



BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

Vol. 8, No. 5, (#89)

September 1, 2008

Detroit Princess Cruise

For the second, and probably last, year (Jack counted only 59 in the audience), the Big Chief Chorus performed on board the Detroit Princess. During a forty minute show under Tom Blue's direction, the chorus sang:

Hi Neighbor
When Good Men Sing
Ain't Misbehavin'
Let the rest of the world go by
Aura Lee/Love Me Tender
In My Room
Under the Boardwalk
America the Beautiful
God Bless America
Precious Lord
Irish Parting Prayer
Keep the Whole World Singing

In addition, CELEBRATION sang "Bury Me On the Lone Prairie;" Freddie's Flint Quartet, IN ACCORD, sang "Everything's Coming Up Roses;" Bob Butcher baried with FOUR WHEEL DRIVE "In the Still of the Night," and NORTHBOUND SOUND sang "For All We Know."



Photo by Lynne Metzger

The Big Chief Chorus sang August 2 for the **Amy Jamison Benefit Concert**, at the Rochester Church of Christ. They were joined by the Guardians of Harmony, by CODA HONOR, FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, SINGING WITH DAD, NORTHBOUND SOUND, B NATURAL, and IN VOICE. IN VOICE was the hit of the afternoon, and showed why they are representing their region (comparable to the Pioneer District) for the second year in a row at Sweet Adelines International.

(You can hear them at their web site, <http://www.invoicequartet.com> and at MySpace Music. Click on: <http://www.myspace.com/invoicequartet>)
The chorus sang under Freddie McFadyen: "Aura Lee," "Under the Boardwalk," "Let the Rest of the World," "Precious Lord," and "Honey, Amy Medley." It was B NATURAL's swan song.

Almost \$4000 in donations was funneled through the Otisville Church of Christ.

"Days before the show the MC Joe Maxwell had a mini stroke. Just two days before the show it was learned that the doctor did not want him to do the show. This news almost put me in the hospital with my own heart attack. Like a true barbershopper Jeff Doig stepped up to the plate to MC the show. Not only did he do a great job, he saved my life. A Very big thank you to Jeff Doig" (Terry Jamison)

The **Annual Picnic** was held Friday August 22, at Bob and Eileen Marshall's home on Sylvan Lake. About forty people gathered to talk, enjoy each other's fine cooking, boat and play a few games. Trivia question: What is the fewest number of states that one could pass through to get from the Atlantic to Pacific oceans? Mann, Northey, Auquier and a few others came up with ten, and then found a way to reduce it to eight. Any less?

From the Director:

Men of the BCC,

Thank you all for your time and for singing on the Detroit Princess Cruise. I know that many of the people listening enjoyed your performance and especially the singing throughout and at the tables.

It has been a pleasure to work with you these past few weeks as the music has made substantial progress and the sound continues to improve and be more consistent with tone and pitch. Thanks for all of your hard work and commitment to making us a better barbershop chorus.

Just our usual reminders:

Tall and round vowels (the lips and tongue have to be involved)

Words, words, words (you can memorize them)

Expressive faces and some not too subtle complimentary gestures and body movement

Breathe low and expand the ribcage

Breathe together and we shall sing together

Watch the conductor as he may be in the right place

Continue to sing beside new members of the chorus (develop some independence, meet new guys and maybe form a future quartet, test your own ability)

Any questions on the notes, please ask because if we learn them wrong...hard to correct

I look forward to hearing you Tuesday evening as long as we are not too full from all of those Labor Day hotdogs!

AROUND THE PATCH

Show songs have been chosen: (1st half) – “Star Spangled Banner,” “American Trilogy,” “America the Beautiful,” “This is My Country,” “When Good Men Sing,” and “God Bless America.” (2nd half) – “Precious Lord” (and/or “Amazing Grace”), “Irish Blessing,” and “Keep the Whole World Singing.”

Ross Ensign is handling the distribution of **Ad Kits** and the production of the Show program. The deadline for program ads is October 14.

Bruce Brede has put out a call for quartets for the **Cast Party** after our Show.

President Doc Mann has announced the availability of “**Emergency Medical Forms**,” to be filled out by members who might need emergency care during chorus functions.

Roger Holm has received his 6th Man of Note award.

