The Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus had its annual show, Saturday night, November 2 at Waterford Mott High School’s Performing Arts Center. It was entitled “Happy 75th Birthday, Barbershop,” with its own original script, developed by members Jeff Doig and Pete Mazzara. International Semi-Finalist Instant Classic and six in-house quartets interspersed their songs into a script that honored the long tradition of the Society as well as the 70-year history of the chapter.

The curtains opened to the Tulsa rooftop scene, where OC Times and Rupert Hall waited for men to arrive, singing “There’s a Meetin’ Here Tonight.”

Several polecats were then sung, including the little-known verses to “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” and “Sweet Adeline.”

Along the way, the chorus reprised a comic song from 2003, where the director, dressed as an Indian chief turns to direct a chorus dressed as chefs, and singing a parody of “Let’s Get away from it all.” “I’m so tired of this dull routine. Ain’t gonna cook no chili beans. Back in Paris at cooking school, they said we’d be famous….and make money too! …”

The audience of ~540 appreciated the history, the parody, the ringing chords.

The quartets were Local Color IV, 4GVN, On That Note, Limited Edition, Coda Honor, and Biding’ Our Time.

Thanks to Jeff Doig & Pete Mazzara for the script (Jeff wore a hundred hats, including preparing the historical slide show that was projected on the stage’s back wall before the show), Donna Bevington, our stage manager, Jim Owens and Gene Downie for tickets, Howard Lynn for set constructions, Doug Metzger (The Print Shop) for programs, Lance Shew for serving as Guest Quartet Liaison, and Jeff and Bob Wallace for serving as announcers.
The “new gang on the corner” replaces the old BIDIN’ OUR TIME.

(The show photos are by Utz Schmidt.)

Seventeen members sold ads. Our top ad salesman was once again Walt DeNio with 18. Mike Frye sold 8.

Our top ticket man was Roger Holm, far and away, with 55. Other significant sellers were Bill Holmes, Walt DeNio, Bill Maxfield, Gil Schreiner, Doc Mann, Mike Frye, Dar Johnson, Dick Johnson, and Jack Teuber.

DVD's are available of the show for $10. See Jack.

Christmas Chorus

Guests are flowing in, especially Baritones. Welcome to:
Jeff Caminsky, Jeff Day, Jim Lawson, Rocky Sanchez, Don Stone, and Clifford Wade, and Welcome Back to: Tom Burder, Art Carinci, Dick Knapp, and Gary Owens. (Did I miss anyone?)

They are getting a fast intro to many songs, and we all of us are hard at work on a new one: “We Need a Little Christmas.”

Thanks to Gil Schreiner for assembling the Christmas books.

Canada Night

Men,

At last night’s "Canada Night" event, the Mini-Chorus from the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter won the coveted Old Oakland Bucket. Under the direction of Fred McFadyen, the chorus sang "Ain't Misbehavin'" and "Breaking Up is Hard to Do" in front of a judging panel representing four District Chapters. The Mini-Chorus consisted of Leads Bob Greenwood and Mike Frye, Basses John Northey, Bob Wallace, Roger Holm and Zaven Melkonian, Baritones Dick Johnson and Eric Domke and a solid Tenor sung by Fred McFadyen. The Old Oakland Bucket will be brought to a future BCC meeting for all to see and savor for the next twelve months. It is important to note that as current champions, we have to attend “Canada Night, 2014” to defend and hold on to the bucket. So we’ll need a good turnout next year.

In Harmony,
Zaven

The Big Chief Chorus wins the Oaken Bucket at Canada Night, beating out four other choruses. Three quartets also sang.

(Photos by Terry Webner)

From Prez Jack:

MEN,

1. Thank you for your support of Bill Auquier. Bill plans on returning next Tuesday night. Some say Singing is Life. Bill's presence demonstrates that having men singing next to you makes Life look a lot more promising.

