Prez Jack’s report on Toronto

The Air Canada Centre, hotels and harbor made for an enjoyable and convenient environment for the Convention.

TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS won the TROPHY and FIRST PLACE. The NORTHERN LIGHTS have been in contention for several years and had a great Veggie Performance. You can find it on YouTube. The ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS sang very well (finished 3rd) and had the largest chorus with one hundred eleven men on stage.

CALIFORNIA DELTA (18th place) was the only chorus dressed as CHEFS and doing a DINING PARODY MEDLEY.

MOUNTAINTOWN CHORUS sang well and finished 26th out of 29.

HEART OF TEXAS CHORUS sang and danced well and finished 28th with 28 men on stage. TERRY JAMISON sings with them. TERRY’S health has improved and is fully employed. TERRY sends his best regards to the BCC.

As always the AIC SHOW was spectacular on Thursday Night. RINGMASTERS (2012 CHAMPIONS) performed several times during the week and were outstanding.

THE COLLEGIATE QUARTET ON TUESDAY included THE NEW EDITION, finishing 4th with AARON POLLARD, of the Farmington Michigan Pollards, singing LEAD.

MASTERPIECE from California won the QUARTET CONTEST on Saturday. MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS, the favorite, finished second. FOREFRONT finished fifth.

Also singing well: INSTANT CLASSIC -16th CHAMELEON 21st THE PARTY 34th

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED 36th (GREAT PARODY) EBB N’ FLOW 42nd (GREAT PARODY)

It was a great week. I spoke with several members of the Pioneer District. Also, two Tiger games, three bike rides and two days in the Niagara-On-the-Lake region.

From VP Roger Holm:

GENTLEMEN: It's a pleasure to welcome Anthony Hoff to our E-mail roster this week! Anthony has been a guest at our last two chapter meeting/rehearsals - singing baritone - and it's great to have him aboard!!

Tom is working to isolate our show-song package. We're sure you'd all like to know what's ahead of us to learn and polish for our Nov. 2nd show!!

AROUND THE PATCH

D.O.C Picnic

About 85 people took advantage of the splendid weather to gather at the Sylvan Lake Community Center Monday, July 22, for the annual D.O.C. picnic. The new venue brought out a large group (15) from Pontiac-Waterford; also present were ‘shoppers’ from Rochester, Wayne, the Shoreline Sound Sweet Ads chapter from Royal Oak, and many spouses and friends. Burgers, brats, and Famous Dave’s ribs, as well as many salads and side dishes, were on the menu. Joe DeSantis and Pete Peters organized the event.

Ray Sturdy emceed the evening’s show, which included many jokes told by aspiring Doran McTaggarts. A goodly number of them were real “groaners,” but the best were deemed, by judges Jim Kunz and Zaven Melkonian, to be those of Rev Graham of TODAY’S SPECIAL.

The Big Chief chorus under the direction of Fred McFadyen began the evening’s entertainment, and the Gentlemen Songsters, with Jim Kunz, finished it off. In between were four quartets - CLASSIC Fit, SERAPHIM, BIDIN’ OUR TIME, and TODAY’S SPECIAL.
Update on Bill Auquier (from Jan DeNio in June)
Hello All,
Talked to Bonnie today. Bill walked (with walker) down his driveway, rested; walked back up the driveway, rested; walked up the first section of the ramp. Bonnie was following him with the wheel chair so he could stop and rest. This was the second time he has done this. Going up the ramp was new today.
The Occupational Therapist visited this week and seems to think there is some reaction in the right arm so they will start working on that.
What a team they are. Go Bill and Bonnie!!!!

A big welcome to Anthony Hoff, our new 18-year old baritone.

Tom Blue will return August 6.

John Cowlishaw had a wonderful Viking River cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. 96 photos are at: http://tinyurl.com/mr9bpg2

Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
The Fred Pioch CMHQ began in July.

Quartets

Bidin’ Our Time
BOT was very busy June 29. We sang at a wedding reception in Oxford with approx 70 people in attendance. Next we made our way to the Log Cabin Days and sang with the Chorus and all sang as a Quartet before approximately 100 attendees. Next, on to Dick Johnson’s son’s home in Davisburg for his grandson’s graduation and farewell party before approximately 60 people. Made for a long day but well worth it. When I got home that evening I had to reintroduce myself to my wife.

Mike Frye

Limited Edition
Sunday, July 21, provided a beautiful weather window for a “Musical Soiree” in John Cowlishaw’s back yard. In the planning for three months, the concert lasted a little less than an hour, and it featured 17 songs by John’s two quartets – Limited Edition and On That Note. Paul Teska had come down with laryngitis; but the beauty of a Harmony Brigade-repertoired quartet like On That Note is that other local Leads knew the rep and could step in. We were delighted that Aaron Wilson was available.