Erik Domke participated in **Singing with the Champs**, Aug 5, as he sang “Aura Lee” with FOUR WHEEL DRIVE. **Dave Shantz** did it on “Precious Lord” three weeks later.

Biker Bob Butcher took a spill in some loose gravel and got pretty banged up. However, the show must go on, and he sang with FOUR WHEEL DRIVE on the Cruise.

Because of the heat at Crary last fall, President Zaven had asked Tom Jackson for continued use of **Waterford Oaks** during the month of **September**. We return to Crary in October.

Our ever-busy webmaster, Jeff Doig, in response to a request from Dave Shantz, has now **linked member’s names on our web site** to their **biographical portraits** published over the years in Smoke Signals. If you haven’t taken a look at our web site lately, go to www.bigchiefchorus.org and scroll down “About Us” to “Chapter Members.”

Art Carinci writes that he is back in Las Vegas, NV for the new school year, working with the new "Academy" program they have initiated. He was kept so busy with family illnesses during his summer return to South Lyon, MI, that he couldn’t join us, but he intends to maintain his membership. “My best to all of the Big Chief Chorus.”

Fred DeVries’ email address has changed to fajmdevries@cavtel.net

Erik Domke’s is now mercuryfree@comcast.net

Gene Downie’s new address is genede3@att.net

The **Nominating Committee** seeks your input. See Greg Moss or Walt DeNio.

Through August, the BCC has done 79 **gigs** to 4582 people.

Anna Blue is using **Finale Notepad** to notate her song, “Sing Little Birdie.” See guys, nine-year olds use it; so can you.

Upcoming performances:

Fri, Oct 10, 7:30, 52nd Annual Woodshed Contest, Pontiac Country Club, 4335 Elizabeth Lake Rd. We’re the sponsors – Be there! NIGHT SHIFT has agreed to serve as judges.

Sun, Oct 12, 2:00 pm; warm-up 1:15. Orion Twp Library, 825 Joslyn Rd, Lake Orion, 48326. Red, white, or blue golf shirt, with black pants and shoes.

QUARTETS

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE SINGS AT A “WOODWARD DREAM CRUISE” FUNCTION (Submitted by Zav Melkonian)

On August 16 FOUR WHEEL DRIVE had the opportunity to perform at a private party during the fantastic Woodward Dream Cruise. Those of you who attended last year’s DOC-hosted picnic at Jack Day’s Royal Oak home are familiar with the venue. The quartet cruised Woodward from Long Lake Road to Maple in Zav Melkonian’s “Classic” 2001 Bonneville, then took the back roads to Jack’s home, arriving shortly after 10:00 AM. While the performance stage was prepared, we used one of Jack’s several golf carts to travel the half block to Woodward, where we spent an hour immersed in the world of vehicles of every type and description, from classics to rods, loving every minute of it. It suddenly occurred to us that we were getting a lot of attention from the people riding by and couldn’t understand why. After all we were just four guys, who happened to be dressed alike, in our very striking, brand new, green floral Hawaiian shirts, standing on the corner of Vinton Rd and Woodward Ave, right in the middle of the Woodward Dream Cruise!!! After hearing comments that ranged from, “Are you guys in a band?” (“No, we’re valet parkers, give me your keys”) to “Great Shirts!!” (“Thanks, buy one – get one free”). We began to get requests to sing, and obliged with a bell-chord “Hello, hello, hello, hello”, followed quickly by a variation on the “Darkness on the Delta” tag, which included the words Woodward and Cruise. Ya gotta be fast, cause those cars may be moving slow, but they are moving. Finally the sun and exhaust fumes got the better of us and we retired to Jack’s spacious yard, where he had assembled, from members of a car club, over thirty truly vintage (1920s thru the 1960s), classic automobiles.

We took the stage and sang four songs. Taking a break we were invited to feast on a never ending supply of hot dogs, brats and hamburgers (fresh off the grill), plus an endless assortment of side dishes. Beverages consisted of everything from water to soda and beer. Cookies, cake and ice cream were just a small example of the desserts available. Jack Day knows how to throw a party!!

After performing a second set of four songs, we left shortly after noon. As a first time cruise attendee, I came away with a very good impression of the event and am looking forward to accepting Jack's invitation to return again next year.

Northbound Sound at Bush League, 2008 (Submitted by Terry Jamison)

SINGING WITH DAD was this year's Bush League Champions. This is the best I've heard them sing and it is well earned. Great job guys.

Second was taken by BORDER BOYS for the Hillsdale chapter.

For the first time in many years there was a three way tie for third place which are (based on there singing scores):

NORTHBOUND SOUND
NO REHEARSAL BAND
HAVING A BLAST

All five quartets sang on the evening show and what a show that was. The quartets were asked to sing their favorite song and the competition was on to see who could outdo the others. What a night.

NORTHBOUND SOUND did their stick routine and sang “Trickle, Trickle”. The stick routine (which had something to do with aging prostates) ended up being more of a comedy then we realized. Chuckles was laughing so hard he could not get the song started, and Bob was trying to blow the pitch while laughing. The audience loved it, and we finally performed the best we ever have.



Photo by Folk

The afterglow was no different, each quartet trying to outdo the other. The NO REHEARSAL BAND quartet did an “Under the Board Walk” that was out of this world. I never heard it sung like that. NORTHBOUND SOUND did a song called “Lock Lomond” which took the audience away. Singing Judge Ken Fisher commented that he was both surprised and impressed. (I will not tell you that Ken was very nice to us in our singing scores.)

This year there were ten quartets. The Gaylord chapter has done an outstanding job with Bush League. It was a great week end, never had more fun. It's great to be a barbershopper.

Celebration (Submitted by Bruce Brede)



Photo by Wisner staff

On Sunday, August 17th, our CELEBRATION BARBERSHOP QUARTET participated with the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society in their "Day at Pine Grove" with antique cars and historical crafts and costumes. They roamed and sang in tuxes in historical buildings for an hour prior to being entertained by the Church Street Singers (including Bill & Candy Nevaux and Doc Mann among others). Their performance was capped off by welcome ice cream on a hot day...Yum!

MEMBERSHIP (at 62)

Pending: David Allen, Art Carinci, Bill Dabbs, Mel Parrish

Birthdays: Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlshaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Mel Parrish (13th), Dick Johnson (24th), Dave Myre (29th)

Illnesses: Al Monroe will be admitted to St. Joes Hospital Tuesday evening, Sep 2, for a heart catheterization procedure.

Ted Prueter has been hospitalized at North Oakland Medical Center, following a trip out East, with several infections, dehydration and a fever.

Rexetta Johnson is weakening.



Member Bob Greenwood

Howard Lynn, BSOM

New

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Jessica Thompson has resigned as Director of the Lansing Chapter.

Lansing Chapter President Bill Mason announced that Assistant Chorus Director Steve Warnaar has been named interim director and that their chorus, the Capitol City Chordsmen, will definitely be competing in the Fall Pioneer District Contest. Mason praised Thompson for her many contributions to the chorus, including directing the chorus to the 2007 District Championship.

CHORDIOLOGY has coached three separate choruses lately, all of whom have been profuse with their praise and thanks on Pionet. They've included: the

Gratiot County Chorus, the Livingston Lamplighters, and the Wayne Renaissance Chorus.

Fall District Convention is Oct 17-19 in Battle Creek. Al Fisk writes:

Our own Mr. Ed Fritzen (now living in Connecticut) will be on our panel (Singing) and will direct our Joe Barbershop Chorus. Ed was the Contest & Judging guru prior to me, sang with the 1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champs - UPSTAGE SOUND (who will sing on the QCA show!!!), and directed choruses on the west side. He's active with coaching, directing, and quartetting once again in the Northeastern District. We'll be doing his favorite pole cats (not determined yet) with us. Let's get a big crowd to welcome Ed and his family back to Pioneer!

The one and only Cindy Hansen will teach a class (4:00 p.m. Friday? like Joe's very successful class last time). We're discussing possible topics - we may go with "I'm not dead - I'm singing (performance opportunities for all)." LOL Sounds fun!!! Don't miss it!

AROUND THE WORLD

From Paul Howe's Lansing Chapter Woodshedder

I just returned from **Harmony U**, and what an experience it was. Fantastic coaching from the likes of Joe Connelly (yes, thee Joe Connelly), Rich Knight (Gashouse Gang's lead) Dylan Oxford (tenor of State Line Grocery), Roger Stanfield (the mood dude); it was all too much! I thoroughly enjoyed being there with the best guys in the world; the members of SOMETHING BIG!! Other "Pioneers" included Dave Spizarny of district champs CHORDIOLOGY (who liked to borrow money from us), Dan Bezaire of the Windsor chapter (who borrowed beers from us), and Dave Ebersol and Rob Halsey of MOXXY (who shared songs with us).

