National Anthem at Tigers-Mariners Game, August 15

By Bill Eisner, the Detroit Tigers photographer

By cars and Oakland County bus, we arrived at Comerica Park. At 6:15, Corey met us at Section 131 and led us down the stairwell into the restricted area of the stadium and our rehearsal room.

Then out onto the field, as the honorary pitchers finished their throws. At 6:58, stepping forward onto the grass on the first base side of home plate, gathering around the two mics, taking an Ab from Walt, and we were off and running – (oh, no, that was the seven Mariners who circled the bases) – singing, “Oh, Say can you see, by the dawn’s early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming…” We synched with Tom’s precise directing and not with our faintly heard echo from across the stadium. With gusto we sang tall vowels. “…and the home of the breh-ve.” A roar erupted from the 42,385 fans, and we were led off the field, to our seats in right field.

It has been eight years since our previous performance.

http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/smoke_signals/2006/Sept%202006-Issue%202065.pdf

Photo from Greg Moss

More photos and videos available on the BCC Facebook Site.
“Thank you, Jack, for all your hard work in organizing our sing out to the Detroit Tiger's game last night. It was one of our best performances!

“Thank you to Tom Blue, Freddy, and Mike for their great direction; to Jim Owens for tickets; to Roger for hats; to Walt for pitch; to John Cowlishear for pics & PR; to Tom Jackson for the bus; and the Executive Board for providing your leadership. AND, to all BCC members who sang the way Doc asked us to. You made us all proud.”

Pete

“It was a glorious trip with privilege and much anticipation. My nephew's first Tiger outing was a most memorable one with a trip onto the field and as a participant with "wow" factor. And, who knows, maybe such joy as to even come with me to rehearsal one day ☺”

Eric Domke

BCC picnic

The annual Big Chief picnic was August 22, hosted once again by Bob and Eileen Marshall.

“I have "downsized" my roaster-oven recipe to one which fits a large crock pot. ("Pork Fat Rules!" per Emeril Legasse)

“Walt gave me an excuse to cook Johnsonville brats and Koegel Viennas last evening! My eyeglasses and clothing were "covered in oil spray!" I washed down the "animal fat" with Alaskan Amber Beer, from Juneau, AK!

“A few of us finished the evening by "trying to sing" "Goodnight Irene" to Bob's wife!

“See you next year!”

CHUCKLES

From Director Tom

Men of the BCC,

Thank you all for your time and efforts and for making our outing Friday evening a big success! I felt that we sounded really good and the microphones picked us up well as I could hear all four parts. What a privilege for us to be able to sing in a major league ballpark. Thanks for committing the extra time/ money to make this event a success! Let's do it again sometime.

What helped make the national anthem so effective was our focus on...

- alignment of our physical selves (standing tall and proud to allow for ease of body movement)
- alignment of vowel sounds (tall and round)
- breath (low and full with expansion)
- communication (use of physical self to allow freedom in the body and thus the voice)
- communication (use of eyes, hands and upper body to help tell the story)
- communication (articulation of text...yeah we need to know all of the words)
The show needs all of us that are able. Forty guys on the risers for the show would be awesome. It would be nice to see some of you that we haven't seen in a while. We would love to have your voice and presence with us again. Our sound as a chorus can only be complete with YOU there!

Now, let's focus again on these selections:
- There's No Business Like Show Business
- Oklahoma
- Consider Yourself
- Coney Island Baby
- Ain't Misbehavin'
- Cabaret
- I'm Beginning to See the Light
- We Need A Little Christmas
- Count Your Blessings

Yeah, that is a lot of songs, but I hope to somehow weave them together in short order and maybe with the help of some creative script writing.

From Prez Jack

Our November 1st Show will feature RUSTY PIPES (Senior Champions 2012) and Dodie LeMarte’s Sweet Adeline Quartet ALLURE. We were hoping to add the Pioneer Champion Collegiate Quartet, G-FOURS, but two of their members have a MSU choral concert conflict.

[Keep your fingers crossed for RUSTY PIPE’s Tenor, Dale Fetick, who is being treated for a serious infection.]

From VP Roger Holm:

GENTLEMEN: Singing our National Anthem at the game last Friday was a real hoot, and we did a great job - according to all the reports we heard!! Plus the great weather, the game (would have helped a lot if the Tigers had won), and the fellowship with many family and friends!! It was pretty much a great experience all around! Too bad all of our chorus members couldn't have participated!!

Now it’s on to getting serious about preparing for our November 1st show! We have lots of work to do - learning the songs, getting a flyer out, selling advertising (ad-kits will be available shortly), putting the show program together - and then selling tickets!

AROUND THE PATCH

We celebrated Mike Keith’s 90th birthday at our August 5 rehearsal with a beautiful cake. Sorry that Mike wasn’t back yet, but we could tell him all about it when he returned, the next week.

