The 72\textsuperscript{nd} show was a smashing success. Given a theme of “Let’s Go Cruisin’”, the team of Doig, Mazzara and Bevington came up with a plot that went like this: Donna had rewarded the chorus with a cruise, but hadn’t realized it was to be a working cruise. The chorus and its quartets worked the nether regions of the ship, including the Bahama Room and the Jamaica Room, barely seeing the light of day. At the end they were given a reprieve at which they broke into a cruising song medley.

The audience appreciated the enthusiasm and harmony of the thirty seven Big Chiefs on stage, as we sang thru a set of eleven songs, interspersed with the quartet croonings of Local Color IV (yes, Doc Mann made it thru, despite feeling poorly), Three Great Guys, 4 UR Pleasure, 4 GVN, Limited Edition, and Bidin’ Our Time. The Classy Dancers returned - to dance to “For All We Know” - choreographed by the girls themselves.

Then it was time for special guests, The Voice, Double Date, and Frontier.

It was a very lively audience (546 present); and they also commented favorably on the variety in the show - mixed quartet, varied time periods, various ages, fog horns, etc.

Jamie Carey was invited to critique the show, as part of the district’s Standing Ovation Program.

His Summary: Overall

I enjoyed the show – great guests – good number of guys on stage – the show was well run (tickets, program, location, signs, etc....). If I was an audience member – I would certainly attend next year’s show!!!

His Summary: Areas of Improvement

1. Make sure the theme is set up and clear. I would use more props, stage setting if you are using a theme.
2. I might cut back on the number of songs and work on perfecting a fewer number.
3. Improve introductions
4. Make sure quartets are show ready, including their introduction and how to use the microphone.
5. Make sure you have an MC to announce feature groups and have their microphones ready on stage.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do further to assist The Big Chief Chorus!

Thank you,
Jamie Carey

Maryann Lambrecht and her students and families bought 35 tickets to the show, stimulated by the presence of four MHS students in The Voice.

Mrs. Lambrecht with Cole, Tyler, Jeremy & Jake from Center Stage after their Performance with The Voice at Big Chief Chorus Concert
Prez Jack’s Summary:
THANK YOU TO: 
JEFF, PETE AND DONNA for creating and redesigning a flexible SHOWFLOW AND SCRIPT.
TOM BLUE--- your patience and expertise in preparing the Chorus for the Show. Great costume.
EMMA BLUE--Outstanding performance "In Your room"
DONNA BEVINGTON--- a lot of hard work to keep the performance moving.
ART CARINCI-- your motivation and hosting Double Date
JOHN COWLISHAW-hosting the Classy Dancers and arranging the “Cruise Medley” with Tom Blue
WALT DeNIO  -- providing pitches, water and show ads
JEFF DOIG-- script writing, sound expertise set and stage details
ERIC DOMKE--handling the huge task of ticket sales and accounting
BEN FRICK--- all details concerning the performance center, sound, light and stage expertise
MIKE FRYE-- being the M.C. at the After-Glow (well done)
BOB GREENWOOD -- helping Fred Pioch at After-Glow
PAT HEFNER--Newcomer of the year anchoring three quartets at tenor
ROGER HOLM--providing Show Talent, Show Program and lots more
PETE MAZZARA---assisting Jeff with the script and offering common sense to the Chorus
FRED McFADYEN--assisting Tom in preparing the Chorus and recommending DOUBLEDATE. They added a lot to the Show.
DOUG METZGER--an amazing Show Program and manning the ticket table with your family
GREG MOSS---handling inter-net sales and posting cheat sheet reminders on the stage
CHUCK MURRAY-- continuing to encourage new quartets from the Chorus
JIM OWENS--keeping finances in line and assisting Eric with ticket sales
FRED PIOCH-- keeping track of the After-Glow attendees and ticket sales
LANCE SHEW - advertising reckoning, hosting Frontier and all, Sign Placement around Mott.
ZACH SCHROEDER-- your work with communicating with Frontier and hosting The Voice
RAY STURDY---great work on the flyers and mailers
AUSTIN SUTHERS---nice stage presence and well done singing lead with two or three great guys.
A Successful Show.
Jack

Jack, you are to be thanked for all of your leadership and knowledge required for a show like this. The list of workers is a testament to just what a show like this takes and how nice things are when we all work together.
Eric

Around the Patch

The 2016 Awards Ceremony and Installation of Officers...
... was held Tuesday, November 22, at OverTyme Grille.
Following a pizza and salads dinner, President Jack Teuber MC’d as the 52 members and guests heard warblings from:
The Big Chief Chorus
4 Ur Pleasure with Dave McDonald
Local Color
Three Great Guys
Limited Frydition
Bidin Our Time

Dave Monterra inducted the new officers before joining his quartet,
Coda Honor, to sing.
Chuck Murray presented several awards.

