FALL SHOW – Phantom of the Barbershop

Crunch time! But not so crunchy this year. We’ve gotten our repertoire rehearsed and our script finalized further in advance. We’re ahead of the curve!

We can’t let up, but perhaps we can enjoy it more - enjoy the audience’s laughter and applause, enjoy our guest quartets, and enjoy the glow of a well-produced show as we relax at the afterglow with our guest quartets and good food.

Remember, show-week rehearsals are Tuesday and Thursday at Waterford Mott High School Performing Arts Center. Stage crew will arrive by 5:30. Be there by 6:45.

AROUND THE PATCH

Martha Quinn

The Big Chief Chorus and D.O.C. sang at the funeral of Martha Quinn, October 5.

Austin Quinn’s wife exited this world to the harmonic chords of Barbershop and Sweet Adeline singers. Her children, grand children and great-grandchildren had an active part in the Memorial Service.

A combined chorus of 23 men from the BCC and DOC assisted the 20-member choir of Royal Oak St. Mary Catholic Church on Wednesday morning. The Barbershoppers were complimented several times by the Music Director for their assistance in leading the hymns and responses. The Great Lakes Sweet Adelines Chorus also added a gospel medley during communion, followed by the Barbershoppers’ rendering of “Precious Lord.” Thanks to Fred McFadyen for his direction of the combined choruses.

Martha and Austin's family and friends filled the sanctuary with an estimated 192 in attendance.

(Submitted by: Jack Teuber)

Orion Township Library

The now-annual Orion Township Library gig has a special significance to us since that is where we first met our director, Tom Blue, five years ago.

A chorus of 27 men entertained the audience of 35 to a set of chorus songs, and contributions from several chorus quartets.

One of Sunday’s guests: Lee Thomas--Fox 2 TV Reporter.

Christmas repertoire

The Music Committee would like to add one or two new songs to our Christmas repertoire. Suggestions have included: “Secret of Christmas,” “We Need a Little Christmas,” “Silver Bells,” and “Frosty the Snowman.” The Music Committee could use your input. What Christmas songs would YOU like to sing?

Music Committee

The committee is considering these songs for District Convention competition songs next April: “It’s a Good Day,” “Cabaret,” “Heart of a Clown,” and “Midnight Rose.”
It also is considering a theme for next year that would take advantage of the angling angle of our guest quartet, FOUR MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOIR. There could also be links to the 2012 National elections.

**Cable Broadcast**
The Big Chief Chorus’s performance at Orion Township Library is currently being broadcast MWF, 8:30 pm, on ONTV (Comcast Cable Channel 10; AT&T U-Verse Channel 99)

**Bill Auquier’s daughter** (Heather Perry) has left the hospital. She’s had many days of intensive care. She’s moving to a care facility closer to home (Noblesville, In.) Bill has been driving to Indiana to be with her. She is off the breathing tube, and will start physical therapy

Our prayers are with Heather.

Jack

**Mel Parrish’s wife, Rosalie** has passed away. She was 93, and died on Thursday (October 6) at the Lake Orion Nursing Home where she lived with Mel. Her funeral was Sunday October 9, at the Sparks-Griffin funeral home in Lake Orion.

**Bob Marshall** has been working with the Heart of the Hills Players for two decades. This year he is Stage Manager of the show in Warren and Troy.

November 8 is the 1st Christmas chorus rehearsal, and also guest night. Eric Domke asks that we sign up to bring a guest. It’s not meant to be an accurate count for cookies, but just a commitment that we’ll try.

Dick Johnson is renewing our Christmas Chorus invitation street sign program.

**Heroes Restaurant** put a nice ad for our show in their weekly email circular.

**Big Chief Chorus Elections, 2012:**

President – Jack Teuber
Past President – Doc Mann
VP Chpt Dev. – Eric Domke
VP Music & Perf. – Roger Holm
VP Marketing - open
Secretary – Charlie Perry
Treasurer – Dick Johnson
Members at large: Walt Bachmann, Mike Frye, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy

**Quartet News**

**LIMITED EDITION** performed for the Masons of the Birmingham Masonic Temple on Thursday, October 6. This was a dinner meeting for the 55 Masons present, one of whom had heard the quartet perform in the same venue for the women of Eastern Star, three weeks earlier. Limited Edition sang the same set of seven songs except for the addition of the first public performance of “When It Comes to Lovin’ the Girls.”

