The Big Chief Christmas Chorus opened its 2011 season with a performance at the White Lake Oaks Country Club. The event was the annual luncheon for Oakland County retirees. Whether it was the renown of the chorus, or the good food, the attendees swelled to 270, leaving a thin strip of open floor in front of the windows for the 33 chorus members. Freddie McFadyen directed the chorus and Natural E sang “Jingle Bell Rock.”

The chorus then continued to Lourdes campus where it sang to four separate units – Clausen Manor, Mendelson, Fox Manor, and the Nursing Center, to a total of 95 residents and staff.

On December 6, the chorus returned to the Waterford Township Offices for the annual arrival of Santa Claus. As usual, the weather was cold, the jazz band cool, the children excited, and the hot cider flowing, for the crowd estimated at 350. Tom led the chorus thru a set of songs and then the township bigwigs joined us to sing “We Wish You a Merry Little Christmas.” The chorus moved on to Lockwood of Waterford to warm our toes and to sing to the 40 enthusiastic residents and staff there.

Bruce Brede and Roger Holm arranged the bus tour December 10. Venues included Elmhaven Nursing Home, Big Chief Coney, VGs of Pontiac, VGs of Waterford, Pine Tree Place Nursing Home, and Autumn Ridge Nursing Home. The day’s total people who learned something about a cappella? 235 would be a good estimate. 4GVN added a rendition of “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming.”

On December 13, the crew entertained 45 bright-eyed residents of Lakeland Place. LIMITED EDITION added a quartet flavor with “Christmas Song” and “Here Comes Santa Claus.” Then the group re-convened at Heroes Bar-BQ & Brew for food, beverage and singing to the patrons, including one of Cowlishaw’s 1970’s ex-students.

Despite the rainy, foggy weather December 14, twenty-two men carpooled from Mo-Tec Automotive Services Center to sing four daytime performances. At Pontiac Osteopathic hospital, they sang for the staff in the cafeteria. At Regency of Waterford, a new facility on Telegraph, just north of Dixie Highway, they sang for the residents and staff. At American House, the residents included an ex-barbershopper from New York. At Inn at Cass Lake, a somewhat larger group enjoyed the chorus. Freddie McFadyen was director for the four gigs. NATURAL E sang, as well as FOUR BRAVE CHIEFS (Frye, Greenwood, Cowlishaw/Sturdy, Wallace).

On December 15, the chorus motored out to Oxford, to sing at the Boulder Pointe Banquet Center for a group of perhaps 325 enthusiastic, developmentally disabled folks and their staff. The amplification system was a challenge, but Freddie led us thru a small set, to which NATURAL E and FOUR BRAVE CHIEFS added their voices.

The final week saw singouts at Independence Village of Union Lake and Canterbury on the Lake. The crowds were large and enthusiastic at each venue.

A Christmas virus hit several members of the chorus, but attendance was still good at singouts. The Christmas chorus included guests Dillon O’Connell, Gary Owens, Mickey Cotter, Tom Burder, and Pat Newkirk. Ted Prueter reported that a record fifty-one Christmas books were distributed. And the season included 27 gigs for 2332 people. LIMITED EDITION, NATURAL E, and CELEBRATION added their own separate performances to the Big Chief season. (See below)
From Prez Jack:

MEN,

Thank you for the many miles driven and time given to this year’s Christmas Singing. It has gone by rapidly with many fond memories.

NOTE FROM THE LIBRARIAN: Ted will be collecting the Christmas Books. Please help Ted in his efforts to maintain our Christmas Library.

YARD SIGNS: We can collect and put the signs in storage and get an early jump on next year’s Christmas recruiting.

Jack

From Director Tom,

Men and Friends of the BCC,

A Christmas and New Year's wish for all...from me and the Choirs of Rochester Adams High School.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzXRCBvFCK4

AROUND THE PATCH

We regroup, January 3, for a New Year, and installation of officers, with visiting Roger Lewis.

Fall Show on Media Network of Waterford.

Our fall show was broadcast in Waterford on WTV10, Media Network of Waterford. Those who saw it gave encouraging reports of the quality of the recording, so that Jack and Dave Myre will work to order copies of the show for the chorus.

