Ten of us gathered at Jeff Doig’s home for the BHS Quartet Finals from Portland, Saturday night – Johnson, Holm, McFadyen, Frye, Perry, Doig, Lynn, W. Oberstadt, DeNio, and Cowlishaw. The audio and visual on Jeff’s large-screen TV were excellent, though there were occasional streaming issues.

After some long-winded pre-contest formalities that ran from 9:00 to 10:40, the competition finally got started.

WHEELHOUSE led off as the Mic-Testers, a great start, maybe a little weak in their Lead. MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS from New Zealand sang two rather odd songs, but sang them well. After A MIGHTY WIND there followed RINGMASTERS and FOREFRONT (our guest quartet last fall). We would have picked either of those two for Gold. (Of course, that was based on Saturday’s score alone in which FOREFRONT sang a very fine 88.4 %.)

The remaining quartets MASTERPIECE, MEN IN BLACK, TNS, MAIN STREET, THROWBACK, and VIA VOICE, all sounded about equal to our ears.

Our new Gold Medal quartet is RINGMASTERS. This young foursome is our first winner from Sweden. They sang wonderfully, a little kooky, lots of creative energy. Listen to them sing “Love Me and the World is Mine” from their post-competition awards ceremony performance Saturday night at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r02Ind3cw7E and you will be proud to honor them as our new Gold Medalists.

There is also a great five-minute story on Ringmasters on PRI (Public Radio International) posted at http://www.theworld.org/2012/07/ringmasters/ with lots of audio clips, the story of their first contact with barbershop (it was a quartet on The Simpsons), their history in the last six years, and their appreciation for the barbershop culture.

The other medalists were:

1. MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS
2. A MIGHTY WIND (Hmm, were they really blending well enough?)
3. MASTERPIECE (with GOTCHA’s Bari, Alan Gordon, standing a step behind the other three, and between the Bass and Lead – odd configuration)
4. MAIN STREET – with the irrepressible Tony De Rosa on Lead.
5. A new quartet, THROWBACK, with Sean Devine from O C TIMES at Lead, finished 6th.

The green room chatter, with Brian Philbin, Debbie Connolly, and Bob Hartley was about as silly as ever.

This year’s Chorus champs, AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY, sang two songs wonderfully – “No Other Love,” sung straight, and “Step in Time,” which was accompanied by a lot of gymnastic maneuvering, including apparent flips by Fred Farrell, the older and overweight tenor of CROSSROADS. (Coul’da fooled me!)

Last year’s Gold Medalist quartet, OLD SCHOOL, sang three songs, as smooth as glass, continuing their tradition of honoring historic BBS quartets. We closed up shop at 1:00 am. Thanks to the chapter for picking up the $45 tab. Complete results are at: http://www.barbershop.org/images/INTL20120704_QF.OSS12b.pdf
In general comments about the convention were favorable. The competition was excellent. Results were posted very quickly. Webcast had some problems early on with accessibility, but the audio and video were excellent. One complaint voiced on BBS, from Helen Giallombardo: “Dare I say that Portland is a HORRIBLE airline market? Even from Chicago, the airfares were pushing $500 for nonstops. One of the smart things we could do as organizations is to figure out the best airline markets for people being able to afford to attend (or at least "driveability")?!

AROUND THE PATCH

Elaine Prueter
Ted Prueter’s wife Elaine passed away on Friday, July 13. Many Chieftains supported Ted during visitation at the Elton Black funeral home Monday and the funeral, Tuesday, at Christ Lutheran Church in Milford. Ted’s son Timothy, who is the church’s organist, provided the organ music for his mom’s funeral.

Ted and Elaine (family photo)

Ted met Elaine in the early 1960s, while he was working as a lay worker at Trinity Lutheran Church in New York City, organizing programs and trips for their youth program. Elaine was serving as organist, secretary, and deaconess at the church. After moving to Michigan, Elaine continued working as a church organist and pianist. Their three sons are Bill, Timothy, and Richard. Bill is confined to a wheelchair with multiple sclerosis. Timothy lives in Commerce Twp, and has their three grandchildren. Richard is living with Ted.

