** of Indianapolis was elected Executive Vice President. **Casey Parsons** and **Debbie Cleveland** were elected as Harmony Foundation Trustees, with terms commencing in January 2015.

### Harmony University at Belmont

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5WEiwJLYHO&feature=em-uploademail>



“**Sean Devine** is stepping away from his role as Director of Development with Harmony Foundation effective May 16, 2014. He will remain in the Harrisburg/Hershey, Pa. area and utilize the considerable professional experiences he has had to embark on a career providing training and development expertise to local businesses and executives.

“Sean joined the Harmony Foundation staff in July 2008. He was the first of a development team ramp-up that has redefined the organization as one energized by bold, championship efforts. He has represented us in several regions during that time. Sean has worked with characteristic passion to engage hundreds of people in the life-changing experience of singing and to enlist fellow Barber-shoppers to support this vision financially. **He is a product of our shared story.**”

Clarke Caldwell  
President and CEO  
Harmony Foundation International

FUTURE CONVENTIONS		
International Conventions		
2015	Pittsburgh, PA	July 28 – July 5
2016	Nashville, TN	July 3 – 10
2017	Minneapolis, MN	July 2 – 8
2018	Orlando, FL	July 1 – 8
2019	Salt Lake City, UT	June 30 – July 7
Midwinter Conventions		
2015	New Orleans, LA	Jan 6 – 11
2016	Reno, NV	Jan 26 – 31

*Continued from page 12*

Money from weekly 50/50 drawings held by our chapter as a service project are being used to fund some of the programs and events put on by the facility. He told them how we appreciated the commitment and sacrifices that they have made for our nation and the freedoms that we enjoy today. We will continue our commitment to them as long as we are able. The evening ended with the Irish Blessing.

The chapter still has many events this summer including: Sunday performance in Greenville, 17<sup>th</sup> - the 41<sup>st</sup> GLC/Baker Family Corn Roast on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup>. Then in September, coaching with Al Fisk, Christmas Show music review. And again a shout out to all GR Alumni – November 1<sup>st</sup> is the Chapters 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We are celebrating with a **Quartet and Chorus spaghetti dinner show. We’ll have music during dinner** by WILD CARD, the HARMONY HALLS, the GREAT LAKES CHORUS and the SPARTANAIREs, along with surprise appearances, we hope, by other former GR members. Hint, Hint!! Please be part of our celebration. The time is now to start planning. Contact us if you would like to be part of our celebration of entertainment.



## How to get started quartetting

by John Cowlshaw, Roger Lewis, Paul Ellinger, Toby Shaver, and Jamie Carey

We spend a lot of thought and energy on increasing chorus membership. But there is also a group of guys who joined one, two, three years ago, and who are ready for the next step – **quartetting**. **But they don't really know how to go about it. They haven't yet** thought about issues like:

- ◆ Choosing partners
- ◆ Getting coaching
- ◆ Choosing a repertoire
- ◆ How often and where to practice
- ◆ From polecats to harder arrangements – how to decide
- ◆ Uniforms
- ◆ Pricing
- ◆ Role models
- ◆ Is a 50% score the benchmark for performing publically?

So I wrote some of the experienced quartetters in our district to get some answers. Here is what they had to say.

From Roger Lewis:

A quartet starts with two guys who want to sing together. They should also discuss what kind of quartet they want to be -- contest, entertainment, comedy, chapter, etc. They then invite two other guys to get together and sing with them. Do it a number of times with different guys. Soon, they'll decide that one of them is who you want to be the third guy in the quartet. Then the three look for the fourth guy.

A quartet typically is "managed" by two guys. Not necessarily the first two, though. Sometimes, in the case of strong personalities, it's a "one guy" quartet. **Glenn Van Tassel's** quartets were like that. Every quartet he ever sang in was "Glenn's Quartet".

What's important? Quality of sound? Getting along? Supporting wives? Geography? Availability? Age (if it's a Senior quartet, or a serious competition quartet)? Stage ability?

When the **HARMONY HOUNDS** needed to find a new pup, vocal ability was usually about #4 on our list. Comedy, getting along, and supporting wives were more important.

P.S. **Deke Sharon**, CASA, and the **HOUSE JACKS**, addresses this issue at:  
[http://www.casa.org/sites/default/files/starting\\_a\\_group\\_04-18-2013.pdf](http://www.casa.org/sites/default/files/starting_a_group_04-18-2013.pdf)

**From Paul Ellinger**

Here are my thoughts. (Caveat, this is not for those that have goals of winning a gold medal, but for the 99% of everyone else)

**THE KEY ELEMENT**

For me, the number one thing in creating a quartet is to sing with people you like. You can work on notes, words, artistry, voice matching, presentation, but it's hard to fix personality. Sing with your friends and you'll always be happy.

**DIRECTION**

The next big concept is creating YOUR brand. In many cases, not knowing your brand creates a lack of direction and a glass ceiling for a quartet.

**COACHING**

I honestly believe the best coaching you can get is singing in public up close, like at a restaurant table or someplace similar. I know that **CHORDIOLOGY** (not that we would be a great example to be emulated) got coaching and placed sixth, got more coaching and placed sixth, got even more coaching and placed, you guessed it, sixth. We owned sixth place! Then we decided to take a year off and just go and get jobs singing at restaurants and in public. We come back and we won District. Not to say that coaching isn't good (and we had great coaches) as you need to understand what makes for good barbershop. But to create the full experience, nothing beats singing up close (not on the stage) for the public. It helps you determine and design YOUR brand. Don't try to be like someone else. You'll never be them. But the nice thing is that no one can be a better you --- than you. Not that I can speak for them, but you might want to ask the guys of **PARTY OF FOUR** how they got their start (spoiler alert: they sang at restaurant tables).

**REPERTOIRE**

I would say that the biggest mistake I see quartets making is picking songs that are too tough and/or because they have heard other quartets sing the songs. Go back to the previous topic. Don't pick songs because of another quartet. Understand who YOU are as a quartet. If you are a quartet of teenagers, it probably doesn't make sense to be singing **Frank Sinatra's** "It Was A Very Good Year" with lyrics like "But now the days are short, I'm in the autumn of my years," and if you are a quartet of four married guys with children it probably doesn't make sense to sing songs like "You're sixteen, you're beautiful and you're mine." Now these are obvious examples and maybe the songs would be better suited for our fictitious quartets if we switched the songs between them, but the point is still relevant. Pick songs that will relay who you are to your audience and move them. Realize that you can move people in many different ways so again this goes back to YOUR brand. But, always remember that difficulty of arrangement is almost always NOT in the equation.

**GIGS**

Sing in public and you will get gigs! I can give numerous examples of this. Look at the quartets that are getting all kinds of jobs. They may not be winning the contests, but

people love them. And guess what ..... they sing in public.

#### PRICING AND GIGS: YOU GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR

Here's the short concept. If you ask for \$75 for a performance, you'll get a lot of other performances for that amount. However, if you ask for \$250, then you'll get a lot of other performances for that amount. Remember, the public thinks what we do is amazing, even if we (or other barbershoppers) don't. Don't sell yourself short. You don't have to get EVERY job. If you price yourself such that you are getting every kind of job, in short order the tail will be wagging the dog. Decide what kinds of performances YOU want to do and then go after those and ignore others. We don't have to be everything to everyone.

