From our Director:
Men of the BCC,

Thank you for our very good rehearsals. We are able to get through many selections and our intonation is improving.

Another plug for the retreat Up North with Doc Gillingham. This is such an opportunity for us as a chorus and an opportunity for us to tap into an "expert." Please, if you have the chance, GO! We have always had a great time and it is a highlight for me each year. Besides the leaves will be in good fall form!

AROUND THE PATCH

On July 1, the Big Chief Chorus serenaded the residents of Village of Oakland Woods, a Presbyterian retirement village, just off Opdyke Rd in Pontiac. As two roomsful of people ate their lunch, the chorus sang for a half hour, under the direction of Fred McFadyen. NATURAL-E added its harmonies.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan designated July as National Ice Cream Month and the third Sunday of the month as National Ice Cream Day. He recognized ice cream as a fun and nutritious food that is enjoyed by a full 90% of the nation's population. In the proclamation, President Reagan called for all people of the United States to observe these events with "appropriate ceremonies and activities." With due solemnity, the Big Chief Chorus offered its services to the Wixom Senior Center as it celebrated with an ice cream social on July 22. Director Tom Blue (accompanied by Gracie Blue) directed about 29 men thru a repertoire of thirteen songs, and everyone ate ice cream.

No complete chapter quartets were available, leading to Zaven's email: "It certainly would have been nice to have had a quartet or two to round out the performance. We need to look into forming some "Chapter Quartets" that could be called upon for just those very "Daytime Singouts" that our current active quartets cannot handle because of members who are still gainfully employed. One remedy would be to cobble together a quartet, starting with those members of our active quartets who would be available, and fill in the one or two missing voices that need to be substituted for. They could certainly come up with at least one or two songs that would be common among the quartets. You quartet guys......please give that some thought."

We will join the Grosse Pointe chapter for its annual picnic on Tuesday, August 3. The bus departs from 2800 Watkins Lake Rd. (just east of our practice site) at 5:45 p.m. Anticipate leaving Grosse Pointe at 10:00 p.m, arriving back at Waterford Oaks at 11:00 p.m.

Austin Quinn has returned to our practices, thanks to Freddie McFadyen for picking him up.

What a delight to have Bill Nevaux join us on July 27. Bill has been caring for his ailing wife, Candy.

We have a multitude of quartets eager to sing on our fall show. What a delightful problem. Time was, when a show was ALL about quartets.

Doug Metzger “got his kicks, on Route 66.” During spring break of his senior year, 1975, he and three buddies were returning from California when their '64 Opel Kadette broke down near Barstow, CA, so they hitchhiked Route 66 all the way back. Lots of adventures. One driver handed Doug the keys, “Here, you drive,” got in the back seat and opened a fifth of whiskey.

Hopefully, everyone has gotten his $85 check to Pete Mazzara for our Fall Retreat at Higgins Lake. Doc Gillingham will be coming Fri eve and staying til late afternoon Saturday.

Chuck Murray won Jim Owens' mystery contest – Charles Darrow, the inventor of Monopoly.
Smoke Signals finished 9th in the International Bulletin contest, results of which were reported at the P.R.O.B.E meeting in Philly this July.

Two more people have flown in Cowlishaw’s Tomahawk, Anna Blue and Greg Moss. Grins and delight.

The Beach Boys will perform at DTE Energy Music Theatre on Sunday, August 1 at 6 p.m.

Harmony College Ray Sturdy, Dave Shantz, and John Cowlishaw will be attending Harmony College, Aug 1 thru Aug 8. We’ll be taking such classes as Vocal Techniques, Theory of Barbershop Harmony, How to be a Great Baritone (with Alan Gordon, the baritone of world champion Gotcha!), Rehearsal Techniques for Quartets, Developing a Voice Training Regimen, Effective Quartet Warm-ups, and Designing your Quartet Repertoire.

Our performance count thru July is 80 gigs to 4470 folk.

MEMBERSHIP (at 67)

New Member: Joe Poole. Welcome, Joe!

Renewals: Bob Greenwood (3), Doc Mann (11), Neil Braun (21)

July Birthdays: Mike Keith (5th), Bill Auquier (24th), Jeff Doig (29th), Terry Jamison (30th)

Medical: Wayne Cheyne remains in serious condition at Huron Valley Hospital. Ted Prueter was briefly hospitalized for a suspected TIA and also an infection.

