Nashville Report

The International Barbershop Convention in Nashville, Music City USA, is over. A final count of 8007 people attended, including Jeff Doig, Charlie and Diane Perry, Tom and Janis Blackstone, Jack and Mary Teuber, and John Cowlishaw and Corinne Bachman. Wayne and Valerie Oberstadt were also there.

To get the main news over quickly, the winners were:
- Chorus - AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY, St Charles, MO. - 96.8
- Quartet - FOREFRONT - 93.3
- Youth Quartet - PRATT STREET POWER (MAD) - 82.0

Wanting to view a chorus rehearsal Thursday, the Limited Edition quartet and wives chose the Ambassadors of Harmony. Thus they were expecting their excellent contest performance the next day - which brought the crowd roaring to its feet.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH0U4m1rJLk

One of the complaints about some choruses was “too much movement and over-plotting”; the Ambassadors had a little bit of choreography, but it never distracted from the musical story line, as some others did. The harmony was spot-on, and the synchronization and total involvement of the members (all 133 of them) were mesmerizing. Their final crescendos were goose-bumpable. Their score of 96.8 would be hard to beat. And it would have been a real surprise for any other chorus to win. They were followed by Central Standard (52 Men on Stage), Masters of Harmony (directed by Justin Miller, who also directs last year’s gold medal Westminster Chorus), Toronto Northern Lights, and Sound of the Rockies.

In the quartet contest, it was not as predictable. A number of quartets could have won. But in the end it was FOREFRONT, last year’s silver medalist. At 93.3, their closest rivals were LEMON SQUEEZY and MAIN STREET, with scores of 92.8 and 92.6 respectively. Signature and Throwback followed.

FOREFRONT, from left, Drew Wheaton, Kevin Hughes, Brian O’Dell and Aaron Hughes. (Lorin May/Barbershop Harmony Society)

“Forefront’s win comes after seven trips to the championship level, placing second for the past two years. The moment was particularly sweet as the medals were placed around their necks by retiring champions Instant Classic, their close friends and contest rivals who beat them to the gold last year.
“The Hughes brothers anchor the middle of the new quartet champs: Kevin sings lead and Aaron baritone, with Drew Wheaton on tenor and Brian O’Dell in the bass slot.

“Fun fact: This is the second year in a row that brothers win quartet gold together, and a repeat win for the Cardinal District.”

Note: MAIN STREET’s time on stage was well over ten minutes, and more surprisingly, the Mic Testers, a very funny NEW FANGLED FOUR, must have gone fifteen.

In the Youth Quartet contest, it was PRATT STREET POWER with an 82.0. A total of just three points separated the top seven contenders, including Pioneer’s own FRONTIER (Chris Cordle, Aaron Pollard, Brandon Smith, Cody Harrell), which placed fifth with a 79.8, another medalist for our fall show.

GREAT LAKES CHORUS set a new scoring record for Pioneer, finishing 22nd (out of 29) in the International Chorus Contest with their score of 80.4. (Wow, that’s up considerably from their 75.0 qualifying score, in GR!) They sang “Little Pal,” as Curtis Struyk looked into the eyes of his “stage” father, soulfully, for the whole song, as dad told him he hadn’t gotten a job and would have to leave.

Pioneer’s UPPER DECK didn’t seem to miss a step with their new Bari, William Stutts Jr, scoring a very nice 74.8 in the competition.

During their swan song set, INSTANT CLASSIC brought their friends GQ onstage to sing with them, amplifying a theme of the convention that women are going to play a larger role in the Society.

The convention contest venue was the Bridgestone Arena (where the Nashville Predators play), except for the Youth Contest, which was at the (smaller) Schermerhorn Center, home of the Nashville Symphony.

Their two songs were about fathers and sons. Of the Chorus’s 60 members, 25% are Father/Son combos! “We are ecstatic for breaking the 80 barrier, and showing that we belong at International.”

Bridgestone, Walk of Fame Park, and Schermerhorn (L to R) (J.C.)

