



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



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

**Vol. 9, No. 12 (#108)**

**April 1, 2010**

### **TOM BLUE RESIGNS AS DIRECTOR OF BIG CHIEF CHORUS**

We're sad to see Tom go but know he will be welcomed by the *Vocal Majority* where he will take up the directorial reins on May 1. Tom has been our director since 2007, though, as he points out, he has never actually signed a contract with the BCC Board.

Jim Clancy has led the *Vocal Majority* to ten Gold medals in 30 years, but lost out in 2009 to the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. The loss apparently upset the VM leadership so much that they fired Jim and hired Tom.

When interviewed by your SMOKE SIGNALS editor, Tom Blue said that it was a tough decision to make, but that the deciding factor turned out to be the 150 potential Girl Scout cookie buyers in the VM chorus. (Anna and Gracie are reported to be very excited.)

For their part, VM officials were impressed by the high caliber of the Rochester Adams Boys Ensemble, and hoped that Tom could bring that same sense of youthful exuberance to the old farts of Dallas.

### **JACK TEUBER HONORED**

Not to be limited to International First Place honors last year in the Public Relations contest, Jack was recently given a special award for having arranged 349 gigs for the Big Chief Chorus this year. Society President Bill Biffle pointed out that he was being given the special recognition, not only for the extraordinary number of gigs, but also for their diversity. Cited in particular were (a) being the entertainment at the 2010 World Chess Championships in

Budapest, Hungary, (b) the chorus's back-to-back appearances on the Food Network's Rachel Ray and Bobby Flay programs, and (c) the two-hour gig at the Mustang Ranch Brothel in Reno, NV. ("Keep 'em singin', girls!") Also noted was Jack's clever use of national holidays, as he arranged gigs, not only for St. Patrick's Day (Mar 17) at Canterbury on-the-Lake, but also for Groundhog Day (Feb 2), Super Bowl Sunday (Feb 7), Susan B. Anthony Day (Feb 15), Mardi Gras (Feb 16), Arbor Day (Apr 30), Cinco de Mayo (May 5), Flag Day (Jun 14), Leif Erikson Day (Oct 9), Black Friday (Nov 26), and Winter Solstice (Dec 21).

### **MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Roger Holm reminds Music Committee members of meetings he has scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, Thursday, April 8, Saturday, April 10, Sunday, April 17, Sunday, April 24, and Tuesday, April 27. Meetings for May will be announced at a later date.

### **MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIPS**

Two Chieftains have recently made news by their multiple memberships. Jeff Doig is now singing Lead in seven different quartets, including NATURAL-JI, a Delhi-based quartet, and also a Boston-based quartet, NATURAL-ERRR (but they keep their tongues down!).

Jeff Spires has added three more choruses to his memberships, so that he is now able to sing in a different chorus every night of the week.

Congratulation, men!

### **2011 BCC FALL SHOW**

The theme of the November 2011 show has been chosen – *Circus: The Big Top*. It will include several special acts, including the Tenor section swinging from high trapezes, the Baritones with their heads up their Lions, and the Basses fire-breathing while juggling low F's on the backs of twelve elephants. There will be no dearth of clowns. The script will be available in late October.

### **TRAINING TRACKS**

Ross Ensign reminds Chieftains who haven't already done so, to pick up their copy of the latest training CD. It includes part-dominant tracks of all 125 tags and the complete repertoire of the top twenty choruses at Anaheim last July. (Also included is the BCC repertoire.)

### **THE WORLD'S OLDEST QUARTET**

Archaeologists reported yesterday the discovery of petroglyphs on the walls of Mammoth Cave that prove that barbershop singing was alive and well in America as early as 11,000 BC. Dr. Homophony of nearby Bowling Green University has deciphered the glyphs, which are apparently a complaint that the Leads are singing flat.