**4GVN** sang to the folks that attended the Social at Greg Moss’s church on October 8. Jeff Doig subbed at Lead.

**CELEBRATION,** From Bruce Brede and Jack Teuber

On Saturday, October 22, with sub Dick Johnson, our CELEBRATION Quartet helped celebrate the 60th birthday of Linda Sanchez (a treat from her husband, Arturo). Thirty minutes of song was presented to Linda and her extended family and friends totaling two dozen adults and several children. Linda enjoyed some polecats and old barbershop favorites while the kids were very attentive and “meowed” in “Kitty Kitty.”

Interestingly, CELEBRATION had sung to Linda several times previously at Valentines Day. Linda and Arturo have sung for many years with the Church Street singers including Bob and Eileen Marshall, Bill and Candy Nevaux, Doc Mann and others from the BCC.

**BCC 2011 Performance Total:** thru October: 85 gigs to 6397 people.

**MEMBERSHIP** (at 62)

**Renewals:** Lance Shew (5), Gil Schreiner (7)

**Overdue:** Ross Ensign, Bob Greenwood, Wayne Oberstadt, Charlie Perry

**Good bye:** Jim MacDonald

**November Birthdays:** Ron Clarke (8th), Lance Shew (12th), Doc Mann (13th), Gil Schreiner (18th), Bob Greenwood (20th), Fred McFadyen (24th)

**Barbershopper of the Month:** Fred McFadyen We can count on him in many ways.

**Barbershopper of the Decade:** Donna Bevington. She’s been with us from the start, ten years ago, when we needed a venue for shows and her connection to Central United Methodist Church made that possible. She has followed us as chorus manager thru our days at Lake Orion High School, and now Waterford Mott High School.

**Medical:**

Bob Legato is home from the hospital. Hopes to rejoin us in November

John Northey is recovering from surgery and re-attending.
AROUND THE DISTRICT

Pioneer District Fall Convention results, October, 2011
Pioneer District winners were:
   Quartet: EBB-N-FLOW, 73.4
   Senior Quartet: (going to Tucson) SHOWTIME, 62.9
   Chorus: Grand Rapids (going to Portland), 73.6
   Followed by D.O.C., Lansing, and Macomb.

For all of the results, go to:
   http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/contestsummary/contmenu.htm

The Livingston Lamplighters returned to District competition this month under the direction of Paul Keiser. Good to see them back. And Paul wrote an appreciative letter to "the brothers and sisters of the Pioneer District."

"I just wanted to express, on behalf of myself and the entire Livingston Lamplighters family, our most sincere and deepest gratitude for the overwhelming support, encouragement, and love you all showed us this past weekend at our district debut. Going to contest was a BIG decision for us. We put in a LOT of work to make this happen, and you all made every bit of it MORE than worthwhile.

"We set out on this endeavor with three simple goals: introduce ourselves to the district, get some good feedback on how to improve, and have a great time. Thanks to all of you - mission more than accomplished. Rest assured, the Lamplighters are Pioneer and proud. We'll be back, and better every time!"

Aaron Wolf is the new Pioneer District Educator and Certifier for the Ancient Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders. He has provided these videos for those unacquainted with Woodshedding.
   http://www.archive.org/details/BarbershopWoodsheddingClassPart1
   http://www.archive.org/details/BarbershopWoodsheddingClassPart2

Spring registration forms are now online.
   http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm
   (From Steve Sutherland)

Great Lakes Chorus Sweet Adelines Show
   Coming this Sunday, Oct 30, at 3:00 p.m. What happens when you rehearse in a haunted theater? This haunting event will take place at the Troy Athens High School on John R in Troy, Michigan. Check out the website at www.glcsing.org
   Martha Quinn will be honored at the show. Austin's family and friends will have preferential seating as the chorus pays tribute to Martha.