2. In the early morning hours of November 16, 2013, an apartment building in Champaign, IL was totally destroyed by fire. Kevin Hughes, the Lead in our 2011 guest quartet, FOREFRONT, lost 90% of all his worldly belongings. The loss was uninsured. Kevin has found his dog Sebastian who had fled from the building during the fire. Please connect to the Kevin Hughes link above. We really enjoyed having them on our 2011 Show. They in turn were very impressed with our Chapter's Show. The
Big Chief Board of Directors voted to send $100 to the Phoenix Project. We are pleased to hear that Kevin is well and await the next opportunity to hear FOREFRONT. The Chapter sent this letter to Kevin:

Dear Kevin - The Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus up here in Michigan just heard about your situation from some of our Indiana Brigade guys. We remember well the fun time we had when your quartet came up here to sing on our show and afterglow. Enclosed is a little bit of help that we hope will get you back up and running as soon as possible.

Yours in song -
Pontiac-Waterford Chapter

Has anyone had contact with Bob Butcher’s wife, Mary?

Drew Wheaton (T), Kevin Hughes (L), Brian O'Dell (Bs), Aaron Hughes (Br)

From VP Music and Performance, Roger Holm

GENTLEMEN
Well - was that a good show, or was that a good show?! At the cast party last night, and at church this morning, I heard nothing but accolades and positive comments! All who attended from our church really loved "those young guys" (INSTANT CLASSIC), and said they'd never heard our chorus singing better! Way to go guys!
Roger

AROUND THE PATCH

Nancy Miller was delighted to hear from Jim Owens about the Chris Miller Honorary Quartets established by Chuckles.

Ray Sturdy’s knee-replacement surgery is scheduled for November 26. He will be out of commission for six weeks.

Jeff Doig is now current with his Aviation Pilot Certificate. Maybe you can bum a ride with him.

Duane Roy now has an email address - patroywaterford@gmail.com

Chorus Development

Our VP of Chorus Development Eric Domke is doing a great job of keeping tabs on our membership, sending out welcome letters to new guests, and encouraging old ones to return.

He received this letter from Bruce Meyers who sang in the 2012 Christmas Chorus.

Hello Eric.
Nice to hear from you. I hope the big show went well. I am sure it was a smashing success.
As much as I enjoyed the experience of singing with all of you last year I will not be able to participate, again, this year.
Thank you for asking me to return. Enjoy the season. Have a wonderful Christmas with your family.
Warmest regards to you and the other Big Chiefs.
Bruce

Jerry Twomey
Jerry Twomey passed away, age 77, a resident of Highland for over 40 years, November 11, 2013.

Jerry left our chorus before his “biography” could be published in Smoke Signals, but he left his imprint on our newsletter, since it was he who suggested its name in 2001, a name it has had since the 4th issue.
Jerry served in the Army’s 82nd Airborne in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. He was a printer for the Detroit Newspaper Agency for 44 years. Jerry also worked as a Redford Township Reserve Policeman, worked school patrol on the weekends, patrolled in the 1967 Detroit Riots and was a marksmanship instructor at Schoolcraft College. Jerry loved all kinds of music, and especially loved to sing. He joined the Milford Barbershop Chorus when he moved to Highland Township and also sang with the Big Chief Chorus of Pontiac and the Livingston Lamplighters. As a lover of Gospel music he sang with THE KAKHI BOYS at the Highland United Methodist Church. Jerry was well known within the neighborhood, and everyone knew that summer was coming if Jerry was out riding his bike. Jerry bravely battled with pancreatic cancer and selflessly participated in a clinical trial.

Jerry singing in a BCC quartet with Mike Keith, Roger Holm, and Dick Johnson

Quartets
The Busy Lives of Bidin’ Our Time

In the last five months, Bidin’ Our Time has sung to over a thousand students, teachers, and administrators. The BBS demos have been at Waterford Kettering High School, West Bloomfield High School, Rochester High School, Rochester Adams High School, Troy Athens High School, Waterford Mott High School, Van Hoosen Middle School, and Avondale Middle School.

This is in addition to all of the other sing-outs they’ve done, which have now reached a total of 48 gigs, plus seven as step-outs in chorus gigs.

October reports from the quartet (courtesy of Mike Frye):

At West Bloomfield High School the quartet sang to 180 students, faculty, and administrators from 7:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. One of the students responded that he sings in a quartet that practices before school, 7 a.m. or earlier. Our quartet offered him any help they may need.

