From Director Tom:

Thank you all for being such fine hosts for our guest, Sean Devine. Thank you, most of all, for your attendance and fine work on our show songs. I hope that each week from now on is just as productive, as we are finally starting to achieve a nice sound with some nicely in-tune chords. Ringing them comes next! It will take all of us each and every week to continue our forward progress toward our successful show! Let's make O. C. Cash proud; after all, we have sung with a member of OC TIMES!

From Music VP Roger Holm

GENTLEMEN:

VERY IMPORTANT! We need to get the "Let's Get Away From It All" parody ensemble cranked up!! Those of us who remember singing it some years ago in the "Big Chef" chorus - and anybody else who'd like to join us - should be able to resurrect this fun song in pretty short order!

Also important - just 5 more regular Tuesday-night rehearsals prior to show week! AND October 15th is the final Tuesday for us to bring advertising copy for the show program! Doug has to start putting the book together on October 21!

Sean Devine's visit

Sean Devine was born in Hershey, PA, moved to California in 2001 to pursue a career in music, performing full-time with the professional doo-wop group, THE ALLEY CATS. He joined the Masters of Harmony and the Westminster choruses, and became the Lead in the newly formed quartet, OC TIMES. The “OC” has the double meaning of honoring O. C. Cash, and being formed in Orange County. OC TIMES won the Gold Medal in 2008. In July 2008, Sean joined the staff of Harmony Foundation, where he has responsibility for about five districts. He moved back to Hershey, PA this year.

Sean was in town for several days, visiting the Livingston Lamplighters and Pontiac-Waterford, doing a little coaching, and meeting with Pioneer District officers.

He joined Jack Teuber, Ray Sturdy, and LIMITED EDITION at Heroes for an early supper Tuesday night, September 17. After a few warmups, we sang “Come Fly With Me” and “No More Sorrow” to the surprised diners, who erupted in applause.

AROUND THE PATCH

Happy 75th Birthday, Barbershop Harmony Society, November 2

How are you coming in mastering our Fall Show repertoire?

(a) I can read the notes and sing the music accurately, with the paper.
(b) I know the notes and words and am off the paper.
(c) I have mastered the song and know the interp.

1.  Let Me Call You Sweetheart ___ ___ ___
2.  Sweet Adeline ___ ___ ___
3.  You Tell Me Your Dreams ___ ___ ___
4.  Over The Rainbow ___ ___ ___
5.  Ain’t Misbehavin’ ___ ___ ___
6.  I’m Always Chasing Rainbows ___ ___ ___
7.  Breaking Up is Hard to Do ___ ___ ___
8.  It Is Well with My Soul ___ ___ ___
9.  God Bless America ___ ___ ___
10. The Irish Parting Prayer ___ ___ ___
11. Keep the Whole World Singing ___ ___ ___

And these from ensembles:

12. There’s A Meetin’ Here Tonight (by the quartets)
13. Let’s Get Away From It All (by 2003 members)
At the rehearsal, Sean led the chorus thru a warmup that was rather gentle, compared to what John and Freddie do. It included the “ng” sound which Sean uses to aid forward placement more than the hum does. We alternated between hum, ng, ooh, and bubbling, as we did the 8-tone scale breakout, and as we sang “Heart of My Heart.”

After Tom’s leading us thru the first half of our show rep, Sean gave an articulate summary of the work of Harmony Foundation, emphasizing its support of Harmony University and the Youth Programs of the Society.

Ray Sturdy, Dave Montera, and Tom Blackstone joined Sean to sing “Good Luck Charm.” Then Sean joined LIMITED EDITION to sing “Sold – Grundy County Auction.” Interesting point: When the members of OC Times first heard John Michael Montgomery’s “Sold” they went to their favorite arranger, Aaron Dale, to ask for an arrangement. Turns out that Aaron Dale’s wife had gone to school with Montgomery. The quartet introduced the song in 2006.

The quartet sings about one gig a month, and they use that entire weekend as their rare opportunity for rehearsal, since they are dispersed around the country. Coming up, they’re going to join in Los Angeles for a recording session for a new album.

Sean talked about how they choose their repertoire. Three rules: No rubato. Sing to a girl, not about her. And ask something of her. He was asked about vowel-matching. He said that the quartet spends zero time on it. But the reason is that their two choruses emphasize it so strongly that the right vowel formations were just their natural way of singing.