Spirit of Detroit Show – Come Fly with Spirit
   Sunday, November 13, 2:30 is the date and time for the fall show of the Sweet Adelines’ Spirit of Detroit chorus, with Keepsake and OVERTURE as guest quartets. http://www.spiritofdetroitchorus.org/whats_new.htm

Fenton Lakes Sweet Adelines chorus placed 2nd in the Small Chorus SAI contest last month in Houston.

Lansing show
   The Lansing chorus's show, Hooray for Hollywood, is Saturday, March 3, at 7:30 pm, Wharton Center, East Lansing.

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade - 2012 registration has opened. Tom Blackstone and Charlie Perry have already registered.
   "This will be our third year rally and those who attended the first two years will be eligible for membership in the GLHB. For first-time attendees, we are asking you to have someone "sponsor" you. That sponsor will then be responsible to see you are learning the songs on time because, as all Brigades remind those who sign up, "Coming unprepared is not an option."

Jamie Carey
   DEXTER’S ALIBI, led by former Capitol City Chordsmen director Jamie Carey, has just won the Southwestern District (SWD) Quartet Championship. Jamie also sings with the Men of Note Chorus from Plano, Texas, where he is also an associate director. He and his seven year old son Cole were featured in a Harmonizer article in the May/June 2011 issue (page 27) for Cole’s participation with the chorus.
   Jamie sang lead in two Pioneer District Champ Quartets in Michigan, first with FULL CHORD PRESS in 1993, and then with FIREPOWER! in 1995. His quartets competed in the International Quartet Competitions four times. He also won the Bush League contest with MARKED FOUR SOUND in 2000 and briefly sang with the comedy quartet FOOL’S GOLD as well.
   Jamie directed the Capitol City Chordsmen in the mid-90’s, leading them to Pioneer District Chorus Championships in 1996 and 1999.
   (From the Lansing bulletin)
AROUND THE WORLD

2012 International Conventions

January 17-22            July 1-8

MEET OUR GUEST QUARTETS, FOREFRONT and OVERTURE

FOREFRONT is the Cardinal District Quartet Champs (2010) and 6th place finalists at International in Kansas City last summer (2011). You can check out FOREFRONT at http://forefrontquartet.weebly.com/

[Image of FOREFRONT]

Aaron Hughes (Br), Brian O’Dell (Bs), Kevin Hughes (L), Gary Texiera (T)

OVERTURE is the current Sweet Adelines International Regional Champion. They have just returned from Houston, TX, their third straight competition at SAI International, where they placed 27th with “Don’t Break the Heart That Loves You” and “If I Give My Heart to You.”

[Image of OVERTURE]

Dodie LaMarte (Br), Kathryn Green (Bs), Nanette Wardin (L), Kimberly Salyer (T)

Barbershop Wisdom from the Top

I asked one member of each of our two guest quartets to contribute their perspective on singing their voice part.

1. What one piece of advice would you give for your voice part? When you hear others sing, what strikes you most, that would be helpful to them?
2. What song are you going to sing in our Pontiac Waterford show that best illustrates that advice? (We’ll be listening!)

From Garry Texeira, Tenor of FOREFRONT and GOTCHA!

Hello Big Chiefs,

The one skill that I would love to see most tenors master is, to know where you are in the chords and in your range. When I listen to most barbershop tenors, they tend to hide in the sound of the quartet. This was the “old school” philosophy many years ago, for tenors to be felt and not heard. Not so in today's barbershop sound. The tenor should always be aware of what makes chords ring and what they need to do on every chord to allow that to happen, not to make it happen.

One way to do this is to be consistent with your tone quality below and above your break. Sometimes it requires singing a little brighter or warmer in spots to enhance the quartet sound and overtones. Investigate ways and exercises to help you with that consistent ring and resonance. That’s right I said resonance, tenors need to be resonant too, men!!

A particular song that FOREFRONT sings that demonstrates what I’m talking about is our opener. When I learn a song, I always try to come up with a road map of where I need to place certain notes to make the chords pop and really soar. “Fit as a Fiddle” is a good example of being a chord ringer, instead of just mailing it in. I hope this helps and I hope I don’t let you down. No pressure at all right? =o)

I look forward to meeting all of you and hopefully entertaining your fans and friends. See you in a few weeks.

