As our 61st Annual Show, JukeBox Classics, ended and the houselights came up, we stood on the risers looking out over a sea of a thousand faces, cheering people. What a high! Clarkston people said it was the largest show they’ve had. A sell-out? Who would have imagined it?

The script and choreography (by Jeff Doig and Pete Mazzara) were simple. Two women (Eileen Marshall and Elaine Green) discover a jukebox and decide to play old tunes. As they put in their coins, Doig’s recording of clicks and bells is heard, and the chorus rotates mechanically with arms swinging. Six choral songs and five quartet/ensemble songs later, the first half is over. (Well, plus the abortive, rejected efforts of the Italian Goom Ba’s and a deadpan serious rendition of “My Wild Irish Rose,” rejected by Elaine with kicks and the sound of a sliding needle.)

Jim Troeger set this musical in motion with his music selections and direction. Dick Johnson, Lyle Howard, and Freddie McFadyen carried on the directing in the last two months. The set was simple, sign work by Howard Lynn and a magnificent large jukebox that Gene Downie spent all summer building. Once again, Donna Bevington kept the whole show moving, and Jeff Doig MC’d it, with son Brian in the trenches at the audio switches. Ted Prueter and Jeff chaired it all. Jim Owens somehow kept track of 1000 tickets and the money they represented. Dick designed the new full-size program. And Ron Clarke provided the simple, but effective costumes, the black outfit with chest records. Sweet Adelines ushered and Barb Workman and Karen Ensign worked the merchandising table.

Ross Ensign saw Three Men and a Tenor a year and a half ago and had championed their appearance on our show since then despite chorus misgivings about the financial practicality of it. The audience loved them and, by all reports, forgave our departure from strict barbershop style.

Jack Teuber aided by Ross and Mel Parrish obviously did a great job on publicity, including a large ad in the Friday Marquee section of The Oakland Press.

Clarkston Union (the old converted church on Main Street) provided generous munchies for the performers.

Imagine Bruce Brede’s surprise when, during intermission, a pre-teen boy walked up to him in the lobby and asked for his autograph. The boy had identified Bruce’s face in the program and wanted him to sign it. The added touch of the height-contest, between Ross and Glenn Williams, was an audience pleaser (though I thought the shorter should be the winner. One of the Three Men came up to my 10-year-old granddaughter after the show and shook her hand, to which she replied, “Thanks, but I was looking for the small dude.”)
Then on to the afterglow, which was wonderful too, thanks much to Bruce Brede, now that we are getting used to finding our way thru the woods to Shepherd’s Hollow Golf Club. There were a hundred attendees to glow in the feeling of success, and the food and presentations by Jackpot, Off The Reservation, Four Wheel Drive, B Natural, and, of course, Three men and a Tenor.

Donna Bevington wrote us: “I had at least half a dozen people stop me at church on Sunday and tell me what a great show Saturday night was. Best show ever. I’d say, yes, Three Men and a Tenor were great and everyone said yes, but they really liked your part of the show. Amy kept saying how cute Elaine and Eileen were. It was definitely a hit. Good job.”

Installation and Awards Dinner
We had a good turnout on Friday November 18th for the 2nd consecutive Pontiac Waterford Installation and Awards Dinner. The Pontiac Country Club served up a buffet table for the group of us singers and spouses. Zaven Melkonian was installed as President for 2006, Bruce Brede was installed into the Member-at-large slot vacated by Zaven, and the rest of the Board was re-installed.

In the Awards section of the evening, John Cowlishaw announced the winner of 2005 Barbershopper of the Year Award. It was well-deserved by Mr. Jack Teuber, our VP of Marketing and Public Relations, who has had an exemplary year of arranging gigs, securing publicity in local media, selflessly supporting others, and singing out-of-voice-part as a much-needed Tenor in Celebration, Off the Reservation, and the Big Chief Chorus.

