Show Report

The 71st Big Chief Chorus Show - A Night of A Cappella Singing Barbershop Style - was a resounding success. As Roger Holm said, “Wow! What a great night last night! I think the bar for our shows has been raised! I heard nothing but accolades last night at the afterglow and then this morning in church! Great job guys - and great job guests! The "Classy Dancers" were an especial hit, and how about FRONTIER quartet! Those kids are really good! No wonder they won the district championship! Many, many thanks to Jeff, Pete, Donna, Lance, Zach, Jack, Dick (Knapp) - and everybody else that spent hours putting last night's show together!!”

The 760-seat house was nearly full, (682?), and included many non-BCC barbershoppers as well as friends and families of guest performers and chorus members. Our 2nd year experiment with online purchasing yielded almost 100 tickets. Men on stage numbered 39.

The show took 1:50, a good length. All the in-house quartets performed admirably - 4 UR PLEASURE, SHARP ATTACK, 4GVN, CODA HONOR, LIMITED EDITION, and BIDIN’ OUR TIME. Eighteen members of THE VOICE were present, directed by Aaron Pollard in their second (Kalamazoo convention was first) and last appearance before they go to compete at the Youth Chorus Festival in Reno in January. Pioneer District Champions FRONTIER stepped out from THE VOICE to sing. Terri Newman’s CLASSY DANCERS were absolutely delightful as they danced - accommodating to a smaller space and to live tempo - to the chorus’s rendition of “What a Wonderful World.”

As we knew, INSTANT CLASSIC Lead Theo Hicks was out of action with vocal cord nodules, but Drew Ochoa stepped in without noticeable decrement. (Editor’s note: A quartet is the “same quartet” as long as only one member changes.) Dapper Dan Drew (he was the Gold-award Lead of PRESTIGE, the International Collegiate Barbershop champions in Kansas City, Mo., in 2011) was sent 12 songs to master as a replacement for Theo and the quartet never seemed to miss a beat. The quartet even performed one of its hardest songs, “You Gotta Have Parts” at the afterglow. What fun to see them hamming it up when they received their 1st-Place Trophy in the 1st Annual A Cappella Barberpole Awards.

The idea to re-invite our 2013 guest quartet, INSTANT CLASSIC, was formed in conversation around a table with Tom Blue two years ago. The use of an awards show theme arose from Greg Moss and John Cowlishaw in the Music Committee meeting a year ago. The participation of the CLASSY DANCERS arose after Duane Roy’s memorial service. The inclusion of THE VOICE also arose in the Music Committee. All parts fit together.

Thanks to Jeff and Pete for script. To Donna Bevington as stage manager. To Gene Downie for tickets, to Doug Metzger for programs, to Lance Shew, Zach Schroeder, and John Cowlishaw for hosting guests, to Fred Pioch for handling afterglow tickets, to Lance Shew for the barber pole trophies, and to Tom Blue for his resilient direction. And for the resonant voice of Dick Knapp as emcee. Thanks to Brian Doig for his photograph of the Big Chief Chorus which adorned the cover of the show program, which included, thanks to all chorus members, 85 ads. And to President Jack Teuber, who commandeered in good spirits despite his back problems.
Thanks to Mike Frye for emceeing the afterglow, which occurred at the nearby Elks Club. The venue was sufficiently spacious for the 150 attendees, at which most of the quartets performed. It was even more attendees than the catering could provide for, (but, oh well, that could be a future modification - including the use of our own audio system.)

Al Fisk was invited to critique the show, as part of the district’s Standing Ovation program. By the next day he had given us a 1600 word highly complementary report, with a few worthwhile suggestions for future consideration.

From Director Tom
Men and Friends of the BCC,
There’s No Business Like Show Business...and there’s no show like the BCC Annual Show! Thank you men for another excellent show and possibly our best ever. From all that I can gather, it was a huge success. My family, friends and students all liked it and my colleague was very impressed with our intonation! It's about the singing and the sharing of our love for barbershop harmony!