## SILVER MEDALISTS

RESISTING-A-REST won Gold at the recent Seniors competition in Tampa. But what has been generally overlooked are the remarkable Silver medalists, FOUR FAT FRIED FOGIES, or 4F, as they are affectionately known by their fans. Their members include Lem (age 104), Clem (98), Hmm (94), and Weasel (101), all now living in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We are breaking the news first, here, in SMOKE SIGNALS, that these four gentlemen were all on O.C. Cash's original invitation list to his 1937 gathering in Tulsa, Oklahoma, but were prevented from appearing by their wives (who protested they did not wish to become Barbershop widows!) The men's release from this stricture occurred last spring when all four wives died in a mysterious hunting accident, leaving the four as Barbershop widowers. They've made up for lost time, culminating in their Silver performance at Tampa. They are grateful for support from their 12 children, 57 grandchildren, 212 great grandchildren, and 990 great-great grandchildren, all of whom were present at the competition, necessitating, for space reasons, the removal of the judges to a nearby antechamber.

## 2010 CENSUS

We often complain about the federal government, but should offer our thanks that its 2010 census, to be filled out today, includes two questions asking Americans whether they care which quartet sings at barbershop shows and also whether there should be an intermission. The music team will be guided by America's responses.

## WOODSHEDDING

This year's annual Woodshed contest was so successful that 120 men signed up to meet every other Friday at the Pontiac Country Club for free-lance quartetting, led by Lyle Howard.

.....  
APRIL FOOLS!

.....  
FACTICITY FAULT LINE  
.....

## From the Prez

### Contest Training Session:

Thanks to Ron Clarke for making arrangements to us the Lafayette Grande for our Contest Preparation. The Banquet Auditorium is located on the first floor at 1 Lafayette St., Pontiac. The day begins with a continental breakfast, 8:15 til 9:00. The Training session begins at 9:00 a.m. A full deli-lunch will be provided at noon followed by an afternoon session. There will be a 3:30 p.m. after-glow with a cash bar. The Lafayette is a fine, somewhat unknown banquet facility. It is the former Pontiac Masonic Temple.

It's not too early to think about the Pioneer Contest on April 24th. More information is available at [www.pioneerdistrict.org](http://www.pioneerdistrict.org)

If you plan on driving to Kalamazoo:

Line up your car-pool

Start waking early to get your body-clock in line.

Drink lots of liquids (water) prior to the Contest date.

Stay healthy with a good diet, including fruits.

The actual sequence of the day will not be announced until 7-10 days prior to the 24th. Check the Pioneer website.

UNIFORM for the Contest will be: Our TUXEDOES WITH RED VESTS AND BLACK BOW TIES. Please contact Ron Clarke at Harwood's if you have any doubts about your tuxedo. After we are off stage, wear your Yellow Chapter Shirt with pride. Pontiac-Waterford is always recognized. It's difficult not to spot forty-four canary yellow shirts in the crowd. The BCC is one of four chapters that have increased membership in the last five years.

It appears that the BCC will be able to have an on-stage sound-check prior to 11:00 a.m, probably around 9:00 or 9:15

As always, thank you for your participation.

President Jack

## AROUND THE PATCH

### Final numbers on our Valentines gigs:

The five Valentines quartets entertained 60 times (this includes unpaid add-ons) to 1915 people. CELEBRATION reported five performances, EKTO three, THE JEFFREY KAUFER QUARTET twenty-one, the MIKE FRYE QUARTET eleven, NATURAL-E ten, NORTHBOUND SOUND three, and SPARE PARTS seven.

Natural E entertained about 30 guests at an Oxford birthday party on Feb 20.

As has become an annual tradition, the Big Chief Chorus sang on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at Canterbury on-the-Lake and enjoyed green beer in their "basement tavern." The count was Chieftains and 84 audience. CELEBRATION, VINTAGE, and LOCAL COLOR added to the performance.



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### Canterbury on-the-Lake 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Good Samaritan Golf Tournament.

The 18 Holes Scramble Format will be held, Thursday, June 17, at the Brentwood Golf Course in White Lake. Call Heather Balitzkat at Canterbury, 248-674-5390, for info and registration.

Tom Blue's high school chorus presented *Kiss Me Kate*, Mar 25-27.

