The 2012 year began with a large turnout, 42 men, despite UofM’s playing in the Sugar Bowl that evening. Tom led the chorus thru “Heart of a Clown” and “Cabaret,” our likely contest songs in April.

Then it was Awards time and Installation of Officers. Roger Lewis received back a long-missing Harmony Hounds “dog” trophy. (Why did Bill Dabbs have it in his basement?) John Cowlishaw received the coveted William Pascher award. Jeff Doig was named Barbershopper of the Year.

Roger Lewis installed the new officers with a meaningful speech. After some quartetting, the chorus went to Heroes to watch the 2nd half, as UofM beat Virginia Tech, 33-30.

Fall Show
DVD’S are available of the "Phantom of the Barbershop". The video portion is particularly good, and the audio isn’t too bad either. If you are interested please order a copy from Dave Myre or Jack Teuber. The cost is $20.

2012 Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
1/3: Bob Stephenson quartet (Teuber,Stephenson,Bachmann,Wallace) 1/3: Fred Pioch quartet (Frye, Pioch, Cowlishaw,Northey) 2/1: Tom Blue quartet (McFadyen,Blue,Sturdy,Wallace) 4/26: Bob Greenwood quartet (W.Oberstadt, Greenwood,Domke,Moss) 7/19: Doc Mann quartet (Blackstone,Mann,Cowlishaw,Perry) 10/11: Gil Schreiner quartet (McFadyen,Schreiner,Johnson,Holm)

The Fred Pioch CMHQ debuted, January 17. (Frye, Pioch, Cowlishaw, Northey)
Section membership in the Big Chief Chorus
The ACTIVE members of each voice part appear to be:

- Tenor - 6
- Lead - 22
- Bari - 9
- Bass - 13

The beginning of a new year is a good time to point out that this is an imbalance in the voice parts. We are Lead-heavy, and Bari-light.

Leads, why not consider whether you might enjoy trying out the Baritone part. You can explore this further with Dick Johnson or John Cowlishaw.

PS. Does anyone recall a recommended ratio of voice parts in a barbershop chorus? (No, not in a quartet.) See Dick Johnson, below.

New Music for 2012, from Roger Holm for the Music Committee
Here is a list of the ten new songs for 2012:

Already distributed:
- Breaking Up is Hard to Do
- Gospel Medley
- Over the Rainbow
- Hands of Time
- Home On the Range
- When the Saints Go Marchin’ In
- Coney Island Baby Medley

Yet to come:
- With a Song in my Heart
- Carry on, Wayward Son

Jeff Doig has posted the learning tracks on our web site - www.bigchiefchorus.org > Favorite Links > Members’ Page.

This includes the new Pole Cat recordings by Tim Waurick.

The cost so far for the sheet music (purchased or photocopied), and the learning-track CDs, is about $660. Final copyright compliance fees remain to be determined.

Leadership Academy
Dick Johnson, Bill Auquier, Eric Domke, and Ray Sturdy attended the Leadership Academy, January 7, in Okemos. See reports below.

Guests
It has been good to welcome back Gary Owens and Mickey Cotter, who sang with us during Christmas. Keith Opal has also been a guest.

MEMBERSHIP (at 59)
- Renewals: Bob Stephenson (3), Ted Prueter (11)
- Overdue: Art Carinci, Ron Clarke, Ross Ensign, Bill Nevaux, Wayne Oberstadt
- February Birthdays: Ross Ensign (7th), John Northey (22nd), Pete Mazzara (23rd)
- Medical: Bob Stephenson returned January 17 after very painful shoulder replacement surgery.

In Memoriam
- Jan 30, 2004, John Smith, Smoke Signals #34
- Feb 2, 2011, Marv Wilson, Smoke Signals #119
- Feb 25, 2011, Jim Claflin, Smoke Signals #120

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Operation Harold Hill
Under Paul Ellinger’s prodding, every chapter in the Pioneer district signed up for Operation Harold Hill. (The national number is 40% so far.)

OPERATION HAROLD HILL ROLLS INTO WATERFORD

“Hey guys - The Society has revived an old recruiting program to help boost membership growth. It's called Operation Harold Hill. The International has deputized some of its medal-winning recruiters to help individual chapters come up with activities that will help swell the ranks of barbershop singers across the country.