So many to thank and I am afraid that I would miss someone so consider all of you "well-thanked" and we couldn’t have been as successful as we were without each one doing what needed to be done. From the opening song to the closing credits, a great evening of music, music and more music!

Our formula for this year’s show worked. The key...youth and a variety of quality products (quartets) bring people to the show.

From Terri Newman
Thank you, John. Although I am still in PA, I have been in communication with them. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience! I am excited to talk to them when I have them in class.

Complimentary show tickets were provided to our deceased members’ spouses: Pat Roy, Nancy Miller, Judy Denoyer, Mary Butcher, Mrs. John Smith and others.

Most of us know that we reimburse the copyright holders of the songs that we sing on our show. But do you know the amount? Secretary Charlie Perry and Treasurer Jim Owens paid a fee of $28. This is the standard amount for venues less than 1000 seats; above that capacity, the ticket price begins to be a factor.

Notice to Ad-sellers: there are enough show programs to give one to each of your ad-buyers.

Our annual Christmas sing-out for the Oakland County Retirees at White Lake Oaks did not occur this year as they decided to use a disc jockey as a change of pace. Hope s/he plays some a cappella.

Mike Doyle takes a business break and will see us in the spring.
Len Barnes and Doc Mann are snow birds until spring.

Big Chief Zach Schroeder began working this month at Chief Financial Credit Union. How appropriate!

Howard Lynn continues to attend to his wife who is at Brookdale Senior Residence in Novi. We look forward to singing with Howard to her on our bus tour.

Thanks to Eric Domke for sharing the warmup role, handling physical warmups.

Indiana Harmony Brigade
Ray Sturdy and Chuck Murray attended. Chuck got lucky, and was the Bass in two of the top ten finalist quartets. One had to withdraw, and the other, the Zimmerman Family Telegram with Instant Classic Gold Medalist Tenor, David Zimmerman, was unable to place in the top-three. But a fun time was had by all! Ray published this video. (Lucky to have drawn a Tenor-dominant song.) http://tinyurl.com/gw4x629

Quartets
**Bidin’ Our Time**

The quartet, with John Cowlishaw subbing at Baritone, traveled to three high schools, Tuesday, October 27 (Rochester Adams, Lake Orion, and Waterford Kettering (2 classes). They sang to over 200 students, advancing the cause of a cappella, promoting our show, and giving out free tickets to ten students each. A 30” clip of Bidin’ Our Time performing for Michelle Harness’s music class at Waterford Kettering, is available. (Scroll down to October 27.)

https://twitter.com/JeffFrankowiak

**LIMITED FRYDITION** joined with the Huron Valley Community Chorus to entertain shoppers at the 2nd Annual Arts and Greens at Bogie Lake Greenhouse in Commerce Twp., Saturday, Nov 21.

**Chapter 2015 Performances thru November:**
97 gigs to 6,668 people (plus 800,000 on TV)

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 49)
- **Renewals:** Bruce Brede (18), Walt DeNio (18)
- **Due in December:** Mike Keith
- **Overdue:** None
- **December Birthdays:** Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23rd), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Jim Owens (28th)
- **Medical:** Jack Teuber is dealing with his spinal problem. Most Chiefs got “that upper respiratory congestion.”
- **In Memoriam:**

Dec 7, 2001, Bob Woodward, #8
Dec 18, 2005, Bob Wisdom, #57. (Special note: his wife, Marcia, died in Kalamazoo this past November 8.)

**District**

**Lee Hanson**

Lee Hanson died Thursday, November 12, at the age of 84. He lived in Fort Gratiot Twp, north of Port Huron. Hanson sang with nine barbershop quartets over 54 years.

As the bass of **Center Stage** he placed 2nd in the International Quartet competitions three times - 1982, 3, 4.

