The Big Chief Chorus Valentines program was a bit smaller this year. There were 24 offerings, served up by four quartets to 571 recipients plus a TV audience estimated at 800,000. Thanks to Bill Maxfield for coordinating the deliveries.

4GVN (Schroeder/McFadyen, Greenwood, Domke, Moss) presented nine Valentines, including a return performance on Fox 2’s “The Nine” http://www.fox2detroit.com/good-day/88890982-story where they serenaded Amy Andrews, (with Fred McFadyen at Tenor).

4 Ur Pleasure (Teuber, Schreiner, DeNio, Wallace) presented several Valentines on Friday in the Clawson area.

Bidin’ Our Time (McFadyen, Frye, Sturdy/Cowlishaw, Holm) rang up four gigs, including an extended program at the Waterford Senior Center, a SV from an ex-barbershopper who plans to join the BCC, and a program at Pat Hefner’s church, Waterford Baptist Cathedral.
LIMITED EDITION (Blackstone/Frye, Doig, Cowlishaw, Perry) sang all day Friday and two events on Sunday, Bill Maxfield’s Sunday school class, and MacPhee’s Restaurant, which Chuck Murray arranged and at which four guest quartetters, all Pioneer basses, contributed.

Valentine from Howard Lynn to wife Janet, Brookdale

Relaxing at MacPhee’s after singing

At Maple Manor with its mascot

Around the Patch

REMEMBER, On March 22, we will meet at the Lookout Lodge (the Fridge) 1702 Scott Lake Rd. about 1/2 mile behind the wave pool.

Pat Hefner’s mother-in-law, Geraldine Williams, died Feb 22 at the age of 90.

Dar Johnson’s granddaughter, Gracie Sutherland, is a Waterford Mott graduate and a junior at Alma college. She recently performed the “Star Spangled Banner” at a basketball game at Alma.

Pat Hefner’s son Jason is a semiprofessional trombonist with a Master’s degree in Jazz Studies from WSU.

SPRING CONVENTION, April 22-24

The Big Chief Chorus and several of its embedded quartets will sing and compete at the spring convention in Grand Rapids.

Performance Venue: DeVos Center for Arts and Worship (in G.R. Christian High School) 2300 Plymouth Rd. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Headquarters hotel: The Crowne Plaza 5700 28th Street S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49546

All competitors must be registered

All-events registration: $45 ($55 after Mar 24)
The Chorus will sing/compete sometime Saturday. Around 4:30 o’clock, the chorus will dine at Carrabba’s at 4061 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.

http://pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm

Quartets

Bidin’ Our Time

**Bidin’ Our Time** (with JC at Bari) sang Saturday afternoon Feb 20 to 90-plus friends and relatives of Martha, celebrating her 90th birthday. It was arranged by her grandson, Bryan (of Bryan’s Neighborhood Cony) at the Mill Pond Park in Davisburg. The group sang six songs to an appreciative audience. It was also an opportunity for Janet Holm to bring photographs of Bryan from when she was his kindergarten teacher.

Limited Edition

“Wednesday, Feb 17. LE sang for 15 rehab residents at Wellbridge of Novi, a new rehab facility that feels more like a spa. We sang between the garden and the mini-restaurant for 45 minutes. “After we finished, a gentleman came up, flipped open an over-vest to reveal a SPEBSQSA shirt, and said he sang bass with Freddie McFadyen in THE VERY IDEA. He joined us to sing “Coney Island Baby.” His voice has weathered with the years, but one can still hear the richness that must have made him fun to sing with.”

Freddie: “How timely! Ken Casey replaced Dave Williams* in the quartet when Dave moved to Roscommon. Wonderful singer! Bass Soloist @ Ward Presbyterian, often performer @ Tiger Stadium and always featured with THE VERY IDEA doing ”Old Man River.” His son Scott directs the Wayne Chapter. Wife Marguerite “Mike” bakes the ”World’s Best Apple Pie”!!!”

L to R: Fred McFadyen (T), Gene Harrington (L), Ken Casey (Bs), Rusty Ruegseggar (Br & Former TROUBADOUR Editor) (Courtesy of Jeff Doig)

[* Walter ”Dave” Williams, former Bass of THE VERY IDEA Quartet, (Pioneer Gold-Medal quartet) passed at age 87 on February 14 at The Villages in Leesberg, FL. “He was a fine Bass and a finer Gentleman.”

Fred McFadyen
THE VERY IDEA Tenor]

On Feb 27, Saturday, LIMITED EDITION was the featured entertainer for a fundraiser for SHAC (the Suzanne Haskew Arts Center) in Milford. It was arranged by Charlie and held in the Milford Masonic Lodge. An audience of 56 donated a total of $536 to the SHAC.
Chapter 2016 Performances thru February:
28 gigs to 772 people, plus an estimated 800,000 on TV.

