Vol. 13, No.10 (#154)  February 1, 2014

From Director Tom
To all BCC members and friends of the BCC,
I would like to thank you all of you for your commitment, dedication and willingness to sing for others and our own amazement! It is a privilege to work with all of you each and every week (Ok, sometimes I'm absent. The day job gets in the way.)

From VP Roger Holm
Our music program theme this year is Broadway (with our Fall show to suit), so we'll be learning three or four new Broadway-oriented songs to go with those already in our repertoire (“Cabaret,” “Can You Feel The Love Tonight,” “Oklahoma,” “Over The Rainbow,” and “I'm Always Chasing Rainbows!”)
Our contest songs will be "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" (carry-over), and "I'm Beginning to See the Light”!

AROUND THE PATCH
The first meeting of 2014 was cancelled due to the Arctic Vortex.

On January 14, the chapter carried out its election of officers. Officers for 2014 are:

- President: Jack Teuber
- 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, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio

Thanks to Jim McMains and Bob Greenwood for their past service as Members at Large.

Dave Montera from D.O.C was present to install the officers, and then to have CODA HONOR sing for us. Dave used a funny script, as a legal spoof. And as he joined with us, he never let on that his niece was winning on Jeopardy!

Director Tom Blue introduced the “nyah” exercise. It has evolved from “ng” to “yah” to “nyah.”

Awards were announced for:
- President’s Award – John Cowlishaw
- William Pascher Founder’s Award – Greg Moss Rawley Hallman Music Man Award – Mike Frye
- Barbershopper of the Year – Lance Shew

We welcomed back Walt DeNio who has recovered marvelously from his fall.

On January 21, we continued hard work on “I’m Beginning to See the Light.” The evening was also remarkable for the number of quartets that sang (six?) that included seventeen different members of the chorus!

While Dick Johnson is recovering, submit any expenses to Jack Teuber.

Ted Prueter’s son Rick writes that he is improving. He has moved to The Inn at Cass Lake. He will have a 1-bedroom apartment and will go on a waiting list for a 2-bedroom apartment.

The Big Chief Chorus will give a short performance there on Tuesday, January 28, 6:45. (At 900 N. Cass Lake Rd, just south of Pontiac Lake Rd)

Al Monroe’s daughter, Shelley Marie Monroe-Goodge, passed away suddenly on January 17. She was 48 years old and a graduate of Clarkston High School. The service was Thursday, Jan 23 at Coles Funeral Home in Chelsea.

Neil Braun’s phone number is (248) 935-8316.
Gil and Lance remind us:
Bring back your Christmas song books (unless you want to be responsible for keeping them til next year. And your advertising signs.

If you want to email Bob Legato, try Barb Workman’s address at happy2u@ix.netcom.com

Chuck Murray points out that Rochester Chapter is also producing a show based on Broadway Show Tunes. Their show is in early October, a month before ours. Is some cooperation possible?

Quartets
LIMITED EDITION was “high on harmony” after one of its most successful gigs ever, Saturday, January 11 at Lockwood of Waterford. It was a surprise 80th performance for Barbara Pickering (one of our favorite fans) arranged by her four lovely daughters, who have gotten an earful from Barbara about us. The quartet sang a ten-set, with several of the songs specifically geared to escaping the Arctic Freeze. About 20 family and friends cheered enthusiastically, and mouthed the words to several songs, including “Desperado” and “Saints.”

Barbara Pickering and her four daughters

BIDIN’ OUR TIME, with John Cowlishaw subbing at Baritone, and Zaven Melkonian subbing at Bass, (Is that still BOT?) will be singing a surprise birthday gig at Lake Orion Pine Tree Elementary School, Monday, January 27.

BCC 2013 Performances thru December – Final Count – 142 Chorus and quartet gigs, to audiences totaling 14,685.

BCC 2014 Performances thru January 24: One for 20 people.

MEMBERSHIP (at 51)
Renewals: Walt DeNio (17), Mike Keith (33)
Overdue: Bill Nevaux, Ted Prueter
Due in February: Auquier, Domke, Metzger, Stephenson
February Birthdays: Ross Ensign (7th), John Northey (22nd), Pete Mazzara (23rd)

In Memoriam:
Feb 2, 2011, Marv Wilson #119
Feb 25, 2011, Jim Claflin, #120

Medical:
Dick Johnson is confined to home as he recovers from cardiac and respiratory issues.
Roger Holm is undergoing cardiac treatment.

