June 7 was High School Guest Night

Fourteen of Maryanne Lambrecht's vocal students arrived twenty minutes early. The Milford Men signed in and quickly assembled with Fred McFadyen and enthusiastically began learning tags. At 7:30 and the arrival of the Big Chief Chorus, Jeremy Hagaboom led the combined choruses in a series of vocal warm-ups. Jeremy is a Junior and a current member of the Pioneer District's Youth Chorus "The Voice." Jeremy is also a past participant in "Harmony Explosion," the three day camp held at Central Michigan University each year. The Big Chief Chorus will be supporting nine attendees at the 2016 edition of "Harmony Explosion."

Ray Sturdy followed Jeremy with physical and vocal warm-ups emphasizing body stance and vocal posture. Mike Frye opened the singing with the traditional "Old Songs / Down Our Way". Fred McFadyen followed with directing the BCC in the "Welcome Song."

Highlights of the evening were Fred leading the combined choruses in "The Saints Go Marchin’ In," "Coney Island Baby," and "Keep the Whole World Singing." A Milford quartet did a great rendition of "Hello Mary Lou" followed by an ensemble singing "Hooked on a Feeling" and a special "Thank You" composition written by Jeremy Hagaboom.

Mike Frye then spent time teaching tags to the combined choruses, followed by the BCC sending the Milford Men on their way with the "Irish Parting Prayer" The evening officially ended at 8:45, followed by 45 minutes of informal tag singing when the last carload of students left at 9:30

Submitted by: Jack Teuber

(From VP Roger Holm)

GENTLEMEN: How great was our meeting last night with our High School friends from Milford with us - all passionate about singing barbershop!! They certainly do sing well! The scholarships we are providing to them for this year's Harmony Explosion will be well used! Thank you Mary Ann for all you do musically at Milford High - and many thanks for your support of us!

(From Director Tom)

Men and Friends of the BCC,

Thank you all for your participation and extra effort to be an example of lifelong singing for the Milford Boys. I have appreciated all of the effort and time that many of you have placed into MaryAnn’s choir program. I am not sure that too many other chapters put up the money (scholarships) for so many young guys! Thanks so much.

June 21 was Dead Creek Bratfest in Frankenmuth

What a great night! The Big Chief Chorus had roughly 24 guys come to the Dead Creek Picnic hosted by the Flint Chapter. An evening of Beer, Brats, Sauerkraut, and Barbershop!!
The 2016 Dead Creek Picnic sponsored by the Flint Chapter for the 24th year was a huge success. District President Mike Hansen and Past District President Brian Dunckel were both there from Lansing. This year was an International Event with Dan Bezaire & his INTRIGUE quartet entering MICH from Windsor for this BIG EVENT. An estimated 120 or more barbershoppers and wives shared a Beautiful Night of Harmony. Fantastic weather, GREAT Brats & Beer. Dave Flatley (Tenor) of DOUBLE O FOUR was the emcee. There were 7 or 8 chapters and 17 quartets participated in the Annual Show at the Park on the River in Frankenmuth. The BAVARIAN BELLE, (paddle boat) was a beautiful site up and down the river throughout the evening. Oakland County chapter brought the District Championship Trophy for ALL to view. Don Horton put together a Pick up quartet called 4 CHAPTER 4 - Tenor, John Wearing, Grosse Pointe, Lead, Don Horton, Lansing, Bari, Randy Meldrum, Saginaw Bay and Charlie Perry BASS from Pontiac. Submitted by: Don Horton

24 Big Chiefs attended, 38 counting guests. The pavilion filled to overflowing. Numerous Big Chief Quartets (full or partial, mostly 3/4 with 4 UR PLEASURE, BIDIN’ OUR TIME and others) Chapter choruses: Bay City, Flint, Grosse Pointe, Huron Valley, Pontiac-Waterford, and Rochester. Submitted by Jack Teuber

A big "shout out" to all who represented the BCC at the bratfest! We were well represented especially in the quartet lineup with several guys quartetting for the first time. Thank you Freddy for your words of "encouragement" to our audience. Tom

