A great weekend! We had a lot of fun, and we scored 722 points, a percentage of 60.2. Last year, it was 721. That's an improvement! Oh, well, probably not outside of experimental error, given judging idiosyncrasies (which we experienced in the evals). But it's in the right direction!

Anyway, anything above 720 is in the B-range. We had 32 men on stage. (Last year it was 36 men.) Let's stay in B!

We were 8th out of 12 choruses.

In the Plateau 2 competition (above 700 in the previous year), we were third of six choruses, being outscored by Lansing (64.3) and Hillsdale (63.2), and outscoring Battle Creek (59.3), Michiana Metro (56.8), and Windsor (52.9).

Congratulations to Zaven, Ray, and John and the D.O.C. Gentlemen Songsters, our new District Chorus champs.

The scores tended to group Pioneer choruses into groups. D.O.C., Rochester (Guardians of Harmony), and Grand Rapids are clearly the cream of our district, all scoring in the 800-point range. With our score above 700 points, we continue to be in Plateau 2, along with Lansing, Huron Valley, Hillsdale, and Grosse Pointe. In Plateau 3 competition next year will be Battle Creek, Michiana Metro, Monroe North, and Windsor.
Our chorus quartets did well. LIMITED EDITION felt great about its performance, rising to 58.2 from 52.1 last year. A 6 %-point increase is remarkable. LE also sang in the suites Saturday night and at the worship service Sunday morning (with Roger Holm subbing at Bass, when Charlie was called home), and helped to put the Big Chief name “out there.”

Congratulations to all of our four quartets with BCC affiliation:

- CLASSIC FIT – 61.3 (2nd place in the Seniors Quartet competition)
- CODA HONOR – 60.6
- ON THAT NOTE – 59.2
- LIMITED EDITION – 58.2

THE PARTY won the Quartet competition and the opportunity to sing in Toronto. EBB N’ FLOW and MAJESTIX tied for 2nd and were just outside the range necessary for qualifying for Toronto. THE ALLIES, from Ohio and out of district, sang at 83.5, and will also compete at International.

HARMONY ROAD, with Gene Hanover newly at Lead, won the Seniors Quartet award.

The winning College Quartet was WAVELENGTH, from Central Michigan University.

The chorus and quartet scores and results are all online at the Pioneer district site, http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/contestsummary/contmenu.htm, thanks to Steve Sutherland.

The Pontiac-Waterford Chapter was among chapters awarded a Bronze Award from Harmony Foundation International, during the House of Delegates meeting Friday, for contributing $37.31 per member to HF during 2012.

The audience also got a chance to hear 32 of this year’s GLHB members sing three of their songs – “Sold,” “If I Love Again,” and “No More Sorrow.” The performance is online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N55UmJmOYU0. If you liked them, hear the full, better-prepared group sing in Okemos, Jun 1 - more than three times as many men and songs.

Pete Mazzara was one of three winners in the “Win a Quartet” contest put on by the QCA. It is EBB N’ FLOW who will be “coming to a site near you.” Chorus photo will be available soon for about $5.

Also singing in the Saturday night program was the Traverse City Central High School Men of Note. You can hear them (at about 36 minutes) in this video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N55UmJmOYU0

From Director Tom:

Men and Friends of the BCC,

Thank you all for a great weekend of barbershop singing in the Cherry Capital. Yes, we are still a “B” chorus and with a bit more focus on contest music and solidifying our stage presence, we could reach that 750 mark! I thought Phil and Tom’s remarks were very helpful. I did feel that our singing, effort and physical input was a step (actually more than a step) above last year (probably more than 1 point’s worth but I am not a judge) and I do feel that we are beginning to move in the right direction for presentation and we are definitely singing more in tune.

We still need to maintain our balance of contest and community service and stick with our mission and vision…

Congratulations to all of our quartet members for representing the BCC well on the stage multiple times.

