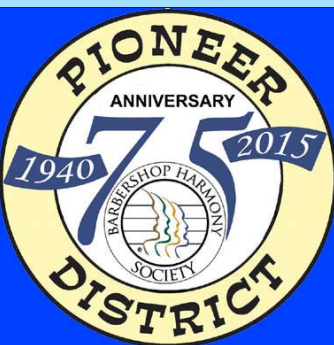




Notes from Pittsburgh



What a great week! The main focus of the week was a great series of contests with amazing performances from choruses and quartets. Pioneer did very well, starting with our Collegiate Quartet Contest reps, **FRONTIER**, whose score went up since the Pre-lims in the spring. Great job!

The **GREAT LAKES CHORUS** from Grand Rapids started the chorus competition, and their performance was spot on. This is probably one of the best Chorus outings that Pioneer has had for some time. Way to go, guys!

I should also mention that a Windsor member, **Jim Roy**, was also in the chorus competition, singing with **THX**. *(Editor's Note)* **Ben Krotje**, **GREAT LAKES CHORUS** member, also sang with the **MUSIC CITY CHORUS**. Congratulations Ben on the 5th place bronze.

But of course I was there for other things, such as an all-day meeting with the District Presidents' Council.

Some of the highlights from that meeting:

Society Leadership Plan: More online content to be made available. This would help create more consistency across the District Boards. There are also leadership classes offered at HU at Belmont.

I was part of a Breakout Session for Harmony Marketplace. They touted the new website, and announced some new things of interest to our members. For example, learning tracks for individuals are now available at iTunes. You know by now that the Polecat II Book has been released (1000 sold first day; sold out by end of week in Pittsburgh). New releases include the Stephen Foster Songbook, and the revamping (meaning re-done in Finale format) of Polecat I, Yuletide Favorites, Singing Valentines, and others.

Membership is now called Outreach, and it means more than just recruitment. It really applies to anything outside our chapters, whether we sing in a retirement home, or provide entertainment at a company picnic. This also ties in with the "We Sing, We Serve" concept introduced last year.

Wouldn't it be great if, in your community, there was an event, say a toy drive, or a riverbed clean-up, whatever, and the local chapter contacted the fund-raising group and offered to help and/or provide entertainment? Awesome!

Harmony University is much more than a week at Belmont. More online content, both interactive and non-interactive, will be introduced. Even in Pittsburgh, around 100 classes were offered.

Continued on Page 5



TROUBADOUR

Official publication of the Pioneer District, Barbershop Harmony Society

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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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Continued from Cover

There was more talk about the Seniors' Chorus competition. There is some support, but not by all districts. If it's a go, it will be at Mid-Winter 2017.

There are a lot of great things planned for our Fall Convention in Kalamazoo. I'll spill at least one little bean: one of our judges is a gold-medal bass from New Zealand. Cool, huh?

Pioneer District Officers' Corner

Financial Development

by Doug Weaver

See the report on Harmony Foundation International (HFI) under Harmony University on [page 37](#).

77th Annual International Barbershop Convention, Pittsburgh

by John Cowlshaw

Our new Gold medalists are:

- INSTANT CLASSIC – Quartet (CAR) 92.7%
- WESTMINSTER CHORUS – (FWD) 97.5%
- TROCADERO – Collegiate Quartet (SNOBS) 82.8%

The convention was splendid. Pittsburgh is an exciting town. Nearly 6000 people attended the convention.

Our new quartet champion is INSTANT CLASSIC. In somewhat of an upset they beat out FOREFRONT, LEMON SQUEEZY, and MAIN STREET, none of whom would have been a surprising winner. In fact, the top five finishers this year ALL scored higher than the Gold-medalists of the last two years – MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS, and MASTERPIECE. That's how good a competition this was! The Indiana-based quartet includes **Theo Hicks**, the **Kitzmiller** brothers **Kohl** and **Kyle**, and **David Zimmerman**.

Pioneer rep MAJESTYX sang a 76.0 for 48th place out of 53 in the open contest, just behind REDZONE, the guys with the flashy red shoes at our District Convention.

In the Collegiate contest, FRONTIER, captured 9th place out of 24, with their score of 77.2.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS opened up the day-long chorus contest Saturday morning with their very entertaining package, their two songs like book ends – departing to, and returning from, war. With 50 men on stage, they scored 77.6 and came in 26th of

28.

But the winners were the young men from WESTMINSTER CHORUS (most under the age of 30). They beat out AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY (153 men on stage), and a new dandy – CENTRAL STANDARD chorus, just 45 men from Kansas City MO, followed by the ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS.

From the standpoint of my quartet LIMITED EDITION, who arrived at midday Thursday, that afternoon was a good time to visit an open chorus rehearsal. We chose the ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS under the direction of **Joe Cerutti** (and **Cindy Hansen** was there to add her choreographic wisdom). For an hour they practiced one short section of their second song, “Me Ol’ Bamboo,” over and over. The unquestioned striving for every possible ounce of improvement was obvious.

Thursday evening, the AIC show was wonderful, with its easy-going collection of Gold-medalists.

Friday was the chorus contest all day. And attendees avoided a few showers, as we moved from hotel to hotel and to the performance venue at Consol Energy Center.

Saturday was an opportunity to partake of a rich assortment of classes from Harmony University. Several of us went to:

- Repurposing the Warmup, with **Robert Mance** (CENTRAL STANDARD Chorus director)
- Our Barbershop Roots, with **David Wright**
- Teach the Song’s Emotions, with **Stephen Rafe**
- Training the Brain for Harmony, with **Jeff Taylor**

And then the grand finale, Saturday night. Omigoodness, when FOREFRONT was announced as silver medalist, the crowd broke into astonished cheering as they realized INSTANT CLASSIC was going to be crowned Gold.



LIMITED EDITION’S selfie as crowd cheers INSTANT CLASSIC.

There are lots of good BHS on-line videos that will give one a sense of the excitement and wonderful singing available at an international convention. <http://tinyurl.com/qhdqa32>

John Cowlshaw’s other personal photos are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/qcwn28q>

Saturday Night Quartet Finals RECAP:

Published at: <http://tinyurl.com/qd2zej5>

(The Mixed Quartet - three girls and a boy – singing at 0:12 with SATURDAY EVENING POST - are quadruplets from Milwaukee.)

From the Barbershop Harmony Society

In a thrilling victory, dark horse INSTANT CLASSIC jumped from eighth place in 2014 to the gold medals in the international quartet contest. It was the largest leap since 1998, when Revival moved up from tenth to first. The quartet faced stiff competition from returning veterans; quartets finishing second through fourth all had achieved medals previously.

The Kitzmiller brothers anchor the bottom half of the new quartet champs: Kyle sings bass and Kohl baritone, with Theo Hicks on lead and David Zimmerman up top.

Was anybody expecting Instant Classic to win? Well, here is what **Ron Brooks** wrote in Saturday morning's *Daily Convention Bulletin*:

"Just like the Chorus contest, the Quartet Finals are going to be wild! At this point I would say it's anyone's contest to win. The Swedish quartet, LEMON SQUEEZY offers a tight, modern jazzy style compared to the old fashioned Barbershop style of MAIN STREET that includes straw hats and spats (and comedy) with audience participation. A MIGHTY WIND offered up some new comedy material with some of the best singing they've ever done. So watch out. Dark horse, second place quartet from last year, FOREFRONT seems to get better and more comfortable on stage and wants the Gold. Not to be outdone the mix of a gold medalist—and a beast of a bass in **Michael Skutt!**—makes THROWBACK a threat. **The highlight for me in the semis was an incredible set by INSTANT CLASSIC who just may surprise everyone.** So who's going to be the new champs? You'll just have to show up on Saturday night to see."

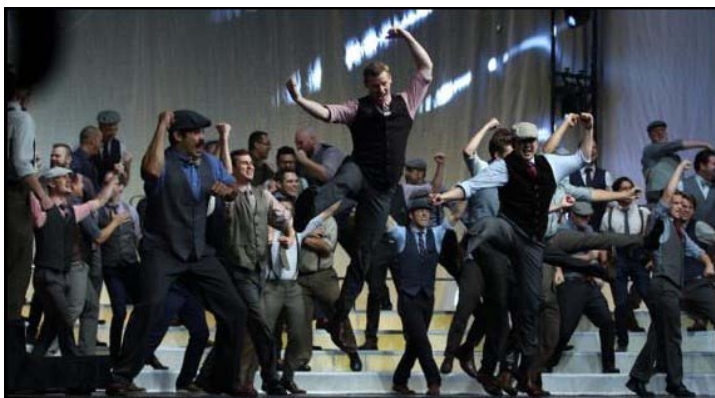


INSTANT CLASSIC. Listen to them sing "Love Me or Leave Me" at: <http://tinyurl.com/oncbxm5>

Westminster seizes day, wins gold!

History repeated itself as the WESTMINSTER CHORUS topped the AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY to capture the gold medals in the Barbershop Harmony Society's annual chorus competition.

Singing "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes" from Disney's *Cinderella* and "Seize The Day" from *Newsies*, the 74-man chorus emerged at the top of 28 choruses from around the world to win its third gold medal. The last time Westminster faced the Ambassadors in 2007, the contest ended in a tie, which they won on a tie-breaker. This time, Westminster earned a 97.5% score, compared with 95.6% for the Ambassadors -- itself a score that would have won in many other contests.



WESTMINSTER singing "Sieze the Day."
<http://tinyurl.com/pdqby8d>

Lest anyone wonder if barbershop has become a global phenomenon, consider this: four of the top five quartets hailed from outside the United States. Leading the pack was Sweden's TROCADE-RO, who posted A-level scores in the college contest, and later in the week, earned a 17th-place finish in the open contest.

TROCADE-RO continues a tradition of Swedish domination in the college contest, as the fourth Swedish quartet to capture the crown in the past eight years.

The Collegiate Quartet contest Tuesday evening was held in Heinz Hall, the only contest not at the Consol Center.

