News:
It is with a heavy heart that I am forced to make this announcement…
We knew it was too good to last! Our great director has decided to move to Phoenix, AZ. We heard, recently, that he has accepted a lucrative offer of a managerial and teaching position with a private school in the NW Phoenix suburbs. He will be leaving us in mid-August to help get his family situated before schools starts. (I told the Leads not to go flat!) (April Fool!!!)

From Director, Tom Blue
As we prepare for another convention appearance, I would like to encourage the following...

- Have as many guys as are able to participate and represent Pontiac-Waterford at the Pioneer District Convention
- Memorize words for "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" and "I'm Beginning to See the Light"
- Rehearse weekly your part either by recording rehearsal, using website listening tracks or other ways that you may have to review your part
- Get together with other guys to practice songs in quartet (especially during break time or before rehearsal)
- Breathe lowly, deeply and expand the ribs
- Sing immediately to the target vowel and think tall, round vowels that turn just before the next vowel sound
- Listen to yourself and other within your section to create a unit (unified) sound
- Sing your best sound (tone) and not past your best sound
- Sing the group dynamics/ tempo changes
- Engage the face (sing with your eyes) and use of physical gestures to keep the body free and to add visuals to our presentation
- Understand the text so that you can convey the meaning more easily
- Encourage one another
- Remember “Rule #6”, “Follow the Director”

What’s Been On Tom's Personal March Music Schedule:
March 4-6 IMC (Singing/ attending the Intercollegiate Men's Chorus Conference)
March 13 (District 16 Choral Festival - Conducting the world premiere of the commissioned choral work "Seal" in honor of an AHS student who passed away this past summer)
March 15 (Singing Mahler's 2nd Symphony with the Flint Symphony)
March 17 (Leading a choral clinic with Waterford Mott choirs)
March 26-29 Vocal directing AHS musical "Into the Woods"

What's Tom Been Listening to?
Mahler Symphony No. 2
Into the Woods
BBC News
BHS (The story of Westminster preparing for their ACDA Convention appearance)
Music of John Dowland
Music of Rollo Dilworth

From President, Jack Teuber
Greetings from Florida, where sunshine and the crack of the TIGERS' bats have healing powers. I'm missing our Tuesday nights with the Big Chief Chorus. We continue to improve our singing under the guidance of Tom Blue. It would be great to have 35-40 men in attendance each week as we prepare to gather with other choruses at the April 25-26th Pioneer District Convention. We want to have a good showing with improved singing.

As much as we want to improve, there is no question the BCC is about more than singing. During the past year the BCC has more than its share of medical issues. In each occurrence the BCC has come to the aid our brothers, with full force.
We also have been blessed with a super support group in the Big Chief Chicks. The Valentine Breakfast brought out a record (25) attendees. Thanks to all of the ladies that have created and continue to nourish the group.

We have always been a performing chorus with 20 plus Christmas Sing-outs, three dozen Valentine deliveries and the bi-weekly singing at Heroes. I know that you have again enjoyed the performing and green beer at Canterbury for St. Patrick's Day. Let's continue the singing and camaraderie during our April Meetings as we prepare for the Spring Contest.

**From VP Music & Performance, Roger Holm**

Sheet music for the new Broadway songs that Tom has selected for our Fall show are now available and are being handed out. They are: "Consider Yourself", "Count Your Blessings", "The Impossible Dream", "There's No Business like Show Business", and "With A Song In My Heart" (this one was handed out last year). Learning tracks will be posted on our members-only web site as they become available. A message for Chapter Quartets, and other members who have been thinking about forming a quartet to sing on our November 1st show, It's not too early to start working in that direction!

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

Spring District Convention, April 25-27, 2014

Late registrations ($45 per person) until Friday, April 18th. Special Room Rate at the Crowne Plaza Hotel is $99, if avail. Deadline for registering for competition is Midnight, April 11th.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

“InterNet Radio” and “Barbershop” Come Together!

“Live365”, [http://www.live365.com/](http://www.live365.com/), is a network of 5000+ internet radio stations run by real people, not generated by computers! It is a pioneer in Internet radio and broadcasting services, having broadcast continuously since 1999. The Live365 radio network reaches millions of listeners worldwide, offering greater breadth and depth of high-quality streaming music, talk, and audio than any other network.

Featuring 260+ genres of music produced by 5,000+ broadcasters and music tastemakers from over 150 countries, Live365 boasts a roster of artists and radio producers. They also have individual DJs who program stations in every musical style, including “barbershop”.

