



February 1, 2018
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www.bigchiefchorus.org



An Evening of Recognition



Described as BCC's very own energizer bunny, our most versatile past president and current VP of Marketing, Jack Teuber, graciously accepted the Pascher Founder's award for his tireless and prolific work on behalf of the chorus in 2017. On January 9, 2018

members of the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society along with some of their wives gathered for an evening banquet at Overtyme Grille and Taproom to celebrate the outstanding contributions made by Jack and several other BCC braves throughout the



year. Ray Sturdy was named "Barber-shopper of the Year," and shares the 2017 Rawley Hallman Music Performance Award with Bidin' Our Time, the quartet for which he sings baritone, with Mike Frye, lead, Roger Holm, bass, and tenor, Fred McFadyen. Pioneer District President, Dave Montera, was also in attendance and



offered a challenge to the 2018 officers who were being installed. The Detroit Sound Machine provided the evening's entertainment,

performing some of their own arrangements for the BCC braves and their squaws.

Barbershopper of the Year

In any organization it is important that those that are making decisions are flexible, look for solutions, and have the knowledge to make good decisions for all involved. When it's time to promote the annual show, it is vital that

our Chapter has men that can work in the digital world to produce show flyers and have the energy to distribute them. A Show without promotion cannot succeed. It takes many men to lead a chorus. When a leader like



John Cowlshaw moves away, others need to step in to do his work. Ray Sturdy has stepped up to fill those big shoes with enthusiasm and good humor. As the new baritone section leader, Ray works well with a variety of men, and his vast musical

knowledge has been put to good use leading our vocal warm-ups. And Ray was there to fill in for a seasoned chapter quartet when they needed a baritone to continue their legacy. Ray also serves as a Leader in two Chapters heading up the Hosting of the 2018 Spring convention. Thank you, Ray for all you do.

~~ Submitted by Jack Teuber ~~

Your 2018 Officers

- 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 Development: Jon Knapp (248-766-0999)
- VP: Music 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 – Art Carinci, Bob Greenwood, Ray Sturdy, Austin Suthers
- Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
- Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
- Chorus Librarian: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)
- Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Sturdy, Moss
- Music Team: Schroeder, Blue, Frye, McFadyen, Doig, Moss, Mazzara
- Bulletin Editor: Jon Knapp (248) 766-0999

Chorus Voice Matching (not blend)

By Steve Scott

The first principle to understand behind voice matching is that everyone has a unique and valuable voice. Make sure all understand that no one voice is better than another and the best place to stand on the risers is on the risers. The second principle is that chorus singers tend to make better vocal choices when surrounded by like-sized, like-

(continued from page one) timbred voices. There is less competition (Lombard Effect) this way...

The word blend has been used for generations as a way to homogenize a chorus sound. The responsibility to blend fell upon the chorus singer. This is problematic because when singers are instructed to "blend," most assimilate or compromise their voice and make it less efficient acoustically and less efficient in production (affecting the tissues, introducing fatigue).

Directors want their singers to sing with their most efficient, beautiful voice. But asking for blend sends a mixed signal to chorus singers that they can't use their best vocal production or they will stick out. Therefore, the responsibility of chorus blend is the job of the director and the music team, not the individual singer. This is accomplished through voice matching and riser placement.

Employ voice matching strategies to allow them to sing with their fullest, easiest, and most resonant sound surrounded by voices of similar size to achieve balance in the ensemble sound. Increased inter-singer spacing can also reduce the likelihood of pressed singing or competition. It is my recommendation that principles of inter-spacing and voice matching should replace the word blend in our vocabularies.

Barbershop.org
December 26, 2017

A Legacy of Excellence

Rawley Hallman was a local pharmacist, and owner of Hallman Drugstore, located in the old Waldron Hotel, on the corner of Perry and Pike. Rawley and Otis Spiker (Bill Pascher's uncle) ran a kitchen in the basement nicknamed Hallman Hall, which served as the meeting room of the chapter for a long time. Bill calls Rawley a real "music man," and he in fact



originated the Music Man trophy. "He was knowledgeable in all four parts, and he would stop, in the middle of the music, and say, you're supposed to be here, on this note. He was a baritone. He was always criticizing me, critiquing me, and others."

"Chapter members preferred quartetting, so it was a hard time getting a chorus started. But it soon developed naturally, that there weren't enough guys singing without a chorus. I think it was John Beaudin that got the first chorus together. For a few months, or maybe a couple years, he was the director. And that fell

into the hands of Rawley Hallman. Rawley conducted for several years. Then Hallman moved out of town, I think to Florida, near Sebring."

Rawley was a member of the Detroiters (Weber, Eason, Hallman and Wolff) which reached the Finals of the 1946 International Convention in Cleveland. At the first Michigan District chorus contest (1952), Rawley served on the panel of judges. Rawley was on hand to receive his award when he was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 1975.

Rawley was in many quartets, including Drop Chords, with John Smith, Dick Johnson and Al Maier. He was also an arranger, with his own distinctive style. Lyle Howard adds: "Rawley Hallman was the barbershopper's barbershopper. At the time I knew him best his drugstore had moved to Elizabeth Lake and Telegraph. He lived in an apartment complex directly behind the store, long gone now. His store was always the ticket center for our shows."

