The time has come, the walrus said,
To sing of many things;
A broken bus, Route 66,
An Ontario quartet that rings!

Oh, well, you get the point … this is it … our 66th show. We are singing better than ever. We are pretty comfortable with the songs. We have an almost fool-proof script. Our show programs are printed, our tickets sold. Jeff and Howard have built a bus that will make your eyes bulge! And we have the Gold medalists from the Ontario district coming, Shaken, Not Stirred.

Shaken, Not Stirred has been exciting Ontario audiences for several years. They bring a load of competitive quartet singing experience with them. They are also members of Toronto Northern Lights, which (also) won Gold last month with an phenomenal 94% score! Bill Wells (Tenor), Brad Brown (Lead), Rob Lamont (Bass), and Dave Rozycki (Bari) live six hours northeast of us, in Wasaga Beach on the shores of Georgian Bay.

This is our first out-of-district guest quartet since Chordiac Arrest in 2002. Let the trip begin!

The Songs We Sing – Route 66

The year was 1945. The war was over, the troops were coming home. The nation was bursting with new energy, full of vision, and expanding westward.

The interstate system was still just a dream. It was the old US road system that carried the traffic.

A new barbershop chorus had just begun in Pontiac, and presented its very first show.

For our 66th show, we honor one of those routes that carried movers and vacationers westward at the birth of our chorus. We remember those folks who climbed into their Studebakers and Packards and set out for California on Route 66!

“Get Your Kicks on Route 66” was composed in 1946 by Bobby Troup. It was first recorded in the same year by Nat King Cole, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCYApJtsyd0&feature=related and was subsequently covered by many artists including Chuck Berry in 1961 and The Rolling Stones in 1964. The title was suggested to Troup by his first wife, Cynthia.

Troup conceived the idea for the song while driving west from Pennsylvania to Los Angeles, California, and it celebrates the romance and freedom of automobile travel. In an interview he once said the tune for the song, as well as the lyric "Get your kicks on Route 66," came to him easily, but the remainder of the lyrics eluded him. More in frustration than anything else he simply filled up the song with the names of towns and cities on the highway.

The TV series, Route 66, ran weekly on CBS from 1960 to 1964. It starred Martin Milner, George Maharis, and Glenn Corbett. The series is best remembered for its iconic Corvette convertible and its theme song. Nelson Riddle was commissioned to write that instrumental theme when CBS decided to have a new song, rather than pay royalties for the Bobby Troup song.

When the BCC Music Committee agreed, last winter, on a Route 66 theme for the Fall show despite the absence of an a cappella version of the song, John Cowlishaw rashly offered to arrange a version with Tom Blue. Creating the arrangement got a bit out of hand, leading to the 38th and final version that we sing in the show. Our arrangement has been copyrighted by Troup-London Music and is available from BHS in Nashville.
From the Prez:

MEN,

Have you logged onto the www.bigchiefchorus.org web site? All the show songs plus Doc Gillingham’s performance at Higgins Lake are there for your listening and learning. Don’t delay, it’s great!!

Jack

AROUND THE PATCH

Jeffrey Kafer is currently working long hours in Minnesota. He doesn’t expect to be back in Michigan until after the Show. We hope to see him for the Christmas Season.

BCC 2010 Performance-Total to Date – 93 performances – 6008 auditors

Quartets

On September 26, NORTHBOUND SOUND sang at the Annual Heritage Festival of Rochester Hills. The event was moved this year from the City Park to Rochester College. The quartet braved a cold wind to stroll about the campus singing to an estimated 200 people. As a side note, Kathy Weiland, long-time friend of Doc Mann, and her husband were manning a booth. They helped Bill Dabbs and Chuck Murray sell a record $1200 worth of raffle tickets the last time we had a show intermission.

On October 3, three quartets joined forces to sing for an hour at Harvest Days at the Good Shepherd Lutheran School. NORTHBOUND SOUND, NATURAL E, and LIMITED EDITION each sang there own set, and Freddie McFadyen led all eleven singers (Jeff Doig was dualing), in a minichorus of songs. It was not an easy venue, given the movement of participants thru the gymnasium, but we did school kids Anna and Gracie Blue proud. Our contact, Marilyn Campbell, was a hoot.