“To say the least, those visits were one of the highlights of the quartet’s existence. Their attentiveness and willingness to listen and learn was overwhelming; it raised goose bumps,” Mike says. “By planting the seed in these young minds that Barbershop Harmony is fun and exciting, it is well worth the time spent.”

“Please tell the group what a wonderful gift you shared with my students,” said Sheryl Hauk, the Choral Director and Fine Arts Curriculum Coordinator at West Bloomfield High School, and the MSVMA District 4 Co-Manager.

Bidin’ Our Time Quartet performed today at Troy Athens High School. The experience was awesome and the kids participated with enthusiasm. We had the Choirs as well as the Concert Band and the Orchestra students in attendance.

(Oct 2)

Bidin’ Our Time had the pleasure of singing at both Waterford High Schools today. What an amazing experience. At Mott High School there were 83 students present. We sang for them, taught them and in return they sang for us. During their warm up we thought Tom Blue was there. Mrs. Budzinski, an ex-student of his, uses all of his warm-up techniques. She is very talented as is good for that program.

At Kettering High School there were 111 students made up of choral groups and band members. They also were very receptive and were in the learning mode. Mrs. Harness is very supportive of us and encourages those interested in our style of a cappella music.

There were some very promising prospects from both schools.

(Oct 18)

Today we visited Avondale High school and sang for three different classes and faculty. Afterwards we sang for the administration and office staff plus numerous kids and staff that stopped us in the hallway and asked us to sing for them.

As usual the students were very attentive and welcomed us greatly. Mr. Cornwell, the Vocal Music Director, is very talented and has a very good program that has won many awards. He is also a very good friend of Tom Blue’s. We promoted a lot of goodwill today.

Total folks we sang for today approximately 128.

(Oct 24)

Limited Edition sang to about 45 people at Gene Griffin’s 89th Birthday party, Saturday, November 23, at Roma Rose Gardens. The reception was exceptional, and the filet mignon and lobster tail were excellent. Gene is a friend of Bill Maxfield’s.
Limited Edition, enjoying dinner at the Roma Rose party

BCC 2013 Performance thru November: 118 gigs to 12,752 people.

MEMBERSHIP (at 51)
- **Renewals:** Wayne Oberstadt (20)
- **Due in December:** Bruce Brede, Walt DeNio, Mike Keith, Bill Nevaux, Ted Prueter
- **Overdue:** Charlie Perry
- **December Birthdays:** Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23rd), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Jim Owens (28th)
- **In Memoriam:**
  - Dec 7, 2001, Bob Woodward, #8
  - Dec 18, 2005, Bob Wisdom, #57

AROUND THE DISTRICT
- The November Troubadour is now online at [http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)
  
  For you newbies, this is the district/state-wide quarterly publication. Not surprisingly (harrumph), there is lots of content on the Big Chief Chorus, Bidin' Our Time, Limited Edition, and Canada Night.

  Emily Halls, a senior at Waterford Kettering High School, has been selected by the National Association for Music Education, All American Games and Drum Corps International as one of only 125 students in the United States to represent the best of high school marching musicians in the 2014 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.

  Emily is a granddaughter of Gerry Spry. Recently Len Barnes, Bob Marshall and a standing room audience of 900 celebrated Gerry Spry's Memorial at the Waterford Mott Auditorium. The New Horizons Concert Band played.

  **Don Cline** passed away Nov 14 in Bloomfield Hills.
  “My great sadness upon hearing of Don's passing is tempered by a feeling of relief that this horrible burden of ALS is over for him, his family and all who shared his life. What remains are fond memories of many adventures and happy hours together through the years.
  
  Fred McFadyen

  **Pioneer District Plans**
  Your Pioneer representatives spent last weekend in Nashville working with other district representatives on strategies to move our beloved organization forward.

  We saw some pretty exciting things on the music front that have been ongoing this year and we got to register our "two cents" on four other topics that were selected as a result of a survey of 756 chapters.

  Let's just say that along with music, the other focuses are communication, retention, cooperation and education.

  You will hear more detail as the work is completed and prepared for distribution. For now, save the date of January 11, 2014 for the Leadership Academy, which will be, this year, at Central Michigan University.