The oft-expected **recognition of Jack Teuber** by the State of Michigan finally occurred on March 16, when Representative **Gail Haines** arrived to present the plaque, signed by the Governor and by Legislative leaders.



On April 17, **Neil Braun** will be our second member to travel on an **Honor Flight** to Washington D.C. Mike Keith was our first.



### Flying

In Spring, a young (well, “mature”) man’s fancy turns to flying. John Cowlshaw has given rides to: Bachmann, Blackstone, Blue, Braun, Carinci, DeNio, Doig, Dick Johnson, Melkonian, and Chris Miller. Who else would like to go up? Or kids or grandkids?

### District Competition, Kalamazoo, April 23-25

We have about 45 men signed up to go to competition in Kalamazoo.

Pontiac-Waterford was the first chorus to register. Remember that each singer must also be:

- registered for the convention, and
- up-to-date on his Society membership

in order to sing onstage with the Big Chief Chorus!

Convention registration is just \$25 until April 2, then it rises to \$30.

Click on the URL below to go straight to the on-line registration

[http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/Convention\\_Registration/register.asp](http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/Convention_Registration/register.asp) (I only got stumped at the CVV2 on the second page. This is the 3-digit “card verification value” security code on the back of your credit card. VISA refers to the code as CVV2, MasterCard calls it CVC2, and American Express calls it CID.)

If you’d prefer a paper registration, click on:

<http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/2010SpringPioneerDistrictRegForm.pdf> Print it out and snail mail it in.

### GLHB (Great Lakes Harmony Brigade)

Do you remember how it feels, that last week before fall show? You walk around humming show songs, you drive around listening and memorizing, you wake up with the songs in your ears. Well, **Harmony Brigade** registrants are living like that for four months. Aargh! Learning ten tough arrangements in twenty weeks for the competition June 4-5.

Robert Johns lives in North Carolina and in coming to the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade. He says that Jimmy “Buck” Wicker is a fellow member of his Hickory “micro chapter” (“We’re really small.”), but was a Pontiac member in the 80’s. Dick Johnson remembers him. “He was last noted as a member in our show program for April 1990. He was a good lead that we featured at Christmas time singing “O Holy Night.” He also played a guitar. He was nicknamed “Little Jimmy Wicker,” but he wasn’t very little.”

### From Zaven Melkonian, Associate VP Marketing & PR

- Many thanks for the great turnout for our Canterbury St. Patrick’s Day performance. From the many responses that I received from the residents and guests, it would appear that we “wowed ‘em” once again.
- Please mark your calendars. The BCC will be performing at Lockwood of Fenton, Tuesday evening, June 29th. The times are a 6:00 PM warm up, with a 6:30 p.m. 45-minute performance. The uniform will be our yellow chorus shirt, black pants, black belt, black socks and black shoes. For those of you who will MapQuest or GPS to the site, the address is: 16300 Silver Parkway, Fenton, MI 48430. I will continue to use the original sign up sheet, but with the new date included. If you didn’t sign up originally because of a conflict of plans that evening, please take a moment to add your name to the list.
- Jack Teuber has reminded us that we’re still trying to get our foot in the door at the new Oakland Cruisers Stadium for an appearance on Friday, July 16th. This is a much sought after performance, but nothing official has occurred as yet. Please keep that date open and if we’re fortunate enough to be a part of the action, I’ll fill you in on all of the details.

### 54th Annual Woodshed Contest

The Pontiac-Waterford Chapter held its 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Woodshed Contest on Friday, March 26th at The Pontiac Country Club. It was an exciting night with International Gold Medal Winning, Senior Quartet Champions, RESISTING-A-REST, as our judging quartet.

Last year’s “Best Represented Chapter” plaque was presented to the Flint Chapter, and this year’s goes to Grosse Pointe. As always, fun, fellowship and plenty of singing!! was available with no admission charge. The winning quartet was WOMEN’S PET AND MEN’S REGRET, with Doug Lynn, Lead, **Dick Johnson**, Baritone, Dave Lounsberry, Bass, and the venerable John Waring (who turns 85 April 2) on Tenor.

