A warm welcome to our special guests, the members of the Rochester chapter, Tuesday night, June 1.

From our Director

Gentlemen of the BCC,

Thank you all so very much for your hard work and commitment to the success of the BCC. I keep thinking about how much we improved (according to the judges) with our scores at Contest. It would really be a nice goal to improve that score by 50 points next year! But it is going to take all of us to press on toward that mark. We have to continue to focus on those things that we do well and make them better and to focus on those things that we need to improve. Keep working on the facial expression (even if we are learning a new song, the movement or expression will help you memorize it better and faster).

And sometimes as singers, we simply need to remind ourselves as to why we do what we do week after week. It is more than just a hobby. Hobbies are those things that we can do and enjoy at different times but not necessarily all of the time. I think for some of us and maybe most of us, singing in the barbershop style is a passion, we love it, we can't get along without it, and we can't get enough of it!

So until Tuesday … Keep the Whole World Singing (or at least yourself).

From the Prez: Big Chief Chorus and the Barbershop Harmony

The BCC truly demonstrates being an international chapter. Recently the Pontiac Chapter supported the Rochester Chapter during the Valentine Sing-Outs providing Rochester with advertising, roses and cards. As a result of a Valentine delivery to Chrysler World Headquarters, Rochester received a request to deliver a performance to the Hartland Academy. Unable to meet the request they contacted Pontiac. We in turn contacted the Livingston Lamplighters who were able to deliver the performance on May 5.

In the spirit of inter-chapter cooperation Chuck Murray was able to organize a performing quartet for the American Heritage Day at Clarkston. Five men representing four chapters made up a rotating quartet with interchangeable parts. Jeff Spires (BCC, DOC, GOH and BG), John Blanchard (DOC, GOH), Ray Sturdy (DOC, BCC), Chuck Murray (BCC, GOH) and Jack Teuber (BCC) enjoyed the afternoon as much as the 250 elementary students, staff, and parents.

AROUND THE PATCH

Austin Quinn has been an important part of our chorus for several years now, enjoying singing with us under the direction of Tom Blue, and contributing information from his lengthy association with barbershop music. Now he must take a break, as his wife Martha has had a recurrence of her cancer. Our best thoughts to Austin and Martha.

Twenty-three members of the Big Chief Chorus helped Lake Orion commemorate its veterans at the Orion Veterans Memorial, during the National Day of Prayer, on May 6. Fred McFadyen led the chorus in singing “Abide with Me” and “Precious Lord,” and then led chorus and audience thru a standard version of “America, the Beautiful.” About 70 citizens listened to the music and to the prayers of local leaders and pastors.

On May 7, an octet sang at the White Lake Township McDonalds Restaurant as part of a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House. “Clown
Ronald” had a hard time giving up the floor to the ensemble, which was supposed to follow him, so the octet sang to a few customers seated at tables and then two songs to the kids sitting in front of Ronald.

On May 13, the chorus sang under Freddie’s direction a set of about ten songs to the 110 Oakland County retirees gathered for a luncheon at White Lake-Oaks. Bruce Brede was back to sing, and Doc Mann was back to enjoy listening to the songs, seated alongside John Cowlishaw’s grand twins. An extra pleasure was Lyle Howard’s presence to sing several songs as B-NATURAL.

Our annual Spring Training will become a Fall Training this year. We will gather at Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center, Higgins Lake, on the weekend of September 24-26. Instead of the usual preparation for contest, it will be prep for our fall show. Dr. Dave Gillingham will be our guest coach. July 20 is the deadline for committing to the weekend. Cost will be about the same as last year, $85 ($120 for a single room).

Jack Teuber, Dick Johnson, Doc Mann, and Roger Holm met with three officers of the Rochester chapter to discuss their future. Their membership has dwindled to little more than a dozen, and they are concerned about their ability to mount annual shows. This led to our invitation to join our practice, Tuesday, June 1.

Al Monroe has been going thru barbershop withdrawal. The embryonic Jackson Cascades Harmonizers has been struggling. “I did visit Hillsdale a few weeks ago. No easy way to get there from home. Lots of deer in the headlights on the road.”

Bruce Brede had two displaced ribs while suffering with a histamine allergy.