“The Big Chief Chorus and other chapters throughout the Pioneer District are jumping in with both feet so....... Please observe us if you will, here’s Professor Harold Hill, and wait 'till you see the fun and prizes ahead!

“Now here's the first step in the "Think System":

“Remember way back when you went to your first barbershop chapter meeting. Was it because somebody told you where the meeting was and asked you to come? Maybe he even picked you up? Just think about it.

“More later.”

Ray Sturdy and Eric Domke
D.O.C. Show: BARBERSHOP IN SPACE! (THE FINAL FRONTIER)
Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 2:00 pm and at 7:30pm, Clarenceville High School, Livonia, MI.
Guest quartets will include: HIGH FIDELITY (doing their Star Trek show) and PRESTIGE, 2011 International Collegiate Quartet Champions.
The space-themed show will lean toward Star Trek but not exclusively.

Lansing Show
The Lansing chorus’s show, Hooray for Hollywood, is Saturday, March 3, at 7:30 pm, Wharton Center, East Lansing. The chorus will present songs from classic musicals from the silver screen like “Hello Dolly,” “The Music Man,” “South Pacific” and many more. The featured quartet is Top Ten International quartet TNS, from Nashville.

Pioneer District Chairman, Auditorium House
(From Doug Weaver, President, Pioneer District)
Pionetters, thanks to all who participated in this weekend’s Leadership Academy. It was a great time, and big “tip of the hat” to Joe McDonald for organizing a terrific event. If you were not there, we hope that you will be hearing more about several of the weekend topics very soon.

Harrisville Harmony Weekend (From Craig Pollard)
Hello Barber shoppers; 2012 Harrisville Harmony Weekend will celebrate 50 years on the weekend of August 30 - Sept 2. I'm calling all Barbershoppers to come and celebrate this great event. The Harrisville Arts Council is planning many extra events and the Weekend will feature the Main show on Saturday night at the Harbor. Many groups have already agreed to be there which include Senior Champs RESISTING-A-REST and Region 2 Champs, OVERTURE. Headlining the show will be our very own 2003 International Champs, POWER PLAY. Information on the weekend will be available on www.Harrisvilleartscouncil.com and also Harmony weekend has a face book page. On the Arts Council web site under Artisan Info is a listing of all accommodations available for the weekend. Campground reservation deadline is the 30th of February. That website is www.midnrreservations.com/searchpark.aspx?parkID=32 If you want to camp and the Park is full Harrisville Marine across from the Park entrance has twenty sites available with power. (989-724-5439) Hope to see you.

Spring Convention registration site is now online: (from Ron Eubank) http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm
The spring contest is set up and ready to be entered for the April convention in Battle Creek. There's the Senior Quartet Championship, the College Quartet Contest, the International Quartet Prelims, the District Chorus Championship, and the Chorus Plateau Championships.

Each participating group must register. Go to the ebiz part of the Society website (select member log in on the home page), sign in and select “Contest Entry” at the top of the page, then “Contest Entry” from the drop-down list.
Good luck and THINK SPRING!

New Pioneer bulletin
Bulletins in Pioneer District are precious few and far between. A fine new one has begun in Grand Rapids, by Robert Alicea, called 4-Cast. Check it out at: http://greatlakeschorus.org/newsletter/1112314cast.pdf

Steve Sutherland has added a link to Barbershop Connections on the Pioneer Links page. http://www.barbershopconnections.com/
Long time Pioneer Barbershopper, Derrick Deakons died Dec 30. Back in the '80's, Derrick had directed the Clinton Valley (now Rochester) Chorus and had also directed the Harmony Heritage Chorus for a short time. Derrick had also been active in several competing Pioneer quartets.

Michigan Music Conference
Michael Baribeau wrote:
“The Barbershop Harmony Society's Pioneer District was well represented at the 2012 Michigan Music Conference Jan 21 in Grand Rapids MI at the Devos Place. There was a booth set up with a couple quartets working the floor. 2011 College Quartet Representatives and 2011 District Quartet Champions EBB N’ FLOW were also singing and wooing the ladies.”