Twenty-eight neighbors responded to the flyers. They showed their enjoyment by milling around for quite a while afterward; several tried out “tagging” with the quartets.

After the audience finally dispersed, the two quartets and wives continued with a potluck supper. What a wonderful day.

4GVN
By Wayne Oberstadt
On Sunday June 30, Brightmoor Christian Church in Novi had their annual Patriotic Celebration with the Choir performing during two services. Our Tenor, Wayne Oberstadt sings with them.

4GVN was once again invited to sing to a crowd of 500+ people during the outdoor picnic that immediately followed, strolling from table to table, and to families of all ages.
Some Kodak moments:
A man in full uniform was coming back to eat with his family. He was so fit, he looked like he might be on active duty – but it turned out that he was a parachute jumper in Panama during the late 60s! We asked him to remain standing because we had a song for him, and we did “God Bless America.” He was surprised and delighted (as was everyone around him), and he felt extremely honored and excited that we sang for him. It actually was OUR honor.

We sang the “Irish Blessing” for one of the Youth Pastors, as he and the Youth Group were getting ready to head out the next morning to the Dominican Republic on a missions trip. He was very appreciative and thanked us for the perfect send-off prayer!

A couple of the guys from the Choir stopped to listen to us, and were surprised to hear one of their choir mates singing Barbershop Harmony! They hung on every chord and cheered us on! They even shot video of us on their phones! [http://tinyurl.com/lfaqzpl](http://tinyurl.com/lfaqzpl) We just received a Facebook post from one of the guys, Weimar King, who said that he sent the video to his Madrigal Choir Director in Florida, and that he was very impressed. Weimar wrote, “Looking forward to hearing more of you guys. You’ve garnered the attention of a director in Florida who has had touring ensembles which sang for the Pope. The cream really does rise to the top…..and you appear to be enjoying the experience. Rock on, Wayne & guys!”

There was a young woman who tracked us down and asked us if we would sing for her parents, so we followed her to their table and sang “Heart of my Heart.” Her father was very emotional and in tears by the time we finished!

Wayne Oberstadt’s Sound Idea! to perform at Redford Theater

_The Music Man_, Starring Robert Preston and Shirley Jones, will be shown at Redford Theater.

“Shirley Jones will appear live at all three shows, and will be available for autographs.

“All 3 shows will include a live performance by the Livonia Youth Symphony Orchestras and a strolling barbershop quartet.”

- September 13 - 8:00 p.m.
- September 14 - 8:00 p.m.
- September 15 - 1:00 p.m.

**BCC 2013Performance thru July:** 96 gigs to 6275 people.

**MEMBERSHIP** (at 53)

- **New Member:** Anthony Hoff
- **Renewals:** Bob Greenwood (6), Pete Mazzara (14), Jack Teuber (14), Tom Jackson (15), Bill Dabbs (43)
- **Overdue:** Tyrel Alastair Hunter, Neil Braun, Doc Mann, Al Monroe, Charlie Perry
- **August Birthdays:** Jim McMain (4th), Mike Keith (5th), Bill Auquier (24th), Jeff Doig (29th)

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

**Quartet Boot Camp**

Fourteen quartets took advantage of the Quartet Champions Association’s sponsoring of the 2013 Quartet Boot Camp. It was held July 20 at the Conference Center in Okemos, from 9:00 to 5:30. The coaches from the QCA who volunteered their time included singers from THE PARTY, CHORDIOLOGY, and HARMONY ROAD, plus Mike O’Donnell, Roger
Lewis, Al Fisk, Matt Tipton, Carl Dahlke, and Steve Warnaar. Quartets taking advantage of the opportunity included Limited Edition, Coda Honor, Classic Fit, and Wayne Oberstadt’s new quartet, Sound Idea!

There were three individual coaching sessions, of about an hour and a half each. There were also breakout sessions on: “All you want to know about competing,” “How to bring a song to life by better interpretation,” “Organizing your rehearsals,” “Improve your show package,” “Everything you wanted to know about judging,” “Marketing your quartet,” and “Be a better singer.”

As Wayne Oberstadt wrote, “A long, tiring day at Boot Camp yesterday, but worthwhile! We received a lot of good tips for improving our Quartet, and some surprising compliments from our coaches. Although we were the “newbie” Quartet, we held our own amongst some really good singers. Looking forward to our future! —

Flash Mob
Paul Keiser proposed to his girlfriend, Danielle, at the corner of 4th and Main, in Royal Oak, Friday, July 26, by having a quartet (Tom Blackstone, Paul, William Stutts, Jr, Jim Windak) sing “I Want You, I Need You, I Love you.”

That might not have surprised her, but she was certainly surprised when she stepped into the Caribou shop where about 35 regional Barbershoppers sang “Sweet and Lovely.”
Singing continued on the street corner.