From Dodie LaMarte, Baritone of OVERTURE

I like to think of these three things: space, place, and face. "Space" is tall singing with warm air and resonance; "place" is the placement, aiming for forward in the mask; and of course "face" is the uplifted facial countenance – as easy as a smile! Face is always in place, then the right mix of space and place to enhance either the bass or treble, depending on where you are in the chord. As a rule, the lower the baritone is in the chord, more place (forward); the higher in the chord, more space (tall and resonant).

For other baritones, often they are told to sing louder or softer to balance the chord above and below the lead voice. I think they would have more success with the mix of space and place, and not necessarily where they are in relation to the lead but where they are for their own voice and whether they need to enhance bass or treble.
There is really not one song that displays this advice – it applies to EVERY song. The baritone needs to be a smart singer! Baritones have the distinct role of making the other three parts look good, so when we are doing our job, they get all the credit... but we Baris know the truth!

Big Chief Jeopardy, #45. (Did you get these?)
1. Answer: The twelve chorus members that are pilots or have at least some flight training or have had other close association with aviation.
   Question: Who are John Cowlishaw, Doc Mann, Howard Lynn, Terry Jamison, Dick Johnson, Zaven Melkonian, Walt DeNio, Jeff Doig, Ross Ensign, Paul Smith, Cory Flatoff, and Neil Braun? (Chris Miller and Dave Willett were mentioned in the article as past chorus members.)
2. Answer: He grew up on a farm, graduated from Purdue with a B.S. in aeronautical engineering, and has worked at Rocketdyne, Pratt & Whitney, and Williams International, including work on Gemini and Apollo spacecraft. Question: Who is Lance Shew?

Big Chief Jeopardy, #46. (Try these.)
1. Answer: He started playing tenor sax and clarinet at the age of 13 and was a professional union musician by the time he was 17. He played in Joe Doto’s 17-piece Detroiter band and was their soloist. He built his own home on five acres behind Alpine Ski resort. A horse-lover, skier, stamp-collector, grandfather of 50, and a 50-50 raffler.
2. Answer: “I am writing from a Czech computer so the letters are in a slightly different place. I trust that all of you are doing well and everything is under control while the cat is away. Thanks to all who are taking control. The weather is beautiful, and being in the presence of Dvorak, Smetana and writers like Goethe and Rilke and Kafka is something else.”

(Puzzled? Check out Issues # 78 and 88.)

Vance Perry’s four-part audiovideo recording
of “How Great Thou Art” is on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxCRIF0m79w&feature=related
Thanks, Zav

Heart of my Heart
Here’s Freddie’s favorite song in Ab, sung by Collegiate quartet, EXPEDITION: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mVL1e678gU&feature=digest_refresh_tu e

The Value of District Competitions
From the web: “I find that we spend too much time focusing on competition instead of PERFORMING. Look around, how many of your local chapters can fill a one hour show for the public? How many quartets can fill a one hour gig?”

Alan Gordon responded:
“I agree with the basis of your comment. In fact, you may find that most of the judging community wishes more groups would perform more and make their skills habit.
“My only disagreement is that I don't think the two extremes of your argument are mutually exclusive. You will find that choruses and quartets who do better in competition tend to also be the ones that have a larger repertoire at a higher quality level. VM has how many recordings? CROSSROADS can sing for how long without repeating a song? Contests are successful for them because they approach it all as performing, and the contest happens to be a performance with critics.
“I think the biggest problem is not about competing, but using the tool properly. If you are performing at a 50s level and you have a history and knowledge of that, then competing to WIN might not be the healthiest decision. However, competing to gain FREE FEEDBACK from trained volunteers in order to improve your year-round PERFORMANCE level is a nice opportunity.
“Add to that the fact that the convention itself allows your members to be exposed to other groups, woodshedding, lobby singing, and another performance opportunity... I would LOVE to see more groups taking advantage of the opportunities conventions bring. If you approach the contest part honestly and educationally, then I think many chapters would have a great time, REGARDLESS of the score.”