Fantasy Quartet

A new event was a quartet composed of barbershoppers voted on for each voice part (the barbershoppers' version of baseball's All Star game). Saturday Night they performed the **Stephen Foster** (a Pittsburgh native) classic "Jennie with the Light Brown Hair." But not before the guys had a little fun. <http://tinyurl.com/oucqpzq>

- TENOR: Tim Waurick, VOCAL SPECTRUM
- LEAD: Mike Slamka, POWER PLAY/CROSSROADS
- BARITONE: Tony DeRosa, KEEPSAKE/PLATINUM/MAXQ
- BASS: Jim Henry, GAS HOUSE GANG/CROSSROADS

Barbershop Hall of Fame

This year's entry was THE DEALER'S CHOICE. Their introduction at the convention plus past and present singing is shown at: <https://youtu.be/aNmtGSwpaAQ>

New to the medalist ranks were Kansas City's CENTRAL STANDARD in third, and Nashville's MUSIC CITY Chorus in fifth, with perennial powerhouse ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS in fourth.

Trocadero wins collegiate championship



TROCADE-RO after winning the collegiate crown.



THE DEALER'S CHOICE: 1973 International Champions.

Harmony Foundation: Barbershop changing lives at Democracy Prep Middle School

This video was shown at the convention, wonderfully watchable as **Douglas Carnes** introduces barbershop into a Harlem middle school. The resulting quartet appeared on the stage Saturday night.

"Take a look inside one of Harlem's inner city schools that is setting a new standard in how much we expect from our children, and how we challenge them to "Dream Big." See how lives are being changed, futures are being forged, and how

with the help of the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation, singing, music, and arts are being used to reach into the hearts of a whole new generation, while preparing each student for college and life beyond the classroom".

Watch this 9 minute video, then send it to all your school music teachers!

<http://tinyurl.com/nokk8bn>

Great Lakes Chorus in Pittsburgh

by Tom Ennis



The GREAT LAKES CHORUS celebrating the end of the war in their set in Pittsburgh.

GLC qualified for Pittsburg at the fall district contest with a score of 74.1. Our goal in Pittsburgh was, to quote Jamie Carey, "I'd be very happy with a 78." Those of us who have been around barbershop for awhile know how hard it is to increase your average by several percentage points. In this case, nearly four. It's like leaping tall buildings in a single bound.

During our rehearsals on Thursday night and Friday, we tried to keep things loose but still maintain our focus on

what we were there to do. Friday was the first time we had every member on the risers. For all sorts of reasons, family issues, previously planned travel, you name it, we were never all there at the same time. Now we were and we wanted to make the best of it.

Saturday morning rolled around and we were all up early to start our individual warmups. I don't know about you but singing before noon is no fun for me. I was

humming through my morning cup of coffee and singing in the shower. I knew when I walked out on that stage that I would be wishing I could warm up a little longer but, whatever I could do was all that could be done. This was it.

Back stage, the chorus was excited. It was hard to maintain focus. Over a third of the chorus had never sung on the international stage before and they wanted to drink it all in. This writer has been fortunate to have sung at every international since moving to Michigan in 2008. I could relax a little more knowing what to expect. I also knew that the time on stage for these first timers was going to flash before their eyes in a heart beat. We jokingly knew we were going to walk off that stage in first place and hoped to remain there through at least the second chorus (and we did).

Did we achieve our goal? Well, almost. We missed that 78 score by four tenths of a point. Just clipped the flagpole on the way over the building.

Many of the guys took in as much of the contest as possible. The level of singing and showmanship was outstanding. Pretty much everything has been said about the collegiate contest, quartet finals, and the chorus contest.

This writer (and wife) wandered to the downtown market where it was said one could find some of the best local food. The BHS really made their presence known during this convention. While sitting and eating, we were entertained by Saturday Evening Post, 'Shoptimus Prime (collegiate silver medalist quartet), and Vintage Mix, a quartet of 14 year olds from Wisconsin who also happen to be quadruplets. The society pulled out all the stops and made this a convention to remember.



SATURDAY EVENING POST at downtown market in Pittsburgh.

Upcoming Conventions

INTERNATIONAL – NASHVILLE, TN, July 3 – 10, 2016. Early-bird pricing is still available for a limited time. (It's a nine-hour road trip from Waterford.)

MIDWINTER – RENO, NV. January 26 – 31, 2016 (4-star/diamond resort, all events under one roof, inexpensive hotel rooms, 18 nearby ski resorts)(It's a three day, two night trip from Waterford) <http://barbershop.tix.com> for either/both.

Barberscore

You can see all the results, including individual scores, song titles, arrangers, and breakdown ... at <http://barberscore.com> , thanks to **Alexander Boltenko** and **David Binetti**.

“Barberscore.com has been recently revamped and is continuously upgraded and expanded for 2015 International. We (and yours truly) provide here many useful information about the conventions and contestants, like names, photos, locations, directors (for choruses), all available social media data (websites, Facebook pages, Twitter accounts), email, phone number, district or affiliate, chapter (for choruses), description, and all available contest data to 1994. We give all stage times in order of appearance for collegiate, all quartet and choruses.”

“The database will display nicely on both desktop and mobile devices screens. We plan to add new data while the contests are in progress and will add the scores immediately after they are available.”

Meet Instant Classic



INSTANT CLASSIC is the Barbershop Harmony Society’s 2015 International Quartet Champions, and they have strong links to the Pioneer District. The quartet is comprised of **David Zimmerman** (tenor), **Theo Hicks** (lead), **Kohl Kitzmiller** (baritone), and **Kyle Kitzmiller** (bass). They are four good friends with a passion for barbershop harmony, a cappella music, and youth outreach. They perform a variety of music from several decades and styles, including vocal jazz, musical theater, pop, and even R&B!

INSTANT CLASSIC formed in 2009. By 2011 they were the Cardinal District Champion, and in 2012, the International Collegiate Silver Medalists. The quartet made the quartet semifinals in 2013, and placed eighth in 2014.

They perform at venues all over the country and have been the guest teaching quartet for eleven Youth in Harmony Camps since their formation.

Kyle and Kohl Kitzmiller graduated from Ball State University with Music Technology Degrees. Kohl jokes he minored in World of Warcraft.

Theo Hicks grew up in Farmington Hills, MI, and later attended Anderson University and graduated with Music Honors with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education in 2010. He is the Musical Director of the Greater Indianapolis chapter.

David Zimmerman grew up in Richmond, IN and began singing barbershop as a freshman in high school. He later met Kyle Kitzmiller during his sophomore year of college and began singing in a quartet with him. He graduated from Ball State University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education.

Not only are these guys great singers and civic-minded barbershoppers, but they also have forty-four of their own arrangements on their web site.

Kohl and Kyle are the sons of **Scott Kitzmiller**, with whom they made up three-

Fourths of the quartet HEATWAVE which began when the boys were 23 and 17, and which went on to compete at International. Father Scott appeared on the International stage eight times. He is a Music Judge, arranger, and saxophonist in the Society's Dixieland Jazz band.

Kyle and Kohl were also part of the November 2011 issue of the Society's historical magazine, *Preservation*, on brothers in barbershop quartets.

Their first CD is simply *Instant Classic*, (2014). It is now available as a digital download.

Two other highlights this year:

- Their single "I Won't Send Roses" was a runner up for Best Barbershop Song in the 2015 CARA awards (Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award)
- During the recent Sing-Off Tour INSTANT CLASSIC was chosen as the opening act for the March 26 show in Indianapolis. <http://www.singofftour.com/>

Two weeks post-convention, your editor, John Cowlshaw, reached out to INSTANT CLASSIC with some questions, and Theo Hicks responded at length.

Hi John!

Thanks so much for your message, and we would be honored to be mentioned in the *Troubadour*.

1. I suppose the big one that everyone wants to hear you talk about is: how did you go from 86.2% to 92.7% in one year?!?!?

Great question! Well, for one thing, we are not the kind of quartet to simply "take it easy" and then ramp up for contest starting in January and February. Since we started competing, we always began working in July. We worked very hard to try and have a balanced rehearsal, but July through December allowed us time to really focus on technique and sound work, and from January to March/June, we were able to focus on shaping the musical plan and dramatic plan for each song. We were also fairly aggressive when it came to learning new material, and we would try to have most of our contest repertoire *long* before prelims even came around.

As much as I would like to simply tell you there was a "silver bullet", it really boils down to hard work and working smart. We were committed to improvement, we set out to create the best artistic product possible, and we focused on the concepts that would yield the most efficient and consistent results. We never aimed for a number - we wanted to become great musicians.

To be completely honest, we didn't coach with very many people. We have worked with various people over the years, but our only consistent coaches were Scott Kitzmiller and **Drew Wheaton**. We found it important to work with people we trusted 100%, and people who knew how to "speak our language." For those who don't know,

all four of us were music majors in college, Kyle is a certified Music Judge, David and I (Theo) are Music Judge candidates, and Kohl is applying for Music Candidacy in the next judging rotation. We are all complete music nerds and theory geeks, so having coaches who can speak to us in our "theory-geek" kind of way is a huge plus for effectively coaching us.

2. You have a close association with Pioneer. I know you were on Rochester's show last year and on our Pontiac show two years ago and again this year. Have you sung in other Pioneer shows?

Yes! In 2012, we performed on the Kalamazoo Show, in 2013 we performed on the Pontiac-Waterford Show, in 2014 we performed on the Rochester Chapter Show, as well as the Spirit of Detroit (SAI) show, and in May of this year we performed on the Hillsdale Chapter Show and will perform once again on the Pontiac Waterford Chapter Show. We love performing in Michigan (for one thing, I grew up in the Pioneer District!), and will gladly take any show bids in the future for Michigan... ;) ;) ;)

*3. You will get to sing on the same show with **Aaron Pollard** again, since The Voice has agreed to sing on our (Pontiac-Waterford) show, November 7. Maybe Frontier will too. Our resident triviatician reminds me that Theo and Aaron were in Insignia which sang on our show in 2004. Any special comments from Theo on the two of you rising to such prominence?*

Actually, Aaron and I never sang in a quartet together. I went to school with Aaron's brother, **Wayne Pollard**, and the two of us and Kyle Kitzmiller sang in INSIGNIA together. My younger brother, **Davey Hicks**, sang in a quartet with Aaron and Wayne later called YOUNG GUNS. The only contest where all four of us competed in the same contest was in the International Collegiate Contest in 2010 (Philadelphia). I was competing in INSTANT CLASSIC, and Aaron, Wayne, and Davey competed in YOUNG GUNS (not to be confused with the current YONGE GUNS from Ontario!).