More recently he replaced Phil Hanes in Resisting-A-Rest, after it won Gold in the 2010 Seniors competition.

Most recently he sang Bass in Bucket List, our 2014 rep to the Seniors competition.

He was a longtime radio man. The family came to the region in 1986 after buying local radio station WPHM-AM, Port Huron.

**Joining PioNet**

PioNet is just one group within Yahoo Groups. It is for communication between Barbershop harmony singers of the Pioneer District, BHS. It currently has 520 members.

PioNet can be used to share chapter, division and district announcements, information and ideas with other barbershoppers and chapters in Pioneer. You can ask questions, get answers, bring up your concerns and praises, and generally get involved in e-mail chats about anything that affects your Pioneer barbershop life. You will have contact with your district officers and they will be able to get info to you directly and immediately. You wouldn’t be inundated; the average number of postings is about 30 a month. Its subscribers represent all of our district’s chapters, members from around the Society, Sweet Adelines and others.

It is a Restricted Group, which means that admission is controlled by a moderator, who is Matthew Tipton, of the Rochester Guardians of Harmony.

You can join the group thru one of these three portals:

1. Send an email request to Matt directly mftipton@yahoo.com
2. Go to the Pioneer District Home page [http://www.pioneerdistrict.org] The red button at the very bottom right is “PioNet Email List” which will link to the PioNet Listserv Information and Sign-up

3. Go to: [Barbershop harmony singers of Pioneer District SPEBSQSA](http://www.pioneerdistrict.org) where you can click on the magenta box entitled “Join Group.”

A couple of reminders:
- Keep the topic Barbershop. No personal sales pitches, etc.
- You can NOT attach any file or picture. They will be automatically stripped off.

Once you are in, you can read and send messages at: [http://groups.yahoo.com/mygroups](http://groups.yahoo.com/mygroups)

**Detroit Sound Machine**

Pioneer District 3rd place quartet, DETROIT SOUND MACHINE, has a new lead, Dylan Broome, who replaces Nick Roe who is moving out East. He joins George Jackson Jr. (Br), Jason Hall (Bs), and Dave Ebersole (T). Dylan previously sang baritone with Pioneer District quartet THE VOICEMALES. He also sang with the Mt. Pleasant chapter.

**International**

**Upcoming Conventions**

- MIDWINTER – RENO, NV. January 26 – 31
- Pioneer Spring Convention - April 22-24 - Grand Rapids
- INTERNATIONAL – NASHVILLE, TN, July 3 – 10, 2016. (It’s only a nine-hour road trip from Waterford.)

**The Presentation Category** may soon be the Performance Category. The proposed name change would mark a major update in the way performances are scored and evaluated, with a renewed emphasis on what today's audiences consider most entertaining. The full story is coming in the forthcoming November 2015 issue of The Harmonizer, but you can read the complete [DRAFT category description for the proposed Performance Category](http) now!

**Craft**

Notes on Rob Mance’s presentation in Pittsburgh, Director’s Roundtable, as recorded and published in Shrine of Democracy Newsletter. (Mance directs Central Standard, our 3rd place chorus, and also teaches directing at Directors College.)

**Main Premise:**
If we become better singers as individuals, then the improvement in the chorus will be huge and ensemble unity will be enhanced as well.

**Key Points:**
- **Warming up** – Warm ups are the most important part of the rehearsal. They set the energy and tone for the entire session. Warm ups are for mental engagement and ensemble skill building. Singers should arrive physically warmed up.
- **There is only one vocal resonator** – the space between your vocal chords and your lips. Eliminate all unnecessary muscle tension. Any tension in the body will cause vocal tension.
- **Relax your tongue.** Tension in the root of your tongue can cause uncontrolled vibrato. Keep your tongue against your lower gum line.
- **The posture** of each singer is basic to improving your sound. A good vertical posture is a strong foundation. The notion that pressing forward creates involvement is false. (What you get is a bunch of uninvolved guys leaning forward.) “Involvement” will show on the face.