AROUND THE DISTRICT
Our Pioneer District Senior Quartet reps, Bucket List, made the BHS YouTube channel on January 7, the first of the Seniors to be highlighted. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztO2uDJVnyo&feature=em-uploademail
Cheers to them! They compete in Long Beach on February 1.

“Bucket List hails from the Pioneer District, and the quartet total age adds up to 313 years, with the most 'experienced' member being 88 years old. Their name was registered with the hopes of finding "three other old guys to sing with!"
The VOICE – January 19

The district’s new Youth Chorus had its first rehearsal, Sunday, January 19, in East Lansing. About 20 to 25 young men gathered for four hours under Aaron Pollard’s leadership, to begin the journey to New Orleans next January. The first two songs being learned are “Come On, Get Happy,” and “Blame It On My Youth.” Singers receive learning tracks prepared by Tim Waurick and Don Slamka.

When the men weren’t rehearsing, they were tagging, or listening to quartets – WAVELENGTH and G-FOURS.

Aaron posted on the Facebook site, (The Voice Barbershop Chorus), “Hey guys, great first rehearsal! I love the energy and passion for singing this chorus is going to bring! Remember to spread the word to other people that are interested. We would love to have as many members as possible and will be accepting new members until August.”

Anthony Hoff attended it and was enthusiastic. He found Aaron “super-good and super-helpful.”

Leadership Academy

This year’s Leadership Academy was held January 11 at the Soaring Eagle Waterpark & hotel in Mount Pleasant. There were a variety of sessions on a variety of topics scheduled for the break-out sessions and well as a range of topics covered in the general sessions.

Uncle Sam Night

Despite the awful weather, Windsor Sun Parlour Chorus hosted the 2014 Uncle Sam Night on January 24. “Had about 30 guys from London, a few from D.O.C. and Grosse Pointe. Great night, and yes, we ALWAYS have it on a bad weather night.” Dan Bezaire

Harmony Explosion

The MountainTown Singers are sponsoring a one-day Harmony Explosion, Saturday, February 22, at Davis Middle School in Hillsdale, MI. Another great opportunity for young singers (7th thru 12th grades, male or female).

The teaching quartets are The Allies (International Medalist), and Allure (Dodie LaMarte’s new quartet).

“If every chapter put four young singers (male and/or female) in a car, drove in for the day, dropped $60 for the four of them to have the experience we all wish we had when we were kids this would be a great thing.

“Plus, the kids get a t shirt, music and learning tracks for a couple of great songs, food and the benefit of some great clinicians and teaching quartets. Information and Registration can be found at www.mountaintownsingers.org

(From Joe McDonald)

AROUND THE WORLD

Midwinter Convention
January 28 - February 2, 2014, Long Beach, CA

Great Name for a Senior Quartet, or what? YOUTH RECLAMATION PROJECT. They are from Virginia and will be singing at their 6th consecutive Midwinter competition.

Lost a Harmonizer? You can access them all at: http://barbershop.org/resources/the-harmonizer.html

MEDIA

The Sing-Off

The 4th season of The Sing-Off concluded December 23, with Home Free winning the title, the recording contract, and $100,000.

The three finalists had distinctly different backgrounds. Home Free is a quintet that has traveled for years in the country-western circuit. Ten is a very recent gathering of ten individuals from a gospel background singing as a group for the first time. Vocal Rush is a dozen students from the Oakland School for the Arts, and the only high school group to have ever made it to the finals. All three groups sang wonderfully.

If you missed the show, or if you would like to re-live it, there is a wonderful and “aca-supportive” review at http://popwatch.ew.com/2013/12/24/the-sing-off-season-four-finale/ where you can hear all the finalists and more.

Click on Home Free’s rendition of “I Want Crazy” and I think you’ll love the Lead soloist (Austin Brown), the bass, the solid harmonies, the energy! And agree that they deserve to follow in Pentatonix’ footsteps.

And they’re already off and running with a blog offering advice to singers to go beyond basic singing, to (a) basic staging, and (b) banter/flow.

Good advice for chorus and quartets. http://tinyurl.com/odalvhw

(Via Wayne Oberstadt)

Valentines songs

If you sing the song, “Caroline,” but substitute the word “Valentine,” you have an easy-to-learn, appropriate song for Singing Valentines.

(From Stephen Rafe)

Or Valentine for Adeline, in “Sweet Adeline.”