Other awardees were as follows:
Dick Johnson received the Rawley Hallman Music Award.
Roger Holm received the William Pascher Founders Award.
Ross Ensign and Bill Holmes shared the President’s Award.
Pete Mazzara, as he left the Presidency, picked up the first-ever Members’ Appreciation Award.

From Dick Johnson on the Pionet:
This Friday night at the Pontiac/Waterford Chapter’s Woodshed Hall (Pontiac Country Club) Russ Seely and the Silverdomes installed the 2006 PONTIAC/WATERFORD Chapter board officers. They topped the evening off with one of the most impressive performances we have yet to experience from them. Of course, they are always good and they are always willing to help. Time after time they demonstrate what our barbershop society is all about … fun, camaraderie and good singing.

AROUND THE PATCH
From Roger Holm:
Your music committee met November 21, and we did in fact scrap the Disney song program for 2006! Instead, we think we want to come up with a “semi” Western theme! We say “semi” because we’re looking for mostly newer, fun songs from Broadway shows and movies with a western flare. Our show could be entitled “Without Reservation” (Freddie’s suggestion)! We have immediate work to do to come up with the song titles and music, so we can get to work on them right after Christmas, and we’re open to appropriate song suggestions from all chorus members – good, catchy, familiar songs with a western flare from Broadway shows and movies for our 2006 program (show and contest), so if you have some favorites, let us know!

Now, the Christmas season is in full-forward gear, with the largest schedule in recent history. We started off Thursday, Dec 1, with about 25 of us singing to a crowd of similar size at Centennial Park in downtown Oxford, in support of their Xmas tree lighting.

The Christmas singout uniform: White, long-sleeve dress shirt, Christmas tie, black pants, black belt, and black shoes. For outside, Christmas hat and red, green, or black jacket. We’re trying some new songs this year, or songs we didn’t have under our belts last year – “Toyland,” “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” and “White Christmas” (with the key change).
QUARTET/ENSEMBLE NEWS

Bruce Brede is President of the Lakewood Dr. Homeowners’ Association that celebrated a recent legal victory with dinner at Shepherd’s Hollow Golf Club, November 30. Joining him to sing in celebration were Roger Holm, Jack Teuber, and John Cowlishaw. Bruce named us, “Neighbors in Harmony.”

B Natural has decided to part ways. Whether our senior quartet will resurface in some other form is as yet unclear. Thanks for the ride, guys!

MEMBERSHIP (at 60)

Renewals: Tom Ford (4), Bill Auquier (7)
Non-renewal: Jerry Howington

December Birthdays: Stan Mersino (5th), Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23rd), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Jim Owens (28th)

Barbershoppers of the Month

November: Jim Owens, Jeff Doig, Howard Lynn
December: Bruce Brede, Chuck Murray, Doc Mann

(All four for their fine contributions to the show)

Ill: Bill Dabbs has been suffering from kidney/bladder stones.
Bob Legato’s mother died this past month.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Mike Slamka reported a story about the Macomb show on Pionet that was remarkable on two counts. First of all, Dad Jack Slamka lost his voice just before the matinee performance so that Power Play couldn’t perform – a first in 17 years! Secondly, at 4 pm in the afternoon, they went searching for a replacement bass for the sold-out 7:30 evening performance. They found one, Steve Denino, bass of Uptown Sound in Columbus, OH who thereupon made the four hour drive to the show, practicing Power Play songs as he drove, with kids in tow (since his wife was busy singing elsewhere), and making it just as intermission started. They had time to rehearse one song together before going on stage to perform as Power Play.

What’s up at Huron Valley? First the director, now the President, Keith Opal, have resigned.

Matt Tipton is starting the drum roll for Harmony Round-up 2006. It will be at MSU May 19-21.

AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD

Put it on your calendars now! Next summer’s international convention is just five hours drive away – in Indianapolis. Our chance to hear it all live. The choruses that will be competing are now on line – at http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_id_063894

Vocal Majority, which returns to competition, tops the list.