Barbershopper of the Month: Ted Prueter

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Sad news for the Pioneer Barbershop community. A Cessna 206 crashed off Big Point Sable, four miles short of the Ludington coast on Friday, July 25, 2010, while trying to return after a loss of engine power over the middle of Lake Michigan. It carried Dr. Jim K Hall, the President of the Gratiot County Barbershop Chapter, and a dual member of the Lansing Chapter. He and his son, James Hall, sang with some of us at Great Lakes Harmony Brigade. The flight from Alma, MI was carrying a cancer patient to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Mountaintown Singers, and the Harmony Explosion Camp Chorus. Here is the link to the CMU box office for tickets and for the show poster. http://www.cmich.edu/x17277.xml

And brave to the Detroit-Oakland chapter for raising enough money to send nine Northville High School students to the Camp.

Linked to this camp is a workshop taught by Dave (Doc) Gillingham on Barbershop Harmony that is open to all. It is listed in the CMU summer schedule as: Mus 535F Workshop on Barbershop Harmony, Course reference #: 22143387(1-credit)

AROUND THE WORLD

Report on International

Another Barbershop International is over. Four of us, Zaven, Dick Johnson, Mike Frye, and I watched the webcast from my home, thanks to Jeff Doig’s help with the computer-to-TV hookup.

The Quartet finals were exciting as usual, with some wonderful quartetting on display. It began with a gaffe. After Lunch Break entertained as mike testers, the first competing quartet, Men in Black, sang their set. Then the judges decided that the mikes weren’t adjusted right. Lunch Break came back out and sang, and Men in Black had to redo their set also.

This webcast foursome thought that Old School, TNS, Musical Island Boys, and Storm Front were all in the running, and, indeed, all but TNS made the top five. But top honors went to Storm Front (91.3 %), the well-known comedy quartet that has had a record of placing third. They certainly were entertaining, and they certainly can ring a chord, but there was some grumbling at this location that they deviate too far from the barbershop style. Old School, the pre-contest favorite placed second. They should be favorites next year, but will be challenged by two young, non-U.S. quartets, Musical Island Boys, from New Zealand, who were mesmerizing, and Ringmasters from Sweden. The Allies (from Ohio) and A Mighty Wind (who qualified at Pioneer District) were fifth and eighth, respectively.

Pioneer District competitors, The Party, did well, scoring just a notch lower (77.4 %) than last year, and placing 38th out of 50.

In the chorus competition, it was a shoot-out between Vocal Majority and Westminster Chorus. VM was an emotional favorite, since it was Director Jim Clancy’s swan song. It was close, but the young men (over the hill at age 30?) of Westminster Chorus took Gold, with VM Silver. Further back were Toronto Northern Lights, who also won the YouBarbershop Audience Favorite Chorus award. Our Mountaintown Singers from Mt Pleasant were 25th of 27, with a score of 77.4 %.
In the College Quartet contest, the Ohio quartet, Prestige, was awfully close, (82.2 %) but came up second to Swedish Match (82.3 %). We had the pleasure of enjoying Prestige, from local Ohio, at District convention.

In another local note, Willis Diekema, the Holland-based composer of “Keep America Singing” was inducted into the Barbershop Hall of Fame, and Art Lane was there to accept the award on behalf of his family.

On the webcast, we got a glimpse of the convention auditorium from the stage. It looked like a underground parking garage, with its low ceiling and its awkwardly placed support columns scattered around the auditorium. Who chose THAT venue?

BCC had a few members on site. Jim Owens sent daily blogs for our enjoyment. He was there with his wife, Carol, and two friends of theirs, who are non-singing barbershop aficionados.

Don’t forget that next year, the International is still relatively close – in Kansas City, July 3-10.

PRESERVATION
The second issue of the new barbershop e-journal is out.

http://www.barbershop.org/history/preservation.html

Preservation focuses on the history of barbershop. Some great articles in this issue on Pre-SPEBSQSA quartets and Edison phonograph recordings by them.

