Christmas Chorus

Our 2012 Christmas Chorus season was wonderful, maybe the best ever. The singing was fine, and the responses appreciative. Over a 16-day period, the chorus sang 20 performances, with an average turnout of 34 men. And quartets added another 10 performances. Altogether, 2187 people listened to our seasonal songs.

Director Tom settled on a group of 13 songs for our 2012 Christmas repertoire. (But would we ever have enough confidence to sing two of them? “God Rest Ye…” or “Santa Claus is coming…” – with the Roger Holm tag?)

We were delighted to have so many guests in this year’s Christmas chorus: Doug Meiners, Paul, Martial, and Gavin Mouton, Dick Knapp, Tom Burder, Bruce Meyers, Pat Newkirk, Ben Phillips, Gary Owens, and Dillon O’Connell. The Mouton threesome made nearly every gig until they hit the road for California. (Oh, well, and when Gavin attended his 10-year-old friend’s performance as Tinker Bell in a Northville drama.) Rosanna Mouton contributed many fine photos. Doug Meiner’s wife frequently brought their three children to be exposed to barbershop at an early age; hope it was positive. Dick Knapp sang a spirited bass line; wish he wasn’t a snowbird.

Tom Burder returned for his 8th season. Bruce Meyers bolstered the baritone section, and hauled singers in his van. Dillon O’Connell returned for a second year. Jim Owens brought his brother Gary back. And Pat Newkirk returned.

The season started at Independence Village where Tom led us thru the evening with a song-count that was augmented when two different songs were started at the same time. Bidin’ Our Time and Limited “Fredition” sang.
On Dec 6, we repaid Oakland County’s kindness in letting us rehearse rent-free at WOAC by entertaining 250 county retirees at White Lake Oaks. Freddie’s optometry appointment ended with plenty of time to spare – say, about four minutes – as he arrived to direct us. Just a short distance down M-59 is Lockwood of Waterford, where the overwhelmingly female audience enjoyed our songs. One woman requested “Let there be peace on earth.” Freddie said, “Next year,” and she responded, “That’s what you said last year.” Oops. Bidin’ Our Time and Limited Edition sang at both gigs.
Sunday afternoon, the chorus and BOT entertained the holiday gathering of Cedar Crest Lutheran Church. Chorus members enjoyed the food afterward. Cedar Crest is the home church of Gil Schreiner and Ted Prueter.

During the second week, the chorus sang at three sites – Lakeland Place, Heroes, and Canterbury on the Lake. At Canterbury, President Jack Teuber presented appreciation certificates to our singer-guests.
It was our 15th Annual Bus Tour. Elmhaven Residence, Super Chief Coney Island, the VG’s of Pontiac and Waterford, Hiller’s Market in Commerce, and Pine Tree Residence in Clarkston. Thanks to Bruce Brede and Mike Frye for arranging it.

Carol joining Jeff at VGs, Pontiac

Rudolph and Santa at VGs, Waterford

Kids and Rudolph

BCC at Pine Tree Residence
During the final week, the chorus sang at the four buildings of Our Lady of Lourdes, followed by Heroes. And then Thursday, thru inclement weather, McLaren Hospital, The Inn at Cass Lake, and American House, Rochester Hills.

Jaywalkers performing O Holy Night, at Clausen Manor

Rudolph at Fox Manor; 67-year married couple in middle, front row

Jaywalkers at Mendelson

BOT at Fox Manor, 67-year married couple in middle, front row

Rosanna Mouton became the resident photographer, furnishing us with many photos, and also these YouTube videos:

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNHlzSU0WvU Cabaret, Warm-up room at White Lakes Oaks
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJUwxTGaHyA Jingle Bells at Heroes
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwGFedlDH4 Rudolph, at Canterbury
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7tmwWqDbJE Joy to the World, Canterbury
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tDbcjqlU1GI Joy to the World, at Hillers
AROUND THE PATCH

From the Prez:

MEN,

We have been invited to entertain at "Taste of Waterford," Thursday, January 24. Anticipated attendance is 750 to 900 attendees and features samplings from several restaurants in Waterford. The facility is the Oakland County Board of Education Building on Pontiac Lake Rd. We would perform in an area separate from the food area, probably the Lobby, which is quite large.

The event starts at 6 p.m. The theme for the night is "The Fifties". Dance Lessons are optional. More to follow. This was a spin-off from the Oakland County Retirees Luncheon.