In the meantime, anyone going to the Mid-Winter International Convention? This year, it’s in Sacramento, January 15-22. All the quartet medalists will be singing – RealTime, Metropolis, Riptide, O.C. Times, MaxQ – and the college champs – Men in Black.

You Can Sing Too Recruiting Winners Announced (From Livewire)

Congratulations the individuals and chapters who achieved success in the 2005 membership campaign.

It’s time to celebrate our success – 42% of the Society’s chapters recruited new members during the campaign. These 341 chapters recruited 972 new and reinstated members during the campaign. 694 of these guys are brand new Barbershoppers!

It should be noted that 12 of our 16 districts showed a net increase in membership from August 1 through October 31.

• Central States District recruited over 100 new members over the three-month campaign and was our top district.

• Our top chapter in terms of numeric increase, Beatrice, NE recruited 34 new members. Beatrice is a small community of 12,000 people.

• Our top individual member, Bruce Richardson of the Kankakee Chapter recruited 8 members and he didn’t even join the Society until July 27 of this year.

• Eight of our top recruiting chapters will soon be splitting up $32,000 in cash awards.

The Sept/Oct 2005 Harmonizer was particularly rich in interesting articles:

a. “The Six Roots of Barbershop.” This is Dr. Val Hicks’ last publication and links barbershop harmony to American history, beginning with the whole tradition of Jeffersonian democracy. Included are four websites where one can listen to historical recordings.


c. “A Brief history of Contest Scoring.” This article shows the historical development of judging, including the hot disagreements on the use of “modern” harmony (i.e., the use of lots of sixth, seventh, ninth, or diminished seventh chords).

e. “A few facts concerning copyright issues.”

f. And, finally, five tags chosen by Joe Liles to illustrate the evolution of tags.

Young Men in Harmony becomes Youth in Harmony (From Livewire)

Responding to the needs of the music education world, the Barbershop Harmony Society has re-branded its student programs with the more-inclusive name Youth In Harmony.

“When we talk with high school music educators, the first thing we're asked is ‘what do you have for the girls, too?’” said Society staffer Rick Spencer, who oversees Student Activities programs. “We often work with Sweet Adelines International and Harmony Inc. on school programs, and our 'Young Men in Harmony' label is perceived to be limiting.

“Our aim is to help young people experience the joy of barbershop harmony, and we don’t need any limiting labels standing between us.’”

Known variously through the years as Young Men In Harmony (YMIH) and Youth Outreach, the program encompasses music teacher education, the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Competition, and chapter and district efforts to bring music to local education systems.

Meet Dan Valko

Dan was born in Detroit in 1926. His dad had arrived from Budapest Hungary around 1900. He and his wife had five children, Dan being the oldest. In St. Benedict High School (Highland Park) Dan sang in choirs and played football as an end (offensive and defensive). Upon graduation he joined the army in 1944, trained at Fort Knox and shipped out to the European Theater of Operations. He was in the 6th armored division in Luxembourg and Germany for five months until the end of the war. One day his tank was bazooka’d as he stood on it, fortunately only causing a little hearing loss. But he also got the chance to play football in the Olympic stadium in Berlin.

Upon return to civilian life he attended Detroit Institute of Technology for a year and a half. He met his future wife, Marie, whom he married in 1950. They have ten children (seventeen grand children) and have now celebrated their 55th anniversary. As Dan says, all his kids are healthy and have jobs. Scattered around the country as they are, Dan and Marie are often out of town visiting. He has traveled to all fifty states and ten European countries.

Dan was a mailman for 38 years, working out of the Birmingham office until his retirement in 1988. He enjoyed it and credits his health to the walking involved. He occasionally still walks, though his bad legs limit that.

Dan grew his beard during the 1961 Pontiac centennial and has kept it ever since. This led to small jobs as a Santa Claus, which continued more regularly upon his retirement, aided by a business card and word-of-mouth. This 2005 season started Thanksgiving weekend with a three-hour job at the St. Vincent DePaul Center on Perry Street in Pontiac.