As Kyle mentioned in our acceptance speech, it was the Pollard family that introduced me to barbershop and got me hooked. I can tell you pretty confidently that both Aaron and I have always looked up to one of the greatest leads of the society who also happens to be a Pioneer District guy - **Michael Slamka**. I will also say pretty confidently that Aaron is another Gold Medal Lead singer just waiting to happen. Watch out for that guy!!

4. How many of your six Pittsburgh songs were your own arrangements?

Four of the six songs in Pittsburgh were our arrangements. "I Won't Send Roses," "Til I Hear You Sing," and "How Could I Ever Know" were all mine (Theo), "Spend My Life With You" was Kyle's. Last year, we also sang one of David's entitled "After You, Who?". Kohl arranges as well, but we haven't sung one of his in contest. Guess we never will now!

"This Could Be the Start of Something Big" we still consider "in house," because it was arranged by our very own mentor, Scott Kitzmiller. Lastly, "Love Me or Leave Me" was arranged by a wonderful friend of ours who used to sing in our chorus, **Patrick McAl-**

exander. He is an incredible up-and-coming arranger who you had better watch out for as well!

5. You have performed with GQ. (<http://www.girlsquartet.com/about>) Is there a special relationship there?

We met GQ three years ago at the Greater Cincinnati Harmony Festival. Since then, we've become instant close friends. We flew them out a few months later to record some combined songs on our CD, and since then we've established a partnership where we offer a discounted rate to chapters if they hire both quartets. We have performed on several shows together - in fact, the Hillsdale show we just sang on was one of those performances with GQ. We have a complete show package put together, full of several different combinations and original arrangements. We have become very close friends and are very lucky to know such talented performers and awesome human beings.

(Editor's note: The octet sings Theo's arrangement of "Come What May" at <http://tinyurl.com/qe92uxg>)

6. Any memorable comments from other Gold Medal quartets as they welcomed you into the AIC?

If we told you that, we'd have to kill you. ;) Just kidding!

Honestly, walking into that reception was one of the coolest barbershop moments. Seeing all of our barbershop heroes congratulating us, calling us by name... it was such a humbling experience, and one we will never forget.

I will recall one funny conversation... during the AIC Reception, I got a chance to chat with Michael Slamka. INSIGNIA (the high school quartet) used to go to the Slamka "Harmony Hideaway" every summer. The first summer we went, Michael and I were chatting and he said I was a "Gold Medal Lead waiting to happen". He then predicted that I would win with a quartet in 2014. At the AIC reception, I recalled that conversation to him, and without missing a beat, he said "A year off... what a disappointment!!"

7. I would think that one of the most challenging things for you, upcoming, is to retain your intensity in rehearsal, now that you are at the top of the pyramid. Yes?

Nope! We are ramping up to record our second CD, and we are all committed to giving back as much as we can to our home district, our home chapter Circle City Sound, and now the Society as International Champions. We will try to be the best ambassadors of barbershop we can be by being available, hanging out with people, singing tags late into the night, and serving our wonderful Society by singing on chapter shows, running youth camps, and encouraging singing everywhere we go!

Our goal was never to just "win international." Our goal has always been to make the best music possible and to try and create a genuine connection with our audiences. Becoming the 2015 International Quartet Champions is such a wonderful honor, and we are so excited for the years ahead - but it's just the start of our quartet journey together. We don't have an end-date in sight—we will continue singing together, making

more CDs, singing at conventions and shows, and spreading the love of brotherhood and barbershop harmony as long as we possibly can. For us, barbershop has been and always will be about the people.

We recently had a "recap" session with Scott Kitzmiller, and I remember him distinctly saying "Now the REAL work begins!" We are excited to see what comes next!!

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to us and ask some questions. Please let us know if you need anything else!

-Theo Hicks

Reports—Chapters

Detroit Oakland Chapter

by John Balint

D.O.C. has moved from our long-time haunt at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak to Royal Oak Middle School on Washington St. The move lets us practice in a room designed for choruses. Plus it's air conditioned.

On Monday July 13th D.O.C. hosted its annual picnic at Sylvan Lake Community Center. We had many guests from neighboring chapters. Lots of fun, food, and song. Many thanks to **Pete Peters** for arranging for the facility and **George Bartlett** for managing the shindig. (See full report in District Events)



GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS in front of the Royal Oak Middle School.

On Saturday, June 6, 2015 the Gentlemen Songsters of the Detroit Oakland Chapter took part in the 1st annual Royal Oak Celebration of the Arts. Presented at the Royal Oak Middle School (old Dondero High), all things art from Royal Oak were featured. Painters, potters, photographers, wind ensembles, percussion ensembles, jazz bands, chamber orchestras, woodwind trios, and brass ensembles all gathered to present their accomplishments. And yes, even Barbershop! While chorus members served as volunteers during the celebration, CODA HONOR served up two sets of our favorite kind of music! Next year's Royal Oak Celebration of the Arts promises to offer more talent and more four-part harmony.

GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS of Detroit Oakland Chapter joined forces with the Royal Oak Memorial Society for the first time. May 2nd & 9th, members of D.O.C. and significant others joined with members of the Memorial Society and other volunteers to pre-



D.O.C. May 2nd group who volunteered at Oakview Cemetery.

pare for the upcoming Memorial Day observance in Royal Oak. Hard at work with shovels, rakes, brooms and grass shears, they uncovered and cleared debris from the headstones and monuments of more than 250 US military veterans in the Oakview Cemetery in Royal Oak, Michigan. At completion of the cleanup, US flags were planted aside each grave marker, some 2000 in all.

Roger Boyer,

who was

among many who participated in both days of the project said, "I think this was one of the most gratifying projects we have worked on so far."

D.O.C. Picnic, Monday, July 13

by Zaven Melkonian

The Annual Detroit-Oakland Chapter Picnic was once again held at the Sylvan Lake Community Center on Monday, July 13. A quick, unscientific glance put the crowd at around 60 attendees. The chapters which I noticed being represented were Pontiac-Waterford, Rochester, Livingston, Wayne, and Huron Valley.



D.O.C. May 9th group who volunteered at Oakview Cemetery.



GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS singing at annual D.O.C chapter picnic.

With three grills going cooking up brats, hamburgers, and hot dogs and with all kinds of drinks to wash it all down and with the many side dishes it is needless to say that we all ate very well!!

What's a barbershop function without a lot of singing!! The D.O.C. GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS chorus sang a number of songs, including their well-received crowd pleaser, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" (Wim-O-Weh).

Quartetting was encouraged and most were pickup quartets. Among the registered quartets, D.O.C.'s EVENIN' GENTLEMEN sang very well.

The group also loved the tag time with **William Stutts, Jr.** "Smile, Darn yah, Smile."

If you would like to see more pictures from the picnic, they can all be found at the following link: <http://detroitoakland.org/happenings/2015DOCPicnic/index.html>

Please mark your calendars and show up when next year's date is announced. You'll be glad you did.

Grand Rapids

Great Lakes Invitational (GLI) show

by Don Horton

I joined **James Hall** at the Great Lakes Invitational Show Saturday night: *How The West Was SUNG*. The chapter and quartets did a nice job of planning a well-drafted script and ALL sang very well.

MAJESTYX and BOARDWALK (the headline quartet) did a GREAT JOB of entertaining, as did SHADES OF GREY and OLD RULES. BOARDWALK is a great show quartet who have qualified for Pittsburgh. **Pookie**, former tenor of FRED is now singing bass, **Dave Calland**, former lead of UPTOWN SOUND is singing bari, lead **Mark Schlinkert** is one of the prettiest lead voices you will ever hear (who also whistles one of their entire songs). Tenor, **Brad Hine**, is the Son of former Pioneer District's **Thom Hine** and brother of **Clay Hine**, former bari of FRED and former director of the BIG CHICKEN Chorus from Atlanta GA. Brad plays a variety of banjo and guitar combinations on their songs which adds a nice twist and variety to the show. They like to sing songs from different eras and groups like THE KINGSTON TRIO and **Harry Belafonte** and more. Lansing should give MUCH thought to hiring this quartet for a future Lansing Show.

James and I also attended the Afterglow at Branns Restaurant following the show. There were some nice new variations by all the quartets and a FUN time was had by all.

Grosse Pointe

by Tony Schulte

The chapter picnic was Tuesday, July 28, at Grosse Pointe Pier Park. Brats, hot dogs, beverages, sides, and snacks were offered to members and guests. Choruses and quartets sang.

Huron Valley

by William Stutts Jr., Assistant Director

HVH's presence at the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade 2015

Even with a chorus of around fifteen, Huron Valley had seven members attend the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade 2015 in Okemos, MI on May 29-30. Out of those seven, four were brand-new to the Brigade. The HVH members really enjoyed singing with

guys from all over the U.S. and Canada in an 80-man chorus.

Several Huron Valley members came away with awards at the event. (See full story and photos in the article on GLHB.)

- Huron Valley's own FULL VALUE auditioned and won a spot to perform on the Saturday night show!
- Our Asst. Director, William Stutts Jr., was the baritone of a 3rd place Bronze certificate (in a three-way tie) in MIXED NUTS.
- **Jim Windak** was the bass for the Silver Certificate quartet, THE G STRINGS.
- **Zak Stratton** took the top spot by being the tenor of MAX 4.



Back row (L-R): Jason AuBuchon*, George Jackson Jr.*, Rob Pettigrew*. Front Row (L-R): Zak Stratton*, Jim Windak, Iain Willox, William Stutts Jr. (* denotes first Brigade)

Zak completed the "Grand Slam" of the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade 2015. (See full story in GLHB,below.)