**Suggestions for Proper head position.**
- Center the ears over the shoulders. This was the biggest adjustment for most of us. We tend to carry our head in front of our shoulders. Pulling the head back and up, extending the back of the neck, straightens and opens the vocal cavity and improves resonance.
- Keep your head level, chin slightly down. (Raising your chin distorts the vocal cavity.)
• Keep your head still. Use your lower jaw to open your mouth.
• Relax your neck. Relax your shoulders.

What’s Up, Pete Mazzara?

Pete and Hermine Mazzara celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Saturday, November 21, 2015. Their three children gave them a beautiful party at the Crystal Gardens hall in Howell, MI. Family and friends, who endured a 14” snow fall, enjoyed great food, music, dancing, and some barbershop songs.

Pete says, “A huge thank you to Christy, Peter, Michael, and their spouses. ’What a Wonderful World’... “

Jeff Doig says, “Yes indeed we attended Pete’s 50th. There were about 27 wives and barbershoppers there.

“It was a beautiful celebration. Although Pete and Hermine knew about the party, they did not know the details. So they were really surprised when they arrived. There were 15 tables with ten place settings at each. And most of those were filled.

“We sang three songs with Pete that he dedicated to Hermine. “Wonderful World,” “Can You Feel,” and “Under the Boardwalk.”

“Everyone had a great time. We listened to stories of how they met and several other family stories.”

Media

Lots of creators are now using Patreon to gather financial support for their efforts. The latest is Jimmy Quentin Trapp who does Barbershop art, some of which you can see at:
https://www.patreon.com/illustratorjimmy?ty=h

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
Nov 24, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus

Dec 1, T, 6:00 WATERFORD TREE LIGHTING, Civic Ctr
Dec 1, T, 7:00 LOCKWOOD OF WATERFORD, Skipper Dr
Dec 3, Th, 4:30 OUR LADY OF LOURDES (Fred) 2300 Watkins Lk
4:30--Nursing
5:00--Clausen
5:45--Mendelson
6:30--Fox Manor
Dec 6, Su, 1:00 Music Committee, Roger Holm’s
Dec 8, T, 7:00 LAKELAND PLACE WATERFORD
Dec 8, T 7:45 Heroes
Dec 10, Th, 6:30 CANTERBURY ON THE LAKE
Dec 15, T, 6:45 AMERICAN HOUSE STONE SCHOOL, ROCH. HILLS (Fred) 371 S. Adams
Dec 15, T, 7:30 AMERICAM HOUSE - VILLAGE, 3617 S. Adams, ROCH. HILLS
Dec 17, Th, 6:30 INN AT CASS LAKE
Dec 18, F, 12:30 AUBURN HILLS SENIOR CENTER (Fred) 1827 N. Squirrel Rd
Dec 19, Sa, 11:30 17th ANNUAL BUS TOUR (7 locations)
11:45 BUS DEPARTS FROM WATERFORD OAKS
12:00--ELMHAVEN MANOR
12:45--RYAN’S MARKET
1:45---PINE TREE MANOR
2:45---WALMART---M-59
3:45 UNION LAKE KROGER
5:00 BROOKDALE SENIOR RESIDENCE 45182 W. PARK DR., NOVI
6:00 PONTIAC TRAIL WALMART
Dec 22, T, 6:30 INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE

2016
Jan 5, T, 7:00 Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Jan 9, Sa Leadership Academy, Mt Pleasant
Jan 26-31 Midwinter Convention, Reno
Apr 22—24 Spr. Dist. Conv., GR Crowne Plaza, host: Grand Rapids
Jun 10 Send Off Show - Windsor
Jul 3-10 International, Nashville
Oct 14—16 Fall Dist. Conv., in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA
CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye, & Bill Holmes
President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke (248-674-2323)
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
Murray, Prueter, Stephenson, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

(Photos by Utz Schmidt)