The Year in Review, Membership-wise

We welcomed new member Jim McMain. We lost Jim Claflin and Marv Wilson to death, Terry Jamison, Jeffrey Kafer, Jim Macdonald, and Fred Poole to re-location, and Bob Kleeman, Lew Mahacek, and Paul Smith to non-renewal.

Music Committee actions

Music chair Roger Holm met with the Directors to talk over new repertoire for 2012. Details will follow.

Quartet News

On Saturday, December 3, LIMITED EDITION joined the MOTOR CITY BRASS BAND for a concert at Central United Methodist Church. The 28-piece band played a repertoire of Christmas, classical and pop pieces, some arranged by Director Craig Strain. Before their concert and at intermission, the quartet, in a “Special Guest Appearance,” entertained the 130 attendees with a mixture of popular and Christmas songs from the quartet and chorus repertoires. Christie Kay, President of the Waterford Cultural Council, who sponsored the event, was ecstatic about the whole evening.

With a two-pronged frontal attack on Pearl Harbor Day, the BCC launched barbershop deployments (not offensive) – at Heroes, and at a home in Waterford.

NATURAL E, with Mike Frye subbing at Lead, sang at Heroes for two hours, preparing the patrons for Santa’s arrival. The group, which owner John estimated at 250 by the end of the gig, was very responsive. The quartet moved from table to table. There were tons of kids there, who enjoyed it muchly. When Santa arrived, the foursome sang to him. One couple remarked, “We weren’t in the Christmas spirit until tonight!” Jack Teuber noted that the Heroes Marquee proclaimed, “Mr & Mrs Santa Claus with the Big Chief Quartet coming on Wednesday, December 7th.

Roger Holm added: “Wednesday's gig at Heroes was outstandingly good! We sang a lot to a lot of people - including a lot of kids! Heroes had a good turnout - the restaurant was mostly full, a couple of times over. Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus were very high quality stand-ins for the real McCoy! I think we sang pretty good and made new friends with many. A good time was had by all, and I'm confident that Heroes was pleased with the whole event!

Concurrently, LIMITED EDITION was singing a 14-song program for the Waterford American Association of University Women, 25-strong, meeting at a private home in Waterford.

Both quartets were medically challenged. Tom Blackstone sounded like a Bass earlier in the day, but given Charlie Perry’s already occupying that voice part, Tom agreed to return to his Tenor role. Mike Frye wasn’t faring much better health-wise, but the actual performance brought out the best of this NATURAL E configuration.

On Saturday, December 17th, our CELEBRATION BARBERSHOP QUARTET had their sixth annual Sponsor Tour entertaining almost 200 patrons of Tenutas Food Market, Big Apple Restaurant and Pete’s Coney Restaurant. The quartet sang about three dozen Christmas carols and three Happy Birthdays and were joined by Santa Auquier who sang with them at Pete’s. The audiences were very receptive and willingly sang along. The kids’ favorites were “Jingle Bells” and “Rudolph.” The adults liked the traditional
songs like “Joy to the World,” “Angels We Have Heard on High,” and “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.”

**BCC 2011 Performance Total:** 114 gigs to 9,384 people. 27 of those were during the Christmas season, to 2,332 people.

**MEMBERSHIP (at 59)**
- **Renewals:** Charlie Perry (3), Walt DeNio (15), Mike Keith (31)
- **Overdue:** Art Carinci, Ross Ensign, Wayne Oberstadt
- **Transferred:** Terry Jamison (to Central District Corridor of the SWD district)
- **January Birthdays:** Len Barnes (Jan 3), Tom Blue (Jan 7), Bob Marshall (Jan 10), Ray Sturdy (Jan 18)
- **Medical:** Mike Frye had knee replacement surgery November 15.

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

The Brightmoor Christian Church’s Christmas production included a quartet from the Rochester Chapter, all dressed up in red and white pinstripe vests that were arranged by Wayne Oberstadt and Jack Teuber.

**D.O.C. Show: BARBERSHOP IN SPACE! (THE FINAL FRONTIER)**

Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 2:00 pm and at 7:30 pm, Clarenceville High School, Livonia, MI.

Guest quartets will include: **HIGH FIDELITY** (2005 Far Western District Champions, 2006 Harmony Sweepstakes National A Cappella Champions, and 2008 Pan Pacific Quartet Champions), and **PRESTIGE**, 2011 International Collegiate Quartet Champions, plus The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS chorus and featured chapter quartets.