This is the sixth year of the event, originally held in an airplane hangar. The New Horizons Band has entertained in the past with various side attractions.

Also, Lockwood of Waterford is interested in knowing if we can sing Irish songs for St. Patrick's Day (possibly the afternoon or evening March 13 or 14. We will leave the evening open for Canterbury on the Lake.

Jack

Graceful Aging…

…is self-defined as “America’s leading video network for boomers and older adults.” On December 4, it broadcast a video of the Big Chief Chorus, performing Jingle Bells, (two years ago), with this description: “The Big Chief Barbershop Chorus is a men's group in Waterford, Michigan. They performed a holiday treat to a group of appreciative people. Enjoy!” Watch it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00vFjhUqF3A

Bill Dabbs rejoined us quickly after his brief stay in St. Joe Hospital. He was admitted Saturday, Dec 1 with lower colorectal bleeding. A first operation did not stop it, but a second did. He'll be building up his strength with his walking regimen.

Bill knows the hospital well, and was visited by many employees/volunteers since he has volunteered there for over 20 years.

2012 Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
10/11: GIL SCHREINER QUARTET (McFadyen,Schreiner,Johnson,Holm)
Who’s next?

Quartets

LIMITED EDITION joined the Motor City Brass for the annual Holiday Brass Concert at Central United Methodist Church in Waterford, on Saturday, December 1. It is an annual fund-raiser for the Waterford Cultural Council. The quartet entertained arriving attendees in the lobby. Then following the intermission, the quartet joined the band onstage to sing a three-set: “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts roasting),” “It Is Well With my Soul,” and “Sold.” Craig Strain, the Musical Director of the band, was enthusiastic about arranging some joint piece for the band and the quartet; but that is unlikely to happen, given the booming volume of the 40-member brass ensemble.

LE at Motor City Brass

LIMITED EDITION maintained its biennial tradition of thanking its faithful and patient spice (spouses – Janis Blackstone, Kathy Doig, Corinne Bachman, and Diane Perry) as it treated them to dinner at The Lakes Bar and Grille in Commerce Township. A highlight of the evening was singing Happy Birthday to another Kathy, a gregarious celebratory 41-year old, who thanked
us with hugs and kisses, especially when we added “Come Fly with Me” and “Kiss the Girl,” and received applause from restaurant’s patrons.

LE at Ladies’ Night Out

On the 13th, LIMITED EDITION had a major gig for the Greater Rochester Realtors Association at Great Oaks Country Club. The festive luncheon was attended by 250 realtors. The quartet worked the room, table by table. The location made feasible a hop across the street to the orthopedic rehab unit of Crittenton Hospital, where Janis Blackstone’s patients were entertained.

BIDIN’ OUR TIME sang several times during the season. Dec 6, they were at Heroes. And Dec 12, they sang for the Women of Bloomfield at Red Run Country Club.

CODA HONOR, with Ray Sturdy at baritone, had a busy season also. They sang at the Birmingham Winter Market Dec 2, at the Mott-Applewood Holiday Walk Dec 4, at American House in Hazel Park Dec 7, and for the Dearborn CC-School Prof Retirees, Dec 13.

BCC 2012 Performance thru December: Total: 101 performances to 8540 people.

MEMBERSHIP (at 53)

Renewals: Charlie Perry (4), Bruce Brede (15)
Overdue: Wayne Oberstadt, Gil Schreiner
Due Dec/Jan: DeNio, Keith, Nevaux, Prueter, Stephenson
January Birthdays: Len Barnes (Jan 3), Tom Blue (Jan 7), Bob Marshall (Jan 10), Ray Sturdy (Jan 18)

In Memoriam:
Jan 30, 2004, John Smith #34

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Leadership Academy, January 5

Are you ready to move up a level? It’s only an hour’s drive away, and it’s a day of fun, education, illumination and inspiration.

If you’re interested, let Dick Johnson know, who will coordinate entries. Click on http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/COTS/LeadershipAcademy.htm And then on the mauve-colored Leadership Academy Course Offering Guide, to see the workshop choices. Then, click on the big yellow box to register, and let Dick know.

The Big Chief Chorus has always been well represented at the Leadership Academy.

Registration closes December 30. No "Walk Up" registration is available.