Also, thank you to all of the men who are involved in multiple choruses and yet still opted to sing with us as well. It means a lot to me and the other guys.

Congratulations to the D.O.C. for being our new district chorus champions and to the Rochester Guardians for being the Plateau 4 champions as well.

Yes, we are now shifting gears toward our fall show but shifting our focus away from those aspects of barbershop that we have been working on for our contest. So everyone that did not go contest, welcome back! As Roger would say… all hands on deck!

Thanks again men for all your work and commitment to the BCC and to our continual improvement as quartet singers and chorus members!
AROUND THE PATCH

Neither Tom nor Freddie were in town Apr 2, so Mike Frye led us thru the two contest numbers. We also heard the contest sets of Coda Honor, and Limited Edition (and its inaugural rendition of “Desperado.”)

On April 9, the chorus practiced its set on video, available at http://youtu.be/IdW_gAhOyiE
Hope to have the convention performance online shortly.

On April 16, Classic Fit was our guests to perform their contest set.

Bill Auquier suffered a stroke. He is recovering at Sanctuary at White Lake. His right side is paralyzed, and it is affecting his speech. But he enjoyed a visit from Bidin’ Our Time Apr 8, as they delivered a Get Well card from the chorus and sang some songs for about an hour, which he was able to sing along with, better than speaking. Bob Greenwood brought a quartet on a later date. Bill is scheduled for an MRI and possible cleaning out of his carotid artery on Apr 25.

Roger Holm continues to deal with problems in his leg. He had follow-up surgery April 22 at St. Joe’s.

Doc Mann was hospitalized recently with dehydration.

Tom Blue is dealing with some loss of hearing in his left ear.

Jim Owens is recovering from a shoulder dislocation.

Greg Moss and Bruce Brede will return to us in late April.

Greg and Bev Moss sang the Verdi Requiem, April 13 at St. Hugo’s in the Hills church. The chorus was 120-strong.

Oakland Press article: http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2013/04/03/entertainment/doc515c482f6e9d7778468670.txt

Bob and Eileen Marshall have featured roles in The Heart of the Hills Players spring musical, Anything Goes. Bob plays a sailor and Eileen is the show’s assistant director. Both will also act, sing and dance in the production. Cole Porter’s roundup of nostalgic hits in the production include “You’re the Top,” “Friendship,” “I Get a Kick out of You,” “It’s De-lovely,” “Blow Gabriel, Blow,” and of course “Anything Goes”. Performances will be held at the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren, June 5 and 6 at 2:00 p.m., and June 7 and 8 at 7:00 p.m. Advance tickets are $10.

April 22 guest, Bob Hunt, brings experience as a 2nd Tenor from church choir.

Jeff Doig passed his Biennial Flight Review and is now back in the skies.

High School Harmony Night is May 28.
High school programs from Milford, Waterford and Walled Lake will be invited.

Quartets
Limited Edition joins the 7th annual Huron Valley Men’s Choir Workshop and Tour

All the young men in choir at the Milford and Lakeland High Schools, and their feeder middle schools - Muir, White Lake, and Oak Valley – joined in a Men’s Tour as part of the seventh annual Huron Valley Men’s Choir Workshop and Tour on Friday, April 12, to Spring Mills Elementary (200 students), Lakewood Elementary (400 students), and Brooks Elementary (70 students) to hear the 100+ young men.

Maryann Lambrecht, and the other four teachers, kept emphasizing the “multi generational aspect as really powerful for the kids and the staff, the message that you can sing when you are grown up, to stay involved in music; men sing, dads sing. It is so big and so important. It is hard to believe our students don't know these things but they don't.”

And we heard that message too. Despite the fact that a few of the senior high school singers could sing rings around LE, they were genuinely appreciative and respectful, almost in awe that we would take time out to spend a whole day with them, and listening carefully to anything we had to say about “ringing a chord.”

The day began with “workshop” at Milford High School. Cowlishaw led the boys thru some physical and vocal warmups. Then Blackstone warmed up their ears by teaching them the “Dixieland” tag. And the five school directors led the boys thru their songs.

Then we boarded three buses, wearing “Men of the Chorus” T-shirts. Each performance began with the Joe Liles’ arrangement of “When the Saints
Go Marchin’ In” which the boys had learned. Then Limited Edition sang a song, either “Kiss the Girl” or “It’s a Good Day.” Then LE led the senior high guys thru “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” Finally all the boys sang a three-set of “Fillimee,” “FUN song,” and “Tzosholoza.” Between schools, LE was onboard a different bus each leg, teaching tags, or listening to them sing.

In the eyes of the 4th and 5th graders, you could see a gleam of hope that one day they would be able to sing with these “men.”

Expectant Lakewood students

**Bidin’ Our Time** was asked to participate in a special event, the proposal of a Prom date from one Walled Lake student to another. “The prom invite never came about. It seems that on spring break in Mexico there was a parting of the ways between the two, so no invite to the prom.” Ah, sweet romance! ☹️

On April 11, the quartet sang to 85 residents at the Inn at Cass Lake, and then followed up with a Happy Birthday to Dorothy at the Super Chief restaurant.

**Sound Idea**

Wayne Oberstadt is part of a new (registered) quartet, Sound Idea, comprised of Wayne (Tenor), Dave Kemp (Lead), Roger Boyer (Bari), and John Paul (Bass). “The other three guys are from DOC. We are working hard on several new songs, and will be debuting soon! We are planning to go to Harmony Boot Camp, and Bush League.”

**BCC 2013 Performance thru February:** 80 gigs to 4664 people.

**MEMBERSHIP** (at 53)

- **Renewals:** Bill Maxfield (5), Eric Domke (6), Fred Pioch (6)
- **Due in May:** Bob Wallace
- **Overdue:** Tyrel Alastair Hunter, Al Monroe
- **May Birthdays:** Gene Downie (4th), Bill Dabbs (17th)
- **Barbershop of the Month (March):** Duane Roy
- **In Memoriam:** May 18, 2002, Don DeNoyer, #14

**75th Diamond Anniversary of the Society**

It was quite a week as we remembered the founding of the Barbershop Harmony Society on April 11, 1938, in Tulsa, OK.

On the Today Show, our current champ RINGMASTERS appeared, singing “I Can't Give You Anything But Love” for Today hosts and the gathered crowds. They also performed “Eight Days a Week” for Hoda and Kathy Lee.

“Ringmasters did us proud with not just one - but two - spots on NBC's THE TODAY SHOW this morning, and they knocked it out of the park!”

“It’s really HARD to get national media exposure, and … the guys did their best in a very dynamic situation.”

(From Ken Hatton, BlueGrass Student Union)

Then a special “Songfest in Celebration” that evening with the RINGMASTERS and several New York Area Choruses.

For the next month, you can re-hear the RINGMASTERS on the Today show and experience a delayed viewing of the evening show, visit the

In Nashville, the staff came out to hear the mayor’s proclamation and you can hear that at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2aWLxWOwFM

In Pioneer…

(From Doug Weaver, President, Pioneer District)
Hello Pioneer!

Yesterday was a big day for the Barbershop Society and Pioneer celebrated in a big way.

In Lansing yesterday, Representative Jeff Irwin presented us with a resolution passed by the legislature declaring this week to be Barbershop Harmony Week in Michigan. We had about a dozen barbershoppers on hand for the presentation in the Rotunda at the Capitol and it was a terrific opportunity for us. We sang a few songs and had a good time.

HUGE thanks to Greg Humbl of Huron Valley and Mike Hansen of Lansing for making that happen.