#### HOW OFTEN AND WHERE TO PRACTICE

Practice all the time ----- on your own. This way you can come to rehearsal with your part learned. Do NOT spend rehearsal time learning notes and words. I'm not talking about performance errors or working out kinks. If someone doesn't have the part learned, no one gets upset, you just don't sing the song at that rehearsal. Instead, you simply sing songs you are ready to sing and work craft, performance and artistry. So, how often should you rehearse? I would say about 3 times a month. Make rehearsals something to look forward to. Don't overdo it. Spend time shooting the breeze before rehearsal and then decide, "Now we are focused and performing". Rehearsals should be fun, rewarding and effective.

#### UNIFORMS

Choose outfits that represent your brand. Pretty simple.

#### CONTESTS

Don't go to contest. Go to convention. And don't chase scores. Yes, you'll get lots of advice. But, whose quartet is it? That's right. It's YOUR quartet.

#### ROLE MODELS

Model yourselves after quartets that are good at promoting their brand. It doesn't even have to be the same brand and they don't have to be better singers than you to be emulated.

#### MINIMUM LEVEL FOR SINGING IN PUBLIC

This, in my opinion, is the biggest misconception by barbershoppers. Again, the public thinks what we do is amazing at any level. Don't believe me? Do a search on YouTube for **"Old Guys Singing at Tim Horton's."** The performance was in public and it probably doesn't meet a 50 scoring level (maybe close). It got over a million hits in its first 10 days! But, more importantly, read what the public has to say about it. Now, this video also has 13,624 likes to 98 dislikes. And just take a wild guess as to who the 98 dislikes are from? ----- Would you be one of them? ----**Here's the key to this point. Who's right?** The 13,624 and everyone in the public that says they absolutely love it, or the 98 that said they didn't? --- Still not convinced? Then explain why everyone loves this video and then figure out why other barbershop videos sung at a much higher level don't



go viral. I know why. Do you? Again, in my opinion, the public is the best coach out there. If you're not ready to sing in public, they'll let you know. :) Until that time comes, share our music with as many people as possible!

So those are my thoughts on those topics. There are many more things that go into the making a great quartet, but this might be a good start. Sing, ring, share.

### **From Toby Shaver**

I agree with Paul's points, 100%. Most of that is the same advice I would give.

So, as not to rehash the same stuff, I will add a few points for quartets wishing to go as far as possible, in competition (although, I agree, that is NOT the goal of most quartets).

COACHABILITY: It is very important for all the members of a competitive quartet to be (or become) coachable.

During a coaching session, singers need to be able to "leave their ego at the door" and buy into the plan that the coach is presenting. It is not mandatory that the quartet keep and use ALL the advice and ideas that the coach gives. But, during that session, you must be a willing and eager participant. Otherwise, why are you there in the first place?

TRUST: The idea of "coachability" applies to your regular rehearsals, too... in the form of trust. This doesn't always come easy or quickly, but you must learn to trust the other three guys you are singing with.

So much of the best work in rehearsal is accomplished during duet and trio work. So, you need to have a thick skin and trust your guys to give you blunt and constructive feedback. You've gotta trust that any ideas or feedback are only given with the best interest of the quartet in mind.

That same trust is also needed when it's time to hit the stage. You and your teammates need to have confidence that each guy is going to work the plan, "just like in rehearsal." **This doesn't happen overnight, but when you get there, it's a great feeling.**

### **From Jamie Carey**

All right - **I'm in. I like Paul's, Roger's, and Toby's comments. Guys that have been quartetting for years!**

I've been in quartets that weren't good friends and ones that were. Better to do it with guys you can get along with - **it works better in the long run. You don't always know that up front - but you need to ask the right questions before you start. When I sang with Denny Gore in the late 80's he actually had a "questionnaire of sorts."**

I believe that you need guys that sing and are READY for a quartet. Some guys are just

not at that level yet. Yes, you can grow into it, but it takes a long time. If you're willing, more power to ya.

I believe in coaching - If it hadn't been for guys like Roger, Joel, etc... I would not be where I am today. Every quartet needs a mentor - a guide - someone OUTSIDE the group.

**I TOTALLY believe in the "thick skin thing."** You have to be able to take constructive criticism to improve. It's easier if you like and trust the guys/coach - you don't need as "thick of a skin."

Repertoire is everything in sing-outs - especially if you are an "average" or "below average" quartet. If you are an average quartet, singing a tough ballad no one recognizes is the death of you. Sing fun songs people recognize and can sing along - you can get away with murder vocally to the non-barbershop audience. There are a multitude of quartets that sing average and have done GREAT shows for years based on using this philosophy.

Include your family or all the families. Quartetting takes time. You do not want your wife or kids to resent your quartet time. Include them - have dinners, barbeques, fun get-away weekends, etc... I learned this the hard way. I am fortunate enough now to sing with three other guys that I really like and enjoy their company. We laugh, have fun, and don't take ourselves too seriously. **Great families and wives!**

**Quartetting is awesome. We are all fortunate enough to sing in one. It's a mind-blowing, body-bending experience.** Find four guys, bond, put your heart on your sleeve, check your ego at the door, and be a part of something bigger than yourself.

### **From Roger Lewis**

One thing that I realized that I didn't mention and it also seems that we overlooked is FINANCES, meaning personal finances. If the goal of the quartet will be to compete at International competitions, either the regular or Senior competitions, it will cost money out of pocket by each of the members of the quartet. Some guys can't afford it. They may be young and have a growing family or retired living on a fixed income.

Add to that the cost of uniforms which, at startup, is an out of pocket expense. Unless there's a fairy godfather in the quartet who is going to fund everything, it costs money. So as you start looking for/auditioning members for the quartet, you need to be very open about what it may cost. Hey, that also.

(And this support for what Jamie Carey says about involving families)

Starting before I joined the **HARMONY HOUNDS** in 1962, the wives were taken out for a very nice dinner at Christmas time and given a nice card with (back then) a \$50 bill in it. By the mid to late 60's, this graduated to a \$100 bill. We did this every year until after **Dick Smith** started wintering in Florida about five years ago. It was always a very special evening. Not that we didn't include them a lot during the year, too.

All eight of us went to England for the first BABS contest in 1974, and followed it with a two week vacation in Europe. They went with us on about half of our shows -- either **Larry Swan** or I had a motor home. Now we get together for a **HARMONY HOUNDS** reunion every year with the current and past members of the Hounds and widows, plus a few very close friends.

### Evaluations Under Glass

by Roger Lewis, with input from Chad Wulf, Jan-Ake Westin, David Leeder and Ben Geesa

Over the years, the judging community has often commented that the average attendee really never knows what happens in judging, nor what happens after the contest is over. Added to that, as judges, we've wished we could interact with the attendees at contests. Alas, our schedules are often so tight that we are truly sequestered. The result is that there is little communication between the average barbershopper and the judges, creating an almost "unapproachable" perception by the attendees. No, it's not true, but perceptions are reality.

As the current Events VP as well as a quartet competitor, I thought about ways we could include interested attendees in evaluations. First, I needed a volunteer quartet that would only compete on Friday night so the evals could be done Friday night or Saturday morning in a meeting room. Easy. **BUCKET LIST** (I sing Bari) was planning on competing only for the Pioneer District Senior Quartet Contest. First step accomplished.