One of the “genres” just happens to be “barbershop”, with ties to SPEBSQSA as the “DJ”. [http://www.live365.com/stations/spebsqsa](http://www.live365.com/stations/spebsqsa) Check out “Barbershop Harmony”, which includes barbershop, Americana, and Valentine. Also check out “A Cappella Always”, which includes pop, barbershop, and doo wop. [http://acappellaalways.com](http://acappellaalways.com). They offer a “free trial” for visitors, as well as an ad-free, paid “VIP” subscription service. There’s even an option to allow you to start up your own internet radio station!

**MEMBERSHIP:**

April Birthdays: Duane Roy (2nd), Wayne Oberstadt (3rd), Jeff Spires (16th).

Medical: Dar Johnson had been hospitalized with an unknown ailment. “Chuckles” took a Tuesday off to avoid “contaminating” the chorus.

**BIG CHIEF CHICKS**

Several Big Chief Chicks took Bonnie Auquier out for a lunch break! Saturday, the Ides of March, saw the Chicks gather at Fino’s for breakfast.

**AROUND THE PATCH**

A special “Harmony for Life” Benefit Concert was held on March 16, in Brighton, to honor the life of Paul Teska, and support the Harmony Foundation Youth Program. Tom Blackstone and John Cowlishaw previously sang with Paul Teska in a quartet called “On That Note”. Paul was diagnosed with terminal cancer last year. Several quartets from the area performed, including Majestyx, Right-On-Q, Chordiology, Celebration, Meta-4, Jazzclub, Keyless Entry, and an a cappella group named “THUMMp”. They have raised over $11,000 so far! You can still donate at: [http://www.harmonyfoundation.org/Hone.shtml](http://www.harmonyfoundation.org/Hone.shtml)

**QUARTETS**

**Limited Edition:** Ray Sturdy has been filling in for John Cowlishaw at Bari.

**Bidin’ Our Time:** Bidin’ Our Time has been busy trying to find a new baritone to sing with their quartet. Many thanks to John Cowlishaw and Ray Sturdy for filling in for Dick Johnson, so we could deliver Singing Valentines!

**4G VN:** Wayne Oberstadt’s other quartet, “Sound Idea!”, will be competing at District Contest at Grand Rapids in April. Go, Wayne!
Deke Sharon on Barbershop

Deke Sharon is the producer of “The Sing-Off” which has just been scheduled for its 4th season.

Here is his homage to barbershop:

https://www.casa.org/content/acamartialart

“You're young, you're scrappy. You want to be the best. You started singing in school, like everyone: choir, maybe a couple musicals. Karaoke with some friends, talent shows. Then some collegiate a cappella.

But you don't want to just be fine. That's not enough. You want to be great. You want technique, you want moves. You need to learn karate... except contemporary a cappella doesn't have a traditional refined martial art... does it? It does. It's called Barbershop. And you're about to get the best schooling a young'un can, including:

**BLEND:** There's no blend like a barbershop blend. They don't just match their vowels, they align their diphthongs as they sweep from one vowel to the next. 4 guys sounding like one guy. Why does blend matter? Because each vowel has a very specific "fingerprint" - frequencies in the harmonic series – and when the vowels are perfectly aligned, it helps lock down...

**TUNING:** You think four voices can only create four notes? Guess again. When you lock your voices into perfect tune with the same vowels you can not only create additional notes above yours, you can even create the perception of a bass note below the human vocal range. That's right, that's the vocal equivalent of some kind of dark arts ninja magic. But it works, and it happens every day, along with...

**DYNAMICS:** Pop music on the radio has had the life squashed out of it. Learn how to sing quieter than you thought you could, and make a group sound that's louder than you have, without microphones. Did I mention that a perfectly aligned chord also reinforces itself, creating a boost in volume? More ninja skills. But we're not done yet, because you'll learn...

**RUBATO:** In a pop song, the tempo rarely varies. In a Barbershop performance you'll be pushing and pulling time, not unlike an orchestra. But there's no conductor. You learn to feel the rhythm rise and fall, you learn to breathe as a unit as you perfect your...

**PHRASING:** When everyone's singing the lyrics, everyone's singing and augmenting the melody as a unit. Like a finely tuned dance troupe, each person's movements are linked to everyone else's, in perfect synchronicity. This requires precision, so you'll learn how to...

**REHEARSE:** Barbershop is built on the finest traditions and techniques of classical choral music, so you know you're learning proper vocal technique and centuries of good habits, which will lead to...

**PERFORMANCE:** There's no hiding in the back row in Barbershop, and no auto-pilot. Songs are short, and every measure is a litany of rhythmic changes, rapidly aligning chords, juxtaposed dynamics... all delivered with a larger-than-life performing style that will push you to be present in every moment. But it's not all about performance, it's all about...

**COMMUNITY:** When you sing Barbershop, you're always only 3 guys away from a song, because there's a common repertoire and a perpetual desire to sing. Everyone's on the same team playing the same game, and you always win. You might think Barbershop is only old guys singing old songs, but you're wrong. Sometimes the songs are new, sometimes the guys are young, but you know what? There's a lot to be learned from your elders, and if a song has lasted a century, it's still around for a good reason.