[You can read the proclamation yourself on the Pioneer District facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict?fref=ts]

Last night, the Battle Creek chapter hosted a songfest on the top floor of the McCamly Plaza Hotel to celebrate the 75th. There were over 100 people in attendance, and songs from original 1938 songfest were sung, tags were taught, and several quartets sang. It was a great time. Big thanks to Roger Lewis and the Cereal City Chorus for organizing the event.

“Kalamazoo celebrated our 75th anniversary with A CELEBRATION AND SONGFEST, an evening of singing, guest quartets & ensembles, pizza, cake, munchies, and refreshments Thursday, April 11, at the Transformations Spirituality Center.”

Windsor held a Harmony Explosion at Tecumseh Mall on Saturday to top off Barbershop Harmony Week.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Harmony Explosion – July 11-13
(From Joe McDonald)

I have a favor to ask. Would you please help spread the word about the 2013 Harmony Explosion camp? Details can be found at: www.mountaintownsingers.org

Click on “Camp Video” to see a 3-minute explanatory video for prospective enrollees.

Chapters that sponsor students might start thinking about their 2013 plans and individuals/chapters that contribute to the camp scholarship program will be contacted soon.

Memorial Service scheduled for Gene and Linda Harrington
(From Carl Dahlke)
The Arrangements for Gene and Linda's memorial service are as follows:
Friday May 10, 2013, Visitation starts at 4 p.m., Service at 7 p.m.
Temrowski's Funeral Home
3009 Hoover Rd near Common Rd. (12 1/2)
Warren Michigan 48093

Pioneer District history display
(From James Hall)

In between all the competitions and tag singing and special classes and sight seeing and catchin' up with old friends, did many of you get to appreciate the WONDERFUL Pioneer District history display which was located in the barbershopper shop?

It was created by District Historian John Baker and was simply an amazing collection of photos, newspaper clippings, artifacts and more chronicling the great quartets, choruses, and leaders who helped “pioneer” many things in the Society's first 20 years as well as all the fun we've had since.

AROUND THE WORLD

Toronto International Convention
June 30 - July 7, 2013, Toronto, ON

23K Project

The 23K Project is named for the present membership of the Society. It seeks to “reach out and touch” every single member of our society with a personal telephone call.

“Project 23K callers will ask each member for his ideas about things that he would like to see added, changed, improved or deleted in order to make his barbershop experience a better one. Each member will also be given the opportunity to send a message to our CEO and society President. There will also be a call to volunteer with future society projects. Finally, a data base of skills and talents is being compiled. Each member will be queried about his own personal skills and talents.

“We need 200 callers. Callers are being asked to make 100 calls in a six month period. That is approximately 4 per week. Each call takes from 15 to 25 minutes. A special web site has been developed to make the entire process completely user friendly.
“Those who are sincerely interested in becoming callers and wish to make a commitment to become a member of the society’s largest volunteer force, working on the society’s largest outreach in history, should contact Bud Laumann at mailto:budl@comcast.net

Those who do so will receive an invitation to join the team along with complete calling instructions. Once they accept that invitation, they will receive log in instructions for the dedicated project website.

Last Ace
The last of the Original FOUR ACES, Rosario "Sod" Vaccaro, age 90, passed away on Friday, April 5, 2013.

CRAFT
In defense of the lead
(or - confessions of a formerly cynical baritone)
(from Lansing’s Weekly Woodshedder)
Steve Whittaker, a former baritone, switched to lead and learned this about the lead:

#1 Leads have a lot of pick ups!
I never realized how much - as a baritone - I depended on the leads for words. So often, whatever the leads sang as a pickup would clue me into what was coming next. My first job as a new lead was to learn to anticipate the words – know them cold - the harmony parts depend on it.

#2 Leads sing a huge range.
I had always assumed that leads and baritones sang the same range, but the leads actually sing a little higher and a little lower. It makes sense, if you think about it. The leads follow the melody wherever it goes and if it goes really high, the composer isn't going to write the baritone part to go even higher, that's the tenor's job. The baritone will naturally harmonize below the lead when the melody goes high, and conversely, when the melody goes low, the baritone will be higher. So, if you take the baritones range and add one step higher and one step lower you will have the range a lead is expected to sing.