OUR HISTORICAL LEGACY (The first of an ongoing series on the history of barbershop and of our chapter)

Our charter member, Bill Pascher described the beginning of the Pontiac Waterford chapter, in this excerpt from my interview with him in Smoke Signals #4:

“When the Engineering Building was built, which was a new building – to me and to the company, just for engineering purposes, this would give us a shop, an experimental department, test labs, drafting rooms, conference rooms, all this kind of thing – that was the building facing South Blvd. And the lobby receptionist, Ace, was a bass. And at noon hour we’d hurry up with our sack lunch, a few of us. (We were still using the lobby in 1950, when Leonard Barnes joined us.) And we’d sing old songs. We didn’t know what Barbershop was; we’d just try to harmonize, woodshed stuff, you know? And that evolved to a realization that there was something going on in the world besides impromptu singing. And a couple of the guys, one from Material Control, and one from Purchasing, had joined Oakland County (the first chapter in the state) unbeknownst to us, in fact we didn’t even know these guys, but their friends heard us singing and said to them, Why don’t you go up there and see what they’re doing? Well, of course, they brought it to us, and there were three or four of us guys got interested in finding out what it was all about and what it took to be a Barbershopper. Found out how many people it would take to organize; it was twenty then. We finally got twenty together and organized our own chapter. [We were] number seventeen in the district. The date on our charter is April 17, 1943.”

[Why didn’t you just join that Oakland County chapter instead of starting a new chapter?]

“Well, there was yanking and pulling, you know. It was either that or building our own. I always thought it better to be a big ripple in a small puddle. It did develop that the guy who was the first president was also the manager of Club Rio, on Elizabeth Lake Rd, close to Telegraph. (He was also sales manager for Wolverine Brewery here in Pontiac.) [But] we never met in the Club Rio. There were a lot more halls for rent then, than there is now. Quite a few different places.”

Show Song List
Test yourself. How are you coming in mastering our Fall Show repertoire?

(a) Know the notes
(b) Know the notes and words and off the paper;
(c) Mastery of the song

America The Beautiful
Get Your Kicks On Route 66
Oklahoma!
Let The Rest Of The World Go By
Ridin’ Down The Canyon
Under The Boardwalk
Breakin’ Up Is Hard To Do
This Is My Country
It is Well With My Soul
Keep The Whole World Singing

Pitch Training Exercises
Recognizing and maintaining pitch is one of our biggest weaknesses. At Wixom, the chorus sang well once it got started in each song; but the blown pitch pipe is not being honored!

There are some simple Voice Training exercises, on YouTube with Erica Lane, that describe tuning problems. Click on http://www.ehow.com/videos-on_2809_female-voice-training-exercises.html
Exercises 5, 6, and 7 are especially valuable for pitch work.

- **5. Matching Pitch Exercises for Female Voice Training**
  Matching vocal pitch when singing vocals can be challenging. Learn from an expert music teacher how to match vocal pitch in this free video lesson on female voice training.

- **6. Tuning Exercises for Female Voice Training**
  Tuning your voice for singing vocals is essential preparation for a performance - find out how in this free video lesson on female voice training.

- **7 Female Voice Training for Sharp & Flat**
  Do you sing too sharp or too flat? Is your tuning way off? Proper tuning doesn't come naturally to all of us. In this video you can learn how to sing in tune, not too sharp, not too flat.

  These are VERY simple examples, useful for men as well as women, and only a minute or two long.

  John Cowlishaw has also prepared a simulated “pitch and sing” exercise that is available by email (and, if people find it valuable, could be added to our web site as well).

**Training Tracks**
You should all have Training Tracks for our Fall show songs. The May 5 arrangement of “Route 66” has been replaced by the **July 23 version**. Be sure to get your voice-part training track of this newer version, both the four-part mix (by the JC Four), and the Voice-Predominant track for your part.

How?
- (a) It should have come to you by email from Cowlishaw.
- (b) Or it may soon be downloadable from a protected space on our website.
- (c) Or if neither of these works for you, ask Ross or John for a CD of the tracks.

An interesting point has arisen about how the “**Voice Predominant** type tracks should be prepared. Chuck Murray states it clearly:

The "Voice Predominant" type track is my personal "second choice", as I prefer "Bass Left" with equal volume of the other three parts in the Right Channel.

Using Voice-Left, I can mix any relative proportion of my voice part to the other three parts I wish. I can go from all my-voice, to singing with only the other three parts as a quartet.

Matt Tipton has, on some songs, elected to put many different variations of voice mix tracks on the chapter website. eg. Some guys no longer have right-left balance in their playback devices (iPOD's), and they want to sing with the other three voice parts as a quartet. In this case, Matt has a special track with “No (Bass) Voice,” which is just the other three parts and "No Bass". He does this for each of the four voices, too.