June 25 - Log Cabin Days Festival at Fish Hatchery Park

Since 2008, the Big Chief Chorus has been performing at Log Cabin Days, of the Waterford Township Historical Society. At its setting along the Clinton River, 23 Big Chiefs sang (following the New Horizons Band) to an audience of 56 including Lenny’s sister, Gil’s daughter’s beau, Joan Cheyne, and others. Tom led the chorus thru polecats, show tunes, pop culture tunes, and closing songs. Jack opened the concert with remarks, Freddie spoke of the origins of the BHS, and three quartets each sang a pair of songs, BIDIN’ OUR
**Time, 4 Ur Pleasure, and Limited Edition.** Roger and Bob set up the risers, and Jeff set up the sound system. Although the temperature was 87°F, it was pleasant under the overhang. Many partook of the strawberry shortcake a la mode.

**Around the Patch**

**Alice McFadyen** was hospitalized at St. John Providence Oakland/Macomb where she underwent gall bladder surgery June 9. Expectations of pancreatic cancer turned out to be negative. Fred wrote: “The pathology reports were very favorable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prayers - 1</th>
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<td>Cancer - 0</td>
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Thank you all for your support. She is doing good. She is a little confused after being away from the home environment for a week but that will diminish.”

**Lance Shew** was admitted to ICU at Huron Valley Hospital with symptoms of angina while swimming. Three stents were placed in his heart artery. Nola says, “Pray for his patience. He hates to sit and do nothing except heal.”

**Sandy Northey** had foot surgery.

**Bob Stephenson**, former Lead Section Leader, had cardiac surgery in June.

**Anna Blue** graduated from high school. “It is just amazing how fast the time has gone by; I remember many of you warning me back all those years when she was only seven when you first met her.” Tom.

**From the diamond**

**Charlie Perry** has been coaching the Milford Sun Devils, a 6th grade girls’ softball team, on which his granddaughter plays. They were 13-0 for the season. Then they won the championship with a final record of 15-0-2.

Little known fact: **Doc Mann** played on the Peoria (IL) All-Stars which went to the Little League World Series in Williamsport.

**Big Chief Picnic**

...will be at Jim Owens on Friday, August 19th
D.O.C. Picnic
D.O.C. held its annual picnic Monday, June 13, 2016, at the Sylvan Lake Community Center. The 70 present were primarily from the host chapter and from Pontiac-Waterford. After brats, hamburgs, salads and drinks, Dave Montera stepped in to organize a show that included the 13 members of the PW, directed by Mike Frye, singing “I Don’t Know Why” and “Saints.” D.O. C. sang two songs. Then quartets got the opportunity, including TWO NEWBIES AND TWO OLDIES (Pat Hefner, Austin Summer, Charlie Perry, and John Cowlishaw) singing a well-received “Little White House in the Glen,” EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN, CODA HONOR, and LIMITED FRYDITION. The choruses joined for “The Lion Sings Tonight.” Mike Frye taught a tag - “Close your eyes, in sleep,” and the evening ended with “Irish Parting Prayer” and “Keep the Whole World Singing.”

Check out the rest of Cowlishaw’s and Montera’s photos at http://detroitoakland.org/happenings/2016DOCPicnic/index.html

Bob Marshall is one of the four singers chosen for the quartet in Irene, A Nostalgic Musical Comedy, to be performed by Heart of the Hills Players August 18-21.

Jerry Ramey has returned to chorus rehearsals.

4 UR Pleasure at Quartet Boot Camp
By Jack Teuber
The fifth Quartet Boot Camp was on Saturday, June 18th at the Okemos Conference Center. There were eleven quartets participating including 4 UR PLEASURE. There were nine coaches participating. The day was organized by Roger Lewis, Paul Ellinger, and the Quartet Champions Association

4 UR PLEASURE received coaching from Jamie Carey, Garrett Gillingham, Vicki Gibson, and Kendra LaPointe. The coaches were great. Emphasis was placed on rehearsal plans and techniques, vocal production, breathing and better interpretation. Each session was 90 minutes in duration. Three of our sessions were shared with another quartet. Our session with Garrett Gillingham was ours exclusively.

A new feature of the Quartet Camp was Quartet Factory. This was a group of twenty independent singers that were grouped into five new quartets for the day, three of whom performed at the Closing Session.