Warm weather and cool harmonies!!!



Huron Valley loves when the weather is not so "wintry" in Michigan and it gives us the opportunity to roam the streets of downtown Ann Arbor and sing for the people eating at restaurant patios. Here is a pic from our June 16th adventure.

Dead Creek Picnic

Huron Valley traveled north to participate in the Dead Creek Picnic in Frankenmuth,

MI on June 23. The Flint chapter hosted an evening of beer, brats, and barbershop!!!



Director Rob Pettigrew, "killing" the room with his "Penguin joke" at Dead Creek Picnic.



George Jackson Jr. (2nd from left) performing as baritone with DETROIT SOUND MACHINE.



Huron Valley quartet and 2007 Pioneer Champs, CHORDIOLOGY get their groove on!



Huron Valley members James O'Dell and William Stutts Jr. make wonderful music with the Pioneer 2nd -place district quartet, NOW PLAYING.

FORE!!!! or four!!!!

A Huron Valley pickup quartet was invited to sing for the Polo Fields Golf Course Ladies Invitational on July 18. We would like to thank Polo Fields Membership VP, **Diana Kuenzli**, for this opportunity.

Cobblestone Farm Market

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS serenaded the crowd at the Cobblestone Farm Market in Ann Arbor on July 21.



Pickup quartet at Ladies Invitational. L to R: Zak Stratton, Jason AuBuchon, Jim Windak, William Stutts Jr.

Kalamazoo

Michael Sobel's story on Kalamazoo's singing to the Talons Out Honor Flight made the May-June Harmonizer, Pg 12.

Lansing

From the Woodshedder Weekly

Thank you to KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR and THE PATCH CHORDS and to everyone who performed with the chorus at the Lake Lansing band shell.

Thank you also for the extra concentration above what was shown on Tuesday night. I received several comments about how great we sounded, and that we didn't try to over-sing, but had a nice full sound.

The Ladies ran a few minutes over their time, and we more than filled our time slot, so everyone got their money's worth from the evening entertainment.

Eaton Rapids Performance

We had a small but appreciative crowd at the Eaton Rapids Concert in the Park performance. It was a hot, sultry night, and there were mosquitoes in abundance, although, most seemed held at bay, courtesy of a recent fogging of the area... Hence our impromptu rewording of one song to "Zap-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, Slap-A-Dee-A."

A BIG "Thank You" needs to go out everyone there, with special thanks to the PATCH CHORDS, who performed two sets of songs, to **Charlie Martin** for transporting the Risers and P.A. System, and to those who helped in setting up and tearing down the stage.

Another special "thank you" goes out to **Rich Harlow** for organizing the script and acting as emcee. I did find the reaction of the crowd to Rich's stories and jokes rather interesting - often a seemingly delayed reaction until they "got it."

To put it in perspective, I have to go back to near ancient history: Some friends and I were in a movie theater in Bangkok, Thailand watching "Funny Girl." The movie was shown with the English sound track, but with Thai and Chinese sub-titles. So when a funny line was delivered in English, we would all laugh, it frequently would several seconds later when it appeared in the sub-titles, at which point the native audience would laugh. It caused a bit of a flash-back for me.

Pontiac-Waterford

BCC Sing-outs

Twenty-one members of the BIG CHIEF CHORUS sang for a hundred residents of Elmhaven Manor and Lockwood of Waterford in two separate sing-outs, Friday, May 8. **John Cowlshaw** introduced the songs, and **Freddie McFadyen** directed them. Four quartets sang: BIDIN' OUR TIME, 2GVN (half of 4GVN), A CAPPELLA FELLAS (Frye, Downey, DeNio, Melkonian), and THE RINGERS (Frye, Greenwood, Northey, and Wallace). There was also a special song to a retiring member of the Lockwood staff.

Maryanne Lambrecht brought thirteen young men from the Milford High School Vocal Programs to the May 19 rehearsal. An octet sang two songs including "Prayer of the Children."* It was a special treat to hear **Zach Dahlman** thank the chapter for its support in sending students to the Harmony Explosion workshops; he emphasized what a positive effect that had had on them.

In 2015, the BIG CHIEF CHORUS and Ms. Lambrecht supported five more students from Milford High School and one from Rochester Adams.

*The composer is **Kurt Bestor**. It was written in 1994, during the tragedies of the Serbian-Bosnian-Croatian war, but has been used in remembrance of other children lost.

The chorus has welcomed returning member **Art Carinci**, and also welcomed new young Tenor, **Zachary Schroeder**, who is also joining THE VOICE.

Art returned just in time to organize the chapter's 2nd golf outing at Tanglewood Golf Course in S. Lyon.

It was a beautiful day for golfing. The temperature was in the mid 70's with a mild wind blowing to keep it pleasant for golfing. We had seven chorus members show up for golfing -- **Mike Frye, Duane Roy, Gene Downie, Greg Moss, Pete Mazzara, Bill Maxfield**, and Art. My brother-in-law, Chris was the eighth golfer. Mike's team did the best with a three-under-par score.

After golfing, **Roger Holm** and **Walt DeNio** joined us for dinner. The food was filling and I hope delicious. (There were no cases of food poisoning reported.) We also did some singing to my sister-in-law, Brenda, who really enjoyed our singing. She revealed to us that her father used to sing barbershop and it brought back some very pleasant memories.

All in all I thought we had a wonderful time playing, eating and singing. Thanks to those who showed up. I was so happy to share such a good time with such good people.

The Chapter and its embedded quartets have performed 70 gigs thru July.

Big Chiefs at Great Lakes Harmony Brigade



Big Chief Brigade attendees included: Chuck Murray, Ray Sturdy, Charlie Perry, Jeff Doig, Ron Arnold, Tom Blackstone, and John Cowlshaw.

Rochester

Rochester Chapter "Pays it forward!"

by Chuck Murray, VP Marketing and PR

A "Harmony Trio" of volunteers from the Rochester Chapter responded to the recent PioNet request of **Bob Price**, a Lead singer and member of the relatively new Marquette Chapter in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Bob Price was seeking a quartet to sing at his upcoming Family Reunion on July 19, at Camp Rotary, on 29 Mile Road, Macomb County. He had no luck booking any quartet to sing at the reunion, which included a 100th Birthday Celebration for his Aunt **Ella DeVore**.

Bob McCaffrey, **Chuck Murray**, and **Frank Brinker**, all members of the Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY, stepped forward to assist! These Guardians suggested that Bob Price sing Lead in a pickup quartet designed to please his Aunt's interest in barbershop singing, while also making his other relatives aware of his new hobby. This quartet got together in the Camp Rotary parking lot, "in the shade of the old apple tree," just moments before singing at the reunion. Yes, that's one reason we have the 24 songs we affectionately call the "Barber-Pole Cats." We all know the songs, and our "instruments" are always with us!

The Hagedorn Family has managed to get their clan together for their family reunion on the third weekend of July for 137 years! **Christopher** and **Carolina Hagedorn** started the tradition back in 1878. They came from Germany, and settled in Roseville, Michigan, where they had a dairy farm at Gratiot and Ten Mile Rd. They had six children and started a "family" which has grown to over 1400 members! **Frederick W. Hagedorn** of Mt. Clemens is presently the Genealogy Recorder for the descendants of **Christopher H. Hagedorn**. hagedorn.reunion@gmail.com

[Return to TOC](#)

Bob Price, and his wife Deanna, live in Ishpeming, MI, and he is new to barbershop singing! His new chorus, the UPPER YOOPER BARBERSHOP CHORUS, meets Thursday evenings in Marquette, Michigan. (Contact Director **Pete Stephens-Brown** at (906) 361-8308) Their first meeting ever, was on Sept. 23, 2014. "Like" them on Facebook.com/upperyoopers, or email to upperyoopers@gmail.com. The Upper Yoopers performed in Marquette's July 4th Parade. Baritone, **Dave Flattley**, a "dual-member" of the new "Upper Yoopers" and the Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS, is a "second generation Yooper, whose father grew up in Munising. Dave sings in Marquette every chance he gets! Pay 'em a visit, and "Pay it Forward!"

Annual Show

The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY are now preparing for their Annual Barbershop Harmony Show at 7 p.m., October 3, 2015, at the Rochester High School, 180 S. Livernois, Rochester Hills, MI 48307.

Past District champions, and 2015 Pioneer District Reps' to International, MAJESTYX will be our guest quartet, and we will also hear RIGHT-ON-Q, former District Champions and a chapter quartet. We will also have AUTUMN, an a cappella group from Rochester College. The Guardians of Harmony Chorus completes the evening with the challenge to "Keep the Whole World Singing!" Contact "Walt" at (248) 853-6622 for ticket information.

SAGINAW BAY

by Ralph Brown

Pittsburgh Ho! I just had to travel to the International Convention this year. It was the closest site to Michigan that is scheduled for the next few years. I have now been to three Internationals since joining the Society. I was in Louisville, Nashville, and now Pittsburgh.

As **Bob Winters** (driver) and I arrived we could see the downtown and wondered how to get there. Remind me never to go to Pittsburgh in the Winter. There are baby hills, mother hills, and BIG daddy hills, not to mention 110 bridges. We really appreciated the magic of GPS.

We settled into the Westin Hotel, got a bite to eat and headed for 'Heinz Hall for the performing Arts', where the International Collegiate Competition was being held. Pioneer District representative, FRONTIER, with **Chris Cordle** (Tenor), **Cody Harrell** (Bass), **Aaron Pollard** (Lead), and **Brandon Smith** (Bari) drew the last position in a field of 24. They placed 9th with a 77.2 percent avg. only 1.8 percentage points out of 4th place.

Wednesday, July 1st, had us at the Consol Center, home of the Pittsburgh Penguins. For elderly folks a start time of 10:00 am for the quartet quarter-finals Session #1 and then the Session #2 which concluded around 9:30 pm made it a long day, but, totally

worth the time.

