



**BIG CHIEF CHORUS**  
**SMOKE**  
**SIGNALS**



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

**Bulletin #41, September 7, 2004**



September 2<sup>nd</sup> marked BCC's first golf outing. Art Carinci masterminded it all. He made reservations at Tanglewood Golf Course in South Lyon for us 15 golfers. He arranged for one of the most beautiful weather days of the summer. He furnished drinks at the 11<sup>th</sup> hole at his beautiful home just adjacent. And then pizza, salad, and drinks at the end of the 5-hour 18 holes.

We divided into four groups. We played "best ball," which was wonderful for many of us, including your editor who hadn't played golf in ten years. Hit a bad shot? No problem. Either Gene, who was consistently good, or Jim who often outdrove us, had the best ball and we all hit our balls from that point. (Since our group of Downey, Owens, and Cowlshaw lacked a fourth – neither Johnson nor Troeger could make it – we shared the 4<sup>th</sup> shot (until we got too tired)). The foursome of Mike Frye, Howard Lynn, Pete Mazzarra and his friend Bob won with a score of a three-under-par 69. Jeff Spires, Bill Nevaux, Tom Ford and Neil Braun were at 74. Downey, Owens, Cowlshaw were at 75. And Art Carinci, Walt DeNio, Wayne Chene, and Jeff Doig were at 90. Hole winners were Tom and Mike (closest to pin on 2<sup>nd</sup> shot, #2, South), Mike (longest drive, #9, South), Jeff Spires (closest to the pin, #2 West), and Mike Frye (longest drive, #8, West).

The scuttlebutt had it that Bill Nevaux has more golfing ability per vertical inch than anyone there. That Walt DeNio's new "natural swing" eliminated slices and hooks. That relative novice Jeff Doig quickly improved. That Pete Mazzarra was so happy that he sang out, "Ain't this great" across sand traps and ponds. That Mike Frye's drives were out of sight! And didn't you love the golf-Nazi who kept urging us onward?

**From the Prez:**

What a great BCC picnic we had Aug. 14, despite the weather.

THANK YOU TO: Tom & Beth Ford for being such gracious hosts; Walt DeNio & Wayne Cheyne for all of their hard work; Joan Cheyne & Jan DeNio for getting the ladies organized as a BCC support group (tell your wives); Jim Troeger for his leadership & beautiful family; all BCC attendees & the great food; and for Bill Pascher for continuing to support us.

Fun, fellowship, and good singing were had by all (our chapter mission). We need to do this more often. For those who were unable to attend, we hope to provide more opportunities in the future (like the Sep. 2nd golf outing).

Also: Congratulations to Tom Ford for being chosen the BCC Barbershopper of the month for August.

Also: a HUGE Thank You to Art Carinci for organizing, hosting, and paying for lunch for the BCC Golf Outing. He Da Man!

If you plan to sing with the BCC at the District Convention in Kalamazoo, October 16, you need to let Jim Troeger know & REGISTER as a participant.

CRUNCH time is upon us. Your regular, punctual, and enthusiastic participation is needed!

**AROUND THE PATCH**

The Big Chief Chorus held its annual picnic August 20 at Tom and Beth Ford's home. Stormy weather didn't prevent the attendees from gathering indoors for food, singing, and camaraderie. One special consequence was the

resolve of the wives/partners to form an auxiliary group. Will it be called Big Chief Chicks? Thanks to Jan DeNio and Joan Cheyne for leading the effort.

On August 31 the chorus thanked *Canterbury on the Lake* for providing us summer rehearsal facilities by putting on a 40-minute show for the residents. Also, that night, the Cherokees were the newest winner of the Tribal Warfare (as determined by the Sioux).

September 7<sup>th</sup> marks our return to Crary Middle School.

Singout Tuesday, Sep 14<sup>th</sup> at Lake Orion Parks and Rec, Clarkston Rd and Baldwin at the wedding gazebo. Wear Class B uniforms, and plan to drive to Crary afterward for practice.

Bill Dabbs needs to take some time off to attend to some personal matters (nothing critical), and Walt DeNio will fill in as Sunshine Chair.

Joe Voyner, a long-time member of BCC, died this past month. He had been suffering from Alzheimer's for some time, but chorus friends kept his membership active.

Mel Parrish also lost his brother.

Lead Section Leader Bruce Brede has been sending out e-mailed bulletins to all Leads to encourage their participation in Sectional rehearsals. Sounds like a great idea.

According to Director Jim's flow chart, we should now be off the paper on: "Ain't Misbehaving," "Back in the Old Routine," "Caroline," "Darkness on the Delta," "Heart of a Clown," "Hi Neighbor," "Irish Parting Prayer," "New York New York," "Old St. Louie," and "There's No Business Like Show Business." In September, the list grows to include "If There's Anybody Here."

We raise our level of seriousness by competing in the Pioneer District Fall Convention Oct 15-17 in Kalamazoo. Be sure to register before Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>! and reserve your room at the Radisson if you'll be overnight. If you go to the Pioneer District web site: <http://www.harmonize.com/pioneer/pio.htm> and then go to 'Next Convention' you will be able to open and print a Fall Convention Registration sheet (\$25 or \$30 at the door), and a Hotel Accommodations sheet (\$89 at the Radisson and less at local hotels). At press time, there were nine choruses registered. We join Michiana Metro and Lansing in Plateau 2. (Huron Valley, Detroit-Oakland, and Macomb County are Plateau 1.)

The nominating committee consisting of Zaven Melkonian (chair), John Cowlshaw, and Bob Legato is seeking candidates for the annual election, to be held Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Fall Show, Family, is November 6<sup>th</sup>. Assistance is sought by the show chairs: Roger Holm – House Manager, Dick Johnson – Program, Bruce Brede – Cast Party, Walt DeNio – Publicity, Jack Teuber – Quartet liaison, Jeff Spires and Doc Mann – Raffle, Pete Mazzara and Jeff Doig – script, Howard Lynn and Gene Downie – Stage, Jim Owens – Tickets, and Ron Clarke – Costumes.

The Fun Addicts–Dixie-Landers will play at the show:

Len Barnes	Trumpet
Don Heinz	Clarinet

Michael Keith	Piano
Bob Legato	Tenor Sax
Lew Mahacek	String Bass & Band Leader
Orval Marlowe	Drums
Bob Marshall	Trombone
Vern Nelson	Banjo

Special Appearances by:

Michael Frye	Wash Board
Brian Keith	Harmonica
Eileen Marshal	Vocals

Dick Johnson has begun his usual superb effort on the show program, encouraging us all to sell lots of ads. Bruce Brede had some good advice on how to get started.

### QUARTET NEWS

B Natural was invited – thru the intermediary services of Bruce Brede – to sing for the Republican gathering for Vice President Dick Cheney at Waterford Kettering on Aug 24. They got to sing a couple songs and then to stand on risers for five hours during the rest of the visit.

Jackpot sang at the White Horse Inn during Metamora Days Aug 27. The quartet rotated its repertoire during the diners' turnover. Among the audience were an ex-student of Tom Ford's shop class, a charter pilot from St. Clair airport that has flown Power Play to gigs, and a colleague of Jeff and Sharon Spires.

Sunnyside (with Zaven subbing for Roger) sang at a Jewish synagogue. They discovered that the cantor had spent time on Broadway, clearly in evidence as he sang "Lida Rose" with the quartet followed by "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" in Yiddish while tap dancing (that, without Sunnyside's assistance!)