#3 It is hard to stay on pitch as a lead.
Baritones pride themselves on hitting tough intervals and hitting them accurately. The baritone part jumps around in random intervals that challenge the most talented vocalists. We baritones assume that it must be easy to stay in pitch as a lead - or any other part for that matter. Well, while we baritones are distinguishing between half steps and whole steps the leads are jumping fourths, fifths, octaves and other large intervals with regularity. If you want to stay in pitch as a lead, you need to learn your part cold - independent of the harmony around you.

This was probably the biggest challenge for me - switching from a harmony part where I was constantly listening for the exact spot in the chord to insert my note - to learning and singing my part strong, expecting the harmony parts to blend with me.

#4 The leads don't always sing melody!
Until I sang lead, I had no idea how often the melody wandered up to the tenor part or migrated down to the bass clef, leaving the leads to sing (gasp) harmony! (We have a saying in the baritone section. 'A lead is simply a baritone that can't read music and can't sing harmony.') Well, another misguided thought for the dust bin. Leads sing a fair amount of harmony. And, while it is not as challenging as baritone harmony, it is a big challenge in another way. Leads have to switch from being the 'star' while they sing melody, to letting someone else be the star while they sing harmony.

In summary, my year as a lead has dispelled some myths and has given me a better appreciation for the lead part. Being a lead is easier than baritone in some ways, but very challenging in many others. So hold your heads up high leads, you are indispensable to making barbershop music - we couldn't do it without you!

(If I have overdone it and all you leads suddenly find your hats too small for your head - I have a sure fire way to help you find a healthy dose of humility - try the baritone part :)

Belly laughing
From NPR’s www.radiolab.org Sunday, May 14, a show all about laughter: “When he’d laugh, his breathing would move from … out of his throat into his belly.” Sounds like good advice for singing.

Singing at business conventions
Mark Rusch (from Atlanta and Tampa Bay) wrote of a money-making idea.
“We contacted the Atlanta Convention Bureau and got registered with them. We would supply them with tapes of the chorus doing a variety of songs. These tapes would be sent out as part of a promotional package to the many groups who would be coming to Atlanta for a convention.
“The responses started slowly and became a flood. It got to the point where the chorus said “too many performances.” We had to limit the chorus to 2 or 3 performances a month when we had opportunities for that many each week. The response was incredible. We had a number of quartets who took some of the jobs instead of the chorus… We also found that a number of the downtown hotels had their own convention facilities apart from the convention bureau and it got even busier. In a word, it was an incredible response.
“The pay was good for these jobs. Professional associations and major businesses have large budgets for these conventions and pay very well for entertainment.”
Media

*Life Could Be a Dream* is playing at Meadow Brook Theatre thru May 19.

“SH-BOOM! Featuring hits of the 1960s this new musical features such songs as “Earth Angel,” “Unchained Melody,” “Get a Job,” “Easier Said Than Done,” and 20 more doo-wop hits. (Michigan Premier)”

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On-line at [http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/)

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All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlishaw
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VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Charlie Perry
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jim McMain, Bob Greenwood
Chorus Manager: Open
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
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, 2013 (Times are Performance Times, Warm-ups 45’ earlier)
Apr 30, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
May 7, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
May 14, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
May 21, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
May 28, T, 7:00 High School Harmony night, BCC Practice, WOAC
May 31 – Jun 2 4th Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos
Jun 1 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade concert, Okemos
Jun 4, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Jun 7, F Windsor night
Jun 29, 3-4 pm Waterford Hist. Soc’s Log Cabin Days
Jun 30 – Jul 7 International Convention, Toronto
Jul 11-13 Harmony Explosion, CMU
Jul 20 Harmony Quartet Boot Camp
Oct 18-20 District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson