



ONLINE AT [www.bigchiefchorus.org](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org)

Vol. 13, No.2 (#146)

June 1, 2013

### 3<sup>rd</sup> annual BCC High School Night, May 28, 2013

It seemed the fates were against us when torrents and tornadoes, overheated cars and locked storerooms, threatened the evening.



BCC and high-school guests (by Jeff Doig)

Pete Mazzara had donated his prize (a free performance by EBB N' FLOW) to the chorus. Nate Masterson came from Lowell, Craig Johnson from Mt. Pleasant, and Garrett Gillingham and Ben Krinke from East Lansing.

They joined us for two hours, presenting a program of seven songs, then teaming up with Milford men for (sight-reading their way thru) "Take Me Out," teaching a couple of tags, and finally just being one of the foci of clusters that formed and sang, around the room, enjoying barbershop.

Twelve high-schoolers participated, from Milford, Lakeland, Walled Lake Northern, and Rochester Adams. They had to practically be pushed out the door at 9:30. Thirty-five Big Chiefs, and four guests, enjoyed the evening.

An 8-minute summary of the evening is online at:

<http://youtu.be/xhNDqI4EOaM>



Connor (stepping in for Nate Masterson), Garrett Gillingham, Nathan (for Craig Johnson), and Ben Krinke. (By Jeff Doig)

The promo for the event, narrated by Eric Domke, recorded by John Cowlshaw, and stitched together by Jeff Doig is on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/KYI4kDDi2ik> And also on Ebb N' Flow's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/enfquartet?fref=ts> (The May 13<sup>th</sup> posting in the upper left.)

### AROUND THE PATCH

#### Contest video

The video of our performance in the Chorus contest at the Pioneer District Convention in Traverse City is now available on YouTube at:

<http://youtu.be/Q3P4XSTVnW8>

#### Chris Miller Honorary Quartets

(From Chuck Murray)

Opportunity is knocking, once again!

It is time to re-join the other members of the BCC, and honor former Director Chris Miller, by signing up to sing in one of the several "Chris Miller Honorary Quartets" being formed to sing before the chapter over the next two years.

Basically, every member of the BCC is expected to support the CMHQ and participate in this Honorary Quartet program, everyone eventually passing thru its ranks! It is patterned after Toronto's Northern Lights Chorus' honorary quartet called "For the Love of Pete."

This would have made Chris Miller very proud!

[CMHQ #1's tenure runs from May 7 to June 25. The quartet includes Bob Stephenson, Bob Wallace, Walt Bachmann, and Jack Teuber.



Pioch CMHQ – May 21

### Singing on key

Our chorus seems to be singing on key better since Tom has introduced: Sing the pitch, sing the chord (the first dominant chord), sing the song.

**Bill Auquier** is showing remarkable improvement and may be back home – from Sanctuary of White Lake - by the end of May. Bonnie, dealing with her own cardiac issue, could use any help we can give.

Thanks to these men who built a **ramp** for Bill's wheelchair: Lance Shew, Walt DeNio, Greg Moss, Bob Greenwood, and Dar Johnson.

Thanks to **Mike Frye** for sending out invitations to regional high schools, inviting their boys to our Harmony Night, May 28. As a follow-up, BIDIN' OUR TIME may be singing at several of them.

No firm date for our **Picnic** at this point. Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> looks good.

**Lyle Howard's** new email address is: [brbrshpr@yahoo.com](mailto:brbrshpr@yahoo.com)

### Men of Note

Any time you introduce a new member to the Society, you get a man of note. Our current leaders are:

Len Barnes 15  
Bill Dabbs 7  
Dick Johnson 7  
Bill Nevaux 7  
Bill Holmes 6  
Fred McFadyen 5  
Walt DeNio 4  
Mike Frye 4  
Zaven Melkonian 4  
Chuck Murray 4

### Quartets

#### Sound Idea!

(From Wayne Oberstadt)

SOUND IDEA! auditioned last Monday, and was offered the opportunity to sing at the newly renovated Redford Theater on Sept. 13th, 14th, and 15th. We will be singing for Shirley Jones while she appears there all three days! They will be showing the original *Music Man* movie, and we will be singing selections from that movie. We may even get a chance to sing "Lida Rose" with her! Just a little excited!!!

<http://www.redfordtheatre.com/>

An advertisement for the movie "The Music Man" featuring Robert Preston and Shirley Jones. The ad includes a photo of the two stars in period costume, a "Buy Tickets Now!" button, and performance dates: September 13 - 8:00 p.m., September 14 - 8:00 p.m., and September 15 - 1:00 p.m. for \$6.00. It also mentions that Shirley Jones will have autographs for sale and that there will be a live performance by the Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras and a strolling barbershop quartet. The Warner Bros. logo and technical specifications are also present.

### Limited Edition

... had a simply wonderful time May 2 at Milford High School Vocal Music Department's Spring Celebration. Maryann Lambrecht led her Choraleers, Concert Choir and Center Stage through a selection of their songs. LIMITED EDITION led the Men's Ensemble through the same songs we had sung with them on the recent Men's Tour – "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," John and Jeff sharing the directing duties.

Then LIMITED EDITION sang a two-song set – "Breaking Up is Hard to Do" and "Sold!" The audience screamed their delight. Although the school's accompanist, Brenda Granroth, was wonderful, the a cappella songs gave a nice alternative and were a great advertisement for barbershop singing.

Following the performance, the quartet gathered at Sparkies' Bar and Grill on Highland Road for nourishment and sang several songs and tags to our waitress Shontelle, and were then asked by the kitchen staff for a rendition of "Lida Rose."

As Tom Blackstone said, "This was one of the highlights of my barbershop career."

Members of the Men's Ensemble joined us at High School night, May 28.



The combined choruses

LIMITED EDITION sang four songs during the Sunday morning service at the Cross Walk Family Church in north Pontiac, May 19. It was a referral from Al Fisk. Sweet people, but not many of them, maybe 25 max. Pastor Rusty O'Neil, who played the guitar and sang behind a trio of women, including the Nashville-voiced, dimpled, Lana. (We taught her a tag after the service.) The church was too generous with a \$200 check, so we returned it to the offering plate.

**BCC 2013 Performance thru May:** 82 gigs to 4839 people.

### MEMBERSHIP (at 52)

**Renewals:** Bill Maxfield (5), Pete Mazzara (13), Jack Teuber (13), Bob Wallace (22), Mike Frye (26), Freddie McFadyen (46),

**Due in June:** Charlie Perry, John Northey, Neil Braun, Tom Jackson, Bill Dabbs, Doc Mann

**Overdue:** Tyrel Alastair Hunter, Al Monroe

**June Birthdays:** Bob Legato (13<sup>th</sup>), Fred Pioch (18<sup>th</sup>), Bruce Brede (22<sup>nd</sup>), Al Monroe (24<sup>th</sup>)

**Medical good wishes:** Bill Auquier, Bill Dabbs

### AROUND THE DISTRICT

If you can't go to Windsor June 7 to help support our reps at Toronto, hear this: District champions THE PARTY are having their own "Road to Toronto" fundraiser in Lansing, June 30, at the Reo Town Pub.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/463977833676421/>

Harmony Explosion is July 11-13. The BCC will be supporting one or more Milford high school students.

Harmony Quartet Boot Camp is July 20. In Okemos.

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### Anniversary Harmonizer

75 years... hundreds of photos...76 pages...millions of memories.

The Special 75th Anniversary Double Issue of The Harmonizer is now available online! It's packed with photos, trivia, and historical tidbits from all of the first 75 years of the Society's history. Long-time Barbershoppers can revel in memories, and newer members will gain insights into the personalities, trends, and music that have made us what we are today. You can download an e-copy or read your paper copy.

#### Toronto International Convention

June 30 - July 7, 2013, Toronto, ON

#### Harmony Platoon

Harmony Platoon is a new quartet activity started in the FWD last spring, in which by now around 200 men have participated. It is expanding to the Evergreen District this fall. There may even be one at MidWinter next year in Long Beach.

Harmony Platoon is similar in some respects to Harmony Brigade, hence the name, but with important differences. It is a one day pre-convention activity, where guys learn four Music Premiere songs in the prior 2 months from high quality learning tracks and then sing with as many quartet

combinations as time allows. Typically there have been around 60 guys from 30 or so chapters participating.

For more information, check out the website:  
<http://www.harmonyplatoon.org/>

### **Wounded Warriors reception at IAH- LSHB & Statesmen Chorus**

The Lone Star Harmony Brigade had its inaugural gathering May 17-19. Those Brigadiers who arrived Friday morning “greeted over 300 Wounded Warriors as they arrived at George Bush Intercontinental. Hosted by the Houston Police Officers Union, members of all branches of the service, Color and Honor Guards, ROTC, community leaders and dignitaries greeted the Wounded Warriors who were brought to Texas for a weekend of deep sea fishing.

“We were honored to entertain the crowd in baggage claim as they waited for about an hour. In addition to strolling Brigade quartets, we joined with the Statesmen to sing God Bless America, God Bless the USA and our National Anthem as true American Heroes proceeded through a gauntlet of cheering, crying, proud families and friends. (...it's hard to sing when you're crying....)”

Directed by John Devine- Lead: 1976 BHS Champions, The Insiders



Link at <http://www.lshb.org/2013-wounded-warriors-reception.html>

### **REACHING NEW SINGERS ON YOUTUBE**

YouSing pilot contest generating videos from high school singers!

When the Society music staff went to the American Choral directors Society convention in March, they wanted to bring a special incentive to

teachers to start some barbershop ensembles in their schools. The You Sing contest was the result: an Internet-only contest for high school students.

With the June 1 entry deadline just hours away, we thought you'd like to see some of the entries. Be sure to hit the LIKE button to give these brave young singers a thumbs-up on trying out barbershop for the first time!

One is from Ann Arbor.



### **CRAFT**

#### **Pitch Analysis Software: Tartini**

If any of you have taken a look at the Tartini software and perhaps gotten frustrated, there is a nice, knowledgeable introduction by Shelly Granger. She writes it from the standpoint of a flautist, but it's relevant to singing too.

We strive for intonation - in-tune singing. But it is frustrating. Shelly Granger says it can be trained, and that Tartini is an excellent tool for doing so.

You have to have a microphone, but you can pick up a cheap one for \$10 or \$15, which is good enough quality for using Tartini.

Tartini is free.

Page 1 tells you how to download it.

Page 2 shows you what the panels are that open up on the desktop, and what each panel means.

The rest of the pages suggest ways to use Tartini.

Give it a try.

<http://www.flutefocus.com/498-intonation-thoughts.html>

(From Shelly Granger

“Real-time, visual pitch feedback from an impartial source is an excellent tool for obtaining a well-trained and more critical ear, and ultimately better intonation. Tartini is a pitch analysis program that was created by Philip McLeod at the Department of Computer Science University of Otago, New Zealand. It functions like a second set of ears with perfect pitch and memory and allows you to view your pitch in real time on a graph while you are actually playing. You can replay your recording while watching your pitch graph-line and discover your problem spots. It functions like a biofeedback

device, except for your pitch instead of your heart rate! Tartini also allows for vibrato analysis and will show you the speed, height and shape of your vibrato as you are playing. You'll see things you have never heard before!

"Tartini is distributed under an open source license (the GNU General Public License (GPL)). From a user's perspective, this means that Tartini is completely free for anyone to download and use. To install Tartini, perform the following steps:

"Go to <http://miracle.otago.ac.nz/postgrads/tartini/index.html>

"On the left hand menu you can read more about Tartini and download it. At the download page make sure that you choose the correct operating system (Mac, Windows, Linux). Download and unzip the file and start it by double clicking it's icon.

"You do need a microphone of some kind - I just use the one built into my laptop and it works fine. Tartini runs best with all other applications closed. If you use an external microphone plug it in before opening the program.

"Once Tartini is up and running, the most important thing to do is to go to the menu labeled "Tartini" and click on "Preferences." Go to the "General" tab and make sure that you set the note range for flute, or whichever instrument you will be playing. This helps the program's speed and sensitivity. I found that the other default settings worked fine for me but detailed information about adjusting the settings can be found at the Tartini website."

## Vibrato

Tartini will not only demonstrate your pitch accuracy, but also your vibrato. Vibrato is usually frowned on in barbershop, because each deviation from pitch reduces the physical resonance of the sound waves needed to "ring a chord." What is vibrato?

(From Wikipedia)

"Vibrato is a musical effect consisting of a regular, pulsating change of pitch. It is used to add expression to vocal and instrumental music. Vibrato is typically characterized in terms of two factors: the amount of pitch variation ("extent of vibrato") and the speed with which the pitch is varied ("rate of vibrato").

"In singing it occurs spontaneously through a nervous tremor in diaphragm or larynx. The vibrato of the string instrument and wind instrument is an imitation of that vocal function.

"The rate and extent of the variation in pitch during vibrato is controlled by the performer. The extent of vibrato for solo singers is usually less than a semitone (100 cents) either side of the note, while singers in a choir typically use narrower vibrato with an extent of less than +/- a tenth of a semitone (+/- 10 cents). Wind and bowed instruments generally use vibratos with an extent of less than +/- half a semitone.

"When Enrico Caruso (1873–1921) — the most emulated Mediterranean tenor of the 20th century — made his acclaimed New York Metropolitan

Opera debut in November 1903, one of the specific vocal attributes for which he was praised by music reviewers was the absence of a disruptive vibrato from his singing. The scholarly critic William James Henderson wrote in The Sun newspaper, for example, that Caruso "has a pure tenor voice and [it] is without the typical Italian bleat".

## History

### From the May, 1943 Harmonizer Pontiac, Michigan

"The Pontiac Chapter reports through Chapter Secretary Tom Doyle and Treasurer Bill Pascher that the twenty-six charter members were joined with fourteen new members at the second meeting on April 30th. This Chapter has set as its goal, one hundred and four members by next fall, so as to step ahead of Muskegon, which now has one hundred and three."

### Can Barbershop coexist with other a cappella styles?

Chuck Murray and I have been bi-blogging this question.

Chuck: "Here's a different tack to saving the BHS. With my own Son-In-Law telling me that barbershop is "not in the mainstream", I feel compelled to ask, "What is in the mainstream?" I did not have to look very far! I look at the many, new TV shows emerging about singing, ranging from American Idol, to the Voice, and others. In fact, there was even a Sweet Adeline Quartet competing on one of these. They did not score well, but they were competing! I looked at the various emerging HS and college pure a cappella groups, and I have to admit, they outnumber the barbershop groups! So, pure a cappella must be more in the mainstream than is barbershop style singing."

Chuck: "The concept is to merge the styles of a cappella singing into One New Society, called the "A Cappella Harmony Society" (AHS). That's right! Barbershop coexisting with pure a cappella! A real life example is Paul Ellinger's work with BOTH "Elmo Thumb" and "Chordiology," simultaneously! This can potentially put barbershop into the mainstream, and ensure the future of barbershop style singing! More people involved = "Mo Money!" Yes, there can be separate contests, etc., and many more competitors, and competitions. I think the future must address BOTH pure a cappella and barbershop styles.

John: Just a few comments. I know you're searching for a word/phrase to cover non-BBS a cappella, but I don't think "pure a cappella" does the trick. Since a cappella has come to mean, "without instruments" and since "percussive a cappella" tries to simulate instruments, a case could be made that BBS is "purer." It is certainly true that there are more people watching the TV a cappella shows than are watching BBS. So, agreed, it is more

mainstream. The female quartet was “the only barbershop group to have participated in any of the three years was the Sweet Adeline group during Season One, Maxx Factor. They did barbershop proud.” (from Smoke Signals) They also won the 2011 Sweet Ads contest. As I recall they DID do pretty well in the Sing-Off, escaping the first round, giving me hopes that they would move up further than they did, and garnering praise from the judges, especially Ben Folds. Wikipedia says: “ The show's music staff all came from the [a cappella](#) community: [3] “ I would like to see BBS expand its consciousness, but not by including percussive BBS, but rather expanding the repertoire and loosening the rules.

John: Here is an a cappella arranger who is “thinking outside the box” to quote Chuckles. The song is “Pretty Women” from the modern Broadway musical “Sweeney Todd.” Arranged by Jude Thomas (don't know his name). Here is a link to the full mix recorded by Tony DeRosa:  
[https://soundcloud.com/composerjude/pretty\\_women](https://soundcloud.com/composerjude/pretty_women)

Chuck: At last! I think it must happen! How can we help? Embrace the HS kids who like to sing both? (And, "Yes!" I do not care for the percussive a cappella either. Please allow Elmo Thumb to die quietly!) But take the dual barbershop quartet arrangement of "Scarborough Fair", which Danny Fong has, which was coincidentally sung at the IHB by two quartets, including Duane Henry, as an example of some good quality a cappella. I'm not sure how he can call it a "barbershop arrangement" with eight parts. Blackstone always wished to sing an eight-part arrangement of "All Nations Rise", but he had the same problem I had trying to sing Scarborough Fair" He needed seven other guys!

John: Check out this mixed quintet, The Real Group, from Sweden, which is not quite percussive, but...  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXtpiEaQKcc&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXtpiEaQKcc&feature=em-share_video_user)

## Media

### Multi-track single-singer tracks

Dana Rose just recorded a clever multi-track single-singer cover of Amy Winehouse's "Back to Black," a cappella, doing all the voices and instruments herself.

<http://youtu.be/A7QYh0Up3H0>

### Music Festival Inspires Music Genre's National Popularity

Posted by: "John Neal" harmony@singers.com producerguy101  
Date: Fri May 10, 2013 1:37 am ((PDT))

A cappella music has been seeing a surge of interest and the recent success of the hit movie *Pitch Perfect* has added fuel to the fire. A *Pitch Perfect* sequel has already been confirmed, NBC has renewed the prime time a cappella series *The Sing-Off* for season 4, DreamWorks just greenlit a major movie about STRAIGHT NO CHASER and this week American Idol production company 19 Entertainment announced the development of a new a cappella reality TV show.

The Harmony Sweepstakes has been on the forefront of a cappella for almost three decades by not only by presenting some of the top vocal harmony groups from across the country, but also by encouraging a cappella singing year-round by operating a successful retail web site offering a cappella arrangements, songbooks, CDs and instructional DVDs. ([www.singers.com](http://www.singers.com)).

The winners of our regional events are flown to San Francisco to compete in the National Finals and for the title of National Champions, a highly coveted award in the a cappella world. We are pleased that over the 28 years of the competition over 20 of the annual winners are still performing today, many as full-time professionals.

29th Annual Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival National Finals  
Saturday May 18, 8PM  
Marin Veteran's Auditorium  
Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael  
<http://www.harmony-sweepstakes.com>

### Barbershop supports breast cancer awareness:

[http://www.vidhuntr.com/breast-exam-ogram/?utm\\_source=crowdignite.com&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=crowdignite.com#.UYWnxDm9KSM](http://www.vidhuntr.com/breast-exam-ogram/?utm_source=crowdignite.com&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=crowdignite.com#.UYWnxDm9KSM)

### Minutes of the Apr. 11, 2013 board meeting (Excerpts from Perry's minutes)

Members present were Domke, Pioch, Johnson, Holm, Perry, Greenwood and Teuber.

Secretary's Report accepted.

Treasurer's Report. Available funds \$8,075.

VP Growth and Development: There is a need to practice funeral songs more often.

VP Music and Performance. Holm reported that all new music has been handed out. We will start to work on the show songs.

New Business: Changing the colors of our name tags to make them more legible. Johnson will investigate.

An updated fan out list is needed. Matter was tabled.

Old Business

Discussed possibility of having show cast party at Hero's. Hero's can accommodate 106 people. Matter was tabled.  
Fred Pioch & Gil Schreiner will take over the Librarian responsibilities.  
Barbershopper of the Month; Duane Roy.

### Letters

Hi Guys,

Feeling much better since my bout with a very bad flu virus of some kind. Very upset I missed contest!!

Also want to let you know that I will be taking a short hiatus again this summer, from rehearsals, as I am singing with my Church Choir. Should be back in August.

Wayne (Oberstadt)

Errata:

The Brigade show is in Okemos, June 1, not Owosso May 1.  
Tom Blue's right ear, not his left.

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlshaw

### 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 - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jim McMMain, Bob Greenwood

Chorus Manager: Open

Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield

Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlshaw, Moss

Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray,

Prueter, Moss, Cowlshaw, and Stephenson

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

### CALENDAR, 2013 (Times are Performance Times, Warm-ups 45' earlier)

May 31 – Jun 2 4<sup>th</sup> 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 11, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
Jun 18, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
Jun 25, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
Jun 29, 3-4 pm Waterford Hist. Soc's Log Cabin Days  
Jun 30 – Jul 7 International Convention, Toronto  
Jul 2, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
Jul 9, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
Jul 11-13 Harmony Explosion, CMU  
Jul 16, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
Jul 20, Sa Harmony Quartet Boot Camp, Okemos  
Jul 23, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
Aug 16, Fr (tentative) BCC picnic  
Aug 23, 24 Bush League, Gaylord, MI  
Aug 30, 31 Harrisville, BBS Camp  
Oct 18-20 District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson



"If at first you don't succeed... So much for sky diving." - Henny Youngman