**Don Roemer**, from the world-champion **Ambassadors of Harmony**, visited the chorus on March 30.

#### **MEMBERSHIP** (at 63)

**New member:** Ray Sturdy. Welcome, Ray!

**Renewals:** Bill Maxfield (2), Terry Jamison (5), Greg Moss (8), Wayne Cheyne (9), John Cowlshaw (11), Jeff Spires (11), Gene Downie (13), Chuck Murray (15), Bob Marshall (20), Roger Holm (23), Howard Lynn (34)

**Pending:** Walt Bachman, Tom Blackstone, Tom Blue, Dar Johnson, Robert Kleeman, Bob Legato, Fred Pioch, Dave Shantz, Paul Smith

**April Birthdays:** Wayne Oberstadt (3<sup>rd</sup>), Jeff Spires (16<sup>th</sup>), Wayne Cheyne (25<sup>th</sup>)

**Medical:** Bill Holmes and Eric Domke are back with us in good health! Our thoughts with Lew Mahacek who is having a rough time. Jim Claflin is dealing with cardiac problems.

#### **AROUND THE DISTRICT**

##### **NEA Features Barbershopper Al Fisk**

The NEA (National Education Association) devotes a section of their publication to NEA members with unique hobbies, and Pioneer District's Al Fisk was featured in NEA's publication NEAToday March/April 2010 Edition. You can see their article, at:

<http://www.barbershop.org/news-a-events-main/277-nea-national-education-association-features-barbershopper-al-fisk.html>

From John Baker:

It was 70 years ago today (March 8), that Grand Rapids held **the very first "Michigan" (Non-District) quartet contest** at the Pantlind Hotel, emceed by O.C.Cash - Salute!

##### **District Convention Registration Fee to be Raised**

"Rising costs... heating our homes...gasoline...food... and barbershop conventions! Sadly, we're not immune from the world of inflation! The Pioneer Board and Convention Team have done an outstanding job of creating, and with the help of our TERRIFIC host chapters, pulling off FABULOUS conventions over the years! As you know, we began expanding our conventions a few years ago, to make it not just a contest weekend but more of a convention. Many different activities have been incorporated throughout the weekend for all attendees to enjoy. Did you know that other districts have sent representatives here to see what we do so well, so that they can integrate similar things into their conventions?"

"Are you aware that our team has been pulling off these great conventions at 2004 rates? Yes, that's right! Pioneer District Conventions registrations have cost the same \$30 /\$25 earlybird since 2004! We are presently THE CHEAPEST District Convention to attend in the Society (other districts charge between \$35 and \$70), but sadly, we have reached a point that we MUST raise our rates. Even though we are asking for an increase in both earlybird and our regular registration rate, we will STILL be at the lower end of all conventions Societywide at \$45/\$35 earlybird. This rate increase will be made in the form of a motion to the House of Delegates meeting at our Spring Convention in Kalamazoo.

Brian Dunckel, President, Pioneer District

#### **AROUND THE WORLD**

April 11, 2010 marks the **72nd anniversary** of the *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America* in Tulsa, Oklahoma, founded on April 11, 1938.

**Harmony College** is August 1-8.

##### **A Two-Year Chorus Rotation? Read about it in LiveWire.**

Our Society leadership would like us all "to think over a suggested change to our competition schedule - for choruses only. We're in the early "what if?" stage right now, but the Society is investigating the possibility of switching our international chorus competition to a two-year rotation." You can read more about it in the Barbershop Harmony Society Newsletter, or LiveWire, at [www.barbershop.org/livewire](http://www.barbershop.org/livewire)

To sign up to receive the newsletters weekly, click on the registration tab on that page and simply enter your email address. "LiveWire brings you a quick read of current and upcoming activities and programs of the Barbershop Harmony Society. This is a free service we offer in hopes that you'll share this information with your chapter, quartet and district to help all Barbershoppers get the most from the barbershop hobby."

**Recognizing our repertoire.** Here are the next ten songs in our repertoire. Match them with the descriptors below. (Answers at end of this bulletin)

- 11. Get Your Kicks on Route 66**
- 12. God Bless America**
- 13. Goodnight Sweetheart**
- 14. Happy Trails to You**
- 15. Heigh Ho**
- 16. Hello Mary Lou**
- 17. Hi Neighbor**
- 18. In My Room**
- 19. In the Still of the Night**
- 20. Irish Parting Prayer**

## Descriptors:

- \_\_\_ Though written by U.S. singer Gene Pitney, it was memorably performed by Ricky Nelson in 1961.
- \_\_\_ Traceable to a 1953 mini-musical film of the same name in which a fellow, returning from work, loosens his tie, and sings to the kids in his rough neighborhood, joined by his fellow members of “Four Merry Men.”
- \_\_\_ Conceived in 1946 by American songwriter Troup. during his auto trip from Chicago to Los Angeles
- \_\_\_ A song from Walt Disney's 1937 animated film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. It is sung by the group of seven dwarfs as they work at a mine with diamonds and rubies
- \_\_\_ Written by Dales Evans and played as the theme song of the Roy Rogers Dale Evans show
- \_\_\_ A song written by Brian Wilson and Gary Usher for the American pop band The Beach Boys, and released on their 1963 album *Surfer Girl*
- \_\_\_ Written by “Israel Baline” in 1918 and modified in 1938 for Kate Smith
- \_\_\_ Fred Parris’s song was recorded by his Five Satins..One of two songs that may lay claim to being the origin of the term doo-wop because of the refrain in the bridge
- \_\_\_ A popular song of the 1930s and 1940s, written by Ray Noble and performed by Wayne King and Guy Lombardo
- \_\_\_ It’s the translation of this Celtic toast:  
*Go n-éirí an bóthar leat  
Go raibh an ghaoth go brách ag do chúil  
Go lonraí an ghrían go te ar d'aghaidh  
Go dtite an bháisteach go mín ar do pháirceanna  
Agus go mbuailimid le chéile arís,  
Go gcoinní Dia i mbos A láimhe thú.*

## MEET WAYNE OBERSTADT

Wayne was born, the eldest of three children, in Detroit 52 years ago, and raised in Plymouth. His father was an independent contractor in metal fabrication, installing aluminum awnings and sidings. Wayne joined him during his high school summers, learning the trade.

Wayne attended Plymouth Canton High School, where he was very active in the choir and the ensemble. From the ensemble Ms. Betty Weideman selected four boys to form a barbershop quartet, which sang in the annual concerts, dressed in straw hats and vests, hand-made by one of the female students in the ensemble.

After graduating in 1976, Wayne worked a variety of jobs and married Kristina, with whom he had two children, son Marc and daughter Nicole (who has birthed his two grandkids, Zoe and Abby).

Wayne attended O.C.C. Auburn Hills to enter the heating and cooling trade. He was a residential service tech for six years. In the 1980s, given the competitiveness of that trade, he switched into a variety of skilled trades having to do with paper, printing, and packaging. He now works for Future Pak, a Wixom company that specializes in solid dose packaging for the pharmaceutical industry. Wayne is a machine technician, setting up the machines to produce the pharmaceutical printing and packaging of such items as boxed drugs for physicians, and the first aid kits distributed by Cintas.



He met Valerie in the Fairlane Assembly of God Church choir, and they married in 1991. They have two sons, identical twins Aaron and Michael, who joined him to sing in our Christmas chorus. They are also members of a hard rock band called “The Death of Affection,” under the very watchful eye of their parents, Wayne assures me. Wayne plays keyboards himself, and enjoys listening to music. Valerie and Wayne hope to sing in their church choir again sometime soon! They now attend Brightmoor Christian Church in Novi. And Valerie was a Sweet Adeline in the Fenton Lakes chapter for three years in the early “oughts.” (Is that the

recognized name for the decade of 2000 thru 2009?)

Wayne has been in and out of barbershop singing over the years (always as a Tenor). Bitten by the barbershop bug in high school, he joined the Wayne chapter's Wonderland Chorus for four or five years beginning in 1977, during the time that Steve Sutherland and Gordie Limburg directed, and the Pollards, Tom, Jimmy, and a very young Craig sang there. He sang with Wayne again for six years during the late 80's. During that stint, he sang in a quartet named FOUR PART FORMULA. He rejoined from 1998 to 2003, during which time he was a member of the quartet EUFOURIA. His total years in barbershop, about fifteen, aren't the number recognized by the Barbershop Harmony Society. He started attending the Pontiac Waterford chorus last year and is forming a still-unnamed quartet with Jeff Kafer, Ray Sturdy, and Chuck Murray.

For several years he was a member of the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. He also has been active as a Scout leader in his sons' troop. Michael is working on his Eagle badge, Aaron on his Life badge.

### Big Chief Jeopardy, #38. (Did you get these?)

1. **Answer:** He served as editor and photographer of the GM union paper.  
**Question:** Who is Dave Myre?
2. **Answer:** All aboard for West Virginia! **Question:** What did the conductor say to the chorus in the 2007 Fall Show?

### Big Chief Jeopardy, #39. (Try these.)

1. **Answer:** He helped pass a county millage that led to the “Oaks” County Park system and the second wave pool in America.
2. **Answer:** Their Christmas concert included POWER PLAY and the whole Northern Lights chorus which bussed in from Toronto.

(Clues to the **Questions** in Issues # 71 and 81.)

Have you looked at our web sites lately? It's so easy. Click on:

<http://bigchiefchorus.org/> for our chorus

<http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/> for our Pioneer District

<http://www.barbershop.org/> for our International organization

### Straight No Chaser: Live in New York

The 10-man a cappella group STRAIGHT NO CHASER was on PBS, March 10, performing contemporary songs and classics, including “Bohemian Rhapsody/Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours”; “I'm Yours/Somewhere Over the Rainbow”; “You Send Me”; “The Lion Sleeps Tonight”; “Hi-De-Ho”; “How Deep Is Your Love”; “Moondance”; “Wonderwall”; “You and Me and the Bottle Makes Three”; “Africa”; “Stand by Me”; “Time of the Season”; “Up on the Roof”; “Can't Take My Eyes Off of You”; “Straight, No Chaser.”

If you like their style, you might like to know that they will be performing locally at the Royal Oak Music Theater, Friday, April 9, at 7pm.

### Young @ Heart

“Young @ Heart” was on PBS several weeks ago. It's that great documentary that I wrote about in Smoke Signals #87, July, 2008, [http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/Smoke\\_Signals/2008/Issue%2087-%20July%202008.pdf](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/Smoke_Signals/2008/Issue%2087-%20July%202008.pdf), “a group of Massachusetts senior citizens who thrill audiences worldwide with their unusual -- and unusually poignant -- covers of rock songs. [Stephen Walker's](#) humane and heartwarming documentary, which premiered at Sundance in 2008, follows the elderly ensemble as they prepare their latest show for public performances.” Fortunately, it is now available on DVD.

<http://www.netflix.com/Search?v1=Young%20@%20Heart&oq=Young%20@%20he>

### Lucy's Barbershop Quartet

If you Google “comedy barbershop quartet,” one hit is “Lucy's Barbershop Quartet.” Wow! Just how faithful to the spirit of barbershop was that project in 1963? It's available for \$0.99, yes that's right, only \$0.99, although a long download (180 MB), at: <http://www.tradebit.com/filedetail.php/87843016-the-lucy-show-lucys-barbershop-quartet>

Vivian Vance and her friends are rehearsing for the Volunteer Fire Department Barbershop Quartet Competition (as THE FOUR ALARMS) but one of the women has backed out, so Lucy convinces the others to let her take her place. Now it's up to Lucy to learn how to sing at the big contest in Albany!