Gene Downie presented the Rawley Hallman Music Man of the Year Award to John Cowlishaw and Tom Blue for their work arranging and directing “Cruise Song Medley.”

Jack Teuber presented the William Pascher Founder’s Award to Mike Frye, and Mike Frye presented the Barbershopper of the Year Award to outgoing President Jack Teuber.

Barbershopper of the Month, Austin Suthers

Music Committee Notes, November 20, 2016
The Music Committee met at Roger Holm’s home November 20 to discuss last year’s music program and plan next year’s.

Present: Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, Holm, Murray, Schroeder, Teuber

Some items:
1. Theme for next year’s show. “Holidays” or some variation thereupon, focusing on the holidays of November and December, especially Christmas.
2. Ongoing concern over lost music. The committee has asked the Board to consider imposing a $2 fee for replacing lost music.
3. To give Tom more time for rehearsal, physical and vocal warmups will be reduced in length. A few stretches for physical warmup, and the assumption that most men have warmed up in the car, so that only warmup at the group level should be necessary - i.e. intonation, vowel uniformity, etc.
4. Trying out monthly sectionals. Each section would be expected to meet early, one Tuesday a month, to conduct a sectional rehearsal.
5. Possible guest quartets were discussed.
6. Song list for 2017 was discussed. New songs included: “There’ll be no new tunes on this old piano” and “Try a Little Tenderness.”
7. Tom Blue’s comments: Two goals of (a) consistency in rehearsals, and (b) more ambitious in-house quartetting.
8. Incoming Music Committee Chairman Zach Schroeder:
   a. Continue a focus on youth
   b. Using our rehearsal time more effectively
   c. Members taking responsibility for learning the music

**Quartets**

**Bidin’ Our Time**

*Bidin Our Time* represented the Big Chief chorus at the Auburn Hills Senior Center on Wednesday, Nov 15, since there were not enough available singers to make a full chorus.

**Chapter 2016 Performances thru November:** 69 gigs to 5,453 people (Plus TV audiences)

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 51)

- **New Member:** Bill Sclesky. Welcome, Bill!
- **Renewals:** Bruce Brede (19), Mike Keith (35) (for 2016)
- **Due in December:** Walt DeNio, Mike Keith (for 2017)
- **Overdue:** Bachman, Doyle
- **Transfer to Frank Thorne:** Ted Prueter
- **December Birthdays:** Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23rd), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Jim Owens (28th)
- **Medical:**
  - **Dave Stone** broke his sacrum, falling in the bath tub Nov 11. “He is at Sanctuary of White Lake rehab. He is stronger, can walk with walker but only with assistance, pretty unsteady, still lots of pain. He asked for his barbershop book and I took it to him. I really doubt he will be back to chorus but he’s a fighter, so who’s to say. Hopefully, he will be back at Independence Village for your concert there on 12/6.” (Peggy McVea)

**Len Barnes** broke his hip, from a fall. “He is at Canterbury on the Lake in the Pavilion wing (rehab), room 1-25. Bob M, Zach S., Eric D. and Fred P. visited him. He is in good spirits and glad he has remained active as this will be an asset in his recovery.”

**In Memoriam:**
- Dec 7, 2001, Bob Woodward, #8
- Dec 18, 2005, Bob Wisdom, #57

**District**

**November Troubadour**

The November, 2016 Troubadour is online at [http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

This is the last Troub by retiring editors John Cowlishaw, Tom Ennis, and Greg Humbel.

The “Spotlight on a Chapter” shines on Pontiac-Waterford in this issue, page 28. “I hope that every member will read it, especially our newer members, because our chapter has a rich history, that we can be proud of.”

**Flint - Arrowhead Chorus Christmas Show**

December 4, 2016 - 3:00 p.m.
[Select here for more information](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

**D.O.C. - Chorus - Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village**

December 28, 2016 - 7:00 pm
[Select here for a map](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

**Leadership Academy with Johnny Appleseed District**

January 6 - 7, 2017
Doubltreet Hotel, 175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, OH
Sign up before January 2, 2017 for discounted rates
[Select here for more information](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

“As you may know, we had to cancel ours last year due to poor registration. Johnny Appleseed District (JAD) has kindly invited all Pioneer chapter leaders to attend their Leadership
Academy. The registration form and info is on the PIO website. Cost is $150, including room, a legitimate chorus expense.”

**Windsor - Uncle Sam Night**
January 20, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.
South Windsor Knights of Columbus Hall
Select here for more information

**New MountainTown Director**
The MountainTown Singers have chosen Kyle Howard as their new Musical Director.
Kyle is relatively new to barbershop, but has extensive musical experience, including both instrumental and choral ensembles, school musicals and operas in the education setting, and experience as a stage manager with the Chattanooga Ballet and Opera.

