

TROUBADOUR

If it's summer, it's hot in Pioneer! Summer is the time for vacations and barbecues, and more if you're a barbershopper! Starting with the International Convention in Nashville at the beginning of July, where Pioneer was made proud by our Youth Quartet Contest medalists **FRONTIER**, a great finish for Pioneer's Quartet Contest representative **UPPER DECK** (with a great short-notice performance by their new Baritone, **William Stutts, Jr.**) and one of the highest finishes for a chorus from Pioneer in recent memory, the **GREAT LAKES CHORUS** under the direction of **Jamie Carey**. What a great contest it was for all from Pioneer.

And while it's been a hot time in barbershop, there's also been a lot of change going on in our hobby. The Youth Quartet Competition is changing to a video submission format to encourage greater participation from a broader base of young men. The Presentation category is changing to the new Performance category, and at the Midwinter Contest, a new Senior Chorus contest is being tested. Keeping up with all of these changes can be challenging, which is why good, reliable, and accurate communication from the Society and from the District is so important.

We have been somewhat spoiled here in Pioneer to have taken for granted the outstanding services of the co-editors of the Pioneer *Troubadour*, **John Cowlshaw**, **Tom Ennis**, and **Greg Humbel** for many years. But like all good things, the time eventually comes when it's time to say goodbye, and put away the ink wells, and the laptops. On behalf of all of us in Pioneer, I would like to congratulate and thank John, Tom, and Greg for their fine service. They have agreed to stay on until the end of the year, but we would really like to have an editor (or two) in place ready to take over the controls once the new year starts. I know there's a lot of talent in Pioneer, and if you're someone who has an eye for copy, and an ear for a good story, you'd be a great person to serve as the incoming editor of this great publication that all of us in Pioneer rely upon for our barbershop fix of information.

Please contact the *Troubadour* through the district website if you're interested in serving. Remember, it's all about creating opportunities for barbershop to flourish. Have a great rest of the summer, and keep singing.

Mike Hansen, President, Pioneer District



TROUBADOUR

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PIONEER DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS



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



CHORUS CHAMPIONS
1953 GREAT LAKES CHORUS (GRAND RAPIDS)

QUARTET CHAMPIONS



SENIOR QUARTET CHAMPIONS
2010 RESISTING-A-REST

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

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

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BHS International Convention, Nashville

by John Cowlshaw

The International Barbershop Convention in Nashville, Music City USA, is over. A final count of 8007 people attended, including many from Pioneer.

To get the main news over quickly, the winners were:

- Chorus - AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY, St Charles, MO. - 96.8
- Quartet - FOREFRONT - 93.3
- Youth Quartet - PRATT STREET POWER (MAD) - 82.0

Having attended the AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY chorus rehearsal Thursday, Pontiac-Waterford's LIMITED EDITION quartet was expecting their excellent contest performance the next day - which brought the crowd roaring to its feet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHoU4m1rJLk>

One of the complaints about some choruses was "too much movement and over-plotting"; the Ambassadors had a little bit of choreography, but it never distracted from the musical story line, as some others did. The harmony was spot-on, and the synchronization and total involvement of the members (all 133 of them) were mesmerizing. Their final crescendos caused goose-bumps. Their score of 96.8 would be hard to beat. And it would have been a real surprise for any other chorus to win. They were followed by CENTRAL STANDARD (52 Men on Stage), MASTERS OF HARMONY (directed by **Justin Miller**, who also directs last year's gold medal WESTMINSTER CHORUS), TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS, and SOUND OF THE ROCKIES.

In the quartet contest, it was not so predictable. A number of quartets could have won. MAIN STREET, with **Tony De Rosa**, gave its usual mix of comedy and fine singing. The two Swedish quartets - LEMON SQUEEZY and STOCKHOLM SYNDROME (albeit, with two members from the RINGMASTERS) - did well. THROWBACK (**Sean Devine**) was great. And a new quartet from Florida, SIGNATURE (SUN), caught people by surprise with their sparkling performance. They cover **Sam Cooke's** "A Change is Gonna Come" at <http://tinyurl.com/je2bgvm>



But in the end it was FOREFRONT, last year's silver medalist. At 93.3, their closest rivals were LEMON SQUEEZY and MAIN STREET, with scores of 92.8 and 92.6 respectively. SIGNATURE and THROWBACK followed.

FOREFRONT, from left, Drew Wheaton, Kevin Hughes, Brian O'Dell and Aaron Hughes, (Lorin May/Barbershop Harmony Society)

FOREFRONT'S win comes after seven trips to the championship level, placing second for the past two years. The moment was particularly sweet as the medals were placed around their necks by retiring champions INSTANT CLASSIC, their close friends and contest rivals who beat them to the gold last year.



FOREFRONT receiving their gold medals from INSTANT CLASSIC.

The Hughes brothers anchor the middle of the new quartet champs: Kevin sings lead and Aaron baritone, with **Drew Wheaton** on tenor and **Brian O'Dell** in the bass slot.

Fun fact: This is the second year in a row that brothers win quartet gold together, and a repeat win for the Cardinal District.

Note: MAIN STREET'S time on stage was well over ten minutes, and more surprisingly, the Mic Testers, a very funny NEW FANGLED FOUR, must have gone fifteen minutes.

In the Youth Quartet contest, it was PRATT STREET POWER with an 82.0. A total of just three points separated the top seven contenders, including Pioneer's own FRONTIER (**Chris Cordle, Aaron Pollard, Brandon Smith, Cody Harrell**), which placed fifth with a 79.8.

GREAT LAKES CHORUS set a new scoring record for Pioneer, finishing 22nd (out of 29) in the International Chorus Contest with their score of 80.4. (Wow, that's up over five points from their 75.0 qualifying score, in Grand Rapids!) They sang "Little Pal," as **Jonathan Hodde** looked soulfully into the eyes of his "stage" father for the whole song, as dad told him he had gotten a job and would have to leave. (The scene was set during the Great Depression)



Jonathan Hodde in character staring into the eyes of his "stage father," Jim Russell.

Photos by Lorin May, Barbershop Harmony Society.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/harmonizermag/28104056192/in/album-72157670765698456/>

Their two songs were about fathers and sons. Interestingly, of the Chorus's 60 members, 25% are Father/Son combos! "We are ecstatic for breaking the 80 barrier, and showing that we belong at International."



GREAT LAKES CHORUS on stage in Nashville.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/harmonizermag/28104071332/in/album-72157670765698456/>



GREAT LAKES CHORUS rehearsing in Nashville. (Photo by Al Fisk)

UPPER DECK didn't seem to miss a step with their new Bari, William Stutts Jr, scoring a very nice 74.8 in the competition.

A frequent joke for several of the many stage speakers played on the rise-from-almost-nowhere 2015 Gold Medal quartet - INSTANT CLASSIC.

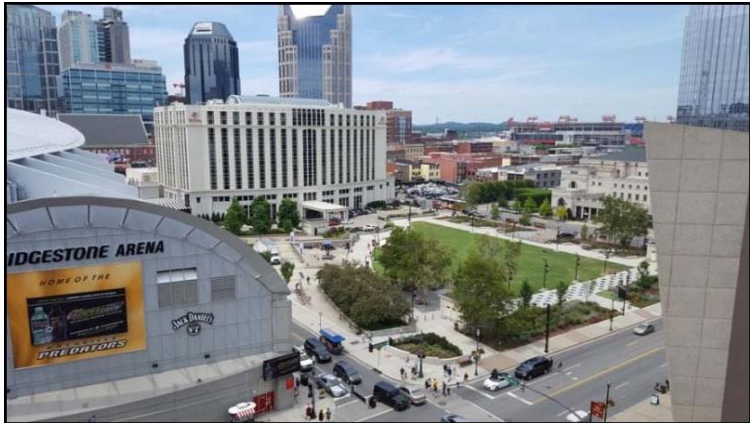
Knock, Knock
Who's there?
Instant Classic.
Instant Classic who?
Exactly!

During their swan song set, INSTANT CLASSIC brought their friends GQ onstage to sing with them, amplifying a theme of the convention that women are going to play a larger role in the Society.

The convention contest venue was the Bridgestone Arena (where the Nashville Predators play), except for the Youth Contest, which was at the (smaller) Schermerhorn Center, home of the Nashville Symphony.



Debbie Cleveland hosted the webcast.



Bridgestone, Walk of Fame Park, and Schermerhorn (L to R)

The AIC show was also at the Schermerhorn for two nights and was simply outstanding, with an well-programmed sequence of performers - INSTANT CLASSIC, MASTERPIECE, RINGMASTERS, STORM FRONT, CROSSROADS, OC TIMES, VOCAL SPECTRUM, POWER PLAY, and (admittedly, showing their age) the 25th anniversary quartet, THE RITZ.

Pioneer's THE AUTO TOWNERS were given special tribute on the 50th anniversary of their 1966 Gold Medal; **Carl Dahlke** and **Al Rehkop** were there for the recognition. **Clint Bostick** is still alive and well other than an injury that prevented him from attending the tribute and convention. **Glenn Van Tassell** (and baritone of THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT, 1971 Gold) died of ALS.

Entering the Hall of Fame were **John Miller** (father of Justin, and a national media executive credited with getting barbershop onto The Today Show) and THE FOUR RENEGADES (Gold, 1965).