For me, the generosity of our pod coaches to give extra time and share personal experiences is something I will never forget.

I had a blast!!"

TR Gerard, Bass, SOMETHING BIG!!

Barbershop on YouTube

A spat has opened up about the use of barbershop **video material on YouTube**. Westminster Chorus put up video of its winning performance. It was challenged on the grounds of "copyright infringement," presumably by our national society.

Dan O'Brien <limadelta@gmail.com> wrote: "I can't stand idly by watching this discussion about YouTube without chiming in on the short-sightedness (my very strong opinion) of squelching it, at least with respect to the barbershop that appears on it. The overwhelming majority of the barbershop that is heard on YouTube does not take away from purchases of Barbershop music on CDs, mp3 services, or sheet music services (including that provided by the Society). Taking away YouTube will translate into LESS interest in barbershop by YOUNG

people, LESS interest in the BHS by everyone, and in the long run, and FEWER purchases that accrue to song writers, and arrangers.

“Young people these days use YouTube to get snippets of things they like. They will NOT purchase barbershop CDs to get snippets of things they like.

“YouTube is a MARKETING device for the society AND the songs and arrangements that ensembles sing on it, and it should be allowed to thrive. It is interesting that a pretty large set of artists recognize the marketing value of YouTube and choose not to ask that their art be removed because they KNOW that it helps them. It seems to be mostly the old fuddy-duddies who spend time asking to have their stuff removed.”

MEET ERIK DOMKE



Eric was born in Waterford in 1960. His mom was a customer rep at Consumers Energy and his dad worked at the Army Tank Command in Warren.

Eric has three brothers; his older sister died in a high school auto accident.

He attended Waterford Mott, graduating in 1978. In high school he played football, as a split end and defensive end, and some doubles tennis. He also got into singing, and from the high school chorus advanced to the Chamber Singers, a select group that traveled to gigs at, for example, the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, the Pontiac Silverdome, and the Detroit Yacht Club. He also had a solo part in the school's production of Godspell, and was Patch in a children's musical called Patch the Pirate at his former church.

His high school teacher, Melvin Rookus, as well as church choir directors, have all been influential in his life, playing a big role in deepening his spiritual life. Eric was raised Lutheran and attended Mt. Hope Lutheran Church on Walton Blvd. Eric and Mary moved their membership to Community Bible Church two years ago, a non-denominational church that better satisfied their spiritual yearnings. Erik sings in the Christmas musical at his new church.

After high school, Eric attended Oakland University for two years, first in pre-nursing and then in Business Administration. In 1981 he began working at Consumers Energy and has held several different positions, currently being that of a Gas Lineman. As a bachelor, living on Lake Orion, he had lots of time and energy and started two other jobs, a lawn service that was profitably sold some years later, and a courier service. In the latter capacity he met Mary, a phlebotomist in Lansing. Mary was a divorcee with two young children. Mary and Eric married 17 years ago. Their son John now lives in Louisiana with their 4-year old grandson. Their son Dan lives locally.

About five years ago, Eric was given the opportunity to advance to a gas lineman cathodic specialist. By attending classes at the University of West Virginia, he received certification as a NACE technician (North American Corrosion Engineer). He has the responsibility to figure out where (unavoidable) corrosion is occurring in Consumers underground gas mains.

Eric was diagnosed with Charcot Marie Tooth syndrome when he was 27. The loss of electrical stimulation to musculature has affected his left ankle, for which surgery was helpful six years ago, and his right ankle, which will possibly be operated upon this November.

Nevertheless Eric and Mary enjoy biking together. And they have a 17-foot Checkmate which occasionally is used on Lake Oakland.

Eric knew about barbershop (his mom had been a Sweet Adeline), and ten years ago, his choir director gave him a list of contacts for barbershop. Dick Johnson's email address hadn't changed when Eric wrote him last November, and he started singing with us in the Christmas season.

His musical abilities have helped to strengthen the Bari section, and he looks forward to quartetting.

