An Evening of Recognition

On January 8, 2019, a host of braves and friends of the Big Chief Chorus gathered at Waterford’s popular Shark Club for an evening of harmonious fun. The annual installation banquet and award ceremony was led by our Assistant Director, Mike Frye, as Master of Ceremonies and featured our guest, Paul Ellinger, an accomplished barbershopper and world renowned singing coach, as our keynote speaker. Ellinger delivered an inspirational challenge to our new crop of chorus officers, and urged the entire chorus to carefully consider how best to increase our musical impact in 2019.

During the evening four very special members of our chorus received significant honors for their contributions to our harmonious hobby and to the success of our local chapter. The ever-faithful Roger Holm was duly honored with the Barbershopper of the Year award for his hard work promoting our 74th annual show and for the many ways he helps behind the scenes to make our tribe so successful.

Eric Domke, our hard-working chapter president, and baritone of 4GVN Quartet, received the William Pascher Founders Award. This award recognizes excellence in musical performance and the exemplary life of advancing harmony in the world.

Jeff Doig, our lead section leader and co-assistant director of the chorus received the Ralleigh Hallmann Award for dedicated service to the chapter. Jeff led the process of writing the script for the show, worked hard to set up and operate our sound system, and sang lead for OverTime Quartet at the 2018 Pioneer District Competition.

Finally, the amazing Jack Teuber, past president, and current Vice President of Public Relations, after easily outlasting the Energizer Bunny, accepted the president’s award for his prolific contributions to the success of our chorus. The BCC is known as a very active and out-reaching men’s a cappella chorus that serves the community through numerous sing-outs and charitable events. This reputation has been built up over the years largely due to the great work of Jack who books our events and shows remarkable leadership in barbershop singing and as well as in life in general.

Happy February Birthdays to these Harmonious Braves!

22nd John Northey  23rd Pete Mazzara

Membership Renewals

A Harmonious Ambassador for the BCC
By John Cowlishaw

I have completed a year as music director of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Coastal Georgia. Our small choir is enthusiastic and the congregation appreciates a more active music program. We managed to sing 32 different songs over the course of the year, some partially or wholly arranged by me.

As the 2nd year begins we have faced the challenge of losing our pianist, so, through the marvels of Finale Print Music and Audacity, I am creating electronic backgrounds for our congregation. I am enjoying it so much that I have just started a vocal music group here in our 55+ Peppertree Crossing community. We had our first meeting in the clubhouse January 21, which was attended by eight people, with six more possibilities.

Once again, the background tracks were either self-created, or taken from Karaoke tracks on YouTube, plus using a Tim Waurick track. I wasn’t sure what their expectations would be so I selected these five songs for our first rehearsal: “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” “Blue Skies,” “On the Road Again,” “When the Spirit Says Do,” “In the Golden Isles.” That last song was written by Phil King, a local composer. I got his permission to use it in-house; it’s a sunny song extolling our region that you can hear a snippet of by clicking on its title at: www.musicbyphilking.com/music. Listening to it ought to draw some of you down here as our guests.

Upcoming Chorus Events
Rehearsals are 7:30 PM every Tuesday at Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Rd. Waterford, MI 48329.

Feb. 14, (Th) Singing Valentines – all day
12:45 PM Waterford Senior Center, warm up 12:15
3621 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford 48328

March 14, (Th) Canterbury on the Lake at 6:30pm (tentative)
March 15, (Fr) 12:30 PM Auburn Hills Senior Center
1827 N Squirrel Rd. Auburn Hills, warm up 12:00

Apr. 26-27 Pioneer District Spring Convention
Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI.

June 18, (Tu) Flint’s Dead Creek Picnic, Frankenmuth 6pm

Chapter Quartet News

Pictured here in red vests are the original members of OverTime Quartet, from right to left, bass Charlie Perry, tenor Pat Hefner, lead Jeff Doig, and baritone Jon Knapp, posing with special needs adults who work at New Horizons in Auburn Hills. BCC treasurer Jim Owens arranged for the quartet to stop by on December 10, 2018 to hold an informal Christmas concert on the factory floor. It was a convenient and very enjoyable stop for the busy quartet who were on their way to Rochester Hills to perform a half hour set for 200 music lovers at the Rochester Hills Symphony Orchestra Guild’s annual Christmas luncheon.

