INDY INTERNATIONAL

Indy 2006 was a splendid International. The weather was sensational, allowing easy intercourse between the three venues – Conseco Fieldhouse at the east end, and the RCA Dome and Westin Hotel a half mile west (both a block south of the remarkably large and heroic War Memorial in Monument Circle).

Dick Johnson and I flew down in my Piper Tomahawk, landing at Indianapolis Metropolitan Airport. In some ways, the most impactful moments are not the competitions in the cavernous Fieldhouse, but the rehearsals in the intimate hotel rooms. I was sitting next to model-attractive Judy Clancy as her husband, Jim, and son, Greg, led the VOCAL MAJORITY through their final choreography representing the transition from the old to the new. We also were blown away by GREAT NORTHERN UNION CHORUS, and MIDWEST VOCAL EXPRESS.

Both the chorus and quartet competitions were extremely tight. In the chorus event, Friday, Dallas’s VOCAL MAJORITY hung on to win its 9th Gold medal against an onrushing WESTMINSTER CHORUS, who if scores are to be believed, improved an incredible 6.3 % from their District competition. Here are the results.

1. Vocal Majority 94.6%
2. Westminster 94.0%
3. Toronto Northern Lights 91.1%
4. The New Tradition 89.4 %
5. Midwest Vocal Express 89.3 %

Alan Gordon, Bari in GOTCHA! and frequent contributor to Harmonet, said it well:

“... it was quite a nailbiter. The top finish was exciting, and I would have believed it in either order. Kind of a "Westminster won the ballad, VM won the uptune... where's a coin?" situation.

Seeing it live, you get to hear resonance over just plain sound on the webcast, and when you're talking 17 points, it makes a difference. Even live, there were points where the live sound system couldn't handle the sound of the VM and it distorted, and times where Westminster guys turned in for choreo and got lost. So we must remember that our seats are rather different from each other, and each system will highlight each strength and weakness differently.

Westminster certainly won the crowd, with a great story and great performance, but some people unfortunately chose to boo and ruin a pretty great moment of the announcement. I was looking at the Westminster crowd, and it DID NOT appear to be them. They were excited as heck, and classy in accepting their phenomenal accomplishment. My momentary shame in those booing was quickly wiped away with the chorus's joy.

If you could pick a 0.6% difference, it could have ended up with VM's girth and resonance that created great power on the uptune. Their size also allows for more creative performance without sacrifice in sound. While Westminster's was great for their size, scores aren't adjusted per capita, so the added depth in the uptune seemed to be a slight edge.

Most importantly, I'd LOVE to stop Harmonet conspiracy theories before they start and hope the discussion centers on the accomplishments of two great choruses and their performances.

Remember, with only a 0.6 difference, several judges had to disagree. That's why there are 15 at International. And you can bet that when you see a scoresheet, the choruses will have different swings among the categories, highlighting different strengths.
unified singing is the result of long, long practice. And secondly, their emotional intensity, the consequence of their commitment, is outstanding, as is their willingness to sing from their hearts.

Pioneer District’s Macomb County GUARDIANS OF HARMONY placed 27th of 30 with a score of 76.2%, showing a couple of %-points improvement.

In the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet championship, an excellent quartet from New Zealand, called MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS, took home gold. Insignia scored 17th among 21 with a score of 64.2%.

In Quartet competition, 47 quartets got winnowed down, via quarter finals and semifinals, to the ten survivors on Saturday night. In another tight finish, VOCAL SPECTRUM nosed out MAXQ, both with 91.5%. VOCAL SPECTRUM is young, having made a splash as the run-away winner of the Collegiate competition just two years ago. They have great blend, charisma, and dynamics, though are a bit harsh for my ears. You can hear them sing at http://www.vocalspectrum.com/recordings.htm

MAXQ includes past gold medalists Jeff Oxley, and Tony De Rosa and Greg Clancy, refashioned into a new foursome. I thought WHEELHOUSE might win it all, which would have given the remarkable Cindy Hanson a trfecta, (as she pointed out on the webcast) since she coached and choreographed the other two gold medalists – VM and MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS. FERMATA NOWHERE scored 76.7% with their two songs, “I’ll Be Seeing You,” and “Five Minutes More,” three %-points higher than in District Finals.