**International**

**Varsity Vocals announces new A Cappella Open Competition**
“We at Varsity Vocals are thrilled to announce the first season of the International Championship of A Cappella Open! The Open (#acaopen) is an all-access a cappella tournament, meaning for the first time, we’re throwing out our eligibility rules. We want to bring together singers and singing groups of all ages and stages of life - regardless of experience, origin, student status, or school affiliation - to compete on an international stage.
“The 2017 Open Finals will take place in CARNEGIE HALL in New York City on SATURDAY NIGHT, September 23, 2017. Did we just blow your mind? READ MORE “
Ready to compete? First prize is $25,000.

**BHS Conventions**
http://www.barbershop.org/sanantonio/

In this trial year, five district choruses were invited to participate in San Antonio: **Evergreen, Ontario, Carolinas, Southwestern,** and **Johnny Appleseed.** Each chorus will sing a two song set, with the performances interspersed within the **Youth Chorus Festival** on Friday, January 20th. Festival scoring will be used (same as the Youth Chorus Festival) with an overall champion to be named.

**Senior Chorus Festival** makes debut at Midwinter 2017
One of the best parts of the Midwinter convention is bringing our youth and senior events together, creating a unique opportunity for those groups to come together as musicians and performers. This year, a pilot **Senior Chorus Festival** will be added to the mix!


**HARMONY UNIVERSITY** - July 23-30, Nashville, TN

**SINGING, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE**

**No More Shouting! (From the Concho Capers)**

Lis Lewis, Voice Teacher and Performance Coach

Lis Lewis is a voice teacher and performance coach in Los Angeles whose clients include Rihanna, Britney Spears, Colbie Caillat and many more. She has been working with recording artists for over 30 years. Her website, The Singers Workshop, is designed to help pop singers develop their own singing careers by providing information, news and singing products. Lis is the author of the books The Singers First Aid Kit and The Pop Singers Warm-Up Kit.
“Most beginning singers think they have to push a lot of air pressure to sing higher, louder or longer. (They often think that’s what it means to ‘sing from the diaphragm’). Too much air pressure leads to straining, limited range, bad pitch and flat tone. It will make you run out of air faster. Great singers make it sound easy because they have learned how to keep relatively even air pressure across their whole range. No more shouting!”

www.thesingersworkshop.com

MEDIA

Earworms

Everybody complains about earworms; no one does anything about them.

But British scientists have been studying the maddening effects when a pop song keeps popping into your head - and won’t depart. Turns out there are scientific, mathematical, and musical reasons why sticky songs are so frustratingly sticky.

They have an actual scientific label: Involuntary Musical Imagery, or INMI.

According to the first large-scale study of earworms, such songs usually have a faster tempo, a fairly generic and easy-to-remember melody, and specific kinds of intervals, such as leaps or repetition, which set them apart from your average pop song.

The team provided a list of the nine most often-named earworms by study participants. (Beware of Lady Gaga if you are trying to avoid earworms; three of the nine songs are hers.)


Text Me Merry Christmas

STRAIGHT NO CHASER sings this Christmas song behind a cute cartoon.  https://youtu.be/EmhfdQIoiy0

Adam Scott’s TTBB arrangement is available thru BHS.

STRAIGHT NO CHASER will be performing in Detroit, at the Fox, Dec 10.

Web Sites

The chorus website is www.bigchiefchorus.org
The district website is http://pioneerdistrict.org
The BHS website is http://www.barbershop.org

Personal Story

“Cruise Song Medley” is the second arrangement that Tom Blue and I have now cooperated on; “Route 66” was the first. Several people have asked how that is done. So, here goes, for “CSM.”

Sometime after our 2015 show, the Music Committee met and decided to adopt a Cruise Boat theme for the 2016 show. But we didn’t have any cruise songs (until BOT chose “Cruising Down the River”).

It was May 9, when I had the idea of making a simple arrangement of “cruising songs” that could serve as an introduction, or framework, for the show. The next day was cold and rainy, and I spent it googling cruise songs and choosing four:

“Sea Cruise” Frankie Ford
“Kokomo” Beach Boys
“Come Sail Away” Styx
“Theme from Love Boat”

I immediately bought the scores for all four songs from MusicNotes (for about $5 each) which they have permission to sell “for personal enjoyment and musical fulfilment.” Arranging and performing them publically requires permission of the copyright owners.

Conveniently three were in the key of C; Love Boat is in the key of Ab, but could be transposed up to C. The recording of “Sea Cruise” by Frankie Ford began with a foghorn, which I thought would be ideal to begin the medley, especially if the pitch were altered to the key of the medley. (Audacity allows alteration of the frequency of any sound.)

In the interests of simplification, I chose just the most recognizable section of each song, and even then I kept cutting back to reduce the whole medley to less than three minutes.