MEMBERSHIP (at 68)

Pending: Gil Schreiner, Wayne Oberstadt, Lew Mahacek

Bye-bye: Yong McDowell (Yong moved his primary membership to Frank Thorne in 2004, coincident with his move to Pittsfield Township to be closer to the Ann Arbor dance scene. But his multi-year registration continued until now. Yong is remembered as our original web-master.)

November Birthdays: Ron Clarke (8th), Lance Shew (12th), Doc Mann (13th), Jeffrey Kafer (15th), Gil Schreiner (18th), Marv Wilson (19th), Bob Greenwood (20th), Paul Smith (21st), Fred McFadyen (24th), Lew Mahacek (25th)

Medical: Doc Mann had surgery for his ulcerated colon, and is recovering at Troy Beaumont Hospital. Bob Marshall’s fall from a ladder resulted in a broken hip after all. Dan Valko’s wife has had two knee surgeries in the last six months. Post-surgical Mary Teuber is now driving. Bob Wallace had hernia surgery. Jan DeNio is at home. Jeff Doig’s mother-in-law died October 11. Sandy Northey had a 4th and 5th stent, matching John’s.

In Memoriam: Nov 19, 2006, Bill Pascher, #68

Barbershopper of the Month: Freddie McFadyen, for his great work directing our daytime gigs.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Pioneer District Convention was in Grand Rapids, October 15-17. Taking home Gold were:

RIGHT ON Q, District Quartet Champions
MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS, Chorus Champions
CARTE BLANCHE, Senior Quartet Champions
SOULED OUT, Novice Quartet Champions

MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS and CARTE BLANCHE will be going to Vegas to compete, Jan 25-30, 2011.

Terry Jamison was our House of Delegates rep at District. He reports: “The House of Delegates made a challenge to each individual, and that is, “What am I going to do to replace myself?” Sooner or later our time in barbershop will come to an end. Recruitment and the future of BHS must be the main focus. I have come up with an idea for Pontiac-Waterford and I want to present this plan in January at the leadership meeting in Owosso to all the other chapters as well. If this works in the Pioneer District it will show all the other districts how it’s done. Not only will I sell this to the Board but will sell this to other chapters.” It was reported that 22% of all new BHS members this year are under the age of 25.

November 5,6,7. As Ray Sturdy said on Pionet, “What a great weekend for Barbershop!” On Friday night, D.O.C sponsors Canada Night. We’re all invited. (See their web site, http://detroitoakland.org for further details. On Saturday night, our 66th Annual Show features SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED. On Sunday afternoon, 4 pm, the Livingston Lamplighters Chorus presents “A Salute to America.” It’s directed by Paul Keiser, at the Hartland Educational Community Center, 9525 Highland Rd (M-59 just West of US-23), 48843. It will feature Lamplighter quartets (THE JESTERS, NOTEWORTHY), RECYCLED ROCKETTES, and SILVER BELLES. Tickets are $10. Info at (810) 227-8497.

The Rochester chapter is basking in the afterglow of their annual show. Attendees were entertained by emcee Doran McTaggart, and by quartets
Chordiology, Singing with Dad, Moxxy, Meta-4, and the new Pioneer champions Right on Q. And the Heart of the Hills chorus was joined onstage by the Motor City Singers. Rochester appreciated their guests’ “encouragement and enthusiasm to give the momentum needed to slingshot us into the Christmas performance season, and to fire up our membership drive.”

