"A Really Really Big Shew"

"The show must go on." And the hard work it takes to put it on is going on diligently behind the scenes. Pictured here, Lance Shew, is collecting ads for the Big Chief Chorus' 74th annual show flier. This year's show, "As Time Goes By," will chronicle the long and eventful history of the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Show writer, Jeff Doig and ad seller extraordinaire, Roger Holm, are also pictured here doing their part to make our show a smashing success. Stage manager Donna Bevington is working with 4GVN quartet to coordinate a digital slide show for a medley of songs from our chapter repertoire, which they will be performing on the November 3rd show. Greg Moss, bass of 4GVN, practices delivering the commentary that will be inserted into their performance.

This year’s show promises to be a fabulous production. Top talent has been hired to sing with us as we take our musical tour through the past 75 years of barbershop harmony in the Pontiac-Waterford area. Next Generation 2018 world champion quartet, Frontier, will participate in a woodshedding demonstration to highlight the fundamental role our chapter played in establishing the Pioneer District's woodshedding contest. And International runners up, "Signature" is being flown in from the Sunshine District to headline the show.

Chapter quartet, Overtime, and guest quartet Detroit Sound Machine will also be performing on the show, and Chapter quartet, Austin City Limits, will be performing at the afterglow.

Big Chief Director, Tom Blue has been working hard to elevate the level of our singing and has voiced his appreciation of our tribe’s progress at memorizing our show songs. The annual show is our chorus’ main fundraiser for the year, and this year our show is way more expensive to put on than in recent years, so in the little time we have left before the curtain opens, let’s keep doing all we can to promote the show and sell tickets.

**Congratulations Fred!**

Our newest Barbershopper of the month is an energetic recruiter for our chapter. Fred Pioch, aside from being a faithful lead voice in our chorus and always being willing to pitch in with work projects, has earned a Man of Note award from the Barbershop Harmony Society for reaching out to Edwin Reed and sponsoring him to become our newest member. Fred is growing as a singer and lately has been trying his hand at quartetting. Thanks, Fred, for being an inspiration to the braves of the BCC.

**A Barbershop Birthday**

“I can’t say enough how grateful I and my family are for the compassion and generosity these men showed my grandmother tonight. I won’t get into the details, but they are beyond talented and pulled off something I didn’t think could happen. You all were a blessing and I can’t thank you enough for giving her probably the best birthday present in all her 81 years!” — Tarah Lanpher – Facebook

Overtime was honored to donate their harmonious services to the Lanpher family of Clarkston who were hoping to bring back some fond memories from decades gone by for their grandmother Frankie’s birthday.
Mel’s Musical Musings
Submitted by Tom Blue

Looking through An Information Manual for Barbershop Quartets I was reminded of some excellent advice for quartet rehearsals. Most of us realize that coaching for your quartet is a great idea, whether your goals are successful contest placement, or being an entertaining show quartet, or singing for your local retirement home. We all want to do the best job we can, and an outside coach or trusted listener is of immense help.

But what if you don’t have a good coach always available? How about some self-coaching ideas to improve your foursome? Here are several techniques that have been effective for many quartets:

- Unison singing has many benefits. First it builds agreement in some specific areas such as vowel matching, attacks and releases, and tuning. It is much easier to hear these areas when singing in unison than in parts.
- Rehearse facing each other in a square. Again, it is easier to hear the sound or to see what other quartet members’ facial expressions or physical involvements are in the song being rehearsed.
- Sing in duets while the other two quartet members comment and provide feedback. This not only assists the two who are singing; it also sharpens the listening skills of the two listeners. Although we often think of duetting each part with the lead, any two parts can be helpful... even the dreaded tenor-bari duet.
- The three harmony parts singing while facing the lead can be of value. It can provide more uniformity in sound, facial expression and precision.
- Talk about and reach agreement about the message of the song. What are we trying to communicate to the audience? How are we going to do that? Don’t assume you all think alike.
- Recording your rehearsals can be enlightening. Make sure you use a quality recorder so that you hear a good representation of your sound without distortion. This technique is great for discovering wrong notes and precision errors.

Remember to always rehearse with a plan: warm-up, new songs, polishing repertoire, etc. Just getting together and singing is not conducive to improvement. And, always be positive. Singing in a quartet is fun and every rehearsal should leave quartet members with a feeling of satisfaction and a sense of accomplishment.

“You’re Gonna Miss Me When I’m Gone”

Bob Geenwood, lead of 4GVN, and John Northey enlist a young friend at Overtyme Grille to play the cup for the song “When I’m Gone” from the movie “Pitch Perfect”. The “Cups Song” as they call it is a favorite at our weekly afterglows, as our fellowship in harmony continues each Tuesday night after rehearsals at Canterbury on the Lake. Usually around ten or twelve BCC braves show up and sing for the customers and the staff. And when the evening winds down someone will invariably blow an Eb on a pitch pipe and our brotherhood of harmonious braves says goodbye with our unique BCC arrangement of The Irish Parting Prayer. Good times for everyone.

November Birthdays
12th Lance Shew 13th Doc Mann 18th Gil Schreiner
20th Bob Greenwood 24th Fred McFadyen

Membership Renewals
Bachman, W. Jackson, T. Melkonian, Z.
Patrus, R. Sclesky, B.

Notable Quotables
“Do it again on the next verse, and people think you meant it.” — Chet Atkins
“To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time.” — Leonard Bernstein
“I’d rather be a musician than a rock star.” — George Harrison
“All music is folk music. I ain’t never heard a horse sing a song.” — Louis Armstrong
BCC Show Features Top Talent

Signature Quartet
2018 International Runner Up

Tenor - Paul Saca
Lead - Daniel Cochran
Baritone - Will Rodriguez
Bass - Dan Walz

Frontier Quartet
Next Generation Champion

Tenor – Chris Cordle
Lead – Aaron Pollard
Baritone – Brandon Smith
Bass – Cody Harrell

Guest Quartet
Detroit Sound Machine

Tenor – Dave Ebersole
Lead - Dylan Broome
Baritone - George C. Jackson Jr.
Bass - Jason Hall

A Tribal Tradition
The BCC Leads by Example in Pick-up Quartetting

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. 6, Independence Village, White Lake at 6:30 PM
Dec. 11, Lakeland Place singout at 6:30
Dec. 12, Canterbury on the Lake Assisted Living at 6 PM
Dec. 13, Canterbury on the Lake Residents at 6:30 PM
Dec. 15, Sat. Christmas Bus Tour, bus leaves at 10:45 AM

Chapter Leadership
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Assistant Directors: Mike Frye
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Past President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
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At Large: A. Carinci, B. Greenwood, R.Sturdy, A. Suthers
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