From Garrett Gillingham, Lead, EBB N’ FLOW
Hello everyone,
Just wanted to say how great of a time that EBB N’ FLOW had singing and mingling at the Michigan Music Conference. It was an early morning for us as we had to leave around 7am to get to Grand Rapids, but the trip was totally worth-while. When we arrived we were told that the men's honor choir was expecting us, so we went and sung a couple songs to about 80 male high school students from all over the state. This was a wonderful moment for us as we got to share our love of barbershop to young people; they even sang one of the songs they performed this weekend which just happened to be in the barbershop style, 'Yes Sir, That's My Baby'. It quickly became a question/answer session and we got to give comments and tips to the director and the students; the choir could easily be a top ten youth chorus!
The rest of our time was spent singing around exhibit booths and for anyone who cared to listen. Since this was a music convention, most people were very intrigued once they heard those ringing barbershop sevenths. It was also surprising and special to have several band/choir directors come up to us and thank us for giving them a reminder of their past, as they had either grown up with barbershop or had sang it for some time before. Some individuals even asked to sing songs with us, which was a very humbling experience. From what we saw, this was a very huge success for the Pioneer District in terms of promotion. Hundreds of flyers were handed out for the Harmony Explosion camp coming this July in Mt. Pleasant, and many young people and music educators came by the booth to see what this American art form is all about.

A big thank you to Nels Carlson and Don Slamka for making the day so fun and entertaining for us. We are ALWAYS ready to jump at the opportunity to do anything to help the district and promote barbershop in any way.

Thank you Pioneer, from everyone in the quartet!
-Garrett

ASK THE DIRECTOR

Q: Tom, Do you have anything to add about the Michigan Music Conference?

A: John, I attended this conference and stopped by the booth briefly. I would at some point in the future like to present a session on “What this choral director learned from barbershop and the BHS and what barbershop and the BHS can learn from this choral music director…do our ideas collide or are we on the same road? The answer might surprise you!”

It is interesting to note that The Great Northern Union Chorus will be performing at the North Central ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) Division Convention in February and The Vocal Majority will be performing at the Southwestern ACDA Division Convention in March!

AROUND THE WORLD

Midwinter Convention in Tucson ended Jan 22.

Our Senior Quartet entry, SHOWTIME, finished 26th out of 27, scoring 59.9 on their two songs, “My Ideal” and “It’s Only a Paper Moon,” both of which were Brigade songs in Lansing last June. Winner of the Seniors Quartet Contest was RUSTY PIPES, out of JAD, with a score of 73.9%, singing “I’ll See You in My Dreams” and “Mistakes.”

Barbershoppers watch eagerly for activity in the Youth Choruses (up to 24 yrs old), not only because of some good singing (HD Chorus from the Sunshine District received the top score of 83.5 %.) but for a measure of the future of our organization. For the record, this year there were 15 choruses and 418 young men, down somewhat from last year’s 19 choruses and 650 men.

Anyone listen to the webcast this year? I believe that Jeff and Susan Spires attended.

Here’s the link to the Convention:
http://www.barbershop.org/tucson-midwinter-main.html

(From BHS)

RUSTY PIPES (JAD) clearly proved that they’re only kidding about the name when they won the Seniors Quartet Gold Medal at Midwinter Convention in Tucson on Friday, January 20. These guys were definitely in fine voice, with great showmanship to boot.

Tenor Dale Fetick, Lead Carl Taylor, Bass Jay Hawkins and Baritone Tom Rouse (left to right above), sang “I’ll See You in My Dreams” and “Mistakes” to take the lead over Silver Medalist Border Patrol (ONT).

RUSTY PIPES only just formed in August 2011, but some of the members are no strangers to gold. Jay Hawkins and Dale Fetick together won a Quartet Gold Medal with MARQUIS in 1995, and Carl Taylor won a previous Seniors Gold with THE BARONS in 2003.

2012 International Conventions

July 1-8

If you register by Wed, February 1, you'll still get the early bird rate!

“There will be drama between Ringmasters and Musical Island Boys as they vie for the top spot in the quartet competition. As if that won’t be enough, who knows what contender might challenge both of them? Whoever wins, it will be a peak experience. As for peak experiences, on the scenery side, how about the drama of Mt. Hood - over 11,000 feet above sea level and clearly visible from downtown Portland?
"And after placing just a breath away from the gold last year, Great Northern Union will be a force for the Ambassadors of Harmony to reckon with in Portland. There’ll be some beautiful music there for sure. And, speaking of beautiful, you’ll thoroughly enjoy a visit to the International Rose Test Garden, the Columbia River Gorge, and Multnomah Falls, to name just a few, all within easy reach! General housing is now open. Register at PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL.