  Joe McDonald

AROUND THE WORLD

**75th Anniversary concert shakes Carnegie Hall Dec 1**
  Spending Thanksgiving weekend in New York City? There's still time to get tickets for Barbershop Festival 2013 at historic Carnegie Hall, featuring Crossroads, The Gas House Gang, River City Chorus and Heart of America Chorus.

  The [2014 International Chorus Contest](#) Order of Appearance has been published. Our rep, MountainTown Singers, sing 24th out of 32.

MEDIA

**Another BOT**
**Barbershop and Robots: Another effort to reach out to youth.**
  Posted Oct 29 by: “Alan LeVezu” alan@topcats.net alantopcats

  I've been busy for the last several years with an organization that teaches kids about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through building robots in a competitive environment. This organization (FIRST - For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) has hundreds of thousands of kids, volunteers, parents, teachers, etc. excited about what they do.
As a barbershopper, I feel that it's important that we get music, and singing into schools as well... So, I think it's really awesome when a High School team finds a way to connect the two together!

Watch the following video and see...
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aVvBce1BGHU

Maryann Lambrecht added: “That was totally awesome. You may not know this but Milford High is very involved in Robotics and so were my nephew and my stepson. I really loved that!”

Gold Medalist MASTERPIECE
How long can the bass take the melody away from the Lead without suffering a penalty? Check it out here:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEJBKoSoot8&feature=em-uploademail

The Reen Family Singers First Music Video
Well, they pull every heart-string a video producer can imagine, but here they are – THE REEN FAMILY SINGERS with their first music video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8F_u-DrtqE&feature=youtu.be

WHY BARBERSHOP ALONG WITH HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS?
By Carl Taylor
In 1989, when a man I had never met called me and asked me to do some singing with him and two other fellows, I really had no idea what was ahead. In a very short time I found myself memorizing several songs, performing on a SWEET ADELINE show and competing in a district contest. I was hooked on the sound of close harmony and the excitement of competition. I became a Barbershopper. In the ensuing years, I have involved many of my students in barbershopping: both guys and gals. Along the way, I have encountered the reluctance of colleagues who were put off by the “stereotype” that still haunts our hobby; the four guys leaning against a signpost, perhaps a bit tipsy, singing tags and doing it poorly. I can assure you that is not what barbershopping is today.

The benefits one can derive from the barbershop style are several. First, we get guys to sing. That in itself is a victory of some degree. Second, the ear training singers receive from the tight chords and constant circle-of-fifths progressions is invaluable in developing their personal musicality. Third, the necessity of carrying ones part alone is demanding and helps the singer develop a leadership style that carries over to their other efforts, including my SATB choir. I could add the social aspect of meeting new friends and getting along with others, the instant attraction to the opposite sex (just strike up a chord and watch the girls come running), and the opportunity to participate in the larger society of singers as benefits. But weaving through all this is simply singing. Singers are happiest when we are singing. And our high school students deserve all the opportunities we can give them.

By Carl Taylor in ChoralNet

Chuck Murray’s Report on the Indiana Harmony Brigade (excerpts)
This year I personally participated in three different Brigades, including Northern Pines in Plymouth, Minnesota, Great Lakes Harmony Brigade in Okemos, MI, and, now, just this month, the Indiana HB in Indianapolis.

The highlight of this entire trip, to me personally, was singing for the high schools on Friday.

The Brigade "Chorus" started out with a group of men early on Friday morning, then grew at each subsequent sing-out throughout the day. We probably had 50 guys singing at the last school!

The Reen Family Singers performed at each of the schools, and many of the girls in the audience really became emotional as these youngsters sang "The Lion Sleeps Tonight". Two of them at Decatur HS started crying as the Reens were singing! At another school, some more girls could be heard saying things like, “Oh, they’re so cute!” referring to the younger Reen boys!

Another "special event" was when Jacob Welty, the Tenor of the Pioneer District’s "Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet" sat down at the grand piano at the Senior/Assisted Living home, and started playing several pieces of classical music from memory! This youngster came totally prepared to quartet all eleven of the Brigade songs, and it was a treat to be able to sing with him on the way down to Indy in Ray's car.