Have you ever heard Max Q in person? Now’s your chance to hear our 2007 International Champions, and the featured quartet in the movie American Harmony. They guest-star on this fall’s Sweet Ads Spirit of Detroit show, November 14, 2:30 matinee, at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn. Also performing is Gold-medal Resisting-A-Rest, with BCC member Bruce LaMarte, and Region-champion Overture, with Bruce’s wife, Dodie. And of course the perennial International-competitor Spirit of Detroit chorus, under the direction of Master Director LeAnn Hazlett. http://www.spiritofdetroitchorus.org/whats_new.htm

Bruce Wangen died on October 6. He was a lifelong member of the SPEBSQSA and loved barbershop singing. “I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Bruce Wangen. A very kind man, with a deep passion for barbershopping and his Barbershop friends. I had the privilege of singing with him in a quartet many years ago with Todd Bredin and Dennis Milott. Gonna miss "The Tagman." RIP friend.” (Wayne Oberstadt)

AROUND THE WORLD


2011 Kansas City International Convention

Show Song List

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

(a) I can read the notes and sing the music accurately, with the paper.
(b) I know the notes and words and am off the paper.
(c) I have mastered 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
Midnight Rose
This Is My Country
It is Well with My Soul
Keep The Whole World Singing

MEET DUANE ROY

Duane was born and raised in Redford Township, the middle of 15 children! Duane’s dad was a carpenter and owner of a small construction company in which Duane worked as a kid. Needless to say, Duane’s mom was a very busy housewife! The old family homestead is still in the family, near Grand River and 8 Mile Rds.

Duane attended Clarenceville High School where he sang in a small mixed chorus, the Troubadours, and also was a multi-sport athlete. He played varsity baseball for four years, as a third-baseman and relief pitcher. He played basketball. He ran the mile on the track team. And he captained the cross-country team on which he ran a 10:46 best time.

He joined the Army in 1957 and was stationed in Germany with the 4th Armored Division, 41st Infantry, in personnel carriers.
Upon return, he worked for Burroughs as an expediter until 1965. Then he took sales training. He has worked in industrial sales every since. He is a rep for Aetna Felt Corporation in Allentown, Pennsylvania, a fabricator of non-metallic products.

He married Patricia 53 years ago, and they have three children, Terri, Ken, and Kevin. As they grew up, dad naturally became a football and baseball coach for their teams, as well as a proud father of a dancing daughter. They now have five grandchildren. Duane and Patricia just moved into a new residence in Waterford, near Waterford Mott High School.

He is still very active, golfing several times a week in the mid-80s, and bowling in the 190’s. Last Christmas, when rotator cuff surgery temporarily halted his bowling, his wife noticed a Chieftain ad in the *Oakland Press*, and he came out to join our Christmas chorus. By March he was a member. He loves the fellowship and getting involved with the music. He regrets that he can’t read music but he has a good ear and can pick up his Lead part quickly under Tom Blue’s direction.

**How old is the Big Chief Chorus?**

Well, we know the chapter was formed in 1943. But how long has our membership been in barbershop?

Here is one way to look at it. This is a graph of the BHS joining date of our present BCC membership.

![Graph of BCC membership joining date](image)

Notice that as of 2010, we have 68 members, who have joined over the past 62 years. There is that big jump-up in 2000 during Chris Miller’s leadership, and a steady rise in the last five years under Tom Blue. This data shows that our median length of time in Barbershop is 10 years.

Furthermore,

One quarter of our chapter membership joined before 1990
One quarter joined in the 1990’s
One quarter joined in the first five years of this decade
One quarter joined in the last five years.

**From the inimitable Grady Kerr, BHS Historian**

“OK guys, the newest issue of PRESERVATION is complete and available online. You can find it at: [http://www.barbershop.org/preservation.html](http://www.barbershop.org/preservation.html)

“This issue features Baseball and Barbershop (good timing, eh?) with a story on Bobby Bragan.

“We have also included some details on the recent fire that damaged the Tulsa Club building where our first meeting was held in 1938.

“I’ve done some research on a relatively unknown artist who captured some of our early quartets. His name is John Beaudin. Read his story and see his work in this issue.

“There’s also a dedicated collector of Society-published music named James Given featured in this issue. I’m sure you’ll be as impressed with his work as I am.

“Hungry? See a great, historical recipe in this issue from Lloyd Steinkamp.

“Also we have some additional news in this issue like where to find ALL the past issues of the HARMONIZER online and FREE as well as a new song with a historical slant.

“Enjoy.

“Grady Kerr – editor / Society Historian”

**From Wayne County to India**

Willie Mendonsa, the first and only known barbershop member from India, realized a dream October 10 when he and his ten-member barbershop chorus BROTHERS IN HARMONY sang at a Mumbai restaurant as part of the Daniel Pearl Foundation World Music Days.

Willie reports, "My group was acclaimed by several of the leading musicians of the city who were there to perform and watch the show. Barbershop is being brought to more in my city". Willie's barbershop experience grew from a chance encounter eight years ago in a Canton, MI library with the quartet Euforia from the Wayne County Renaissance Chorus. He took the music back to India to his three brothers, and the group soon increased to ten. "Having fallen in love with the smooth harmony and ringing chords of barbershop, I want to let my people in Mumbai experience
this wonderful style of music.” Willie truly lives our motto “Keep the Whole World Singing!”

Read more about Willie’s story and the Daniel Pearl World Music Days.

OUR HISTORICAL LEGACY (The 4th in an ongoing series on the history of barbershop and of our chapter)

Historical audios of barbershop quartets

The Barbershop Harmony Society has its own section on YouTube. The newest entry is a seven-minute educational mini-documentary presentation of the barbershop style, its origins, and how it has evolved through the years. You’ll really enjoy vintage recordings of early quartets! Click on: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7FenBwxG_U&feature=sub

Balooning

If you’ve been up close to (or in) those big balloons lifting skyward and floating silently across the sky, it’s interesting to learn that the winners of the recent America’s Challenge Balloon race left Albuquerque October 9 and landed on the east shore of the Detroit River in Windsor, ON, after flying 1,350 miles from their launch point. Jeff Doig just happened to be there.

“We (John Uhlig and Jeff Doig) were coming back on I-75 from Brownstown after dropping off our crane at a job site and saw the balloon over the Detroit River. We got a really good look at it as we came over the Rouge river bridge. It was white, teardrop-shaped, and the gondola hung what looked like ten feet below the envelope. It was smaller than a normal hot air balloon but had no opening for the burners. I knew at the time that it was not a hot air balloon.

“I tried to take a picture but my camera batteries were dead and I had forgotten to put extras in my lunch box. (Bummer) When we got back to the shop I asked our resident balloon expert, Chad Dennis, if he knew what it might be. Chad has been flying hot air balloons for years, an instructor, and is also our warehouse manager. He goes to Albuquerque every couple of years with his balloon and he participates in a lot of the local ballooning events. He and his brother own a balloon repair facility, Pethick Balloons, in the Flint area. At the time he didn’t know, but he informed us later that it was a gas balloon, (I'm assuming helium), and the winner of the race. Pretty cool huh!

“P.S. If anyone is interested in a ride, I can hook you up with Chad.”

Finale Songwriter 2010

Finale Songwriter is below PrintMusic and above Notepad. It has everything we barbershoppers need. Songwriter 2010 is available for $24 (vs. $50), at www.inetvideo.com/Items/N02-010234

I have compared the features of the various limited versions of Finale at: www.finalemusic.com/CompareFeatures.aspx and Songwriter has everything we need from PrintMusic.

You should note that:
• All files can be opened in a newer software version, but files created in a newer version can not be opened in an older version unless converted via MusicXML.
• The Finale Reader™ is also available as a free download that can open, play, and print (but not edit) any Finale family file – as well as MusicXML files – so that you can share your music.

ASK THE DIRECTOR

Q: Talk about passaggio. What is it? Why does it happen? Is it the same for everyone? Do some people have more overlap than others? What can I do about voice cracking there?

Tom: Commonly called “break” or “passaggio,” the area of passage from one voice register to another usually creates a few unstable notes that are not solidly in either register. The vocal mechanism - with its coordinated cartilages, muscle tissue, and ligaments - positions the vocal folds for production of tones at various pitch levels. Breath support and complicated, subtle laryngeal changes can maintain stability during the “sifting process.” It is common for the amateur singer to have audible difficulty at any register shifting point, thus the term “break.” Through explanation, exercise, and practice, the proper proportions of energy and image will facilitate gentle passage through all of the notes of a singer’s range.

A “break” in a voice is different from a “crack.” A voice cracks when muscular tension and breath managements become imbalanced resulting in sudden, uncontrolled changes in a given note, frequently including change into a different register. It is particularly difficult for the amateur singer to determine and maintain the right ratios of breath, thought, and relaxation at the points of register shift. Therefore, voices may be more likely to “crack” at points known as “breaks.”

All of this information is taken from Choral Pedagogy by Brenda Smith, D.M.A. and Robert Thayer Sataloff, M.D., D.M.A.

Musicals are popular on Broadway this season.
Perfect Harmony is currently playing at the Acorn Theatre on 42nd Street! “Before there was Glee, there was something we like to call Perfect Harmony. This quirky, wickedly funny and mildly twisted comedy will bring you back to a time when navigating the brutal halls of high school was the most important thing in the world. Friendships are tested, loves are lost and won, and really
Barbershop quartet supports vasectomy:
PG video, raunchy, but probably an effective ad for vasectomy.
http://www.yourdailymedia.com/media/1143561611/Family_Guy_-_Peter_Needs_A_Vasectomy

Trophies, both International and Pioneer

Last month’s Preservation has a long article on the trophies that are presented to the International Quartet and Chorus champions. The original trophies were both crafted by Ben Landino of the Grosse Pointe Chapter. http://www.gradywilliamkerr.com/Preservation/PreservationSeptember2010.pdf#page=11

The original Quartet trophy was filled up with quartet names and retired in 1988. A little known fact is that the new quartet trophy has clandestinely built into it, a “super-secret compartment.” Traditionally and in the spirit of brotherhood, the outgoing champs place various items and notes inside for the new winners, some serious, often not. Already, twenty-two quartets have been presented this award.

Ben Landino and the chorus trophy

Grady Kerr notes that the Ben’s Quartet trophy was preceded by his Pioneer District Quartet Champion trophy, which is still in use today.

(From Paul Ellinger) The 2004 champs WILDCARD noticed that the Pioneer District Champion trophy was running out of space and added the current lower base. In 2007 CHORDIOLOGY noticed that the trophy was falling apart and attempted to have the trophy refurbished. However much of the original portions supporting the lyre was not able to be saved. As a result CHORDIOLOGY redesigned the top portion of the trophy and had the remainder of it refurbished. In 2008 SOMETHING BIG! built the carrying case for the trophy.

(From Matt Tipton) “Interestingly, while there have only been four International Champions that represented the Pioneer District, the Pioneer District trophy has FIVE International Champions immortalized on it. That is because in 1984 THE RITZ (http://pioneerqca.org/Quartets80s.htm) were the Pioneer District Champions (with Clay Shumard on baritone). They transferred to the Johnny Appleseed District before winning International in 1991.”

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: August 23, 2010, Excerpts from Bill Auquier’s minutes

Present were Jack Teuber, Roger Holm, Dick Johnson, Ron Clarke, Eric Domke, Fred Pioch, Bill Holmes, and Bill Auquier.

Reports were presented on the Treasury ($7,106), Minutes, Music and Performance, and Public Relations.

Ticket prices of $15 and $5 for the cast party were Okayed.

There was discussion on formation of a Show Ad Committee. The intent of the committee is to spread the work load placed on Ross Ensign who has been solely responsible for that large amount of information. Ensign, DeNio, Frye, Metzger, and Brede were suggested as committee members.

Dave Myre was selected as B.S.O.M. for July, 2010

Letters:

Hi guys,

Sorry I haven't been able to get to Waterford this summer, but I have been practicing with the Livingston Lamplighters for their November 7 show. It is going to be a patriotic event with barbershopping and dancing girls too! What more could you ask for? It is being held in the former high school auditorium at the Hartland Senior Center on M-59 just west of Old US 23. Please let me know if you would like tickets.

Stan Lawrence (810-220-3531)

Dear Mr. Cowlishaw and the BCC Chorus!