“Beyond the "big three" sessions you will find a great range of opportunities. There are sessions on marketing, social media, stage makeup and others. There are sessions on Wavebox Singing, the seven simple steps to better singing program that originated here in Pioneer. It will be a great opportunity to see the program for the first time. For those that have experienced the program we would love to have you on hand to share your experiences and help new guys learn and understand the material.

“Leadership Academy will also offer an opportunity to learn/sing songs that will be part of the 75th Anniversary Show in at least four cities in Pioneer in 2013. When was the last time you sang with 100 men on the risers?

“And oh yes, the price is LESS this year! Plus, you can choose to participate in class sessions only or stay for the entire program and amazing afterglow.

“Leadership Academy 2013 has something for every chapter member as well as each of the chapter leaders. Send your whole crew!

Joe Barbershop Chorus in Traverse City, April 20

(From Roger Lewis)

YOU can be a part of the mic testing Joe Barbershop Chorus in Traverse City, April 20, who will sing two songs from the 75th Anniversary Show Package -- "Celebrate Harmony" composed and arranged by Joe Liles, and "You're the Flower of My Heart, Sweet Adeline" also from the show package. Aaron Bouwman, director of the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus, will direct "Celebrate Harmony" and Steve Warnaar, director of the Lansing Capitol City Chorus will direct "Sweet Adeline".

How do you get the music? Go to www.barbershop.org and click on the 75th Anniversary logo. It will take you to the 75th Anniversary page. On the right you'll notice a small copy of Joe Liles' Song, and you can download both the music and the learning tracks for free! Below Joe's song, you'll see that you can also download "Sweet Adeline" music for free. The learning tracks will have an associated charge, but it's a familiar song.
What else do you need? Bring a quartet or chorus uniform, so the chorus looks great -- like a giant rainbow!

**Forefront** (Our guest quartet last year)

No sooner had Forefront’s tenor, Garry Texeira, stepped down to focus more energy on his family than the quartet had a new tenor – Andrew “Drew” Wheaton. He will continue singing tenor with his current quartet, the 2011 Johnny Appleseed District champions, The Franchise thru the remainder of their current slate of shows (April of 2013). In addition to his quartet experience, Drew has been directing the Thoroughbreds Chorus for a year and has been assistant director with Kentucky Vocal Union for 3 years.

**Welcome to the Society's 75th Year**

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**Holiday Greeting from the Barbershop Harmony Society:**

http://tinyurl.com/chwaxy

Be patient and you’ll finally get to some singing, at the end of this 1:48 minute video.

**Midwinter Convention Orlando**

January 8 - 13, 2013, Orlando, FL
Youth Chorus Festival, Seniors Quartet Contest, and more...

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**Toronto International Convention**

June 30 - July 7, 2013, Toronto, ON
Celebrate the Society's 75th Anniversary...

Early-bird deadline for Toronto is: Jan 15 ($189 to $215).

Give a serious thought to going. Every 'shopper should get to at least one International Convention.

**Welcome to Harmonizer TV!**

New on YouTube! Harmonizer TV, taking barbershop stories from the printed page to video!

Hosted by The Harmonizer editor, Lorin May, the first episode tells the story of the Society's new CEO, Marty Monson, and how his infectious laugh - and his energy - have drastically changed things at headquarters.

View the first episode [HERE].

**Sandy Hook - Barbershop connection**

As posted on the CROSSROADS QUARTET Face book page, the cousin (Vicky Soto) of Brandon Guyton's wife Naomi Soto Guyton was one of the teachers killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

Brandon Guyton is the baritone of CROSSROADS Quartet, who became Barbershop Harmony Society quartet champions in 2009.

Vicky died a hero! She saved her students by telling the gunman that she took her students to the gym, when, in fact, she had hidden them in a closet!

**Dave Brubeck died December 5.**

Mr. Brubeck once explained succinctly what jazz meant to him. “One of the reasons I believe in jazz,” he said, “is that the oneness of man can come through the rhythm of your heart. It’s the same anywhere in the world, that heartbeat. It’s the first thing you hear when you’re born — or before you’re born — and it’s the last thing you hear.”