Art Carinci is organizing another Golf Outing, July 21.
Hi John! Our golf outing will take place this year on Thursday, July 21, at the Tanglewood Golf Course starting at 12:30 P. M. The course is on 10 Mile Road between Wixom Rd and Milford Rd. in South Lyon. A Spaghetti and salad dinner will follow golfing at about 5:30 +/- at Art Carinci’s house located at 23660 Spy Glass Hill Dr. N., South Lyon 48178. All guys are welcome for G.O.L.F. [i.e., Gentlemen Only, Ladies Forbidden]. And for the dinner afterward.
Quartets

4 UR PLEASURE was able to visit Eileen Marshall, May 27, at Our Lady of Lourdes, as she recovers from her shoulder surgery. They also entertained Eileen and 15 of her fellow diners as they enjoyed their luncheon. 4 UR PLEASURE's six-song set was well received. As they were leaving the building they passed two nurses who claimed to be Mary Lou. The final song was dedicated to Mary Lou.

4 UR PLEASURE was out to visit a pair of Chieftains on Thursday, June 16. Bill Auquier was doing quite well after his hip transplant. He is doing well at his home. Ted Prueter enjoyed our time with him. He may be staying at the Pavilion of Canterbury on the Lake for some time. Bill and Ted both enjoyed and sang with the quartet in a five-song set. Jim Owens joined the quartet as Lead for a Day, filling in for Gil Schreiner.

4 Ur Pleasure will be performing at Fisk Farm's fund-raiser for the Waterford Historical Society, on Sunday, September 11.

Pat Hefner, Charlie Perry, and John Cowlishaw accepted James Gean's request to quartet with him for a 45th anniversary dinner, June 26. They sang three polecats.

Chapter 2016 Performances thru June:
48 gigs to 3,132 people (plus TV audiences)

MEMBERSHIP: (at 51)

Renewals: Jim McMain (5), Pete Mazzara (16), Tom Jackson (17), John Northey (27), Fred McFadyen (49).
Overdue: Walt Bachmann, Mike Keith, Zach Schroeder
July Birthdays: Tom Jackson (1), Chuck Murray (1), Bill Maxfield (29), Dar Johnson (31)

Our median age is 75, and our median years of membership is 16.

District

The Gentleman Songsters Chorus of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter meets weekly at the Royal Oak Middle School choir room. This year, the school's choir director invited the Chorus to sing with the students at their annual Spring Choir Concert. The result was a most rewarding success for both the audience and the singers!

Ray Sturdy

Furthermore it was the lead-off article in the Society's June 17th LiveWire. With such notoriety, they may need this B-29, the second fly-worthy B-29 in the country.

“John, that is great! I love it. We have our pilots ready as well. Euel Kinsey and George Burkett are both instrument rated pilots!”

Dave Montera

Baritone Shuffle

UPPER DECK, our quartet rep in Nashville, has a new baritone; William Stutts, Jr. replaces Brandon Ciesielski. Joe DeSantis has replaced Roger Boyer in the very busy EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN.

Pioneer District 2016 Fall Convention
October 14-16, 2016, Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo, MI 49007
The site for convention registration is now open at:
https://pioneerdistrict.wufoo.com/forms/r1hjx3fd0uy1917/
Grosse Pointe Picnic, Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Pier Park at Lakeshore and Moross.
Singing, Food, Drinks, Singing, Beverages, Singing
Tony Schulte

Traveling Jug fundraising activities
By Dave Montera

At the Windsor Send-Off Show held Friday, June 10, 2016 the Detroit-Oakland Chapter was pleased to announce the results of the fundraising events held to support the Traveling Jugs! For those of you who don’t recall, the Traveling Jugs are used to promote inter-chapter activities, and to raise funds for the quartets that will be competing at both the International and the Mid-Winter contests. [By using] those donations [to] support the quartets, the Windsor Send-Off Show proceeds are able to be earmarked specifically to the chorus representative to the International Convention.

After a many-year hiatus the traveling jugs returned as a fund raising event last year. This invention of the old Oakland County Chapter, which had been continued (and now revived) by the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, raised $2,100 in 2015 for the quartets. In 2016 we were again able to raise a total of $2,100 that has been distributed to the two quartets headed to Nashville next month, with a portion being reserved for the Senior Contest representative at Mid-Winter in San Antonio in January, 2017.

While DOC is proud of the efforts of the various chapters and individuals in support of this fund-raising activity, we also noted that the money we raised is not enough to pay for the All-Events tickets necessary for each of the quartets. So DOC is issuing a challenge for the 2017 Jug Fund! We want to raise enough money to provide each of the competing quartets with their All-Events tickets for International. That will require the District to help us raise approximately $3,000 (assuming 3 quartets).

To assist in that DOC will again match, up to $100, any contribution made to the Jug Fund by a Chapter over the next year. So, if your Chapter hosts a Jug event, and raises $250, DOC will match $100 of that money. If you raise $75, DOC will match that $75. Even if you do not host an event, but donate money directly to the Jug Fund, DOC will honor the match as described above. Please keep in mind these are funds you donate directly to the jug fund, not the contributions your chapter may make to the quartets directly.

We thank all of the Pioneer District members that have helped us revive this great tradition, and look forward to meeting our goal for next year of equal distributions to the quartets in an amount sufficient to pay for 4 all events tickets!

As Paul Ellinger always says -- PIONEER HO!!!!!!!

Dave Montera
Immediate Past President, Detroit-Oakland Chapter
Pioneer District Executive Vice-President
Pioneer District V.P. - Music and Performance

The Voice Will Sing at Mid-Winter, next January.
By Mike Hansen, President, Pioneer District

It is my great privilege to inform the Pioneer District family that Pioneer District’s own “The Voice” has been selected as one of only 20 choruses to participate in the BHS Youth Chorus Festival next January in San Antonio. We could not be more proud of the work of Aaron Pollard, his team, and the hard working young men of The Voice.

Their attention over the coming months will not only be directed toward great singing, but also raising money to support their trip to San Antonio. As their fund-raising efforts unfold, please remember to be generous in your support of the future of barbershop.

On behalf of the entire Pioneer District, congratulations to The Voice on this selection. Best of luck to all of you, and we’ll see you in San Antonio....
Harmony Mercenaries

(For background, see the article in the June, 2016 Smoke Signals.)
There has been ongoing blogging in our chapter and its Executive Board and its Music Committee about a possible role for the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter in the establishment of a Harmony Mercenaries section in southeastern Michigan.

FYI, Here is the list of songs for Harmony Mercenaries, West-Side version, as sent by Jamie Carey:

Returning Repertoire:
  Come Go With Me
  Hello Mary Lou
  Can You Feel The Love Tonight
  The Cup Song
  Breakin’ Up Is Hard To Do

New Songs:
  You Got A Friend In Me
  My Girl (arr. Wolf)
  King of the Road (arr. Kitzmiller)
  Under The Board Walk

The Southeast may choose different songs.

Jamie

Roger Holm has given permission to re-print his thoughtful letter to the Music Committee.

“Music Committee: I agree with Jack regarding our involvement in subject program as a chapter-wide effort. It would be a distraction and dilution of our ever-present effort to learn new songs of our choice for contest, annual show, and finally, our repertoire. We don't need - at least for now - the help of our fellow chapters to entertain as we typically do within our community.

I suppose we could help other chapters with theirs, but how willing would we be [as a chapter] to devote time and travel to do that? I think individual chapter members can involve themselves (Zach has expressed interest) as they choose. I guess the mechanism for them to sign up is to attend the meeting in Okemos June 18th [or follow up on such outputs as result from that meeting - Ed.]

However, I don't think we should ignore it completely, we can get a list (if not copies) of the chosen songs, and keep abreast of what’s happening (maybe Zach would be our rep.?). I see that we already know - or are somewhat familiar with - some of the current songs.

Who knows - in the future, we may need some help ourselves! We had 23 men at Log Cabin Days this year, and in past years we’ve had over 30.”