He brings executive experience to the chorus also. At various times he was chairperson of the church youth group, Council President of the church, and in charge of maintaining church properties.

He was in the Lake Orion Jaycees, and several years ago, he was the chapter management VP in charge of recruitment.

Welcome, Eric!

Big Chief Jeopardy, #20 (Did you get these?)

1. **Answer:** The Principal of Crary Middle School for thirteen years, and an artist in the technique of intarsia. **Question:** Who is Gene Downey?
2. **Answer:** He has sung with and directed the Oakland County chorus, as well as the Wayne chorus, and he has sung with Motor City Metro, Macomb County, and the Pontiac Waterford Chorus. He has also directed a Sweet Adeline Chorus. **Question:** Who is Fred McFadyen?

Big Chief Jeopardy, #21 (Try these.)

1. **Answer:** He became Manufacturing Engineering Director of the Corvette platform after serving as electronics systems officer on his Tonkin Gulf ship as it supported Swift Boat sampan interdiction.

2. **Answer:** He owned a drugstore in the old Waldron Hotel where many chapter meetings were held. He originated the Music Man trophy, and was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 1975. His quartet, the DETROITERS, reached the International Finals in 1946.

(The appropriate **Questions** can be found in back issues # 54 & 64.)



ASK THE DIRECTOR

(The Questions are arriving in such vast quantity that my postman has herniated a disk. Just kidding, guys. Come on, give me some new questions, this is my last.)

Jeff of Walled Lake asks: What/who inspires you?

“Music has allowed me to be creative, to sing, play, perform, to conduct, to teach and to share what I have spent a lifetime trying to discover, and that is what makes music so interesting. There is always something new to discover, to challenge and to inspire.

“I am inspired by the following:

God,

God's Word,

My family (wife, kids, and parents)

My friends and colleagues,

Life's experiences

Past teachers who have invested in me like Lew Wilson, Mark Orchard, and Prof. Shewan (It was Professor Shewan who encouraged me to pursue excellence through hard work, dedication and that this was my gift and thus my responsibility to God and also, to pursue the relationship of the brain and music and how I would eventually become a choir director even though I insisted that I would be a high school band director)

Music (medieval, renaissance, Baroque, Romantic and American folk songs and hymnody)

Musicians like Mozart, Beethoven, Bernstein, and

The countless writers on music, the arts and the brain (James Jordan, Howard Gardner)

“The one person who continues to be my mentor and source of inspiration is my Junior High/High School band and choir director, Lew Wilson. He saw something in me that caused him to be willing to invest time, effort and, more importantly, himself. He offered up countless hours of after-school time to

develop this would-be musician. I began as a clarinetist but later learned bass clarinet, contrabass clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone and finally French horn as a high school senior. Oh, by the way, I was also in the choir throughout high school. All of this prepared me for study as a music educator.

“The inspiration came from his willingness to invest in kids. He knew I could do it and encouraged me to accomplish all I could musically and because I had him as a teacher two hours a day, I couldn't help but absorb some of him into me.

“Throughout high school there were many conversations about music, musicians and me. I am not sure that he ever said that I should go into music, maybe he just knew.

“He continues to be my mentor and inspiration. In fact a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit him at his home in Ludington while I was at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Following dinner, another quiet conversation occurred, as we stood by the lake, about how proud he was of me and all that I have accomplished in my career. I just simply said, “I want to do what's best for the kids and know that I am doing the best I can.” This was just another opportunity for him to affirm what he has known all along.

“The longer I teach, the more I realize that it's not about me or the music. It's about using the art of music as a way to impact the lives of young people for a lifetime. I should know.”

PALEOLITHIC SINGING

On NPR's “The World” August 13, Ari Daniel Shapiro reported a striking story from Arcy-sur-Cure, France.

“The human desire to create art is ancient. Prehistoric cave paintings show the importance of visual imagery to our early ancestors. But a French professor believes such paintings may reveal an ancient love of music as well.”

“Jégor Reznikoff is 70, and a professor at the University of Paris Nanterre. His specialty is ancient art and music. And he practices the ancient art of chanting. About 20 years ago, a friend invited him to visit a French cave. Reznikoff walked through the vast subterranean chambers and crawled through narrow tunnels. He hummed softly and sometimes - the cave responded.”