Here is a link to seven of Brubeck’s historic recordings, http://tinyurl.com/begueka If you click on the 2nd song, all seven will play consecutively, providing a lovely afternoon of jazz. The link to the first song, “Take Five,” seems to be broken, but it’s available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOEVfheVY1

**My life as a tone**

It started as just a little burble, a tiny movement in the belly. The offspring of a thought in my mind, and a feeling in my heart, and a breath in my chest. I woke up, there in the belly, as all around me, muscles started contracting, moving, closing in on me, pushing me down, down, down, … as if to drive me out that bottom hole. But it was closed, and I bounced off and started rushing upward, buoyed by the up-rising diaphragm, up thru the lungs, into the narrows of the windpipe. As I passed thru, the moist cords on either side of me started vibrating with an awful roar in my ears. I began vibrating with them and burst out from the pipe into a cavernous space, full of moist, warm vibration. I shot across, under the high-arching palate, bumping into his face-front, making it buzz, and then on out thru the open lips. Out into the world, and into the happy faces of the assembled people. Life is good.

**Media**

**Long Titles**

From BBShop
The Guinness World Book of Records, acknowledged the world champion song title holder, to be "I'm a Cranky Old Yank, in a Clanky Old Tank, on the Streets of Yokahama with My Honolulu Mama, Doing Those Beat-o, Beat-o, Flat on My Seat-o, Hirohito Blues." According to lyricist Hoagy Carmichael, the original title was only "I'm a Cranky Old Yank", but the joke got out of hand after that.

Anyone know of a barbershop arrangement of this song?

Flash Mob
To help you get in the holiday spirit….Flash mob in South Bay Galleria in southern California – a Christmas flash mob. There’s getting as well organized as Broadway plays!
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Vnt7euRF5Pg&vq=medium

Music Theory for Dummies
Do you sometimes feel inadequate when musical theory terms are tossed around?

Now you can talk like the pros, with this short course in Musical Theory, at the same time enjoying the chords of “Intervals Roasting.”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dF074CL5vjI

Helping you Harmonize
Tom Blue has recommended this site:
http://www.helpingyouharmonise.com/

It’s the site of Liz Garnett who became involved in barbershop music after the completion of her PhD, and it became the subject of her first book. She is one of the UK’s most prominent arrangers and performance coaches, having coached and/or arranged for many of the UK’s top choruses and quartets, and arranged for groups from the UK, Ireland, the USA, Canada, Germany and Holland. She certified as a Music Category judge in 2000, and served as LABBS Music Category Director from 2006-2009. She has adjudicated in both barbershop and ‘mainstream’ choral classes at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod and the Sligo International Choral Festival, and is the founder-director of a female close-harmony choir called Magenta.

The site is full of juicy tidbits.

Youngsters in Barbershop
In honor of Gavin and Martial’s participation this year, here is a link that was posted this week on [bbshop]. It is 9-year old Matt Gallagher singing "The Chordbusters' March" with the Blue Grass Student Union, the International Champion Barbershop Quartet, thirty years ago.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqLpxjvQR8g
The responses say this was recorded in the early '80s and that Matt now sings with the Thoroughbreds. He also directs musicals on Broadway.

Letters
From Heroes:

From Paul Mouton:
I wanted to personally thank each of you for the kindness and warmth you have shown our family this holiday season, I can honestly say it has been one of my most memorable holidays and will go down as one of my fondest Christmas' ever. I am so happy my boys were able to enjoy it with me and I know that you have all sparked an interest in music with them that I hope they continue to nurture for years to come.

As a matter of fact I enjoyed the experience so much that I would be honored to come back and continue with you guys in January when I return. I know my boys would like to stay with it as well.

Thank you all so very much,
With the merriest of regards
The Mouton family

Photos by Rosanna Mouton, Rita Sandon, and John Cowlishaw. All other 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
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray,
Pruter, Moss, Cowlishaw, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)
"Barbershop quartet singing is four guys tasting the holy essence of four individual mechanisms coming into complete agreement." (Meredith Willson)

**CALENDAR, 2013** (Times are Performance Times, Warm-ups 45’ earlier)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 1, T</td>
<td>New Year’s Day (no chorus practice)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 5, Sa</td>
<td>Leadership Academy, Okemos, MI</td>
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<td>Jan 8, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<td>Jan 15, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 22, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 24, Th, 6 pm</td>
<td>Taste of Waterford</td>
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<td>Jan 29, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 16, Sa</td>
<td>DOC Shows (Matinee and Evening)</td>
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<td>Feb 22, F, 1:30</td>
<td>Gig at Elmhaven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 9, Sa</td>
<td>Wharton Show, E. Lansing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 29, F</td>
<td>Annual Woodshed Contest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 19-21</td>
<td>District Convention, Traverse City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 18-20</td>
<td>District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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