Again, as with FRONTIER, MAJESTYX, **Pete Westers** (Tenor), **Jamie Carey** (Lead), **James Masalskis** (Bass), and **Steve Wheeler** (Bari) drew last position 53rd out of 53 quartets. We were so proud of our guys and there were a lot of hoots and hollers when they walked out on stage. Bob and I were overwhelmed with the level of performance of all of the quartets. Bob said he had 35 quartets in the top 20. MAJESTYX was 48th out of 53 in the quarter-finals. However, they were only 4 percentage points behind HOT AIR BUFFOONS who placed 22nd. The scoring was unbelievably high. The top four finishers were over 90 with the top score, INSTANT CLASSIC, at 8343 points and 92.7 Avg. *(Editor's Note: INSTANT CLASSIC was second in the quarter-finals with a score of 91.5. FOREFRONT was first with a score of 92.3)*

The Harmony Fellows Breakfast was held on Thursday morning at the CONSOL. This is an activity to recognize those in their 50th year as a barbershopper. I had the distinct honor and privilege of pinning a fifty year pin on Bob Winters.

Sorry if the picture is not the best. From left to right is **Jim Clark**, Regional Director, Harmony Foundation, **Ralph Brown**, Bob Winters, and **Marty Monson**, CEO Barbershop Harmony Society. SATURDAY EVENING POST entertained us with some songs and their usual antics. Another great experience for the week.



Next came the quartet semi-finals. Nothing changed. We were simply wowed again and again and had no idea who was going to win! Following the contest I had a daunting experience with the weather. It had been a little over cast during the day but no real apparent rain threat. As I was leaving the CONSOL it suddenly started to rain and it was a torrent. I didn't have an umbrella or rain gear of any kind. Fortunately, I had picked up a newspaper from the seat on the bus on the way over to the contest and used it as protection. I opened it in the middle and put it over my head like a tent. A lady standing near me had a small umbrella but it was not large enough for two. She said she was sorry that the driver had cut off the passenger line just as I was about to get on board. I told her...are you ready for this? I told her that it was okay because at least I was IN THE NEWS!!! Sorry about that.

Then we had a chance to relax and enjoy the 'AIC Show - Champs Night Out'. It would take another two pages to tell even the high lights so I will save that for another time.

Friday was the Chorus Contest. Unlike our two quartets, the chorus sang...you got it, they were first out of the chute. GREAT LAKES CHORUS placed 26th out of 28 out-scoring Maine and New York. The scoring was unbelievably high. Fifth place down to 23rd place were in the 80 avg. percentile. Westminster won with 2924 points and an avg. of 97.5.

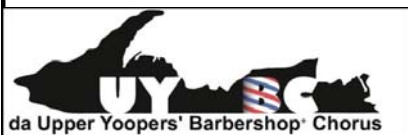
Saturday Bob and I attended a class put on by **George G. Gipp** called, 'The Power Behind The "Pow".' It is briefly about who you are or how you are perceived by your public.

Another awesome happening was the MEGA sing on the Clemente Bridge. Over 2000 of us sang Barber Polecat songs, the National Anthem, and "Keep The Whole World Singing." The Pirates had a game that afternoon and I couldn't help but wonder what went through the fans' minds when they heard the National Anthem coming through the air from seemingly nowhere; Heaven perhaps?

Next was the climax to the whole week as we settled down in our seats to hear the Quartet Finals. We were in barbershoppers Heaven for sure as one by one the quartets wowed us once again. The buzz was that LEMON SQUEEZY was heir apparent. Surprise, surprise, they came in fourth, and INSTANT CLASSIC took the day with 8343 points and an avg. of 92.7. (*Editor's Note: INSTANT CLASSIC was second in both the quartet quarters and semis.*)

Just one last note. I was the guest of Bob Winters for the Harmony Fellows Breakfast so it was FREE! and more importantly I was also his guest with entrance to the Presidents Council. I enjoyed preferred seating for all contest rounds, including the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest. Free admittance to the President's Council After Party following the Harmony Foundation Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest. I extend my sincere thanks to Bob and he drove me to the Convention as well. NICE!

Upper Yoopers



UYBC has been busy this summer! We continue in our recruitment efforts and have been asked to perform for a few events in Marquette County this summer and fall.

We participated in the City of Marquette 4th of July parade with a modest float and our singing was enjoyed by all who heard us!

We also did some "Busking" this spring during an *Arts in Marquette* week, sponsored by the Marquette Arts and Culture Center.



UYBC singing at Arts in Marquette week.

The UYBC Chorus continues to get "legal" as we have finally achieved our 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation status with the State of Michigan and our EIN, so we can start to bank a bit, and apply for grants to support our Purpose (With our singing, we raise funds to support local school kids' singing).



We are looking forward to the remainder of this year and beyond as we continue to grow our chapter and improve our music! More of us are making plans to see more of you October 16-18 in Kalamazoo! Look for us in our spiffy new shirts (available for members AND DUAL MEMBERS (HINT, HINT!).

If in the area, on a Monday or Thursday night, please come and join us at the Messiah Lutheran Church on 4th street and Magnetic in Marquette 7-9 pm.

Pete Stephens-Brown

Music Director, First Temporary President, etc.

da Upper Yoopers' Barbershop+ Chorus

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

Reports—Quartets

4GVN

by Greg Moss

Having sung successfully in the preliminary round in April, the 4GVN quartet competed in the finals of the Hamburg Family Fun Fest on June 20. There was a crowd of about 250 people cheering on their favorites in the three groups: 12 and under, 13-18, and over 18 (and they didn't even ask our age!). There was some really good talent, and the whole event was entertaining for the audience. The adult category was all young, female voices singing karaoke-style – except us – and we were well received with “It’s a Good Day!” followed by “Tee Idle Dum Dum.” They said we had four minutes; so we did the two-song package. Did we win? No, but it was fun!



4GVN: Wayne Oberstadt, Bob Greenwood, Eric Domke, and Greg Moss at Hamburg

The quartet also sang at Brightmoor Church, Sunday, June 28, with **John Cowlshaw** subbing at baritone.

The 4GVN quartet entertained at Clintonwood Park on the Fourth of July with a combination on-stage and roaming. The event is part of the Independence Township

celebration, following the parade in Clarkston. An honor guard led the flag-raising with taps, a rifle salute, and a moment of silence, and we followed that with the “Star Spangled Banner” from the stage. After a short set, we sang to couples and families around the grounds – the first couple just celebrated their 65th anniversary, and the second couple was on their third; so we did songs from different eras! We ended our time with a patriotic and all-American set back on the stage, ending with “God Bless America,” since the next event was a Veterans’ Ceremony in honor of several World War II vets who were invited to the park. The audience included 250 people. What a great way to spend a couple of hours on the 4th!

Coda Honor

On Thursday, May 14, CODA HONOR entertained guests at the City of Farmington’s first Turn-of-the-Century Porch Party Picnic at the historic Governor Warner Mansion on Grand River Avenue. The event was part of a twice-a-month summer-long festival sponsored by the City and featuring hot dogs, snacks, and a number of old-fashioned lawn games for kids and adults.

CODA HONOR was featured in D.O.C.’s participation in the 1st annual Royal Oak Celebration of the Arts, Saturday June 6th at the Royal Oak Middle School. While chorus members served as volunteers during the celebration, CODA HONOR served up two sets of our favorite art form! Utilizing venues in both “al fresco” and poolside, the quartet brought smiles and applause from a variety of event visitors.



CODA HONOR at Royal Oak Celebration of the Arts.

Detroit Sound Machine

Lead **Nick Roe** will marry **Elizabeth LaRose** in December after which Nick will be relocating to North Carolina. Therefore, **George Jackson**, **David Ebersole**, and **Jason Hall** are looking for a new Lead.

Evenin’ Gentlemen

by Terry Webner



EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN

Paul Ellinger said, “take it to the streets, go out and sing on street corners!” That is exactly what EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN did on Thursday evening, June 4th. Strolling and singing on the two main streets of downtown Royal Oak, they were welcomed by sidewalk diners, Baldwin Theatre goers, and street corner denizens. It was a warm evening made more pleasant by the positive comments of our listeners. One lady asked when we would be back, saying, “Let me know when you do this again, I will come back

downtown again.” Another said, “I never expected a treat like this when I bought tickets to the (Baldwin) theatre.”

So, HIT THE STREETS!, quartets.

Limited Edition

LIMITED EDITION performed for **Furat George's** 40th birthday party, May 15, at the Mother of God Chaldean Catholic Church in Southfield. We had been hired through GigSalad by his enthusiastic wife, Mayce, the director of the church choir. Blackstone led us thru a set of seven songs, plus Happy Birthday and Irish Blessing, and we were invited to partake of the buffet afterward with the twenty people. Furat George is a Clinical Assistant Professor of prosthodontics at U of M, Ann Arbor. He's also a pianist and the church organist and user of a garage band software called LogicPro.

Can't resist quoting Mayce George on the GigSalad site: “We had an amazing night last night, all thanks to LIMITED EDITION Quartet! Not only are they great singers, but they are all kind hearted and wonderful people. We enjoyed their company just as much as we enjoyed the singing. The song selections were beautiful and their arrangements were perfect. Grown-ups and children enjoyed their performance equally. I would highly recommend them. You can truly tell that they love what they do.”

LIMITED EDITION sang its hour-long Global Tour package: The seventeen songs are arranged by geographical location.

- To the residents of Lockwood of Waterford on May 22.
- At Clarkston Library's summer program on June 30.

There are 38 American House Senior Living Communities in Michigan, but we have never sung before at the one in Troy (Maple and John R). Thanks to a referral from the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY, LIMITED EDITION sang to an enthusiastic audience of about 60, Friday afternoon, July 10. Manager **Mary Faszholz** was so impressed that she rehired the quartet on the spot. A parent danced with his child; a woman mouthed almost all the words; the ice cream flowed.

At Shelby Township Senior Center, the quarter (with **Mike Frye** subbing on Tenor) sang a 15-song set July 23 to about 85 listeners. **Bernadette Caullay** had asked for an Americana program, so the quartet modulated its rep to fit into that theme.