Dick and I and the Nevaux family also enjoyed the AIC show Thursday night, which featured ten world champion quartets – the SUNTONES (1961) with a West Side Story medley, HAPPINESS EMPORIUM (1975) with a poignant song about the 50,000 names on the Vietnam Memorial, ACOUSTIX (1990) with a Simon and Garfunkel medley, FRED (1999), FOUR VOICES (2002), POWER PLAY (2003), GOTCHA! (2004), and, of course, REALTIME (2005). We can be proud of the quality of our BHS champs. The new Sweet Adelines champion quartet, BUZZ, also sang, as well as last year’s collegiate champs, MEN IN BLACK.

Other BCC members present included the Bredes, and all of our co-singing Guardians, Chuck Murray, Jeff Spires, Tom Ford, and Fred McFadyen.

Everyone should plan to attend at least one International to get a sense of what it is we are aiming for. It has been said a hundred times that these are just ordinary guys, and indeed, they look it, and are most cordial and warm to talk with. But two things stand out. Their vocal production is magnificent – so much pure

unified singing is the result of long, long practice. And secondly, their emotional intensity, the consequence of their commitment, is outstanding, as is their willingness to sing from their hearts.

By the way, it’s worth a few moments to view Midwest Vocal Express in full-color fish-wear at http://www.mve.org/

From Dick Johnson

Highs of the trip (not in rewards order) were... The flight to and back defy description, witnessing rehearsal of the international level choruses such as Vocal Majority, seeing and meeting with members of these choruses (they appear no different than our own members, except they have an air about them of being on a mission) was interesting, watching the quartet contest on big screen, attending the AIC show and greeting some of my old friends from the Terre Haute and Indianapolis chapters. In particular I enjoyed spending time with 95-year old Phil Miller who directed the Bloomington, In. chapter as well as planning the Indy shows and choreography for years. I wish that our entire BCC could have witnessed the Indy trip. They would have listened and learned too.

From Bruce Brede

Bonnie and I were two out of a half dozen to sit in on VM's final rehearsal and warmup on Friday morn. We saw Jim Clancy direct a little but mostly Greg Clancy working out some trouble spots with Jeff Oxley pep-talking along the way. They kept right on rehearsing while their Chorus Manager sent small groups out one by one for makeup.

Then we witnessed their performance Friday about 1 pm. Their execution was outstanding but their song selection and choreography only average, in my opinion. They beat out newcomer "Westminster Chorus" from California by only 17 points out of about 2300 (less than 1%). The old favorites from Northbrook and Toronto were 3rd and 4th. VM better not get lax for Denver.

AROUND THE PATCH

On July 12th, the Big Chief Chorus performed for about 48 residents of American House of Pontiac, as part of their party celebration, complete with clown, who fashioned a balloon headdress for “Dickie.”

On July 27th, a goodly turnout of 48 men performed as part of the oxford Summer Concert Series at the Centennial Park. The two-hour gig was shortened somewhat by the arrival of heavy rain, just as FOUR WHEEL DRIVE was claiming “He’s Got the Wind and the Rain In His Hands.” OTR and CELEBRATION also performed, and, in a slight departure, Dick involved the audience in the singing of “My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean,” I’ve Been Workin’ On the Railroad,” and “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.” The audience was large enough (240) to force Director Dick (against his custom) to use the
microphone. By chance, Paul Ellinger stopped by; he’s the Lead of CHORDIOLOGY, (Huron Valley chapter) and a member of the five-member a cappella group ELMO THUMM, which just placed 5th in a world a cappella competition. Hmm – local show possibility??

Welcome back to long-time Big Chief member, Ed Lilly, who now lives in Florida. Ed quartetted with Pontiac back in the 70’s, but was able to visit us this summer.

Welcome to newcomer Ted Vick.

**Fall Show songs.** The seven Western songs, and their “off the paper” dates are:

- Ridin’ Down the Canyon Aug 1
- Happy Trails to You Aug 7
- Home on the Range Aug 15
- Cool Water Aug 29
- Don’t Fence Me In Aug 29
- I’ve Got Spurs that Jingle Jangle Jingle Aug 29
- Let the Rest of the World Go By Sep 11

**MEMBERSHIP (at 59)**

**Barbershopper of the Month: July.** Doc Mann for his interest and cooperation in chapter activities despite his medical problems.