Roger

International

Barbershop International Convention, July 3 thru July 10
Headed to Nashville are Jack and Mary Teuber, and LIMITED EDITION and their “spice,” (plural of spouse).
All information for the Convention in Nashville is at: http://www.barbershop.org/nashville/
The main events are:
  Tue/5 – Eve – Youth Quartet contest
  Wed/6 – All day – Quartet Quarterfinals
  Evening – AIC Show
  Thu/7 – Afternoon – Quartet Semifinals
  Evening – AIC Show
  Fri/8 – All day – Chorus contest
  Sat/9 – Afternoon - World Harmony Jamboree
  Evening – Quartet Finals

Going into the Quartet competition, the top five qualifying quartets:
  1. FOREFRONT (CAR) – 91.6
  2. MAIN STREET (SUN) – 90.6
  3. LEMON SQUEEZY (SNOBS) – 90.5
  4. THROWBACK (SUN) – 87.8 (who sang in PIO conv., G.R.)
  5. AFTER HOURS (ILL) – 86.8
International Webcast
Sign up today at: http://www.bhswebcast.com
Broadcasts will be available for all contest sessions and the Thursday AIC show. Multiple packages available for all events, single events, .EDU email addresses, and more.

Barberscore.com is ready for you!
From: Alexander Boltenko (aka RusskiBass)
Just finished updating the Nashville contestants’ database. We have renewed and updated the data for returning contestants and added complete profiles for new ones with photos and social media data. You can track the song titles and arrangers during the performances almost in real time. www.barberscore.com

Membership growing through self-serve sign-up
Since October 2015, men have been able to do something they couldn’t do before: they found the Barbershop Harmony Society through their own means, clicked “join us” at barbershop.org and became full Society members without first joining a chapter.
After consultation with district and select chapter leaders, the Society Board last year dropped the requirement that members must belong to a Society chapter or district. The move is a small but important first step in a broader membership strategy. In an ever-changing social landscape where the consumer expects to help set the terms, this and coming strategies will help strengthen both the Society and individual chapters.
Click to read more about the results!

What’s Up Walter Bachmann?
Walter has returned to full-time work at a Lake Orion company called Info-Norm, which produces modular sign systems. For example they have done the signage in Beaumont Hospital. Walter will be traveling soon to Toronto on a project to provide signage for two Guggenheim Museum outlets in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. He and Margaret also have occasional care of their granddaughter. Walter says he will see us again in the Christmas season.

Media
Vocalosity at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Sunday, October 16, 4:00 p.m.
“Vocalosity is the all-new live concert event from the creative mind of artistic producer Deke Sharon (Pitch Perfect, The Sing-Off) that takes a cappella to a whole new level! This fast-paced production features an all-star ensemble of diverse young vocalists singing some of today’s chart-topping hits in brand-new arrangements that set a new standard for 12-part harmony. No genre of music is off limits in the world of a cappella and Vocalosity covers them all – from tenth century Gregorian chant and classical choral to barber shop quartet and bouncing doo-wop all the way to an exploration of the current sound of a cappella with music from The Beatles, Bruno Mars and more. It’s the aca-perfect concert experience!”
Prices start at $37 ($25 student)

Hamilton
The Broadway musical, Hamilton, just won eleven Tony awards, including Best Musical, and is also the recipient of a 2016 Grammy Award and the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Hamilton is about the life of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, with music, lyrics and book by Lin-Manuel Miranda.
Will we someday be singing its songs like we do for other Tony-awarded musicals, like “The Lion King,” “Phantom of the Opera,” “Aint Misbehavin’,” and “Cabaret”? (Although much of it is in hip-hop form)
Here’s a fine recent interview with Miranda on PBS: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAiEVjW-GNA
If you’d like to take a peek at its early form, here is Miranda singing one of the songs from what was still a concept piece, at the White House Poetry Jam in 2009. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Lin_Manuel_Miranda_White_House_Poetry_Jam_2009.webm
**Chord Identifier**

Have you ever been puzzled by what chord you’re singing? Or maybe Tom has said that the root of the chord should be a little stronger, and you wonder which note is the root?

Here’s a tool that you can use.

http://tools.markabout.com/cspell3.htm

Try it out. Let’s say the four voices are singing a Bb, F, Ab, and D. Click those boxes on the left side. Then, “Press to calculate.” Presto, it’s a dominant 7th chord, with the root being the Bb.

**Exec Bd Minutes, May 19, 2016, Excerpts from Teuber’s minutes**

Members present: Domke, Sturdy, Schroeder, DeNio, Holm, Owens, and Teuber.


VP Music and Performance: We need to continue to re-work our Guest Books to be guest-friendly and easy to navigate.