Welcome to our guest, Bill Durham.

Tuesday night weather

Does it seem to you that Tuesday evenings have been targeted by Mother Nature for precipitation?

It isn't just our imagination – All the Tuesday nights in 2014 have included seven good days (some degree of sunniness), but twenty-seven weather-challenged days (snow, rain, or thunderstorms).

Show

Save Saturdays, Oct 11 or 18, for an extra all-day rehearsal.

Internet purchase of tickets will be available for the first time, thanks to Ray Sturdy and Greg Moss.
**Ad kits** will be available Sept 2.

**Mike Doyle** did his bass solo debut, honoring his fellow basses.

**Tom Blue** had a kidney stone attack after Heroes, August 19.

The **Gil Schreiner quartet** was particularly fluid and polished Aug 19 as they sang “Nellie.” Will they become a “named” quartet?

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**Big Chief Chorus on Facebook**

Be sure to take advantage of the “new” Big Chief Chorus Facebook page, at [http://tinyurl.com/nok6xub](http://tinyurl.com/nok6xub) or copy and paste: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Chief-Chorus/19538833812959](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Chief-Chorus/19538833812959) or go to the Facebook site and search for “Big Chief Chorus.”

There you will find, among other entries, photos and videos of our Tiger visit, the chapter picnic, and a video by our past and future guest quartet, **Instant Classic**. Thanks to Wayne Oberstadt for most of the work.

**Bruce and Bonnie Brede** have returned from their 15-day Viking Riverboat Cruise.

**Kathy Doig** had successful surgical replacement of her aortic valve Aug 6.

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**QUARTETS**

**Limited Edition** helped the Edison Boat Club celebrate their 100th anniversary on August 3, 2014.

The Club was founded in 1914 for Detroit Edison employees and their families on the site of the Detroit Edison power plant, (where Conner Creek emptied into the Detroit River), and just across from the northeast end of Belle Isle.

It was an all-day celebration, with dinghy races, kayaking on the river, rides on the Club’s boats, an historical slide show and trophy display of the sailing awards to the club, 25c beer, free lunch and a dinner buffet, a commemoration ceremony, an afterglow party, and music. The music lasted from noon to 3 p.m., with **Limited Edition** using its rep of 23 songs and sharing the stage with the Troy Heritage Band.

The club considers itself a “working man’s boat club,” and has a well-integrated membership. About 130 EBC members and their families enjoyed the music and food and the commemoration of their long history.

**Limited Edition** sang August 17 at three-year-old Jackson’s birthday party, under a tent in a Commerce Township backyard. It was also Jackson’s first “shearing.” The quartet sang an 8-set plus a “Happy Birthday” to Jackson, and a special request for “Hello, My Baby” for his father.

**4GVN’s Roadshow (and More)** by Greg Moss
Our weekend ended with singing to Reba. She and her husband, Dick, were taking a ride down the road in their golf cart. Reba has Alzheimer’s, gets restless, and has memory problems; so Dick will take her for rides. And she lip-synched to “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” as we sang.

We had spent the weekend at Greg’s cottage, about an hour north of Clarkston, practicing several songs in our repertoire – and working on our song for the show (hint: it’s in A-flat). For a change of pace on Saturday afternoon, we were given a pontoon boat ride around the lake, singing several songs, including pulling up to a cottage where they were having a bachelorette party. Then, when we got back to the cottage, there was a grandma-mom-daughter family of walkers and a neighbor from down the road. Of course, a couple of songs were in order. What a surprise for our audiences!

And Sunday was our participation in the Mayville United Methodist Church worship, the town and church where Greg grew up. (Check the 4GVN Quartet Facebook page.)

Before we sang to Reba on Sunday afternoon, we had stopped to sing good-bye to our neighbor/pontoon driver, and she got teary by the time we got through the first phrase of “May the road…” All quartet singers know how hard it is to sing when there are tears. She is the one who stopped Reba and Dick on their ride down the road and asked us to sing to Reba.

Touching people with music is what it’s all about.

