From Dick Johnson: "Log Cabin Days" performance was good from start to finish. Including a good chorus turnout (though just Marshall, DeNio, and Johnson for baris) plus we were able to arrange for five quartets to sing. It was good to see the support from chapter wives (including Joan Cheyne, she's a real trouper) and Sweet Ads that were present plus I was particularly interested in three of the audience... a guy who mouthed many of our songs and another who was smiling during our whole performance (they each now have one our chorus invitation cards). The third was a teenaged girl who was most attentive during the performance. She said she "just loves Barbershop music" and commented that she enjoys singing A Cappella. I think I got her hooked up with the Sweet Ads. Any way, she reminds me of my granddaughters.

From Roger Holm: Pretty darn good sing-out Saturday at Log Cabin Days! Many thanks to all as we had a good turn-out! It was good to have Bob Greenwood and Pete Mazzara - who weren't signed up - to appear, and bolster the lead section! Good job everybody! By my count, the chorus sang twelve songs, and five quartets sang another nine, so we gave the many folks gathered a good show!

Dead Creek Picnic
The Flint Arrowhead chapter has been holding Dead Creek get-togethers for thirty-some years. When mosquitoes and a change of ownership of the Frankenmuth saloon eliminated that venue, the event moved to the Harvey Kern Pavilion in Heritage Park on the Cass River.

Over a hundred people gathered Tuesday, June 26 under ideal weather to listen to barbershop, see old friends, and enjoy bratwurst, baked beans, sauerkraut, and beverages. The Bavarian Belle Paddleboat passed by in the background on the Cass River. Four choruses - Flint, Pontiac-Waterford, Saginaw Bay, and Huron Valley – arrived as well as some individuals from D.O.C., Grosse Pointe, and Lansing.
Ron Gillies MC’d the event. He asked for a show of hands of how many attendees had been barbershop members for 30 years, for 40 years, for 50 years. A few hands stayed up at 60 years.

The festivities opened with the host chapter singing their welcoming song, “Only a batch of sauerkraut.” It includes the five-second rule – spilled sauerkraut is safe to eat if scooped up within five seconds.

Flint’s Generation Gap led the singing of the National Anthem.

Then the parade of groups – four choruses and thirteen quartets.

The Harbor Sounds of Bay City/Saginaw, sang “I Don’t Know Why I Love You like I Do.” The Huron Valley Chorus, led by Director Rob Pettigrew and Assistant Director William Stutts, Jr made their way north thru the traffic jams of US-23 for their first visit, obviously delighted with their new experience. Their railroad medley was one of their songs.

Our Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus bussed in. Director Tom led 24 Chieftains thru two songs, “Saints Go Marching” and “Cabaret.”

The Flint chorus concluded the evening’s chorus presentations with the singing of “The Old Piano Roll Blues” and “Night Time in Dixieland” under the direction of David Longroy.

Limited Edition led off the quartets, singing “God Bless the USA” and its first public performance of a Benny Bell song, arranged by the quartet, entitled, “The Tattooed Lady in the Circus.” Local Color sang Shenandoah. The Misfits sang a song to relax us. “Bidin’ Our Time” introduced themselves with their clip of the song of the same name, followed by “That Old Gang of Mine.” This senior quartet has a combined Barbershop membership of 158 years.

The other quartets included Northern Edition, the MSU-bound guys from Flint called Easily Amused (not Easily Aroused, they pointed out), Yesterday’s Memories, and the Flintones from Flint. Huron Valley mounted a quartet called What Four. Half of Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet was present, Jacob Welty joining Doc Heaton and other Flint guys in the quartet called Who, and Don Horton joining other Flintsters in Call Us What You Want.

A highlight of the evening was the District’s past champion, Right on Q, who introduced their sixth baritone, Rick Anderson.

Shortly after 9:00 John Voss led the assembled audience in the singing of “Keep the Whole World Singing.”

A picture-perfect evening and some good photos were taken. Herb Judd’s are available on Picasa at http://tinyurl.com/d43w3of

The Big Chief Chicks visited Sandy Northey Thursday, June 14. Thank you Jackie Murray for arranging it and all of the Chicks for looking out for each other.

Ray Sturdy had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee; his recovery is coming along fine.