Terry Jamison has officially changed chorus voice parts from Tenor to Lead. He is still singing Tenor in quartets. (Terry’s current email address is still tenors_sparkle@yahoo.com, not the listing in the 2010 directory.)

From Zaven Melkonian, Men, Participation by the Big Chief Chorus or any of its quartets in the Lake Orion Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled.

Tuesday, June 15: Frankenmuth Brat Fest, hosted by Flint Arrowhead Chapter. Spouses or significant others are welcome to attend. Because of a significant increase in the rental charge for the bus, there will be a charge of $5 per person to ride the bus. In the past there has been a specific uniform requirement.

Saturday, June 26: Log Cabin Days at Fish Hatchery Park. Warm up at 2:15 PM, at Pierce Middle School, 5145 Hatchery Road, transported by shuttle to Hatchery Park. Sing at 3:00 PM. Uniform will be our yellow short-sleeved golf shirts, black pants & belt, black shoes & socks.

Tuesday June 29: Lockwood of Fenton, 16300 Silver Parkway, Fenton 48430. Warm Up at 6:00 PM to sing at 6:30 PM. Uniform will be our yellow short-sleeved golf shirts, black pants & belt, black shoes & socks.

2010 Performances. Thru May, the chorus and its quartets have performed 75 times to 3940 audience members.

QUARTETS
On May 22, Bath City Boyz (Tom Blackstone at Tenor and Chuckles Murray at Bass) sang for a car show arranged by Lead Mike Green at the Auburn Hills American Legion Post. Tom writes, “Bath City Boyz has retained a pretty darn good repertoire for not having been active over the last two years. There were 80 to 100 people present throughout the day with people coming and going. We had a covered pavilion and roamed from table to table. Audience really loved us. I believe we sang for about two hours without any repeats.

“The venue was somewhat difficult as there was lots of background noise from all the other tables while we were focused on each table singly (sort of like McDonald’s). Still, we were a hit and it looks like we’ll get invited back for sure. John and Sandy Northey were in the audience too. We let John sing a Polecat with us.”

Due to the unavailability of the name “Spare Parts, the quartet died and is reborn as Limited Edition. On May 23, the quartet sang at a Farmington Hills home for a surprise 60th birthday party. The warmth was not
only the quartet’s reception from the 30-some celebrants, but also the weather conditions on the sunny deck.

MEMBERSHIP (at 66)
Renewals: Jack Teuber (11), Bob Kleeman (13), John Northey (22)
June Birthdays: Bob Legato (13th), Fred Pioch (18th), Bruce Brede (22nd), Al Monroe (24th)

AROUND THE DISTRICT
The Windsor Sendoff will be Friday, June 11. Proceeds from this gathering go to help defray the costs for the Pioneer District Quartet, College Quartet, and Chorus representatives attending the International Convention.
Remember, a passport or enhanced Michigan Drivers License is required to re-enter the US from Canada.

John Baker, Pioneer District Historian, has “received many great comments regarding the historical boards at our spring convention. If you did not have a chance to see it, simply put - a free standing display of 2x4 foam boards hooked together, side by side - showing off Chapter "Chorus/Quartet" history, information, and highlighted points of interest from the Guardians of Harmony, Great Lakes Chorus, and Resisting-A -Rest. Not to mention a Pioneer firsts montage. This display is very expandable and I would invite each chapter to be involved in its evolution. Imagine! A wall of Pioneer Chapter History, individual but united.

Tracy Ulrich has agreed to take over as the Editor of the Troubadour. Tracy sings baritone with the Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir,

Elmo THUMM (from Paul Ellinger)
ElmoTHUMM was asked to host and judge the A Cappella Nationals this year (or as was called for the public that may not know what a cappella is --- the “So You Think You Can Sing?” competition) They were held at Canton's $20 million facility May 29.
ElmoTHUMM has also been contacted to take part in a priority audition for the NBC reality show, “The Sing Off." “The show offered us a spot last year as well, but wanted us to change a bunch of things and we said “Thanks, but no thanks.” This year they called stating that they had a meeting to change the rules to specifically accommodate us. We go Memorial Day to Chicago and then from there to LA if things happen to work out.”

Harmony Town Chorus
The Harmony Town Chorus (formerly the Renaissance Chorus) presents “Adventures in Harmony, Sunday, June 6 in a 3:00 pm matinee at the Village Theater, at 50400 Cherry Hill in Canton. Music from across the years, from a little Swing & Big Band to the Beatles and of course a good dose of 50's & 60's and sacred music to round out the mix. 

http://cantonvillageplay.org/ or http://wesingbarbershop.com/ or 734-394-5300.

AROUND THE WORLD
The quartet lineup has been finalized for BHS International in Philly. Preliminary favorite is OLD SCHOOL, which qualified with a score of 90.3%. The other leaders are STORM FRONT, THE ALLIES, MASTERPIECE, and MEN IN BLACK.

PHILADELPHIA CONTEST TO BE LAST COMPETITION FOR VOCAL MAJORITY DIRECTOR JIM CLANCY
Dallas, TX (May 18, 2010) — After nearly forty years and an unprecedented eleven gold medals in international competition, Director Jim Clancy has decided to make the 2010 Philadelphia performance his last international contest at the helm of the Vocal Majority Chorus. He will continue as Musical Director and primary arranger, but will leave preparation and execution for future contests to Jeff Oxley and the rest of his music staff.

Main site for information on Philadelphia International
http://www.barbershop.org/philly-main.html

Who will host another BCC WebCast party July 3?

Big Chief Jeopardy, #40. (Did you get these?)
1. Answer: They began as a pickup quartet (Bill Nevaux, John Cowlishaw, Zaven Melkonian, and Tom Ford) during the 2003 Christmas season, and sang together for three years. Question: Who was Jackpot?
2. Answer: This quartet’s evolution began in 1985 as Family Forum. Question: Who was Power Play?

Big Chief Jeopardy, #41. (Try these.)
1. Answer: His hobbies include golf, fly-fishing, hunting (geese, turkeys, deer, and ducks), and the theater (Purple Rose, Stratford, and Stagecrafters). He and his wife co-own a condo in Palmetto, FL, where they go each winter. While there he attends the small Sandpiper chorus in Bradenton.
2. Answer: Through the years he hiked the Bruce Trail in Canada, the Appalachian Trail, and the Grand Canyon, down and back. “There is something about sitting on the ground by your back packing tent, cooking a freeze dried dinner over a backpacking stove on the edge of..."
Contact your local vocal educators and tell them about this event. (Don’t worry, they are getting a letter from us too, but they are busy wrapping up a school year and two contacts will be better than one) Let’s see if we can get 100 young men on stage come August. (That’s less than four per chapter)

And oh yeah, there will be tickets available to a great show on August 12, featuring, Resisting-a-Rest, Prestige, The HARMONY EXPLOSION CHORUS and MOUNTAIN TOWN SINGERS.

**Harmony Explosion**  (from Dave Gillingham, Director, Mountain Town Singers, Professor of Composition, Central Michigan University)

Hello Pioneer Friends:

Well, after much time and planning, it looks like we are going to be able to pull off the Harmony Explosion Camp! And what an "explosion" it will be! … The campers will be treated to state of the art facilities in the School of Music on the campus of CMU with air conditioning, large rehearsal halls, a 540 seat concert hall and beautiful mediated classrooms. We also have available to us the 1300 seat Plachta Auditorium if we find that our Thursday show will exceed our attendance expectations.

In conjunction with this three-day camp, the School of Music and CMU will be offering a “Workshop on Barbershop Harmony” comprised of nine hours of class and six hours of observation, team-taught by yours truly (David Gillingham), Dr. Eric Tucker, Professor of Voice and Dr. Alan Gumm, Professor of Music Education. There will be three components to the class, one on barbershop style and theory, one on vocal techniques and one on warm up techniques. Students will also be observing rehearsals of the Youth Chorus under the direction of Ron Black. This will be a learning opportunity not to be passed up! The class will be offered to students and in-service teachers for 1 credit. We feel that utilizing the resources of our faculty at CMU will make this Youth Camp unique in comparison to the other camps offered throughout the Barbershop Harmony Society. I know of Pioneer barbershoppers who are already interested in taking the class. Some folks, who are now in the midst of their degree programs, are thinking of using this credit as an elective. The “Workshop on Barbershop Harmony” will be listed under the CMU course offerings for fall, 2010-2011, as MUS 535F, course reference number 22142244. (1 credit).