He has done a little shore fishing and a lot of bowling. He also works as a citizen probation counselor in Lapeer County, a position he has held for 27 years. He meets with first offenders weekly, at the present time handling five teenagers, though he has also dealt with middle-aged adults. Most of the offenses are marijuana- and drinking-related.

Seventeen years ago, Mel Parrish (whom he knew at the senior center) invited him to the Big Chief Chorus, and he has been a regular member ever since. No quartets or offices held, but always enjoying singing, either Lead or Bass, as he does at two Pontiac churches, St. Michael's and St. Vincent’s.
Big Chief Jeopardy. #1
Answers, I mean Questions, to last month’s answers:
1. Answer: He bought and managed a motel in Duluth after his career flying helicopters ended. Q: Who is Walt DeNio? (31)
2. Answer: He became Director of the Enforcement Bureau of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Q: Who is Bill Holmes? (22)
3. Answer: His record for consecutive shutouts led to his being drafted by the Blackhawks and Rangers. (15) Q: Who is Art Carinci? (15)
How did you do? Ready for another round?

Big Chief Jeopardy. #2
1. Answer: He called himself a male stripper in the 6th grade, since he manually “stripped” the last few drops of milk from a dairy herd after the electric milkers had done their job. (Issue # 16)
2. Answer: He wrote us that he was getting ready for a series of shows, Tenor with Naples, Bari with Cape Coral, and Tenor in Music Man for which he had a 450 mi round trip every Wednesday for practice with the cast. (Issue #23)
3. Answer: They drove out to an old barn in the Hadley area to sing for a Hunters’ Annual banquet. As part of their tradition the hunters take one evening each year to dress up in formal attire, prepare themselves a fabulous prime rib dinner with all the trimmings, and hire some form of entertainment. (# 31)

A CAPPPELLA
As we extend our range of a cappella beyond barbershop it is interesting to note three non-barbershop group announcements in the last month.
Al Fisk has retired from a local Vocal Jazz group whose name is PRime, and whose web site is http://prime-vocal-jazz.com/. Alexander Boltenko advertised the visit of two Russian quartets, both from St. Petersburg Russia. The first was Konevets Quartet. The second is Archiglas, a five-person a cappella choral ensemble singing Russian religious and folk music.

As Brian Philbin of Metropolis says, “Even though these guys are singing classical music, Barbershop has its own roots in ‘part singing’ or Madrigal music, which is a precursor of the classical period.”

The south’s largest gathering of professional and college a cappella groups took place November 11-13, 2005 in Raleigh, NC. SoJam, in its 3rd year, was jam-packed with Concerts, Competitions, Master Classes, and hands-on workshops, led by some of the biggest names in the vocal music universe. Appearing on the Main Event Concert was the Society’s 2005 Silver Medalist Collegiate Quartet Winners, New Release, along with other a cappella groups including Cadence and Duwende. For more details visit www.sojam.net.

Still looking for Christmas presents? The Quartet and Chorus CD’s featuring the winners at Salt Lake City are now available. Order now from Harmony Marketplace, www.harmonymarketplace.com

Mike Frye alerted us to a rich resource, a playable list of over 600 songs from the Vietnam era (‘60’s and early 70’s). You can click on any to hear the original music and artist. Check it out at http://chu65nang67.us/nam/vietnam.html

(From The Harmony Hawkseye online newsletter):

Kids' Interpretations of Christmas Carol Lyrics
- Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly.
- We three kings of porridge and tar.
- On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me.
- Later on we'll perspire, as we dream by the fire.
- He's makin' a list, chicken and rice.
- Noel. Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
- With the jelly toast proclaim.
- Olive, the other reindeer.
- Frosty the Snowman is a ferret elf, I say.
- Sleep in heavenly peas.
- In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is sparse and brown.
- You'll go down in Listerine.
- Oh, what fun it is to ride with one horse, soap and hay.
- O come, froggy faithful.
- You'll tell Carol, "Be a skunk, I require."
- Good tidings we bring to you and your kid.
Harmony College is now Harmony University. (From Livewire)

The Barbershop Harmony Society will return to St. Joseph, MO July 30-August 6, 2006 for an upgraded, exciting, new Harmony University.