From Director Tom:
Men and Friends of the BCC,

Thanks to all for your help with such things as bringing and set-up of risers, sound equipment, quartet singing and general interaction with the audience. It is always a friendly audience. Thanks for your willingness to sing so many songs and to provide several quartet songs.

As we prepare for some more summer sing outs, I would like the quartets that would like to sing on future summer sing outs to keep working together and practicing whenever the opportunity presents itself such as break time during rehearsal night and meeting together at each other’s homes like several quartets are doing. In this way, we can all be the best prepared as we can and will provide the best presentation that we can.

I will continue to prepare the chorus as effectively as I can and to provide the best direction possible. It would be nice if I could call on some of you to provide some audience info so that I am not the only voice of the BCC. For example:

- Jack could talk about the upcoming show.
- Freddie could give us some BHS and BCC history.
- Several of you could share about what singing with the BCC means to you, personally. (In fact, all of us should think about that every once in a while.)
- Someone could share about the importance of quartet singing.
- Someone could share and invite the audience to rehearsals and share about what a typical meeting night looks like.

Just some ideas that I was thinking about as I drove home.

You guys are wonderful and I do count it a privilege to spend time with all of you and to share my love of music with you on a daily basis. Thanks for that opportunity and for your willingness to commit to sing-outs like Log Cabin Days. I know you made a sacrifice of time and effort and personal/family time to sing.

Sylvan Lake Fireworks at Marshalls, Tuesday, July 3

The Board accepted the Marshalls’ invitation to enjoy the Sylvan Lake Fireworks at their home (969 James K., Pontiac). The Fireworks take place at 10:00 p.m. Suggested time of arrival 8:30-ish. Bring your chair, your friends, your snacks and beverages. Mosquito spray is optional. A GREAT SHOW IS PROMISED.

Annual BCC Picnic also at Marshalls, Friday, August 24, 6 p.m.

Brightmoor’s Fathers Day Men Choir
(From Wayne Oberstadt)
Someone in the congregation recorded this. It's not the best quality, but it's the only one available right now. This was collaboration with Myron McKinney, a musician with our worship band.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLM0u1doI8g&feature=player_detailpage

I am looking forward to our Patriotic Celebration July 1, which will be on Live Stream from the Church website www.brightmoorcc.org

Then I will be back with my fellow Chieftains after that!

2012 Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
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)

BCC 2012 Performance thru June: Total: 57 gigs to 4353 folks.

MEMBERSHIP (at 57)
- Renewals: Tom Jackson (13), Fred McFadyen (45)
- Due in July - Neil Braun, Bill Dabbs, Bob Greenwood, Doc Mann
- Overdue: Walt Bachmann, Ron Clarke, Michael Oberstadt, Charlie Perry, Dave Shantz
- Bye-Bye – Art Carinci
- July Birthdays: Tom Jackson (1), Chuck Murray (1), Dave Shantz (7), Doug Metzger (14), Bill Maxfield (29), Dar Johnson (31)
- Barbershopper of the Month - Lance Shew for “rising” to the riser job.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

GLHB
(From Tom Blackstone)
Chuckles Murray, Ray Sturdy, Charlie Perry and I were the Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief members who attended the 3rd Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade this June 1 weekend in Okemos, MI. It is the 2nd time for Charlie and the 3rd time for Chuckles, Ray and myself, who were awarded Certificates as Charter Members. We had about some 90 attendees with many coming from out of state (MD, TX, IA, FL, OK, MN, WVa, IN, IL, OH, PA, AZ) to name a few: Brigade is truly a multi-state event. Even Canada was very well represented. Our Show performance Saturday night included all 90 on the risers and the sound was awesome. Later we were treated to performances by ANTHEM and RESISTING A REST as our guest quartets for the evening, and that truly was a treat. Even META-4 was on deck to perform their trademark Eagles song, “Seven Bridges Road”. (All 4 members were Brigade attendees this year.) John Cowlishaw and Jeff Doig joined us as photographers for the evening event. Chuckles, Ray and Tom are committed to attending the Indiana Brigade in November. Since seven of the eleven songs we already know from this GLHB program, we have five months to learn four more songs. This overlap feature on all Brigades is one reason why many Brigadiers choose to attend three, four, or five Brigades a year. Very little work after the first one.