The space-themed show will lean toward Star Trek but not exclusively. HIGH FIDELITY will do their *Star Trek* show

**Lansing show**

The Lansing chorus’s show, *Hooray for Hollywood*, is Saturday, March 3, at 7:30 pm, Wharton Center, East Lansing. The chorus will present songs from classic musicals from the silver screen like “Hello Dolly,” “The Music Man,” “South Pacific” and many more. The featured quartet is Top Ten International quartet TNS, from Nashville. The show will also showcase the comedy antics of THE PATCH CHORDS, the smooth quartet sounds of SINGULAR, and also great harmony from OLD THYME HARMONY QUARTET, PARTS UNLIMITED, and KNOCKIN’ ON HEAVEN’S DOOR.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**2012 International Conventions**

Tucson: January 17-22
Portland: July 1-8

My best wishes to all my barbershop brothers and sisters for a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year. May we all wish the best for the future of barbershop as we forge into 2012. Forget our personal weaknesses and pull together for the perpetuation and enjoyment of what we hold dear and for that which binds us together in such a wonderful opportunity for the expression of our love of music.

Alan Lamson
President, Barbershop Harmony Society

**New Barberpole Cat Program Learning CDs**

 Newly recorded by none other than Tim Waurick, and newly released for your learning pleasure. Pre-order your voice part today!

Individual parts, $5 each, or $18 for all four.

**Dues Increase**

With the declining membership and ever-increasing costs to do business, the Society, in order to balance its budget, will be implementing a $5 dues increase per member effective January 1, 2012.

**Northbrook-based all women's barbershop chorus celebrates sixth international championship.**

From the Glenview, (IL) Patch: [http://glenview.patch.com/articles/melodeers](http://glenview.patch.com/articles/melodeers)

The Melodeers won its sixth international chorus championship at the Sweet Adelines competition in Houston, TX, last October. There are some 700 women’s barbershop choruses throughout the world. They meet at St. Peter Community Church, in Northbrook, IL.

The roughly 150 members come from as far as Michigan and Indiana to rehearse at St. Peter Community Church in Northbrook every Wednesday night. The rehearsals typically last from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

As an example, Melodeer Carol Thompson drives two hours from South Bend, IN, each week, and crawls into bed around 2:30 a.m. after rehearsal.

“But Thompson and other members say it’s a commitment that’s well worth it, not just for the accolades and gold medals but for the camaraderie of being part of a women’s chorus.”
among the group, some of whom have been singing together for four decades or more. In fact, the Melodeers celebrated their 50th anniversary last year.”

Helen Giallombardo is a member of the chorus and also the wife of Jay Giallombardo, the director of the BHS New Traditions Chorus that also practices at St. Peter Community Church.

Riser Etiquette Rules, from our August Smoke Signals was reprinted in “The Voice of Rushmore,” the bulletin of the Mt. Rushmore Chapter “Shrine of Democracy Chorus” in Rapid City, South Dakota http://www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org/Newsletters/Jan-12..pdf

Pentatonic Scale – Bobby McFerrin

An interesting link from Wayne Oberstadt sent the following YouTube video of Bobby McFerrin leading the participants at the World Science Festival 2009 thru an example of the Pentatonic Scale, which he claimed showed the inherent ability of humans to recognize this scale.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=0gjreHt0t

http://vimeo.com/5732745

“The notes Bobby McFerrin is playing are C-D-E-G-A. Or 1-2-3-5-6.

It raises this question. Is there something inherent in our neural network that gives us an inborn affinity for these five notes? Or is it just part of our Western musical cultural tradition?

Wikipedia says: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentatonic_scale :

“A pentatonic scale is a musical scale with five notes per octave in contrast to a heptatonic (seven note) scale such as the major scale and minor scale. Pentatonic scales are very common and are found all over the world, including Celtic folk music, Hungarian folk music, West African music, African-American spirituals, Gospel music, music, Jazz, American blues music, rock music, Sami joik singing, children’s song, the music of ancient Greece[2][3] and the Greek traditional music and songs from Epirus, Northwest Greece, music of Southern Albania, folk songs of peoples of the Middle Volga area (such as the Mari, the Chuvash and Tatars), the tuning of the Ethiopian krar and the Indonesiamel, Philippine Kulintang, Native American music, melodies of Korea, Malaysia, Japan, China and Vietnam(including the folk music of these countries), the Andean music, the Afro-Caribbean tradition, Polish highlanders from the Tatra Mountains, and Western Impressionistic composers such as French composer Claude Debussy.

