Big Chief Picnic

The 2016 picnic was held under fine weather at Jim and Carol Owens lovely home on the terraced slope of Elizabeth Lake. One group assembled around a table on the first level, accessible by private elevator, and the remainder at beach level.

The 38 attendees included Dan and Eriko Teuber, Jack and Mary’s son and daughter-in-law from Kyoto, Tom Blue’s daughter Emma, Austin Suther’s mom Sacharissa, Big Chiefs, and their spouses and friends.

There were the usual brats and hot dogs, and this year, wonderful sweet corn, furnished by the Owenses. And of course all the marvelous platters brought by the 38 attendees.

With no gain-saying, the singers sang several songs including “I Don’t Know Why,” “What a Wonderful World,” “Hello, Mary Lou,” “Aura Lee,” “For All We Know,” and several tags.

As Tom Blue wrote, “Thank you to the Owenses for their hospitality in opening their home to all of us. Thanks to all who made the picnic a success. The brats, kapusta and the desserts were great! We are still enjoying the kapusta today! Thanks to John for the photos, Mike for leading the guys in song, Walt and Chuckles for cooking, and Jim for playing the beanbag game with Emma! It was good to see Bruce and Bonnie, Bill and Barb and all of the significant others who were with us on Friday night!”

All photos available at: https://goo.gl/photos/yGzDYcQe1gj64YGq7
Or http://tinyurl.com/jlbv9yf

Around the Patch

From Director Tom:
Men and Friends of the BCC,
As summer continues to be in full swing, the activities of fall are here. Anna is safe and in the college groove this past week and starts classes Monday. Meanwhile at the Blue household, school meetings have started, school supplies bought, and yet we are trying to squeeze out some more summer. Thanks to John for Emma's first airplane ride and thanks to Jim O. for Emma's first sailboat ride! She was very excited and I was pleased to know such giving people.
A special thanks to Freddie for filling in so well for me last week and to all of you who make our meetings run smooth from week to week.

For this week and the weeks to follow, we do need everyone’s voice to make the learning easier and more unified and it is always more fun to sing barbershop with a bunch of guys!

These suggestions for improvement must become habit if we are to improve.

- Correct notes, rhythms and words - off the paper (we should be on many songs)
- Tall, round and spacious, unified vowels that don't change too soon (feel the space between your back teeth)
- Deeply felt breath with rib expansion (back and front)
- Smooth connected style of singing (legato - so that the chords can sound)
- Listening to our individual sound, the quartet around us sound, the sectional sound and the chorus sound
- We need to sacrifice a bit of our sound to the benefit of the chorus sound.
- We cannot wait until October - musical singing must happen every time we are together. How we practice sets the standard for our performance - we cannot assume good singing, it has to be worked at.

See you all Tuesday! Can we have 40 guys? According to the roster - I think so!

Ten weeks til We Go Cruisin’!”! With Double Date, The Voice, Frontier, and the Classy Dancers.

Tentative show song list:
- Cruise Medley
- Drivin’ Me Crazy
- For All We Know
- From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye
- Hard Days Night
- I Don’t Know Why
- In My Room/Under the Boardwalk
- Little White House In the Glen
- There’s No Business like Show Business
- Oklahoma
- What a Wonderful World
- With a Song in My Heart

Chapter Badges and Roster and Ad Kits

New BCC Name Badges are on the way. A Fall, 2016 Membership Roster Sheet is available. Roger Holm has distributed the ad kits at rehearsal. Can we beat last year’s record of 80-some ads?

BSOM August, David Stone

What’s up Mike Doyle?

If the boys will have me, I will join you all again starting Tuesday til the show. Any assistance getting the bass parts for the new tunes into my hands will be welcome.

My report: the year was just fine. My wife had an ulcer in her larynx which cramped our style considerably at the usual music things we do this time of year. She is on the mend. We married off our oldest girl to a nice young man in June. Business is good, very busy.

Rob Mance on Warmups

Rob Mance is the Director of the Central Standard Chorus, Silver Medalist at Nashville, with just 52 men on stage. (Listen to their “So in Love,” https://youtu.be/LKIwnY1iAxY which received a 95.7!)
Rob led one of the morning warmups at Harmony University this July which we have used, and which you can view at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AVU19R_sMuE&index=7&list=PLcwXdNVvSNbhbEaAfbkJGXFUbV8GV9BQa

**Quartets**

4 UR PLEASURE performs at Fisk Farm, Sunday, September 11, 3 p.m.

LIMITED EDITION sings for the Milford Histroic Homes Tour, Sunday, Sep 18, 12-5, and on the Rochester Guardians of Harmony Show, Saturday, October 1, 7 p.m. at Stoney Creek High School.

**Chapter 2016 Performances thru August:**

50 gigs to 3,182 people (plus TV audiences)

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 50)

**Renewals:** Zach Schroeder (2), Jim McMain (6)

**Due in September:** Bruce LaMarte, Zaven Melkonian, Jerry Ramey, Gil Schreiner, Ray Sturdy

**Overdue:** Walter Bachmann, Bill Dabbs, Doc Mann, Charlie Perry

**Good Bye:** Mike Keith

**September Birthdays:** Charlie Perry (6th), Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlishaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Dave Myre (29th)

**In Memoriam:** Sep 12, 2006, Art Ripley, #67

Sep 19, 2003, Chris Miller, # 30

**District**

**Troubadour**

The August, 2016 issue of the Pioneer District’s Troubadour is available at http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm

The current editors - John Cowlishaw, Tom Ennis, and Greg Humbel - have decided to retire after publishing the Troub for five years.

CHARMonizers wins Bush League.

Rob Pettigrew, Zak Stratton, John Starbenz, Paul Ellinger, with the Brass Gaboon trophy.

Bob Whitledge

Bob Whitledge, 85, passed away at his home Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

Bob was a long-time Detroit-area barbershopper. He was the Bass of GENTLEMEN’S AGREEMENT, the International Gold Medalist quartet in 1971.

He was also a director - of (Detroit) Motor City, and City Lights, both of which went to International.

As a member of Detroit #1, he also sang Bass in an earlier District Quartet Champion quartet, TREBLE SHOOTERS (1964)

In tribute, some vintage footage is available of GENTLEMEN’S AGREEMENT performing on a chapter show: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7ALgd87pns
Brian Philbin (Metropolis) shared this loving tribute:

... Bob was a giant of a man in every sense of the word. He was an amazing Bass singer, a gifted musician, a wondrous champion with the GENTLEMEN’S AGREEMENT, a leader in every choral group he directed or sang in, a servant of the Lord, and a tremendous and loving, gentle man who was all about encouragement. In addition to my first quartet, The Ivy League, he encouraged countless barbershoppers and quartets throughout the years and he was one of the first people who ever took any interest in me as a barbershop singer.

During my first or second year of barbershopping, I was sitting next to him at a contest & watching a quartet who was, shall we say, experiencing difficulty with regularly locking chords. I’d been wincing internally during the performance and Bob smiled throughout the performance and, once they’d finished, applauded with the same enthusiasm as he had for the quartet I’d thought had won the contest. During the break, I said “Your ears are more well developed toward the craft than mine, so I know that had to have disturbed your sensibilities.” He didn’t deign to address the remark and instead mentored me by saying: “Every man that crosses the stage today has invested untold hours of work and dedication to come and sing for this audience today. Sitting in that auditorium, we really don’t know their story. The best thing we can do from the position of an audience is to support them – find something you enjoy about their performance and focus on that, rather than anything that might disturb you. Provide the encouragement as a member of the audience that’s been promised as part of the name of our society. The judges will teach them what they need to do in order to improve – it’s our job as their audience to see that they don’t give up on something they love.”

International

All of the Nashville videos are now online at
https://www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38/playlists?shelf_id=8&view=50&sort=dd

Once you access that site, you can choose choruses, quartets, youth quartets, or AIC show.

Once you chose one of those you will hear all of the videos in that category sequentially.

There are:
58 chorus videos
180 quartet videos
60 Youth BBS quartet videos
5 AIC show videos

Or, if you want to hear a specific chorus or quartet, scroll down on the list just to the right of the group video.

Pioneer’s Upper Deck quartet is at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAljUz6BUiE&list=PLcwXNdVvSNbivr2OFTbELUqlsbKptN85ph&index=69

And Great Lakes Chorus is at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqmZnzD6Oqc&list=PLcwXNdVvSNbh0mHIQ2RkPStGtsic1m78p&index=13

And Frontier is at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdJaRo7Ygx8&index=9&list=PLcwXNdVvSNbiiUb8-0DCdqHLzzsFK1vX

New Barbershop Judging Category - Presentation > Performance
Performance Category experts Marty Lovick, Gary Steinkamp, Mark Kettner, and Gary Plaag provide a deeper look at what the PER category looks for, why the shift from Presentation to Performance was needed, and how you might already be on the path!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGIVm4a1A5g

BHS Conventions

http://www.barbershop.org/sanantonio/

http://www.barbershop.org/vegas/

SINGING, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE

Resist Nothing
Resist Nothing refers to how we should learn to develop a complete receptiveness to all experiences. Learning to accept experiences for what they are ... learning to reject nothing, judge nothing, and resist nothing.

Rejecting Nothing
- When stressful situations occur (sudden vocal illness, life circumstances, events that happen out of our control), learning to accept the situation, and not allowing it to affect your ability to perform.
- When we perform, we have a job to do ... our performance preparation shouldn’t have to suffer due to outside factors.
- Many times, we find it rewarding to use the energy of the situation (good or bad) to fuel our performance in a positive way.

Judging Nothing
- Learning to be content with whatever situation is crucial. There is no good or bad, it is what it is. Have an awareness of the situation, avoid judgement, and adjust accordingly.
- Example – You have a head cold and you feel that your voice is only at 70% capacity. Instead of focusing on the areas your voice may be hindered by your head cold, realize you are able to give 100% of what you have. That’s all that’s ever needed. (You may always be able to find ways that your voice “could be better” on any certain day. It’s about shifting your perspective to accept that the voice you have to give today is enough!)

Resist Nothing
- It takes energy to resist any kind of force or circumstances that you may encounter. Don’t waste your energy trying to change the circumstance or be upset that the circumstance happened – quickly accept, and focus your energy in a productive way.

MEDIA

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ by Mark Axelrod from probe-web.org
1. What is the definition of a swipe?
2. Define “medalist” in an international quartet or chorus competition.
(Answers at end)

Vocalosity tour at the Macomb Center for Performing Arts, Oct 16
Vocalosity is the all-new live a cappella concert from the creative mind of artistic producer Deke Sharon (Pitch Perfect, The Sing-Off). No genre of music is off limits in the world of a cappella and Vocalosity covers them all – from tenth century Gregorian chant and classical choral to barber shop quartet and bouncing doo-wop all the way to an exploration of the current sound of a cappella with music from The Beatles, Bruno Mars and more.

In Transit, the a cappella musical, is coming to Broadway!
http://www.barbershop.org/in-transit-the-a-cappella-musical-is-coming-to-broadway/

The relentless march of a cappella into all media continues this fall, when In Transit opens on Broadway November 10 at the Circle In The Square Theatre. Sprung from the creative team behind Frozen and with vocal arrangements by aca-godfather Deke Sharon, this a cappella show has peerless parentage and a powerful offering:

History

Zaven Melkonian assembled two scrapbooks full of the six-year career of FOUR WHEEL DRIVE - 2002 thru 2008. This is a photo from their performance for the Foxtown Tigers Train, August 5, 2006.
The Foxtown Tigers Train boarded passengers at Pontiac, Birmingham, and Royal Oak, where Four Wheel Drive and a Dixieland band entertained ticketholders who arrived early for entertainment and hot dogs. The $29 ticket package included roundtrip transportation, outfield box seating, entertainment and refreshments, and it sold out in seventeen minutes.

The Science of Music

Birds also do vocal warmups in order to sing better. (Science News, August 25, 2016)

WASHINGTON — Vocally warming up puts more dazzle into a bird’s singing for the day, a new test shows, perhaps helping to explain widespread outbursts of birdsong at dawn.

Males of Puerto Rico’s Adelaide’s warblers (Setophaga adelaidae) start trilling through their repertoires of 30 or so songs while it’s still pitch black. Tracking the songs of individual males showed that the order of performance had a strong effect on performance quality, behavioral ecologist David Logue said August 17 at the North American Ornithological Conference. His recordings of each of nine males’ morning performance for four days allowed computer analysis of how fast a male swept through his trills.

In the early versions of particular songs, males didn’t quickly change pitch as well as they did later.

Letters

From Zach Schroeder Re: Signature

For a quartet which is only in their second year of competing, jumping from 15th to 4th place is an outstanding accomplishment! By adding a total of 8.1 to their average from Pittsburgh, these fellas will be wearing gold around their necks by International 2019.

Patrick McAlexander did a fantastic job on this stunning arrangement of the 1964 Soul Classic “A Change Is Gonna Come!”

http://tinyurl.com/je2bgvm

(Chapters are going to grab them up for their shows!)

From Terri Newman, Classy Dancers

This is audition week! They take class every day 9-6 with rehearsals after, and then they audition tomorrow. Crazy busy but fun! Girls are looking great. Our Jr. Group actually won Best in show at the Dance Masters Nationals out of over 400 dances. Pretty exciting!

From Roger Holm’s nephew Tom re Ringmasters’ singing “Hunchback of Notre Dame” at International:

This is great, Uncle Roger! I always loved the music from Hunchback of Notre Dame. These guys did a wonderful job with it. What a finish!!

I like that barbershop groups are expanding their repertoire. Taking the same ideals of extremely clean sound and harmonies, and applying it to various genres. A cappella singing will never go out of style!

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

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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)

Endgame

Answers to this month’s history quiz:
1. First, a swipe should not be confused with a glissando. They are not the same. A glissando is a seamless merging or sliding of pitches in a continuum of ascending or descending notes, one into the next. A swipe is when two or more notes (the more the merrier) are sung on a single syllable. Swipes can be phenomenally complex and go on and on. Perhaps the most impressive swipe in all of barbershop occurs on the word “die,” in the tag of the famous rendition of “Goodbye Dixie Goodbye” by the Dealer’s Choice.
2. To be a medalist, a quartet or chorus must place 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th in an international competition.

My Wild Irish Rose

Johnny Mathis on Vibrato:
“I thought I sounded a little like Eartha Kitt for a long time, and I didn't like it. There are situations when, in your singing, in your interpretation of songs, for instance, when you want a straight tone. And I have to work really hard at getting a straight tone,” said the singer, 80. “That's sort of like if you have curly hair, you have curly hair.”

(More on Straight Tone Singing, by Debra Lynn, at https://belcantobuzz.wordpress.com/author/debra820/ )
Tags

23. Foolish Over You (Each Time I Fall In Love)

Like Leaves Will Fall

Windmills of Your Mind