Masters of Harmony’s Gold Medal performance at International last July is now available online. Watch them sing “Stranger in Paradise” and without any choreography, by the way. ☺

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hmbm7a94K_w&feature=uploademail

Although Metropolis is an officially retired quartet, they DO have five shows scheduled for 2012, according to bass Brian Philbin, though none are very near us.

http://www.harmonize.com/metropolis/metrogig.htm

The Vocal Majority has announced that Jeff Oxley is its new “primary Musical Director.” Greg Clancy will be joining Executive Director Jim Clancy and Musical Director Jeff Oxley as the Chorus’s new Creative Director.

Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association

This is the subgroup of BHS that believes the parent group doesn’t emphasize traditional quartetting sufficiently. The Spring Festival for BQPA will be held in Tempe, AZ in April 11-15.

BQPA Website http://www.bqpa.com/ where this year’s calendar and last year’s photos are available.

Where is the Isle of Wight?

The 15-mile long island is about three miles off the south central coast of mainline England, but not out of the purview of barbershop, as reported by the Isle of Wight County Press:

(Wight Harmony at Norton Grange, Yarmouth)

“Barbershop group’s feast of festive song,”

One of the Island’s most popular barbershop ensembles brought Christmas cheer to guests at a holiday camp.

Wight Harmony, conducted by Dave Bryant, performed their Tinsel and Turkey show at Warner Leisure Hotel, Norton Grange, Yarmouth, in the run-up to Christmas.

The chorus sang a selection of songs from their wide repertoire, which included songs from West End shows, such as “Do You Hear the People Sing,” from Les Miserables, “Can You Feel the Love Tonight,” from The Lion King and “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” from Carousel.

The concert also featured Christmas songs and carols. "We have great fun entertaining our audiences and we know they appreciate our efforts, which is a great reward for us, especially as it enables us to raise some much-needed funds for our adopted charity, Haylands Farm, Ryde, Wight."

Two Reports from Leadership Academy

From Eric Domke, VP Chapter Development

One of the sessions I attended was "Are we there yet?". This was put on by three Chordiology quartet members, and quartets was the theme. It focused on song choices that match the group’s personalities, designing an entertaining show, identifying your quartet’s goals among other things. A couple other things touched on were getting the most out of Harmony University, and how to make the Lead think he’s in charge.

Some of the notable comments were:
- Fun needs to be key and portrayed to the audience and make them a part of our joy.
- "THE AUDIENCE THINKS WHAT YOU THINK, THE AUDIENCE FEELS WHAT YOU FEEL.
- The audience needs to be told how to feel.
- When a song is introduced it sets the mood - personal triumphs or tragedy so the audience is with you before you even sing a note.

Sometimes you don't even tell what the song is. Subtle is better as in “Don't tell all.”

Vocal Majority is the top rated chorus we’ve all heard of. They are well known for their dedication to excellent performance. Yet their turnover rate is 100 % every three years.

I could have listened to these guys all day! Very motivational.

I also attended a first time seminar - Youth in Harmony. Some good ideas were:

When we visit a school choir we could teach a tag to the choir and then ask to hear the choir sing one of their songs.

We as the BCC could help the high school choir - sing at their show, usher for them, help with a school musical.

We should consider NOT using the term barbershop and instead use acappella to describe our music.

Thank You, BCC for sponsoring me by paying the registration,
From Dick Johnson, Treasurer

I thought the treasurer sessions were productive. There were several in the sessions that were new to the responsibility, resulting in a lot of give and take with a well-qualified instructor. They were shocked to learn how long I have held the responsibility, but I, therefore, was able to contribute to the meeting. It was a good group of interested participants with much to contribute. Dick

NCHB

Ray Sturdy and Tom Smeltzer attended the North Carolina Harmony Brigade from our area.