Jeff’s and John’s 98 photos from this year’s Great Lakes Harmony Brigade are now online at the GLHB Facebook. http://tinyurl.com/7xp868o

THE VOICEMALES (from Central Michigan University)…
…did not qualify for the Collegiate Quartet competition. “The last day of competition was good enough to knock us out of the running. We wish Ebb N’ FLOW the best of luck in Portland! We know they will do us proud!

Thank you all for your support. We had fun while it all lasted!

Ryan Collins, THE VOICEMALES - Lead

Got Harmony?
(Chuck Murray provided the following write-up on the Young Women in Harmony/Young Men in Harmony “GOT HARMONY?” day camp which occurred June 23 at Davison High School, in Davison, MI.)

Chuck Murray and Doc Mann (and friend) attended the Benefit Show for the “Young Women in Harmony” at the Davison High School Auditorium Saturday evening, after the BCC sing-out at the Log Cabin Days.

The “Border Lakes Region 2” event started early, Saturday with “Got Harmony Day Camp,” and ran all day long! It was a combination of Young Men in Harmony with Young Women in Harmony, with individual choruses of each, as well as a giant, combined chorus. There were about 75 boys and girls involved in this Day Camp. The boys and girls learned several new songs, and had the “road ready” by the evening performance, thanks to their coaches and directors!

We recognized Doug Lynn, and a couple other members of the Flint Arrowhead Chorus, who also sang with the YMIH chorus. The YMIH chorus sang “I’m Sitting on Top of the World!” and “The Longest Time”, under direction of Nate Masterson

The YWIH chorus sang “What a Wonderful World”, and “Razzle Dazzle”, under direction of Diane Catellane.

The YMIH and YWIH choruses then combined to sing “Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You”. Linda Liddicoat and Nate Masterson directed this medley.

The YMIH and YWIH choruses then combined to sing “Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You”. Linda Liddicoat and Nate Masterson directed this medley.

There were several guest quartets, including Artistically Inclined, Musical Memories, Double Date, Ebb N’ Flow, and Novelty Shop. Nate Masterson, Tennor of Ebb N’ Flow quartet, also directed the YMIH chorus. Ebb N’ Flow, Pioneer representatives to Portland, sang several songs, including their “Contest Set” for the 2012 BHS International Contest.

“Artistically Inclined” is a “brand new” young women’s quartet consisting of Genevieve McMurray (Bass), Andrea Kruger (Bari), Melanie Bott (Tenor),
and Brittni Woods (Lead). Genevieve, Andrea, and Melanie are all college students attending EMU, Washtenaw Community College, and Adrian College, respectively. With encouragement from Lynne Pierce and other chorus members, this four decided to form a quartet and registered in June of 2012.

Double Date is an entertaining, mixed quartet from Marysville. They are comprised of two couples who sing a variety of 40’s -50’s -60’s songs, including barbershop, style. They are occasionally accompanied their Bass on his guitar. This group has been on this YWIH event for two years now. (They might be a great “extra act” for the BCC Show!)

Harmony Explosion 2012. The deadline is July 10.

Harmony Boot Camp
Saturday, July 21, from 8:30 a.m. thru the evening glow, Okemos Conference Center, 2187 University Park Drive Okemos, MI 48864

Here it comes. This year the QCA and the Pioneer District are offering Harmony Boot Camp! This is an adjustment to Quartet Boot Camp and is open to all of you Pioneer District (HO!) singers that want to improve your skills.

The classes and clinics will include:
- Better singing through better breathing
- Expanded sound through matching vowels
- Respect your vocal limits
- Elements of great presentation
- How to be a better tenor (lead, baritone, and bass respectively)

Also, there will be one administrative block with classes that include:
- The organized chapter.
- Marketing your chorus.
- Visitors to members, how to get them hooked.

Lastly, by signing up, you will receive learning tracks to the two latest OlogyCat songs ("I Believe in Music" and "Railroad Rag") that we hope you will learn prior to coming. There will be a 2.5 hour chorus rehearsal, with all registrants, to create the best possible chorus in that time. The chorus will be directed by a past international champ and coached by a judge that is on the International panel in Portland. The goal? To make the best possible chorus in 2.5 hours.