- Music from the Victrola days
- Music from the Mid-20th
- Religious theme
- Stage and Screen
- Foreign assimilation



LIMITED EDITION at Shelby Township Senior Center. (Photo by Andrew McGhee)

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

by Don Horton

What a FUN opportunity we enjoyed on Saturday May 16th, 2015 to entertain for **Scott** and **Lydia Lubbers** for the Grand Opening of Scott's New Barbershop. Lydia shared with me that Scott has been cutting hair for many years in other shops and then decided recently to try it on his own. He purchased this building from a retiring barber and then gutted the building and restored it to an old fashioned shop including having new RED leather on the old barbershop chair to match the original.



OTHC at opening of Scott's Barber-shop.

We sang a variety of songs for nearly two hours as guests enjoyed cookies, popcorn, candy, and lemonade. Part of our agreement was that we would do a lot of Promo Shots that both Scott and OTHQ could use on our websites and Facebook etc.

The icing on the cake was when we found out the blonde lab dog's name was Maggie. We just had to sing: "I Never See Maggie Alone." When finished of course Doc had to say (in his dry sense of humor) "Man she's a REAL DOG!!!"... which brought great laughter from the owners and the guests.

Harmony Boot Camp for OTHQ

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET attended Harmony Boot Camp with **Kel Scott** subbing for **Tom Smeltzer**.

Update on OTHQ personnel

Jacob Welty, Tenor, stays very busy with his work as General Contractor, working for private individuals and his Father, rehabbing about 15 -20 Rental Units. In addition he keeps the books for his dad and Home Schools some of his younger Kin.

Doc Oliver, Bari, and his partner sold their practice to a Lansing hospital which has created much overtime for him for the past year or so. They had to transition their computer system and phone systems and learn new ways of doing business. In addition, he sold his home. For the past six to eight weeks Marcia has been packing and holding garage sales, etc.. They have purchased a new house in Owosso which they will move into in about a month.

Don Horton, Lead, lives in Corunna, Mi. Don stays very busy Listing, Selling, and Appraising real estate. In addition, he handles all bookings for the quartet. He also plans their rehearsals and performances.

This leaves news about our BASS, Tom Smeltzer who is also busy running his business of restoring Fireman's Equipment for fire departments all over the world. Tom sings bass with the Grosse Pointe Chapter and has sung bass with OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET for the past three years. Tom has informed OTHQ that he is putting his house on the market and when it sells will be moving to Arizona, so that we probably should be looking for a substitute bass.

Thanks to new Lansing Member **Kel Scott**, (who is hooked on Barbershop) that new bass came to us at the perfect time. Kel is working on our repertoire and is happy to step in when Tom officially states he can no longer continue with the quartet. Kel has already learned several of our songs and is a fast-learn type of guy. We had a great experience singing with him at his first Quartet Boot Camp and coaching session. Hopefully over the next three to four months, OTHQ can once again be a more active part of the Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN.

Patch Chords

The PATCH CHORDS, with **Don Terpe** hanging in the tenor, sang at Pennway Church on May 12th for a senior citizen luncheon. Our host for the performance was **George Taylor**. The woman in the picture was the focal point of a "tender love ballad" sung by the quartet.



PATCH CHORDS at Pennway Church senior luncheon.

Parts Unlimited

News from (Broken) PARTS UNLIMITED

Bob Fox fell at home this past week and broke his hip. An operation was performed at McLaren Hospital to repair the two breaks. Early indications were that the operation went well and that he is resting (relatively) comfortably in his room. He'll stay in the hospital for a few more days before being transferred to a rehab facility, where he'll remain until such time as he can get around comfortably on his own. His knee replacement surgery will likely have to be rescheduled.

Bill Osterhouse has been undergoing physical therapy following his motorcycle accident. Although he can move his right hand fingers some, he continues to have no mobility in his right arm. At this point, doctors are suspecting hidden nerve damage.

Reports—District

Jug Night at Battle Creek, May 19

by Jim Kunz, Music & Performance VP, Detroit—Oakland Chapter

Many thanks to the Battle Creek Chapter and all 190 of the people who attended the

Jug Night Revival event. It was a fun night, with representatives from about a dozen different Pioneer chapters singing and listening to more Pioneer District champion quartets than I can remember ever gracing the same stage on the same night!

Financially, the generous barbershoppers and friends who were there tonight contributed \$861 to the Jug Fund. We'll add this to the \$936 that was already in the Jug Fund (making a total of \$1,797) and hope we can still collect a few more donations over the next few weeks. These funds will be used to support MAJESTYX and FRONTIER, who will represent Pioneer at the International and College Competitions in Pittsburgh this July, as well as our Senior Quartet representatives at the Midwinter Convention in Reno next January.



Crowd at Jug Night in Battle Creek.

From Jamie Carey, Lead, MAJESTYX

MAJESTYX was honored to see such a fabulous turn out tonight. We are blessed to have so many great quartets in Pioneer. Kudos to Roger for putting this together. That's why he is such a good leader. Let's do it again next year!!!

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, May 29,30



Friday morning's school visits were a highlight.

The weekend included five performances at Okemos High School and Chippewa Middle School, the semifinal competition Friday night, and the grand show and the quartet finals Saturday night. Next year's event is May 13-15, 2016.



Winning quartet MAX 4 with Zak Stratton, T, on right.

Zak was a triple winner. Not only was he in the winning quartet, he was awarded as one of those who sang with every guy that was not his voice part. And he was a co-winner of the Paul Teska Memorial Award (The Guy I Came to Sing With Award). He also won the raffle for a free registration (a second free registration for next year, which he returned). If that is his first Brigade experience, how could you top that? Hopefully, we will find out next year!!!

There was a three-way tie for third!!



Silver Certificate quartet, THE G STRINGS, Rob Halsey, Tom Blackstone, Scott Monte, and Jim Windak



Saturday night's show featured the whole chorus.

Also of note, Frank Thorne member **Ron Arnold** sang in three show and contest quartets and one of those quartets captured third place in the Saturday night contest.

From Mike O'Donnell, Pres

What a terrific weekend! I think we all agree it was by far the best singing weekend we've ever heard at GLHB.

I've been attending up to five Brigades a year since 2008 and it is the first time I've ever seen a three-way tie for third place! I've also never seen a tie for an award for the "Man I Came to Sing With!" And, I can't remember ever where the winning quartet had two first timers! Was there a full moon or something??

Everybody came prepared (or pretty darn close). The school singouts, organized again by **Williams Stutts Jr.**, were terrific and well attended by over 1/4 of the Brigade guys. Once again the food was outstanding. We sold more tickets to the show than before. The guest quartets really impressed everyone. Our three quartets which auditioned and started off the second half did a great job! **Dave Eddy** was a terrific MC and the script (written by **Rob Halsey**) was entertaining and fun to listen to.

It looked like about 1/4 of those in attendance were first or second years. We welcomed five new members into our midst. Sadly, we said goodbye to our dear friend **Paul Teska**, who left us in January.

From Chris Teska to Jim Windak, after attending the Saturday evening GLHB show

Dear Jim,

I want to thank you for inviting me Saturday. It was wonderful seeing all of you and to be able to listen to the wonderful harmonies. While I watched I imagined Paul standing on the risers with you singing. I could almost see his smiling face. He always seemed happiest and most content yet challenged by barbershop. He loved all of you and the music so very much!

So please send along my thanks. All of you touched my heart deeply with your signing and of course renaming your award to honor Paul.

Barbershop changed Paul's life in ways I cannot describe - and please know that you all hold a special place in my heart for what you gave our family so abundantly - the harmonies.

Barbershop Harmony Day, June 8

by James Hall

Senator **Dave Hildebrand** introduced a resolution declaring Monday, June 8 as "Barbershop Harmony in Michigan Day," in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Pioneer District. A Lansing quartet, RENAISSANCE, sang in the rotunda of the capitol surrounded by posters of BHS and Pioneer District logos.

The quartet that sang was **Mike Hansen** (Br), **Brian Dunckel** (Bs), **Paul Jones**

(L), and **Tim Duman** (T).

Thank you to Mike Hansen for organizing this, Senator Dave Hildebrand for introducing the resolution, and **Jeff Markham** for taking the photos and video.

Click here to see some of the photos, as shown on our Capitol City Chordsmen Facebook page.

[https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.581494078620814.1073741833.126334637470096&type=3)

[set=a.581494078620814.1073741833.126334637470096&type=3](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.581494078620814.1073741833.126334637470096&type=3)



Quartet singing in capitol rotunda in Lansing.

Windsor Send-Off, June 12

by Doran McTaggart

The Pioneer District Send-Off Show took place at the Macedonian Centre on Friday June 12. Our International rep MAJESTYX, our College rep FRONTIER, our Senior rep ROLLS VOYCE, and our Chorus rep The GREAT LAKES CHORUS performed.

A first this year, D.O.C. was present to distribute the funds from the "Return of the Jug" to the quartet Reps.

A million dollars worth of talent and a pasta dinner all for \$21.00.

Harmony Hounds Retirement Party, June 14

One of the oldest active quartets in the district, HARMONY HOUNDS, finally called it quits, and they held a retirement party, June 14, at First Congregational Church in Battle Creek.

Dead Creek Picnic, Frankenmuth, June 23, 2015

by Ralph Brown

When Winter finally ends, we like to call our friends and join them for a picnic and a song". Yes, on June 23rd the festivities were kicked off with the Arrowhead chorus singing there traditional song, "Only A Batch Of Sauerkraut," words and arrangement by our own song writer, arranger, and Director, **Dave Longroy**. That is what happens each year in Frankenmuth in June. For over thirty years the Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS has invited any and all barbershoppers to join them for some Summer fun on the banks of the Cass River.

The venue is second to none. Some folks come early and enjoy the day in Little Bavaria shopping, or go aboard The Bavarian Belle for an authentic paddle boat ride, Mark Twain style, down the Cass River. A relaxing and scenic way to spend an hour.