Lunch Break (a multi-talented group)

Wow, did the audience at the Orlando Magic / Boston Celtics game, Jan 26, love hearing LUNCH BREAK perform Jim Clancy’s arrangement of the Star Spangled Banner. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG9ykYlVtPA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GG9ykYlVtPA)

LUNCH BREAK were the mike testers for the Quartet Finals last summer. But they won’t be competing this year. “Our lead, Eddie, is very busy keeping up with his twin babies. Our bass, Mike, has a heavy travel schedule in his work for the Society. Our bari, KJ, just started a new job with the Harmony Foundation. And our tenor, Shane, has joined the U.S. Olympic Track and Field squad and is preparing for the high jump competition in London this summer.

A new feature in *Smoke Signals*: Historic photos, #1

![Five from the Fall, 2001 Show](image)

Mike Braun, Art Carinci, Pete Mazzara, Bob Legato, Jeff Doig

Michael Oberstadt won the DECA District 6 competition

I asked Michael about it:

“Yesterday, 1/7, I went to West Bloomfield High School to compete in DECA District 6 competition. DECA, (Distributive Education Clubs of America) is a business and marketing association that many school districts among the nation compete in.

In competition, my partner and I (who play the role of marketing executives) are given 30 minutes to read over a scenario given to us by an imaginary business. We are in the category “Hospitality Management Team Decision Making,” so we focus on hotel and lodging marketing scenarios. The scenarios will often include a loss of sales due to a specific factor. It is our job to come up with a promotional plan and inject our creative ideas to help this business not only regain its lost sales figures, clientele, etc., but to improve the business as a whole.

We are then given 15 minutes to reveal our plan to the judge (who usually plays the role of the owner or manager of the business.) We are judged based on the creativeness of our ideas, our appearance, our communication skills, and use of Marketing knowledge and vocabulary to enhance our plan.

We wait (sometimes hours) for the judges to deliberate and our scores are revealed to us in the afternoon. Elena Glinter (my partner) and I won a red white and blue medallion on stage, signifying ourselves as State finalists to represent the best in student marketing that Michigan has to offer. This conference will take place on March 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Dearborn. As a group, we received a 92% on our role play with the judge and an average of 77% (which is a great score for a DECA test) on our Hospitality online exam.

If my team wins at State competition, we will move on to the International Career Development Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. There, we will represent the entire United States.

Michael Oberstadt

The Pyramid System (From Dick Johnson)

I had suggested that the sectional ratio should be 10:20:30:40. I guess that the cone-shaped Pyramid System has to do with volume relationships – the higher one sings, the less volume is required, no matter what part you sing.

Dick writes:

Hi, John. When I learned the "pyramid" system, no numbering was used. Simply...the bass volume supplies the bottom of the pyramid followed by the baritone, lead, then tenor; except the lead portion of the pyramid extended slightly outside of the pyramid so that the melody was understood. When the melody moves to one of the other voice parts, that part extends outside the pyramid and the lead pulled into the pyramid in order for the melody to continue to be understood.
Trick was (if one of the parts went into higher ranges) not to cover the melody but to blend with the melody. Holds true for chorus also. Tom works on that continually when asking the guys to listen to where they are in a chord so one part or another can be heard, when needed, to bring out a 7th chord or a 5th etc. Don't know how that applies today but that was what I was taught. Dick

Perfect Fifth

Several members of the BCC (Holm, Teuber, Cowlishaw, and the Oberstadts) joined about 140 others to enjoy a 45’ concert by THE PERFECT FIFTH, Sunday night, January 14. It was part of a supper and MLK program at the Milford United Methodist Church.

The quintet impressed us all with their polished 12-song performance. They introduce themselves as Tenor, Lead, Baritone, Bass, and Human Percussionist. The early numbers, such as “Heartbreak Hotel” and “Brown-Eyed Girl” were primarily percussive, with one member soloing and the other members doing a pftt-dm-pah backup. This is the style common on The SingOff. The Bass and Lead were dominant in these songs. “For the Longest Time” included some nicely-performed bell chords. “Good Night My Angel” was pretty. The later songs were more homophonic, that is, with all five members singing words harmonically. “Amazing Grace” and “Jessie’s Girl” had particularly strong harmony, though “Amazing Grace,” in particular, was “gappy,” being sung as a succession of short phrases, rather than the ongoing continuous flow that we try for (until our breath runs out).

Who does their arrangements? And how do five men find five different notes to sing? 6th, 7th, and 9th chords provide the possibility for five different notes. But on a straight dominant chord, the kind of chord we tune on as 1-3-5-8, there are only four notes, requiring doubling or adding the 10th. We couldn’t tell which.