As BBS goes more international, we heard the national anthems, not only of the USA and Canada, but Sweden (SNOBS), Germany (BING!), and Great Britain (BABS).

Aca-godfather (**Marty Monson's** phrase) **Deke Sharon** was there to co-host the Saturday Night Spectacular. It included GREAT NORTHERN UNION singing, "Rhythm of Love" with Deke Sharon coming in to lead the audience.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLndByqMRq8&feature=em-sub> [digest](#)

The Minnesota chorus came, not to compete, but to sing in this Spectacular, plus they sang out in front at the Grand Ole Opry.



GREAT NORTHERN UNION performing outside the Grand Ole Opry (Photo by J. Cowlshaw)

Complete coverage of the convention at: <http://www.barbershop.org/nashville/>

and a 3 1/2 minute video summary at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afAEQTDgmoc>

BarbershopHarmony38

“Follow our Society’s YouTube channel to see videos as they are added. We’ll be sharing highlights from the AIC show and Saturday Night Spectacular, various quartet and chorus performances, and tribute videos for our anniversary quartets over the next few weeks.” <https://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38/videos>

Barbershop Nashville Performances on YouTube, August 15

Change, it is a-comin’.

Last year, nearly 500 new videos were added to the [BHS YouTube channel](#) in Pittsburgh.

This year, look for ALL convention recordings to hit the YouTube channel on August 15, ready to be watched, shared, and enjoyed by everyone. But at a cost. No more convention DVDs.



“While we honor the tradition of the convention videos (and your carefully curated collection of them) the reality is that the production time and expense of creating them VASTLY outweigh the demand for the product. Sales have been sharply dropping each year, with less than 2% of our membership purchasing a quartet DVD in 2015 and even fewer for chorus DVDs. This, combined with skyrocketing YouTube views on our channel, tells us that it’s time to evolve our strategy and provide content in the format that members will use most. Here’s a sample of videos already online: RINGMASTERS sing “[The Bells of Notre Dame](#).”

“One of the most talked about songs of the convention never appeared on the contest stage! RINGMASTERS presented this stunning performance at the AIC show, bringing the audience (and a chorus of gold medalists) leaping to their feet. Arranged by **Aaron**

Dale, this intricate piece takes us on a journey to 15th century France and presents the tale of the Hunchback of Notre Dame. This incredible performance is made even more dramatic by the stunning acoustics of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville.”

Reports – Chapters

Battle Creek

May 17 was the date of Jug Night in Battle Creek. In addition to top quartets, the evening featured the Harmony Mercenaries Chorus.

Detroit Oakland Chapter

Our hats are off to D.O.C for the outstanding Jug Night event they hosted Friday night! There must have been at least 100 from five surrounding chapters (five choruses sang - but more chapters could have been present). Four chapter quartets also sang, including the "head liners" DETROIT SOUND MACHINE, who were just great! AND - we were also entertained by a Sweet Adelines quartet called (I think) FOXFIRE, who were delightful! Thank you D.O.C!!

by Roger Holm



D.O.C. Jug and Guest night. (Photo by Bob Wallace)

D.O.C. held its **annual picnic** Monday, June 13, 2016, at the Sylvan Lake Community Center. The 70 present were primarily from the host chapter and from Pontiac-Waterford. After brats, hamburgers, salads, and drinks, **Dave Montera** stepped in to organize a show that included the 13 members of Pontiac-Waterford, directed by **Mike Frye**, singing “I Don’t Know Why” and “Saints.” D.O. C sang two songs. Then



Mike Frye directs the Pontiac-Waterford Chorus

quartets got the opportunity, including TWO NEWBIES AND TWO OLDIES (**Pat Hefner**, **Austin Summer**, **Charlie Perry**, and **John Cowlshaw**) singing a well-received “Little White House in the Glen,” EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN, CODA HONOR, and LIMITED FRYDITON. The choruses joined for “The Lion Sings Tonight.” Mike Frye taught a tag - “Close your eyes, in sleep,” and the even-

ing ended with “Irish Parting Prayer” and “Keep the Whole World Singing.”



CODA HONOR



LIMITED FRYDITON



THE NEWBIES AND THE OLDIES



EVENIN' GENTLEMEN

The GENTLEMAN SONGSTERS Chorus of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter meets weekly at the Royal Oak Middle School choir room. This year, the school's choir director invited the Chorus to sing with the students at their annual *Spring Choir Concert*. The result was a most rewarding success for both the audience and the singers! Furthermore it was the lead-off article in the Society's June 17th LiveWire.

by Ray Sturdy

SING FOR A LIFETIME

The Gentlemen Songsters go back to school

Fun collaboration alert! Detroit's **Gentlemen Songsters** shared a performance with Royal Oak Middle School's sixth grade choir... and things got a little wild! The guys had a terrific time with teacher Diane Mehninger's class. Not only did they perform on their spring concert, but they got to sing with these awesome kids.



Is this D.O.C.'s new transportation? Note the DOC on the fuselage of this the second fly-worthy B-29 in the country.

"John, that is great! I love it. We have our pilots ready as well. **Euel Kinsey** and **George Burkett** are both instrument rated pilots!" - *Dave Montera*

Flint

Fred McFadyen emceed the Flint chapter show, Saturday, May 21, 2016.



Taking the final bow at the Flint chapter show.



Grand Rapids

by Tom Ennis

The Grand Rapids Chapter, GREAT LAKES CHORUS, presented "an a cappella bonanza" on May 21 in the beautiful DeVos Center for Arts and Worship. This is the same place where we had our Spring Convention. Joining the GREAT LAKES CHORUS on stage were the HARMONY MERCENARIES (this made a chorus of 70+) and several quartets

including UPPER DECK - the 2016 district representative to international, OLD RULES - the newly crowned district senior champs, SHADES OF GREY - the 1999 district senior champs, QUATERNITY, and BLUE CREW. Our special guest was AFTER HOURS quartet who placed 6th in Nashville. Oh, and then there was that international thing in July.

Grosse Pointe

by Jack Teuber

The Grosse Pointe chapter sponsored an interchapter picnic, Tuesday, July 26, at beautiful Pier Park in Grosse Pointe Farms under ideal weather conditions. Singing, food, and drinks were included.

There were five Chapters represented. Choruses performing were Flint, Grosse Pointe, Pontiac-Waterford, Rochester and Windsor. Total attendance announced was 120. Support for the JUG was announced at \$225.

Thanks to **Tony Schulte** and the Grosse Pointe Chapter for organizing the event.



Audience enjoys music at inter-chapter picnic.



Grosse Pointe chorus sings at inter-chapter picnic.

Huron Valley

by William Stutts Jr.

Inter-Chapter fun (May 3)

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS welcomed members of the FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS to their rehearsal and had a great time singing common songs and forming quartets. They ended the night with a wonderful tag.

<https://youtu.be/xSWixUQd7G8>

Open Mic Night at "The Ark" (June 1)

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS were looking for new venues to expose people to barbershop and we took three quartets to The Ark in Ann Arbor. The quartets included FULL VALUE, CHORDIOLOGY, and FOUR TONIGHT.

FOUR TONIGHT

(Photos by Harold Keys)



CHORDIOLOGY

FULL VALUE



[Return to TOC](#)

YouTube videos of the Ark performances:

- FULL VALUE (The Way We Were) <https://youtu.be/D5OKRgdwDmc>
- CHORDIOLOGY (409) <https://youtu.be/XzNdxwhQ8tk>
- FOUR TONIGHT (Sweet & Lovely) <https://youtu.be/AMfbyLnKWoo>

Silver Maples Assisted Living (June 4)

HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS got a chance to stroll and entertain around Silver Maples Assisted Living in Chelsea this week-end. At one point, we were joined by long-time barbershopper, Angelo, who is also a resident.



Resident (Angelo) sings with HVH at Silver Maples Assisted Living.

A QUART LOW (June 8)

Huron Valley has a new chapter quartet by the name of A QUART LOW. It consists of **Steven Taylor** (tenor), **Iain Willox** (lead), **Don Levitt** (bass), **Bob Snyder** (baritone). They are planning to participate in Bush League this August.



A QUART LOW

Representing on the International Stage (July 6)

With six weeks before the International Convention in Nashville, our Asst. Director, **William Stutts Jr.**, was asked to fill in on baritone and represent the Pioneer District with UPPER DECK. It was his first time competing in the International Quartet Contest. It was such a blast to see Huron Valley represented on the stage!

Kalamazoo

by Michael Sobel

The Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS Chorus and quartets continued to celebrate their 75th Anniversary with July performances at both the Plainwell Music Society's Summer Concert Series and the 3rd Annual Celery Flats Music Festival. This was our chorus's 26th year at the Plainwell Concert Series (we've been singing there since the very first event, 26 years ago!). We were also invited, for the first time, to participate in the Celery Flats Music Festival in Portage. It was a gorgeous Sunday afternoon and the crowds truly enjoyed hearing Barbershop for the very first time at this event.

Here's a photo of our chorus, in song, on the "stage" of the Flats' historic Grain Elevator.



MALL CITY HARMONIZERS on stage at Celery Flats Music Festival.