At the end of the busy Christmas season, lead Jeff Doig resigned from OverTime and Austin Suthers took his place. The new OverTime had its first performance at Scott Lake Baptist Church on Sunday, January 20, at an event for autism, and they plan to compete at the 2019 Pioneer District Fall Convention.

The Big Chief Chorus continues to promote quartet singing, as was evident at the Installation Banquet featuring Bidin’ Our Time; and The Ed Reed Pickup Quartet, pictured below. Bass Art Carinci with three members of new OverTime (not pictured) also performed the Beach Boys hit, “In my Room” for a delighted crowd.

Chapter Leadership

Director: Thomas Blue (248) 814-9627
Assistant Directors: Mike Frye; Jeff Doig
Section leaders: G. Moss, R. Sturdy, J. Doig, P. Hefner
President: Eric Domke (248) 674-2323
VP-Chapter Development: Fred Pioch (248) 330-2050
VP-Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber (248) 334-3686
VP-Music & Performance, Austin Suthers (248) 722-4464
Secretary: Art Carinci (248) 494-0884
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248) 682-4311
At large: J. Knapp, B. Maxfield, E. Reed, R. Sturdy.
Please email articles, photos, chorus news items etc. to Bulletin Editor: Jon Knapp - jknappSLBC@att.net
Key Signatures and Intervals
From Harmony University – Submitted by Director, Tom Blue

Key Signatures are a set of either sharps or flats written at the beginning of a staff, after the clef but before the Time Signature, indicating what notes to play natural, sharp or flat in the scale. These are the sharp (#) keys:

- C Major: C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C
- G Major: G-A-B-C-D-E-F#-G
- D Major: D-E-F#-G-A-B-C#-D
- A Major: A-B-C#-D-E-F#-G#-A
- E Major: E-F#-G#-A-B-C#-D#-E
- B Major: B-C#-D#-E-F#-G#-A#-B
- F# Major: F#-G#-A#-B-C#-D#-E#
- C# Major: C#-D#-E#-F#-G#-A#-B#-C#

Notice in the first scale above, the C Major scale, there are no sharps or flats. The next scale, G Major, begins on the fifth interval of the first scale and sharps the second to last or 7th interval, which becomes an F#. When we follow this pattern, shifting up another 5th to the D Major scale, notice the F# is now at the 3rd interval, and again the 7th or next to last interval is sharped, becoming a C#. This pattern of adding a sharp to the 7th interval repeats until all seven intervals have been sharped.

The next graph shows a similar process starting with the C Major scale and shifting downward a 5th to the F Major scale and so on. Each successive scale being a fifth below the previous scale flats the 4th interval (4th note of the scale). As with the graph above which adds one sharp (#) with each upward shift, the graph below adds one flat (b) with each downward shift.

- C Major: C-D-E-F-G-A-B-C
- F Major: F-G-A-Bb-C-D-E-F
- Bb Major: Bb-C-D- Eb-F-G-A-Bb
- Eb Major: Eb-F-G-Ab-Bb-C-D-Eb
- Ab Major: Ab-Bb-C-Db-Eb-F-G-Ab
- Db Major: Db-Eb-F-Gb-Ab-Bb-C-Db
- Gb Major: Gb-Ab-Bb-Cb-Db- Eb-F-Gb
- Cb Maj.: Cb-Db-Eb-Fb-Gb-Ab-Bb-Cb

This pattern will help you recognize the root notes of scales and therefore, which pitch to blow before each song by the number of sharps or flats in its key signature. The handy pitch pipe and the ever popular “circle of fifths” are good memorization tools, showing the Major keys on the outer circle with their corresponding Minor keys having the same number of sharps or flats on the inner circle.

Sharps --> F C G D A E B ~ B E A D G C F <-- Flats