The chorus will perform on the afterglow, as well as a parade of quartets and your current district champs and Int'l representatives, EBB N' FLOW.

How much would you pay to be a part of this? How about $10 for the entire day with lunch included? There will be donations taken for a pizza dinner at night.

Don’t miss this day of great singing and camaraderie

James O’Dell is the new District officer for Public Relations & Marketing. James is also the Lead of Meta-4, 4th place finishers at the last District contest and a member of Huron Valley

Supercharging Your Chapter!
Paul Ellinger will be offering two outreachs of his Supercharging Your Chapter! at the International Convention in Portland. “Experience the seven simple "What To Think" steps of "Wavebox Singing" and learn why Ellinger's "TurgoGrowth" program will revolutionize a chapter's approach to membership growth and retention.”

Paul is offering it in Pioneer land four more times in July-August-September.

http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/District_Events/SuperchargeYourChapter/Supercharge.htm

AROUND THE WORLD

Convention Webcast now available
http://www.bhs-live.com/2012/

Collegiate Quartet contest. Tuesday, July 3, 8-12:30 p.m. EDT
EBB N’ FLOW sings about 9:08 p.m. EDT

Quartet finals: Saturday July 7
Pre-show: 9 p.m., EDT
Show: 10 p.m., EDT

Individual contest LIVE VIEWING - $45

Predicting the Winners
Rosalind Severs-Frizzell, aka The Boston Shrimp, has been around barbershop a long time (nearly 50 years) and her comments are taken very seriously. Here are her predictions for the outcomes of the Portland contests.

Top Five Quartets:
1st - MAIN STREET
2nd and 3rd (tie) - RINGMASTERS & MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS
4th - MOMENTUM
5th – FOREFRONT

Chorus Champion:
ZERO8 - Doug Harrington, Director, Stockholm, Sweden
James Estes
James Estes, who recently visited the BCC from Society Headquarters, has been announced as the new director of the TuneTown Show Chorus, a Sweet Adelines chorus in Nashville TN.

American Harmony
That great 2009 documentary, American Harmony, is now available on Netflix Instant Watch streaming and on iTunes (rental/purchase, including HD). Please get the word out. Watch it, rate it, get your friends to watch it!

“Fifty barbershop quartets, including Max Q and Vocal Spectrum - compete to win the coveted first-place title in the International Championships of Barbershop Singing. This fascinating documentary focuses on four contenders as it offers a glimpse of their eccentric world.”

Preservation Magazine
June, 2012 contains articles on Gala Lads, The Tin Man, Interstate Rivals and more. Download online from the Society webpage HERE, and take a leisurely scroll through the pages of barbershop history!

Historic photos, #6

INTERVIEW WITH EBB N’ FLOW (June 15, 2012)
Ebb N’ Flow is our highest scoring District champion since Power Play. I interviewed Craig Johnson, Bass of Ebb N’ Flow, by cell phone, as he drove home to Lake City to spend some time with his family. *This is a pre-print of an article for the Troubadour.*

Troub: You guys are so talented, you could be singing any genre. What’s so special about Barbershop?
Craig: Garrett and I grew up with barbershop, so we were bitten from a very young age. Nate and Ben are both vocal performance majors. So they have a very good choral background. The combination makes barbershop an intriguing style for us.

T: What are your majors?
C: Garrett just graduated with a major in music composition, and he will be going to Michigan State to pursue that in graduate studies. My major is communication with hopes to go to graduate school in university or college administration. Ben’s was voice performance and Nate’s was both voice and percussion for education. Nate is subbing in Grand Rapids right now and looking for a permanent job. Ben will attend law school at Michigan State in the fall.

T: How did the quartet form? Did you replace Dave Bechard?
C: Yes, Dave left for South Dakota with his new wife for new jobs in late August, a very whirlwind move for both them and the quartet. But because I was close friends with Dave, I had subbed for him in Ebb N’ Flow when he was doing student-teaching outside Mt Pleasant. Garrett and I had known each other from the Mountain Town Singers, and so it was an easy transition. But Ben was not the original baritone either; the original wasn’t as committed to the quartet, and so when Garrett and Dave heard Ben in an opera, it was a natural time to bring him in. They sang a couple tags, and Ben was hooked.