**What Cowlishaw distributed** was Voice Predominant with the chosen Voice on the Left channel, and the other three voices on the right channel and 18 db softer. That way, the chosen Voice would be distinctly differentiable even on a non-stereo system. After listening to professionally prepared tracks, I’m guessing their difference to be less, maybe 9 db.

Remember that if you listen on the car system, you can probably tune the Right/Left mixture with the **Balance control**. And you can also do that on your computer, by clicking on Control Panel, Sounds and Audio Devices, Advanced, Volume Control, Balance. Or, if the volume icon is on your computer desktop in the tray, just double-click on it.

**The Bagpipe Analogy**
I was thinking about the bagpipe as an analogy for vocal production. No, not that way! Like this: The bagpiper has his bagful of air always ready, loaded with air, before he plays any notes. In a similar way, the barbershopper has a load of air, which is ready when the next phrase begins. (One difference of course, we need that air for metabolism, the bagpipe doesn’t.)

Work with me. Try this. Take a breath, contract those belly muscles as if to sing, but wait. What is keeping the air from escaping? Is it your mouth? Open your mouth, so it won’t be your mouth blocking the flow. Then, open your glottis, not letting any sound out. To be sure your glottis is open, take tiny in-breaths and out-breaths. Keep your shoulders down.

So now, what is maintaining the volume of air? You must be working restraining muscles of your belly, the contractile muscles balanced by opposing muscles. But ready to spring into action vocally.

Now sing a line. Stop. Don’t relax your belly. Sing another line. The belly tension keeps the bagpipe full and ready. When the belly bagpipe is near empty, let the inhalation muscles draw more air into your lungs.
Only Takes 4 Chords to Make a Pop Song

This is a pretty interesting exercise in musical harmony. [http://www.wiretotheear.com/2010/07/09/every-pop-song-is-the-same-4-chords/]

The four chords that this trio is talking about are (in the Key of C) C, G, C6, and F.

Now it certainly is NOT true that barbershop songs just use a progression of those four chords. This four-set doesn't even HAVE ANY seventh chords in the progression.

But nevertheless, this example shows harmonic progression, using the Circle of Fifths, the possible simplicity of harmonic progression, and then why we like barbershop because it adds 7ths and additional chords in the Circle of Fifths that you don't hear in this example.

ASK THE DIRECTOR

Greg Moss of Waterford MI asks this question: “John Cowlishaw circulated an e-article, “It only takes four chords to make a pop song” such as C, G, C6, and F. So I'm wondering, do you find music boring if it only has those four chords? Also, a friend said he learned rock with an A-minor. What's the difference?”

Dear Greg,

Here are some thoughts.

The question is interesting but for many reasons. I am immediately drawn to the four-chords issue (tonic, sub-dominant, dominant, dominant seventh) and think of the ukulele, guitar and the once-popular Magnus chord organs. These instruments allowed music-making to be more accessible to the general public and thus increased peoples’ participation because of the instruments’ simplicity of use and the need to only learn four chords to sing along.

Early music (Gregorian chant) did not have chords at all and then developed into music with a bass line and then an alto/tenor line. So it is not until we have music of three notes that the idea of the chord develops. I find this early music very interesting because of the "harmonic" sound, hence the barbershopper’s interest in the overtone series and the creation of harmonics and a harmonic sound (harmony).

As music history progressed, we have the Medieval/ Renaissance period with limited harmonic structure but much variety in instruments, voicings, text, and the division into secular and sacred music. Here we have a shift from each musical line as a melody to some lines becoming outlines or lines that create a chord structure. Polyphony to homophony. Melody and harmony. The system of I (tonic), IV (sub-dominant), V (dominant and dominant seventh) chords begins to appear as we move into the Baroque and Classical periods.

It is then in the Romantic 20th Century that we have the greatest expansion of melodies and harmonies with an expanded use of the chromatic scale (all thirteen notes of the scale).

With that brief music history lesson finished, I think that it is not necessarily the redundancy of the four-chords that brings about boredom to me as a listener. It is what is done with that four-chord structure that creates or prevents a listener’s boredom. Think of a great blues song. Its chord pattern is repetitive but so many other things in the music create interest like melody, lyrics, major/minor, instrumentation, voice, quality of performance, performer, concert/jazz club etc. It becomes the preference of the individual listener as to what determines "boredom." Keep in mind, that as listeners, our sense of musical boredom does not remain constant as we mature in age, ways of thinking, and our appreciation of other things. Think of the type of music that you listened to as an eight-years-old, at twelve years, eighteen years, twenty four years, thirty-five years, and so on until you come to your current age. I have found that some of my musical tastes have changed within a year or upon a greater understanding of a new musical style or idea.