“The ubiquity of pentatonic scales, specifically anhemitonic (without semitones) modes, can be attributed to the total lack of the most dissonant intervals between any pitches; there are neither any semitones (and therefore also no complementary major sevenths) nor any tritones. This means any pitches of such a scale may be played in any order or combination without clashing.

The last paragraph is particularly interesting to harmonically-oriented barbershoppers, who frown on harmonic clashing.

Buying Original Sheet Music

The Old Songs Library at Nashville headquarters has many songs. But what if you can’t find the song you’re looking for there?

Here are some recent suggestions from the Web:

http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/ “It’s very slick and easy to use, and you can download the music and print it right away, as soon as you pay for it. I would imagine it would be a great/convenient resource for arrangers wanting to see the original song.” (720,000 selections)

http://www.musicnotes.com/ Purchases are available for instant download. (200,000 selections)

http://www.sheetmusicdirect.us/ A full copy with words, arrangement and guitar chords is available for $3.99 (100,000 selections)

Learning new songs

David M. Miller, Musical Director, Mason–Dixon Chorus, BHS, writes:

I like to divide the process into these major blocks and only work on one song in the notes and words block at a time before introducing the next song.

SONG DEVELOPMENT
1. Notes and Words
2. Interpretation
3. Balance and Blend (vowels and tuning)
4. Choregraphy / Emotional Ownership

Given learning tapes, and doing ONLY ONE major block per song per, [the] time frame is four weeks, about right to have the notes and word learned and (mostly) off the paper).

Given one song at a time how much time would you spend per rehearsal (15 min sectionals and 15 mins with chorus) on the one song?

To which Stephen Rafe replied:

This pretty much describes some of the fundamentals in my manual,”Teaching Music Painlessly.” The content is based on a course of that title that I taught at Harmony College-East back in the ‘90s. It’s largely based on the principle of “variable control” –– breaking a song down into its smallest components, teaching one at a time, “chunking” it or assembling related pieces into small groups, and then putting the song together for fine-tuning by a director.

The approach is supported by published research into adult learning. It addresses the fact that most learning takes place through the visual sense (followed by auditory and then by tactile). Seeing the words is, of course, visual. Reading them aloud is both auditory and tactile (speaking). It breaks down the learning components into simple steps -- First learn the words (and
how to pronounce them). Then discuss the emotions behind the song -- the "meaning" of the message. Next learn one piece of the song in sectionals (the details are included). Then put that much of the song together. Choruses that follow all the manual's instructions carefully are off paper in as little as three half-hour units devoted to this process. Now the song is ready for the director to polish.

The method removes almost all risks of error and builds members' confidence through the self-reinforcement that comes with doing things well.

If you'd like a copy, just email me privately at: Stephen@rapportcommunications.net

**Comcast Video On Demand Schedule for December-January**

Just a reminder: Comcast customers: can tune in to Comcast Video On Demand through December and January to see these great videos. Just go to:

On Demand > Music > Music Picks > Barbershop Harmony, to hear and see:

- Kentucky Vocal Union "Since I Don't Have You"
- STATELINE GROCERY "Danny Boy"
- WESTMINSTER CHORUS "Strike Up the Band/Everybody Step Medley"
- GOTCHA! "Wait Til the Sun Shines Nellie"
- FRED "I Got Rhythm"
- MICHIGAN JAKE "Dinah"
- POWER PLAY "Love at Home"
- MASTERS OF HARMONY "Here Comes the Showboat"
- Tag Time with Adam Scott

**Harmony Foundation and Ambassadors of Song**

Chuck Murray writes, "Ray Sturdy and I have each made a pledge to the Harmony Foundation, as new "Ambassadors of Song." (AOS)

"I decided to do this after seeing the excitement in the faces of four different high school vocal music groups in Indianapolis last month, as the Indiana Harmony Brigade "Mini-Chorus" (over 50 guys!) visited their schools on a Friday morning, and sang for them. HF is but one way we can share the joy of the barbershop singing hobby, a lifetime experience.