Emphasizing the growing international flavor of barbershop, Sean said that BABS, the British Association of Barbershop Singers, has invited six top quartets to Harrogate, England May 23-26 for their 40th Anniversary Convention. OC TIMES, VOCAL SPECTRUM, CROSSROADS, GAS HOUSE GANG, RINGMASTERS, and STORM FRONT will all be there. Maybe the Big Chief Chorus can rent a 707 and fly over!

YouTube videos:
- Warmups, with Sean Devine, excerpts: http://youtu.be/-wWhCsViRXc
- CODA HONOR, with Sean Devine and Tom Blackstone: http://youtu.be/8YVkwpYmVEE
- LIMITED EDITION with Sean Devine: http://youtu.be/mRQ9tm3Updw

From Art Carinci’s Facebook Page:
“I have now retired and we are in Michigan until Jan, when I will be in Vegas for three months.”

Tom Blackstone’s daughter, Ashlie Smith, a Middle School Teacher at Cranbrook Schools, was one of five finalists in the Bammy Awards for Excellence in Education. She got the black-tie/limousine treatment at the ceremony in Washington D.C., September 21. She was recognized for her work in “flipping” the classroom. The traditional structure of lecture in class followed by applied practicum as homework is replaced with video instruction at home (so students and follow at their own pace and take notes) followed by personal instruction, labs, and students projects in class.

Jack Teuber’s brother Bill (Fred William Teuber 1929-2014) passed away September 22. He was a professor of Music Composition at the University of South Carolina. He had the privilege of writing the arrangement for the responsorial, when Pope John Paul II visited Columbia, S.C. in 1987. His funeral will be on Tuesday, October 2nd in South Carolina. He sang Lead in a quartet, had three wives and five children. Two of his wives attended a celebration concert at the University for his 80th birthday.

Doc Mann’s new email address is Imfoot2@gmail.com.
ONTV Taping
The Board decided to cancel the taping on September 26 and reschedule it for a future time next year.

Why did Eric Domke miss rehearsal Sep 17?
“Last week’s project up north at the cabin. New windows and siding. It’s great my bro Sam knows siding. He and his son Joshua were the team. Also had 3 trees cut down b4 any more damage could take place (a branch cut the electric to my shed last fall from one of them)”

Where has Pete Mazzara been?
“I thought of (Jeff and John) as we drove around the airport in Anchorage, Alaska. There were 1000's of little planes, and they have the right a way on the roads.
“We were told one out of six people have a pilot’s license, and one out of eight have at least part ownership in a plane. Many teenagers get the pilot’s license before their drivers.”

A Fractured Tale
Bob and Eileen Marshall have featured roles in The Heart of the Hills Players fall show, A Fractured Tale, a musical-comedy about Cinderella, a little off-kilter. Bob plays Frankie and Eileen plays Lila Lansberry. Both will also sing and dance in the production.
Bob and Eileen have advance tickets available at a reduced rate of $10.00. Performances will be held at the Troy Community Center, 3179 Livernois, October 23 and 24 at 2:00 p.m., and October 25 at 7:00 p.m.; and at the Warren Community Center, 5460 Arden, Warren, November 6 and 7 at 2:00 p.m., and November 8 and 9 at 7:00 p.m.
For further information, visit www.hohplayers.org.

Quartets
Sound Idea! performed at the Redford Theater at its showing of The Music Man, Starring Robert Preston and Shirley Jones.

Shirley Jones appeared live at all three shows.

Music Man audiences were approximately 1500 people Friday and Saturday and around 1000+ on Sunday afternoon.
Here are videos of the quartet singing “Just in Time.”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-ILTYHrp90&feature=player_detailpage
and “Sincere”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=HZnjTCnKAeQ

Limited Edition, with Guest Tenor Wayne Oberstadt, was transformed into Limited O'Dition for the White Lake Historical Society’s fundraiser at Fisk Farm in Waterford, Sunday, September 8. The quartet sang a repertoire of about 15 songs to the ~150 attendees. First, they sang with an audio system
that projected their voices throughout the venue. Then they roamed and sang to local groups, sometimes with wood-fire smoke in their faces. A young female trombonist said, “You guys rock! Especially your bass.”