Next, when would we hold it? My first thought was Saturday morning in a meeting room. Oh, oh. Too many conflicts. The chorus contest started at 10:30. The venue was seven miles away. Choruses were warming up for the contest, and three of us sing in choruses. Judges who had traveled a long day on Friday sure didn't need to be awakened at O'Dark Thirty to do an eval. Sure it would have been nice to have an hour with all three categories present. Not to happen.

We were blessed with a hotel that had Salons (small conference rooms) about 50 steps from the judges' rooms. Bingo! We parked the quartet in the Salon, and the judges came to us when it was our turn in their rotation.

I must say that I had no idea of what attendance to expect. I had the room set up for 50. About 25 showed up. We had quartet guys show up, we had wives, we had Joe Barbershopper, and then, a real surprise guest - a woman in her 30's who seemed to be very interested in what was happening. She was **Elaine Davidson**, in town to perform in *The Wizard of Oz* musical at the DeVos Theater in downtown Grand Rapids. It turned out that she is a keyboard player, assistant conductor, and her dad is a barbershopper in Abilene, TX. I asked her for input to this document, which is included at the end of this.

This was a regular evaluation. I instructed the audience that they were not to make comments or ask questions unless a judge asked for them. After it was all over, they could ask questions of us. Three of us are 50+ year members, and we have about 15

quartet medals between us – one Senior Gold and three Silver International medals among them. In addition, I was a presentation judge for 28 years, and we felt we could address any questions they might have. Here's how it went.

**David Leeder** - Presentation - 64/63. (**Joe Hunter** was 66/67.)

**Hey, there's nothing like starting off with the top dog! We lost track of time, but I believe the evals were 20 minutes.** The biggest thing about this is that David made suggestions and changes and had us singing, and there were immediate results! The audience sat there almost stunned. David is so good at what you do, how you feel, and how you want to make the audience feel. We all agreed that it was the best Presentation evaluation we've ever had. Not bad for about 175 years of quartet singing between us.

**Chad Wulf** – Singing - 65/66. (**Alan Gordon** was 68/67.)

How can anyone be so quick in picking out what we need to work on and fixing it? **Once again, immediate improvement, and the audience couldn't believe it was happening again.** Chad was able to focus on the needs of each singer and work with us to reach a better sound. Sometimes it was a single note that needed to be sung differently. Sometimes we needed to change how we handled passages at the top or bottom of our ranges... or how the other three needed to support one guy. Again, the best singing eval any of us have ever been in!! Kudos, Chad!

**Jan-Ake Westin** – Music - 65/66. (**Al Fisk** was 66/67.)

**Jan-Ake's approach was more to the musical presentation of the entire package.** How did we get the story of the song to the audience? What we could do to make it vocally and musically more pleasing and attention getting? Did we reach the audience with our ballad, or did we lapse into words, notes and chords? He got us to get more feeling out of phrases, and a more smooth musical sound. Some vowel fixes and chord fixes helped, too. He helped us get the "groove" into our up-tune.

**Ben Geesa**, CA – Administrator

In Summary,

I was very impressed by the questions that audience members asked at the conclusion of the session. It was clear to me that those in attendance gained a better understanding of how scoring works and what it is that judges are looking for. For many of them, it was their first experience with the process. With Chad, Jan, and David we were blessed with outstanding judge/coaches to conduct the sessions, and their willing participation helped de-mystify the scoring part of our contests. I look forward to our continued efforts to enhance the evaluation process. The *Evals Under Glass* program is one that can be relatively easy to implement since it only requires a willing quartet or quartets, judges open to the process, and a venue in which the movement of the judges into the "Under Glass" room and back into the rotation does not cause a significant delay. Again, the entire quartet felt this was the best evaluation we have ever received. At the same time, we felt that the audience had no impact on what the judges did – they were just so damn good.

BUCKET LIST

Johnny, TC, Roger & Lee



Here's an excerpt from the chapter bulletin in Abilene, TX.

"This email is from my charming daughter Elaine Davidson who is with a traveling road company of the Phantom of the Opera."

*Guess What? I'm staying at a hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan and there's a Barber-shop convention here this weekend! They let me sit in on an evaluation of a senior quartet called BUCKET LIST. The tenors name is John and he's been a barbershopper for 59 years...he was proud to tell me he's 89 years old!*

*They asked me to talk a little and I shared that you're a 30 year plus member and they all lit up!*

*Huggy note: BUCKET LIST hails from the Pioneer District, which includes all of Michigan and two chapters in Ontario, Canada. The quartet total age adds up to 313 years, with the most 'experienced' member **John Wearing** singing tenor. The bari-tone, Roger Lewis, registered the quartet name first with the hope of finding "three other old guys to sing with!" He did. I think it's the greatest name for a senior quartet since Southwestern District quartet, DIN OF ANTIQUITY.*

## Spotlight on a Chapter – Sault Ste. Marie

Most Michigan barbershoppers, if asked why we are a binational district, would quickly name Windsor's SUN PARLOUR chorus. But far to the northeast lies our second Pioneer brother Canadian chapter, Sault Ste. Marie, which is highlighted in this issue. Their wonderful new website, [www.northlandchorus.com](http://www.northlandchorus.com), has provided the initial material for this article, to which have been added responses from Music Director **Bob Shami**.

The 54 members of the NORTHLAND Barbershop Chorus reside in or near the twin cities of Sault Ste. Marie ON and MI on both sides of the St Mary's River, site of the world-famous Sault locks.

Locally, four men met in 1959 to discuss the formation of a chapter and to sing four-part harmony in the style of the traditional barbershop quartet. **Harry Shardlow, Frank Elliott, Ted Spry, and Len Klyne** began quarteting as the BORDER CHORDERS. By 1961, this "bi-national chapter" had expanded to 26 members so that on December 1, 1961 they could receive their official charter to become the Sault Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Their first performance was in 1962 and a major show has been presented annually since then. In 2014, the Chorus celebrated its 53rd season.



[Return to TOC](#)

In addition to their major annual spring show, the Chorus also typically gives 10 - 20 community performances each year. Their annual show is normally held the first Saturday in April. The most recent of their creative scripts by Music Director Bob Shami have been exemplified in these shows:

- ♦ 2014 *North to Alaska*. It included the poetry of the “Bard of the Yukon,” **Robert W Service**, thanks to the theatrical talents of **Vernon Bailey**. Bailey performed six of Service's works. They included “A Sourdough Story,” “Laziness,” and “The Cremation of Sam McGee.” “The scenery that he paints, I can always see it,” said Bailey. “He just has a way of describing both feelings and scenery that I don't think anyone else can describe. If he talks about lonesomeness, I feel lonely. It's just the way he puts his words together.”
- ♦ 2013 *King of the Road*. An adaptation of **O. Henry's** original 1904 story. The setting is a park bench in a big city park. The central character is a gentleman hobo named Soapy. After spending a cold autumn night on the park bench, Soapy sets about trying to get arrested so that he might spend the coming winter in the relative comfort of a jail cell at the city's expense. He finds it is not as easy a task as he imagines!
- ♦ 2012 *Dire Days at the Dairy, or Udder Mayhem: A Barbershop Melodrama*. The setting was a struggling family dairy farm in Bar River, ON, with local references and dairy puns the order of the day.