T: Where did the name Ebb N’ Flow come from?
C: Finding a name can be harder than finding three other guys. But that happened before my time. You’ll have to ask Garrett. [Garrett: During a coaching visit by Mike Slamka, he used the phrase “ebb n’ flow” to describe singing smoothly, and Dave and I just looked at each other and smiled; it felt right.]

T: You’re the first Pioneer quartet to meet the minimum score of 76 since Power Play. Why do you think it’s been so hard for our district quartets to do that?
C: That’s a really good question. I think, honestly, a lot of it has to do with longevity. If you look back over the last decade, there aren’t a lot of the district champions still singing together. Power Play was together for 15 years. Also, they set the bar so high, that if quartets weren’t performing to that level, that might have led to a lot of the disbanding. I don’t think
there's one specific thing. I know that a lot of the reason for our success is just singing together and really having that desire, not only to get better, not just with score three times a year, but also performing and just spreading the word about barbershop. I think that has gotten lost a little bit. Quartets can come out to competition, but are they singing at schools, are they singing at nursing homes, are they singing on shows, and being that quartet that the rest of the district can get on board with?

T: Pioneer district is smaller, too. We're comparing ourselves with districts with many more choruses and quartets.

C: Oh absolutely. My dad sang with the Cadillac Interlakes chorus, but that chapter, Boyne City, and some others don't exist any more. There's not a lot of barbershop in Michigan now.

T: Where do you get your arrangements?

C: We've picked up a lot from other quartets. Our big quartet idol is O C Times; we sing a lot of their arrangements. And we picked up a Ringmasters tune, cuz they're right in our range and sing some really cool arrangements. Garrett has arranged a couple different songs that we have sung or are working on.

T: Do you guys use learning tracks?

C: Yes, since a lot of our songs have been recorded, we just go off that. For songs with no available tracks, Garrett puts them into Finale for us.

T: In Portland you're going to be competing twice, rather early in the College quartet competition Tuesday, and fairly late in the open competition the next day. Is that an advantage?

C: It really depends. We're all very comfortable with where our spot [in the College contest] is. Heading into that contest, there aren't a lot of quartets with scores above us that sing before us. So we kind of see it as our chance to do well. In the Fall District contest, we sang first. It'll be nice not to have to lead off the whole thing. We're excited to sing where we're at.

T: What are your song choices for Portland?

C: For the College contest, we're going to sing "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," a Ringmasters arrangement. Our second song is "Love Me," an old Elvis tune.

T: Same two at International?

C: That remains to be decided. We've had to list six songs for the International contest, but we really haven't discussed it much as a group, what we want to sing on Wednesday, but that's because the Tuesday contest is really important to us. Really we just want to show well, because we're within distance of maybe bringing back a medal. And not necessarily, (laughing) on Wednesday. We'd need about ten more points.

T: In Fall, 2010, the quartet scored 70.3, and this Spring, 76.4. What are the reasons for the improvement?

C: I think a lot of it has to do with just singing together and really listening to the people that we idolize a lot. One thing that Garrett has said is that when he heard Prestige sing, in person, seven feet away from them, at MountainTown Harmony Explosion Camp two years ago, he really got it, that it's not about singing loud, not overdoing it, but being comfortable in your range and just trying to match and blend as much as possible. For Garrett, Prestige really changed the way that he looks at manufacturing quartets. I was in a couple earlier quartets that didn't do well in College District contests. For me, it's that drive to constantly do better. A constant desire to get more coaching, more people listening to us. All of that has contributed to our getting better.

T: A different sort of question. Is each of you singing his natural voice part? Or do any of you dream of trying out another voice part?

C: That's another interesting question. Paul Ellinger approached us about doing "ology" quartets in the Fall. So the other three have all signed up. But each in a different part. Ben our Baritone wants to sing Bass, Garrett our Lead wants to sing Tenor, and Nate our Tenor wants to sing Lead. I'm comfortable in the Bass range. I don't think I could sing Lead or Baritone, but I have sung Tenor in a couple pickup quartets. So we're all pretty flexible, actually, as far as our parts are concerned.