While Missouri Western State University is the same location we have held Harmony College in the past, it is definitely NOT the same place. Significant remodeling and new meeting space (with room for more people) has once again made it an excellent fit for one of the most exciting weeks in barbershop… Harmony University!

You can’t describe what it is like to sing with more than 500 Barbershoppers every day, taught by some of the finest instructors in the Society. You can’t describe what it is like to be “dipped in hot barbershop,” as Bob Johnson would say. It is like studying art with Da Vinci.

You can be part of this experience by attending the new Harmony University. While some of our heroes have passed, the new generation of heroes is here. Faculty including: David Wright, Joe Liles, Freddie King, Burt Szabo, Greg Lyne, Bill Myers, and many more are ready and willing to sing a tag or share a story with you.

So come to Harmony University, not for the great education, not just for the fellowship, not just for the ice cream, but to share some time with the Society greats. You’ll never forget it.

New Weekend Session:
Can’t make it for the whole week? Meet up with the week-long Harmony University students on Thursday night, August 3, 2006 for the “Mid-Term Bash” and then a special opening session just for you. Choose from over 20 classes on Friday and Saturday as an individual or bring your quartet.

Guest quartet will be Realtime, our 2005 International Quartet Champions.

Juke Box: “A money-operated phonograph or compact disk player, equipped with push buttons for the selection of particular recordings. Derived from Juke: Southeastern U.S., A roadside or rural establishment offering liquor, dancing, and often gambling and prostitution.”

Gene Downey’s Juke Box was such a hit that other groups have recognized it and plan to use it. The Box will be appearing at the Grosse Pointe Lake Shore Chorus’ show on December 17th. Then, on Feb 4, 2006, it will be part of “Juke Box Live,” put on by the Sweet Adelines’ Great Lakes Chorus of Sterling Heights (glcsing.org).

Keep a lookout for other viewings of the Juke Box, as it is available for rent and most likely will be in high demand.

Editor’s musings:
The Board invited me as Bulletin Editor as well as Show Chairmen to the year-end board meeting and supper at El Patio, Wednesday night, Nov 9. This is the 3rd Board meeting I have attended.

As always I was impressed by the responsibility on the Board’s shoulders. It feels very different than coming to rehearsals on Tuesday nights or singing on the stage to 1000 people. Here, decisions are pondered that will determine whether this institution, that is older than a third of the members, will continue. I have thought often during the last pre-show months of the weight of the decision to hire 3M&T as our guest quartet. (I was impressed by their name recognition, but nervous about how many appearances they were doing in our area in our time. Would there be hundreds of new ticket purchasers to justify the expense?) This time there were other decisions. Should we spring for the $550 to hold McMullen Center for a spring retreat that might not draw enough barbershoppers to justify it? Are we over-committed to singouts and competition? Are we exposed legally if we sing music that we have photocopied? The board members must also have a mental list of all the members as they ponder each month such items as who should be selected as BSOM. Or who is available to head up some committee. Pete Mazzara has led the board with a strong hand, sometimes even an impetuous one. But he has done an excellent job of being sure that the Board doesn’t get stuck in a verbal swamp, but rather that decisions are made, and action is taken. “Let it be said?” Sure. But also, “Let it be done.”

I saw Michigan Opera Theater’s production of La Boheme last month with my wife. Beautiful music, dark emotions, lovely young woman playing Mimi. But…In Act 1 it seems to me that Puccini missed a bet. Four young men are in the garrote with Mimi. Do they ever quartet together? No. They solo, they duet – with Mimi or each other – but never do they do what we would expect any four
Music is in the air – recent stories about the science of music

Scientists discover ‘singing’ iceberg. ABC News Online

Scientists monitoring earth movements in Antarctica say they have found a singing iceberg. They say the sound waves from the iceberg cannot be heard by humans, with a frequency of around 0.5 hertz, but they resemble a swarm of bees or an orchestra warming up when played at higher speed. They arise from a 50 kilometre by 20 kilometre iceberg that had collided with an underwater peninsula and was slowly scraping around it.