Next year's show is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2015.

The chapter bites the transportation-cost bullet to get big-name quartets on their shows. The last four guest quartets have been: VOCAL SPECTRUM, CROSSROADS, 'ROUND MIDNIGHT, and STORM FRONT and next year's guest will be A MIGHTY WIND. Past out-of-district quartets have also included: THE ALLIES, HOT AIR BUFFOONS, MICHIGAN JAKE, FRED, JOKER'S WILD, MARQUIS, and ACOUSTIX. Pioneer District's favorite fishing parodists, FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR has headlined the Soo show twice while Pioneer's International Champs POWER PLAY has headlined three times – beginning back in 1986 when they were known as FAMILY FORUM.

The NORTHLANDERS' most recent Pioneer District competition was in the Spring of 2004, when they competed in Gaylord. They finished 7th of 17 choruses competing, their best-ever result. Songs were “We'll Meet Again” and “Walking My Baby Back Home.” You can hear them and watch them being introduced by then-District President and Pioneer District Hall of Famer, the late **Don Bazely**, a 44-year member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chorus, at <http://tinyurl.com/nlls4jm> There were 32 men on stage and their score was 60.4, making them the Plateau 4 champs.

Thirteen of their videos, musical and otherwise, are on YouTube, at <http://tinyurl.com/km6fbma>



Their particularly well-thought-out logo represents an iconic barbershop singer whose International Bridge/handlebar moustache is symbolic of chorus membership coming from both sides of the Canada/USA border. The red, white, and blue colors represent the colors of the flags of both nations. The four bars in the hat represent the four-part harmony that is the hallmark of the barbershop style, and recall the stripes of a traditional barber pole. **The “oh” vowel being “sung” is the first sound in each country’s national anthem.** (Logo designed by BCG Communications, Winnipeg, Manitoba)

The Northland Chorus seeks to serve their communities in two ways:

- ♦ Through the medium of song by singing at no cost at senior’s homes, schools, churches, hospitals, civic events; or at fund-raising events held in support of a various local charitable and arts organizations, and
- ♦ Through their annual support of the Speech-Language Pathology Unit at Sault Area Hospital. In 2014, the cumulative total donated since 1995 to local Speech Therapy Services



Singing some Western tunes at Beer Bratwurst and Beethoven Music Fest - June 13 2010

**will surpass \$75,000 in keeping with their motto: “We Sing That They Shall Speak.” These funds assist those for whom stroke, cancer, head injury or other ailments have robbed the ability to communicate.** Beginning in 2009, the Chorus (many of whose members reside on the U.S. side) expanded their efforts to include annual donations to the Speech Pathology Department at War Memorial Hospital **in Sault, Michigan.** **“We sing a song by the same name at the close of every rehearsal.** The lyrics of this song remind us regularly of our responsibility to use our vocal abilities to help those who struggle with communicative disorders:

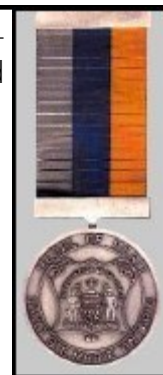
“We sing that they shall speak, the lips in silence bound.”  
 “We sing that young hearts everywhere may thrill to joy new found,”  
 “May learn to know and tell the love they now in silence seek.  
 “We sing to free each youthful soul.”  
 “We sing that they shall speak.”

In recognition of community service given over five decades, the City of Sault Ste. Marie Ontario awarded the **NORTHLAND** Barbershop Chorus the [2010 Medal of Merit](#), **the city’s most prestigious honor.** **The award is given annually for “outstanding achievement in a chosen area which has resulted in making a valuable contribution to**

the community". The award was officially presented to all then currently-active chorus members by Mayor Debbie Amoroso at a civic ceremony and dinner held May 7, 2011.

During the last year, the chorus has performed in the community at these venues:

- ◆ Sault Area Hospital Retirees Christmas Luncheon
- ◆ Finnish Rest Home Christmas performance
- ◆ **8th Annual Carol Tour of three Sault MI senior's homes**
- ◆ Christmas Carol Sing at Station Mall
- ◆ Sault Area Hospital Annual Christmas sing-out on the wards
- ◆ 10th Annual Sing at First United Presbyterian Service
- ◆ Legion Supper and Sounds – after dinner performance for the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion
- ◆ **Algoma Manor Senior's Residence** – Thessalon, ON
- ◆ Soo Theatre Project Fundraiser - **"North to Alaska"** joint show with the local Lock Cities Chorus of Sweet Adelines, Soo Mich.
- ◆ F. J. Davey Retirement Home
- ◆ Collegiate Heights Retirement Home



**Folgo Della Vedova** is the President. Don Bazely was Director for most of the 1970s and 1980s. Bob Shami began directing as an assistant in 1992 and has been directing front-line since 1996.

Bob was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and is retired following a 30 year career as a Brewmaster. He joined the chorus in 1983 with no previous musical background. He is not stingy with compliments when they are warranted. Praise is often "dished out" in the form of his mimicking throwing fish to trained seals. This evolved into an annual tradition he created in 2010: the [Tunawards](#). Members are recognized for various achievements, including attendance - and the prize is a can of tuna, carefully thrown to the winner. Bob sets a fine example with regard to attendance, having not missed a single performance or rehearsal since becoming director.



Bob Shami.

[It was on] Bob's initiative, that the Northland Chorus was nominated and ultimately selected to receive the city of Sault Ste. Marie's [Medal of Merit](#) in 2010. He then contacted the editor of *The Harmonizer* and convinced him that there was an inspiring story to be told regarding their service in song given for more than 50 years. It turned out to be the [Harmonizer's Cover Story](#) for the May/June 2011 issue.

**Bob's father-in-law** and son have also been chorus members. In recent years, Bob has developed his skill in arranging songs. He has arranged or co-arranged seven charts now listed in the Barbershop Harmony Society catalog. He is most proud that his arrangement of ["Mansions Of The Lord"](#), a hymn to fallen soldiers, has been requested by more than 75 other chapters and Chorus Directors across the Society.

*Biography written by Bernie Arbic, Northland Chorus Member since 1988*



The chapter's quartets include FOREIGN ACCORD and SOLID GROUND.



FOREIGN ACCORD (LtoR) Stephen Patterson (T), Al Murray (L), Bill Webb (Bs), Mark San Angelo (Br).



SOLID GROUND (LtoR) Kevin Collar (T), Mike Doherty (L), Bob Shami (Bs), Ted McKinney (Br).

The chorus rehearses Mondays, 7 to 10, at the Salvation Army Citadel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, except for taking a break during July and August. They can be heard from Sept-June, singing for civic and charitable organizations, private groups, churches, community events, and fundraisers.

### Interview with Bob Shami

Editor: What a nice website you have!

Bob Shami: It took me nearly a year to assemble all of that material and lay it out on the website, working with the hosting company, Connected Sound, in San Francisco. They specialize in websites for barbershop choruses and quartets, both male and female. They provide a great template.

Q: How do you spend your three hours in your weekly rehearsals?