**Limited O’Dition at the Fisk Farm gig**

**On That Note**

On That Note joined the Huron Valley Harmonizers as they entertained about 75 guests, Saturday, September 14, at the Spotted Dog Winery, located in Saline, MI. Spotted Dog owner, John Olsen, has hosted this event for the last half dozen years. Guests got to sample the variety of wines produced there, and to buy their favorites, all while listening to the Harmonizers, plus two quartets – On That Note and Meta-4

**BCC 2013 Performance thru September:** 107 gigs to 10,998 people.

**MEMBERSHIP** (at 51)

- **Renewals:** Lance Shew (6), Ray Sturdy (15), Len Barnes (58)
- **Due in October:** Wayne Oberstadt
- **Overdue:** Bruce LaMarte, Doc Mann, Charlie Perry, Gil Schreiner,
- **Goodbye:** Al Monroe, Tyrel Alastair Hunter
- **October Birthdays:** Walt DeNio (22nd), Bill Nevaux (27th), Roger Holm (29th)

**In Memoriam**

Oct 3, 2009, Bob Butcher, #103

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

Cats and the Fiddler Blues Band Continues Entertaining Crowds for 12 Great Years

(Some excerpts from the Spinal Column interview, September 18)

- The band includes twin brothers James and Shaun Richardson, cousin Carmen Gibes, and friend Brad Simonich.
- Began 12 years ago when they were 6.
- Initially bluegrass, but transformed into more country in the last two years.
- Their uncle was their big influence.
- They have released four CDs.
- All have graduated from Milford High School, and three of them now attend Western Michigan University, Lawrence Tech, and Albion.


Oakland University’s a cappella group **Gold Vibrations** had a two-day audition for new singers the second week of September. They sing many different selections and styles of song, such as Queen, Elton John, Adele, Broadway show tunes, the Beatles, Beyonce, and more. The group has two public concerts a year. The first will be November 1, in Varner Hall.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

**Remember Bob Richards?**

From BBShop

Tenor Needed: 1952 and 1956 Olympic pole vault gold medalist Bob Richards is seeking a Tenor living in the Waco, Texas area to complete a quartet for informal, fun Sing-Alongs with the members at the two golf courses he owns.
Harmony Foundation’s impact on young singers
(After supporting Youth Choruses at Mid-Winter in Orlando, last January)

Database offline during software upgrade
A major upgrade to the membership database systems at Harmony Hall will require suspending access to ebiz.barbershop.org for several days. The scheduled outage will commence at 11:59 pm on Friday, October 4, and will continue through next weekend, with service to be restored by Monday, October 7 at 8:00 am.

During this time, member records will be locked, and new memberships, renewals and quartet registration/renewals may be delayed. Chapter and district secretaries nearing fall contests are advised to download and check all rosters now in anticipation of last-minute renewals for contest eligibility.

Merchandise and music orders may still be placed at www.harmonymarketplace.com, but expect some delays in billing and shipping as the expected backlog of orders is entered.

CRAFT
If you need a Ringmasters fix, here is their performance in the Quartet Finals last year when they won Gold.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFWhnOP_UVk#t=51

Media
Quantum physics meets a cappella.
By Tim Blais
(From BBS LiveWire) http://tinyurl.com/mln27uf
One response: “I listened to this whole you tube piece several times today.....I love it.. Ya'll need to check it out!!!!!!! [T]hese are HIS

lyrics...This dude is singing his masters Thesis, no musical instruments, just him singing all parts and then master mixing. I still don't know if his thesis is in Music or Physics? This is Queen.....’Bohemian Rhapsody’...same album as “We are the Champions, of the World” This cat is unbelievable...and kudos to the guy who did the mixing...it's perfect.!!

Arts Minigrant Deadline Approaches
(Is this something we should pursue?)
Oakland County non-profit organizations, schools and local governments have until Oct. 15 to apply for arts minigrants through Oakland County Arts, Culture & Film. The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Minigrant Program will fund arts projects and professional development from Jan. 1 - Sept. 30, 2014. Grant application and guidelines are available online at www.artsoakland.com.