Debbie Cleveland hosted the webcast. (J.C.)

The AIC show was also at the Schermerhorn for two nights and was simply outstanding, with an well-programmed sequence of performers - INSTANT CLASSIC, MASTERPIECE, RINGMASTERS, STORM FRONT, CROSSROADS, OC TIMES, VOCAL SPECTRUM, POWER PLAY, and (admittedly, showing their age) the 25th anniversary quartet, THE RITZ.
Pioneer’s The Auto Towners were given special tribute on the 50th anniversary of their 1966 Gold Medal; Carl Dahlke and Al Rehkop were there for the recognition.

As BBS goes more international, we heard the national anthems, not only of the USA and Canada, but Sweden (SNOBS), Germany (BING!), and Great Britain (BABS).

Aca-godfather (Marty Monson’s phrase) Deke Sharon was there to co-host the Saturday Night Spectacular.

Entering the Hall of Fame were John Miller (father of Justin, and a national media executive credited with getting barbershop onto The Today Show) and The Four Renegades (Gold, 1965)

Complete coverage at: http://www.barbershop.org/nashville/ and a 3 ½ minute video summary of the convention at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afAEQTDgm0c

Media

Great Northern Union
The Saturday Night Spectacular in Nashville included Great Northern Union singing, “Rhythm of Love” with Deke Sharon coming onstage to lead the audience.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLndByqMRq8&feature=em-subsdigest
They came from Minnesota, not to compete, but to sing in this Spectacular, plus they sang out in front at the Grand Ole Opry.

This song was also sung by the Youth Chorus Festival attendees at the Midwinter convention in Reno. “An extremely special moment that 400+ Midwinter attendees of junior high, high school and college ages will never forget.”
You can hear them at: https://youtu.be/Xkyw8fNuDaI
“Great Youtube vocal (watch for the red shirts: Cole Carey, Harrison Purves and Zach Schroeder.” Jack Teuber

BarbershopHarmony38
“Follow our Society’s YouTube channel to see videos as they are added. We’ll be sharing highlights from the AIC show and Saturday Night Spectacular, various quartet and chorus performances, and tribute videos for our anniversary quartets over the next few weeks.”
https://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38/videos

Barbershop Nashville Performances on YouTube, August 15
Change, it is a-comin’. Last year, nearly 500 new videos were added to the BHS YouTube channel in Pittsburgh.
This year, look for ALL convention recordings to hit the YouTube channel on August 15, ready to be watched, shared, and enjoyed by everyone. But at a cost. No more convention DVDs.
“While we honor the tradition of the convention videos (and your carefully curated collection of them,) the reality is that the production time and expense of creating them VASTLY outweigh the demand for the product. Sales have been sharply dropping each year, with less than 2% of our membership purchasing a quartet DVD in 2015 and even fewer for chorus DVDs. This, combined with skyrocketing YouTube views on our channel, tells us that it’s time to evolve our strategy and provide content in the format that members will use most.”

Here’s a sample: Ringmasters sing “The Bells of Notre Dame.” “One of the most talked about songs of the convention never appeared on the contest stage! Ringmasters presented this
stunning performance at the AIC show, bringing the audience (and a chorus of gold medalists) leaping to their feet.

“Arranged by Aaron Dale, this intricate piece takes us on a journey to 15th century France and presents the tale of the Hunchback of Notre Dame. This incredible performance is made even more dramatic by the stunning acoustics of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville.”

Around the Patch

Art Carinci organized another **Golf Outing**, July 21, at the Tanglewood Golf Course in South Lyon. A Spaghetti and salad dinner followed at his house located adjacent to the course.

(From Art Carinci)
12:48 P. M. marked the tee off time for the second annual Big Chief Chorus golf outing at Tanglewood golf course. To paraphrase the Marine saying, we were the few but the mighty. Present from the BCC for golfing were Mike Frye, Greg Moss and Art Carinci. We were joined by neighbors Chris DiCicco, John Savela and Steve Chulig.

Even though the golfing was truncated by the rain after 14 holes, rain did not dampen our spirits. (We probably could have finished all 18 if we hadn’t stopped to have Mike teach us four or five new tags along the way.)

Following golf, we were joined by John Cowlishaw, Roger Holm, Walt DeNio, and Jim Owens for a spaghetti dinner at Art's house and more singing. It was truly a great day of fellowship, singing and fun.

REPORT ON THE GROSSE POINTE PICNIC

The BCC had 21 members and four guests attending the Grosse Pointe interchapter picnic, Tuesday, July 26, at beautiful Pier Park in Grosse Pointe Farms under ideal weather conditions. Singing, Food, and Drinks were included.

There were five Chapters represented. Choruses performing were FLINT, GROSSE POINTE, PONTIAC-WATERFORD, ROCHESTER, and WINDSOR. The BCC was well represented with five quartets performing. The BCC was also represented in two other pick-up quartets

Total attendance announced was 120. Support for the JUG was announced at $225.

Thanks to Tony Schulte and the Grosse Pointe Chapter for organizing the event.

In harmony,
Jack
**Tom Blue returns** from Blue Lake August 9. Let’s show him progress on our show songs:

- Drivin’ Me Crazy
- For All We Know
- From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye
- I Don’t Know Why
- Little White House In the Glen
- With a Song in My Heart

**Big Chief Picnic**

...will be at Jim Owens on Friday, August 19th, 4575 Motorway, on Elizabeth Lake.

Chuck Murray is channeling a request by a Sweet Adeline Chorus to help serve beer at their concession at the Renaissance Festival. This is one lucrative way they secure funds for their chorus, without having to "sell ads" for anything! And every year, "these industrious ladies seek some "manly help" to move some beer kegs, ice, etc. as they pour their wares for the festive crowd!"

Shifts are either all day 9-7 or partial.

**Ted Prueter** is still at Canterbury, and he’d “really like to have a quartet visit and brighten his day with some Barbershop Harmony.”

**Sandy Northey** is undergoing very serious medical treatments.

---

**Quartets**

Design, courtesy of Voice of Rushmore

---

**Limited Edition at the Convention**

Stand-ins for Norman Rockwell, at Harmony Hall

All seven of us at Acme Feed and Seed

Jeff with Jack and Mary after hours
John and Jeff flew their planes to Nashville. The trip down was atmospherically exciting, and it threatened our arrival at the Convention. We landed, not at the busy Nashville International, but at the smaller, and appropriately named, John C Tune Airport, ten miles from downtown. Kid Rock lands there. During the flight we kept in contact on 122.75 MHz, despite Jeff’s gradually drawing ahead (120 knots) from John (95 knots). Tom and Charlie drove by car (at 60 knots).

The quartet stayed at the Capitol Hotel, about four blocks from everything. The walking was okay, except for the occasional rain cells.

The last performer, Chris Janson, reminded us of The Bird, Mark Fidrych. Here he sings “Buy Me a Boat.”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DF2f-XK96U4

Thursday morning, John attended the annual PROBE meeting, Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. The new emphasis is all about communications, whether it be by bulletins, social media, web sites, etc. Smoke Signals won 7th place (out of eight) in the bulletin contest. In Content, it scored much higher, but in Layout and Graphics, it can’t compare with some of the sweet sheets put out by editors with apparently much more time on their hands.

It made BHS more real to visit Harmony Hall, the BHS headquarters building. We did a tour, which included the lovely entry way with spiral staircase, the archives section in the basement, the staff offices, and the collections of music on upper floors. Corinne and Janis did the back-stage Ryman tour, original site of the Grand Ole Opry. (Johnny Cash’s dressing room?)
Charlie bought Nashville: Barbershop Style, with its BBS arrangements of famous country songs. Expect some new songs.

The news from Dallas hit us hard Thursday morning, and there was a protest sympathy walk on Broadway.