Lansing

by Don Horton

Lansing was represented at the 2016 Dead Creek Picnic sponsored by the Flint Chapter for the 24th year!!! District President **Mike Hansen**, Past District President **Brian Dunkel** and **Don Horton** made the trip from Lansing. Oakland County chapter brought the District Championship Trophy for ALL to view. Note: Lansing appears on the trophy for the years 1973, 1996, 1999, and 2007. Don

Horton has sung in all four championship performances.

Livingston

The LIVINGSTON LAMPLIGHTERS did their annual singing at Pink Party in downtown Howell, June 9. Picture on page 41.

Mt. Pleasant

It is with regret that the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS announce the resignation of Musical Director, **Jessica Thompson**. Jessica decided that the working relationship necessary for the chorus to succeed and fulfill its goals under her direction was simply not developing as intended.

Pontiac—Waterford

June 7 was High School Guest Night

Fourteen of **Maryanne Lambrecht's** vocal students from Milford High School arrived a whole twenty minutes early. The Milford Men signed in and quickly assembled with **Fred McFadyen** and enthusiastically began learning tags. At 7:30, the rest of the BIG CHIEF CHORUS arrived and **Jeremy Hagaboom** led the combined choruses in a series of vocal warm-ups. Jeremy is a Junior and a current member of the Pioneer District's Youth Chorus THE VOICE. Jeremy is also a past participant in "Harmony Explosion," the three day camp held at Central Michigan University each year. The BIG CHIEF CHORUS supported nine attendees at the 2016 edition of "Harmony Explosion."

Ray Sturdy followed Jeremy with physical and vocal warm-ups, emphasizing body stance and vocal posture. **Mike Frye** opened the singing with the traditional "Old

Songs / Down Our Way". Fred McFadyen followed with directing the BCC in the "Welcome Song."

Highlights of the evening were Fred leading the combined choruses in "The Saints Go Marchin' In," "Coney Island Baby," and "Keep the Whole World Singing." A Milford quartet did a great rendition of "Hello Mary Lou" followed by an ensemble singing "Hooked on a Feeling" and a special "Thank You" composition written by Jeremy Hagaboom.

Mike Frye then spent time teaching tags to the combined choruses, followed by the BCC sending the Milford Men on their way with the "Irish Parting Prayer" The evening officially ended at 8:45 followed by 45 minutes of informal tag singing when the last carload of students left at 9:30.

by *Jack Teuber*

June 21, The Big Chief Chorus at Dead Creek

What a great night! The BIG CHIEF CHORUS had roughly 24 men come to the Dead Creek Picnic hosted by the Flint Chapter. An evening of beer, brats, sauerkraut, and barbershop!!



THE BIG CHIEF CHORUS sings at the Dead Creek Picnic. (Photo by Dave Montero)

June 25 - Log Cabin Days Festival at Fish Hatchery Park

Since 2008, the BIG CHIEF CHORUS has been performing at Log Cabin Days, of the Waterford Township Historical Society. At its setting along the Clinton River, 23 Big Chiefs sang (following the New Horizons Band) to an audience of 56. **Tom Blue** led the chorus thru polecats, show tunes, pop culture tunes, and closing songs. **Jack Teuber** opened the concert with remarks, Freddie McFadyen spoke of the origins of the Society, and three quartets each sang a pair of songs, BIDIN' OUR TIME, 4 UR PLEASURE, and LIMITED EDITION. Roger and Bob set up the risers, and Jeff set up the sound system. Although the temperature was 87°, it was pleasant under the overhang. Many partook of the strawberry shortcake a la mode.

July 21, Golf Outing

12:48 P. M. marked the tee off time for the second annual BIG CHIEF CHORUS golf outing at Tanglewood golf course. To paraphrase the Marine saying, "we were the few but the mighty." Present from the BCC for golfing were Mike Frye, **Greg Moss**, and **Art Carinci**. We were joined by neighbors **Chris DiCicco**, **John Savela**, and **Steve Chulig**.

Even though the golfing was truncated by the rain after 14 holes, rain did not dampen our spirits. We probably could have finished all 18 if we hadn't stopped to have Mike teach us four or five new tags along the way.

Following golf, we were joined by **John Cowlshaw, Roger Holm, Walt DeNio, and Jim Owens** for a spaghetti dinner at Art's house and more singing.

It was truly a great day of fellowship, singing and fun.

by *Art Carinci*



The golfers after drying out.

Sault Ste. Marie

Bob has announced that the guest quartet for our 2017 show is FOREFRONT, the 2016 International Quartet Champions!

Traverse City

June Night of Harmony

The Traverse City Chapter/CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS celebrated its 50th Annual June Night of Harmony on June 25 at Lars Hockstad Auditorium along with special guests, VOCAL SPECTRUM, and the ladies of the GRAND TRAVERSE SHOW CHORUS, the SAI, 2016 Division A Regional Gold Medal Champions - a very special June Night of Harmony. The CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS and chapter quartets sang. A massed chorus of past and present CCMC members directed by past and present directors sang special songs from "the chapter archives."

by *Dick Hartrick*

Chorus Jukebox? Why not?

The CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS tried a new method of raising funds for a good cause. In conjunction with the Interlochen Public Library and a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), the Chorus became a "human jukebox." How do you get the jukebox to make music – you put in some money.

The Library is in its final stages of a 2.5 million dollar fundraising campaign. The committee invited the CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS to perform for a two hour Open House event. Director **Carly McCall** and committee members brainstormed the jukebox idea in order to accommodate an ever changing audience in an outdoor setting, to attract donations, and to break the singing up for the members. We weren't

sure what to expect but it went over gangbusters.

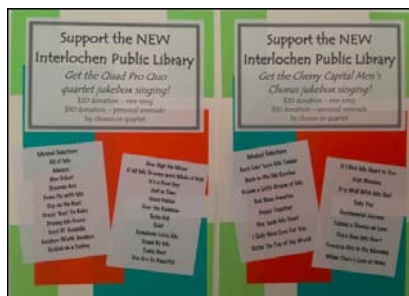


QUAD PRO QUO stepping out to serenade several of the Interlochen Library Fundraising Committee members. (Jabin Reinhold, Br; Chad Hall, L; Jason Lynch, Bs; Aaron Gramza, T)

Attendees heard three songs for free and from there on out the Chorus or one of the Chorus quartets, QUAD PRO QUO, would sing upon a paid request - \$20 for a song sung to the audience in general or \$50 to be serenaded. There was no pause in the action and QUAD PRO QUO certainly got a work out as they sang all of the tunes. A poster with music selections made it easy for the audience to choose. With the Chorus's help, the new library will be built!

Cherry Capital Men's Chorus Music Director retiring

Carly McCall, the Music Director for Traverse City's CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS will be retiring from her position on August 28, 2016. Carly came to the Chorus with a myriad of music skills which included background in classical music, choral singing, and even a little opera and she was a member of the GRAND TRAVERSE CHORUS of Sweet Adelines. She has fully embraced the craft of barbershop music and is a full fledged convert.



Chorus and quartet Jukebox selections.



Carly McCall

behalf.

Carly is far more than a Musical Director for the Chorus. She led the Chorus through some times of change and committed early on to seeing us through a milestone year – our Golden Anniversary and the 50th Annual June night of Harmony which, by all measures, was an outstanding success. She has been instrumental in grant writing, developing partnership concert schedules, creating effective promotional materials, and providing creative guidance to our programs. She has been involved in all things Chorus related and, in general, kept the Chorus train on the tracks through thick and thin. Words will never express enough how much we appreciate her dedication and her work on our

Carly's life has changed dramatically since 2011 including the adoption of two young boys. She will continue singing but will now be able to focus even more on her family and her other new responsibilities. The good news is that she won't be far away.

For her five plus years of leadership we say "Thank you!"

Traverse City Seeks New Director

The CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS of Traverse City, Michigan is seeking an inspirational, energetic, and innovative director skilled in the Barbershop style who maintains high expectations for members and is dedicated to musical growth. The CCMC is in its 50th year and has approximately 35 active members and multiple quartets. In addition to the annual June Night of Harmony, the chorus participates in district competition and presents approximately 10-12 additional performances, including community outreach concerts, school and community Christmas performances, and Singing Valentines. This position is compensated. For prompt consideration send a letter of interest and supporting materials to: Nathan Tarsa at

nathantarsa@cherrycapitalchorus.org.

Tel: 231-590-4722 (www.cherrycapitalchorus.org)

Wayne



Wayne's HARMONYTOWN CHORUS at Farmington's Art on the Grand.

Windsor

The SUN PARLOUR CHORUS hosted the 39th annual Send Off show Friday, June 10, at the Serbian Centre in Windsor. What an awesome show. In addition to the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS opening the show, there were some amazing performances that evening. We were entertained by HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS to start it off, followed up by the GREAT LAKES CHORUS, our international chorus representative. With the assistance of a couple of great stand-ins UPPER DECK, quartet international qualifiers, wowed us with some great music. FRONTIER the youth quartet



The Mass Chorus entertains the crowd.

international qualifiers sounded fantastic, OMG can these young guys ever sing! This was followed up by the equally amazing ROLLS VOYCE, last year's senior reps at mid-winter convention. The evening was topped off with a great performance by Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY our district chorus champions. With what seemed over 400 people in attendance who also enjoyed the mass sing of easily over 100 barber-shoppers on stage, the night generated some of the much appreciated funds to help our reps head to Nashville in July. Overall it was a great evening of entertainment enjoyed by all. Well worth the price of admission. Hope to see even more people out for next year's Send Off Show.

Report—Quartets

Baritone Shuffle

UPPER DECK, our quartet rep in Nashville, has a new baritone; **William Stutts, Jr.** replaces **Brandon Ciesielski**. **Joe DeSantis** has replaced **Roger Boyer** in the very busy EVENIN' GENTLEMEN.

Frontier

It has been an eventful couple of weeks for FRONTIER member **Brandon Smith**.

On the first of July he signed his contract and became the new Choral Music Director at Bedford High School and Middle School.

Then, over the fourth of July weekend, FRONTIER placed fifth in the Youth Quartet portion of the 2016 BHS International Convention.

If that wasn't enough excitement, on July 16, he married **Elizabeth Mary**.



Brandon Smith and new wife Elizabeth Mary.

Limited Edition



John Cowlshaw and **Jeff Doig** flew their planes to Nashville. The trip down was atmospherically exciting, and it threatened their arrival at the Convention. They landed, not at the busy Nashville International, but at the smaller, and appropriately named John C Tune Airport, ten miles from downtown (where Kid Rock lands.) During the flight they kept in contact on 122.75 MHz, despite Jeff's gradually drawing ahead (120 knots) from John (95 knots). Tom and Charlie drove by car (at 60 knots).

Thursday morning, Cowlshaw attended the annual PROBE meeting, Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. The new



BHS Headquarters.

emphasis is all about communications, whether it be by bulletins, social media, web sites, etc. *Smoke Signals* won 7th place (out of eight) in the bulletin contest. In Content, it scored much higher, but in Layout and Graphics, it can't compare with some of the sweet sheets put out by other editors.

It made the Society more real to visit Harmony Hall, the BHS headquarters building. The tour included the lovely entry way with spiral staircase, the archives section in the basement, the staff offices, and the collections of music on upper floors.



Jeff's "Archer" from John's "Tomahawk."

Limited Frydition

LIMITED EDITION with **Mike Frye** at Tenor (hence LIMITED FRYDITION) sang for 40 minutes at Brookdale Novi Thursday, May 19, to 67 residents as part of their 2016 Broadway-themed program.

The number of Broadway songs was rather limited, but the audience didn't mind. The large room necessitated a roaming performance rather than the scripted travelogue that the quartet had prepared, and which they at least had the chance to practice in front of **Kathy Doig**. (Spoiler alert: it involved a cross-country trip to Manhattan - via Coney Island - taking four local lonely persons along, to lift their spirits with music.)

One Irish resident particularly loved the inclusion of "My Wild Irish Rose" and "Irish Parting Prayer."

Limited Fredition

LIMITED EDITION with **Fred McFadyen** at Tenor (hence LIMITED FREDITION) sang at the 150th anniversary celebration of Four Towns United Methodist Church on Saturday, July 16. The event was made more interesting by learning of the central role the church played in the historical development of Waterford Twp.

As a staging area, the quartet warmed up at Complete Beauty Hair and Nail Salon, a mile west of the Church. As warmup continued, it became less of a rehearsal and more of a performance, as staff and customers gathered around. Owner Fay has bought program ads annually and welcomed us warmly. The nail tech's son had just died in a traffic accident the day before, and everyone was pretty somber, so they especially appreciated hearing "It is Well With My Soul," "What a Wonderful World," and "When

the Saints go Marching In.”

Reports—District

Kyle Snook’s visit, May 10

Kyle Snook has replaced **Sean Devine** as our regional rep from Harmony Foundation (HF). He visited the Pontiac Waterford chapter on May 10. He told a light, personal story about how HF helped him, and then urged participation at the “Ambassadors of Song” or “President’s Council” levels from attendees. Word is that he reached his goal of six new contributors. Kyle was an instrumentalist until his good fortune of having **Gary Lewis** as a Cleveland high school vocal instructor. Gary was in PLATINUM and MAX Q. Kyle is in MC FOUR, which placed 29th at International.



“For All We Know” by May 10th Octet (with Doug Weaver, and Kyle Snook on the right end).

7th annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, May 14

Seventy-some Brigadiers sang to an equivalent number of listeners as the 7th annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade at the Okemos Conference Center, Saturday evening, May 14, 2016.

The script by **Dave Ebersole** was excellent - a charming story, into which the eleven songs fit as snugly as CDs in a folder. The High School men from Hazlett were impressive. The guest quartet was the Ohio-based THE CON MEN who showed why they scored 77.3 at International.

by *John Cowlshaw*



First place quartet at GLHB.

Our 2016 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade is in the books and it was an awesome singing weekend. We would like to thank all the people that came to see the show, the Select Men's Ensemble from Haslett High School and a big shout out to THE CON MEN for a great show set. If you came to the show, tell your friends about our show and keep seeing our Facebook page for next year's show information.

by *William Stutts Jr.*

CDWI seminar and Outstanding In Front seminar, May 21

Both the CDWI seminar and Outstanding In Front seminar schedule in Mount Pleasant were cancelled due to low enrollment.

“If you are still interested in attending either of these events in the future, please contact me at [734-755-2926](tel:734-755-2926).

Keep on singing and learning!”
Chris Berry
Pioneer District

Windsor Send-Off Show, June 10

This year’s Windsor Send-Off Show was held June 10 at a new location, The Serbian Centre. The Windsor Chapter has been doing this for many years to benefit our representatives at the International Competition.

Traveling Jug fundraising activities

by Dave Montera

At the Windsor Send-Off Show held Friday, June 10, 2016 the Detroit-Oakland Chapter was pleased to announce the results of the fundraising events held to support the Traveling Jugs! For those of you who don’t recall, the Traveling Jugs are used to promote inter-chapter activities, and to raise funds for the quartets that will be competing at both the International and the Mid-Winter contests. [By using] those donations [to] support the quartets, the Windsor Send-Off Show proceeds are able to be earmarked specifically to the chorus representative to the International Convention.

After a many-year hiatus the traveling jugs returned as a fund raising event last year. This invention of the old Oakland County Chapter, which had been continued (and now revived) by the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, raised \$2,100 in 2015 for the quartets. In 2016 we were again able to raise a total of \$2,100 that has been distributed to the two quartets headed to Nashville next month, with a portion being reserved for the Senior Contest representative at Mid-Winter in San Antonio in January, 2017.

While DOC is proud of the efforts of the various chapters and individuals in support of this fund-raising activity, we also noted that the money we raised is not enough to pay for the All-Events tickets necessary for each of the quartets. So DOC is issuing a challenge for the 2017 Jug Fund! We want to raise enough money to provide each of the competing quartets with their All-Events tickets for International. That will require the District to help us raise approximately \$3,000 (assuming 3 quartets).

To assist in that DOC will again match, up to \$100, any contribution made to the Jug Fund by a Chapter over the next year. So, if your Chapter hosts a Jug event, and raises \$250, DOC will match \$100 of that money. If you raise \$75, DOC will match that \$75.

If you raise \$75, DOC will match that \$75. Even if you do not host an event, but donate money directly to the Jug Fund, DOC will honor the match as described above. Please keep in mind these are funds you donate directly to the jug fund, not the contributions your chapter may make to the quartets directly.

We thank all of the Pioneer District members that have helped us revive this great tradition, and look forward to meeting our goal for next year of equal distributions to the quartets in an amount sufficient to pay for 4 all events tickets!

As Paul Ellinger always says --PIONEER HO!!!!!!

Dave Montera
Immediate Past President, Detroit-Oakland Chapter
Pioneer District Executive Vice-President
Pioneer District V.P. - Music and Performance

Quartet Boot Camp and Quartet Factory, June 18

by Jack Teuber (Tenor of 4 UR PLEASURE)

The fifth Quartet Boot Camp was on Saturday, June 18 at the Okemos Conference Center. There were eleven quartets participating including 4 UR PLEASURE. There were nine coaches participating. The day was organized by **Roger Lewis, Paul Ellinger**, and the Quartet Champions Association.

4 UR PLEASURE received coaching from **Jamie Carey, Garrett Gillingham, Vicki Gibson**, and **Kendra LaPointe**. The coaches were great. Emphasis was placed on rehearsal plans and techniques, vocal production, breathing and better interpretation. Each session was 90 minutes in duration. Three of our sessions were shared with another quartet. Our session with Garrett Gillingham was ours exclusively.

A new feature of the Quartet Camp was Quartet Factory. This was a group of twenty independent singers that were grouped into five new quartets for the day, three of whom performed at the Closing Session.

2016 Dead Creek (Flint Picnic), June 21

by Don Horton

The 2016 Dead Creek Picnic sponsored by the Flint Chapter for the 24th year was a huge success. District President **Mike Hansen** and Past District President **Brian Dunkel** were both there. This year was an International Event with **Dan Bezaire** and his INTRIGUE quartet entering Michigan from Windsor for this big event. An estimated 120 or more barbershoppers and wives shared a Beautiful Night of Harmony. Fantastic weather, great brats and beer. **Dave Flatley** (Tenor) of DOUBLE O FOUR was the emcee. There were seven or eight chapters (including Bay City, Flint, Grosse Pointe, Huron Valley, Pontiac-Waterford, and Rochester) and seventeen quartets participated in the Annual Show at the Park on the River in Frankenmuth.

The Bavarian Belle (paddle boat), was a beautiful site up and down the river throughout the evening. Oakland County chapter brought the District Championship Trophy for all to view. Don Horton put together a pick-up quartet called 4 CHAPTER 4 - Tenor, John Wearing, Grosse Pointe, Lead, Don Horton, Lansing, Bari, Randy Meldrum, Saginaw Bay and Charlie Perry, Pontiac, Bass.

Harmony Explosion, July 21-23

by Joe McDonald

Another spectacular Harmony Explosion Camp is in the books. Thanks to **Erin Odell Cook** and **Puck Ross** for being great clinicians and people. Thanks to THE CON MEN and SINGAMAJIGS for all of the help as teaching quartets and to my four right hands, **Chris Cordle**, **Heather Koch**, **Jenny Krz**, and **Alex Arlin** for taking care of a bunch of details. So thankful to you all and proud of what we did these last three days.

International

Crossroads at NAFME's 2015 National In-Service Conference

CROSSROADS Quartet Named NAFME's 2016 Stand for Music Award Winner for Promoting the Value of Lifelong Music Learning.

CROSSROADS, the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2009 International Champion Quartet, is widely hailed as worldwide ambassadors to music educators, with landmark performances at national conferences in collaboration with Grammy-award winners THE FAIRFIELD FOUR that explore the common roots of gospel and barbershop harmony in African-American music.

The quartet's broad range of performance, research, and collaboration, led to them being named the prestigious Stand for Music award winner for 2016 by the National Association for Music Education (NAFME).

"CROSSROADS Quartet represents the best in vocal music," said NAFME Assistant Executive Director Chris Woodside. "But beyond, that CROSSROADS has advocated for the benefits of lifelong singing, which go far beyond the classroom. These phenomenal singers have taken a stand for including quality music education as a part of every student's well-rounded education."



If you haven't listened recently to their spine-tingling 2009 performance of "Lucky Old Sun," do not pass go, but go immediately to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7mGjSZpdpk>

Membership growing through self-serve sign-up

Since October 2015, men have been able to do something they couldn't do before: they found the Barbershop Harmony Society through their own means, clicked "join us" at barbershop.org and became full Society members without first joining a chapter.

After consultation with district and select chapter leaders, the Society Board last year dropped the requirement that members must belong to a Society chapter or district. The move is a small but important first step in a broader membership strategy. In an ever-changing social landscape where the consumer expects to help set the terms, this and coming strategies will help strengthen both the Society and individual chapters.

[Click to read more about the results!](#)

LiveWire

The BHS publishes its news weekly on LiveWire. It has lots of good stuff. The issues are archived, but with a month's delay, at <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs140/1102676682677/archive/1114501313803.html>

To get them as they are published, go to <http://www.barbershop.org/news-events/livewire/> and fill in the Registration blanks.

Change of Leadership at Harmony Foundation



Sharon Miller

After 13 years of service and leadership, **Clarke Caldwell** has decided to resign from his position with Harmony Foundation International, effective July 11, 2016. **Sharon Miller**, Chair of the HFI Board of Trustees, is temporarily fulfilling the duties of President/CEO of Harmony Foundation International. The Board's Nominating Committee has begun the process to fill the role of President/CEO.

Spotlight on a Chapter: Traverse City Cherry Capital Men's Chorus



[Return to TOC](#)

Barbershop in Traverse City is older than the present chapter. In fact, as **Bob McDermott** explained (in [Pioneer History](#)), "one of the two Michigan gentlemen who took the train to Nebraska to learn about this new-fangled organization was from Traverse City."

On Decoration Day, 1939, a group of veterans was gathered for Detroit's annual Memorial Day Parade and were enjoying a song when attention was called to a newspaper story about a meeting of the newly organized Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, to be held in Tulsa beginning June 2, 1939. All expressed interest; and **Ed Schwoppe** a member of a quartet known as the STATE HIGHWAY FOUR, said he would go there and investigate.

Schwoppe made the trip to Tulsa with **Harold Gibbs**, then of Traverse City. Both were employed by the Michigan State Highway Department. They told their superiors they ought to go to Tulsa to look over a new type of road building equipment being manufactured there. The deception worked. The state paid the freight, and the two men returned to Detroit as card carrying members.

The Cherryland chapter existed by 1941-2, and was one of more than 15 choruses "going full blast in this state" by 1947. Soon, the North was rife with chapters: Boyne City, Charlevoix, East Jordan, Beulah, Big Rapids, Hart, Ludington, Manistee, Reed City, and Traverse City. Traverse City was among the chapters whose Parades became annual traditional affairs.

Then the Cherryland chapter vanished. But, Phoenix-like, a new chapter, Cherry Capital, arose. In the early 1960's twelve prominent men gathered at the Park Place Hotel for the first meeting of the Cherry Capital Chorus. It was chartered in 1967.

The 35-member Chorus meets on Tuesday evenings, from 7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at the Traverse City Presbyterian Church on 701 Westminster St.

The officers are:

President - **Nathan Tarsa**
 Secretary - **Jason Lynch**
 Chorus Director - **Carly McCall**

Their stated mission is to "maximize our joy as Barbershoppers by musically being all we can be, while enriching our communities with great harmony and good works."

Troubadour e-interviewed **Chad Hall** (Assistant Music Director), **Nathan Tarsa** (President), **Marty Chirgwin** (30-year Director emeritus), and **Maurie Allen** (50-year Founding Member).

On a side note, Maurie is the only remaining member of the original CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS, which he helped found 50 years ago, when he moved to Traverse City, married his wife, and opened up a men's haberdashery, Captain's Quarters, in

Downtown Traverse City. Maurie and Marty Chirgwin both received their 50 year BHS pins at the International Convention in Nashville this year.



Maurie in Nashville with CEO Marty Monson and BHS President Don Fuson.

Troubadour: I've got some early history from **Robert McDermott's** History of the Pioneer District. Up thru 1950, there is a lot of talk about the Cherryland chapter. Then in the 1960s, it became the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS. What happened to Cherryland?

Maurie: As to your query about the Cherryland Chapter and its history, their instigator was a fiery promoter by the name of **Ned Kehoe**. Legend has it he recruited the nucleus by collecting five dollars from every able bodied man he knew in exchange for their signature on the dotted line, and the CHERRYLAND CHORUS chartered with in excess of one hundred members. Their longevity from the chartering in the late forties to the mid fifties gave barbershopping in the Traverse City area a firm foundation that the twelve of us built upon with the resurrection in 1966 and has kept great harmony and good works alive and well for another Fifty years now.

Marty Chirgwin: It was the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS when I got here, and remained so until about six or seven years ago when the Chorus decided to change the name to the to the CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS.

Troubadour: The 1970s seemed to be a particularly active period for TC, including chorus medals and hosting of district competitions, and even sponsoring a new chapter in Au Sable Valley. Anything to add about that?

Marty: Yes. We were very active in the 70's. I joined TC in 1968 and started directing in 1970. We were very competitive in those days. We won the "small chorus" championship several times (no longer exists) and would always finish right behind the "big boys." We would often host "area roundups" with all the northern Michigan choruses attending. The majority of the chorus would go to the Harrisville Campout over Labor Day. The whole chorus attended Harmony College in St. Joe, MO, and was featured as a demonstration chorus. Visitors always knew there would be "tag time" at Dills after rehearsal. We were a well-accepted vital organization in the community and Grand Traverse area.

Troubadour: What about past quartets and members? Some of the past quartets that McDermott felt important to mention were THE CHIEFTAINS (1952), RAGEDY ANDYS (1969), VOCAL GENTRY (1972), and LAST CALL (1973-4).

Maurie: Quartetting has always been a vital part of our organization and I'm pleased to have historical knowledge of a couple of the quartets you referenced in the 60's and 70's.

I particularly remember the RAGGEDY ANDY'S, since that was my first registered quartet. Our lead was **Al Hubschneider**, also our first chorus director, tenor was **Dr. Bill Jerome**, baritone was **Dr. Don Fraser**, and I sang bass. While searching for a name, we considered A Pair O' Docks, but settled on RAGGEDY ANDY'S. Our claim to fame was, and always will be, to be the first quartet from Traverse City to be disqualified from contest! Not expecting to make the cut in our first attempt at contest, and not being particularly interested in the fine print, we only had two songs prepared. So, Saturday night when we sang the same two songs, the brilliant judging panel picked up on it right away, and the rest of history lives in infamy.

THE VOCAL GENTRY, another quartet of mine, with **Dr. Earl Perrigo** on baritone, **Tom Olkkonen** on lead and Marty Chirgwin on tenor immediately set, and achieved a goal to learn at least four songs. Then came the GOLD MEDAL RESEARCH TEAM and THE BAY AREA HARMONY CLUB. Ain't it great to be a barbershopper?

Marty: TC had many quartets through the years. Not district champs etc., but audience pleasing, entertaining quartets (probably 20 or more). Several have won Bush League. 1980 Champs were A POSITIVE ENDEAVOR (Marty Chirgwin, **Mike Murphy**, **Elbert Ford**, **Jim Fegan**) In the mid-90's, BAY SHORE IV (Marty Chirgwin, **Jim Scranton**, **Terry White**) were the champs. Another quartet was THE BAY-TONES (**Al Galloway**, **Max Carter**, **Mel Gee**, and **Papa Joe Williams**).

Maurie: And, of course, FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, their original bass and parody writer, **Neil Nugent** has been a very active member of our chapter for many years and although the remaining members were scattered around the state, we have jealously claimed them as our own.



Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir

Troubadour: Carly McCall is your director? How long? And how did you find her? And who were other recent directors?

Chad: After Marty Chirgwin, **Tom Stokes** was our director for less than a year, followed by **Al Bonney** for about five years, **Jeff Cobb** for four years, Carly McCall for five years. I have been the assistant director since Al Bonney's tenure and was the interim director while we were searching for Al's replacement.

Carly was our first female director. She joined us in February 2011. We found her when she approached the chorus to work on a portion of "White Christmas" for the Old Town Playhouse, where she worked at the time. We had not had an official director since July of 2010 when Jeff Cobb resigned to take his current position at Northwest Michigan College.

Nathan: Carly will be retiring from her position on August 28, 2016. She has fully embraced the craft of barbershop music. Carly is far more than a Musical Director for the Chorus. She led the Chorus through some times of change and committed early on to seeing us through a milestone year— our Golden Anniversary and the 50th Annual

June night of Harmony which, by all measures, was an outstanding success. She has been involved in all things Chorus related and, in general, kept the Chorus train on the tracks through thick and thin. Words will never express how much we appreciate her dedication and her work on behalf of the Chorus.

Troubadour: Who are your current active quartets?

Chad: Active quartets are QUAD PRO QUO, NORTHERN EXPOSURE, SHORELINERS (formerly THIRD COAST), and HAPPY OUR.

Troubadour: Describe your typical chorus rehearsal.

Chad: Chapter meetings try to stay varied with elements outside of the rehearsal. Rehearsal takes up the majority of time; however we add in craft, quartets, warm-ups, business meetings, and occasionally other items such as woodshedding. Typical rehearsals have 25-30 guys during the summer, and 15-25 during the winter. It starts with an easy warm-up (15 minutes), rehearsal and sectionals (1 hour and 15 minutes), business meeting (15-20 minutes), break (10 minutes), craft (20 minutes), and final closing and song run throughs (10 minutes).



QUAD PRO QUO opening the Cherry Festival, 2016 (Jabin Reinhold, Br; Chad Hall, L; Jason Lynch, Bs, Aaron Gramza, T) Photo by Betsy Engelman Allen

Troubadour: How is repertoire chosen?

Chad: Repertoire is chosen by the music team with input from the chorus. We turn over about 6-7 new songs every year. As songs lose their “luster” we retire them for newer versions of similar style. We try to keep a nice mix of ballad, uptune, patriotic, gospel, and newer music. Once the repertoire is chosen, we create neatly bound books to distribute to the guys and guests. We run a repertoire of about 20 songs annually.

Troubadour: I see that you have been going to District every year or two, with scores around 60 and Men On Stage around 25. What are plans for 2016-17?

Chad: We are planning on attending the Fall Contest contingent upon enough members being able to participate.

Troubadour: As a “northern chorus,” are there many snowbirds in your chorus?

Chad: We lose 8-10 guys to warmer climates after October.

Troubadour: New membership is a problem for all of us. What measures are you taking?

Chad: Membership is an ongoing effort. Our 50th celebration attracted several new and past members into the Chorus. In honor of Maurie Allen's 50 years of continuous membership, we established the Maurie and **Betsy Allen** Youth in Barbershop Scholarship Fund. This fund, which targets high school and college age young men, will help reduce their cost to participate in Barbershop programs.

Troubadour: You had your big show Jun 25. Tell us about it.

Chad: Our 50th annual June Night of Harmony was a great success. The chorus invited all previous members to return for the show. We created a "Greatest Hits" package with five songs for the alumni chorus to learn. We invited previous directors to be part of the show and direct one of the songs from the package. We had 50 guys for 50 years on the show! The alumni chorus opened the show with three numbers. We then had a parade of quartets with chapter quartets (SHORELINERS, NORTHERN EXPOSURE, HAPPY OUR, QUAD PRO QUO) each singing two songs. This was followed by the core CCMC singing five numbers leading us into intermission. After intermission, the show reopened with the GRAND TRAVERSE SHOW CHORUS singing three numbers. These local ladies from Sweet Adelines International are currently ranked No. 1 for the 2017 Harmony Classic. After the GTSC, we had a wonderful set by VOCAL SPECTRUM. After VOCAL SPECTRUM, the alumni chorus returned to sing two more songs. We then invited all barbershoppers to join us on stage for "Keep the Whole World Singing."

We had a near sell-out crowd with over 600 attendees. Wonderful comments came from everyone.

Troubadour: Who designs your shows? Writes your scripts?

Chad: Design of the shows is usually driven by a committee. Scripts have been written by the director some years, but usually Maurie Allen does a great job wordsmithing for us.

Troubadour: What does a year's gig schedule look like?

Marty: Besides our annual June Night of Harmony, we do many benefit concerts along with the usual (valentines, etc). Our motto is "Harmony with a Purpose."

Troubadour: Is there one thing that comes to your mind that might surprise an outsider who came to visit (either a BShopper or a non-BShopper)?

Marty: For many years we would fill Corson Auditorium at Interlochen Arts Academy for two nights. It was a great venue and barbershoppers and guests would come from all over the state. Our headliners were always International Champions or contenders. Several quartets sang on our show in what turned out to be their final performance before winning International. We would also get "drop in" coaching from some "big hitters" like **Harlan Wilson**, **Gene Cokecroft**, **Barry Towner**, and Pioneer District

people during the summer.

Maurie: Thanks to Nathan, Chad and Marty for chiming in on this nostalgic trip and thanks to you, John, for sharing this universal love of barbershopping with our brothers throughout the Pioneer District.

History

Harmonet and PioNet

July 9, 2016, David Bowen <dmb0317@gmail.com> wrote to Harmonet:
Monday, July 8, 1991 was the Monday after the Louisville convention and it marked the first messages on the Barbershop e-mail list that we know as the Harmonet. ... Yesterday's chorus contest was a barn-burner and tonight's quartet finals looks to be equally exciting, but you'd never know it from the conversation here. ... perhaps it's time for the Harmonet to go the way of the Gopher servers that were the rage 25 years ago. Or perhaps we need to find a new reason for existing.

Jim Styer, Sarasota, formerly Battle Creek in the Pioneer District
<jimstyer@comcast.net> wrote to David Bowen:

You may recall this, David: After communication with you and some research, I started PioNet for the Pioneer District in February 1997, as a listserv out of Humber College in Ontario. When Humber bowed out in 2004, Matt Tipton of Macomb did yeoman service in helping to move it to Yahoo. Matt has since become the moderator.

PioNet has remained active throughout, more so of course during convention periods. It currently has 531 subscribers, and averages 350 messages a year (almost 1 a day). Its slowest month was 20, a few years ago in the summer. It shows no signs of abating.

I have archives of ALL PioNet messages since it began, I'd guess around 6,500 messages. Maybe I should delete them; I haven't had occasion to search them, and anyone else would need my mail program to search them.

PioNet will observe its 20th anniversary next February. Wonder if any district e-mail nets now in existence have been around longer.

(PS: I still look at Harmonet.)

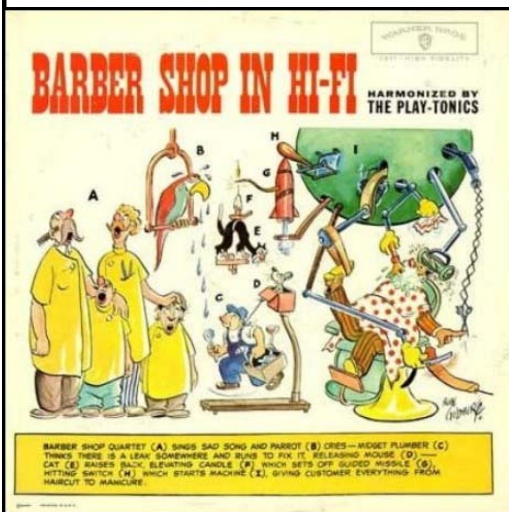
Preservation, July 14, 2016

[New issue of PRESERVATION now available online](#)

In the July issue of Preservation, **Grady Kerr's** journal of barbershop history, the cover story is about the PLAY-TONICS, who came so close to Gold, but didn't. Their Warner Brothers record was the first barbershop quartet recording in a brand new thing called "Hi-Fi."

And the cover artwork featured an original illustration done especially for them by **Rube Goldberg**. Goldberg's cartoons were well known for depicting complicated devices that performed simple tasks in indirect convoluted ways such as, in their case, getting a customer everything from a haircut to a manicure from a barbershop quartet singing a sad song. The concept itself is genius.

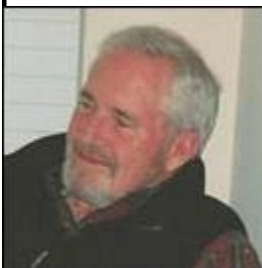
- A. Barbershop Quartet a Sings a Sad Song.
- B. Parrot Cries.
- C. Midget Plumber Thinks There's a Leak Somewhere and Runs to Fix it.
- D. Releasing Mouse
- E. Cat
- F. Raises Back, Elevating Candle
- G. Sets Off Guided Missile
- H. Hitting Switch
- I. Starts Machine Giving Customer Everything from a Haircut to a Manicure.



The current issue also includes this photo of a c. 1958 Michigan Troubadour that is not available on the Pioneer District web site.

Transitions

Arthur S. "Steve" Hesse Jr.



Steve Hesse of Fenton died suddenly on June 7, 2016 at the age of 72. He was a member of the Livingston Lamplighters.

A sad day as we say Good Bye to our own brother in song, Steve Hesse, Jr. Steve was a active and vital part of our Lamplighter family, always quick with a smile and a positive comment to make someone's day. God's Chorus gained a great tenor and a wonderful man. He will be greatly missed.

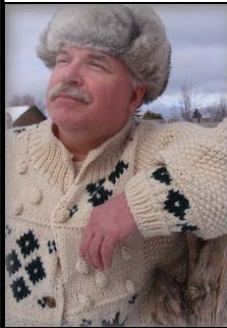
George Taylor



George Taylor passed away August 5, 2016 at the age of 85.

He was a member of the Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN and truly loved barbershop singing. In addition, he enjoyed fishing, spending time with family, baking cookies, and making pizzas. He served in the U.S. Army and Navy in the Korean War.

Allan Toivonen



Allan Toivonen of Sault Ste Marie died July 3, 2016 at the age of 62.

Allan was always known for his sense of humor, positive attitude, passion for singing, and his love of ice cream. He could always be found on Monday evenings proudly singing beside his friend **Dave Parker** and other treasured members of the NORTHLAND BARBERSHOP CHORUS.

Robert J. Whitley



Bob Whitley, 85, a resident of Cleveland, passed away at his home Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

Bob was a long-time Detroit-area barbershopper. He was the Bass of GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT, the International Gold Medalist quartet in 1971. (They had only organized in 1969, and came in 4th in 1970.)

One week after winning the gold the quartet accepted an invitation to make a 17-day tour of South Vietnam. From the decks of ships to forward-area bases to hospitals they entertained US servicemen, singing 41 shows in a little over two weeks.

He was also a director - of (Detroit) MOTOR CITY, and CITY LIGHTS, both of which went to International.

As a member of DETROIT #1, he also sang Bass in an earlier District Quartet Champion quartet, TREBLE SHOOTERS (1964)

In tribute, some vintage footage of the quartet performing on a chapter show in 1984.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7ALgd87pns>

Brian Philbin (METROPOLIS) shared this loving tribute to friend and fellow singer Bob Whitledge, gold medalist with GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT and long-time director, coach, and Society member:

On August 2nd, we lost a true hero of the barbershop medium, Bob Whitledge. Bob was a giant of a man in every sense of the word. He was an amazing Bass singer, a gifted musician, a wonderful champion with the GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT, a leader in every choral group he directed or sang in, a servant of the Lord, and a tremendous and loving, gentle man who was all about encouragement. In addition to my first quartet, THE IVY LEAGUE, he encouraged countless barbershoppers and quartets throughout the years and he was one of the first people who ever took any interest in me as a barbershop singer.

During my first or second year of barbershopping, I was sitting next to him at a contest and watching a quartet who was, shall we say, experiencing difficulty with regularly locking chords. I'd been wincing internally during the performance and Bob smiled throughout the performance and, once they'd finished, applauded with the same enthusiasm as he had for the quartet I'd thought had won the contest. During the break, I said "Your ears are more well developed toward the craft than mine, so I know that had to have disturbed your sensibilities." He didn't deign to address the remark and instead mentored me by saying: "Every man that crosses the stage today has invested untold hours of work and dedication to come and sing for this audience today. Sitting in that auditorium, we really don't know their story. The best thing we can do from the position of an audience is to support them – find something you enjoy about their performance and focus on that, rather than anything that might disturb you. Provide the encouragement as a member of the audience that's been promised as part of the name of our society. The judges will teach them what they need to do in order to improve – it's our job as their audience to see that they don't give up on something they love." He was teaching me what it meant to be a champion long before I'd ever won a contest.

We loved you, Bob. Godspeed.

Charles "Chuck" Wilson, Jr.



Chuck Wilson of Kalamazoo died January 22, 2016 at the age of 89.

He was a powerful advocate for people from all walks of life, instilling guidance and hope by working with prisoners, families, schools, and community agencies. He was a member of the MALL CITY BARBERSHOP CHORUS for over 40 years, and especially enjoyed singing with his quartets the HUM BUMS and the BLUE PLATE SPECIAL.

Pioneer District

The Voice

by Mike Hansen, President, Pioneer District

It is my great privilege to inform the Pioneer District family that Pioneer District's own THE VOICE has been selected as one of only 20 choruses to participate in the BHS Youth Chorus Festival next January in San Antonio. We could not be more proud of the work of **Aaron Pollard**, his team, and the hard working young men of THE VOICE.

Their attention over the coming months will not only be directed toward great singing, but also raising money to support their trip to San Antonio. As their fund-raising efforts unfold, please remember to be generous in your support of the future of barber-shop.

On behalf of the entire Pioneer District, congratulations to THE VOICE on this selection. Best of luck to all of you, and we'll see you in San Antonio....

Pioneer District Home Page

Thanks to **Steve Sutherland** for his update of the Pioneer District home page. Check it out at <http://pioneerdistrict.org/>

For Troubadour and Facebook, go to "Media & Events" and scroll.

Harmony Mercenaries

Director and Founding Member Jamie Carey writes:

What is Harmony Mercenaries?

The concept of Harmony Mercenaries is simple. All chapters within your region agree to learn six songs that are easy to learn, have a learning track, and are easily recognized by NON-barbershoppers. For example, some of the songs from last year that will stay in this year's repertoire are "Breaking Up is Hard to Do," "Hello Mary Lou," "Can You Feel The Love Tonight," and "The Cup Song" from Pitch Perfect. Many songs are fun to sing – "First Hello Last Goodbye," "Darkness on the Delta," etc. but do not fit our criteria of popular to the general public. There are also great songs like "Happy Together" that are way too demanding for most chapters due to the extent of the range and complication of the harmony parts. We want songs that will not eat up your precious chapter time, but give you fun songs to sing through at each meeting.

The Benefits of Harmony Mercenaries.

Let's say your chapter has a chance to sing at a weekend sing out. But when it comes closer to the event you see that you only have one baritone and both your tenors are out of town – NOW WHAT DO YOU DO? Call Harmony Mercenaries! Because each

chapter knows 6-8 of the same songs through Harmony Mercenaries, you can send out an email blast to each chapter and request help.

... a few examples ... Kalamazoo ... Muskegon ... Holland Chapter ... chapter visitations.

“A new South East region will be forming including chapters from Saginaw/Flint/and the Detroit Area. If your chapter is somehow not involved, you can act as an independent and attend events and chapter visitations. Instead of learning your music at a chapter meeting, you would simply use the learning tracks.

Song list, 2016-2017, West-Side version, as sent by Jamie Carey:

Returning Repertoire:

Come Go With Me
Hello Mary Lou
Can You Feel The Love Tonight
The Cup Song
Breakin' Up Is Hard To Do

New Songs:

You Got A Friend In Me
My Girl (arr. Wolf)
King of the Road (arr. Kitzmiller)
Under The Board Walk

The Southeast may choose different songs.

Al Fisk - Coaching

Greetings:

I'm stepping out of my comfort zone to go on a weeklong mission trip to Nicaragua in July 2017 - evangelism, medical outreach, clean water projects, shoe distribution, etc. Since I am required to pay my own way, I'm looking for creative ways to raise money. Proposition: If any group would like coaching, I will forego my normal fee in lieu of a contribution to my cause. Or, if you simply wish to contribute (as some guys did at Pioneer Boot Camp), I will certainly allow that. LOL. Another option is this link to my account: <https://missions.me/alfisk>

Thank you for your consideration. I'm excited...and apprehensive. God has blessed me to SOOO many ways. This mission trip is another way for me to give back. Peace.

For more info:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/168118606>
<https://missions.me/alfisk@comcast.net>

Retirement is good!

Pioneer District 2016 Fall Convention

October 14-16, 2016, Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

The site for convention registration is now open at:

<https://pioneerdistrict.wufoo.com/forms/r1hjx3fdouy1917/>

Here are a few important things for you to know about making hotel reservations for our fall convention in Kalamazoo.

1. Kalamazoo College has their homecoming that weekend. ALL HOTELS WILL BE FULL!!! That means that if you don't get your reservation in on time, you will be very hard pressed to find a room at any price.
2. August 1 is a magic due date for making reservations. After that, most everything will be filled. If we are all early, we'll be assured of a room. Yes, we have a hotel block that will not expire until 30 days before convention. At the same time, if we need extra rooms, they will not be available after August 1.
3. There is a two night minimum at the Radisson. Exceptions can be approved by me, but only after September 1, if we have rooms still available. Sorry if this sounds restrictive, but we've had to send regular attendees and competitors elsewhere because someone booked a Friday or Saturday night only. The KZ College Homecoming also has an effect on that.
4. If I need to find an alternate hotel, I'll do that in August.

Thanks.

Roger Lewis
Events VP,
Pioneer District

Troubadour Business

Editorship

The upcoming November issue of *Troubadour* will complete five years of editorship by your current *Troubadour* team - 20 issues. We have enjoyed it very much, but now it is time for us to release ourselves from our role as co-editors, and to welcome new voices.

We look forward to working with the District to implement the transition.