"My AOS donation will also result in a small donation to the Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus (BCC) I hope the BCC can put these to good use in spreading the joy of barbershop singing among our youth.

"Sponsoring high schoolers to various Pioneer District youth camps is but one way, and I realize the BCC has done this before.

"There may be other BCC members interested in helping spread our hobby among youth, but are not sure how to go about it.

"Harmony Foundation is an excellent way to accomplish this!"

Details, from: "Harmony Foundation"

This time of year is really defined by giving. Each gift matters and every good act is significant. However, joining together for the good of many is not only the spirit of the holidays; it is the essence of barbershopping.

It was an incredibly exciting time at the convention this year when we announced the generous gift of $100,000 from Warren Capenos to match the gifts of those who joined as new members of Harmony Foundation's *Ambassadors of Song* - a monthly giving program that provides scholarships to get young people singing.

The response has been so strong that Warren's challenge has been met, and while those successes are obvious, our immediate challenge is ensuring that we will have the resources in 2012 to keep quality singing alive for youth in our schools and communities.

It is Warren's hope that in the spirit of this campaign, if you haven't already joined, you will before December 31, 2011. For as little as $10 per month, you can give a special gift this time of year and join the nearly 2,000 others who have committed to supporting youth music education and awareness.

Please consider joining today. Your gift WILL make a difference and change lives!

- Happy Holidays,
- Clarke Caldwell
- President and CEO

**Ambassador of Song Program**

This time of year is really defined by giving. Each gift matters and every good act is significant. Joining together for the good of many is not only the spirit of the holidays; it is the essence of barbershopping! This is also the "wrap up" time of year, not just wrapping up gifts, but also wrapping up your financial plans for 2011 and preparing them for 2012. As you know, we made a big push this year, both here in Pioneer as well as across the Society, to promote the Ambassador of Song program. It is not too late to join the nearly 2,000 people who have made that commitment this year! For as little as $10 a month, you can give a special gift that will help keep our style of music growing in appeal to young people across our Society, as well as keep Society programs that we enjoy and expect. Of course, there are other levels of giving as well; visit the Harmony Foundation at ([http://www.harmonyfoundation.org](http://www.harmonyfoundation.org)) and consider joining today. Your gift will make a difference and change lives!

- Happy Holidays!
- Brian Dunckel
- President, Pioneer District

**Flash Mob at the University of Minnesota, singing “Deck the Halls”**
NBC’s The Sing-Off

This was the third year of The Sing-Off, a much expanded season, due to the success of the first two seasons. The five-member Pentatonix beat out Urban Method and the Dartmouth Aires to take home $200,000 and a recording contract with Sony Music.

But how did the winners of the first two seasons fare? Here’s info, from the Web.

Season One Winner: NOTA

NOTA, originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico won the first season of The Sing-Off! This all-male sextet met in college and have been sharing their passion for music ever since. Although they grew up in Puerto Rico with Spanish as their first language, the guys have been exposed to many American groups and have been inspired by some, such as Boys II Men. They bring imagination, passion, and integrity to their artistry and focus on passionate Latin musical roots while adding different styles like R&B, pop, and fusion jazz.

Since their incredible win, NOTA were the opening act on Shakira’s fall tour. On November 2nd, NOTA released their self-titled debut album. They performed at the Puerto Rico national anthem in the opening ceremony of the 2010 Central American and Caribbean Games held in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

To learn more about these talented guys, visit their website at http://www.notavocal.com/

You might remember that the only barbershop group to have participated in any of the three years was the Sweet Adeline group during Season One, Maxx Factor. They did barbershop proud.

Maxx Factor, from Baltimore, Maryland. These super moms effortlessly balance family life with their love of music. According to this all-female quartet, they "do a style that very few women groups do -- we go out there and prove that a women quartet can kick butt." The women's group has performed regionally and internationally and recently became the 2009 National Harmony Sweepstakes Champions. This fabulous quartet has also won the 2009 Mid Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes and they are the 2010 Sweet Adelines International Third Place Medalists. These ladies are ready to show the world their incredible talents!

Season Two Winner: COMMITTED

This all-male group was founded in 2003 by four high school students at Forest Lake Academy. The group stayed together as they progressed to Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama where they continued to perform together. COMMITTED is dedicated to creating unique harmonies with powerful lead vocals, soaring harmonies, and a booming bass line.