REZNIKOFF: I started to make some sounds just hmm hmm or oh ohhh. And suddenly the whole tunnel answers -OHH OHHHH like a very big roar of a prehistorical lion.

“He traveled to more caves and made more sounds. And he noticed that the parts of the caves that returned the loudest echoes - the chambers that resonated the most - tended to be adorned with paintings. And he devised a theory: That our

ancestors used these sections of the caves as Paleolithic cathedrals - decorated with paint and accompanied, he believes, by singing.”

REZNIKOFF: And this is probably the best evidence for the practice of rituals in the caves related with the paintings.

History of the Pitch Pipe

An interesting article, “The History of the Pitch Pipe - 80 Years and Still on Pitch,” by BHS historian Grady Kerr, at

<http://www.gradywilliamkerr.com/PitchPipes/PitchPipe.html>

AIC Medallion

If you're a barbershop junkie and can't get enough from a mere eight-page monthly *Smoke Signals*, download the August, 2008 bulletin of the Association of International Champions (called *Medallion*), but be forewarned, it is 10 MB in size and will take some time to download.

<http://www.aicgold.com/Medallion/Medallion%20August%202008%20VIP%20R.pdf>

There you will find these stories:

- The OC Times Story 1-4
- Nashville in Review 5-8
- What an AIC Show! 9
- Jim Schmitt Dies 23
- Gotcha! Retires! 25
- Rich Hasty Gone 31
- Quartet Calendars

The latter includes a list of the eight past gold medalists that are still active, and their upcoming schedules:

- OC TIMES (2008)
- MAX Q (2007)
- VOCAL SPECTRUM (2006)
- REALTIME (2005)
- FRED (1999)
- INTERSTATE RIVALS (1987)
- ACOUSTIX (1990)
- HAPPINESS EMPORIUM (1975)

Additionally, the following active quartets include Gold Medalists

- CROSSROADS
- FOUR ACES
- OUR TOWN
- THE PERFECT GENTLEMEN
- SATURDAY EVENING POST, which, incidentally, offers expenses-only performances at chapter shows
- OLD SCHOOL, which, incidentally, may go Gold in 2009, and, incidentally, will be performing sort of near us in 2009:

Apr 3 & 4 - Akron Derbytown Chorus Show - Cuyahoga Falls, OH
Jun 13 - Valleyaires Chapter Show - South Bend, IN

Barbershop Theory

Long-time BHS member, Bill Biffle, writes:

“Has anyone mentioned that "I Love You Truly" only has about 25% bbshop 7th chords and, therefore, doesn't pass the 33% "suitable for competition" screen? (I use it in my Tune it or Die! classes to demonstrate how difficult it is to sing songs - with a minimum of bbshop 7th chords - in tune.) And, on a somewhat related issue, the traditional "call and response" versions of "Sweet Adeline", "Bill Grogan's Goat", "Bright Was the Night", "When You Were Sweet Sixteen" & etc, when done in the "traditional" way, aren't homophonic enough to pass muster.”

The response by Kevin Keller, MUS Category Specialist, is long (I've abridged it somewhat), but may be helpful to new members trying to understand what barbershop is all about.

“Bill (and all):

“Concerning "call and echo" –

"Call and echo" is a barbershop trait that dates back to the earliest days of barbershop and even before. Stating that "call and echo" can not be used in contest because it doesn't create "predominantly homophonic texture" is not a completely accurate statement. Our rules do state that we desire a "predominantly homophonic texture". Within the MUS Category Description, however, right on its heels is "This does not preclude the appropriate use of non-homophonic devices such as patter, backtime, echoes, and bell chords" (Section II.B.1 Lyrics). For those who don't understand "homophonic", it is a word that is intended to represent everyone singing the same word sound at the same time. For example, in "My Wild Irish Rose", the syllables "my wild i-rish" are sung at the same time and then move to the next word sound together. Some refer to it as "homorhythmic." The ultimate desire is that we're in unity the majority of the time. Embellishments generally refer to the swipes, echoes, patter, backtime, duets, etc., that barbershoppers use to reinforce the lyric and keep the rhythmic propulsion of the music moving forward.

“Back to the discussion. The ultimate goal of homophonic texture is to maximize ring. We get the most expansion of sound when we are unified in word sound and word sound movement.