(From Tom Blue)
Hallelujah

Vocal Majority sings Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1gR1uvgGMc#t=70

On the distaff side, if you have never heard a world-class Sweet Adelines quartet, here is their 2013 champion, LoveNotes. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWqtFxW4jIE
It shows the strengths and weaknesses of singing in a higher-pitched world.

The Welcome Song

This piece in our repertoire was written and arranged by Einar Pedersen, a New Orleans Barbershopper, who wrote the Welcome Song for the Mardi Gras Chorus in the 1980s. The Society thought it a great song, perfect for welcoming guests, and published it in the “Barbershop Potpourri” songbook.
Joe Liles featured the tag in his "THE TAG" section of the September/October 2013 issue of The Harmonizer (page 60). Now the entire song is online in the "Free ‘n’ Easy" series—all another example of our Society’s effort to get good new music out.

Tim Waurick’s Tenor Post on “Cruella DeVil”

If you haven’t heard it, you can hear it from the standpoint of a BBS outsider, YouTube entrepreneur Ray William Johnson, who runs a channel that garners millions of views each week. As of this writing, the show had already reached 1.6 million views, and growing.
Jump directly to the VS segment at http://bit.ly/waurickpost. (Warning: includes some coarse language by the commentator)

Editorial: The Need for Practice: The 10,000 hour rule.

In The Genius in All of Us: New Insights into Genetics, Talent and IQ, David Shenk describes research that suggests, “rather than being the result of genetics or inherent genius, truly outstanding skill in any domain is rarely achieved with less than ten thousand hours of practice over ten years’ time.”

"Across the board, these last two variables -- practice style and practice time -- emerged as universal and critical. From Scrabble players to dart players to soccer players to violin players [to barbershop singers], it was observed that the uppermost achievers not only spent significantly more time in solitary study and drills, but also exhibited a consistent (and persistent) style of preparation that K. Anders Ericsson came to call 'deliberate practice.'

First introduced in a 1993 Psychological Review article, the notion of deliberate practice went far beyond the simple idea of hard work…. It ... does not involve a mere execution or repetition of already attained skills but repeated attempts to reach beyond one’s current level which is associated with frequent failures’ ...” In other words, it is practice that doesn’t take no for an answer; practice that perseveres; the type of practice where the individual keeps raising the bar of what he or she considers success ...

In a second book, Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence, Daniel Goleman re-emphasizes ‘deliberate,’ where an expert coach takes you through well-designed training over months or years, and you give it your full concentration. "If you are a duffer at golf, say, and make the same mistakes every time you try a certain swing or putt,10,000 hours of practicing that error will not improve your game. You'll still be a duffer, albeit an older one.

Let’s see, if the 10,000 hours is to be met by three hours per week at chorus practice, it will take 60 years to be a master Barbershopper. But if one includes a daily hour of deliberate practice at home, ... hmmm, that gets reduced to 20 years.

LETTERS

Merry Christmas Jack,

I appreciate you volunteering your services at Mendelson Home. The residents really enjoyed having you and The Big Chief Chorus as well as myself. I look forward to continue working with you in the future. Please let me know what days in February and March that you are available I would be more than happy to have you perform at Mendelson again.

Thank You, Have a Wonderful Christmas & Happy New Year!

Deana

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: F. McFadyen, D. Johnson, M. Frye, & B. Holmes
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, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio
Chorus Manager: Open
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, Johnson, McFadyen, Moss, Murray, Prueter, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)
CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
Jan 28, T, 6:45 Meet Ted Prueter at Inn at Cass Lake, 900 N. Cass Lake Rd
    7:30 BCC Practice, WOAC
Jan 28 - Feb 2 International Midwinter Convention - Long Beach CA
Feb 4, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Feb 11, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Feb 14,15, F, Sa Singing Valentines Delivered
Feb 18, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Feb 20, Th Exec Bd Meeting
Feb 22, Detroit-Oakland Chapter Shows (2 pm & 7:30pm)
Feb 22, Sa, 9am-8pm Harmony Explosion, Hillsdale, MI
Feb 25, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Mar 4, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Mar 8, Sa Lansing Annual Show, with STORM FRONT
Mar 11, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Mar 16, Su, 4:30 Harmony for Life, 2/42 Community Church, 7536 W. Grand
River Ave., Brighton
Mar 17, M, 6:30 Canterbury on the Lake, St. Pat’s
Apr 25-27 Spring District Convention, Grand Rapids, host: Grand Rapids
Jun 28, Sa, 3pm Log Cabin Days

Life's a pitch;
Then you sing

From the Mansfield, OH Chordmen Chronicle