COMMITTED is an a cappella group of six male vocalists from Huntsville, Alabama, all students at Oakwood University, a historically black Seventh-Day Adventist school in Huntsville.

They won the title on the finale broadcast on December 20, 2010 broadcast on NBC, singing a vocal a cappella arrangement of "We Are the Champions" from Queen.

The singing group released their self-titled album Committed on Epic Records. The group began singing together in 2003, inspired by another a cappella group that originated at Oakwood, TAKE 6. http://www.committedsings.com/

Audacity

There’s a new release of Audacity, the free, open source software for recording and editing sounds. Audacity 1.3.14 (Beta) “This is our active version with the latest features and fixes. It is a mature Beta, intended to become the new 2.0 stable version in the near future. Most users should download the Beta.”

Audacity is a free and easy-to-use audio editor and recorder for Windows, Mac OS X, GNU/Linux and other operating systems. You can use Audacity to:

- Record live audio.
- Convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs.
- Edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, WAV or AIFF sound files.
- Cut, copy, splice or mix sounds together.
- Change the speed or pitch of a recording.

Multi-track single-artist audiovisual tracks

Multi-track recordings are advancing. By now we are very familiar with audio barbershop tracks in which all four parts are recorded by the same artist. The first I knew of were by D. J. Hiner, whom I interviewed in the June, 2006 Smoke Signals.

Now they’re more common. Probably the best are TimTracks by Tim Waurick. http://www.timtracks.com/

Then, Eric Whitaker inaugurated audiovisual Virtual Choirs, choirs in which many singers are separated by space, but united by electronics. (May, 2009) http://ericwhitacre.com/the-virtual-choir

The first Virtual Barbershop Chorus is being formed by Peter Nugent. www.virtual-chorus.com

Now my son Philip has alerted me to multi-track audiovisual tracks by a single artist. These are one-person choirs. They are all separate recordings, not just duplicated tracks.
Take a look/listen to the talented Vance Perry sing 27 tracks (7 bass, 7 Lead, 7 Bari, and 6 Tenor) of Jim Clancy’s arrangement of “Sweet Hour of Prayer.” [Ray Sturdy has part tracks for this version of Sweet Hour of Prayer if anyone who wants to learn it.]

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KwuYo3Wm5I&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Also, Dan Wright has a 32-track recording of Lux Aurumque” at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5hG3Xovijw&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Million Dollar Quartet

My niece, Jennifer Thede and her husband Scott, run the Michigan Elvis Presley Fan Club. http://www.mielvis.com/ In their current newsletter, they write the following:

“Million Dollar Quartet is the smash hit Broadway musical, inspired by the true story of the famed recording session that brought together rock n roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

“On December 4, 1956, these four young musicians were gathered together by Sam Phillips, the Father of Rock n Roll at Sun Records in Memphis for what would be one of the greatest jam sessions of all time. Million Dollar Quartet brings that legendary night to life with an irresistible tale of broken promises, secrets, betrayal and celebrations featuring timeless hits including “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Fever,” “That’s All Right,” “Sixteen Tons,” “Great Balls of Fire,” “I Walk the Line,” “Whole Lotta Shakin Goin On,” “Who Do You Love?,” “Matchbox,” “Folsom Prison Blues,” “Hound Dog” and more.”

“This thrilling musical brings you inside the recording studio with four major talents who came together as a red-hot rock n roll band for one unforgettable night. Don't miss your chance to be a fly on the wall of fame... at Million Dollar Quartet!”

It will be at Detroit’s Fisher Theater, January 24 - February 5.

Editorial

There was a 60ish gentleman at our VG Christmas singout, who listened with interest to our whole set. I chatted him up for possible membership, but he laughed and said, “Looks like I’m not old enough.” That stung. Do we really come across as a geriatric group? The median age of our current roster is 71.

We do outreach to students and hand out cards to our audiences without age-discrimination. Yet we don’t attract many younger members. Maybe those efforts are best seen as planting seeds. I can think of quite a few younger folk who have passed thru our ranks as guests or short-term members.

We have to face up to the fact that men in their 20s, 30s, and 40s have much on their plate, vocationally, and family-wise.

How do certain other choruses do it?