Cowlishaw was particularly impressed with their synchronization, the attacks and releases being razor-sharp. Holm was particularly impressed with some of their difficult harmonies.

The group is even more a cappella than we are, because they don’t use a pitch pipe. Often the pitch seemed to be determined by a solo entry of two or three notes, with the other members then coming in right in tune. In one song, the final tenor post was slightly flat, and the other members skillfully adjusted their entry for proper intonation.

The quintet used five microphones, and the amplification was set too high for our tastes, slightly muffling their sound. We would love to hear them sing without mics.

You can hear Perfect Fifth sing a Christmas medley at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8aL1n1aE1A
The quintet formed in Mary Anne Lambrecht’s vocal program at Milford High School in September, 2010. http://www.mhsperformingarts.com

VIRTUAL GROUPS

The first Virtual Barbershop Chorus is now on YouTube
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJgRiTX_x1Y
You’ll see Wayne Oberstadt at the lower left. Out of 45 contributors, (half from the British Isles) four were from Michigan, including William Stutts, Baritone, from Ann Arbor and Scott Monte, Bass, from Brighton. Michael Matson, Lead, DOC, also contributed, but there was a problem with his video. Gee, that’s a Michigan quartet!

Peter Nugent organized this rendition of David Harrington’s “If I Had My Way.” The next song will be “Sweet Loraine,” arrangement by David Wright

Virtual Choir 3

“Eric Whitacre’s Virtual Choir 3 will perform his much-loved a cappella piece, Water Night. We welcome existing Virtual Choir members and encourage singers from around the world to join together across the internet to create a beautiful, poignant film which will be released in Spring 2012. You have until 31st January 2012 to record your entry - good luck!”

Go to http://virtualchoir.ericwhitacre.com and click on the YouTube video.

Single-performer multi-track audiovisuals

Two new developments:

a. Visually seamless; looks like quadruplets singing in one camera view, instead of four or more views: “Come Fly with Me,” by I don’t know who:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unDHOVvUUBA&feature=youtube_gdata_player
And this lovely “Bring Him Home” by Danny Fong
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwmxqSH054&feature=youtube_gdata_player

b. Danny Fong has posted a tutorial that shows how these multi-track, single-performer AVs are made. This is really interesting to watch - especially for those who haven’t tried to do a multi-track recording themselves.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebvUSvXqgfA If the technical stuff about microphones and headphones doesn’t interest you, skip to 2:20, and you’ll see Danny Fong lay down four tracks sequentially of the tag “Last Night was the End of the World,” including his critique of his own effort.

International Virtual Sextet

This group is six guys, from five countries, forming a virtual chorus, to do a cover of Gold Mine, by Take 6.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=iv&v=Q_T_TYTVGlo&annotation_6d=annotation_76056&src_vid=YiQNT90LVpU
You can compare this to the original at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmLuV64kdqA (a favorite of Tom Blackstone’s, by the way.)

Garritan Virtual Orchestras
PrintMusic’s parent organization has now bought Garritan Corporation, the world’s leading provider of software musical instruments.

Take a listen at http://www.garritan.com/
In the right margin are samples of orchestral pieces that are being played by the Garritan software. I tried out “Rhapsody in Blue,” and “The Stars and Stripes Forever.” You’ll have to listen hard to believe it’s not a real orchestra or band.

New App, Turning Talk into BBS Quartet music
I couldn’t resist opening an article with the title, “Start That Barbershop Quartet Cover Band You’ve Always Wanted.”

Well, it ain’t THE ACOUSTIX!
But you can turn your human voice into a cappella music with an app called Talkapella, which “effortlessly transforms ordinary speech into music.”

If you’d like to listen to a sample, try http://evolver.fm/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Evolver-jam-2.m4a, set to the tune of Pachelbel’s Canon in D, in all its robo-harmonic glory. It’s rigorously, even mathematically, in tune, but that is about the only good thing you can say about it.

Barbershop Videos
There are now thirty (30) videos available on our BHS web site.
http://www.barbershop.org/resources/videos.html
and there are 74 on the related Barbershop Harmony 38:
http://www.youtube.com/barbershopharmony38

YouTube – Origin and Copyright Issues
Given the ubiquity of YouTube and its inclusion of lots of barbershop, it’s hard to believe that its history only goes back to 2005. And that one of the inspirations was Janet Jackson’s “wardrobe Malfunction” on CBS’s broadcast of the 2004 Super Bowl half-time show that was known about by millions, but “if you missed the live broadcast, you were out of luck.” (The New Yorker, Jan 16, 2012)

YouTube’s way of dealing with copyright infringement is interesting.
YouTube has licensing deals with major content providers and also a content-management program, called Content ID that alerts copyright holders automatically whenever any part of their content goes up on YouTube. Owners can choose to (a) remove the content, (b) sell ads against it and share the money with YouTube, or (c) use it as a promotional tool. That explains how they get around the copyright issue and why YouTube entries often simply disappear.

Barbershop Basics, as prepared for the NED Harmony Explosion Camp
A nice intro for new student barbershoppers, which covers:
What is this thing called Barbershop Harmony?
History of Barbershop
How does barbershop differ from traditional choral singing?
Speaking of Lead and Baritone, what’s the deal with the barbershop voice parts?
http://harmonize.com/nediyh/barbershopbasics.htm

Ted Norton, aka Music Ed Ted, has a new video out
“Check out my new Topic. "Beyond The Fundamentals - Interpretation and The Visual” that I just put up on my website. Though it’s my 18th topic, it’s listed as #12 under “Singing Better.”

Ted Norton (Music Ed Ted), Olean, NY (SLD)”
www.musicedted.info

Preservation, Vol 3, Number 1, February, 2012 is now on your computer.
http://www.barbershop.org/history/preservation/preservation-publication.html
Of particular interest to us would be:
1. PRESTIGE – a lengthy story about the Tenor of Prestige, Gordie Howe, and, yes, he is the grandson of Red Wings hockey great, Gordie Howe, who frequently hears the quartet sing.
2. HARMONY HALLS scrapbook discovered (our first Michigan Gold Medal quartet, from Grand Rapids)
3. The Muppets’ Barbershop Quartet – The new Muppet Movie includes a “barbershop quartet”. The foursome features Sam the Eagle, Rowlf the Dog, Link Hogthrob and Beaker. They sing a version of “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” a song made popular in 1991 by rock group Nirvana (Kurt Cobain). Hmm, how did they manage that??
4. Using www.ancestry.com to establish the ages of our Gold Medal winners, thereby establishing that our newly-crowned 2011 International Champions, OLD SCHOOL, is the third-oldest quartet champion in history, based on the combined ages of its members.
5. The first LPs of barbershop quartets - in the 1960s.

Music Premiere Series 2012A -
“The Music Premiere Series contains arrangements that most choruses and quartets can sing, that aren't too difficult, and that have been vetted by the publication subcommittee. Music Premiere 2012A is ready to ship now, complete with demo tracks by Tim Waurick, all for only $14.99. Part-specific
learning tracks are also available, at extra cost. Copies of individual songs are $1.65, and audio previews are available on the website.

*Cinderella* *Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans?* *Firefly* *Jump, Shout and Boogie* *I'll Forget You* *I'm Gonna Live 'Til I Die* * Contestable Songs

**Dick VanDyke on CBS**

“And in retirement, Van Dyke hasn’t stopped singing. Fans will be glad to know his hobby is a quartet called the Vantastix that … has kept him pretty spry.” [http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505270_162-57355052/dick-van-dyke-engaged-at-age-86/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505270_162-57355052/dick-van-dyke-engaged-at-age-86/)

**Symphony of the Lakes**

This Waterford-based orchestral group is the 57-year-old descendant of the Pontiac-Oakland Symphony and the Oakland Symphony. Zeljko Milicevic is its new music director.

Its home auditorium is Waterford Mott High School Performing Arts Center. Its first concert of the season was Saturday, Jan. 14.

The orchestra’s second performance of the season will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 14 at the Mott Performing Arts Center (Rimsky-Korsakov, Smetena, and Dvorak).

In addition, the Symphony of the Lakes will host “Puttin' on the Glitz Cabaret Gala” from 6 to 11 p.m. on March 31 at the Lafayette Grande Crystal Ballroom in Pontiac. The event will include dinner and cabaret style entertainment featuring clarinetist Dave Bennett performing selects by Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey and others. Live/silent auctions will be held. Black tie/1940s attire is optional.