“Within the category description, the MUS judge is asked to evaluate "Is the music appropriately embellished, over-embellished, or under-embellished"? (MUS Category Description II.G Embellishment) This requirement is juxtaposed on "predominantly homophonic". I think if we all sat in a room and listened to music we 100% agree is barbershop, we would find the sheer quantity of embellishment (as a percentage of the song) to vary greatly. Before there is hue and cry, listen to the verse and chorus (stop short of the tags) of "Let the Rest of the World Go By" and "Always." The percentages are radically different, yet

both are undeniably barbershop. So, this becomes a judgment call based upon this basic idea: Does the degree of embellishment serve the idea of "unity and contrast in satisfying proportions"?

"Ironically, many people speak of desiring preservation. We should preserve endearing hallmarks of our style such as "call and echo" and patter and use it when appropriate.

"Long way around the block to say "call and echo" is not forbidden on contest stage.

"As for "I Love You Truly," everyone in the audience raise your hand if you don't think it is a barbershop song. OK, Toban raised his hand but no one else. (Love ya, man) Now, for contest? A few hands now go up but most barbershoppers see nothing wrong with it. Again, the MUS judge is challenged. Bill is correct that the MUS Category Description suggests that a song should have at least 33% barbershop sevenths in duration (MUS Category Description II.C Harmony). In these instances, I have challenged the Music Category with a simple question: "Does it sound like barbershop?"

"So, let's examine the intent of the guidance. The guidance is there for at least two reasons. One is that the barbershop seventh is one of the hallmarks of our style. We like them! They are fun to sing. The second is that they create more musical tension in moving the song along than minor seventh chords do. If a song does not have a high quantity of barbershop sevenths, it becomes somewhat limiting in its potential. Potential in ring (it can still ring but not quite as well) and the power in its ability to travel from measure to measure, phrase to phrase.

"Sometimes it is harder to make the song work when seventh count is low... If they did reduce their score, it would be minimal at worst."

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: August 13, 2008. Excerpts from Secretary Bob Butcher's minutes. (Additional items described above)

Present: Mann, Teuber, Holm, Clarke, Dick Johnson, Cheyne, Shantz, Schreiner and Butcher.

Treasurer's Report, \$16,355.

Ron Clarke will poll chorus members about their Tuxedo needs.

Dick Johnson presented a report on the Woodshed Contest.

LETTERS TO THE CHORUS

"Big Chief chorus members,

Thank you so much for your generous support of our appeal for funds to support the efforts of the Michigan Lyme Disease Association to hold a conference for health professionals and anyone who has an interest in learning about Lyme and its terrible effects. Bob collected \$148 Tuesday night. Thanks to all of you who were able to contribute and to those who still wish to contribute, we would certainly appreciate. We are so thankful for your support. I'll be sure to let you know the grand total after the deadline.

Bob and Eileen Marshall

"Hello all!

The ladies of IN VOICE! quartet want to thank everyone involved with the "Harmony Is the Best Medicine" benefit show this past Saturday. We truly enjoyed ourselves and were thrilled with the warm reception by the members of the Big Chief Chorus and the Guardians of Harmony.

We may not be Queen's Of Harmony, but you certainly made us feel that way! Thanks again and wishing you guys the best in your upcoming competitions.

IN VOICE! <http://www.invoicequartet.com>

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlshaw

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Dick Johnson, & Bill Holmes

President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)

Past President: Zaven Melkonian

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bob Butcher

Interim Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large – Ron Clarke, Dave Myre, Gil Schreiner, David Shantz

Chorus Manager: Dave Myre

Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter, Moss, Cowlshaw, and Brede

CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times)

Sep 2, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks Activities Center
Sep 9, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks Activities Center
Sep 10, W	Exec Bd Meeting, Dave Shantz' home
Sep 16, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal and guest night, Waterford Oaks
Sep 20, Sa, 10 am	Chicks, at Fino's, 5115 Dixie Hwy
Sep 23, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks Activities Center
Sep 30, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks Activities Center
Oct 7, T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary Middle School
Oct 10, F	52 nd Annual Woodshed contest, Pont. Country Club
Oct 12, Su, 2 pm	Orion Twp Library
October 17-19	District Convention - Battle Creek
Nov 1, Sa	64th Annual Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show