**Frontier** has agreed to headline our Fall show. We also have a signed contract with **DOUBLE-DATE**, a mixed quartet. Schroeder reported on his contact with **THE VOICE**. Agreed on a donation of $1,000 for their appearance on the 2016 Show. It was suggested that they perform four songs on the show and two songs at the AfterGlow.

**TICKET PRICES** for THE SHOW approved. Adults - $18; Child under 12 - $5; Group of ten or more - $12.

**CAST PARTY**—Agreed: $16.—at the Silver Lake Golf Course. Deluxe sandwich buffet with potato salad and pasta salad, and cookie trays.

**NEW BUSINESS---**Motion approved to purchase name badges for the entire chorus from the **SOCIETY**.

Gene Downie is working on new Directory that will include a page for the Big Chief Chicks.

**Reviews**

**Milford High School Cabaret**

By John Cowlishaw

I sat with Jack and Mary Teuber Friday night at Milford High School’s final vocal concert of the year, its annual Cabaret. The performers were all part of Center Stage, the group of 24 talented singers/dancers that have spent up to four years together. They sang fifteen songs, the last one a medley from Jersey Boys, plus solos, duets, and a quintet of the males. The singing was good (increasingly with the size of the group), but what was really impressive was that they did it with substantial choreography and with bright, smiling faces. For a Big Chief who has to think about whether to stand with his right or left foot forward, I was in awe.

The last part of the concert honored the seven departing seniors and welcomed the new members - two men and five women - chosen so as to maintain the equal gender number for dancing pairs. Ms. Maryann Lambrecht’s leadership was subtly apparent all evening long, even though for this concert, organized by the seniors, her role was to direct the pianist, drummer, and bass player from the back corner of the stage.

Two impressions:

1. It invoked nostalgia for that camaraderie and uninhibited joy of high school days.
2. They are so talented, what can they learn from old “f**’s” like us? And I think the answer is two-fold:
   a. The one thing that we can do that they cannot is to demonstrate that singing is a life-long possibility.
   b. We can introduce them to the joys of four-part harmony. This is mostly missing from high-school repertoires, and it is clearly appealing to youth, as demonstrated by the numbers of Maryann’s students who have taken advantage of Harmony Explosion camps. Even if we only demonstrate it at a C+ level, nevertheless they can sense, as Judge Jeff Taylor put it in Grand Rapids so memorably, “We sing a style of music that is much, much harder than it looks. We do dangerous music. We sing without instruments; we sing in very close voicing; we sing without the music in front of us; we do it all by memory; we even do it with some movement sometimes; and then we try to put our hearts and souls into what we’re
singing. So it's a very, very high-demand style of music. And almost none of us are professionals."

Thanks for a very revealing article dealing with a talented group of High School Students who, based upon your observations, really enjoy singing and performing!! In this day and age, when most of the world perceives "high schoolers" (not all, thank God!!) as cell phone addicts, who could care less about getting an education, it's refreshing to see the other side of the coin. Ms Lambrecht should be congratulated for her tireless devotion to those young adults, who are fortunate enough to receive her mentoring talent.

Zaven Melkonian

Forever Plaid, Meadowbrook Theatre
By Chuck Murray

Fellow "shoppers",

Well, we took Roger's advice seriously, and attended the matinee performance yesterday!

The Show is billed as 'barbershop', but is not quite what you, or I, might expect. It is more of a "high energy", "continuously entertaining" Broadway Show put on by four talented singers, and three accompanists! There is "non-stop action", with one song after the other, from beginning to end, and "no white spots"!

The "story" is about a "barbershop quartet" which meets with a disaster before they are able to get their "Plaid Tuxedos", and the play/singing takes place after they are deceased! The performance starts with the "quartet" walking down the right aisle from the rear, chanting "monk-ly incantations", as if they were on a "journey" from their deadly accident.

You will recognize many "barbershop style charts" such as, "Crazy 'Bout Ya Baby" and "Sixteen Tons" (which "morphs" into "Chain Gang" with the clink on the side of a ketchup bottle!) Other memorable favorites include "Heart and Soul," "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," "Moments to Remember," "Shangri-La," "Undecided," and the Beatles song, "She Loves You." Plus many others.

I repeat, there were "No White Spots" throughout the continuous, 90 minute performance!

Very entertaining!