The MountainTown Harmony Explosion Camp Show
With financial support from the BCC and teacher Maryann Lambrecht, Milford High School sent Connor Keliikuli, Jack Prey, and Kaila Bullard to the camp. They loved it. Maryann Lambrecht drove up to watch some of the workshop and was particularly impressed with Shades of Jade.

“Congratulations to the MountainTown Singers for a hugely successful Harmony Explosion Camp last week, culminating in a great show Saturday night with 60 young singers! It was a great night of enthusiastic barbershop music with a wildly appreciative audience of family, friends, and fellow barbershoppers.

“Kudos to the Hillsdale chapter for sponsoring 19 of those students!”
Doug Weaver
President, Pioneer District

AROUND THE WORLD

2013 International – Toronto

From the Lansing Woodshedder

Chorus Competition: The Mt. Pleasant MountainTown Singers tied for 25th with a 76.9 score (out of 29 choruses).

Collegiate Quartet Competition: WAVELENGTH tied for 23rd with a score of 69.1 (out of 26 quartets).

Quartet Competition: THE PARTY placed 34th out of 48 with a score of 76.7
Ebb N’ Flow tied for 42nd out of 48 with a score of 76.1
There were a LOT of quartets very closely bunched from 32nd through 42nd place with just twenty-four total points separating them.

From the Pioneer District Facebook site

“Did you see how well our groups represented us at the 2013 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention in Toronto? Since scoring was changed in 1994, this international contest was the first time that our district had two quartets AND the chorus representative score over a 76.0!

“Great things are happening in Pioneer! SHARE your appreciation for these great groups in our district: MountainTown Singers, THE PARTY (formerly PARTY OF FOUR), and Ebb N’ Flow quartet.”

Meet Our Champions

MASTERPIECE WINS QUARTET GOLD

Three past-champion singers plus a hot young lead combined to bring MASTERPIECE the gold medals in Saturday’s world championship competition in Toronto.

Singing music ranging from Kathy Mattea’s “Where’ve You Been” to American classics “Tennessee Waltz” and “Sweet Lucy Brown,” the quartet emerged from a pack of fifty quartets at the contest, held at the 75th Anniversary Convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Experienced singers Bass Brett Littlefield and tenor Rob Menaker sang in 1996 champion NIGHTLIFE; baritone Alan Gordon sang in 2004 champ GOTCHA!; and lead Patrick Haedtler previously sang in international competition with THE CRUSH.
MASTERPIECE scored 89.3%. Right behind were MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS, A MIGHTY WIND, MAIN STREET, and FOREFRONT.


TORONTO NORTHERN LIGHTS CHORUS WINS "WORLD SERIES OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY" IN HOMETOWN AIR CANADA CENTRE

Singing a hilarious medley of parody songs set in a vegetable garden, Toronto's Northern Lights Chorus captured the gold medal in the international barbershop chorus contest Saturday night.

"The Age of Asparagus," "Corn Free," "Lettuce Entertain You" and "Beet It" were among the classics lampooned by the 73-member chorus, which has earned second place five times in the past.

Toronto beat the Westminster Chorus by a mere 2 points, 2831-2829, a mere 0.06% margin. It is the first win in the chorus contest by a non-U.S. chorus since the Scarborough Dukes of Harmony captured titles in 1977 and 1980.

More than 1600 singers participated in the contest, held at the 75th Anniversary convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

NEWFANGLED FOUR WINS COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The NEWFANGLED FOUR, a quartet hailing from the Los Angeles area, beat out 25 other young quartets from around the world to capture the college championship Tuesday evening in Toronto.

All Toronto scores are available at: http://www.harmonize.ws/HarmonetReporter/scores/2013/scores13.htm

Special tribute to The Nylons

“Platinum-selling recording artists THE NYLONS received Honorary Membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Nylons represent the birth of contemporary a cappella, bringing style, original compositions, and a dancefloor mentality to a broad popular audience that had never heard anything like them. In many ways, The Nylons were the godparents to a new generation of singers, inspiring a resurgence of collegiate a cappella over the last 20 years.”

Plan ahead for next year’s International Conventions

Mid-Winter – Long Beach, CA Jan 28 – Aug 2, 2014
Summer – Las Vegas, NV June 29 - July 6, 2014
Harmony University

This is HU’s last year at Missouri Western State University. It will transform, expand, and relocate in 2014.

With the assignment of Mike O’Neill as Director of Harmony University, the program will partner with Nashville neighbors at Belmont University, which in 2014 will become the home of the week-long Harmony University flagship event.

(FYI: Nashville is only 550 miles – 8 hrs – from Waterford, compared to 740 miles – 11 hrs – to St. Joe, MO.