"Rawley had the best ear for good harmony, and bad harmony, that I ever knew. You couldn't get away with anything around Rawley. He directed the Pontiac chorus during several different time periods. A good director he was not. An excellent teacher he was. I don't think I ever remember when he wasn't in a quartet, most of them with Smitty. Rawley sang baritone. He was a thin, frail looking man. He loved to teach and sing tags, a lot like Smitty. I can't say that I can put my finger on any one thing that earned him the Hall of Fame honor other than his utter dedication to the hobby. He was well known everywhere in the district. I don't recall him holding any district level offices, although he may have. Like all quartetters, Rawley loved to sing."

Ed Lilly calls Rawley a "stickler for singing it right." He wrote and arranged music and coached quartets. At that time, barbershop was mainly quartetting. Non-quartet members would do "gang-singing" but Rawley would work to get them into quartets. Neil Braun adds that he was a solid taskmaster. Neil sang under his directorship around 1953 at the Knights of Pythias Hall at Voorheis and Telegraph, where, after singing, they would have sandwiches and beer.

By John Cowlshaw - From August 2006 Smoke Signals
Picture from 1977 Show Bulletin

~~ February Birthdays ~~

22nd John Northey 23rd Pete Mazzara

~~ Membership Renewals ~~

Eric Domke Bill Auguier

Forget Today Let's Sing Tonight!

From "Intro to Barbershop:
Your 12-month Guide to the Barbershop Lifestyle"

"...our founders instituted a Code of Ethics, whose preamble begins: The Society aspires to preserve for its members and for all future generations of prospective members, the sacred right of men to seek haven from the burden of their daily cares through indulgence in old-fashioned vocal quartet harmony....

Eight decades later, that spirit still pervades the Barbershop Harmony Society, and week by week, we experience that joy in thousands of chapter meetings, chorus rehearsals, quartet gigs, shows and contests. You can walk into any barbershop group in the world and be greeted with that same attitude of "forget today, let's sing tonight!"

www.barbershop.org

BCC "Chick's" Breakfast at FINO's!

Fino's Restaurant on Dixie Hwy was the site of the first Big Chief "Chick's" monthly breakfast of 2018! Over 20 Big

Chief "Braves" and "Chick's" attended!

Roger Holm and his wife Janet were a pleasant surprise, as he was in the hospital earlier this week!

Roger cited his wife, Janet's "Sour Cream Raisin Pie"

as the reason for his short "stint" in the hospital! The VP of Music & Performance was there! Even Mike Keith and Bob Legatto, made it out! It was fun to share Holiday experiences! After copious eating, Bill Holm's joke telling, the subsequent laughter, and 'groans', somebody started blowing a pitch pipe, and the men sang a few songs for the "Chick's." All BCC members, wives, and friends, are invited to the next "Chick's" Breakfast, at Fino's, on Feb. 17th, the Saturday following Valentine's Day!

Submitted by Chuck Murray



Spring Convention

On April 20-22, the Big Chief Chorus will be co-hosting the Spring Convention in Grand Rapids with the Detroit Oakland Chapter. Hotel rooms are already being reserved at the Crowne Plaza, so if you haven't reserved yours, please do so soon. Volunteers will be needed for Friday and Saturday to help with Registration, Back-Stage Set-Up and Coordination, and with Raffle Tickets. The biggest need for volunteers will be Friday after 3:00 p.m. and Saturday after 11:30 a.m.

The Big Chief Chorus will be the first competitor (10:15) on Saturday morning. We will not have any responsibilities until after we have competed. To make it easier for those who are helping out our dress will be the class B chorus uniform, consisting of a blue blazer, grey slacks, black shoes, white dress shirt and chorus tie. We will be working very hard at our Tuesday Rehearsals to master "There'll Be No New Tunes on this Old Piano," and "Let the Rest of the World Go By" with the new intro. Learning tracks are on the website. Please learn them very well and attend every rehearsal you can.

Eric Domke, Ray Sturdy and Jack Teuber will be driving to Grand Rapids on Thursday and will handle the 11:00 a.m. Friday responsibilities. Volunteers will have their registration paid for by the District. If you are signed up to help, please plan on arriving about 12:00 noon on Friday. Last year we improved our score. Let's do it again.

BHS 2018 Midwinter Convention

The senior quartet competition was wonderful! Coming in at 5th place was Spotlight featuring international champions Paul Gilman, lead, and David Kindinger, bass, with an average score of 73.9%. 4th place - Renaissance with an average of 74.2%. 3rd place - Unfinished Business averaging 74.9%. 2nd - Easy Street with 75.1%, and coming in 1st was 6 time medalist St. Croix Crossing with an average of 75.9%. Pioneer District's CHECKMATE!, who performed at our show came in 9th with 70.3%.

~~ Zach Schroder (adapted)

BCC Calendar

Rehearsals are every Tuesday at 7:30pm at the W.O.A.C.
Feb. 14, Wed. Singing Valentine Deliveries
Mar. 15, Thu. Canterbury on the Lake 6:30. Warm up 6pm
Mar. 16, Fri. Auburn Hills Senior Ctr. 12:30. Warm up noon
Apr. 20-22, Spring Convention, Grand Rapids
May 11, Fri. Elmhaven Manor 1:00pm. Warm up at 12:30