My Singing Adventure
By Edwin Reed

I started my singing career at age six in my Church in California, and I loved it from the start. They told me (and they were probably right) that I was a ham. Even to this day I love singing praises to my Lord. Until high school I sang exclusively in church but when I needed an elective I joined the men's chorus. After my freshman year I quickly advanced to the Select Chorus and took part in a vocal ensemble named “Friends.” These groups taught me about harmony and with my young voice I sang tenor. My love for music has continued to increase throughout my life, which has been filled with singing in various church choirs as well as many solos at weddings, funerals and other church functions.

Just before Christmas last year I was at Walmart with my wife Brenda, singing, as I always do in my head and heart, and as my wife went off shopping, somehow the songs (as they usually do) found their way out into the open air. And as providence would have it, Fred Pioch heard me singing Christmas songs and came and told me about the Big Chief Chorus. Now here I am, as its newest member enjoying everything about the men, the music, and the Chorus itself. You’ve all made me feel at home.

Here’s a little personal info to help everyone get to know me: I am 60 yrs old, married to my wife Brenda for 38 years as of this August 16th. My hobbies are singing and bowling. I love all sports. I have two children Christopher and Rachel, both of whom have significant others. I have 3 Grandchildren whom I adore, Phoenix soon to be 17, Bryce 18 and Braydon 10. I am also a kidney disease survivor. I received a gift of a new kidney on March 19th 2017. I am a blessed man indeed. Oh one more thing I worked at GM for 29 years. Thank you, Big Chiefs for your friendship and for making me feel a part of the group from the beginning!! I look forward to knowing each one of you better!! And as always may God Bless all of you!!

Harmony for Heaven’s Sake

Melanie Meek was born with Spina Bifida and her family has been seeking therapy and support systems to help their 3-year-old daughter cope with her profound disability. On Saturday September 22nd, Scott Lake Baptist Church held a spaghetti dinner to support the cause, and the quartet, Austin City Limits, led by the BCC’s own Austin Suthers was on hand to bring some harmony to ease her family’s challenging situation. The quartet donated their time and the dinner brought in the $300.00 Melanie needed to acquire a trained service animal through Paws for a Cause.

On Saturday, September 15 at the annual Wheels & Teal Classic Car Show in Rochester Hills, twenty-two BCC braves used their harmonious skills to honor survivors of ovarian cancer and to help raise funds for research.

This coming December 15th, the BCC Chorus will board a bus and tour the memory care facilities and nursing homes in our community to bring some much needed Christmas cheer to residents who can remember the songs they grew up with better than they can remember the children they raised.

Over and over again the Big Chief Chorus reaches out to make this broken world a more accommodating place for those who are suffering. This is a big part of the mission of our chapter and the main reason we work so hard to improve our craft. We hope to be able to use our harmony to bring a little slice of heaven down to earth.
The Circle of Fifths
Submitted by Tom Blue, BCC Director
From www.OpusMusicWorksheets.com

The Circle of Fifths diagram is a graphical representation of relationships among the 12 major and minor keys and their corresponding key signatures. The Circle of Fifths depicted below shows the major keys.

Key signatures containing sharps are presented clockwise on the outside of the circle in order of ascending fifths. With each added sharp, the key advances five letter names and the tonic moves up a perfect fifth.

Key signatures containing flats are presented counterclockwise on the inside of the circle in order of descending fifths. With each added flat, the key moves back five letter names and the tonic moves down a perfect fifth.

Director Tom Blue, pictured here, is busily preparing the Big Chief Chorus for its 74th Annual Show, “As Time Goes By.” This event will be held on Saturday, November 3rd in the Mott High School Performing Arts Center. Internationally renowned quartets, Frontier and Signature will be on hand to help the BCC highlight its historic role in the Pioneer District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Tickets are on sale at https://bigchief-tickets.ezevent.com.

Congratulations Chuckles!
It takes a lot of work to plan for our chapter picnics, and this past August 21st, our liquid smooth bass and prolific quartet mentor and coach, Chuck Murray, pulled off yet another masterpiece. Pictured here, chief Eric presents this hardworking brave with his latest Barbershopper of the Month award. Thank you, Chuckles, for all you do to make the Big Chief Chorus a wonderful place for men to harmonize.

BCC Calendar
Chorus Rehearsals are every Tuesday Evening from 7:30-10:00 PM at Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road. Warmups begin at 7:25. Rehearsal afterglows follow at the Overtyme Grill and Taproom, 4724 Dixie Hwy.

Chorus Events
Nov. 3, Sat. 74th Annual Show at Mott PAC. 7 PM
Nov. 6, Tue. BCC Christmas Chorus 7:30 PM
Nov. 27, Tue. Waterford Tree Lighting, 5200 Civic Ctr. Dr. at 6:00 PM. Lockwood sing-out at 7 PM
Dec. 15, Sat. Christmas Bus Tour, bus leaves at 10:45 AM.

September Birthdays
18th Art Carinci  22nd Walt Denio
29th Roger Holm  29th Dave McDonald

Membership Renewals
Bachman, W.  Jackson, T.  Legato B.  LaMarte, B.
Melkonian, Z.  McDonald, D.  Schreiner G.
Sclesky, B.  Sturdy, R.

Chapter Leadership
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Mike Frye
President: Eric Domke (248-674-2323)
Past President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
VP: Chapter Development: Jon Knapp (248-766-0999)
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
At Large: A. Carinci, B. Greenwood, R. Sturdy, A. Suthers
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
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Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Sturdy, Moss
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