Thank you so very much for all of your support, and in sharing so freely of your wonderful music-making abilities!!

We know that Good Shepherd School really appreciated your talent and participation in Harvest Days. Wish we could have been there to hear you all; this was a very busy weekend with a concert happening at exactly the same
time to honor Tom’s long-time mentor and music teacher from Oxford High School.

Thank you for all that you do! It is an honor to know all of you!

With sincere appreciation,
The Blue Family

P.S. Gracie was also thrilled with the donations to her fun run at school. Thank you!

Hi John,

It is great as usual to receive the "Smoke Signals" publication. It sounds like you had a great time at the retreat. It brings back fond memories for me, especially the article from Pete about the history of the retreat and Chris Miller.

While reading the newsletter, my eyes quickly were attracted to an advertisement for Las Vegas, mid winter, January 25-30. I would love to attend some barbershop event, especially when they are in my backyard. Hopefully some of the BCC will be coming out and we might be able to share a beverage or two. I would love to see you.

Take care and my best to all.

Art Carinci

When I finished school in ’63, Nola and I packed up our kids and headed west. We picked up Route 66 as we went through St. Louis and followed it all the way west through all the cities in the song. I had a job in Los Angeles. We drove it the other way in ’65 headed for Connecticut. At that time, most of the way was still Route 66 with a few miles of Interstate here and there.

Lance Shew

Just one more reason it breaks my heart not being able to participate in this year’s show. You see, I can recall in the mid 1940’s when my family left Chicago where I was born and headed down US 66 for forty-some miles to Joliet, Illinois, our new home.

I can’t tell ya how many times I was up and down US 66, even on my bike as a kid. I can remember when they began building I-55. What a mess and what would it do to our beloved US 66?

I know you guys will get your kicks on great Route US 66.

Doc Mann

Mell Coleman wrote about the Lamplighter show and added:

Thanks for keeping me on your e-mail newsletter list. Your publication is one of the best I’ve ever seen. I suspect that you and your newsletter are one of the major contributing factors for the growth and strength of the Pontiac-Waterford chapter. Keep up the good work.

Mell
CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: F. McFadyen, D. Johnson, B. Holmes, & M. 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 – 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,
LSYSBP = Long-sleeved Yellow Shirts and Black Pants
WSCTBP = White shirt, Christmas Tie, and Black Pants
Nov 2, T, 1pm Pontiac First Presbyterian Ch, The Silver Seniors, LSYSBP
Nov 2, T, 6:30 BCC Rehearsal, at Waterford Mott High School
Nov 4, Th, 6:30 Chorus dress rehearsal
Nov 5, F, D.O.C. Canada Night
Nov 6, Sa, 7pm BCC 66th annual show, Get Your Kicks on Rte 66
Nov 6, Sa, –9:30 Cast Party, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Nov 6, Rockin’ Barbershop Youth Workshop
Nov 9, T Christmas chorus forms
Nov 11, Th, 2:30 Sunrise Residence of Rochester, LSYSBP
Nov 29, M, 6:30 Waterford Twp Tree Lighting, Outdoor Christmas attire
Dec 2, Th, 1:00 Oakland County Retirees, White Lake Oaks, WSCTBP
Dec 2, Th, 2:45 West Hickory Haven, 3310 W. Commerce Rd @ Hickory Ridge, Milford, WSCTBP
(Dec 4, Sa Possible Hillers gig)
Dec 11, Sa Christmas Bus Tour, WSCTBP & Outdoor Attire
Dec 17, F, 7pm Installation dinner, Waterford Oaks Activity Ctr
Jan 8, Sa Leadership Academy, Okemos
Jan 9, Su, 2:00 Orion Twp Library, LSYSBP
Jan 16, Su MLK Kettering HS, with the New Horizons Band, Gray Pants, White Shirt, Chorus Tie, Blue Blazer
Jan 25-30, 2011 Midwinter BHS Convention, Las Vegas
Jun 3-4 2nd Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
Jul 3-10 BHS International, Kansas City