Because we are a bit late in promoting the camp and the class, I am hoping that all of you will work hard at helping us find young men to attend the camp as well as students for the class.

**Youth Chorus** (From Dave Ebersole)

I'm pleased at the response I've been getting from the folks on the PioNet, and to know of the efforts already underway in Muskegon, Mt. Pleasant, and Grand Rapids. My thinking is to coordinate these efforts and others like them to produce one Youth Chorus for Michigan to send to the Youth Chorus
Festival at Midwinter Convention 2011 in Las Vegas. As Roger Lewis mentioned, the Harmony Foundation pays for rooms and meals -- our cost would be getting there.

As far as bringing all these guys together from places as far West as Paw Paw, as far East as Bay City, as far North as Mt. Pleasant and as far South as Monroe, it would be advisable to find a central location. Lansing seems to be the most central for all the areas a Youth Chorus might cover -- Paw Paw, Muskegon, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Jackson, Lansing, Pontiac, Mt. Pleasant, Monroe, Macomb, Bay City, etc.

As far as rehearsal schedule, we have some viable options: Brandon Mattson's suggestion of copying the Westminster formula of every other Saturday, which that chorus has shown to work; if we wish, we can also obtain information from Westminster as far as what expectations/rules go along with this schedule. Another option, albeit less tested, is to copy the current Motor City Metro's 'once a month' schedule, using recording and internet technology to provide the tools for use and study on each man's own time. This can/should include: sheet music, part tracks, rehearsal recordings, interp recordings, notes, video choreography, etc.

As far as membership, I've kept a list of young barbershoppers in the district, who are not only enough in number to qualify as a chorus in contest, but the core of whom would in all likelihood fill the ranks as leaders and officers of the group. Most of these young men are on Facebook, and I can use this to begin canvassing for interest.

A few hands have gone up for directing: Paul Keiser, Toby Shaver, myself, to name a few. We may decide that it would be appropriate to have more than one director, so long as both directors are agreed on a common vision, not to mention concrete and shared interp.

I look forward to further discussion and would like to propose a formal meeting -- either in person or online through Skype or some other such program, though preferably in person -- to hammer out details of the who, what, when, and where.

I look forward to seeing what this district can do. The challenge is open. The gauntlet has been thrown down. Now let's pick it up.

**Youth Chorus** (from David Gillingham, Director, MountainTown Singers, Professor of Composition, Central Michigan University)

I would like to register my interest in directing a youth chorus in the district. I would also like to offer the facilities of the School of Music at Central Michigan University as a possible rehearsal venue for such a chorus. CMU is centrally located in the state and might offer the best chance for success in attracting the most young men for a weekend rehearsal. ... It is my hope that CMU can become the host for many more Youth in Harmony events for the District.
CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Dick Johnson, Bill Holmes, & Mike Frye
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, Cowlishaw, and Brede
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45’ earlier)
Jun 1, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal with Rochester, Waterford Oaks,
Afterglow – Heroes
Jun 4,5 1st Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos Conf. Cntr
Jun 8, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Jun 11, F Windsor sendoff
Jun 15, T, 5:30 pm Frankenmuth Bratfest, 5:30 bus, returning 11pm
Jun 22, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglow – Heroes
Jun 26, Sa, 3 pm Waterford Log Cabin Days @ Fish Hatchery Park
Jun 28 – July 4 BHS International, Philadelphia
Jun 29, 6:30 Lockwood of Fenton, 16300 Silver Parkway, Fenton
Afterglow: John’s Pizzeria, 1492 N. Leroy, Fenton
Jul 3, Sa, 7:30 EDT Quartet finals webcast
Jul 6 T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglow – Heroes
Jul 12 DOC picnic
Aug 1-8 Harmony University, St. Joseph, MO
Aug 3 Election night gig
Aug 10-12 Harmony Explosion Camp, Central Mich Univ. For high-
schoolers
Aug 20-21 Bush League, Gaylord, MI
Sep 24-26 Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake,
Nov 6, Sa, 7pm BCC 66th annual show, Get Your Kicks on Rte 66,
Nov 10, Tu 2010 Christmas chorus forms