Alan Gordon, gotchabari@juno.com

2011 International Convention available from ITunes
“Real” barbershoppers will rush to buy the 18-volume set of recordings of the 2011 BHS convention, which includes 226 Tracks From All 50 Quartets and 31 Choruses at The 2011 International Competition ☺
At $0.99 per track, that would be $223.74, but hey, if you buy them by the volume, it’s only $179.82.
Get them while they last!

Editorial
How wonderful it is to have quartet critiquing return to the Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus. I don’t recall much feedback since Chris Miller used to do it – not always too gently. ☺ The inputs of Tom, Dick, Freddie, and Mike have been particularly helpful, but the attentiveness and thoughtful input of all members of the chorus has been splendid.
Errata: In the October bulletin, Betty Guerin was “Bill Dabbs’ … recent fiancé, not his finance.” 😊

Letters

Coda Honor, with Ray Sturdy at Baritone, competed in the District contest Oct 14. They finished well (56.5) after a tuning problem in the first measures.

“Unfortunately, that's where you get pegged by the judges. They told us in the A&R that we got back in tune and sang well after that but it was too late for the numbers. We sang our Saturday package in the hospitality suites on Saturday night and we were well received and had a ball! I also have to tell you that it was great hearing the Quartet announced on Friday night as representing, among others, the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter!”

Ray Sturdy

From Art Lane.

“PROBE is struggling to keep going. They're looking at changes. It looks to me as if the idea of contests with lots of rules and standards has gone the way of the 1950s Rotary and Lions clubs. Communication these days is way more brisk and informal than ever before. Copy editing is disappearing even from newspapers.

“The first step will be combining the print and electronic bulletins into one contest. I believe after a few years of that the contest will disappear.”

All articles and photos are by the Editor unless stated otherwise.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP (2011)

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: F. McFadyen, D. Johnson, B. Holmes, M. Frye
President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Bill Auquier
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large - Walt Bachmann, Terry Jamison, Doug Metzger, Fred Pioch
Chorus Manager: Open
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray, Prueter, Moss, Cowlishaw, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45’ earlier)

Oct 25, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 30, Su, 3pm North Oakland Concert Band, Lake Orion H.S.
Oct 30, Su, 3pm GLC Sweet Adeline show, Troy Athens H.S.
Nov 1, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 3, Th, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 4, F, 7:30pm Canada Night, Livonia
Nov 5, Sa, 7pm 67th BCC Show, Phantom of the Barbershop
Nov 8, T, 7pm 1st Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 13, Su, 2:30 Spirit of Detroit Show, with Keepsake and Overture
Nov 13, Su Livingston Lamplighters show
Nov 15, T, 7pm 2nd Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 22, T, 7pm 3rd Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 29, T, 7pm 4th Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Dec 1, Th, 1 pm Gig, Oakland Co. Retirees, 991 N. Williams Lk Rd, 48386
Dec 6, T Waterford Tree Lighting, 5200 Civic Ctr. Dr, 6pm Warmup
Dec 10 Sa 11:30 Annual Bus Tour, 2800 Watkins Lake Rd.
Dec 13 T 6:30 pm Lakeland Place, 2700 Elizabeth Lake Rd.
Dec 14 W 12:00 pm POH 50 N. Perry, Pontiac
Dec 20 T 6:30 pm Independence Village of Union Lake, 935 Union Lake Rd.

(Additional Christmas Performances to be announced)

Jan 3 T 7:30 Installation of 2012 Officers
Jan 7, Sa Pioneer Leadership Academy, Okemos
Jan 27, F Uncle Sam Night, Windsor Chapter
Feb 12-14 Singing Valentines Delivered
Mar 3, Sa, 7:30 Lansing show, Hooray for Hollywood, Wharton Ctr
Mar 30, F 7:30 54th Annual Woodshed Contest, 4335 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Waterford
Apr 20-22, 2012 Pioneer District Convention, Battle Creek
Jun 30, 2012 Gig, Log Cabin Days

(From Concho Capers)