T: You were at HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership) summer camp at Northwood University this month, another example of your commitment to educating youth. What was that like?

C: It really depends. We're all very comfortable with where our spot [in the College contest] is. Heading into that contest, there aren't a lot of quartets with scores above us that sing before us. So we kind of see it as our chance to do well. In the Fall District contest, we sang first. It'll be nice not to have to lead off the whole thing. We're excited to sing where we're at.

T: What does the quartet make decisions, for example, when offered a gig?

C: The first thing is availability. We've had to turn down a couple gigs, cuz we're within distance of maybe bringing back a medal. And not necessarily, (laughing) on Wednesday. We'd need about ten more points.

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T: In Fall, 2010, the quartet scored 70.3, and this Spring, 76.4. What are the reasons for the improvement?
C: Yah, that would be kind of a cool thing. Honestly, if the time is right, and it’s worth our trip, whether it’s just a service learning thing, or performing for a chapter show, we’re going to try our best to go to places. We love singing, we love spreading the word, and we love performing for big and small barbershop crowds and non-barbershop crowds. Really any offer, we really truly consider, cuz we’re just in love with the style, and with the message that comes along with it.

T: You were in Bowling Green, Ohio, last week for coaching?
C: Yes, it was kind of a long (five-day) weekend. We were in Windsor Friday for the Send-Off show. Then we were home for a day Saturday. Then we went to Ohio on Sunday. Finished our CD on Tuesday. And then we had a performance at Canadian Lakes on Wednesday.

T: Wow! Who was your coach in Bowling Green?
C: A professor at Bowling Green University named Doug Wayland. Three of the four Prestige guys are voice majors, and he is their professor. They recommended him. We met with him before Spring contest, and he really opened us up, so that we’re really singing so much better.

T: What are you working on now? What do you see as your limitations, your challenges?
C: We are just really trying hard to compete for a medal in Portland. So we’ve been working our butts off since Spring contest. We had scored 73.4 in the Fall, so we were thinking anywhere between a 74 and a 75 would be just awesome, awesome. And then suddenly we qualify on score. That was really an eye-opening thing. Like the blood, sweat and tears, that we had put in, over six months, had really made a difference. So I think we have developed the attitude that if we can score the same or even a tenth of a point better, we’re going to be content with that. As long as we’re improving, and we can see, score-wise, that we’re improving, that’s awesome. We recognize that this is our last College contest. And we really want to bring something back to the District. Because the District hasn’t seen it since Power Play. And Resisting-A-Rest, at Midwinter. This is our chance to make an impact and bring something back to the District.

T: Why your last College contest?
C: College is a broad term; the actual rule is based on age – 15 to 25. Garrett and Nate will both be turning 25 before next International. This is it, as far as the College contest goes.

T: One last question: what are your rehearsals like?
C: During the school year, before things got so busy, and because only three of us were in Mt. Pleasant, the three of us would trio, twice or three times a week, maybe an hour at a time. That really helped us to develop that sound, that solid foundation, with those bottom three parts. Now is a funky time. We just performed five times in the last week. We really haven’t had a “practice” in a long time.

T: When you DO have a practice, how do you warm up? Vowel matching? And so forth?
C: It’s not very long, but we start with vowel matching thru the scale, locking each chord, then go thru a chord progression, and finish with a tag, or two or three. And then go into our songs.

T: Well, your families must be very proud. Will they be able to be in Portland?
C: Yes, most of them are. Whoever can’t be, that’s the beauty of the Webcast. They’ve been super-supportive of us.

T: Well thank you SO much. You’ve been so open and communicative. And it sure is true that everybody in Pioneer District is supportive of you and love you no matter how it turns out, but we’re hopeful for the College Quartet contest!

Technical matters
Here’s a great supplement to our vocal coaching and training. As Tom points out repeatedly, “It’s about the breath.” Eric Arseneaux has free vocal lessons online. I’ve tried the Four on “Breathing from the Diaphragm” and they supplement Tom’s work with us wonderfully. Give them a try.