Protest march, July 7

**Limited Edition**

...sang at the 150th anniversary celebration of Four Towns United Methodist Church on Saturday, July 16. The event was made more interesting by learning of the central role the church played in the historical development of Waterford Twp. The area was populated, and “Methodized” in the early 1830s, and the church built in 1866.

About 40 people listened as they ate lunch, lunch that they had bought in raffles outside. The quartet sang ten songs to much applause. “I especially enjoyed watching a young girl, who got so enthusiastic when we sang that she grinned as she sat, and started swinging her feet back and forth.” There was a Sweet Ad there in the audience of Freddie’s acquaintance. Bob Stephenson’s wife was also there; Bob (past Lead section leader) suffered a stroke two months ago, and can no longer read.

As a staging area, the quartet warmed up at Complete Beauty Hair and Nail Salon, a mile west of the Church. As warmup continued, it became less of a rehearsal and more of a performance, as staff and customers gathered around. Owner Fay has bought program ads annually and welcomed us warmly. The nail tech’s son had just died in a traffic accident the day before, and everyone was pretty somber, so they especially appreciated hearing “It is Well With My Soul,” “What a Wonderful World,” and “When the Saints go Marching In.”

The quartet awaits conclusion of the lunch raffle.

**Chapter 2016 Performances thru June:**

50 gigs to 3,182 people (plus TV audiences)

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 50)

- **Renewals:** Bill Durham (2), Bob Greenwood (9), Jack Teuber (17), Neil Braun (27)
- **Due in August:** None
- **Overdue:** Walter Bachmann, Bill Dabbs, Mike Keith, Doc Mann, Charlie Perry, Zach Schroeder
- **August Birthdays:** Jim McMain (4th), Mike Keith (92 on the 5th), Pat Hefner (8th), Bill Auquier (24th), Jeff Doig (29th)
- **In Memoriam:** Aug 1, 2010 Wayne Cheyne #113

**District**

**Plans set for Bush League, Aug 19, 20**

Frontier will present the usual Masters Class at 7:00 pm. See what Aaron Pollard has to say about putting together a winning quartet.

Our judges are all from Ontario District which will give a new look at coaching. Barry Towner, The Category Specialist for Performance, will teach a class Friday eve on the changes required with Presentation Category becoming the Performance Category!
Go to harmoniemeisters.org to get all the forms you need and more information
Dale L. Hanson

It is with regret that the MountainTown Singers announce the resignation of Musical Director, Jessica Thompson. Jessica decided that the working relationship necessary for the chorus to succeed and fulfill its goals under her direction were simply not developing as intended.

International

LiveWire
The BHS publishes its news weekly on LiveWire. It has lots of good stuff. The issues are archived, but with a month’s delay, at http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs140/1102676682677/archive/11450131803.html
To get them as they are published, go to http://www.barbershop.org/news-events/livewire/ and fill in the Registration blanks.

Announcement from Harmony Foundation
After 13 years of service and leadership, Clarke Caldwell has decided to resign from his position with Harmony Foundation International, effective July 11, 2016. Sharon Miller, Chair of the HFI Board of Trustees, is temporarily fulfilling the duties of President/CEO of Harmony Foundation International. The Board's Nominating Committee has begun the process to fill the role of President/CEO.


SINGING, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE

Magical Moments
At the end of a long day we pulled in a driveway to deliver our 32nd valentine and a gentleman came out of the front door to greet us. He said, "I have a special favor to ask. I ordered this singing valentine for my wife and my daughter. Both of them are deaf. Would it be all right if I stand in the middle of the quartet while you are singing and sign the songs to my wife and daughter?" Of course the answer was "yes."

I personally was mentally and physically exhausted, but somehow the quartet was able to summon the emotional strength to complete our two song set, The Story of a Rose and Let Me Call You Sweetheart. The smiles on the faces of his wife and daughter while we sang and he signed is a picture that will never be erased from my memory. My exhaustion was gone and I was blessed with a cherished new insight about the beauty of singing, even for those who cannot hear.