A: This is not an easy question to answer, as it really depends on where we are in our cycle. We try to keep the night moving along and include a variety of activities (see below). The structure of any given night is determined by where we are in our yearly cycle. In our first meeting of the season, when we start up again in Sept., along with a package of this year's sheet music, I hand out my so-called "Master Plan" for the whole season. On it are the dates on which each of the new songs will be taught as well as the dates of all special rehearsals (we do two all-day Saturday rehearsals per year in the period leading up to the annual show), as well as dates for special section practice rehearsals and any dates we know of for upcoming gigs.

All songs for a given year are taught by Dec. 1. The split is usually 9-10 songs in total with 3-4 being repeats from earlier years and about 6 being brand new songs. So in the fall, from Sept to the end of Nov, we are teaching one new song each week using the

quartet teaching method, (with every 4th week being a review week). The quartet teaching of a new song can take from 60-80 min. Then we'll spend a 20-30 min block of time breaking into sections and doing a section practice review of the song we taught the previous week. Each week, the teaching quartet will also demo the song that will be taught the following week so as to build anticipation (this also forces the teaching quartet to know it at least well enough to sing in front of the guys a week before they have to teach it!) Once we get into Dec., we have taught all of the songs in the current year's package and we begin to focus on Christmas music for 2 or 3 weeks.

We schedule two 3.5-hour section practices on a Sunday afternoon per year, one in early Dec after the new music has all been taught and one in January on the Sunday afternoon just before our annual mid-January Drop Music Monday - the date beyond which members are no longer permitted to hold their sheet music while singing during rehearsals. The period from January to April is focused on preparing show music and working with the script for the upcoming spring show. We begin to work the show songs on risers starting in January, after the Drop Music date. We never spend consecutive hours on the risers - we always alternate riser work with more focused work on some specific problem area in a given song while seated. After the show, in April and May and into June, we have a more relaxed rehearsal situation, always preparing for upcoming gigs but with more time for other fun activities like tags, old repertoire, Polecats, quartet development activities etc. We end the year in mid-June, with our last Monday night before breaking for the summer being a BBQ and songfest at the home of the Chapter President, Folgo Della Vedova. The chapter provides most of the food for the supper. We start up again the first Monday after Labor Day.

Every meeting begins with warm-up, followed by a craft session taught by **Al Murray**, our lead section leader, on one aspect of singing that will be our focus for the night. We always spend a large chunk of each night working on that year's batch of current show songs. We always feature a generous spot to review current repertoire and sometimes, just for the fun of it, we'll haul out an old song that is no longer part of our current repertoire just to see if it is still singable. If we have a gig upcoming in the near future, we **will focus on the songs that will be sung at the gig. If the gig is a Church's Sunday service**, we review our repertoire of 6-10 spiritual or inspirational songs or straight up hymns. We do a few church services every year. Sometimes we'll turn out the lights and sing in the dark (proves they don't need me directing!), or while marching around the hall, or while standing back to back - anything to shake things up occasionally.

There is, of course, the usual spot in the rehearsal for business, then for coffee and socializing, and after coffee, towards the end of the night, I try to fit in tags or polecats or teach them something new I have found. Sort of a Director's craft time. Or I may play them a CD of some quartet or chorus singing a great song just to have them sit and listen and be inspired.

Q: What new songs will you be working on in the Fall?

A: Our show next April will have a 50's-60's theme so almost all of the songs come

from that era. Some would say we are doing a bunch of "newer" pop songs. These are hardly "new" songs - the newest one is a Beatles tune from 1967, 47 years ago. The rest are over 50 years old. But they are indeed popular! An audience can relate to all of them and that is the absolute key!

I haven't figured out the show theme or story beyond that, but we have selected a great batch of tunes, some challenging, some easy-peazy. I've learned that audiences don't award points for degree of difficulty, so I try to load the program with fun songs, easy-to-sing songs that are well known to an audience, with very few ballads (any ballad that we do must usually also be well-known to a general audience - e.g. **"Twilight Time," which is actually not a true ballad but more of what I call a rhythmic ballad.**)

Our song selection is one of our greatest assets. I've often had members of other choruses come up to me after an inter-chapter show or similar event and say something like "Gee, I wish our chorus was singing songs like that. We keep doing the same old corny songs we've always done. All of your songs are audience favorites and they seem like such fun to sing". That is our goal!

Here's the songs we will start working on come Sept. for the 2014-2015 season:

- ◆ Breaking Up Is Hard To Do (1962 - Neil Sedaka)
- ◆ Bye Bye Love (1957 - Everly Brothers)
- ◆ Devoted To You (1958 - Everly Brothers)
- ◆ I Don't Know Why, I Just Do (1931 - great swing tune)
- ◆ In My Room (1964 - Beach Boys)
- ◆ In The Still Of The Night (1956 - Five Satins, Boyz II Men)
- ◆ My Girl (1964 - Temptations)
- ◆ That'll Be The Day (1957 - Buddy Holly)
- ◆ Under The Boardwalk (1964 - Drifters)
- ◆ When I'm 64 (1967 - Beatles)

Q: How have you kept your membership so vibrant and flourishing?

A: Lots of reasons. Here's a few of them:

- ◆ Sing only (or mostly) great songs that people know. Above songs are good examples.
- ◆ Select songs that are within the capability of the group to do well, thus breeding an atmosphere of success for the singer, and creating a positive image for the public who are more discerning than we sometimes think. They know when something is lame!
- ◆ Be careful in song selection to sing a variety of song types and styles so as to have something for everyone, whether chorus member or audience member. It's all about variety!!!
- ◆ Do the most professional shows possible, especially the annual show. We aim to not be lame! It is our best recruitment tool. We compete with lots of great community theatre groups and so we cannot afford to appear amateur in comparison. That won't attract anyone to join.

- ◆ Sing a batch of new songs every single year. Don't let the members get bored singing the same thing week after week.
- ◆ Have high energy rehearsals conducted in an atmosphere that is fun, welcoming, relentlessly positive, humorous and light, yet geared to getting the most from our singers, without them necessarily even knowing it.
- ◆ Have reasonably high but achievable expectations placed on the membership that we will always strive to get better. A poor product does not attract future members.
- ◆ Appreciate your current members. Look after them and make sure they know (and are told often by the director) how much they are loved and respected and needed.
- ◆ Recognize effort. My *Tunawards* are but one example.
- ◆ Criticize gently but don't accept mediocrity if they have more in them.
- ◆ Perform lots in the community with competent singing and a professional approach to performance.
- ◆ Sing at church services. That's where the singers are. Offer to replace the choir for a week.
- ◆ Always encourage those in our audiences that they can do what we do - we actively solicit folks to come check us out.
- ◆ Make sure guests are invited to attend rehearsals at any time and treat invited guests well. Recognize them and make sure they are well looked after when they visit. Make sure the director spends time with them at the break or after the meeting.
- ◆ Have Guest Books that are up to date and well organized so the guest can find music quickly. Don't start the song until every guest (and member for that matter) has found the music in their binders and is ready to sing.
- ◆ Very important: Follow up with guests afterwards.
- ◆ By being involved in our community by maintaining a purpose that involves more than just singing - i.e., our ongoing philanthropy related to the local hospitals.
- ◆ Don't be shy about getting publicity for the chorus. Get as much free publicity as possible by maintaining good relationships with local media. For example, each year, I do on-air radio interviews at four local radio stations in the weeks leading up to the show. I get articles printed in four different community newspapers. We do the most professional show poster possible and get them out across town. We proactively seek out opportunities to be recognized for the real good that we do in the community and for the great shows we produce.
- ◆ Have an attractive and professional website that is kept up to date, and is rich in content. Nothing looks less attractive to today's internet-savvy youth than to have an out-of-date or threadbare website that makes it look like you are yesterday's news!