4GVN will be performing at Fisk Farm Sunday, Sept 7, for the White Lake Historical Society

Chapter 2014 Performances thru August: 79 gigs to 47,414 people

Membership: (at 50)
Renewal: Mike Doyle (2)
Due in September: Bruce LaMarte, Gil Schreiner, Ray Sturdy

Overdue: Hoff, Mann, Perry, Valko
By-bye: Doug Metzger
September Birthdays: Bob Stephenson (1st), Charlie Perry (6th), Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlishaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Dave Myre (29th)

Medical:
Duane Roy – esophageal cancer; being treated with radiation and chemotherapy
Walt DeNio – successful treatment for scalp carcinoma
Ted Prueter – is being treated for leukemia
Doc Mann – continues recovery from his July 11 surgery

In Memoriam: Sep 12, 2006, Art Ripley, #67
Sep 19, 2003, Chris Miller, #30

District
Another juicy issue of Pioneer District’s Troubadour:
http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm

Big Chiefs will appreciate stories on:
• Our chapter
• Our quartets, 4GVN and Limited Edition
• Pioneer Events (GLHB, Send-Off Show, Dead Creek Picnic, Quartet Boot Camp)
• Spotlight on a Chapter – Sault Ste. Marie
• Lew Mahacek obituary
And a special report on:
• “How to Get Started Quarteting”

Tonal Eclipse won this year’s Bush League contest in Gaylord Aug 23. Members are:
Matt Root, Tenor
Mark Spear, Lead
Phil Spencer, Baritone
Kerry Foley, Bass
from Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids & South Bend Mishawaka Chapters.

Evenin’ Gentlemen, a successor to Sound Idea!, came in fourth.

The Fall convention is October 17-19 in Muskegon at the Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor and the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts. It’s a 2:45 drive from WOAC. Rooms at the Holiday Inn are $99.99 for a Double Queen. 

http://pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm

Early hotel registration deadline: Sept 17
Early convention registration deadline: Sep 19
Competition deadline: Oct 3

Instant Classic is the guest quartet on the Rochester Guardians of Harmony show Oct 4, at Stoney Creek High School. “SHOW BIZ”

The Voice Barbershop Chorus
Aaron Pollard writes that The Voice will sing at:
- Pioneer District convention, Oct 17-18
- The MountainTown Singers show, Nov 1
- Midwinter International Convention in New Orleans, Jan 7-11.

MEDIA
August 14, NPR aired a six-minute story on barbershop as a passionate avocation. You can hear Kevin’ McClelland’s quartet sing the tag to "Somewhere", "Heart of my Heart", and then his chorus singing "Just a Kid named Joe." http://n.pr/1yz6HaM  Good national exposure!

CEO Marty Monson and the inimitable Tim Waurick have also been interviewed in the past month.

CRAFT
Woodshedding
There’s a wonderful introduction to woodshedding, recorded at Harmony University last month, available at:
http://tinyurl.com/omn6qfm or http://youtu.be/yUW_Y8Eei-8
Paul Olguin was the guy who challenged himself to write 100 tags in the weeks before HU.

Big Chief Jeopardy, #47. (Try these.)
1. Answer: He was a high school singer, actor, and runner. After the Army he was a cook and a baker, then a Pontiac Motor employee, a photographer, and an editor. In retirement, he has been a woodworker, a golfer, a rose-grower, a mentor, a grandfather, and a Lead.
2. Answer: He is surrounded by females – his wife and five daughters. He is a Vietnam veteran and a machinist. He was a Karaoke aficionado before being recruited by Ted Prueter and then brought in his good friend, Tom, who has since moved to Ireland.

(Hclues to the Questions in Issues # 60 and 70.)

HISTORY
Five of the 21 members of the 1987 chapter remain. 27 yrs ago!
CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye, & Bill 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: Duane Roy
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, McFadyen, Moss,
Murray, Prueter, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
Sep 2, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Sep 9, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Sep 16, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Sep 23, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Sep 30, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Oct. 4, 7:00 Rochester GoH Show “SHOW BIZ!” INSTANT CLASSIC
Oct 7, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
Oct 11 or 18, Sa Extra rehearsal
Oct 17 – 19 Fall District Convention, Muskegon
Nov 1, 7:00 Big Chief Chorus Show, “Broadway”
Nov 4 Christmas Chorus begins

The Secrets of Breathing
by Janak Ramachandran http://tinyurl.com/mx8ex3r

The way we breathe as singers is the single most important skill to develop as a singer. If you want to be and stay in tune, the muscle memory you develop around the breathing is the mechanical basis of doing so. ...from a posture perspective, we want to cultivate a ‘disconnect’ between the work of our core muscles (e.g. abdomen around to the lower back) in controlling breath and airflow and the relaxation of our upper body (chest, shoulders, neck, and head).

Not only do we want the belly to distend, but we want to feel the ring of muscle that extends around to the sides of our waist engage and expand. Most importantly, we want to feel these muscles, in conjunction with our thigh and butt muscles, remain expanded and engaged as we control airflow during singing. ...when singing, we want the ring of muscle to stay in an expanded state while the lungs are contracting through the exhalation of air... ‘bearing down’, as if you are blowing out candles on a birthday cake. As you progress further and further into the exhalation, you will feel the muscles in the lower part of your waist push down and out with greater and greater intensity.

[BEARING DOWN, as if, singing out thru your anus – JC]

“Music gives a soul to the Universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” Plato