The show includes Lucille Ball's usual fine physical comedy. But it also includes a lot of music. They deal with “balance,” posture, breathing, vowels (“ahh – eeh – oy – oo), and performance anxiety. Hans Conried as vocal coach may make you cringe as he talks about chewing one's tongue and humming, using the glottis, and the suction power of the lungs, but at least the show is dealing with real issues. They finally and successfully pull off a performance of “By the Light of the Silvery Moon.” Interesting that Sweet Adelines organization is never mentioned.

For a shorter clip of Ricky and Lucy singing “Sweet Adeline,” go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjnveOPkLq4>

and if you're on a roll, the Simpsons has an excerpt <http://www.spike.com/video/simpsons-complete/2660050>

### Bee Gees

If you liked the Bee Gees, you might enjoy this choral duplication, sent by Eric Domke: <http://videos.komando.com/2009/07/01/bee-gees-medley/>

### Singing and the Brain

Tom Blue linked us to this story about a member of the local a cappella group THE GRUNYONS and their impact on an Alzheimer's member of their chorus, which leads the article into other aspects of music and the human brain. [http://chorusamerica.org/Publications/Voice/vox\\_article\\_MusicOnTheBrain\\_W09-10.cfm](http://chorusamerica.org/Publications/Voice/vox_article_MusicOnTheBrain_W09-10.cfm)

**America's Got Talent is CASTING AGAIN! Season 5** Who will try out?

## The Twelve Rules Of Practicing

By Wynton Marsalis, from The Pitch Piper bulletin of the LOL District

Trumpet great Wynton Marsalis' conversations with other musicians inspired the following rules, but they apply equally to all creative pursuits.

1. Seek out instruction: It could take years to figure out what a good teacher could show you quickly.
2. Write out a schedule: include fundamentals always.
3. Set goals: Chart your development. Challenge yourself.
4. Concentrate: Develop the ability to FOCUS. Do not just go through the motions.
5. Relax: practice slowly
6. Practice hard parts longer: Confront your deficiencies.
7. Play with expression: Give yourself over to what you are doing. Do everything with the proper attitude. Do not be a cynic. The expression you play with is your style.
8. Learn from your mistakes: Do not be too hard on yourself. Resolve to improve each day.
9. Don't show off: Expression; not tricks or gimmicks.
10. Think for yourself: Respect your teacher, but think things through for yourself.
11. Be optimistic: How you feel about living is who you are.
12. Look for connections: The more you discover similarities in things that seem to be different, the greater the world you can participate in

**Montana Jack Fitzpatrick**, mtjack@bresnan.net ,wrote March 1:

I spent this morning at Stevensville high school with our local Music Educator. I met the young folks in several classes and got to witness what a great job this wonderful lady was doing under very Spartan conditions. The classroom was smaller than tiny and should have been condemned years ago. Nonetheless, she had an indomitable spirit---always upbeat and uplifting. Her program was varied in content and ranged from pop to madrigal. She kept each class moving and made some personal remark to every student. To me, it was pretty spectacular. Friday night, this teacher is in charge of a program for all middle and junior high schools in the area (in addition to her other duties) plus the Valentines concert last week---you get picture.

As each class came into her room, she always introduced me before starting the class routine. Each time, she introduced me, she called me a treasure. As she said it to the classes, it just sort of passed me by. The kids had all kinds of questions--- one young man told me that all he had ever wanted to do with his life was to be involved in music. She always asked me for my comments after they sang each song.

I played the DVD of the 2009 convention performance of the Ambassadors of Harmony. When the kids heard the first chord some of them actually gasped at the purity of the sound. When it was over, they clapped at the TV screen. I told

them all that we could do that same thing right here in Western Montana. They wanted to believe that---because I was their treasure that had just been discovered. And today they discovered barbershop and they love it!

When I left the school today, I knew that I could make a difference and committed in my heart to doing so. The teacher said goodbye and said that she hoped our relationship would be a long one. As long as I am able, it will be.