**Sunday Nights with Vinny (Internet Radio)**

Vinny keeps puttin’ out the barbershop at “Sunday Nights with Vinny.” You can see a playlist of Jan 15 at [http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/bbshop/message/102859](http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/bbshop/message/102859)

Better yet, you can listen from 8 to 10 pm most Sundays at [http://www.live365.com/mcrmidnightcafe](http://www.live365.com/mcrmidnightcafe)

**Juke Box**

Every so often, a new version of a juke box makes the rounds. The current version [http://upchucky.org/music-room.htm](http://upchucky.org/music-room.htm) was sent by Pete Mazzara. Top radio hits from 1940 to 1999.

**Politicians Sing**

Hey, check out our Prez covering Al Green at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6uHR90Sq6k&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6uHR90Sq6k&feature=youtu.be)

Wow, I wonder what he’s doing on Tuesday nights.

In the spirit of equal time, here is Herman Cain, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZe75JSXhyU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZe75JSXhyU)

I couldn’t find any singing by Mitt Romney or Newt Gingrich. Not to suggest that Republicans don’t sing.

**The SINGING SENATORS** were a group of U.S. Republican Senators who sang as a barbershop quartet.

Members as of 2000:

- Fmr. Sen. John Ashcroft (R-Missouri) – Baritone
- Fmr. Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) – Lead
- Fmr. Sen. Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) – Bass

Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is also a religious music artist. During 2002 he earned $18,009 in income from sales of his own recordings, according to a Senate financial disclosure; this was his highest annual intake from his singing.

[THE SECOND AMENDMENTS](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0Cs4kziENQ), made up of five Congressmen from the House of Representatives, includes our own Thaddeus McCotter. They are/were(?) a bipartisan rock and country band, featuring Collin Peterson (DFL-Minnesota), on guitar and lead vocals; Thaddeus McCotter (R-Michigan), on lead guitar; Dave Weldon (R-Florida), on bass; Jon Porter (R-Nevada), on keyboards; and Kenny Hulshof (R-Missouri), on drums.

The name is a reference to the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution as well as a previous band of Peterson's named the Amendments.[9]

You can hear them at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0Cs4kziENQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0Cs4kziENQ)

**Trashing every voice part**

This quiz that has been passed around on the Internet recently:

Q: How do you put a twinkle in a tenor’s eye?
A: Shine a flashlight in his ear.

Q: How do you know if a lead section is at your door front?
A: No one knows when to come in, and they can’t find the key.

Q: What’s the difference between Rush Limbaugh and a baritone?
A: One of them is loud, offensive, abrasive, and loved by a few misguided weirdoes. The other’s a radio commentator.

Q: Why are Barbershop show intermissions limited to 20 minutes?
A: So they don’t have to retrain the bass section.

All articles and photos are by the Editor unless stated otherwise.
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: Eric Domke
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Charlie Perry
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large - Walt Bachmann, Mike Frye, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy
Chorus Manager: Open
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray,
           Prueter, Moss, Cowlishaw, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45’ earlier)
Jan 31 T 7:30  BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 7, T 7:30  BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 12-14  Singing Valentines Delivered
Feb 14, T 7:30  BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 18  DOC show Barbershop in Space (pm and eve)
Feb 21, T 7:30  BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Feb 28, T 7:30  BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Mar 3, Sa, 7:30  Lansing show, Hooray for Hollywood, Wharton Ctr
Mar 6, T 7:30  BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Mar 13, T 7:30  BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Mar 16, F  Auburn Hills Snr Ctr, 1827 N. Squirell Rd, Auburn Hills
Mar 17, Sa  Canterbury St Patrick’s Day Performance
Mar 30, F 7:30  54th Annual Woodshed Contest, Waterford
Apr 20-22  Spring Convention, Battle Creek, McCamly Hotel
           W K Kellogg Auditorium
Jun 1-3  GLHB, Okemos
Jun 8  Windsor send-off
Jun 26  Dead Creek Picnic - Frankenmuth
Jun 30  Gig, Log Cabin Days
Sep 22, Sa  Full retreat/Show Prep
Oct 19-21  Full Convention, Battle Creek - McCamly Hotel
           W K Kellogg Auditorium
Nov 3, Sa  68th Annual BCC Show, Mott High School