An enjoyable way to see parts of Frankenmuth you can't see on foot.

The covered pavilion allows the event to go on even if it rains. We had plenty of seating for the record crowd of barbershoppers, family, and friends. The Pontiac-Waterford chapter brought over 40 folks with a bus load and then some, Hurray! I was told that there were 5 chapters represented.

Our 'Iron chef **John Voss** said that he sold 210 Brats, and the 400 lbs of sauerkraut and backed beans that Dave Lonsbury prepared was consumed. Well, maybe not quite 400 lbs, but there was plenty for everyone. **Dave Worley** will be succeeding John at the grill next year since John will have his own TV Show, "Grillin' and chillin" or "Every Body Needs A John".

John has been cooking the brats for the Dead Creek event almost as long as he has been a member. It all started at the Dead Creek saloon and when the gathering became more popular, with more chapters participating, they out grew the Saloon and moved to the American Legion pavilion in Frankenmuth.

The singing started around 8 p.m. with five choruses followed by 16 quartets. We even had one mixed quartet with a young lady singing tenor. Their Bass sang two or three octaves lower than the tenor. WOW!

We closed the scheduled activities with a performance by our 2015 International College Representative quartet, FRONTIER. **Brandon Smith** (Bari) and **Cody Harrell** (Bass) started their barbershop carrier with the Flint Chapter. They placed 9th at the International Collegiate Competition in Pittsburgh this year representing PIO District. Super Job!!!

As part of our tribute to John Voss, who started the Dead Creek event at the Dead Creek Saloon, for all of his years of service we honored him by letting him direct the crowd singing "Keep The Whole World Singing." Barbershoppers are so considerate.



John Voss, originator of the Dead Creek Picnic.

Additional notes by John Cowlshaw

Five choruses returned to the banks of the Cass River for the Annual Dead Creek Picnic, Attendance this year was estimated at 180, but retiring brat cooker John Voss kept the brats coming.

Dave Flattley emceed the program, which included eighteen quartets, and the choruses from Flint, Pontiac-Waterford, Grosse Pointe, Saginaw Bay, and Huron Valley.

Pioneer champions that sang included ROLLS VOICE, and Pioneer collegiate rep FRONTIER. Up-and-coming mixed quartet THE HEIGHTS also sang.

Harmony Explosion, July 9-11

by Joe MacDonald

The weekend concluded at the Staples Family Concert Hall at CMU which was full of the great young barbershoppers and the world mixed quartet champs, DOUBLE DATE, and Pioneer's own FRONTIER, fresh from the International College Quartet Contest.

Quartet Boot Camp, July 18

The 2015 Quartet Boot Camp was held July 18 at Okemos.

Quartets attending included:

- OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET
- THE JESTERS
- BREAK TIME
- SHARP ATTACK
- THE TUNES MEN
- ALGORITHM
- DETROIT SOUND MACHINE
- THE CHORDSMEN

Coaches included:

- ♦ Rob Pettigrew
- ♦ Mike O'Donnell
- ♦ Roger Lewis
- ♦ Joel Mills
- ♦ Carl Dahlke
- ♦ Matt Tipton
- ♦ Evan Boegehold
- ♦ Paul Ellinger

Dick Liddicoatt Memorial, July 19

by Fred McFadyen

It was a beautiful sunny Sunday July 19th when about sixty family members and friends gathered at the Oscoda United Methodist Church to remember **Dick Liddicoatt**, former Director of the Oakland County Chapter's BARBERY HOST Chorus, prolific Quartet Singer and Pioneer District Senior Quartet Winner.

After enjoying a tasty lunch prepared and served by the ladies of the church, entertainment was provided by a SAI quartet made up of Tenor, **Susan Heimburger**, Lead, **Jamie Ziolkowski**, Baritone, **Linda Liddicoatt**, and Bass, **Claudia Presson**.

From the BHS, INSTANT PICKUP consisting of Tenor, **Fred McFadyen**, Lead, **Bruce LeMarte**, Baritone, **Ray Sturdy**, and Bass, **Pete Burns** performed admirably.

On behalf of the family, **Debbie Liddicoatt Goodall**, expressed their appreciation

for all those who have remembered Dick.

International

Acoustix

Is closing in on 1000 appearances in 46 states of the USA and 10 other countries around the world.

Happy 70th Birthday, Sweet Adelines!

<http://www.npr.org/2015/07/11/421823126/sweet-adelines-a-society-of-women-in-harmony-hits-a-milestone>

Finding an arrangement

Barbershop Connections has just launched an exciting new feature... ARRANGEMENTS!

Over 12,000 are listed on a new Arrangements page and lots more arrangements are still to be added.

The goal is to make searching for arrangements easier! There are three different ways to search for an arrangement, by Song, by Arranger or by selecting a Type.

Check it out at <http://www.barbershopconnections.com/arrangements/>

Harmony University, July 26 – August 2

Aaron Wilson has posted photos from just-completed HU's Harmony Brigade at: <http://tinyurl.com/nqtjfvz>



Dan Bezaire holding up 1st place certificate.

Pioneers **Ray Sturdy**, **Dan Bezaire**, **Lou Maglione**, **Doug Weaver**, **Robert Ryan**, and **Aaron Wilson** were visible among the mixed group competitors.

HFI: Making Music Happen

Harmony Foundation scholarships bring nearly 200 students to HU.

Harmony Foundation International (HFI) board member **Lynn Weaver** and her husband **Doug** present the official check for HU scholarships to **Donny Rose**.



Lynn and Doug Weaver present Harmony University rep Donny Rose a check for \$86,000 from HFI.

This \$86,000 gift made attending HU possible for 120 chorus directors and music educators, several quartets, 50 Next Generation chorus members, and 20 Young Women in Harmony singers. If you are a donor, pat yourself on the back!

In addition to the presentation, HFI announced the Weaver Challenge: Doug and Lynn will provide a matching donation for each new HFI Donor that signs up this week, up to \$25,000. Partway through the week, on our way to our goal of 100 New Donors, we have seen 43 New Donors step up! Two full days left, and 57 to go... Let's do this, HU!

Transitions

Joseph C. Barden

Joe Barden, 84, of Lansing, retired state accountant, died Friday, July 3. He was a former chapter member and Treasurer of the Lansing Chapter and the CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN.

Martin D. Bomers

Mart Bomers age 86, passed away on Friday, July 24, 2015. He founded Bomers Carpet and Upholstery Cleaners Inc., which has won the Grand Haven Tribune People's Choice Award for 13 years running. He was involved with the Muskegon Civic Opera and the Elk's Minstrel Show. Martin was also a long time and very active member of the SPEBSQSA (Barbershoppers).

Phil Sielski said, "We will always remember Mart and his many contributions to the Muskegon Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA). He shared so much with us, memories of performances, suggestions for improvement, and of course, the always present smile. We will keep his family in our thoughts and prayers."

Gene Cokerft



Gene Cokerft, Tenor of THE SUNTONES, died July 23, at the age of 79, in Kendall, Fl.

THE SUNTONES were from Miami, Fl and the 1961 SPEBSQSA International champions. At the time it won gold, the quartet featured Gene Cokerft as tenor, **Bob Franklin** as lead, **Harlan Wilson** as baritone, and **Bill Cain** as bass.

THE SUNTONES are notable among the barbershop community because they were one of the first quartets to perform show tunes and make use of hand-held microphones.

Gene was inducted into the Barbershop Hall of Fame, both with The Suntones and for his individual contributions to the Society.

Duane Roy



Duane Roy died August 5 after a long illness. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer one year ago and was relatively strong and healthy until the very end. His golf score on his 79th birthday this past April was not much more than his age.

He was a five-year member of the Pontiac-Waterford chapter, having been attracted into its Christmas chorus in 2009. For the last several years he has chaired the Valentines Sing-Out program.

Jack Teuber said, "Duane has our greatest respect for the manner in which he handled his illness."

James Sabina



James Sabina died this July. He was the Tenor of METROPOLIS since 1996, BHS medalist quartet as high as 3rd in 2003,5) and performer for many years on BBS shows, TV and radio.

Brian Philbin, bass of METROPOLIS said the following, "As many of you may already be aware, James Sabina passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last week. It was a great shock to all of us and in the following days, the METROPOLIS family has been finalizing arrangements for his burial, as well as providing emotional support for each other. Pioneer is home to Bob and I and METROPOLIS performed on many shows within the district, as well as competing at Prelims in Battle Creek in 2008."

In James' own self-description, "A comiconomenclaturist by trade, and a frequent practitioner of charientisms, he experienced an afflatus at an early age while living on a ranarium. He realized his life path was leading him towards hebetudes, due in part to his frequent practice of paralogisms. Now his subderisorious personality and natural affinity for japes are a testament to the lucubration involved in his reformation. A true solipsist in every sense of the word, he tergiversates about being sugillated by his quartet members who demonstrate their superior sciolism whenever in public. He thanks thrillemous trio of the alliaceous Brian, the glabrous Bob, and the dirhinous Kelly."

Thomas Martin Wing



Tom Wing passed away June 17, 2015 at the age of 83.

"Tom sang with the old Oakland County Chapter (WOLVERINE CHORUS), and also D.O.C., and CITY LIGHTS."

John Bober, Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY

Ron Yahrmatter

It is with regret that I must report the passing of another old time Barbershopper and friend. Ron Yahrmatter died Sunday Morning, 8/2, in Florida. He was a former member of the Clinton Valley (now Rochester), Macomb County, and Grosse Pointe Chapters. He was active in the Pioneer District as an Area Counselor. Due to his dementia he was not active for the past five or more years. He had also sung in a few chapter quartets and really enjoyed quartetting. One of my fondest memories is singing in a pick-up quartet in an outdoor cantina in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on St. Patrick's Day. A crowd of about 30 people had gathered and we sang polecats for about 15 minutes with a rousing ovation at the end.

A memorial service will be held here in Michigan later this month.

Dave Anderson

Media

Pitch Perfect 2 is now out and it includes a brief performance by PENTATONIX.