MEMBERSHIP: (at 49)
Renewals: Jim McMain (5), Bill Auquier (16), Mike Frye (28)
Due in March: Tom Blackstone, Jeff Doig, Gene Downie,
               Roger Holm, Bill Holmes, Dar Johnson, Bob Legato,
               Howard Lynn, Bill Maxfield, Dave Myre, Jim Owens,
               Fred Pioch, Jeff Spires
Overdue: Eric Domke, Mike Keith, Dave Stone, Mike Doyle

Mar Birthdays: Zach Schroeder (5th), Ted Prueter (9th), Eric Domke (14th), Walt Bachmann (16th), Bruce LaMarte (18th), Tom Blackstone (22nd), Bob Wallace (23rd), Bill Holmes (25th)

BSOM: Bill Maxfield, for his management of the Valentines program

Medical:
Ted Prueter, back at Sanctuary after a fall
Bob Marshall scheduled for back surgery March 28

In Memoriam:
Mar 5, 2013, Austin Quinn, #98
Mar 28, 2015, Bill Nevaux, #169

District

Pioneer at Reno
The report on is on page 5 of the TROUBADOUR:
Our Zach Schroeder sang with THE VOICE (which scored very well), and he was the only Voice member to join the Westminster Chorus in performance which had three scheduled rehearsals before performing “Tribute to Peace,” “No More Sorrow,” and “Lost in the Stars.”

THE VOICE’S return to Michigan was memorable; after waiting six hrs at the airport during a snow storm, they returned to the hotel, where they had a friendly sing-off with the Chandler High School Men’s Chorus. The average age of THE VOICE is 20.1.

Thanks to Zach for posting the YouTube recordings of their contest performance on their Facebook site:
“I Have Dreamed” http://tinyurl.com/hnjwdmn
“Titanium” http://tinyurl.com/zj9v7s5
“I Love Being Here With You” http://tinyurl.com/htrwulp

The MountainTown Singers are pleased to announce that Jessica Thompson has been selected as the next Musical Director for the chorus.
Harmony Explosion is July 21-23. The BCC Executive Board has approved up to nine scholarships.

JUG NIGHT IN BATTLE CREEK
7:30 pm TUESDAY, MAY 17
First Wesleyan Church, 14425 S. Helmer Rd, Battle Creek, 49015.
“In addition to our top quartets, we'll feature the HARMONY MERCENARIES CHORUS -- around 60 voices strong from chapters in West Michigan, with some really great music.”
Roger Lewis

The Rochester Guardians of Harmony have moved their rehearsal site from the University Presbyterian Church of Rochester to Oak Arbor Church & School, off Rochester Rd, north of Tienken.

International

All information for the International Convention in Nashville is at:
http://www.barbershop.org/nashville/

The Songs We Sing

“I Don’t Know Why (I Just Do)” was written in 1931, music by Fred E. Ahlert (an arranger for Fred Waring), the lyrics by Roy Turk. It had three periods of great popularity: right after its publication in 1931; in 1946; and in 1961.
In 1931, Kate Smith’s version was popular.
In 1946, three versions, by Tommy Dorsey’s orchestra, by Frank Sinatra, and by Skinnay Ennis, all contended for popularity.
Linda Scott re-popularized it in 1961.
Ahlert and Turk also co-wrote such favorites as “Are You Lonesome Tonight?” “I’ll Get By (as Long as I Have You),” and “Walkin’ My Baby Back Home.”
(Wikipedia)
Sinatra sings it at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9PjPz8Av_A

“The Little White House in the Glen” was written, words and music, by Monty Bates, 84-year-old member of the Lansing chapter. Written in 1999, it was then arranged by Burt Szabo, (a one-time Lansing member), re-arranged by Lansing director Steve Warnaar, as part of their contest set, and modified slightly by Tom Blue. Bates has one other song in the BHS register, “Too Many Years Have Gone By,” arranged TTBB by Doc Gillingham.

History - Five Years Ago (From the Mar 2011 Smoke Signals)

Valentines quartets on the road:
NORTHBOUND SOUND
LIMITED EDITION
4GVN
CELEBRATION
NATURAL E (eventually with Charlie, after Roger dislocated his shoulder pushing Freddie’s car out of the snow)
Ray Sturdy and Mike Frye and “two Wayne chorus guys”
Marv Wilson died.
Doug Metzger started a Facebook page for the Big Chief Chorus.
“The Mid-Winter convention in Las Vegas was attended by Jack and Mary Teuber, Bill Dabbs and friend Betty, Bill and Bonnie Auquier and Bonnie’s sister, and John and Phil Cowlishaw. Art Carinci, who now lives and teaches in nearby Henderson, met us there.” Pioneer’s reps were Seniors quartet Carte Blanche and youth chorus, Northern Rhapsody.