Q: Your last District competition was in 2004. Can you add anything as to how the chorus or its individual members participate in district events or BHS events?

A: Frankly, John, our remote location and our already busy barbershop life is mostly incompatible with a high degree of involvement in District activities. And it is expensive. We are so far away that meals and hotels add up. We can't just drive for an hour to go to a convention and then go home that night, as many of our brethren in lower



Michigan are able to do. We participate rarely in competitions - it is just not a priority for us. Ditto for BHS events. Only one man in the chorus attended last year's International in Toronto - 500 miles from here.

When we poll our membership in regards to District events, there has usually been insufficient interest to merit attending. Our guys are very busy with this hobby as it is and we accept this and therefore focus our efforts on community involvement. I don't want us to appear to be shirking in our commitment to the District, though fewer than **half of Pioneer's eligible choruses compete, but a lot of our isolation is really geographical** in nature. We're a long way from anywhere so our priority is to make sure we are doing what we can to promote the hobby we love on the local level.

Q: How is your name pronounced?

A: SHAM-mee. Soft "a" sound. Same as the thing you might wipe down your car with. Rhymes with Tammy.

Q: Do you still do any brewing?

A: No, I'm happily retired. Thirty years was enough - however, one could say it kept me hopping! (Sorry... :- ) )

### Expansion of the Barberpole Cat program



After 27 years, maybe you're ready for a few more Polecats?

Inaugurated in 1971, the Barberpole Cat program is an enduring testament to Barber-shoppers' desire to strike up a song with friends they've known less than sixty seconds. Our worldwide shared repertoire of twelve songs was voted on by Society members in 1987, and most diehards have learned and sung them all. But, truth be known, there's a stealthy, second set of Polecats, isn't there? The next dozen or so songs that most of us sort of know, and fall back on when we've sung "My Wild Irish Rose" one time too many at afterglow. These too are mostly easy, mostly familiar, commonly Boston Common -- we treat them interchangeably. Last week's invitation to vote for favorite songs for an expanded Barberpole Cat collection has drawn more than 1,200 responses already. No surprise: we sing these songs more than any others, and universal appeal and singability are core to sharing music with new friends.

And the Nominees are...

Railroad  
Bright Was the Night  
From the First Hello  
Hello Mary Lou  
Sitting on Top of the World  
Little Pal  
Lida Rose  
Java Jive

**I Don't Know Why**  
Coney Island  
Dear Hearts/Gentle People  
Paper Moon  
**Ain't Misbehavin'**  
Darkness on the Delta  
Brand New Day  
Over the Rainbow

Mam'selle  
Hello My Baby  
**Drivin' Me Crazy**  
Caroline  
**After You've Gone**  
Chordbuster March  
Kentucky Babe

## History

### Barbershop on 78s

"One effect of the popularity that the new commercial radio had in 1920 was to knock the bottom out of phonograph-record sales. The flat 78 rpm records had been around since the turn of the century, but record companies saw them as playthings for well-to-do families of the time; they featured a lot of light opera, pieces by Sousa's Band, vocal solos by Caruso, and barbershop harmonies by the Peerless Quartet. Now, suddenly, people found they could hear music free on the radio; why buy records for seventy-five cents apiece?

(From *American Roots Music* by **Robert Santelli**.)

## Media

### Gold Medal Moments

Toby Shaver is the creator of [www.GoldMedalMoments.com](http://www.GoldMedalMoments.com).

Toby has been doing a phenomenal job bringing the inner life of barbershop to the internet with his Gold Medal Moments podcast. Champs, heroes, coaches, and superfans alike share the stories of barbershop's cherished memories and aspirations. Click through to hear a favorite, and consider dropping a nickel in the pot, Joe, to support the show.



Toby Shaver

#020 – [Tim Waurick](#)

#019 – [Matt Gifford](#) of MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS

#018 – [Vegas Recap](#) w/Matt Gorman and Patrick McAlexander

# 017 - [Tom Shillue](#) (of Jimmy Fallon's Ragtime Gals)

#016 - [KJ McAleesejergins](#)

#015 - [Sean Devine](#)

#014 - [Todd Wilson](#)

#013 - [Doug Harrington](#)

#012 - [Clay Hine](#)

#011 - [Justin Miller](#)

#010 - [Mike Slamka](#)

[#009 - "Vegas Preview" w/ Patrick McAlexander](#)

[#008 - Brian Philbin](#)

[#007 - Cindy Hansen Ellis](#)

[#006 - Dave Calland](#)

[#005 - Joe Cerutti](#)

[#004 - Kenny Ray Hatton](#)

[#003 - Bill Biffle](#)

[#002 - Kipp Buckner](#)

[#001 - John Newell](#)

## Barberscore.com

A new app was developed by **David Binetti** and **Alexander Boltenko** to follow the Las Vegas Convention <http://barberscore.com>. Alexander Boltenko writes, "I helped with the content and some features. It is kind of iJunkieBook as it contains contact data about all contestants, including their websites, Twitter, and Facebook accounts, results of the five past conventions, links to the main Convention site, and Harmonet reporter. You can interact with the contestants and follow the results as they will be added when published. Make use of it at next year's conventions! Other features:

- Optimized for mobile-device viewing.
- Can take notes on each performer and save online.
- Updates stage times for your local time zone.
- Search engine to find exactly what you want immediately."

## BHS on FaceBook

Copy and paste: <https://www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety>

Or go directly to: <http://tinyurl.com/kyhmk9g>

## LiveWire online

Bookmark this link: [bit.ly/livewirearchive](http://bit.ly/livewirearchive)

## Barbershophq blog

Some stories are too cool to ignore, but too niche to make it to the magazine. The solution: the [barbershophq](#) blog.

A companion to the magazine, the web site, and our social media channels, the blog is a collection of interesting bits that we encounter every day. Sometimes the news is big; sometimes it's just a grinner or groaner; sometimes it's thought-provoking, like **Liz Garnett's** sociological study of tag singing as male dominance display.

Highly tweetable, highly sharable, and highly irregular in posting frequency, it's worth a look, or add its RSS feed to your web site.

## Barbershop on SoundCloud

Crossroads has put out its third CD, called *The Simple Life*, and you can hear large snippets of each song at: <https://soundcloud.com/tags/crossroadsquartet>

You can sample some of the best other quartets at:

<https://soundcloud.com/bgbari/simple-life-demo/recommended> including

- ◆ Lemon Squeezy
- ◆ Ringmasters
- ◆ Pentatonix
- ◆ Straight No Chaser
- ◆ Round Midnight

(SoundCloud is free to use and upload material. Share this with your friends!)