John McDougald, Streamwood, IL

History

New issue of PRESERVATION now available online
In the July issue of Preservation, Grady Kerr’s journal of barbershop history, the cover story is about the Play-Tonics, who came so close to Gold, but didn’t. Their Warner Brothers record was the first barbershop quartet recording in a brand new thing called “Hi-Fi.” And the cover artwork featured an original illustration done especially for them by Rube Goldberg. Goldberg’s cartoons were well known for depicting complicated devices that performed simple tasks in indirect convoluted ways such as, in their case, getting a customer everything from a haircut to a manicure from a barbershop quartet singing a sad song. The concept itself is genius.
A. Barbershop Quartet a Sings a Sad Song.
B. Parrot Cries.
C. Midget Plumber Thinks There’s a Leak Somewhere and Runs to Fix it.
D. Releasing Mouse
E. Cat
F. Raises Back, Elevating Candle
G. Sets Off Guided Missile
H. Hitting Switch
I. Starts Machine Giving Customer Everything from a Haircut to a Manicure.

Local connection: The Play-Tonics were the guest quartet on the Pontiac chapter’s annual “Holiday of Harmony” January 21, as reported in the Feb-Mar 1961 Michigan Troubadour.

“Pontiac - They turned them away at the door when Pontiac chapter staged its annual “Holiday of Harmony” here Jan. 21. All of the tickets were sold a week in advance but still barbershop lovers milled around the gates trying to get in. Some of the late comers did. The program was headlined by the Playtonics of Teaneck, N. J. They were supported by the AireMales, the Michigan champions, the Autotowners Curbstone Serenaders, Merri-Men, PHDs, and Key Knights and the Sweet Sioux of the SOC Sweet Adelines chapter. The Revelaires, the Pontiac chorus under the direction of Rawley Hallman scored a hit.”

Letters

I was looking through the Smoke Signals bulletin on line when I noticed a couple of names I remembered from way back in 1964 to 1972 when I was a very active member of the then Pontiac chapter. I’d like to give a big hello to Mike Frye. Back then a young man just starting in Barbershop much like myself. I learned a lot working with Bill Pascher and the guys back then. It’s a time in my life I’ll never forget.

As of now I am a 49 year member, I sang many, many years in quartets called the “Jokers” Wild Comedy and show quartet, (the original Florida Jokers, not the new international jokers who were never funny. And also the “All For Fun” Comedy Show Quartet that traveled all through the eastern states entertaining for some 16 years. From what I learned from Bill Pascher I went on to be the stage production manager for the Sunshine district for 15 years and at 78 years old am still active in calling Barbershop shows, stage production and stage prop manufacturing. Just like I did in Pontiac. Even ended
up the 2009 Hall of Fame inductee after chairing two mid-winter conventions, co-chairing a third, serving on the convention committee for 15 years and chairing so many annual shows and district conventions that I lost count. And all of that stemmed from the thrill of singing with and learning from the Pontiac Barbershoppers.

Good Luck in your future and a big hello and thank you to a really great Pontiac/Waterford chapter.

Lee Frayer
lee@FrayerProductions.com
Web Chorus risers.com
941 953-3752
Sarasota, Florida

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
2016
Aug 2, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 9, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 16, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 18-21 Irene, Heart of the Hills Players
Aug 19, F, 5:30 Big Chief Picnic, Jim Owens’ home
Aug 19, 20 Bush League, Gaylord
Aug 23, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 30, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Sep 6, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Oct 14—16 Fall Dist. Conv., in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA
Nov 5, 7:00 72nd Annual Pontiac-Waterford Show
Nov 16, 12:30 Gig, Auburn Hills Snr Center
Jun 24, 2017, 3:00 Log Cabin Days

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

Tag

23. Foolish Over You (Each Time I Fall In Love)

(From Paul Howe’s Lansing Woodshedder Weekly)