**Renewals:** Bob Brain (2), Doc Mann (7)

**Pending?** Don Sheridan.

**August Birthdays:**

- Mike Keith (5th)
- Tom Ford (10th)
- Andy Lesnew (12th)
- Bill Auquier (24th)
- Jeff Doig (29th)
- Terry Jamison (30th)

**Medical:** Bill Dabbs returned home July 11, and has recovered quickly, rejoining CELEBRATION (even with a bari tiddly at Oxford).

Lyle Howard had spinal surgery, July 18.

Lew Mahacek had a pacemaker installed and is doing fine.

Mel Parrish had a bad case of pneumonia, but still celebrated his 70th anniversary, June 22.

Bill Pascher has been given an ok from the doctors on his clavicle fracture recovery

**Quartet News**

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE sang a package of twelve songs on June 22 for the 65th reunion of the 1941 Pontiac High School graduating class at Santia Hall in Keego Harbor. This was Dodge Melkonian’s graduating class, and he was there from Florida to join in on the high school fight song (and Hello Mary Lou).

On July 15, FOUR WHEEL DRIVE performed at a fund-raiser for Troy Museum and Historic Village. The theme was “Motoring Memories”, which was emphasized by a gathering of sixty-seven truly “classic” vehicles and ten vintage motorcycles. The day was extremely hot (temps approaching the nineties before the 10:00 AM performance start time), but the quartet sang in the relatively cool shade inside a gazebo. We were well received by the strolling crowd and by the classic-car owners who stood by their vehicles and gladly answered questions about their automobiles. The total attendance was estimated at 575 persons. From all indications, we will be asked to sing at next year’s event. (From Zaven Melkonian)

Following the performance, quartet members with their spouse (plural of spouse?) and significant other gathered at Zaven’s home for a picnic and boat ride and camaraderie.

They also sang for Al and Zaven’s Care Group, July 29.

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

**Barbershop Harmony Cruise, July 14**

D.O.C. pulled off its riverboat cruise on the Detroit Princess successfully. Problems last year cut into attendance this year, but word is that they at least broke even. For $30, people got the cruise on the Detroit River plus lots of Barbershop Harmony with two choruses and nine quartets, both Barbershop and Sweet Adelines, including Fermata Nowhere and Party of Four.

**2006 Slamkafest, July 22**

About 300 people attended Jack & Kitty’s 7th Annual Harmony Hideaway Happening. The locale is their eight-acre farm in Riley Township, north of Armada, Richmond, and Memphis. The evening show featured performances by the Guardians of Harmony and many quartets, including POWER PLAY, FERMATA NOWHERE (with substitute Mark Slamka), BORDER CROSSING, MOXXI, PARTY OF FOUR, and several Sweet Adelines’ quartets. The highlight was the first performance by our new International champions, VOCAL SPECTRUM. The food included Hotdogs, Brats, Sloppy Joes, platters of veggies and pastas, tablefuls of pies and cakes, an ice cream truck, Beer, and Pop. The requested donation for supper and show was $20.
Mike Slamka joins his dad as co-director of the Macomb County chorus. Dave Woolf is the new Director of the Kalamazoo chorus. The Battle Creek chapter is searching for a new Director.

The Festival Chorus, to be directed by Dr. Don Campbell in Gaylord, August 18-19 in conjunction with Bush League has been cancelled.

**AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD**

**The 18th-Annual Buckeye Invitational**

This festival of shows, fun, and contests is August 17-20 in Columbus, OH. It will feature some great quartets, including Realtime, Spotlight, Gotcha!, FRED, and MaxQ. For details, go to www.buckeyeinvitational.org

The Mid-Winter convention is in Albuquerque, January 21-28, 2007. Next year’s International convention is in Denver, and will celebrate 50 years of “The Music Man.”

Dale Thomas sent me a copy of the Akron, OH chapter’s bulletin, that his sister prints. The Derbytown Gazette is a beautiful, full-color publication. This month’s copy highlighted their Youth in Harmony activities: “In pursuit of one of its most vital missions, the Akron Chapter rededicated itself in 2006 to supporting vocal music education in area secondary schools. In a three pronged initiative, the chapter has increased monetary donations to vocal music departments in the schools, performed in concerts jointly with or alongside school choirs, and promoted student enrollment in summer Harmony Camp by making presentations to students and teachers and by offering scholarships to attend the camp.”