## Probe Top Ten

PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) has begun to publish a Top Ten list of “Stories from Throughout the Society.” Check out the current list at:

<http://probeweb.org/TopTen/>

## Sunday Nights with Vinny

Sunday Nights with Vinny is back with 7 p.m. Sunday shows at

[www.live365.com/stations/mcrrmidnightcafe](http://www.live365.com/stations/mcrrmidnightcafe)

Vinny Haynes [buhudabear@yahoo.com](mailto:buhudabear@yahoo.com)

BIG APPLE Chorus

VOICES OF GOTHAM

Co-owner: Midnight Cafe Radio

## Music Man as Rap

Here are **Hugh Jackman**, **LL Cool J**, and **T.I Rap** at the 68th Tony Awards doing the *Music Man* as a rap song. (From the BHS site.) <http://youtu.be/sG5yJXOyKlc>  
(Warning: You probably won't like it.)

## Guest Editorial: [Chord-worship, Embellishments and Testosterone](#)

(Reprinted from [BarbershopHQ blog](#))

The [British Association of Barbershop Singers](#) (BABS) held its annual convention/contest on May 25, 2014. It stimulated an article by [British Barbershopper Liz Garnett](#) on the social dimension of barbershop singing as expressed musically.

There has been some interesting research over the years about barbershop and constructions of masculinity, in particular, homosociality (a term used in sociology, which describes a same-sex relationship which is not romantic or sexual in nature).



This is possibly why you can get a room full of barbershop judges watching a video of the **GAS HOUSE GANG'S** 'Bright Was the Night', and the men are raving about what an amazing experience it is, musically and emotionally, while the women are saying, 'Yes but it's just chord-worship, isn't it? It's all about them; they're not really interested in the woman they're ostensibly singing about, are they?'. And both, in their way, are right. It is an amazing performance, but it is more about lock and ring as symbol and enactment of the bond between singers than about the content of the lyrics. This may also, now that I think about it, be the reason behind the sentiment I quoted in my [barbershop book](#) of a male informant who said, 'I'm sure women's barbershop is just as much fun to sing, but I don't think it's as fun to listen to'. He's not getting his vicarious hit of male bonding from a female quartet, he's only getting a musical performance.

Having said that, I noticed an interesting variant on this pattern during the quartet contests at the [BABS Convention](#) a few weeks ago: hyper-embellishment as male-dominance display. Contests are by their nature competitive environments, so it should not be surprising to see competitive forms of behaviour from the participants. But it was interesting to observe the interaction between arrangement choices and on-stage personas. The kind of complexifying stuff that contemporary barbershop gets packed full of in the name of being 'progressive' or 'edgy' were precisely the musical features that were used for strutting and preening and hey-look-at-me-ing.

This was the case in both rhythmic numbers and in ballads, though the types of embellishments involved were different in the different musical contexts. The up-tunes were full of push-beats and triplets and other such devices that make you realise that the terms 'cool' and 'hot' when used as metaphors to describe music are both code for 'phallic'. The ballads were full of extended swipes and harmonic substitutions, which are more about showing off how clever you are (and also, potentially, how emotionally deep and complex).

You will notice from the tone in which I am writing this that, like many a heterosexual female, I can quite enjoy a good male-dominance display when it's done with pizzazz and musicianship, but am inclined to take it a bit less seriously than the protagonists do. I am still rather more interested in the music, but so long as I get that, will take a bit of masculine strutting in good part.

Which brings me onto a related point about which I have both musical opinions and musicological observations: quite a few of these quartets were far more interested in these surface embellishments than they were in the underlying musical structures they were intended to embellish.

At a musical level, my feeling was that hearing embellishment overwhelm structure like this gave the impression of a quartet that was all mouth and no trousers. Push-beats without a reliable metrical framework comes over as a showy, blingy kind of display that lacks the wherewithal to sustain it. Harmonic diversions lose their effect without a strong sense of the primary trajectory they divert from. Music without

backbone lacks integrity, and leaves the flashy stuff sounding a bit hollow and pretentious instead of impressive.

The conclusion to draw from this is: it's all well and dandy - and indeed entertaining - to compete through the flaunting of bright musical plumage, but to succeed\* you need to man up and learn to count.

\* And, yes, I am available for coaching to help with this.

## Transitions

### Bruce Allard



Bruce Allard, 74, of Petoskey, died May 30, 2014. He worked as a claims representative for Aetna and Travelers Insurance for 34 years. Bruce was an avid hiker and had hiked all 46 high peaks of the Adirondack Mtns of New York State. Once he moved to Northern Michigan, he became a member of the Harbor Springs Chapter of North Country Trail Association.

Bruce loved singing. He competed in many BHS chorus and quartet competitions, at the district and international level, over a span of 40 years. He was a member of the Harmonie Meisters of Gaylord, MountainTown Singers of Mount Pleasant, was a past member of Racing City Chorus of Saratoga Springs and the Upstate Harmonizers of Utica, NY, and sang with the Northern Michigan Chorale in Petoskey.

### Don Bazely



"With sadness, I must inform that Donald Bazely, Pioneer District Hall of Famer, BHS member since 1957, and my predecessor as the director of the Northland Chorus in Sault Ste Marie, ON, passed away this morning in the town of Ilderton ON. Don and his wife Mary moved there several years ago to be closer to their twelve children and many grandchildren, many of whom live in Southern Ontario. Don's love of all things **barbershop was surpassed only by his love of family.**" **Don was 84.**

Condolences may be forwarded to Mary at their home: 23 Woodlily Lane, Ilderton, ON, NOM 2A0  
Bob Shami

Fellow Barbershoppers,

This is sad news indeed. Don was a Charter Member of the Board of Directors of the SING CANADA HARMONY SCHOLARSHIP FUND and represented Pioneer District until his move to Ilderton. We join our colleagues in mourning the loss of a wonderful man, a Barbershopper to the core, a riser mate and a leader.

Our hearts go out to Mary and the Bazely family. A memorial tribute donation has been made to Sing Canada Harmony to honour and remember Don Bazely. May God

grant the soul of Don Bazely eternal rest.

J. R. Digger MacDougall

Chair and CEO, Sing Canada Harmony Scholarship Fund

[www.SingCanadaHarmony.ca](http://www.SingCanadaHarmony.ca)

From the article by **Brian Kelly** in the "Sault Star," Sunday, July 13, 2014

**The "velvet" voice of Don Bazely is now silent.**

The long-time Sault Ste. Marie resident died Wednesday in London, Ont. Don entered a nursing home earlier this year as he dealt with Alzheimer's disease. He was 84.

Don joined **NORTHLAND** Barbershop Chorus in 1962 and became the group's music director four years later, a position he held until 1992. Current chorus president Bob Shami sang with Bazely in a quartet, **HARMONY EXCHANGE** later known as **TAKE IV**, from 1995 to 2000.

**"I'm sure he could have been a professional singer in another set of circumstances," said Shami on Sunday. "He was the most remarkable singer I've ever been around."**

It was Bazely who often closed out the group's 133 performances at sporting events, service clubs, retirement and Christmas parties, and Sault Symphony Orchestra's Musicfest. **His bass voice was featured on "September Song," an American pop standard about growing old covered by Bing Crosby, Willie Nelson, and Frank Sinatra.**

**"He always sang that song with such feeling," said Shami. "I'm not sure Don ever really understood how good he was at singing that song. For him, it was a nice song, but for us it was magic watching him sing that." Audiences loved to hear Bazely sing the tune too. Shami recalls a few seconds silence would follow Bazely's performance before applause started. "That song, and his performance of it, always, always got that result from an audience," said Shami.**

Don was born in India in 1929. He studied piano and violin. His family moved to England in 1945. He studied engineering and graduated in 1952. He married his wife two years later and came to Canada.