Lesson 2 is called the 360 degree breath http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXq90pmHUg&list=PL2D20B0E1A509CA38&index=1&feature=plpp_video
but if you’d rather start at Lesson 1, on practicing with the isolated lower singing muscles, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeSL9WdVBo&list=PL2D20B0E1A509CA38&index=2&feature=plpp_video
Lessons 3 and 4 use a slow “tsss” to RELAX the throat, neck, shoulders and use the diaphragm.

There are 2½ hours available at http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2D20B0E1A509CA38

Of course, better yet, go for vocal lessons, for example, with Linda Meehan, just off Ford Road and I-275.

Basic characteristics of barbershop harmony: (From the College BBS Quartet site)
How many of these could you explain to a guest who was a potential member?

• Four unaccompanied male voices.
• Melody in the second voice down (lead, or second tenor). The melody lies within the good quality range for the average lead singer and is free of awkward skips that make it difficult to sing accurately.
• Consonant four-part chords on all notes of the melody, almost completely in root position and second inversion.
• Use of embellishments of many kinds, such as swipes, key changes, echoes, bell chords, etc. to enhance the lyric material of the song.
• A predominance of dominant seventh-type (barbershop seventh) chords, revolving around the circle of fifths.
• The use of barbershop sevenths on roots other than I, IV and V.
• Easily understandable lyrics which are in good taste.

If you need help with this little exercise, ask Tom or someone on the Music Team.

Media
Inside A cappella
(From Wayne Oberstadt)
There is a new YouTube channel that posts information on the a cappella genre of music in a VERY high-energy form.
Evynne and Peter Hollens run the site.
http://www.youtube.com/InsideAcappella
Recent postings include:
Deke Sharon (The Sing-Off)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDeqm0Y_Xc&feature=plcp
Troy Horn (Urban Method)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-avJOCbDAw&feature=plcp
SingOff China (in Chinese)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZXmZp8u49Y&feature=plcp

Vocal sound effects - Rainstorm, by Perpetuum Jazzile
How about a rainstorm at the old campground, next November 3?
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xghamaY4np8

Ben Folds, Shawn Stockman, Sara Bareilles Campaign To Save The Sing-Off

“On Monday, May 14, NBC announced that its underrated vocal competition, “The Sing-Off,” has been cancelled. It was the day the a cappella music died. (Its ratings got clobbered when the network tried to milk this annual two-week competition, the first two years, into a full season show the 3rd season.)

“But the show's cast members and diehard fans aren't going without a fight. Judges Ben Folds, Shawn Stockman, and Sara Bareilles, along with host Nick Lachey, all took to their Twitter accounts this week to mobilize viewers to #SaveTheSingOff, and a grass-roots campaign, led by former contestants Street Corner Symphony, is now fully underway.

“While other talent shows (like "The X Factor" and "The Voice") hired A-list celebrity judges who demanded $15 million paychecks, "The Sing-Off" recruited real vocal experts like Ben Folds, and the result was, believe it or not, a series that was at times downright educational. This piano man, who'd actually curated the compilation Ben Folds Presents: University A Cappella!, clearly knew a thing or two about both good AND bad singing, and all throughout "The Sing-Off," he was funny, likable, and tough but fair, and he always offered insightful, genuinely MUSIC-BASED critiques. Jennifer Lopez could certainly learn a thing or two from Ben Folds.”

Sign the petition to show your support of television like The Sing Off at:
http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-the-sing-off

Audacity, version 2.0 has been released. It is a full version based upon the 1.3.14 beta.
http://audacity.sourceforge.net/

Are you a Sinfonian barbershopper?
Bill Biffle posted this message.
“All Sinfonian Barbershoppers who'll be in Portland for the BHS International Convention please attend the annual Sinfonian Barbershoppers meeting! It's at 11 AM on Saturday, July 7, in the Hilton - Salon Ballroom I & II. Be there! The fraternal spirit and the singing will be EXCELLENT!”