"Boredom is in the ear of the beholder."

P.S. Are we bored or do we just lack an understanding which may lead to a greater appreciation which then may lead to the liking of new music or even some simple four-chords!

P.P.S. “A minor” is the same as a C6 chord, that’s missing the G.

Big Chief Jeopardy, #42. (Did you get these?)

1. Answer: He has had many roles in life: art teacher at Pontiac Central and other schools, Navy draftee, Lutheran layworker, rent-a-cop, MRSP President, MS careworker, weaver, gardener, antique architecture buff, and librarian. Question: Who is Ted Prueter?

2. Answer: He participated in a Guinness Book of World Records when he was part of the group that sang “Danny Boy” for 50 continuous hours at A.J. Music Café in Ferndale. Question: Who is Fred Pioch?

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, May 19 (Excerpts from Bill Auquier’s minutes)

Attending: Holm, Dick Johnson, Clarke, Domke, Teuber, Mann, Pioch, and Auquier.

The treasury stands at $10,485.

Doc Mann is chairing a “recruitment committee” with long term goals of adding members to the chapter from local colleges, universities, and churches. Doc has enlisted the aid of John Cowlishaw and Dr. David Gillingham to begin the process.
Jack Teuber gave the marketing report, recapping our schedule of events. The Music Committee has a list of eleven songs to be considered for the fall show.

The committee has requested two learning CDs from John Hayden, “Breakin’ up is hard to do” and “Meet Me in St. Louis, Louie.”

The Board decided on $5 per person for the bus ride to Flint’s Bratfest. The meeting between our chapter and Rochester was discussed, concluding that Rochester should be left to its own decision on merging, without influence from our leadership.

The Board decided on a charge of $85 double, $120 single for the fall training session at the McMullen Center.

Ted Preuter was approved for BSOM, April, 2010.

The Executive Board also met on Tuesday, June 15, to deal with one issue - a motion to grant three $100 scholarships for the Rochester Schools Summer Musical. The motion was passed. The Elton John production of Aida will be presented on July 29 thru 31. Students from Lake Orion and Oxford will join Rochester students in the production.

RESTRICTED WEB ACCESS SITE

Jeff Doig has prepared a sub-site on our chapter web site, http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/

It will contain material, such as copywrited training tracks, that are for internal use only.

Scroll down “Favorite Links” to “Members Page.” You’ll need to log in, using the user name and password which you have given Jeff. The password must have six alphanumeric characters, one of which is a number (such as “Tenor1” or “Cessna152”).

Letters:

(From Terry Jamison, upon news that the Commemorative Air Force's (CAF's) B-29, FIFI, has been fully restored to reclaim its title as the world's only flying B-29.)

She is a great airplane. I flew in her. She was at Oakland-Pontiac airport years ago. I have before and after photos of her for the 50th anniversary of the B-29. For me it will always be the Confederate Air Force. They can take there political crap and stuff it. I do miss flying and working with the CAF.

Terry

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 30-45’ earlier,

Aug 1-8 Harmony University, St. Joseph, MO
Aug 3, T, Grosse Pointe Chapter picnic
Aug 10, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes

TWELVE WEEKS TO SHOWTIME

Aug 10-12 Harmony Explosion Camp, Central Mich Univ. For high-schoolers
Aug 17, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks,
Aug 20, F, 6pm BCC picnic, Bob and Eileen Marshall’s home
Aug 20-21 Bush League, Gaylord, MI
Aug 24, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes
Aug 31, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Sep 7, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes

EIGHT WEEKS TO SHOWTIME

Sep 14, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Sep 21, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks, Afterglo – Heroes
Sep 24-26 Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake,
Sep 28, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 5, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal,

FOUR WEEKS TO SHOWTIME

Oct 15-17 Pioneer Fall convention, Grand Rapids
Oct 23, Sa Rochester Chapter show
Nov 2, T, noon Gig, Pontiac Presbyterian Church
Nov 6, Sa, 7pm BCC 66th annual show, Get Your Kicks on Rte 66,
Nov 6 Rockin’ Barbershop Youth Workshop
Nov 10, T 2010 Christmas chorus forms
Jun 3,4, 2011 2nd Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade