How sweet it is!

Both the chorus and the two quartets with Big Chief members – Limited Edition and Coda Honor – broke the 60 point barrier, scoring between 61 and 62. The 61.8 score is the second highest score the chorus has ever achieved. Well, in modern history, i.e., since Chris Miller arrived in 1998; we didn’t compete in the years before. (In 2003, a pair of parodies scored 63.7.) And 61.4 is the highest that Limited Edition has scored.

Majestyx quartet, the Great Lakes Chorus from Grand Rapids, and Frontier (college) quartet will be representing the District in Pittsburgh in July.

Frontier is composed of Director Aaron Pollard and three other members of The Voice Youth Chorus, who will be on our Fall show.

The judges praised the chorus’s performance of “Heart of a Clown” and “I’m Beginning to See the Light.” Some comments:

1. Let your heart and face express what you are trying to do with your hands.
2. Don’t act, or perform. Be.
3. Highest scores in Presentation (“how effectively the song is brought to life”), and lowest scores in Music (“the song and arrangement, as performed”)
4. “The basses form the foundation for virtually all the chords, and that if they produce a unit sound, the harmonics are already being produced, and that it’s the job of the other parts to merely reinforce the chord harmonics.” (From the judges’ comments to the Lansing chorus, as reported in the Woodshedder, but also said to us.)

The chorus met for dinner Saturday at Griffin Grille. A video recording of the contest set as rehearsed before contest is available at: http://tinyurl.com/qda2qcl

From Director Tom:

Men and Friends of the BCC,

Well, what can I say...thank you, thank you and thank you for another convention experience. This time, however, we did improve according to the judges (741 points). In fact, the second highest score for the BCC. You are all to be congratulated for your time, effort, and most of all the very good performance on stage. A sixth place finish (4th place if you take away the now two plateau 1 groups). Thanks for making the trek to Battle Creek to represent Pontiac-Waterford Chapter in the best of ways.

To your credit, you are now a chorus that is heavily involved in the community and performing for the community at large and a consistent plateau 2 chorus. Thank you, for that tells me that you want to be community-minded and yet perform at a high level.

Thanks again to those who car-pooled, brought chairs, brought apples, oranges, water, and those other unmentioned things that help to make our chorus run smoothly and accomplish as much as we do.

It continues to be a pleasure to serve you. How long have I been with the BCC...?(I really should sign that contract!)

Let’s enjoy (bask in our laurels, a bit) but continue to press on toward learning new music, prepare for summer sing-outs, and our show
From VP Roger Holm

GENTLEMEN: Good job at contest everybody! As we learned from the judges at our evaluations, we weren’t perfect, but we sang well and did some very positive things! Thanks to all of us - especially Tom - for all the effort!

BILL NEVAUX

Bill Nevaux died Saturday, March 28, age 87, in Ann Arbor, where he had been living with his son since the death of his wife, Candy, in 2011.

Bill will be remembered for many things. He played baseball up through Class A sandlot, and for three years in the Army, during which period he met Candy in Japan. He continued to play baseball into his sixties. He was also an avid golfer, and a crackerjack ping-pong player.

He worked as a die-maker and machine builder, in the auto industry, until his retirement in 1993.

Bill was active in barbershopping over a period of 50 years. He joined the Oakland County chapter of SPEBSQSA in 1965. Two years later they won the district chorus title under Carl Dahlke, and went to International in Cincinnati.

Bill sang in a quartet called The Conchords for two years with Bob McDermott (Bs) (past district president and author of our History of the Pioneer District), Dick Van Dyke (Br), and Jack Evans (T). He left barbershopping in 1969 when he moved to Lake Orion. Then he joined the Pontiac chapter about 1979. This led to singing tenor in a quartet called Model A Four with Bill Dabbs (Br), Bob Woodward (Bs), and Larry Ornsby (L & chapter president). In the aughts, he sang in Jackpot (Tom Ford (T), Bill Nevaux (L), John Cowlishaw (Br), Zaven Melkonian (Bs)).