Later that afternoon while sitting at home and reviewing the morning activities, I recalled her telling all the students that I was a "treasure" -- living so nearby all this time and yet unknown. I used to teach school and long ago learned what sponges our younger people can be. They will sit at your side and ask questions until your head is spinning. Then they follow you to the drinking fountain still asking away while you wet your whistle. That will never change.

Tears filled my eyes as I began to think of how many of us are living that same life---nearby yet unknown. Oh my dear friends, I am heartsick at the realization of how much treasure lies buried in our hearts--just out of reach. If we will not share our experiences and the wisdom and knowledge we have gained along the way, what will they be left with? Will all you have within you go to the grave and be buried forever, or will you allow yourself to be discovered and treasured right now---today?

There is nothing on this earth more satisfying than knowing that you have shared something precious (yourself) with some young person. To be admired by a kid makes you feel as though you are a king or queen. Don't wait to be discovered-- -they don't even know where to dig.

Don't miss this opportunity of your lifetime. Call a Music Educator today. You will never regret doing so.

Blessings to everyone,  
Montana Jack

## Letters:

Hi John:

We're currently in Tucson and will be back early April.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to sing with you all at the contest. There is an event in Kitchener the day of the competition announcing the inauguration of a scholarship fund honoring my late father that our family will be attending.

I'll be thinking of you, and trusting you will sing your best!

Regardless as to what the judges' scores may suggest, I think the group has improved significantly since I joined a few years ago!

Keep up the good work!  
Dave Shantz

Hey John,

I'll be there, in Kalamazoo, cheering you guys on.  
Al Monroe

I wrote my aviation buddies that “this year’s **Collier Trophy** has been awarded to the international team behind the International Space Station” to which Jim Troeger responded,

“Sweet... I have several components on that monstrosity... a few components on the vehicles that ferry parts back and forth but are soon to retire too. Thanks for sharing ... I still have a hard time comprehending the fact that I am so fortunate as to work in the sector that has parts in orbit.” Thanks as always John... bummer to see that Al Monroe was in town (here in Clermont, no less) and didn’t look us up!!!

Hope all is well; I have a couple of nibbles on some potential jobs back up in Michigan however they are all over in the Grand Rapids / Holland area. Will be having two interviews next week by telephone and hope to secure an onsite interview with one (or both) of them. Tell the gang I said hello.

**(Answers to repertoire-matching: 16-17-11-15-14-18-12-19-13-20)**

### CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)  
 Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Dick Johnson, & Bill Holmes  
 President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)  
 Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)  
 VP: Chapter Dev: Bill Holmes  
 VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm  
 VP: Marketing & PR: by committee of Melkonian et al  
 Secretary: Bill Auquier  
 Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
 Members at Large – Wayne Cheyne, Ron Clarke, Erik Domke, Fred Pioch  
 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,

Mar 30, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes  
 Apr 6, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks  
 Apr 11 BHS 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday  
 Apr 13, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes  
 Apr 17, Sa, 8:15am Breakfast, and...  
 9:00 am ...Chorus retreat, Lafayette Grande, 1 Lafayette St, Pontiac  
 Apr 20, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks  
 Apr 24, Sa Spring District Convention, Kalamazoo  
 Apr 27, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes  
 May 4, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks  
 Jun 4,5 1<sup>st</sup> Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos Conference Cntr  
 Jun 15, T Frankenmuth Bratfest, Meet at 5:30 for bus, returning 11pm

Jun 26, Sa, 3 pm Waterford Log Cabin Days @ Fish Hatchery Park  
 Jun 29, 6:30 Lockwood of Fenton, 16300 Silver Parkway, Fenton 48430,  
 Aug 1-8 Harmony University, St. Joseph, MO  
 Sep 24-26 Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake,  
 Nov 6, Sa, 7pm BCC 66<sup>th</sup> annual show, *Get Your Kicks on Rte 66*,  
 Nov 10, Tu 2010 Christmas chorus forms

### Woodshed Photos by Jeff Doig



Winning quartet - WOMEN’S PET AND MEN’S REGRET



Guest Quartet – Resisting-A-Rest



The Bennington Trophy and Winning badges