Then I began typing (into my computer) the melody lines, using Finale, which is a software that will accept musical notes and then do all kinds of fancy things with them, like combining four voice
tracks, transpose to a new key, change the tempo, play it back as various kinds of instruments, and print it out.

By that evening I had most of the melodies inputted. Now the hardest part - figuring out harmonies for the other three parts.

A first decision was that the bouncy rhythmic songs (“Sea Cruise” and “Love Boat”) had to have a bass part that went boom-boom-boom, but I had to find the right sequences for that. And especially sequences that could be repetitive without destroying the harmony of any section, so that they would be easy to memorize.

For the baritone and tenor parts, I went back and forth between two methods:
- Looking at the chords that were used in the instrumental scores, and choosing Br and T notes that reproduced those chords.
- Playing what I had already written and try to woodshed the 3rd and 4th voices.

Thus, a first draft. Then I would just sing the whole thing thru in each voice part, to be sure it was singable, if it was almost like a melody line for the T or Br or Bs. If it wasn’t, if there was some awkward jump, I would look at the possibility of exchanging the notes between two voice parts, or maybe choosing a new chord. At the same time I was paying attention to the vocal range that was demanded of each voice.

It felt right to sing the song in the order that I have above, but it also felt right to add “Won’t you let me take you on a ... sea cruise” in measures 58,59 as a link between “Come Sail Away” and “Love Boat.”

I didn’t yet have vocal tracks for the medley, so I pasted together the corresponding sections of the original versions and sent it out to the Music Committee to get some feedback before continuing further.

With encouragement from Director Tom and Music VP Roger, I sent the rough draft to Nashville on May 16, so that Janice Bane could begin getting the license for our arrangement from the four copyright holders. By August 5, she had them.

In July, Tom had respite from his teaching load, and began to work on it. It was his suggestion to sing “Love Boat Theme” at both the beginning and the end. He made changes in some of the chords, added some more tenor notes to one section that I had written as more of a monotone, cleaned up the tempo in “Come Sail Away,” worked on the bass percussion sections, and other things. He had some hope that “a few more “juicy 7th chords” could be inserted,” but we finally decided to keep it simple. This medley was going to succeed by being bouncy, rhythmic, repetitive, recognizable, and simple fun.

Now it was time for me to lay down the vocal tracks for each voice part.

The final change was due to Freddie, who recognized that the forward motion of the medley would be improved by removing the 3rd “love” in measure 14.

The permission to arrange (~$200) and sing (~$50) was pricey enough that Tom and I have agreed to give any royalties from its sale thru the BHS Marketplace to our chorus which paid for them.

Letters

We had THE BEST time last night with the Pontiac Waterford Chapter last night. We extend a heartfelt thank you to that incredible group of men for their hospitality and energy. It was one of the most welcoming experiences we have had in barbershop!

FRONTIER QUARTET

Hi Mr. Teuber,

I am so glad that we were able to help out this year. [Ed: Members of the National Honor Society served as ushers.] The students that went said that it was a very cool concert to attend, and they were happy to help out.

We look forward to helping out again next year.

Thanks,

Lisa Batchelder
NHS Advisor, Waterford Mott High School

Small surprise this, that I am doing my disappearing act once again. My Tuesdays nights just can’t be spared on an on-going basis during this busy era for us Michigan manufacturers.
I sure enjoyed this go-round. Thank you gentlemen very much for mentoring me in the great, happy world of barbershop singing.

Winter well.

Mike Doyle

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

2016

Nov 29, 7:00   Christmas Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Dec 6, T, 6:30  Independence Village
Dec 8, Th, 6:30  Canterbury on the Lake
Dec 13, T, 6:30  American House, Stone-School
Dec 15, Th   Lourdes
   5:00 p.m. -  Fox Manor - Independent Living
   5:30 p.m. -  Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center - New building
   6:00 p.m. -  Clausen Manor - Memory Care
   6:30 p.m. -  Mendelson - Assisted Living
Dec 20, T, 6:30  Lakeland Place
Dec 22, Th
   3:00   Lockwood of Waterford
   4:00   Inn at Cass Lake

2017

Jan 3, T, 7:00   Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Jan 6,7     Leadership Academy, Columbus, OH
Jan 20, F, 7:00  Uncle Sam Night, Windsor
Feb 4, Sa, 2:00  Orion Twp Library
May 12, F, 2:00  Mother’s Day Celebration, Elmhaven manor.
Jun 20, T, 5:00  Bus leaves for Frankenmuth
Jun 24, Sa, 3:00  Log Cabin Days (Warm-Up 2:00)

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP (2017)

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye
President: Eric Domke (248-674-2323)
Past President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)
VP: Music and Performance: Zach Schroeder (248-929-1285)
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)

Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
Members at Large - Pat Hefner, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Austin Suthers
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Chorus Librarian: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: HoLm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
            Murray, Mazzara, Schroeder
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)