<http://www.guidelive.com/music/2015/05/13/arlingtons-pentatonix-weighs-aca-awesome-pitch-perfect-2-cameo-journey-song-involved>

Vocal Technique:

What's Going On Inside Your Head When You Sing

This remarkable video, at <http://tinyurl.com/o5u9bla> shows that the most notable moving parts are:

- The tongue
- The teeth
- The Soft Palate



When to breathe

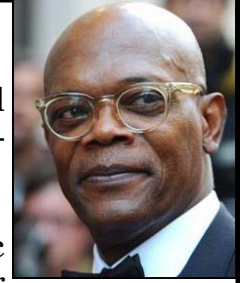
Terry Gross of NPR's program *Fresh Air* interviewed the actor Samuel L. Jackson (*Pulp Fiction*, *Die Hard*, et al) in 2000. It includes this relevant Q&A that any singer

can connect with.

Gross: Do you decide in advance where you're going to breathe and which words you're going to emphasize? Or do you do it in a more improvisational way?

Jackson: Well, I do a lot of things. I break down scripts into dramatic beats, in the context of a scene. I try to understand what one particular thing is attempting to accomplish, then what the next thing is trying to do, and what explains what, and why. This leads me to understand which things have to be spoken together without a breath, and which things I can breathe between.

It's not science. It's good, old-fashioned theater training. You learn to understand the purpose of each particular scene, and what a sentence does in terms of moving that scene along, or defining what came before it or what's going to come after it.



BBS on social media

BBS on Facebook, 1, 17,000 likes:

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

BHS on Facebook, 2, 17,000 Likes:

https://www.facebook.com/search/str/Barbershop%2BHarmony%2BSociety/keywords_top

BHS on Facebook, 3, 8,993 members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2204633816/>

BBS videos on YouTube: www.youtube.com/barbershopharmony38

Yahoo special interest groups, including PioNet and bbshop:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bbshop/info>

Pioneer District

Paul Ellinger Interviewed on Gold Medal Moments

Ho Pioneer.

Paul Ellinger is **Toby Shaver's** Guest #32 on Gold Medal Moments. "This week, Paul Ellinger joins me to tell his barbershop story. We talk about his active history in barbershop and all the work he's been doing around the barbershop world to help us sing better and grow our chapters.

<http://goldmedalmoments.com/?p=305>

Welcome New Pioneers, as reported in the Harmonizer – between Nov 1, 2014 and June 1, 2015

Stephen Blackman	Euel Kinsey	David Roggow
George Breeden	David Koch	Rudy Rudell
Matt Carelli	Stephen M Lewis	Gene Schnuckel
Tim Carey	Lou Mauro	Kel Scott
Barry Carroll	Bryan Douglas Meyer	Cyril Sieveke
James Gean	Sean Montgomery	Liam Smith
Jerry Harvey	Kerwin Paesens	Robert Snyder, Sr.
Jeremy Hayes	Dennis Popilek	David Stone
Jerry Hill	Bob Price	Pauli Valli
Keith Humbert	Avinash Puranik	Ken Wells
Liam Keiser	Cameron Reddy	Richard Westover
Ronald Kinney	Jared Rifenburgh	

Troubadour Business

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ads for the November 15, 2015 issue of *The Troubadour*. Deadline for submission – November 1, 2015

Letters

One of the best Troubs ever!
Mike O'Donnell

Harmony Mercenaries (Not as evil as it sounds)

by Paul Howe

The idea for this was inspired by the action of about five chapters a couple of years ago, at the occasion of the Harmony Society 75th anniversary. For the newer members, the society created a special 75th anniversary show package, with a suggested script and several suggested songs, along with a few alternative songs, in the hope that most all the chapters would use that package in some variation or other as the foundation for their show that year.

With that in mind, the idea was put forward to have several chapters learn the same batch of songs and then augment the manpower of the host chapter during their show. What happened between the songs was usually different, but the songs were all the same. Thus the Lansing show included members from Holland, Gratiot County, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, and a few other chapters.

Then as each other chapter presented their show later in the year, members from all the other participating chapters helped fill the ranks.

The idea for the Harmony Mercenaries is very similar - a group of singers from several

west Michigan chapters all learning a set of “common” songs that could be included in any chapter’s show. These songs would be above and beyond the individual’s chapter repertoire. Sheet music and learning tracks would be used, per normal.

Then there would be special “mercenary” practice every now and then to keep things sharp.

The need for such a group was clearly shown this past week, when the Kalamazoo chapter put out a desperate call for tenors. None of their tenors were available for two very important upcoming performances.

President Jeff should have additional details, however, you could talk to most any of the older Lansing members to get an idea of how the whole thing works.

Editor’s Note: Harmony Mercenaries is underway in the west region with Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon, Lansing, Kalamazoo, and Battle Creek, but it could also be relevant to other regions, such as southeast Michigan.

Upcoming events

Corn Roast, August 25

Hello Pioneer!! It time for the 42nd GLC/Baker Family Corn Roast - August 25th @ 7:00 p.m. This is a Tuesday evening. We have a reunion of a quartet with an international medal coming in from out of town. The menu is the same as years past: Hotdogs/Corn and some adult beverage. All for \$10 per person. And remember this is a men's night only. No gals allowed to this function - because of our bathroom/woods situation which should be free of prying eyes for our men or should I say no more. 2765 Bauer Rd, or 49428 zip for you GPS/google guys.

Bring your lawn chair / blanket. Rain or shine the party goes on. Door prize tickets sold at the door 5\$ for 6 or 10\$ for a baker’s dozen. Some good stuff this year and a grand prize. You’ll want to participate. If you have any questions or want to donate a door prize call me, (616) 238-2385, so mark your calendars now.

Fall Convention, October 16-18

The Fall Convention is in Kalamazoo at the Radisson. Host: Kalamazoo. Hotel Reservations are by Telephone ONLY. Call the Radisson at 269 343-3333 Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 and ask for Reservations. ‘OLOGY QUARTETS will once again be participating.

Chorus Director Workshop Intensive and Outstanding In Front Training November 21

The **CDWI** is an 8 hour training conducted with the support of a host chapter chorus.

Here are the details: Pre-Workshop Five directors are chosen to participate with two certified CDWI trainers. A host chapter and chapter contact are appointed and a conference call is held with the trainers and directors during which time the objectives of the workshop are discussed.

Workshop AM The directors and the trainers meet for about three hours on the morning of the workshop. Much discussion takes place regarding such topics as:

- Why direct?
- What do I want to accomplish during a chorus rehearsal?
- What gets in the way of that accomplishment?
- What can I do to improve my skills? etc.

At the end of the morning, each director chooses two skills to be coached on in the afternoon.

Workshop PM A rehearsal chorus is available for the afternoon and each director gets to lead the chorus and be coached on the two chosen skills. The trainers will coach the directors on these two skills in front of a video camera and then viewing the video will provide more opportunity for coaching. Each director gets a directing / coaching session with each of the trainers.

At the end of the day, the directors and the chorus members all fill out evaluation sheets.

The **Outstanding In Front program** would happen on the same day with a second trainer and would run 8 hours. Whether you are a novice director and need to hone some basic skills, or someone who has never been in front of a chorus and think directing just might be something you could do, but haven't a clue how to begin, this class is for you. Outstanding In Front also focuses on the leadership skills of section leaders and music team members who are interested in supporting the success of the music program during your weekly chapter meeting. The goals of the Outstanding In Front program are:

- To provide an opportunity for individuals to gain an understanding of what it means to be a leader in front of an ensemble.
- To increase the directing, teaching and musical skill of our non-directors in a positive environment.
- To inspire men to entertain the thought that they could become a musical leader.
- To provide capable individuals able to assist their front-line director.
- To decrease director burnout.
- To have a broader base of talent upon which to draw when there is a director vacancy.
- Some of the topics covered are:
 - ◊ Conducting patterns, and their proper use
 - ◊ Elements of the warm-up
 - ◊ Being a vocal coach
 - ◊ Leadership qualities

Calendar

2015

Aug 25 Baker Corn Roast, Grand Rapids, 7:00 p.m.
 Sept 20 Lansing Grand Ledge Opera House 2:00 p.m.
 Sept 25-26 Bush League Quartet Contest, coaching, and Gaylord Chapter Show
 October 3 Gratiot County Chapter Show
 October 3 Rochester Guardians of Harmony Show
 Oct 16-18 Fall Convention in Kalamazoo at Kalamazoo Radisson; Host: Hillsdale
 Nov 7 Pontiac-Waterford Show, 7:00 p.m.
 Nov 21 Chorus Director Workshop Intensive and Outstanding In Front Training

2016

Jul 26-31 Midwinter – Reno, NV.
 Feb 7-11 Harmony at Sea Cruise
 April 22-24 Spring Convention in Grand Rapids at Crowne Plaza; Host: Grand Rapids
 Jul 3-10 International – Nashville, TN
 Oct 14-16 Fall Convention in Kalamazoo at the Radisson; Host: QCA

2017

April 21-23 Spring Convention in Traverse City at Grand Traverse Resort; Host: Mt. Pleasant
 Oct 20-22 Fall Convention in Battle Creek; Host: Battle Creek?

2018

April 20-22 Spring Convention in Grand Rapids at Crowne Plaza; Host: Detroit- Oakland
 October 19-21 Fall Convention in Battle Creek; Host: open

2019

April 19-21 Spring Convention in Traverse City at Grand Traverse Resort; Host: open

Thoughts

There's a reason we were given two ears and one mouth, and they should be used in that proportion--listen louder than we sing.

John Elving

Sing as if you were entertaining...

... deaf people with your body movements and expression.

... blind people with your voice and music.

From William Faulkner's Nobel Prize Speech, 1950.

In place of poet and writer, read "musician."

I believe that man will not merely endure: he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance. The poet's, the writer's duty is to write about these things. It is his privilege to help man endure by lifting his heart, by reminding him of the courage and honor and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice which have been the glory of his past. The poet's voice need not merely be the record of man, it can be one of the props, the pillars to help him endure and prevail.

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