### MEMBERSHIP (at 56)

**Renewals:** Lew Mahacek (3), Pete Mazzara (5), Zaven Melkonian (5), Jack Teuber (5), Tom Jackson (6), Neil Braun (15), Dick Johnson (35)

**Birthdays: September:** Greg Moss (8<sup>th</sup>), John Cowlshaw (10<sup>th</sup>), Neil Braun (13<sup>th</sup>), Mel Parrish (13<sup>th</sup>), Dick Johnson (24<sup>th</sup>)

**October:** Bruce Collins (1<sup>st</sup>)

**BSOM** – August – Tom Ford, for his hosting of the picnic.

### AROUND THE DISTRICT

Paul Howe, editor of the Capitol City Chordsmen "Woodshedder" reports that the Lansing chapter will use Finale PrintMusic to send sing-along practice files to members' home computers, each of which will have downloaded the (free) NotePad.

Al Fisk reports that the following Pioneer members have expressed interest in getting into the judging/CA program: Don Bazely – PRS, Ron Eubank – CA,

Jeff Gougeon – SNG, Bud Leonard – CA, Jim Ryan – CA, Don Slamka – SNG, Mike Slamka – PRS, and Matt Tipton – SNG. “Three years ago, when I started, there were 10 of us in our “class.” Sadly, I’m the only one standing. Hopefully, we’ll have a better result in ‘07. Peace.”

Bush League returns again to Gaylord, Sep 24-26, using the same venue as the Spring Convention. Deadline for quartet registration is Sept 10.

## AROUND THE WORLD

Jeremy Reynolds of the Heart of Florida chapter has been gathering a list of event-occasion songs, covering the following events: Anniversary, Arbor Day, Birthdays, Have a Happy Day, Chanukah, Death/Funeral, Divorce, Easter, Elections, Engagement, Family Reunion, Father’s Day, General, Graduation, Housewarming, Labor Day, Mother’s Day, New Baby, New Job, New Years, Reconciliation, Retirement, Secretary’s Day or Week, and Wedding. You can access this file of over 100 songs at this URL (you’ll need a –free–Yahoo registration:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bbshop/files/Musicforalloccasions.doc>

(From Roger Lewis) “Just to clarify, the words to “Keep America Singing” were not changed. A second verse was added, with the words “Keep the Whole World Singing”. You may choose to sing either verse.

“It’s true that the family of Bill Diekema did not want the words “changed”. Yet, just as we do when we write many parodies, one can write as many additional verses as they wish to any song.

“No, we will never please everyone. But you, and your chapter, may choose which verse to sing.”

## MEET JEFF DOIG

Jeff Doig was born in Highland Park in 1948 and raised in the Cass Lake-West Bloomfield area. His Dad worked at General Motors, and his mom was a cosmetologist. She was also a talented drummer, who played in small bands, including one on the Bob-Lo boats in the late 1930’s. Jeff’s brother is an airplane mechanic in California, and his sister who was a dancer in the 60s and a Playboy Bunny for a short time, died of cancer in 1991.

Jeff graduated from Walled Lake High School in 1967. After being drafted he joined the Army Corps of Engineers as a crane operator, spending 18 months in Germany and 11 months in Vietnam building roads and bridges.

He returned to civilian life, working at Gage (Chemical) Products Co in Ferndale for 22 years. A short stint followed with Waste Advantage, which aided companies in environmental compliance and waste-prevention. But his sister’s illness led to full-time support and care of her. Since then he has become a licensed electrician and has worked as Maintenance Manager for Ferndale Electric.

He met Katherine in high school and they were married after his return from service, moving into their present home in Walled Lake. Brian was born 15 years later in 1986, and Jeff and Katherine took over care of his sister’s son Justin in 1991. Both sons have aided him in his work in sound engineering.

Jeff began singing in school choirs, and by 9<sup>th</sup> grade he joined the ATWAS club (All The World’s A Stage), and then high school musicals in Walled Lake. That’s where he met Kathy, who was a “techie.” In the 1970’s they worked with the St. Williams Theater Group of Walled Lake, doing acting and tech work. One memorable show, based on the 1950’s Mickey Mouse Club featured the whole family, Jeff, his mother, his sister, and his wife. He also built the Wolverine Lake Showboat out of two pontoons, hitched together, and sang and danced in their shows. He and a friend also did a few duet shows at the Elks Club and a local nightclub.



Around 1993, Howard Lynn dragged Jeff to a Big Chief Chorus rehearsal. He had been primed by hearing barbershop singing at Pine Knob as part of the 1981 International in Detroit. He became a chorus singer, but didn’t really get hooked until he started quartet singing with Harmony Knights (with Ross Ensign, Tom Tailford, Tom Blackstone). Jeff has also served a stint as bulletin editor (*The Owners Manual*) for one year, and a term as Secretary.

A fond memory is his experience in 1997 on a “Tiger cruise.” During the last leg of the J. F. Kennedy aircraft carrier’s return to home port in Florida,

relatives of crewmembers replaced half of the crew, so Jeff worked alongside his nephew on top deck for three days.

Jeff has always had a strong interest in aviation. (Not only is his brother involved, but also Justin has a B.S. in Avionics from Embry Riddle University.) With GI Bill support, Jeff got his Private pilot's license, and Commercial, Instrument, and Multiengine ratings. He and Katherine took trips to Mackinaw Island, and he accumulated about 350 hours before family responsibilities took over. John Cowlshaw capitalized on his talents when the two of them flew in the 2001 S.M.A.L.L. race, taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Jeff has numerous other interests, including woodworking, working with sound, and with video production, some of it commercially. As we all know, these talents have been used to good advantage in our yearly shows.

### **VOCAL TECHNIQUE: Abdominal breathing**

During warm-ups Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, I mentioned Paul Mason's Vocal Techniques, which are available at <http://www.paulmason.com/VocalTechnique.html> He builds an ascending pyramid from Posture>Breathing>Support>Phonation>Registers >Resonance>Expression>Interpretation. Here is what he says about Support.

#### **What is support?**

Support is the control of air pressure in such a way as to maintain accurate pitch, consistent volume and tone quality, and to sustain these to meet the requirements of any given phrase of music.

#### **How is it achieved?**

Air pressure is influenced by how much air is in the lungs, and the extent to which it is being 'squeezed', either by the forces of elasticity or by active contraction of certain muscles.

The internal intercostal muscles (muscles connecting the insides of the ribs) are able to 'squeeze' the air in the lungs, as are the abdominal muscles. However, the central rectus abdominis muscle (the one you use for sit-ups) is too large and powerful for fine control, and the smaller, layered oblique abdominal muscles at the side are used in preference. Contraction of these muscles will cause the stomach wall to remain forward for quite some time during the exhalation/singing process.

A common error in beginners striving for 'more support' is to pull in on the stomach wall (i.e. using the large central muscle). This produces an abrupt burst of air pressure which is then difficult to maintain.

#### **How do I teach support?**

It is probably true to say that I avoid 'teaching' support, because I believe that it is a fairly natural phenomenon for most students. If the beginning singer has good posture and is breathing correctly, there will usually be enough support for the modest technical difficulties encountered in the early stages of training.

In order to increase the singer's awareness of the mechanism in preparation for the greater demands which will later follow, there are a number of available exercises. These include sustained hissing exercises which develop to a delightful

degree the ability to alarm one's cat (described in some detail in James C. McKinney's "The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults"). The onset exercises referred to in the **phonation** section are also an excellent way of discovering the correct mechanism.

A good reference work for the anatomy of the mechanisms of breathing, support and phonation is Richard Miller's "The Structure of Singing".

### **VOCAL TECHNIQUE: Vibrato is part of our sound**

*By Jim Debusman, Music Specialist, BHS*

This article is long overdue for barbershop singers who have asked the question; "do we allow vibrato in our style?" The answer is a resounding yes.

Vibrato is a normal phenomenon of a good breath support and a freely produced, well-supported resonant tone. In our style, some vibrato in the voice, especially in the lead voice, can be quite effective by enhancing the emotional content of the music we sing. However, too much vibrato either in its' rate, excessive pitch, or volume variation can take away from the quartet's overall sound.

As stated before, you can control the speed of your vibrato by using good breath support. I've worked with many men and women of all ages, including some well up into their late 70' and 80's, who have eliminated their wide vibrato with nothing more than rediscovering good breath support/management, thus, freeing up their tone.

Johan Sundburg, a noted authority on this topic states; "vibrato consists in part as a small but regular frequency modulation about a central pitch." Dr. Jim Richards goes on to say that you might think it could have a negative impact on the lock and ring of a justly-tuned chord. However, even though the instantaneous frequency is constantly changing, a spectral analysis of the sound shows that the central pitch remains fixed, but is accompanied by a set of "side band" frequencies that surround the central frequency. These side bands give the sound "width" and higher music interest.

Other issues that could cause an unacceptable vibrato are poor posture, tension in the singer's throat and/or jaw area. Any form of tension can affect a singer's vibrato.

One way to help a poor vibrato is to put your hand in front your mouth and blow a column of "warm air" (humidify, if you will) on your hand. Now, sing a tone supported by that warm air. It will make a difference in the speed of the vibrato and its width.

### **AT THE MOVIES**

2 hrs. 05 min. "De-lovely" is an original musical portrait of American composer Cole Porter filled with his unforgettable songs. In the film, Porter is looking back on his life as if it was one of his spectacular stage shows, with the people and events of his life becoming the actors and action onstage. Through legendary hits like "Night and Day," "It's De-lovely," and "In the Still of the

Night," Porter's elegant, excessive past comes to light - including his deeply complicated relationship with his wife and muse, Linda Lee Porter. Directed by Academy Award-winner Irwin Winkler from a script by Jay Cocks and starring Oscar-winner Kevin Kline, Ashley Judd, and Jonathan Pryce in addition to some of today's biggest rock and pop music stars, "De-lovely" is a celebration of Porter's music as well as an exploration of the artist's journey and the undying power of love.

(From: Bob Caldwell) "Friends, This past weekend I had the unexpected joy to see "De-lovely", the moving account of Cole Porter's life and music. We've heard these songs all our lives. Now we have the chance to get a feel for where they came from. Kevin Kline and Ashley Judd are very convincing in their roles, Oscar performances in my opinion. The period costuming is stunning. The cameo singing by some of today's great performers took me by surprise.

"Take my word for it, take someone you love and partake of this "De-lovely" film. P.S. Take extra tissues.

## **LADIES OF BCC**

Hi Gals,

Didn't we have fun at the BCC picnic Aug 20th?! We thoroughly enjoyed each other's company and decided we wanted to promote and continue that spirit of friendship for the ladies of the Big Chief Chorus.

Just a quick recap:

WHO: The ladies of the Big Chief Chorus who attended the Aug 20th picnic and interested others who contact us. (We will expand as we get organized.)

WHAT / WHEN / WHERE: Lunch at Bravo's on Thursday, Sept 16 at 1:00. (Bravo Cucina Italiana, 286 N. Adams Rd, Rochester Hills, (248) 375-9644)

FEEDBACK: Please email me back to let me know whether you will be coming or not. I am also anxious for the reply so I'll know we have all the email addresses entered correctly.

COMING EVENT: Perhaps a ladies' activity in Kalamazoo the weekend of Oct 15-17 for the fall competition.

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME . . . Does the ladies' group need a name? One suggestion for the ladies 'auxiliary' of the Big Chief Chorus (BCC) is Big Chief Chicks (BCC) or Big Chief Chix (BCX) where the 'x' refers to 'Auxiliary' or, of course, 'Chix'! Any and all other suggestions for a name are welcome.

SUGGESTIONS: Any and all suggestions for the group are welcome and can be discussed by email or at our lunch.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Cheyne, Secretary pro tem.

## **MINUTES , EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS (excerpts)**

August 12, 2004 Bill Holmes, Secretary

Treasurer, Dick Johnson reported a balance of \$3,498.59.

Jim Owens is working on a Membership Plan. Jim requested some feedback from the board regarding the Christmas-in-July evening. It was agreed that if this special activity is held next year, planning should begin three or more months in advance.

Roger noted that an effective approach to advertising the chapter might be distribution of our flyers at cultural gatherings. The flyers currently in Jim Owens possession should be included with any proposed mailings to the churches. Also, Gene will alert Jack Teuber to include the flyer in his correspondence to the visiting quartets for the show.

Jim emphasized that the members must continually be reminded of the importance of selling ads and tickets to the show.

Roger reported that the chapter is abiding by the rules of the copyright laws in its selection of music and the preparation of training materials.

Gene began his report on the Show. In-house quartets who wish to sing in the show should let Gene know; and should provide the music committee with an opportunity to hear their rendition as soon as possible if their names are to appear in the program.

Chairman of the Cast Party, Bruce Brede, has recommended having the party at Shepherds Hollow Gold Club from 9:30 pm to 12:30 at \$12 per head. Passed by the board.

Pete suggested that Gene select a date for the submission of the script by Jeff Doig. It was noted that Jeff has secured a barber chair and pole for the show. Gene noted that nearly all the chairmen have been selected.

The board agreed that the secretary should arrange for a reviewer from the Standing Ovation Program Coordinator to be present at the show for review and analysis from the audience perspective.

Zaven Melkonian, Nominating Committee Chair, hopes to have a slate of officers at the next board meeting.

Dick Johnson will be giving attention to the Induction Party.

The board approved giving \$200 to Canterbury at the mini-performance on August 31, 2004.

Pete reminded us of the BCC GOLF OUTING set for September 2.

BSOM for August is Tom Ford who has been so active, cooperative and helpful as one of our precious tenors and opening his residence for the picnic.

Following Bruce's prompting, the board agreed to encourage members to buy a \$5 one-liner for the show program. Dick will provide a page in the program for PATRON'S ads.

Noting that we currently have no in-house-quartet, he also stressed the need for our proven, lead singers to assist other members in quartet singing. Attention is being given to develop a quartet base program.

Wayne Cheyne recommended that since Valentines Day is on Monday next year, we plan sing-outs for Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This was agreed to by the board.

## **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP (2004)**

Director: Jim Troeger

(248-853-4360)

Assc. Directors: Dick Johnson, Bruce Collins

President: Pete Mazzara

(313-563-4026)

Past President: Gene Downie

VP: Chapter Dev: Jim Owens

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Walt DeNio

Secretary: Bill Holmes

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large: Jack Teuber, Zaven Melkonian

Chorus Manager: Art Carinci

Music Team: Roger Holm, Johnson, Collins, Doig, Ensign, Melkonian, Preuter

Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw

Music Librarian: Ted Preuter

Singing Valentines: Wayne Cheyne

Sunshine (Chaplain): Walt DeNio

Uniforms Manager: Ron Clarke

Tape/CD Librarian: Ross Ensign

YMIH: Jack Teuber

## **Calendar**

Sep 2	Golf outing
Sep 7, T	BCC Rehearsal
Sep 9, Th	Exec Bd Meeting, Gene Downie's
Sep 14, T	Chorus Singout, Lk Orion; & BCC Rehearsal
Sep 16, Th, 1:00.	Ladies of BCC, Lunch at Bravo's
Sep 16, Th	Music Committee mtg
Sep 21, T	BCC Rehearsal
Sep 25, Sa	Bush League
Sep 28, T	BCC Rehearsal (Al Fisk)
Oct 5, T	BCC Rehearsal
Oct 15-17	Pioneer Convention, Kalamazoo
Oct 19, T	BCC Election of officers
Oct 24	BCC Rehearsal (Al Fisk)
Nov 6, Sa	Fall show, "Family," Clarkston HS
Nov. 19, Fri,	Officer Induction Party