MCACA will accept applications for the following categories:
Arts Projects: Minigrants provide up to $4,000 for locally-developed, high-quality arts projects, which provide special opportunities to address local arts needs and increase public access to the arts. Minigrants support a broad range of artistic expression from all cultures through projects which preserve, produce and present traditional and contemporary arts. Minigrant dollars, matched by cash or in-kind services, can be used for many types of arts activities such as exhibits, readings, performances, workshops, broadcasts, artist residencies, consultations, commissions, restorations, festivals, pow wows, conferences, seminars, video and film productions and screenings, publications, and arts activities for students.

Editorial- The elegant simplicity of good barbershop singing
So enjoyable to listen to Devine-embedded quartets Tuesday night. Sean has an enjoyable voice, it’s clean, it’s on pitch, it’s expressive. But is it great? Is this a voice that, if you heard him on America’s Got Talent, you would call your friend and say, “You gotta hear this guy”? I don’t think so. The qualities that make Sean so good don’t really become evident until you hear him in a championship quartet. Then you realize that the little things that might not be apparent from a solo voice are very subtle and show up in the ringing of the chords of the quartet.

So if you heard OC Times on America’s Got Talent, you would call your friends, your neighbors, and say, “You gotta hear this group!” There’s certain simplicity to good barbershop singing that is so elegant and hard to master, so subtle. But that is required to achieve the ringing that we prize.

E-Mail Test
I ran an email test. I wanted to measure how effective our email system of contact is, how quickly and how thoroughly the email messages from our chapter, (such as Roger’s Sunday evening emails, or the emailed Smoke Signals), make it to the membership. Here are the results.
Out of 55 Big Chiefs on our roster, 51 claim to have email. In the first two days, 21 responded, and 34 within a week. 17 were not reachable. A good guess is that some of these 17 really don’t use their email systems, and the others would like to but their computers are too “junked up.”

In *Smoke Signals* #106 ([http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/smoke_signals/2010/Issue-106_February_2010.pdf](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/smoke_signals/2010/Issue-106_February_2010.pdf)), Ross and I published an article on “Computer Upkeep and Maintenance.” Advanced System Care was recommended to keep ones computer healthy. One Big Chief took my advice this week and installed Advanced System Care. This free software program found 13,000 issues on his computer and corrected them, speeding up his computer. You might give it a try. [http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html](http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html)

**Letters**

From Maryann Lambrecht, Milford High School, responding to the Executive Board’s decision to sell student tickets at $7.50.

“That is great! The guys that went to the camp came back really excited and so did my young lady. I know the guys would like the connection to Barbershop grow. It is the first time in their life where they can watch people singing and the men are the majority not the minority. For our young men it is a powerful visual.

I will put (the show flyer) out on the parent e mail. My husband and I really enjoyed the show last year and I am quite sure many of our parents would like it as well.

From Bob (Heim), *Toosday Toons*, Nassau Mid-Island Chapter.

“Thanks so much for allowing me to read the latest issue of *Smoke Signals*. I find your hard-working efforts to be instructive and enjoyable as well.”

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlishaw

**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: F. McFadyen, D. Johnson, M. Frye, & B. Holmes
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 - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jim McMain, Bob Greenwood
Chorus Manager: Open
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
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, 2013** (Times are Performance Times, Warm-ups 45’ earlier)

- Oct 1, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
- Oct 5, 7:00 Rochester Chapter Show, Stoney Creek H.S.
- Oct 8, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
- Oct 12 Show preparation retreat (tentative)
- Oct 15, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
- Oct 15, T Deadline for ad copy
- Oct 18-20 District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson
- Oct 22, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
- Oct 29, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC
- Nov 2 BCC Show, “Happy 75th Birthday”
- Nov 5, T, 7:00 Christmas chorus begins
- Nov 8 Canada Night, hosted by D.O.C.
- Nov 10, Su, 1pm Music Committee Meeting, Roger Holm’s home
- Nov 10 Livingston Co. Chapter Show
- Dec 3, T, 6:30 Waterford Tree Lighting
- Dec 3, T, 7:30 Lockwood of Waterford
- Jan 11, 2014 Pioneer Leadership Academy
- Mar 8, 2014 Lansing Annual Show, with Storm Front

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**Responders as a function of time**

![Graph of Responders as a function of time](image)