There were many "newbies" to the IHB, first and second year "guests", as they are called. One of them was Neil Nugent, former Bass of "Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir".

None of the guys who rode down to the IHB with Ray this trip "made the cut" in the quartet competition on Friday night. Much had to do with the "luck of the draw". That was not really a bad thing, because we were able to relax a bit, and enjoy the balance of the Saturday activities, including the evening "Chorus Show" at the Ben Davis HS. The BDHS Honor Choir sang several of their own songs, then the Brigadiers joined them on their risers, and we sang the Jeremy Johnson arrangement of "It's All Right!" together with their choir! The kids were really excited about being able to do that with us, and likewise!

Some quartets were able to be "creative" - Dave Zimmerman, the Tenor of Instant Classic, had brought a special "chicken-type costume", which he wore, and made some "bird-like clucks, purrs, and crow caws" during their song, and the audience roared! It worked!

Most of us came away from the Brigade experience feeling like we really had a great time, and we are anxious to get the new songs for the June, 2014, Rally of the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade.
Music Committee
At its meeting of November 17, the Music Committee removed some songs from our 2013 repertoire and tentatively added these songs:
1. Always
2. Bright Was The Night
3. George M. Cohan Medley
4. Gospel Medley
5. I’m Beginning To See The Light
6. With A Song In My Heart

bringing our 2014 repertoire to 35 songs.

It also set a goal of developing the 2014 show around the theme of Off-Broadway.

Roger stated that the music librarian’s duties are now split between three chorus members, with Gene Downie handling the main chorus music, Gil Schreiner the Christmas music and books, and Fred Pioch looking after the guest books.

It is thought that a Show Chairman is needed to coordinate all the other show activities. It is too much for one guy (Doig) to handle.

Contest songs are tentatively scheduled to be “I’m Always Chasing Rainbows” (carryover from last year), and “I’m Beginning to See the Light”

Letters
All is fine here. Just had some surgery and recovering nicely. We have moved to Chelsea and are enjoying ourselves in the new place (new to us).

Al Monroe

Would be good to visit and listen to [the Reen family] in person. The farm atmosphere takes me back to my roots. Used to sing with my mother and brothers.

Dick (Johnson)

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, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, Johnson, McFadyen, Moss, Murray, Prueter, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR, 2013 (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 45’ earlier)
Nov 26, T, 7:00 Final Christmas Chorus rehearsal
Dec 3, T, 6:00 Waterford Tree Lighting @ Township Hall
Dec 3, T, 7:00 Lockwood of Waterford
Dec 3, T, 7:45 Heroes
Dec 5, Th, 1:00 Oakland Co. Retirees, @ White Lake Oaks
Dec 5, Th, 2:30 Independence Village of White Lake
Dec 7, Sa, between 1:00 and 4:00, New Kroger store at Commerce Rd and Union Lk Rd (Augmented Quartet ensemble)
Dec 10, T, 6:00 American House Village, Rochester Hills
Dec 10, T, 7:00 American House Stone School, Rochester Hills
Dec 12, Th, 6:30 Canterbury on the Lake
Dec 14, Sa, 11:30 16th Christmas Bus Tour (returning at 5:30)
Dec 17, T, 7:00 Lakeland Place
Dec 17, T, 7:45 Heroes
Dec 19, Th, 3:00 Inn at Cass Lake
Dec 19, Th, 4:00 to 6:00 Our Lady of Lourdes
Jan 11, 2014 Pioneer Leadership Academy, CMU
Feb 14, F, Singing Valentines Delivered
Feb 15, Sa Singing Valentines Delivered
Mar 8, Sa Lansing Annual Show, with Storm Front

NOTE: THE UNIFORM FOR ALL EVENTS IS WHITE LONG SLEEVE DRESS SHIRT WITH CHRISTMAS TIE, BLACK PANT, BLACK SHOES AND CHRISTMAS HEAD PIECE (OPTIONAL). RED, BLACK OR GREEN JACKET AND HAT IF POSSIBLE FOR BUS TOUR AND OTHER OUTSIDE VENUES

From The Concho Capers