Performing Music Can Be Good For Your Brain (SFGate.com)

Stanford University research has found for the first time that musical training improves how the brain processes the spoken word, a finding that researchers say could lead to improving the reading ability of children who have dyslexia and other reading problems. The study, made public November 16 at the Society for Neuroscience’s Annual Meeting, is the first to show that musical experience can help the brain improve its ability to distinguish between rapidly changing sounds that are key to understanding and using language. Adults who had been musicians all their lives were not only better at distinguishing tone sequences, they were also better at differentiating between similar word syllables, like “da” and “ba.” A person has only a 40,000th of a second to differentiate between the two sounds when the physical signal hits the ear, and the musicians made those rapid auditory distinctions more accurately and quickly than non-musicians did.

And if those stories don’t get you, consider this: Singing mice (The Guardian)

Research by a team of neuroscientists has revealed that male mice construct complex songs and sing them for minutes at a time when they come across sex pheromones produced by potential mates. The songs are not audible to the human ear because they are too high frequency. This elevates mice to an exclusive musical club until now populated mostly by birds, whales, dolphins and gibbons. You can hear a couple of sound clips of mice singing a cappella at: http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/story/0,3605,1605806,00.html

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

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Directorial team: Dick Johnson, Lyle Howard, & Fred McFadyen
President: Pete Mazzara (313-563-4026)
President-elect: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)
Past President: Gene Downie
VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Chene
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber
Secretary: Bill Holmes
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large: Ron Clarke, (Zaven Melkonian, Bruce Brede)
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci
Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter, Troeger

**Calendar**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1, Th</td>
<td>6:00 Xmas Tree Lighting, Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 3, Sat</td>
<td>1:30 Sunrise Apartments of Clarkston</td>
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<td>2:30 Bordine's of Clarkston</td>
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<td>3:30 Tentua's Foodland</td>
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<td>4:45 Lake Orion Christmas Parade</td>
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<td>Dec 6, T</td>
<td>6:30 Independence Village</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30 Lakeland Place</td>
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<td>Dec 8, Th</td>
<td>1:00 O. C. Retirees, Waterford Oaks Activity Cntr</td>
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<td>Dec 13, T</td>
<td>6:30 O. C. Medical Care</td>
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<td>7:30 Inn at Cass Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 15, Th</td>
<td>7:00 Canterbury on the Lake</td>
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<td>Dec 16, F</td>
<td>1:00 TCF Bank, Pontiac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 17, Sa</td>
<td>11:15-6:30 Bus Trip &amp; Holly Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 20, T</td>
<td>6:30 American House</td>
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<td>7:30 Lourdes Fox Manor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:00 BCC Christmas Party, Lourdes</td>
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<td>Dec 27, T</td>
<td>No rehearsal</td>
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<td>Jan 3, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Jan 7,8, SaSu</td>
<td>COTS @ Okemos</td>
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<td>Jan 10, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 11, W</td>
<td>Exec. Bd. Meeting, 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 17, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 19, Th</td>
<td>2:00 Singout at American House (Rochester hills)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20, F</td>
<td>Uncle Sam Night, 7:30 Windsor</td>
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<td>Jan 24, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Jan 31, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 14, T</td>
<td>Valentine Singouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 16, Th</td>
<td>8:00 Clarkston Women’s Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 24, 26</td>
<td>Spring Singing Retreat, McMullen Cntr, Higgins Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 7, F</td>
<td>7:30 50th Annual Woodshed Contest, PTK country club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 28-30</td>
<td>Pioneer District Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 20, 7:30</td>
<td>Orion Parks &amp; Rec Concert Series</td>
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