I'm not saying you have to learn Barbershop to be a great a cappella singer... but I am promising you if you do sing Barbershop, you'll be better than if you don't.”

Deke Sharon founded CASA (and other stuff), makes TV shows (“The Sing-Off”), movies (“Pitch Perfect”), sings (The House Jacks), produces albums (Straight No Chaser, Street Corner Symphony, Committed, Nota, Bubs), wrote a book (A Cappella Arranging), publishes sheet music (Hal Leonard), and custom arranges music (over 2,000 songs).

You can find him at www.dekesharon.com or www.totalvocal.com

**The Sing-off Lives Again**

http://insidetv.ew.com/2013/03/13/the-sing-off-renewed/

“Brace yourselves, a-catholics! The ultimate TV a cappella competition returns to NBC! Open call auditions have been announced. “The Sing-Off was never officially canceled after its super-sized third season, which earned lackluster ratings in fall 2011, but NBC passed on picking it up for a fourth go-round in 2012. Still, in the time that has transpired, a cappella’s popularity has surged. The Sing-Off’s Season 3 winners, Pentatonix, have become viral staples with their inventive covers and originals, outselling The Voice winner, Javier Colon) and the huge success of Pitch Perfect (for which Deke Sharon arranged the music) has breathed new energy into the genre...
LETTERS
From Joe McDonald, Mountaintown Singers,
We are attempting to create a communication network between our Youth in Harmony focused organization and Pioneer District Chapters. Please let me know who in the BCC will be your designated YIH contact person.
The next event is scheduled for July 10-12, 2014. See the poster below. Please pass this around using your Facebook friends, Twitter, etc. Thank you for becoming scholarship sponsors in past years!
Contact Joe McDonald (989) 560-6181; joecab2@hotmail.com

BARBERSHOP CRAFT
A very valuable “Tool” in your “Barbershop Tool Kit” is effective use of “Word Sounds” to help convey more emotion in your singing. Word sounds help “squeeze every ounce of emotion” out of a particular word or phrase.

E.g. How many “Word Sounds” are there in the one-syllable word, “WHEN”? There are actually three (3) different word sounds! “Ooh..weh…nnn” In the lyrics, “When all the world is a …”, the word “When” becomes “Ooh…weh’” and while the “N” is a “sing-able consonant”, it is technically placed on the beginning of the next word, “all”. “ooh..weh..naw..ltha..ooh..wuh..rld..”, etc.

When every voice of the quartet sings the word sounds the same way, telling the story becomes more sincere. The trade-off is that word sounds take a bit longer to sing, and the chord “pop” may be slightly delayed. Would you rather your audience receive the gift of more emotion from you, or obtain quicker chord “pop”? Mike Slamka used to say, “Sing from the heart, or don’t bother!”

BARBERSHOP QUIZ
1) What is “Expanded Sound”?
Answer: The vibrant ensemble sound that results from the production and reinforcement of overlapping overtones. (The vibrancy manifests itself in greater fullness of sound and increased volume, and occasionally results in an audible fifth note.)

2) What is “Unit Sound”?
Answer: Ideal sound production resulting from excellent balance, blend, intonation, matched vowels and strong overtone reinforcement.

3) A “TOUGH” NUMBER PROBLEM: BHS Membership has dropped to 23,812.
A “SIMPLE” NUMBER PROBLEM!

3 = 18
4 = 32
5 = 50
6 = 72
7 = ___
8 = ___
9 = ___

OK, smarty! So what does “10” = ___ ???
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: Open
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
Guest Bulletin Editor, April, 2014: Chuck Murray (248) 892-7632
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
Apr 1, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Apr 8, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Apr 15, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Apr 22, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Apr 25-27 Spring District Convention, Grand Rapids, host: Grand Rapids
Apr 29, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
May 31, eve Great Lakes Harmony Brigade Show/Quartet Finals, Okemos
June 13 Windsor Chapter’s District Send-Off Show, in Windsor, ONT.
Jun 28, Sa, 3pm Log Cabin Days
Jun 29 - July 6 BHS’ International Convention in Las Vegas, NV
Jul 10 – 12 Harmony Explosion, Mt. Pleasant
Jul 19 Quartet Champion Association “Quartet Boot Camp”
Jul 27 – Aug 3 Harmony University, Nashville, TN
August 16 Top Gun Chorus Coaching
Aug 22, 23 Bush League Quartet Competition, Gaylord
Oct. 4 Rochester GoH Show “SHOW BIZ!” 7:30 PM
Oct 17 – 19 Fall District Convention, Muskegon
Nov 1 Big Chief Chorus Show