Meet Pontiac’s Members in the Pioneer District Hall of Fame

In 1974, the Pioneer District initiated its Hall of Fame. Of the sixty-three inductees, six have been from the Pontiac chapter, all of them initiated in the first six years. This article about the six is based on material in Bob McDermott’s History of the Pioneer District, and the memories of Bill Pascher, with helpful supplements from Lyle Howard, Len Barnes, Ed Lilly, Dick Johnson, and Neil Braun – thanks, guys.

(Clinton) “Chase” Sanborn was elected in the first group. Chase held most of the Pontiac Chapter offices. In 1955 he was the first recipient of the Area Counselor of the Year award, (the district was then divided into three Areas) which thereafter was named after him. In 1959 he served as vice-president of the Pioneer district. In 1962 he was elected to represent the district on the Society’s International Board. Chase Sanborn died in 1970.

Chase worked at GM, in Material Control or Finance. “He was a bass and he just loved to get into a quartet where bass was dominant. He hobnobbed with the entertainment segment of barbershopping” so that he was instrumental in choosing the many world-class quartets that sang in Pontiac shows.

He and Bill and Len Barnes sold most of the show tickets because of their repeat customers at GM Truck and Coach. Chase also lived in Len’s neighborhood for the last twenty years of his life.

Bill Nevaux recalls that it was Chase that inducted him (into Oakland County Chapter). “He was a very distinguished-type person.”

Ed Lilly calls Chase the original Mr. Pontiac Chapter, for his enthusiastic support of the chapter. He would go to all the conventions and let everyone know that he was from Pontiac. He was not known as a singer, though.

Lyle Howard says “Chase was the politician of the chapter. He was always involved at district level, and even international level. I think he was a forever board member at Pontiac. He wasn't a great singer. I don't recall his ever being in a quartet while I knew him. He would sing in tag quartets and in chorus, and that seemed to be good enough for him. He preferred to plan and work; he liked to work and keep things running smoothly. I guess I was really closer to Chase than any of the others. I would have to say that I think Chase was the driving power behind the scenes that kept Pontiac alive and vibrant for so many years. He died rather young, at least young in relationship to the time that I knew him. I don't think the chapter was ever quite the same after that for a long time. I have a fond memory of taking my quartet to his house and singing for him shortly before he died.”
Louis Harrington lived from 1904 to 1985 and had the most impact at the district and international levels. Lou was a member of the Society for more than forty years. He served twenty terms as district secretary (through 1969) and two terms as district president. He also served three years as an International board member. However, he was not known as well locally, and he was not particularly a quartetter; though he would attend Sage Lake weekends. He was more formal, business-like, according to Bill Pascher.

In 1949 Lou began publishing The Michigan Troubadour, which is believed to be the first organized, regular district publication in the Society. In 1950 he began issuing a pocket-sized district directory for all members. When there were insufficient funds to publish the directory, Lou found an anonymous benefactor to finance it. Lou also obtained a blanket U.S. Government exemption from an admission tax on 'Chapter Parades' (shows). Lou was a part of the committee that succeeded in bringing the international convention to Detroit in 1953, serving as associate chairman of the event. He also provided assistance to chapters wanting to sponsor district conventions. “Lou wholeheartedly felt that the chorus was a fundamental part of barbershopping, both as a training ground for quartets and to provide an opportunity for less experienced members to participate. Lou, a native Detroiter, attended the University of Detroit and the University of Michigan. He was a practicing attorney and an active member of the Detroit Bar Association Glee Club and also the Harmonie Society, Detroit's oldest singing society.”

Len Barnes recalls that Lou was an avid baseball fan and a excellent story-teller because of his fine memory.

W. Carleton Scott held dual membership in the Oakland County and Pontiac chapters. In 1943 he was elected to the National Board of Directors. In 1944, he was serving as President of the Oakland County chapter when it sponsored Windsor for membership, thus transforming SPEBSQSA into an International Society. And he continued in International office as Master of Ceremonies. In fact, Oakland County chapter furnished and presented the O. C. Cash Medallions to the five top quartets from 1944 to 1946.

Bill Pascher was also inducted in 1974. Although we know Bill from within the chapter (he has served as Director and every office of the chapter except Treasurer, and he remains our honored remaining founding member of the chapter), it is interesting to see how he has been recognized from outside.