CRAFT

Harmony University’s Music Theory Course now online.

This course is now available online and free at http://tinyurl.com/pdgda4v

Your chance to brush up on your music theory skills FREE!

These are the same materials used in the Harmony University classroom, with a handy online keyboard to help you hear the chords as they are built.

Give it a whirl!

Tags

In the July Smoke Signals, I quoted Wikipedia’s Barbershop wiki (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tag_(Barbershop)

...that “According to the competition rules of the Barbershop Harmony Society, every song entered for a competition must have a tag.”

“Who knew that a song used in competition must have a tag? I assumed it was just a good idea.” wrote Art Lane.

“I don’t recall ever coming across a rule that says barbershop songs (in competition) must have a tag. I’ve been through the C & J manual several times over the years to stay in the loop and to prep for Category School. If it’s there, I’ve forgotten about it. Nor has the topic ever come up in my judging or schooling. Bear in mind, anybody can contribute to Wikipedia. However, now I’m curious. I’ve copied Tom Gentry, my mentor and a most amazing Barbershopper,” added Al Fisk.

And Tom Gentry put the nail in the coffin of this notion:

”Nope, there is no requirement that a competition song have a tag. Artistically, of course, we want a song to end in satisfying fashion, so a tag is usually needed. A popular arrangement that does not have a tag is Ed Waesche’s “So Long, Mother.”

Media

From TechRepublic's daily digest: Ten free tools that are worth paying for:

Number 3 is Audacity.

“Audacity is one of my most-used applications these days. Anyone who records a podcast should give this tool a look. Audacity is one of those tools you start using and you can’t believe you got it for free. It creates professional-quality recordings (this, of course, depends upon the mic you use) and supports a great number of formats. It offers plenty of effects and an incredibly easy-to-use and powerful timeline tool. Without Audacity, my audio recordings would not be nearly the quality they are. How much would I drop for this tool? $50.00 to $100.00 USD.”

From New Scientist - Health

“Singing in a choir is good for the heart” 08 July 2013 by Paul Marks

The heart rates of people who sing in a choir quickly synchronize with one another. The discovery may offer clues to the health benefits of group singing.

Björn Vickhoff at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, recruited 15 singers and asked them to undertake a number of joint singing tasks, from monotone humming to singing a meditative mantra or Christian hymn. Their vital signs were monitored throughout.

The team found that choral singing increased the amount by which an individual's heart rate varied. That might confer a potential health benefit because low variability in heart rate is known to be related to high blood pressure, says Vickhoff.

They also found that the singers' heart rates tended to fluctuate in synchrony when they were singing structured songs. This was linked to an effect known as respiratory sinus arrhythmia – where your heart beat varies in synchrony with breathing, which is known from research on meditation to be soothing, says Vickhoff. So choir singing, he speculates, might be achieving calming effects in a similar way to breathing exercises in yoga. "But the medical effects need investigating further," he says.

Journal reference: Frontiers in Auditory Cognitive Neuroscience

Detroit Tiger Justin Verlander sings a tag with collegiate quartet Beast Mode

“Pitcher for the Detroit Tigers, Justin Verlander, made his Barbershop debut one evening in a hotel lobby during the Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention.

“The Society’s convention was held in Toronto, Ontario, where Justin and his team had just won against the Toronto Blue Jays. Justin’s team was staying at one of the hotels where many barbershoppers had swarmed lobbies, stairwells, and other nooks to sing tags.

“Verlander was sitting in the lobby when he heard a bit of ringing music, and he was quick to applaud one of the quartets upon finishing a tag.
“We didn’t realize where he was, as soon as we finish this tag, we just hear this slow clap from behind,” says Brandon Youngblood, 27, who sings with the quartet **BEAST MODE**, out of Boston.

The boys invited Verlander to sing a simple tag with them, and though he was hesitant at first, he sang a tag.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYDE8O9fghw

**Letters**

Hi Guys,

Don’t know who it was that set up the Chorus Facebook page, but it is in dire need to be updated.

This is a wonderful PR tool for the Chapter that we are not taking advantage of. I have been posting info on my quartets, but I have been the only one!

Maybe we could post our *Smoke Signals* on here every month?

Wayne Oberstadt

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlishaw

**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 Piocch, 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jul 30, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 6, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 13, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 16, F, 6:00</td>
<td>Chorus picnic, Marshall’s home, Sylvan Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 20, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 23, 24</td>
<td>Bush League, Gaylord, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 27, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 3, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Show preparation retreat (tentative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 18-20</td>
<td>District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Rochester Chapter Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>BCC Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 8</td>
<td>Canada Night, hosted by D.O.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11, 2014</td>
<td>Pioneer Leadership Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 8, 2014</td>
<td>Lansing Annual Show, with Storm Front</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Adapted from *Cup of Zup*)