



  
**BIG CHIEF CHORUS**  
**SMOKE**  
**SIGNALS**



**Pontiac/Waterford Chapter**  
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

**Vol. 9, No. 6,**

**October 1, 2009**

**From our director:**

Men of the BCC,

How thankful I am for you? I have returned from the Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive alive and fully functioning as a chorus director. I found the experience very re-affirming and eye-ear opening.

For each week, let's really see if we can get through all six songs:

Be Our Guest (notes and chord balance)

Can you Feel the Love (smooth key change)

The Disney Medley (transitions from song to song)

The following three need rhythmic attention, vowel unification and a word check for each of the verses.

Yo Ho (a feeling of movement, work in the two quartets)

Heigh Ho (keeping the tempo crisp, not dragging it)

Kiss the Girl (rhythmic synchronization, last page)

We are still focusing on low breath, unit sound, beautiful tone, engaging head tone when needed, telling the story, letting our faces know that we are singing and listening as if we were in a quartet.

You have a come a long way on this music. It is difficult music and you haven't given up and that says a lot about your character and musicianship!

I hope that as we keep getting closer and closer to the show that our attendance continues to be as good so that we can begin riser formation and what is the best way for us to stand in order to get our best sound as a group.

Keep up the good work.

Tom

**AROUND THE PATCH**

Mike Keith discovered the movie version of "**Kiss the Girl**" on YouTube. Very helpful as we try to learn the rhythm and mood of the song.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXmLRHnoSAs>

The **Bari section** will meet for a sectional at Bob Butcher's home, Monday, Oct 5. The **Lead section** will meet for sectionals at 6:45 on three Tuesdays, Oct 13, 20, and 27.

Jim Owens has useful handouts on the **H1N1 Swine Flu**.

The Board urges us to remember that the **BHS code of ethics** says: "We shall not permit the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society." (For emails, use good judgment.)

To add to all of **Terry Jamison's** other troubles, his father-in-law's house burned to the ground. He and Patty's sister got out alive but lost everything.

Terry's new email address is [tenors\\_sparkle@ymail.com](mailto:tenors_sparkle@ymail.com) His quartet address is: [northboundssound@yahoo.com](mailto:northboundssound@yahoo.com)

**Two OTHER big Disney shows** are coming our way this fall at The Palace of Auburn Hills

Disney On Ice: 100 Years of Magic (Sep 30 thru Oct 4)

Disney Live! Rockin' Road Show (Sunday, Nov. 1st at 3 pm)

To add to the Disney hoopla, a new **Walt Disney Family Museum** is opening this week (Oct 1) at the Presidio of San Francisco. The museum will house artifacts on the animation master who died at the age of 65 in 1966.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-16042-SF-Film-Industry-Examiner~y2009m9d17-What-is-the-New-Walt-Disney-Family-Museum-in-San-Francisco-All-About>

**The performance of Les Miserables** at Lakeland High School Sept 25, 26 included three or four students from Rochester Adams in the production. Tom Blue noted, "Most of the kids in the Lakeland production are Rochester kids that I had perform this summer in Joseph."

Check out the **North Oakland County Band** website at [http://nocb.org/2009-2010\\_Concert\\_Season.html](http://nocb.org/2009-2010_Concert_Season.html)

Click on 2009-2010 Season to view our joint gig on Dec 6.

Click on NOCB Excerpts to hear a bit of the 3-1-09 Concert with Dave Bennett ~ Jazz Clarinetist – on "Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans"

**Jack Teuber's** honors continue, as his award made page 9 of the July-August *Harmonizer*. His plaque will also be re-presented to him at the meeting of the House of Delegates in Kalamazoo this month.

The Executive Board is studying the possibility of setting up an **endowment fund** for the chorus.

The **nominating committee for elections** for the 2010 Officers is composed of Ross Ensign and Jeff Doig.

Roger Holm and John Northey attended the memorial **service for Scott Turnbull**.

**Year-to-date:** 76 gigs to 4,528 people.

## QUARTETS

On August 22, a pickup quartet consisting of Mike Frye, Jeff Doig, Dick Johnson, and Zaven Melkonian sang at Len Barnes' 65<sup>th</sup> Pontiac High School class reunion. The crowd of approximately 110 alumni received them delightfully. Len joined in as Lead on "Hi Neighbor."

VINTAGE sang two gigs on Sept 12. At Johnny Carino's Italian Grille in Commerce Twp, they surprised David on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with four sets of two songs each, as his relatives mingled and talked – one daughter from Spain. As the quartet left, the manager said, "I would have to say that I have never experienced anything quite so wonderful in my years at Carino's." The quartet then went on to a block party in John's neighborhood to sing four songs from a patio above a back-yard pool. As one neighbor said, "I watched the eyes of the teen-agers in the pool, and they were engaged – wow this is great."

Tuesday, September 15 was the date for American Music Traditions at Mendelssohn of Our Lady of Lourdes. The CELEBRATION quartet with Roger Holm singing bass followed the day's theme. They traced barbershop harmonies from the Old Songs to the Beach Boys favorite, "In My Room." An audience of thirty was very receptive and are looking forward to the Christmas appearance of the Big Chief Chorus. (submitted by Jack Teuber)

On Thursday, September 24, VINTAGE sang at Crittenton Hospital for the Orthopedic Rehab center at the invitation of Tom Blackstone's wife, Janice, a nurse in the unit. Singing for thirty minutes to about 70 patients and staff, the quartet got an enthusiastic response. "Janis says that we were a hit today. They couldn't stop talking about us after we left. She praised our excitement and

energy and said the staff really felt it was a great show and would like to have us back next year." Tom

## MEMBERSHIP (at 62)

**Renewals:** Dick Johnson (61)

**Pending:** Ross Ensign

**Bye Bye:** Bob Brain

**October Birthdays:** Art Carinci (18<sup>th</sup>), Walt DeNio (27<sup>th</sup>), Bill Nevaux (27<sup>th</sup>), Roger Holm (29<sup>th</sup>),

**Guests:** Wayne Overstadt, Ed Westergard (from Hayesville, NC), Jeff Kafer, Wayne Nafsu

**Medical:** Jan DeNio is facing some serious medical decisions. Bob Butcher was hospitalized for four days last week for successful treatment of a heart arrhythmia. Chuck Murray had been hospitalized with knee problems but has returned. Bob Marshall has a new set of teeth. John Northey had several root canals. Chuck Smithson, a Tenor at Rochester who has helped us out a number of times at Valentines, had a heart attack August 29; he is still hospitalized at St. John's Hospital, and would appreciate any quartets that could come sing for him.

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

As of Sep 26, 12 choruses and 13 quartets have registered for the **Fall Pioneer District convention** in Kalamazoo. **Jim Clafin** is in one of two "ology" quartets that will sing Friday night at Pioneer District convention. His quartet is named JIMDONOLOGY

John. H. Baker IV is our new **Pioneer District Historian**. He's available evenings at: (616) 669-1828.

## From Chordiology's report on Rockin' Barbershop:

"You just would not believe the experience that these enthusiastic kids had for three days, thanks to all of the hard work and support of so many people around the District. These young kids were on FIRE for barbershop. In fact, during our show set there were cheers and chants of "Barbershop Rocks! Barbershop Rocks! Barbershop Rocks!" coupled with three standing ovations. Jeff Pierson, the name and face of Rockin' Barbershop, and all his "super-supporters" were just that --- SUPER."

## AROUND THE WORLD

"Another Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association (BQPA) Quartet Festival is history and has proven to be a great success. Over the weekend of September 10-12, 2009, one hundred and twenty six Quartet Singers and BQPA supporters attended the semi-annual BQPA/Pioneer Quartet Festival in Elk Grove

Village, a suburb of Chicago IL. People came from the four corners of North America, to include the US and our fellow barbershoppers from Canada. There were representatives from the Phoenix and Orange County quartet chapters, large contingents from the Twin Cities and Milwaukee, and folks representing over a dozen states and provinces.

The full write up will be on the BQPA website <http://www.bqpa.com> with pictures.

The next BQPA quartet festival is in the spring of 2010, in Tempe AZ.” (Jack Martin, Pres, For the BQPA BOD)

The **A-Cappella music site** has 150 a cappella CDs on sale – 20% off – thru October 12. [http://www.a-cappella.com/category/world\\_and\\_folk\\_music\\_sale](http://www.a-cappella.com/category/world_and_folk_music_sale)

Tom Blackstone sent this link to the **Acoustix singing in a subway**. “Now this is Cool. Ain’t this what quartetting is all about?” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGOdNJjBTt4&feature=related> Look at all those happy faces and feet!

From LiveWire:

**Back issues of *The Harmonizer* make great recruiting tools!** You can leave them in doctors’ offices, hospitals, libraries, airports, and on planes! People will read them! If you’re interested in purchasing previous copies, you have a few options:

- 1) Order extra copies for recruiting/marketing = \$.50/ea. + shipping
- 2) Order a surplus of issues for recruiting (we choose which ones to send) = cost of shipping only
- 3) Order a surplus of specific (you choose) issues for recruiting (depending on supply on hand) = \$1.00/ea + shipping

Contact Marketing & PR Coordinator, Danielle Cole at [dcole@barbershop.org](mailto:dcole@barbershop.org)

From LiveWire:

The 2009-B issue of the **Music Premiere series and the demo CD** demonstrating each of the six songs is now available. Each arrangement is available for separate purchase, and a separate learning CD containing all four parts is available for each arrangement. We hope you’ll enjoy that all of these are sing-able by the majority of Barbershoppers and represent a nice diversity. All but the Beach Boys Medley are suitable for contest by current rules. This package includes:

- “Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair” (arr. Ed Waesche)
- “Happy Days and Lonely Nights” (Earl Moon)
- “All Dressed Up with a Broken Heart” (Tom Gentry)
- “Alleluia” (arr. J. Henry/E. Wright)
- “That’s Life” (arr. BHS)
- “Beach Boys Medley” (arr. Steve Delehanty)

From LiveWire:

### **New Webpage for Questions About Contestability**

The Music Category has comprised a team of Music Judges, lead by past MUS Judge Don Gray, which is happy to address any questions you may have about the contestability of an arrangement.

For more information [click here](#) or copy/paste

<http://www.barbershop.org/competitions/is-my-arrangement-contestable.html>

### **Big Chief Jeopardy, #32.** (Did you get these?)

1. **Answer:** He was a member of the Society for more than forty years and served two terms as district president. He also served three years as an International board member. In 1949 he began publishing *The Michigan Troubadour*, which is believed to be the first organized regular district publication in the Society. He was a part of the committee that succeeded in bringing the international convention to Detroit in 1953, serving as associate chairman of the event. **Question:** Who was **Louis Harrington**?
2. **Answer:** He has worked as an art educator and as a Lutheran Lay Worker, but his work and interests also include: merchandising, rent-a-copping, weaving, flower gardening, antique architecture, and “libraries.” **Question:** Who is **Ted Prueter**?

### **Big Chief Jeopardy, #33.** (Try these.)

1. **Answer:** He directed the Big Chief Chorus in a performance of the Star-Spangled Banner to open the ball game between the Detroit Tigers and the Minnesota Twins at Comerica Park, Tuesday, August 8, 2006.
2. **Answer:** This barbershop chorus appeared on “America’s Got Talent” and made the cut.

(Clues to the Questions in Issues # 65 and 75.)

### **MEET BRUCE LaMARTE**

Bruce became a member of the Pontiac-Waterford chapter on an invite from Chris Miller approximately ten years ago after being inactive in any chapter for a while. Since he sings Tenor in *Resisting-A-Rest*, our upcoming show guest quartet, I thought this would be a good time to interview him.