First of all, he was honored for establishing our annual “Olde Time Woodshed” contest on March 29, 1957 with John Beaudin. This event drew 114 barbershoppers including International President Rowland Davis of New York, and produced fourteen competing quartets. The winning quartet received engraved arrowhead lapel medallions. The best-attending chapter received the "Carroll P. Adams Bennington Trophy." All of the awards were designed and made by Bill. “This tradition has extended the tradition that lasted thru the Sixties and Seventies of Detroit-area Friday barbershopping get-togethers featuring woodshedding and quartet singing galore, and one attending would get a chance to sing with barbershoppers from all the other chapters in the area.”

Bill was the editor of the chapter Bulletin, Pow-Wow. This led to his involvement in P.R.O.B.E. (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. In 1969 and 1970, Pioneer District's entry in the P.R.O.B.E. booth contest at International placed a strong third out of the fifteen districts. The booths included the handiwork of Bill, and cartoonist John Morris and Bob McDermott of the Oakland County Chapter. “It was significant that this was the first real exposure of the name ‘Pioneer’ to the Society and what it stood for.”

The 43rd international S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. convention was awarded to Detroit for the year 1981, and Bill was an important part of the organizing committee, and the backstage manager.

During the Pioneer District Board of Directors meeting held during the spring convention in 1985, Bill Pascher suggested a revision of the district logo. The original logo was designed by John Morris of the Oakland County Chapter. Bill redesigned the emblem by superimposing the Conestoga wagon over the Michigan-Ontario map, to be more reflective of the District since it encompasses Michigan and southern Ontario. The change was unanimously adopted.

Lyle Howard adds this: “I guess the one thing that really stood out for me were the board meetings in Bill's basement where he was always fermenting wine.” And Ed Lilly, this: He always wore flashy jackets that advertised his Pontiac affiliation.

He was a member of at least four quartets including Sad Sacks, Three Corns and a Bunyan, The Mad Hatters, and The Last Goodbye.
Rawley Hallman

Rawley was a local pharmacist, and owner of Hallman Drugstore, located in the old Waldron Hotel, on the corner of Perry and Pike. Rawley and Otis Spiker (Bill Pascher’s uncle) ran a kitchen in the basement nicknamed Hallman Hall, which served as the meeting room of the chapter for a long time. Bill calls Rawley a real “music man,” and he in fact originated the Music Man trophy. “He was most knowledgeable in all four parts, and he would stop, in the middle of the music, and say, you’re supposed to be here, on this note. He was a baritone. He was always criticizing me, critiquing me, and others.”

“Chapter members preferred quartetting, so it was a hard time getting a chorus started. But it soon developed, naturally, that there weren’t enough guys singing without a chorus. I think it was John Beaudin that got the first chorus together. For a few months, or maybe a couple years, he was the director. And that fell into the hands of Rawley Hallman. Rawley conducted for several years. Then Hallman moved out of town, I think to Florida, near Sebring.”

Rawley was a member of the DETROITERS (Weber, Eason, Hallman and Wolff) which reached the Finals of the 1946 International Convention in Cleveland.

At the first Michigan District chorus contest (1952), Rawley served on the panel of judges.

Rawley was on hand to receive his award when he was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 1975.

Rawley was in many quartets, including DROP CHORDS, with John Smith, Dick Johnson and Al Maier. He was also an arranger, with his own distinctive style.

Lyle Howard adds: “Rawley Hallman was the barbershopper’s barbershopper. At the time I knew him best his drugstore had moved to Elizabeth Lake and Telegraph. He lived in an apartment complex directly behind the store, long gone now. His store was always the ticket center for our shows.”

“Rawley had the best ear for good harmony, and bad harmony, that I ever knew. You couldn’t get away with anything around Rawley. He directed the Pontiac chorus during several different time periods. A good director he was not. An excellent teacher he was. I don't think I ever remember when he wasn't in a quartet, most of them with Smitty. Rawley sang baritone. He was a thin, frail looking man. He loved to teach and sing tags, a lot like Smitty. I can't say that I can put my finger on any one thing that earned him the Hall of Fame honor other than his utter dedication to the hobby. He was well known everywhere in the district. I don't recall him holding any district level offices, although he may have. Like all quartetters, Rawley loved to sing.”

Ed Lilly calls Rawley a “stickler for singing it right.” He wrote and arranged music and coached quartets. At that time, barbershop was mainly quartetting. Non-quartet members would do “gang-singing” but Rawley would work to get them into quartets.

Neil Braun adds that he was a solid taskmaster. Neil sang under his directorship around 1953 at the Knights of Pythias Hall at Voorheis and Telegraph, where, after singing, they would have sandwiches and beer.

The sixth inductee from Pontiac was W. L. (Bill) Otto (1979).

A letter from Carroll Adams (Executive Director of the Society) in the District history says: “The Oakland County chapter was founded in 1941 at a dinner meeting in the banquet room of a downtown Royal Oak restaurant. Bill Otto then lived in Pontiac and I in Pleasant Ridge. Bill and I had invited 60 or 70 barbershop addicts of our acquaintance in that area. Thirty-two men showed up. In those days men belonged to several chapters. To start off, in 1939, Bill and I were members of the Detroit (Michigan #1) Chapter, and at one time Joe Wolff and I belonged to 16 or 18 Michigan chapters. We would become charter members of every chapter we had a part in organizing.”

In 1946, Bill Otto (of Pontiac) was elected to the International Board from the Michigan District.

In 1956, International president Rowland E. Davis of New York appointed Bill Otto as assistant secretary, as the new chief of the decrepits (The Association of Discarded Past Members of the SPEBSQSA Board of Directors Without Voice and Without Portfolio, Not. Inc. (Official organization of past International Board Members)
Bill sang (bass) with Bill Pascher in Three Corns and a Bunyan for about fifteen years. Pascher says, “Bill was working for the Society then, as assistant to the head secretary, down on Fenkell Avenue in Detroit. When Society moved its headquarters to Kenosha, (1957), Bill moved with them…. Bill Otto retired from Kenosha and went to Tampa, Florida, Seminole actually, lived in a trailer court there for a few years. Evelyn and I went to visit him, I guess twice, him and his wife Hazel. He died in Florida.”

Len Barnes recalls driving to McMullan Center (the site of the Sage Lake Roundup after it got too big for Sage Lake). Len at 57 was the youngest of the group, Pascher was 67, Harrington was 77, and Otto was 87.

(Note: Six of the first thirty-two inductees were from Pontiac, but none of the thirty-one since 1979. Are there other worthy nominees from Pontiac-Waterford?)

**Big Chief Jeopardy #9 (How did you do?)**
1. Answer: First prize of $100 split between Zaven Melkonian and Dick Johnson, with second prize of $100 split between Mike Keith and Jeff Spires. Question: What were the results of the 2001 Big Chief Membership contest?
3. Answer: This Anderson University grad had many careers before becoming Top Producer for Century Twenty-One. Question: Who is Jeff Spires?

**Big Chief Jeopardy #10 (Try these.)**
1. Answer: Diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma (Issue #10)
2. Answer: His first three dates with his wife were: a flight to Marshall’s Win Shulers for dinner, a flight to Bay City Brown airport for banana splits, and a flight to Mackinac Island. (Issue # 31)
3. Answer: Five of their six gold-medal-winning songs (in Louisville) were written before 1915, albeit in powerful new arrangements, and all four members have qualified with AHSOW on all four parts. (Issue # 39)

**Sound and Music (the sixth in a series by Bruce Brede)**
Music is rapidly gaining acknowledgement in the medical field. Previously all non-drug focus has been on the health benefits of exercise, diet and weight control (how many obesity articles do I see daily?).

Now we're beginning to see and read about the health benefits of daily music thru singing, playing instruments and even listening (any mother will tell you the benefits of lullabies for their newborns). It seems the vibrations cause internal resonance in the vital organs which is beneficial to health and healing.

Maybe someday our rehearsals and singouts will be covered by Medicare! Hah!

**Learning New Music**
Paul Howe, editor of Lansing’s Woodshedder Weekly re-printed an article from the Indiana Harmony Brigade, on learning new music, by Duane Henry. It seemed helpful. The original is at [http://www.harmonybrigade.org/ihb/](http://www.harmonybrigade.org/ihb/) but in brief it recommends:
1. Sit down with music in hand and a learning CD in your player. Listen and read through the music ten times. Resist the temptation to sing at this point.
2. Immediately listen to the song and sing along ten times while reading the music.
3. File the music away, and put the CD in your car to rehearse during drive time.
4. (One other helpful thing is to make your own practice tape of all your chorus and/or quartet repertoire and play it occasionally to keep the music fresh in your mind.)