“I wish to express my thanks to all our members and friends for what has been shown to me and my family this past month. Thanks so much. Ted Prueter.”

Sandy Northey is out of the hospital and back at Heartland Oakland.

Shocking news about Bob Stephenson’s loss. Our thoughts and prayers to Bob and his family.

July 3rd Fireworks
Dick Johnson, Mike Frye, Duane Roy, Fred Pioch, and Dan Valko took advantage of the Marshalls’ invitation to see the Sylvan Lake fireworks from their beach. They joined about 50 other guests.

July 10 Rehearsal
Freddie led us in some great practice on "Breakin’ Up Is Hard To Do", and Bill Holmes led a good revival of "Home On The Range."

Tom Blue will be working at Blue Lake Music Camp July 24 and 31 so he isn’t with us those weeks. However, he has defined our November 3rd show songs, so we know now what we better start concentrating on! In alphabetical order they are:

1. Breakin’ Up Is Hard To Do
2. Cabaret
3. Coney Island Baby
4. Hands Of Time
5. Home On The Range
6. I'm Always Chasing Rainbows
7. Saints Go Marchin' In
8. You Tell Me Your Dream

"Cabaret" and "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" will also be our Spring contest songs!

(From Roger Holm)

Tom and Jana’s baby is due August 24.

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

Ray Sturdy and Chuck Murray have signed up for the newly forming Northern Pines Brigade to be held in Minneapolis the third weekend in February.

Roger Holm urges you to return last year’s ad kits and any extra show programs you might have.

2012 Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
7/19: Doc Mann quartet (Blackstone,Mann,Cowlishaw,Perry)
10/11: Gil Schreiner quartet (McFadyen,Schreiner,Johnson,Holm)
Terry Jamison

Terry and Patty Jamison have relocated to Victoria, Texas, where Terry sings with the Central Texas Corridor chorus. He sent an email to Chuck Murray with some things to share with the BCC.

“Terry recently asked Roger Holm and me for help getting samples of the "Ad Kit". He has the responsibility of developing such a kit for a private school in Victoria. The school is doing a fundraiser, and Terry's chorus is performing on their show next March. Part of Terry's job was to convince the school to use his chorus for their show.

Terry said that his chorus had a fundraiser back in June, but it was not very productive. So, he intends to help his chorus learn how to do better fundraisers.

On July 22, the chorus went to Austin for a concert at which they sang "Ride the Chariot" for the first time.

He still has great expectations for an opportunity to work with the new Caterpillar plant, in Texas.

“Tell the guys at BCC that I said, Hi.” He also sent this video of his new chorus singing “Soon Ah Will Be Done,” sounding bigger than their seventeen members.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i051lqdzZBM&feature=youtu.be

John Cowlshaw’s Oakland County Medley

“It’s fine to visit Paris,
It’s great to go to Rome
But many songs are written
Of the joys of staying home.”

It’s available as an mp3. It includes parodies of “I Left My Heart in San Francisco,” “By the time I get to Phoenix,” “Rte 66,” “Come Fly with Me,” “A foggy day in London town,” “New York, New York,” “Chicago, Chicago”, “Country Roads,” and this parody of “Oklahoma”:

My home is Oakland County, where the cars comes sweepin’ down the roads
Where the wavin’ lakes are no pond fakes,
And the skis flash past behind their boats.

Way back in Oakland county, Ev’ry day my honey lamb and I
Ride our Harley bike or take a hike
Makin’ lazy paths and feeling fine.

We know we belong to the land
And the land we belong to is grand!
And when we say
Yeeow! Ayipioeeyay!

Quartet News

4GVN sang at the Byers Ice Cream Summerfest, July 14, in Commerce Village. (By chance, John Cowlshaw donated a copy of his “Historic Homes of Commerce Twp” photo booklet to the Byers Homestead earlier that day.)