John, Tom, and Greg

Constant Contact

Join the *Troubadour* mailing list; 83 other Pioneers have, and get *Troubadour* immediately in their inbox because they have subscribed to Constant Contact. It's easy; just click on "join the *Troubadour* mailing list" at the top of the *Troubadour* page -

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

Otherwise, folks only know when it is available on the Troubadour page if they see it on Pionet. <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/PioNet/conversations/messages>

Spread the word.

District Events

70th Annual Bush League, August 19, 20.

FRONTIER will present the usual Masters Class at 7:00 pm. See what **Aaron Pollard** has to say about putting together a winning quartet. He is director of our youth chorus THE VOICE and a third generation barbershopper.

Our judges are all from Ontario District which will give a new look at coaching. **Barry Towner**, The Category Specialist for Performance, will teach a class Friday eve on the changes required with Presentation Category becoming the Performance Category!

Go to harmoniemeisters.org to get all the forms you need and more information. You can even go to the "Bush League" tab and then the "winners" to see all 69 previous champions.

Dale L. Hanson
231-420-1986

43rd Baker Family/GLI Corn Roast, Monday, August 29

Put it on your calendars for the Summer last Barbershop Hurrah!! Before the hunkering down for the Fall Convention. Men's only nite of Food, Fun, and Friends - eating dog and corn, then singing til the cows come home or the beer runs dry.

John Baker
2765 Bauer Rd, Jenison - 49428

Vocalosity, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Sunday, October 16

Vocalosity is the all-new live concert event from the creative mind of artistic producer Deke Sharon (Pitch Perfect, The Sing-Off) that takes a cappella to a whole new level! This fast-paced production features an all-star ensemble of diverse young vocalists singing some of today's chart-topping hits in brand-new arrangements that set a new standard for 12-part harmony. No genre of music is off limits in the world of a cappella and Vocalosity covers them all – from tenth century Gregorian chant and classical choral to barbershop quartet and bouncing doo-wop all the way to an exploration of the current sound of a cappella with music from THE BEATLES, **Bruno Mars**, and more. It's the aca-perfect concert experience! Prices start at \$37 (\$25 student)

District Calendars

2016

Aug 19, 20	Bush League & Gaylord Show of Champions, Gaylord
Aug 29	43rd Baker Family/GLI Corn Roast
Sep 17	Kalamazoo Chapter Show
Oct 1	Rochester Guardians of Harmony Show
Oct 8	Gratiot County Chapter Show
Oct 14–16	Fall District Convention in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA
Oct 16	Vocalosity
Nov 5	Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show
Dec 11	Wayne's Annual Christmas Show

2017

Apr 8	Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Show
Apr 21-23	Spring Convention at Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, host: Mt. Pleasant
Oct 20-22	Fall Convention in Battle Creek, host: open

2018

Apr 20-22	Spring Convention Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza, host: D.O.C.
Oct 19-21	Fall Convention in Battle Creek, host: open

2019

Apr 19-21	Spring Convention, Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, host: open
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Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos, MI

May 19-21, 2017	Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
Jun 1-3, 2018	Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
May 31-Jun 2, 2019	Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
May 29-31, 2020	Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

Harmony Mercenaries (all times 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated)

Tuesday, Sep 13	Kalamazoo
Saturday, Sep 17	Kalamazoo show
Monday, Sep 19, 2016	Battle Creek
Tuesday, Oct 25, 2016	Lansing
Saturday, Nov 19, 2016	CDWI Workshop in Grand Rapids, 2nd Congregational Church (1:00 to 5:00 PM)
Monday, Jan 23, 2017	Battle Creek
Thursday, Feb 23, 2017	Muskegon
Tuesday, Mar 21, 2017	Lansing
Tuesday, Apr 25, 2017	Holland
Tuesday, May 23, 2017	Battle Creek Jug Night
Sunday, Jun 18, 2017	New Music/Workshop, Okemos Conference Center (1:00 to 5:00 PM)

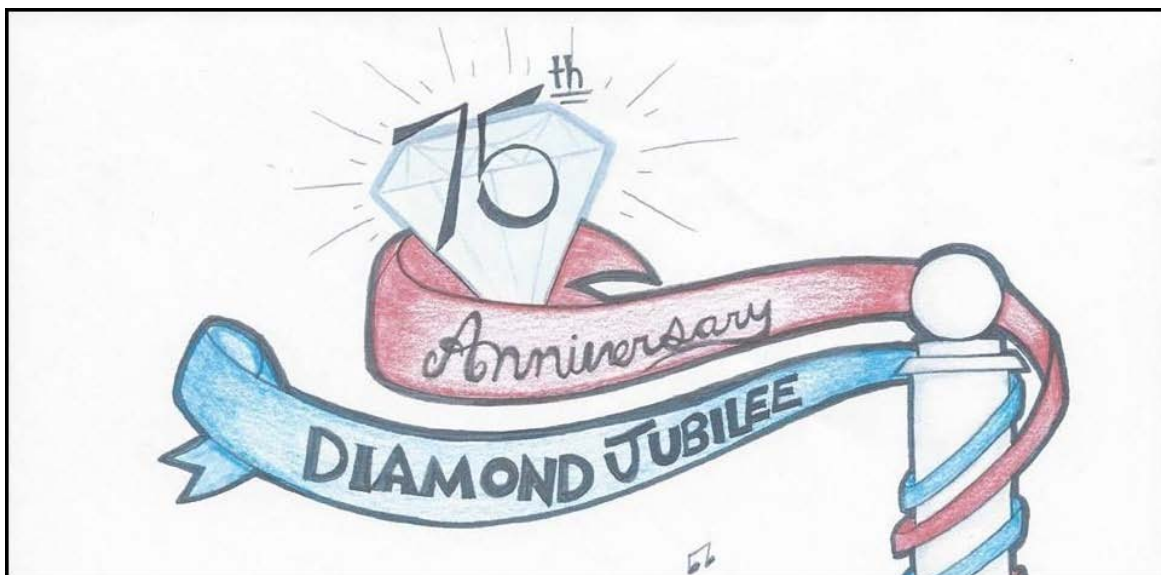
International Conventions

MIDWINTER – RENO, NV. January 17 – 22, 2017. Join us for some harmony on the Riverwalk! <http://www.barbershop.org/sanantonio/>

INTERNATIONAL – LAS VEGAS, NV. July 2 – 8, 2017. Early bird pricing is still available for a limited time. Amazing venue: The Axis Theater at Planet Hollywood. <http://www.barbershop.org/vegas/>

Date	Location
January 17 - 22	Midwinter, San Antonio, TX
July 2 - 8, 2017	Las Vegas, NV
July 1 - 8, 2018	Orlando, FL
June 30 - July 7, 2019	Salt Lake City, UT
Jun 28 - Jul 5, 2020	Los Angeles, CA

Promotional Flyers



Kalamazoo Show, September 17



This picture of the LIVINGSTON LAMPLIGHTERS was inadvertently omitted from their story on page 15.

70th Bush League 70th
 70th anual Show of
Barbershop Quartet
Champions

Featuring:
2015 Pioneer District
Champions "Frontier"

Plus:
2015 Bush
League winners Remix

70th anniversary

And the three winning quartets from the 2016
Pioneer District Bush League competition, the
"Harmonie Meisters" and more!

When - Saturday August 20th 7:30 PM
Where - Evangelical Free Church auditorium -
1649 M32 East, Gaylord, Mich

Tickets: At the door \$12
Pre-sale \$10 (available at Saturn Booksellers)







Guardians of Harmony
Presents our 41st Annual Show

California Dreaming

2016 Pioneer District Chorus Champs

International Competitors
THE CONMEN

Our Very Own District Champs
Right on Q

"MC Doran McTaggart"
Additional entertainment by the Black Satin Trio,
plus Limited Edition and more!

California Dreaming

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 1st, 2016 @ 7PM
Stoney Creek High School Performing Arts Center
575 E. Tienken, Rochester Hills, MI 48306

Order All Tickets Now: Call (248) 853-6622 or email
tickets@guardiansofharmony.org

Tickets: Adults \$22, Seniors \$20, Students / Child w/Parent \$15
(Call for special Group Rates)

 After Glow Party Tickets now available 

For more information visit our website at www.guardiansofharmony.org



Midstatesmen Chorus Presents:



On the *Railroad*

Sat. Oct. 8, 2016 at 3 PM and 7PM

Alma High School Auditorium



Featuring:

Tonal Eclipse

2014 Pioneer District Champions

For Information or Tickets Call:
 Midstatesmen 989-750-8692
 Scott Johnson 989-763-3325
 Denny Wissinger 989-386-8900

See our website at midstatesmen.org or follow us on FACEBOOK

The Barbershop Harmony Society's Pontiac-Waterford **BIG CHIEF CHORUS**
Presents a Barbershop Music Extravaganza

Let's Go Cruisin'

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Waterford Mott High School Auditorium

1151 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, Michigan

Featuring



DOUBLE DATE
Rock-Appella Marvels



THE VOICE
International Youth Medalists



FRONTIER
International Medalists



The CLASSY DANCERS
Sensational Ballerinas



The Pontiac-Waterford BIG CHIEF CHORUS

Tickets: Adult - \$18
Child (Under 12) - \$ 5

Call (248) 674-2323
or order online at <http://BigChief-Tickets.ezevent.com>



Endgame



From Roger Lewis's Facebook Page