Bill had seven Men of Note awards, including Fred McFadyen. He and Candy were also active in the Church Street Singers.

Bill’s sons Mike and Kevin live in Michigan, and daughter Leslie in Alaska.

A memorial celebration was held Saturday, April 18, at Kruse & Muer’s, Lake Orion. About a dozen Chiefs and ex-Chiefs were part of the group of 65. Bill’s kids and friends spoke about his love, his wonderful parenting, his love of singing, his need to keep moving, his saving a man’s life with CPR, his move from Clawson to acreage in the Lake Orion area where he tried to become a gentleman farmer, with many animals.

His daughter, Leslie, wrote: “For the gentlemen who knew my father in the chorus and the ones who have passed on, you were all an integral part of my dad’s life, my mother’s life and mine. One of the greatest gifts both my parents gave me was the love of singing. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all you wonderful barbershoppers for that.

With great affection to you all, Leslie Nevaux”

AROUND THE PATCH

A First for Freddie, introducing two new Barberpole Cats – John Cowlishaw and Fred Pioch

Rumored: that Duane Roy shot a 79 on his 79th birthday.

4-7-8

A certain Big Chief reports that he has been using 4-7-8 breathing to deal successfully with his insomniac attacks in the middle of the night. Another Big Chief reports that his wife’s anxiety attack was soothed by 4-7-8 breathing.
Quartets

4GVN

On March 21, 4GVN participated in the “Open Mic Night” event at the arts center in Milford. The monthly winner of the 18-and-under and the all-ages performances gets invited to the “Milford Memories” community event in early August.

We were expecting to do one song, and we have been working on “Take Me Home, Country Roads.” But when we got there, Wayne found out we could do up to ten minutes. So we found a quiet spot and created a three-song set: “It’s a Good Day,” “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” and “Country Roads.” We got a great reception from the audience, who seemed to especially appreciate hearing pure a cappella after everyone else did a guitar-something.

Although we didn’t win, we needed to get out and sing, and we enjoyed some really good talent at the event.

Greg Moss

On April 16, 4GVN sang in the HERO’s audition at Zukey Lake Tavern in Hamburg Michigan. They were one of the entertainers that made it into the Finals June 20 (2:00 p.m.) in the Hamburg Fun Festival. The audience of 150 appreciated them. You can hear two 1-minute clips - of Greg introducing the quartet at 4:32 and part of their performance, “Country Roads,” at 23:04 - at: http://tinyurl.com/oqzzzmg

Limited Edition

LIMITED EDITION performed at the Romeo Graubner District Library, Wednesday evening, April 22, 2015. The hour-long show, 17 songs, was organized as a world tour (departing on Frank Sinatra’s jet from the “Romeo International Airport” – there was a moment of consternation in the eyes of the 35 people in the audience as they looked out through the auditorium window at the April snow showers – then laughter). Regions “visited” included Acapulco, LA, Malibu, Las Vegas, Texas, New Orleans, Mississippi, Jamaica, the Atlantic, the Serengeti, Normandy Beach, Liverpool, NYC, Memphis, River City, and Grundy County, with a song attached to each. The people lingered afterward to talk about barbershop, and music in their background, and give their appreciation for the variety of songs sung. Librarian Glen Sowles had worked well at promoting the event including LIMITED EDITION’s name on the electronic entry sign.

Chapter 2015 Performances: 57 gigs to 802,652 people

MEMBERSHIP: (at 50)

Renewals: Jim McMain (4), Duane Roy (6), Fred Pioch (8), Walt Bachmann (14), Bob Legato (16), Bill Holmes (17), Bob Wallace (23), Bob Marshall (25), Tom Blackstone (29)

Due in May: None

Overdue: Mike Doyle, Ted Prueter, Bob Stephenson

May Birthdays: Mike Downie (4th), Bill Dabbs (17th), Bill Durham (27th)

BSOM: (February) 4GVN

District

Dick Liddicoatt passed away on the March 26 in Lake Orion.

Dick directed the Oakland County Barbery Host Chorus in 1966, 1967. He was also a director of the Pontiac Big Chief Chorus.