They will also sing at the “Friday Night Live Free Concerts in Downtown Milford” on August 24. 8pm. PERFECT 5th will also will sing.

LIMITED EDITION, with Freddie McFadyen subbing at Tenor for the vacationing Tom Blackstone, sang twenty songs at the Cassady Family Reunion, July 8, an annual affair at the Clawson City Park.

Not an easy gig. It was outside, the 80 or so family members were dispersed around the area, and occasional aircraft flew overhead to land at the Oakland Troy Airport.

But those who gathered in front of the quartet seemed to enjoy it immensely. An easy rapport between the quartet and the audience included lots of laughter and applause, kids coming up to join them on “God Bless America” or recalling “Can You Feel the Love,” jokes by Freddie, reminiscences by John who used to live in the area, and oldsters singing along on “Nellie” and “Aura Lee” and “Cabaret” and "Lida Rose."

The gig was a referral from Zaven, whose quartet, METRO CHORDS, did the gig last year. NORTHBOUND SOUND also did it in previous years.

Christmas in July

LIMITED EDITION reviewed a few Christmas songs, donned its Santa hats, and trooped over to Rochester Hills for a backyard “Christmas in July” celebration. It was host Scott Heyniger’s excuse for gathering about 45 neighbors, relatives, and friends for an evening of fun under perfect weather conditions. He had put up holiday lights, inflated a Santa Claus, and mounted a large outdoor screen for showing a Christmas film later in the evening after
the quartet’s entertainment. They sang “Chestnuts Roasting” for the adults, “Little Toy Trains” for the many kids sitting in front, and then led the crowd in “Jingle Bells.” The quartet opened with “It’s a Good Day,” and wrapped it up with “All of Me,” a Disney package of “Can You Feel” and “Kiss the Girl,” “I Don’t Mind Being All Alone, “Come Fly With Me,” Chances Are,” and “When It Comes to Lovin’ The Girls.” They also sang Happy Birthday to ten-year-old Shane. Thanks to the Rochester chapter for this referral.

Ray Sturdy sings in the all-attorney barbershop quartet, THE FORUM SHOPPERS, which sang the National Anthem at the July 5 Tigers game with the Minnesota twins.

Quartet Newsletter
LIMITED EDITION composed and circulated its first quarterly e-newsletter. It was composed by the group and formatted by Tom Blackstone. As a heads-up to other quartets, we got several quick responses.

BCC 2012 Performance thru July: Total: 60 gigs to 4538 folks.

MEMBERSHIP (at 55)
Renewals: Bob Greenwood (5), Doc Mann (13), Neil Braun (23), Bill Dabbs (42)
Due in August - None
Overdue: Walt Bachmann, Michael Oberstadt, Charlie Perry, Dave Shantz
Bye-Bye – Ron Clarke

August Birthdays: Jim McMain (4th), Mike Keith (5th), Bill Auquier (24th), Jeff Doig (29th)

Barbershopper of the Month (June/July) Fred McFadyen for his continued leadership in supporting Tom Blue.

Double-Dipping? No, Just Double-Honoring

BSOM from Prez Tack Teuber Renewal from Secretary Charlie Perry

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Battle of the BBS Quartets, July 5, Horizon Park on Belleville Lake
Four quartets entered the competition - IMPULSE, META-4, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, and 4 AM. Each claimed to have won, but, actually, all received 1st Place certificates.

D.O.C. held its annual picnic July 16 at Boulan Park in Troy. The 90-degree temperature did not prevent about 60 people from joining together for brats and hamburgers, baked beans, and many salads and deserts.

The one “organized” quartet present was BIDIN’ OUR TIME, which sang their signature song plus “That Old Gang of Mine.” Another five quartets and one octet presented their numbers. The ten Big Chief choristers sang “Saints Come Marchin’” and “Cabaret.” The twenty-five Gentlemen Songsters sang their “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” medley, and “Silhouettes.”

A highlight of the evening was an enthusiastic thank you from a young baseball team whose game had been opened with BIDIN’ OUR TIME’s singing of “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.”