He was introduced to barbershop singing when he worked at an American air force base in Newfoundland. Don sang barbershop for more than 50 years. He was a past president of Barbershop Harmony Society's Pioneer district and also an inductee of the district's hall of fame.

Don Bazely was music director of **NORTHLAND** Barbershop Chorus for 26 years.

## Robert Lovell



Robert M. "Bud"/ "Bob" Lovell died quietly on June 19, 2014 at the age of 93. Bob was a long-time employee of the Grand Rapids Press prior to his retirement, and had many interests throughout his life. He expressed his love of music by singing for many years in the choir at Second Congregational UCC, as well as in the Great Lakes Chorus and barbershop quartets. He owned and restored Model As, and was a long-time member of the Grand A's.

## Lew Mahacek



Lew Mahacek died Sunday, May 18.

Lew joined the Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus in early 2003. But he brought a long musical history with him. His dad, Lou, joined the Grand Rapids chapter of SPEBSQSA in 1943! and was then President of **the chapter and its director from the 60's nearly until his death in 1993** at the age of 87. His quartet was the **FUN ADDICTS**. The Grand Rapids chapter also included the **HARMONY HALLS**, who were International Gold-Medalists in 1944. Lew still had all the playbills from that time.

**Lew's mom founded the Sweet Adeline's chapter in Grand Rapids, and served in offices in that group.**

Lew formed his own band when a sophomore at Grand Rapids Creston High School. Lew played the trombone, and occasionally the string bass. The band grew to 18 pieces, **including Lew's father and continued until Lew left Grand Rapids in the 1970's**. It was called the Lew Allen band, named after Lew and co-founder **David Allen Payne**.

**Lew went on to play trombone in Les Brown's Band of Renown. He went on the road with him, and did the Bob Hope Christmas tour in Korea, in 1956.**

In more recent times, he co-founded a local jazz group.

**In recent years, Lew suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Mike Frye** brought him to chorus rehearsals as long as he could.

## George Tomlin



George "Tom" Tomlin died in Sumner in Gratiot County, near Alma, on June 9 at the age of 68. He had been a member of the Gratiot County **MIDSTATESMEN**.

Farming was a true passion for Tom, and he lived on the family farm in Sumner. He also opened the Scripture Palace in Alma in 1991 and was active in the Church of the Nazarene.



## Pioneer District

### The Voice

The Youth Chorus has been rehearsing extremely hard and looks forward to performing for the Pioneer District at the Fall Convention. We are locked in for the Youth Chorus Festival in New Orleans, but we are still in need of funding. If there is anyone who would like to support the youth chorus in going to New Orleans and representing the Pioneer District please send your donation. [See brochure at the end of this issue.]

### QCA Golf Outing

The Quartet Champions Association of the Pioneer District will be holding their first ever golf outing on 8/16/14 at the beautiful and challenging The Medalist golf course near Marshall/Battle Creek, MI. If you've never played the course here is a link to their website: <http://www.themedalist.com/>

### Troubadour Business

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

### Upcoming Events/Calendar

- Aug 16, Top Gun Chorus Coaching
- Aug 16, 7:00 pm Top Gun Show, Calvary Baptist Church, Canton, MI.
- Aug 22—23, **68th Annual Bush League Quartet Contest and Gaylord Chapter "Show of Champions."**
- Aug 25, 41st Baker Family Corn Roast, 2765 Bauer Rd, Jenison 49428.  
A Stag event with pick-up quartet show and all quartets are welcome.  
\$10 per man includes food / fun / and raffle tickets.
- Sept 21, **3:00 pm Lansing's Grand Ledge Opera House Performance**
- Oct 4, Rochester 39th Annual Show, "SHOW BIZ!"
- Oct 17—19, Fall District Convention in Muskegon Holiday Inn, host: Muskegon/Holland
- Oct 25, 2:00 pm Sun Parlour Annual Show, Heritage Reliance Church, Windsor
- Nov 1, **7:00 pm Pontiac/Waterford Chapter Show, "Broadway"**
- Nov 7, Canada Night, D.O.C, Stitt Post #232 of American Legion in Dearborn Heights

### 2015

- Jan 6—11, Midwinter Convention, New Orleans



Jan 11—18, Harmony at Sea. Midwinter 2015 Cruise  
 Feb 21, 2 & 7:30 pm, D.O.C. 76th Annual Show  
 Apr 24—26, Spring Convention in Battle Creek McCamly Plaza. Host: Battle Creek  
 May 29—31, Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos  
 Jun 12, Send-Off Show, Windsor  
 Jun 28 - July 5, BHS International Convention Pittsburgh  
 Oct 16—18, Fall Convention in Kalamazoo Radisson; Host: Hillsdale



## 2016

Apr 22—24, Spring District Convention Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza, host: open  
 Oct 14—16, Fall District Convention in Kalamazoo; host: open

## Promotional Flyers

**THE VOICE**

**Pioneer District Youth Festival Chorus**

A young men's chorus representing the Pioneer District at the  
 BHS Midwinter Convention's Youth Festival on  
 January 9, 2015 in New Orleans, La.

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**Be a Chorus Sponsor for \$300!**

(Sponsorship provides travel expenses for one singer)

SUGGESTED DONATIONS	
1500.00	Sponsors five singers
1200.00	" four singers
1000.00	" three singers and one month's rehearsal rent
900.00	" three singers
875.00	Provides (35) performance shirts
720.00	Six month's rehearsal rent
600.00	Sponsors two singers
500.00	" one singer + (15) meals
400.00	" one singer + (7) meals
100.00	Provides (4) performance shirts
50.00	" (2) performance shirts
25.00	" (1) performance shirt

All donations can be made by check. Address: **Roger McCaskey**  
 Payable to: **TCC/VOICES\*** **8220 Bird Lake Rd. S.**  
**\*Town & Country Chorus** **Osseo, MI 49266-9788**  
**Account Managers**

You may indicate the gift you wish to provide. (Optional)

Questions? Contact: Craig Pollard – Leadfour1@yahoo.com  
 Or: Vicki Gibson – vickisong@comcast.net



*Harmony at Sea* 

## MIDWINTER 2015 BARBERSHOP CRUISE

Be part of a barbershop musical cruise event...  
 that will travel to Belize, Honduras & Cozumel, JANUARY 11-18, 2015, departing  
 from New Orleans, *right after Mid-Winter Conventions*, on Carnival Dream

**(INSIDE CABINS FROM \$579- BALCONY CABINS FROM \$849)**

**Special Guests:**

- MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS- Silver Medalist Quartet Finalist 2013
- TIM WAURICK from Vocal Spectrum and Tim TRACKS
- RAY DANLEY, Director, from the award winning DUKES OF HARMONY & GENTLEMEN OF HARMONY
- MATT TIPTON, Director of the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY
- GENTLEMEN OF HARMONY from Simcoe, Ontario Canada
- GUARDIANS OF HARMONY from Rochester, Michigan

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT: ED BAX [ebax@Hotmail.com](mailto:ebax@Hotmail.com)**



## Great Lakes Harmony Brigade




- Making new singing friends
- Chorus concert events

May 29-31, 2015, Okemos, MI