He was the Baritone of LEFT OVERS (Art Linde (T), Gene Johnson (L), Dick Liddicoatt (Br), Bob Fangert (Bs)) which was the District Senior Quartet Champion in 1994.

It was Dick who initiated, in 1965, the “Travelin’ Brown Jug,” which raised funds during “Jug Nights” to help out quartets representing the District at International competitions.

(Source: Bob McDermott’s History of the Pioneer District, and the Pioneer District web site.)

And this, from Fred McFadyen:
Born and raised in Fowlerville, he won a baseball scholarship at Western Michigan University, where he earned an accounting degree. He began his successful career with General Motors at Oldsmobile Lansing, and joined the Lansing chapter. A transfer to the Warren Tech Center began his long affiliation with the Oakland County Chapter's "Barbery Host," (renamed "The Wolverine Chorus" upon the arrival Carl Dahlke).

He loved hunting and fishing and was a fierce competitor in every sort of contest including a three-peat of the egg toss at Pontiac's Annual Corn Roast.

An instigator of all manner of mischief as part of the Harrisville Harmony Weekend activities: Kids Fishing at the Trout Farm, First Communion at Friedricks' Bar after your campsite setup was complete, Narrating the legend of Silas McCormick's feud with the Indian Chief whose son shared a romance with Silas' daughter, all of whom now haunt the woods surrounding camp ground, followed by the "Ghost Walk" on the Nature Trail.

He is predeceased by his son Michael and survived by daughters Kathy, Debbie and Carol.

Octet Night, May 8
Come one, come 8, or any number in between!
You are invited to bring yourself (and others) to our first "Crazy Eights" Octet Contest & (Stag) Fun Night!
Co-sponsored by: The Wayne Harmony Town Chorus & Redford Harmony Club
... Friday May 8, 2015, 8 pm or earlier, $8
... Redford Jaycee Hall 15585 Beech Daly Rd,
... Redford Twp, MI 48239
Wayne and Redford together are trying to revive the old "inter-chapter programmed fun night" activity meetings, where you can get together and meet people from other chapters, have some food & beverages, do some singing, and enjoy a night of great company and entertainment!

Quartet Boot Camp, July 18
QUARTETS!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING BETTER?

AS A QUARTET AND PERSONALLY?
IMPROVE YOUR SHOW PACKAGE?
IMPROVE YOUR SOUND?
LEARN HOW TO SCORE BETTER?

All of this and more is possible at the Quartet Boot Camp on July 18 in Okemos, sponsored by the QCA and the Pioneer District!
You'll get three sessions of almost 2 hours each with top coaches, plus craft sessions that will help you and your quartet be better singers and performers.
The cost? Just $50 per quartet!
Better yet, if you compete in Bush League in September, we will refund your $50! What a deal!!

We are limited to 15 quartets due to available space.
To reserve your spot, email Roger Lewis at rljewiscmc@aol.com

International
Crossroads on National TV
CROSSROADS did our art form proud with their appearance on Fox News on April 11, our BHS anniversary. This 2:30 clip includes the tag to “Your First Day in Heaven.” http://tinyurl.com/oz5r5xv

MEDIA
The 2015 CARA awards (Contemporary A Cappella Recording ...Award)
...have been announced by The Contemporary A Cappella Society
Best Barbershop Album: The Road. OC TIMES
Runner Up: Old Friends. MASTERPIECE
Best Barbershop Song: “Not While I’m Around,” MASTERPIECE
Runner-Up: “I Won’t Send Roses,” INSTANT CLASSIC

Saturday Evening Post’s Brian Beck in the Media
“As a part of its AHEAD: Retire Your Way series, CNN Money has posted a video segment featuring Brian Beck and current Senior Quartet Champion Saturday Evening Post! While this isn’t Brian’s first rodeo (see also: DEALER’S CHOICE, SIDE STREET RAMBLERS), the story highlights the many things we love about being Barbershoppers: singing for a lifetime, creating a musical family, and finding a passion to pursue. Great work, gents!” Musician finds harmony in retirement – CNN Money
Forefront ...