Music

The deadline for the Mormon Tabernacle’s Virtual Hallelujah Chorus is/was March 1.

[Screenshot of the Mormon Tabernacle’s Virtual Hallelujah Chorus]

https://www.mormon.org/easter/hallelujah-chorus-video

SINGING, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE - The Judging Categories

Performance: It’s All About the Story!

(From The Voice of Rushmore, probably from Ken Keller)

The Barbershop Harmony Society has moved over the years from Stage Presence in the 1970s to changing the judging category to Presentation in the 1990s and now—effective in 2016—the new name will be Performance.

Early on, patterned behavior—with a high focus on uniformity of look and precise moves—were what the judges were looking for. Chorus members often worried about such things as “did I miss a move?” That trend remained in vogue even though “Stage Presence” was changed to “Presentation”; technique still drove the performances and the evaluations.

Music/Singing Categories evolved; Presentation didn’t.

Meanwhile, the music and singing categories were “able to evolve over time with the idea of ‘transcending technique to artistry’ but our performances have not evolved at the same rate.” So, in 2016 the category has changed again and Presentation will become Performance with the goal to encourage choruses to “transcend technique” and move to artistry.

If this Performance Category now asks us to “transcend technique” and move to a believable and heartfelt performance (“artistry”) we need the tools to do that.

- Get the whole body involved—in acting AND in singing.
- Create a personal story
- Make it a strong story; be aware of the “subtext” and enrich it with details
- Bring your story on stage. The moments before, mentally engage in that story (thoughts are not about which foot you start the verse on or which arm you wave with.)

Learning to tell a story—and use it in the performance—will help the chorus transcend patterned moves to reach a believable and heartfelt performance. As we minimize technique and any of “the old moves” and move toward personal involvement, it will produce “artistry.”

Chorus members won’t wonder, “Did I forget a move?” Now the question for a singer is to ask is, “Will they believe what I am singing; did I share the story with the audience?”

Exec Bd Minutes, January 21, 2016

Excerpts from Charlie Perry’s minutes:

Members present: Holm, DeNio, Perry, Schroeder, Owens, and Teuber.

VP Growth and Development: Leadership of this committee to be transferred from Eric Domke to Walt DeNio.

VP Music and Performance: Discussion about reducing the size and number of the Guest Books. If the number were reduced to four, each section leader could be responsible for bringing one each week.

Discussion about a voice placement committee to consist of John Cowlishaw, Fred McFadyen and Tom Blue.

Guest Quartets for Nov. show. Quartets under consideration are After Hours, Yonge Guns, Main Street and Tonal Eclipse.

New business: Overtyme Grille being considered for afterglow. Motion to reserve a bus for Dead Creek Picnic passed.

Erratum:
Gil Schreiner works at Fairlane in Fraser, not Ferndale.

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’-45’ earlier)

2016
Mar 1, T, 7:00    Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Mar 8, T, 7:00    Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Mar 15, T, 7:00   Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Mar 17, Th, 6:00  St Patrick’s Day sing-out, Canterbury

Mar 22, T, 7:00   Chorus Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge (Fridge)
Mar 24           Deadline for Early Bird PIO convention ($45)
Mar 29, T, 7:00   Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Apr 5, T, 7:00    Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Apr 12, T, 7:00   Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Apr 19, T, 7:00   Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Apr 22—24        Spr. Dist. Conv., GR Crowne Plaza, host: G.R.
May 21, Sa, 6:00  Flint Chpt Show
Jun 10           Send Off Show - Windsor
Jun 28, T, 5:30 bus Frankenmuth, Dead Creek Picnic
Jun 25, Sa, 3:00  Waterford Historical Soc., Log Cabin Days
Jul 3-10         International, Nashville
Jul 21-23        Harmony Explosion, CMU
Oct 14—16        Fall Dist. Conv., in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA
Nov 5, 7:00 p.m.  72nd Annual Show

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye
President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)
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 - Eric Domke, Fred Pioch, Zach Schroeder, Ray Sturdy
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
Murray, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

4GVN with Pat Hefner at Tenor

**Quote:**
"There is a reason you glance up when you first hear a melody, or tap your foot to the sound of a drum.
All humans are musical.
Why else would the Lord give you a beating heart?"
(From *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*, by Mitch Albom)