**Barbershop from iTunes**
The first wave of iTunes content from the Barbershop Harmony Society became available in June 2006, and there are now nearly 1,000 tracks online. How do I access this content and begin downloading barbershop music?

1. Download and install the free iTunes software. [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com) offers clients for Windows 2000 or XP, and Mac OS X v10.2.8 or v10.3.4 or later. (You do not need an iPod™ portable device to listen to purchased tracks on your computer– however, you cannot transfer from iTunes to other manufacturers' portable devices.)

2. Create an Apple Music Store ID. (AOL users can use an AOL ScreenName)

3. Search for barbershop contest music. Our recommended iTunes search in the "Search Music Store" window in the upper right hand corner of the iTunes screen is "barbershop contest". Based upon our catalog structure, this will bring up all of the BHS catalog then available, both quartet and chorus. To narrow your search, you can also use "barbershop quartet contest" or "barbershop chorus contest. Viewing the entire catalog may require scrolling through several screens. Although the summary in the bottom center of the iTunes window may indicate 150 songs, clicking "More results" in the bottom right corner will refresh the screen with the next 150 tracks.
4. Click on a track title to hear a sample.

5. Buy. Get a single track for $0.99 cents, or a 12-song "volume" of a particular contest session for $9.99

6. Listen … sing along while commuting!

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING** July 12, 2006 (Excerpts from Bill Holmes)

President Zaven Melkonian called the meeting to order at Bruce Brede's home. All members were present except Pete and Roger.

Dick Johnson’s treasurer’s report: The current balance is $14,820.31. The chapter made a donation to the Macomb Chapter and a donation to **Fermata Nowhere** for their trip to international.

A letter was approved which will be sent to various guests and friends of barbershop inviting them to join us in the western show preparation. Chapter members are to forward to Bill Holmes the names and addresses (e-mail also) of persons they would like to receive the invitation to join our rehearsals for the show.

Wayne Cheyne reported that Paul Smith is exploring becoming a dual member with our chapter and Ted Vick has expressed an interest in the chorus. Jack Teuber submitted a written report regarding sing-outs.

On Aug. 8th at Comerica Park, we will wear Class "B" uniform. The bus is reserved for 4:30 pm and will depart at 4:45 pm.

Jack received a singing request from the Waterford Senior Center but declined it.

Discussion regarding a new summer uniform was tabled.

Bruce Brede’s recommendation for the cast party was approved, namely, chorus members tickets at $5, youth tickets at $10 and guest tickets at $15.

Barbershopper of the Month is Doc Mann for his interest and cooperation in the chapter activities. In spite of his physical limitation he has made a special effort to be with the chorus on sing-outs as much as he can. He has not let his health problems hinder his attendance with the chorus.

**Note:** All un-attributed articles and photos are by John Cowlishaw

**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Director: Dick Johnson, (248-363-5173)

Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Lyle Howard, & Bill Holmes

President: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)

Past President: Pete Mazzara

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bill Holmes

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Bruce Brede

Chorus Manager: Art Carinci

Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter

**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 1, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks “Lookout Lodge”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 3, Th?</td>
<td>Three Men and a Tenor, Oxford Summer Concert Series</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 8, T,6:57</td>
<td>BCC sings National Anthem at Tigers vs. Twins, Class B.</td>
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<td>Aug 9, W</td>
<td>Exec Bd Mtg, 7pm @ Zaven Melkonian’s home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 15, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks “Lookout Lodge”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 18-20</td>
<td>Bush League, Gaylord, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 18, F</td>
<td>Buckeye Invitational, Columbus OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 22, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks “Lookout Lodge”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23, W</td>
<td>11am, Independence Oaks, Senior Health &amp; Fitness Expo, 9501 Sashabaw Rd, Class C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 25, F</td>
<td>BCC Picnic, 7:00pm, Bob &amp; Eileen Marshall’s home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 29, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks “Lookout Lodge”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 5, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal returns to Crary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 13, W</td>
<td>Exec Bd Mtg, 7pm, Dick Johnson’s Kroger Store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 19, T</td>
<td>Guest night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 24, Su</td>
<td>2pm, Orion Twp Library, 825 Joslyn Rd, Class B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11, W</td>
<td>Exec Bd Mtg, 7pm, Wayne Chene’s home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13-15</td>
<td>District Convention, Kalamazoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4, Sa</td>
<td>Fall Show</td>
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</tbody>
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