...opened for The Sing-Off Tour in Louisville, KY on March 25th.
http://tinyurl.com/q8hy6kw

History

The Great American Songbook
We use the term. What does it mean?
The Great American Songbook is the canon of the most important and most influential American popular songs of the 20th century – principally created for Broadway theatre, musical theatre, and Hollywood musical film in the United States. Written from the 1920s to the 1950s, recorded and performed by a wide range of musicians, these songs are considered of enduring popularity.

Since the late 20th century, there has been renewed interest in the Songbook, with performances and recordings by artists generally considered part of the rock and pop music scene. In addition, various jazz artists continue to perform these songs. Many commentators believe that certain songs by late 20th century composers should also qualify to be included in the Songbook, even if circumstances of the musical environment have changed.

There is even a Great American Songbook Foundation, founded in 2007. Michael Feinstein's lifetime interest in, and immense knowledge of, the music of the Great American Songbook led him to found it.

What’s Up, Jim McMain?

Jim McMain has been a Chief for almost four years now, singing Bass. He stays quite busy as a school bus driver in the W. Bloomfield school district. He also does taxes for H & R Bloch during tax season. Although he was a manufacturing engineer during his professional life, he always enjoyed doing his own taxes, so he took a course in Utica and joined the tax office there.

After his first wife died in the 1980s, Jim married Penny. Together they have 11 children, 22 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. We met one of his four sons, Jim Jr, from Texas, when he visited us last year.

Jim had always sung in church choirs, but his relocation to Independence Twp after re-marrying made the choir at Woodside Bible Church in Troy less feasible, and made the Big Chief Chorus more accessible.

Trips this summer? A weekend trip to Mackinac Island is a tradition (they stay at the Island House Inn). They are pondering an Alaskan cruise with a friend, a California minister of the Gospel.

Jim is envious of the guys that get up and quartet and is ready to do it himself.

Executive Board Meeting, Feb 12, 2015
Minutes by Charlie Perry, (Excerpts)
Members present: Pioch, Holm, Doig, DeNio, Perry, Domke, Sturdy, Owens and Teuber.
Treasurer’s Report: Available funds $13,658. Balance netted from show was $7,206.
Show ticket pricing to be decided April-May.
Discussion about advertising for new members in local newspapers.
Decision on contest attire
New Music: “Hard Day’s Night,” “Let There Be Peace on Earth,” “Wonderful World”
Barbershopper of the Month - 4GVN.

Thought for the Day: (From Marti Lovejoy)
There are two things you never want a member of your chapter to think:

1) They won't miss me if I stay home.
2) If I stay home this week, I won't miss anything.
**CALENDAR.**  (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)

- **Apr 28, T, 7:00**  BCC Practice, WOAC
- **May 5, T, 7:00**  BCC Practice, WOAC
- **May 8, F, 1:00**  Elmhaven Manor, Mother’s Day
  - 2:30  Lockwood of Waterford
  - 7:30  Octet Night, Redford
- **May 12, T, 7:00**  BCC Practice, WOAC
- **May 19, T, 7:00**  BCC Practice, WOAC
- **May 21, Th**  Exec Bd Meeting
- **May 26, T, 7:00**  BCC Practice, WOAC
- **May 30, Sa**  Great Lakes Harmony Brigade show, Okemos
- **Jun 2, T, 7:00**  BCC Practice, WOAC
- **Jun 23, T, 5:30**  Flint’s Dead Creek Picnic (Bus at 5:30)
- **Jun 27, Sa, 3:00**  Log Cabin Days, Waterford
- **Jul 1-5**  BHS International, Pittsburgh
- **Jul 18**  Quartet Boot Camp, Okemos
- **Jul 26 – Aug 2**  Harmony University, Belmont Univ., Nashville, TN
- **Nov 7, Sa, 7:00**  71st BCC Show “BCC Does the Grammys”

**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: Jim Owens
Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
  Murray, Prueter, Stephenson, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)