The evening concluded with MC Dave Montera leading the attendees in “Keep the Whole World Singing.”
Other photos at [http://tinyurl.com/6u2fv67](http://tinyurl.com/6u2fv67) which requires free Snapfish registration, or [http://detroitoakland.org/happenings/happenings.htm](http://detroitoakland.org/happenings/happenings.htm) directly.

Milford High School’s PERFECT FIFTH sings “Route 66” on YouTube, at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrMe5-u76G4&feature=player_detailpage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrMe5-u76G4&feature=player_detailpage)

Harrisville Harmony Weekend 50th anniversary, Aug 31-Sep 1
Two shows, Friday night at the Greenbush Golf Course and Saturday night 7 p.m. at the Harbor. POWER PLAY is headlining the show. The 4th place International College medalist Quartet, DOMINATE PREP, Senior champs RESISTING-A-REST, and many others from the past and present. Don't miss out on a great time plan your trip now. Need as many Barbershoppers as possible to join in. For details check out Facebook or the Harrisville Arts council web site. See you there! (From Craig Pollard)

AROUND THE WORLD

Pioneer District at Portland College competition
EBB N’ FLOW came in 10th out of 19 July 3 with a score of 73.1. Although not what they had hoped, they showed they are a class act by posting this on their Facebook site: “Can't complain about tying for tenth place at international. Nine places better than last year...and we're singing tomorrow!!!”

Quartet competition

Perhaps with some pressure off, EBB N’ FLOW came roaring back … with a 75.9 in the International Quartet quarterfinals, with the same two songs scoring significantly higher than the previous day.

Quarterfinal results for other quartets that we saw at Kalamazoo in April:

- INSTANT CLASSIC – 80.1
- CHAMELEON – 77.7
- UP ALL NIGHT – 76.4
- ANTHEM – 74.5

None reached the semifinals which required a score above 80.4.

Chorus results
Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS scored 72.6, to place 27th of 28. I think their last appearance at International was in 2001, when they scored 73.6.

Winning chorus was AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY from St Charles MO, at 96.8. They won handily, and also had the most men on stage – 145.

The Portland results and score sheets are available at: [http://www.barbershop.org/portland-international-main.html](http://www.barbershop.org/portland-international-main.html)

NEW CEO/Executive Director of the Barbershop Harmony Society
Twenty-three-year BHS member Martin “Marty” Monson was named to the post after an extensive search process conducted by the Barbershop Harmony Society’s Board of Directors and the search firm Genovese, Vanderhoof & Associates. Nearly 60 candidates, many with extensive musical and association management experience, were considered for the position.

Marty is currently president and owner of Visual Communication Advisors, a strategic planning consulting firm. Prior to that, he was vice president of business development for Glowpoint, a telecommunications and teleconferencing company.
Marty has been president of the Hilltop, Minn. Chapter (LOL) of the Barbershop Harmony Society for the past five years. His leadership has helped to significantly grow membership and transform the Hilltop chapter (and its Great Northern Union chorus) into one of the Society’s most dynamic organizations. An article about this transformation appears in the November/December 2009 issue of The Harmonizer magazine.

Historic photos, #7


Media

100 Years of Broadway

Neil Berg's widely acclaimed 100 Years of Broadway, “a dazzling musical revue of Broadway's most celebrated shows featuring actual Broadway stars accompanied by an all-star New York band” returns to Meadow Brook Music Festival on Saturday, August 11 at 8 p.m. It is now the number one Broadway touring concert in the U.S., playing in over 120 cities in 2010/2011.

Under the Streetlamp

Roger Holm discovered that this group would be in Detroit, at the Royal Oak Music Theater, July 12.

Apparently, PBS has used them in fund-raisers. You can hear them do our arrangement of “In the Still of the Night” (almost) by clicking on the link at the bottom left of this page: http://underthestreetlamp.com/music/

I Never Can Say Goodbye

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVdTOuNNbKU&feature=youtu.be

Jeremy Johnson wrote the music and arranged it for barbershop harmony. The lyrics were composed by Stephen Rafe and originated as a poem in memory of his two sons. The poem has even been read at one of the 9-11 Memorial Service in New York City and, since then, at funerals and memorial services. Simon Rylander has produced exceptional learning media for this arrangement. Appropriate for barbershop competition, this song can be sung at ALL memorial events including Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Veteran's Day

TalkingShop Podcast

James Pennington (Lexington, KY) and fellow barbershopper Josh O'Brien are the hosts of Talking Shop, a new barbershop music podcast.

“...something which I personally pride myself in as a journalist back in the “real world” - though the first episode is devoid of this feature. Their first episode, “The Dream of the 90s is Alive in Portland,” previewed the BHS international convention.

The web site is: http://thetalkingshopshow.wordpress.com/

Hi-Fidelity

...appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno July 11. Hi-Fidelity does a nerdy job in the “quartet competition” until judge Rap the Puss takes them under his coaching wing, after which they update their costumes and sing a saucy ditty.

“Let Me Call You Sweetheart”

Leo Friedman and Beth Slayer Whitson wrote “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” in 1910 and Henry Burr and the Peerless Quartet had a #1 hit with it in 1911. Quickly becoming a popular standard, it's been recorded many times over the years by many artists including Bing Crosby, Oliver Hardy (of Laurel and Hardy), and even Alfalfa Switzer of “The Little Rascals.”

The song's simple chord structure and waltz rhythm makes for easy wood-shedding and re-arranging and makes it a popular community sing-along. It's also quite popular among quartets at contest.

The young lady who modeled for the original sheet music cover might have been Virginia Rappe, the subject of the 1921 Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle scandal.
Editorial - Signage
I’m very responsible about my November placements of Christmas Chorus signs. Now, as I drive around Oakland County, I wonder why. Political campaign signs are plastered everywhere, including commercial lawns that turned me down last Fall.

I guess we don’t need to be so careful. And maybe it would be worth preparing enough signs for a saturation campaign.

From Freddie and Alice McFadyen
HUM-M-M!
HUM-M-M!
HUM-M-M!
HUM-M-M!

Advancing years bring time for dreams
Of bygone days I’ll not forget;
Of friends and work and divers schemes—
And often of the old Quartet.

The fun we had! No matter whether
Before an audience or not;
We were content to be together—
And Tot.

and John

and Gay

Howard

My! How we’d labor for a chord
That fitted mood or need or whim.
Success was then its own reward
When each found what was right for him.

And our accompanists, dear girls,
I marvel at their staying powers.
They had to be a pair of pearls—
One-fingered help for hours and hours!

While it was fun for us, indeed,
The townsfolk never failed to show
We also served a current need
In those old days: pre-radio.

And if I have some claim to fame
‘Mong hometown natives ‘round me yet,

It’s not my money or my name—
I used to sing in “THE QUARTET”!

And should I reach a hundred-ten
Few joys with which I have been showered
Will top the one experienced when
With Tot

and John

and Gay

and Howard.

--John R. Howard

Letters

Enjoyed reading Smoke Signals. Thanks for including our “Got Harmony Camp” and Show.

Joan Kienitz, Region Two Co-Coordinator for YWIH and CAMP

Thanks for the photos, John. Pleased to have you and all the folks from Pontiac-Waterford at the D.O.C. picnic.

Pete Peters

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

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

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Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)
CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45’ earlier)
July 29-Aug 1 Harmony University, St Joseph, MO
Jul 31, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Aug 7, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Aug 14, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Aug 17-18 Bush League, Gaylord, MI
Aug 21, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Aug 24, F, 6:00 BCC picnic at Marshalls’ home
Aug 25, Sa 5:15 Industry Sings, at Detroit Tigers Stadium
Aug 25, Sa Supercharging Your Chapter, Huron Valley
Aug 28, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Sep 4, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Sep 8, Sa Supercharging Your Chapter, Lansing
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

Warning! Barbershop Quartet
(From ChoralNet)