It’s not that we don’t love every single doddering old one of us. 😊 But can we do something else to attract younger members also?

Remember that practice is what we do at home. Rehearsal is what we do together to perfect what we have practiced so that we can make music together

(From the Voice of Rushmore, John Elving, Editor)

Letters

I am always so proud to see and hear you perform when you come to the Oakland County Retiree’s Christmas Luncheon. Today it seemed you picked my favorite songs to sing. Then – surprise – you presented me with beautiful red roses. Thank you so much.

How often am I speechless? Today I was. Thank you so, so much for the roses and recognition.

Merry Christmas to all
Donna Bevington

Dear Gentlemen of the Big Chief Chorus,

I send you best wishes for the holidays and hope the New Year brings health, happiness and prosperity for you and your loved ones.

Looking back on the year, I offer many thanks to you again for inviting me to the Fall Show and Afterglow as your guest. You touched my heart. Like everyone else, I thought ‘The Phantom of the Barbershop’ was a great success!! The special effects, story line, really nice animation and, of course THE MUSIC, were wonderful. Compliments to all, especially Mr. Tom Blue!

As this year has progressed with many challenges, expected and otherwise, I have so enjoyed the friendship and support of all the Chiefs and Chicks. Thank you so much for continuing to make me feel like part of the Big Chief family. I appreciate you more than you know.

Love and Season’s Greetings,
Joan Cheyne

Another GREAT Smoke Signals. BTW and only from a really fun perspective, [referring to last month’s article on the busiest quartet] C4 got to know a great quartet at Harmony U this year called EASY DAYS and we even did a chapter show with them over in Wisconsin. Great guys. Anyway, they did 190 singouts last year and are on pace to almost 300 this year. Amazing! Here is their website www.EasyDays.info. ☺ Again, just a fun tidbit. (One of the ways that people join barbershop is by hearing it in person and you guys have given almost 10,000 people that opportunity. Fantastic!)

Paul Ellinger

Yes the power of God. Today my Christmas came early in the package of my daughter who returned from Iraq. And like the Jamison she is, she came with a handful of medals and ribbons awarded to her (the big one is the Army Commendation Medal.) It was well worth getting up at 1am to drive to Ft. Hood and be there when she got off the plane at 0500 in the morning. To the BCC I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Terry Jamison
108 Kingwood Forest
Victoria, Tx 77904

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

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP (2012)
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: Charlie Perry
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large - Walt Bachmann, Mike Frye, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy
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)

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<td>Jan 10 T</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 17 T</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oaks Activity Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Executive Bd Meeting,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jack Teuber’s home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 24 T</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27, F</td>
<td></td>
<td>Uncle Sam Night, Windsor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 31 T</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford</td>
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<td>Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7, T</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oaks Activity Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 12-14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Singing Valentines</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Delivered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td></td>
<td>DOC show Barbershop in</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Space (pm and eve)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 3, Sa</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Lansing show, Hooray for</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hollywood, Wharton Ctr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 17, Sa</td>
<td></td>
<td>Canterbury St Patrick’s</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Day Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 30, F</td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>54th Annual Woodshed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Contest, Waterford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 20-22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Convention, Battle</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Creek, McCamly Hotel</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>W K Kellogg Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 1-3</td>
<td></td>
<td>GLHB, Okemos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gig, Log Cabin Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 22, Sa</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fall retreat/Show Prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19-21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fall Convention, Battle</td>
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<td>Creek - McCamly Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>W K Kellogg Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 3, Sa</td>
<td></td>
<td>68th Annual BCC Show,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Mott High School</td>
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</table>

BCC at Waterford Tree Lighting
BCC at VG’s

BCC at Heroes, Dec 13

Audience at Lockwood of Waterford

Audience at Lakeland Place, Dec 13

BCC at Regency of Waterford, Dec 14
Advice for the New Year - on Growing Old

She was sitting on her front step smoking a cigar, so I walked up to her and said, "I couldn't help but notice how happy you look! What is your secret?"

"I smoke ten cigars a day," she said. "Before I go to bed, I smoke a nice big joint. Apart from that, I drink a whole bottle of Jack Daniels every week, and eat only junk food. On weekends, I pop pills, get laid, and I don't exercise at all."

"That is absolutely amazing! How old are you?"
"Forty," she replied!