If you have read the new "Harmonizer", you'll see, on page 28, a youth chorus called "Some Assembly Required". You can see them using similar "props", as did the "Forever Plaid" Quartet in their Meadow Brook performance. Those are.... "extended length toilet plungers" being used as microphone stands! Home-grown creativity! These led to "plunging right into" the next songs!

There was lots of audience interaction, including one lady who was brought onto the stage, to sit next to the pianist, and play right along with him!

The downside potential of this performance includes more tremolo/vibrato than my barbershop-tuned-ears like to hear, and the lack of seventh-chords "ringing" left me still "hungry" for some good, old fashioned chords! I am not sure the song arrangements were in the "barbershop style."

The matinee audience was comprised mostly "senior citizens," and our BCC marketing guys can learn from the fact that there were "multiple senior buses" in the parking lot! A clue! There exists a "marketing opportunity" in helping bus companies create "Eat and Show" outings for senior groups. (Paul Smith used to do this for the Flint Arrowhead Chapter, and he filled the parking lot of Grand Blanc HS with senior "Mystery Trip" buses for a Senior Matinee Performance!) Seniors enjoy "barbershop", and it appeared they really enjoyed this show!

Chordially,

CHUCKLES

["Forever Plaid" played through the weekend of June 19th]

Love, Life, and Loss, University of Michigan Men's Glee Club
By John Cowlishaw

Thanks to Tom Blue's heads-up, I watched the PBS broadcast of the Univ. of Michigan Men's Glee Club program Thursday night. For this year's Glee Club theme - Love, Life, and Loss - Director Dr. Eugene Rogers chose two works. The first, "Seven Last Words of the Unarmed," was composed by Joel Thomson, 27, who has a master's degree in choral conducting from Emory University and is now teaching at a private high school in Georgia. This classically-formed 15' work contains as its lyrics, the reported final statements of seven African-American men killed by law enforcement officers (or, in the
well-known case of Trayvon Martin, a neighborhood watch volunteer). For counterbalance, as a way to express the hope that can be found after profound loss, the second piece was Dr. Rogers’ arrangement of “Glory,” the song from “Selma” by Common and John Legend. The first piece has a small instrumental group at the end of a tunnel formed by two facing halves of the glee club. The second piece is accompanied by members of the group singing their way across the UofM campus, eventually linked arm-in-arm, as they display the strong sense of unity across the 100-man multiracial chorus engendered by performing these works.

This is a documentary film, which includes interviews with several of the participants, and was premiered April 27 in Ann Arbor.

What especially impressed me was not so much the vocal quality as the transparency of the faces which let show thru the strong feelings - in the first piece the outrage and empathy, no matter the ethnic group, Black, Asian, WASP etc. and in the second the sense of joyous unity and optimism, that thru music, the world can change.

Errata

Hi! I wanted to correct a small mistake in the current Smoke Signals. It states that the song FRONTIER competed with, "In Her Eyes," is from the musical The Secret Garden. That is incorrect - the song is originally titled "In His Eyes" and is from the musical Jekyll and Hyde. It's adjusted to "In Her Eyes" for a male quartet. Thanks for passing that info on, in case anyone wants to find it!
Cathy Cordle (FRONTIER tenor Chris Cordle's mom)

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)

2016
Jun 28, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Jul 3-10 International, Nashville
Jul 5, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Jul 12, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Jul 19, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Jul 21, Th, 12:30 Tanglewood Golf Outing
3:30 Spaghetti dinner at Carinci’s
Jul 21-23 Harmony Explosion, CMU
Jul 24-31 Harmony University, Belmont University
Jul 26, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC, or Grosse Pointe Picnic
Aug 2, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 18-21 Irene, Heart of the Hills Players
Aug 19 Big Chief Picnic, Jim Owens’ home
Aug 19,20 Bush League, Gaylord
Oct 14—16 Fall Dist. Conv., in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA
Nov 5, 7:00 72nd Annual Pontiac-Waterford Show

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye
President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
Members at Large - Eric Domke, Fred Pioch, Zach Schroeder, Ray Sturdy
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss, Murray, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)
Endgame

Definitions: Barberhood = barbershop + brotherhood

Vocal Pyramid: Quartets which performed June 14

- 4 UR Pleasure
- Art Carinci Quartet
- Brian Wyman Quartet
- Dave McDonald Quartet
- The Two Docs Octet