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (also known as Phi Mu Alpha, or simply Sinfonia) is an American collegiate social fraternity for men with a special interest in music. The fraternity is open to men "who, through a love for music, can assist in the fulfillment of [its] Object and ideals either by adopting music as a profession, or by working to advance the cause of music in America." Phi Mu Alpha has initiated more than 150,000 members, known as Sinfonians, and the fraternity currently has almost 6,000 active collegiate members in 239 collegiate chapters throughout the United States.
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia was founded as the Sinfonia Club at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts on October 6, 1898, by Ossian Everett Mills, bursar of the conservatory. (Wikipedia)
New barbershop music podcast

All,

I'm James Pennington, and fellow barbershopper Josh O'Brien and I are the hosts of Talking Shop, a new barbershop music podcast. Our first episode just went live and can be downloaded in a number of ways, all of which are explained thoroughly on our website: thetalkingshopshow.wordpress.com

The show is committed to discussing barbershop music in contexts that concern both the close-knit barbershop community and the rest of the world at large. We'll talk music, contests, concerts, albums and anything else we can relate back to barbershop harmony. We'll also regularly feature interviews - something which I personally pride myself in as a journalist back in the "real world" - though the first episode is devoid of this feature.

Our first episode, "The Dream of the 90s is Alive in Portland," previews the upcoming BHS international convention that's taking place July 2-8 in Portland, Oregon. Instead of giving baseless predictions for the contests since none of us know what anybody's singing, we discuss several things to look forward to in the quartet and chorus contests. We also review and discuss a classic barbershop album with a Portland connection.

You can find us at thetalkingshopshow.wordpress.com. If you want to get in touch with the show, there are several ways to do that too: tweet us at twitter.com/talkingshopshow, email us at thetalkingshopshow@gmail.com, or find us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/talkingshopshow

In our first episode, we discuss a lot of topics and issues very close to barbershoppers, and we hope to continue that throughout each episode. As such, we want to share it with barbershoppers, so I posted here. Thank you all for your time. I hope you enjoy.

Hope to see you in Portland!

James Pennington, Lexington, Ky.

With the Osmonds, it's a family affair and good family entertainment

(From the Salt Lake Tribute, June 17)

By Robert Coleman

When Alan, Wayne, Merrill and Jay Osmond started performing as a barbershop quartet 54 years ago, who would have predicted that these boys from Ogden would eventually earn international renown? Probably no one except their proud parents, George and Olive. The Osmonds' popularity kicked into hyper-drive in the '70s with the 'Donny and Marie' television show and has shown unparalleled stamina.

Saturday night, Osmond brothers Merrill, Jay and Jimmy returned to the stage at a bulging West Jordan Arena in a concert benefiting the Olive Osmond Hearing Fund, a nonprofit honoring their late mother and promoting hearing educational services.

Editorial: Preserving the Blues resembles preserving Barbershop

We went to the Chicago Blues Fest June 8-10. One of the most interesting things was the involvement of the Columbia College Blues program, run by Fernando Jones. Some of their students were featured (very well!) in the performances.

Blues artists have the same problem that we in barbershop have – an aging population and a concern to continue the tradition. Fernando’s program runs a Blues Camp, to involve student musicians, ages 12 to 18, in Blues. It sounds very much like our Harmony Explosions. Interesting comparison.

All articles and photos are by the Editor unless stated otherwise.

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Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45' earlier)

Jul 1-8 BHS Convention, Portland, OR
Jul 3, T, 7:00 Fireworks at Marshalls; no practice
Jul 3, T, -9:08 Ebb N’ Flow sings in College Quartet contest
Jul 7, 10pm International Quartet Finals
Jul 10, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center, Heroes
Jul 16, M, 5:00 Annual D.O.C. Picnic, Boulan Park, 3693 Crooks Rd, Troy
Jul 17, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Jul 24, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Jul 31, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Aug 7, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Aug 17-18 Bush League, Gaylord, MI
Aug 22, W, 7-9 Industry Sings rehearsal, 1st Baptist Ch, Birm.
Aug 24, F, 6:00  BCC picnic at Marshalls
Aug 25, Sa 5:15  Industry Sings, at Detroit Tigers Stadium
Sep 22, Sa  Full retreat/Show Prep
Oct 19-21  Fall Convention, Battle Creek - McCamly Hotel
           W K Kellogg Auditorium
Nov 3, Sa 68th Annual BCC Show, Mott High School

Bidin’ Our Time  Limited Edition

Local Color  The Misfits

(Photos by Herb Judd)