Bruce was born in Grand Rapids in 1947. His parents moved to Reed City for several years, then to Harrisville in 1957, where his father owned and operated a small town Ford Sales. He began singing in high school and church in his early teens. He used to ride his bicycle to the Harbor area on Labor Day to see the Harrisville barbershop quartets perform. Bruce attended college to

become a band director, but never graduated. In 1968, he left home and moved to the Detroit area where he started work for a local general building contractor.

In 1971, at the urging of Jack Teubert (not a typo, but a long-time barbershopper, now deceased), Fred McFadyen, and Dick Liddicoatt, he joined the Oakland County Chapter. After several years, other friends led him to other chapters including Detroit #1, Wayne Wonderland, City Lights, and finally to Pontiac-Waterford. His love of chorus singing has waned over the years as his love of quartetting has grown.

In 1974 he entered his first District contest as Lead of the ROLLING TONES and finished second. His first District win came in 1981 as lead of SATURDAY NITE FEATURE. In 1987 came another win with HI TECH. At the urging of his long time friend, Craig Pollard, who was starting a quartet, he agreed to sing Tenor “until they could find someone permanently.” He’s been singing Tenor ever since. Other District wins came in 1990 with CHECKMATE, 1991 with STAY TUNED, and INFINITY in 2003. His latest quartet, RESISTING-A-REST started as a seniors quartet in early 2007, and they won the right to go to International Seniors competition in the next two Pioneer Fall conventions. They won the International Silver Medal both years. In two weeks, they go at it again in Kalamazoo.

This has been busy year for R-A-R with over a dozen gigs, including shows in Hillsdale, Grosse Pointe, Cheboygan, Mt Pleasant, as well as Pontiac-Waterford.

Despite the quartet’s de-localization (Bruce lives in Waterford, Lead Tom Connor in Davison, Bari Steve Warnaar in Lansing, and Bass Phil Haines in Reading, south of Hillsdale), they meet weekly for a three-hour rehearsal, using the Lansing Chorus’s rehearsal site in Holt.

I asked Bruce how they spend their rehearsal time. Their main attention is on “performing” the songs. Work on tuning and vowels and vocal production is the secondary focus. Don Slamka (Tenor, POWER PLAY) is their primary coach. Jack Slamka (Bass, POWER PLAY) worked on performance prior to his move to Florida. They will coach this season with Chris Noteware (Sweet Adelines) and Cindy Hansen (coach).

I had one more question for Bruce: “What is your experience of singing Tenor, which, to me, doesn’t seem to have the same richness or life as the lower parts?”

“I know what you’re talking about, but like anything, practice is the key. Obviously, for all tenors, there’s considerable falsetto (head tone) singing that’s different than everyday voice production. Therefore its quality and output is increased by constantly using, and learning to blend into and sound similar to the chest voice. In addition to quartet practice, I usually practice along with some tape twice a week for 15 to 20 minutes. If I don’t, I can tell the difference when the quartet practices and I’ll tire earlier and may not have quite the control. I suppose it helps to have a male tenor voice to start with, for blending purposes,

but thinking back to the old SHARP LIFTERS of the 60’s, Bill Wickstrom sang a great falsetto tenor, and to hear him speak, you’d swear he was the bass of the quartet. I’ve seen this many times where a natural bass voice that can learn to do falsetto may turn out to be a very high quality bbshop tenor. Even the natural tenors like Kip Buckner (OLD SCHOOL) sing a lot of falsetto, but do have the ability to sing full voice maybe as high as a B or C. If you have a strong foundation under you, singing tenor won’t leave you worrying about the “life” factor you’re mentioning. It’s a four man sport!”

Bruce recently retired as a commercial construction supervisor after forty years. He met his wife Dodie through barbershop while she sang with the now defunct South Oakland County chorus. She has a long history in Sweet Adelines, and her current quartet, OVERTURE, is going to their International in Nashville in October. Bruce and Dodie’s mutual strong involvement in barbershop fills most of their time.



Bruce LaMarte (T), Tom Connor (L), Phil Haines (Bs), Steve Warnaar (Br)  
(from the R-A-R files)

## ASK THE DIRECTOR

Q: Tell us about your weekend at the Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive in Maumee.

A: Funny you should ask. Friday evening brought about a trip to Maumee, Ohio for the JAD CDWI or the Johnny Appleseed District Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive. (By the way, the Hampton Inn in Maumee is excellent!) The CDWI was soon infiltrated by three directors from the Pioneer District, David Woolf from Kalamazoo, David Longroy from Flint and yours truly. It was a nice opportunity to meet other directors, work with Society trainers and to conduct a different chorus.

The workshop started at 8:30 am at the Maumee High School Performing Arts Center with five directors and three trainers. The opening session was a series of several questions answered individually and then discussed openly in a roundtable forum.

1. What is your philosophy of why you want to direct? (I want to direct so that I may share in the gift of music with others, and I feel that I have something to share with regards to leadership and musical knowledge.)
2. What is the mission that you have for the men of your chorus, what do you want them to take away week after week? ("Good rehearsal." "Can't wait till next week." I want the men to have fun, fellowship and the desire to constantly seek musical excellence.)
3. What are some obstacles that keep you from achieving that mission? (Time management, rehearsal flow and musical focus)
4. What are some things that you can do to overcome those obstacles? (Better preparation, use of multiple teaching strategies, and keeping my own focus)

Each of the trainers (Tom Hawkins, David Gelb and Doug Smeltz) questioned us on our thoughts and encouraged dialogue between us. Following the questions, each of us directed "My Wild Irish Rose" in front of the training group and was given feedback regarding our conducting. Several points were made and I was encouraged to focus on the following:

- making constant eye contact with the chorus members
- smaller beat patterns within "the box"
- not "humming" or "singing" along while directing (I figure if Mr. Bernstein could, why couldn't I, but then I'm no Lenny Bernstein)

We were then told to choose two foci for the afternoon sessions.

The morning session was followed by a Panera lunch. The afternoon allowed the opportunity for each of the directors to conduct in front of the "pick up" and host chorus (about 24 guys).

I was the last one out of the gate for the first videotaped session. My focus was eye contact. I chose to conduct Freddie's favorite song in Ab. Tom Hawkins (trainer from the Pittsburgh area) had me look each chorus member directly and if I made eye contact, they were to put their hand up and on the second look, they were to



put their hand down. I was to accomplish this by the time I directed and they sang "Heart of My Heart." On the second time around, I was to look each chorus member in the eye but I had to go from looking at someone on the right side of the chorus and then turn to the left side and the third time around I had to make eye contact twice with each member of the chorus by the end of the song. My eyes were tired...

After viewing my tape, the trainers were rather impressed at how well I was able to correct the eye contact deficiency. They also commented on how my conducting style and use of my hands allowed the chorus to continuously sing in tune and not go flat. It was mentioned that I have the makings and should become a Certified Barbershop Director.

The second videotaped session focused on conducting inside" the box." I found this method constricting and less expressive but I did adjust and my session was completed early. While viewing the tape the second time, the trainer was impressed at how well I made the adjustments and then how well the chorus responded and later spoke of how he was going to remember what I was able to do with the chorus for a long time.

The day ended with a final session and an evaluation. Overall, the CDWI was a very worthwhile experience and one that was reaffirming for me. I did come away from the sessions very grateful for what the BCC represents as a barbershop organization. I came away feeling very good about how we have a fully functioning board, very capable assistant directors, section leaders and several means of preparing ourselves musically. I am not sure that the district knows how good we really are with regards to our ability to function as a musical organization. Let's just say that after the morning sessions at the JAD CDWI, I was a very proud and thankful chorus director! I can't do this without you!

### Barbershop A Cappella Harmony community

"DaveBass63" has gathered many of the **barbershop videos on YouTube** into one group, at: <http://www.youtube.com/group/bhs2> "This community has over 1000 videos and 200 members. Videos are that of Barbershop Quartets and Choruses from around the world. Join this group to see the latest barbershop videos on YouTube and to discuss about anything regarding Barbershop Music."

### Converting complex data into intuitive harmony

A bioinformatician at Harvard Medical School is converting complex medical data into harmonies. By boiling down gene expression data to just a few components -- variables that condense one or more parameters of data -- and assigning each of those components a different note and musical instrument, Alterovitz and his colleagues are literally making genetics musical. The team carefully chooses the notes such that normal gene expression patterns sound pleasantly in tune, while abnormal data yield discordant sounds. You can listen to the difference between a normal system and a cancerous one at:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObTvZ6KcMSY&feature=player\\_embedded#t=21](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObTvZ6KcMSY&feature=player_embedded#t=21)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, Sept 9, 2009 (Excerpts from Bill Auquier's minutes)

Present: Mann, Holm, Holmes, Cheyne, Dick Johnson, Clarke, Owens, Domke, Auquier, Melkonian, Teuber.

The treasury stands at \$10,026.

Dick Johnson also reported his research findings on donations. Per Society guidelines, "Any money that comes from a member can go into social funds, as long as the member doesn't claim it as a tax deduction. If a non-member makes a donation, it must go into the chapter's operating funds unless a written statement is provided excluding the amount as an income tax deduction. Then it can be used in a non-restricted sense (i.e. for social funds).

Vice President Bill Holmes noted that our average rehearsal attendance last month was 42 and for the last two weeks was 41.

V.P. Roger Holm expressed his concern that we need to maximize our rehearsal time on the Disney show music.

Our 2010 Retreat will be April 17 at the Pontiac Masonic Temple. A second retreat is added to the 2010 calendar – we will be at Higgins Lake September 24-26 to concentrate on our 2010 show songs.

Eric Domke will be contacting local schools about our show and has been approved to comp twelve tickets for music department heads.

New chapter shirts for summer have been approved. They will be a more "eye-friendly" yellow and should cost approximately \$25.

Jim Owens presented the Board with a brief report on the pandemic threat of the H1N1 flu virus. Bill Auquier will make copies of Jim's report for those interested.

Show ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, and \$10 for senior citizen groups of five or more.

Show flyers were reviewed by the Board.

Tom Blackstone's fund raiser idea was declined.

President Mann will appoint a nominating committee for our October 20 annual election.

Our Installation of Officers dinner will be held December 11.

BSOM Tom Jackson was nominated for BSOM by Roger Holm and was approved by consensus.



All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlshaw

## CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Dick Johnson, & Bill Holmes

President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)

Past President: Zaven Melkonian

VP: Chapter Dev: Bill Holmes

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bill Auquier

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large – Bob Butcher, Wayne Cheyne, Ron Clarke, Erik Domke

Chorus Manager: Bob Greenwood

Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray, Prueter, Moss, Cowlshaw, and Brede

## CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45' earlier, Class C=Yellow Shirt+Black pants)

Oct 6, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 11, Su, 2pm shirts & black)	Orion Twp Library, "Show Favorites of the Past" (Yellow
Oct 13, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 14, W, 7pm	Exec. Bd. Roger Holm's
Oct 16-18	Fall District Convention - Kalamazoo
Oct 17, Sa	Elmo Thumm performs at Cherry Hill Theater in Canton
Oct 20, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, election of officers
Oct 27, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 3, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 5, Th, 7pm	Possible Dress Rehearsal, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 7, Sa, 7pm	"Disney on Broadway", P-W Show, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 10, T, 7pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 17, T, 7pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 24, T, 7pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Dec 6, Su, 4pm	Big Chief Chorus with the North Oakland Concert Band Christ the Redeemer Church, 2700 Waldon Rd. Lake Orion
Dec 11, F	Installation of officers Dinner
Jan 9, 2010	Leadership Academy (formerly COTS), Okemos.
Jan 25-30	2011 Midwinter Convention (Las Vegas)
Apr 23-25	Spring District Convention, Kalamazoo