Those Young Voices

On June 4th our dear friend and highly respected music educator, Marianne Lambrecht, brought eight of her finest from the boy’s chorus class at Milford High School to visit our rehearsal. It was guest night, and their visit was a rousing success. The boys sang with us as we ran through a sampling of our repertoire favorites, and as a part of their grade they ably performed four part a cappella arrangements of the Woody Guthrie hit, “Worried Man Blues,” and the 1961 Ben E. King classic, “Stand By Me.” The boys stuck around through our business meeting and we enjoyed interacting with them at break time. This year the Big Chief Chorus was able to provide scholarships to enroll eleven of Marianne’s students in Harmony Explosion Barbershop Camp. We were delighted to enable these young men to receive some summer training for their young voices. Hopefully, in the near future they will be able to join some of their young voices to our chorus of old voices on a more permanent basis.

OverHall Qrt.

A blast from the past! OverTime sings at Jug Night 2018 with Jason Hall filling in at bass.

What Could Be Sweeter than Ice Cream?

On June 8 2019 the Big Chief Chorus discovered something a whole lot sweeter than ice cream...that is an ice cream social topped with a barbershop concert to benefit some of the needy kids in Waterford.

It really doesn’t get any sweeter than sweet harmony sweetening up an already sweet ice cream sundae to further sweeten the lives of sweet kids who could use some extra sweetening in their summer activities. The Waterford Coalition for Youth provides scholarships and other assistance to local families with children to help them thrive in healthy activities such as music training and team sports. Around 150 people attended the event at the Central United Methodist Church in Waterford and heard the chorus perform some of its newer music. Chapter quartets 4GVN and OverTime were on hand to perform sets along the way. And in addition to that, the public was treated to the harmonious stylings of the popular registered quartet, Coda Honor,
featuring our own baritone section leader Ray Sturdy, and the Pioneer District’s President, Dave Montera who served as the master of ceremonies. Heather Halls, the coordinator of Waterford Coalition for Youth also shared about the programs offered through her coalition, and the event raised over $800.00 for their work. Heather also brought along a team of youth who had been benefited through the coalition to scoop the ice cream for us. Our first (hopefully) annual Welcome Summer Ice Cream Social and Benefit Concert was, by all accounts, a sweet success!

Wishing our Beloved Brave Well

By Edwin Reed

Fred Pioch and I had a very nice visit on Friday, June 21st with John Northey. John and I did most of the talking. Lol. Go figure. He is recovering well from his injuries sustained in a fall, but he still cannot move his neck at all, and will have to wear a neck brace for several more weeks. Today, John is at home and in very good spirits. Doctors said he is a lucky man not to have been completely paralyzed. We prayed with him before we left and he thanked us for our visit. I assured him that all of the BCC would be praying for his quick recovery and return to the Chorus.

Happy July Birthdays to this Harmonious Brave!

1st Chuck Murray 29th Bill Maxfield 31st Dar Johnson

A Fond Farewell

On July 1st an ensemble from the Big Chief Chorus gathered at Peace Lutheran Church in Waterford to honor the memory of our beloved friend and to perform a musical farewell at his funeral. In addition to singing barbershop, Ted Prueter was gifted in many ways. His gifts included crafts, tailoring, painting, and creation of the paraments and banners for his church, he held the offices of Vice President, Head Elder, Head Usher and Choir Member. Ted later served Cedar Crest Lutheran Church as Head Elder and also created several banners and a burial Pall for the church. He held the office of President for the Michigan Chapter of MASRP and was a member and librarian for the Big Chief Barbershop Chorus. Mostly, Ted was a God-fearing man always willing to assist a friend, neighbor and his sons, and an outgoing “Man of Note” who introduced several of our current members to the hobby of singing barbershop. We will miss you Ted. And we wish you many joyful centuries in that harmonious hunting ground in the sky.

Director Tom’s Feature Article

From www.berkshirechoral.org May 11, 2017

“How to Manage your Voice this Summer”

The harsh winter is over but that doesn’t mean our vocal cords are any less susceptible to disaster as the weather heats up and summer comes a knocking. We know it can be difficult to focus on vocal health amidst all the summer fun, so we’ve made it easy for you with a quick list of “Do’s and Don’ts” to ensure you can hit those high notes this spring and summer.

Do stay hydrated. Though the air isn’t as dry in the summer, the heat can still cause dehydration and a loss of fluids, especially with an increase of physical activity. Make sure to replenish your body’s water supply and keep your vocal cords hydrated by drinking lots of water.
The recommended amount is about 6-8 glasses of water per day - more if your day is packed with physical activity. Don’t drink a lot of caffeine and alcohol. Both alcohol and caffeine dehydrate your body and dry out your vocal folds and larynx. Additionally, alcohol irritates the mucous membrane lining your throat. So if you’re having a rough morning, opt for herbal tea or decaffeinated coffee, and if you’re having a night out – well, just don’t overdo it.

Do maintain a healthy diet. Eating lots of fruits, vegetables and whole grains not only makes you feel good and nourishes your body, but these types of healthy foods contain important nutrients such as vitamins A, E and C which help maintain the mucous membrane in your throat. Healthy food means healthy vocal cords!

Don’t eat spicy foods. We know the spicy barbeque sauce and buffalo chicken can be tempting, but spicy foods can cause heartburn by causing stomach acid to travel up into the throat and esophagus. Stomach acid can irritate and damage the tissue in your throat, which can take a toll on your singing. Opt for lighter food options with less sauce; your voice will thank you later.

Do avoid smoke. This includes both smoking cigarettes and breathing in smoke from grills and bonfires. Smoke can cause coughing, wheezing and mucous buildup which irritates the vocal cords; not to mention, the act of smoking is the biggest cause of cancer of the vocal folds. When it comes to smoke, try to sit upwind of the fire or grill.

Don’t strain your voice. With summer comes loud events and activities including graduations, weddings, concerts and amusement parks. As tempting as it is, try not to yell and strain your voice too much, or you’ll wake up with a sore throat and a raspy voice. Screaming and yelling causes your vocal cords to repeatedly slam together at high speeds which, as you can imagine, is pretty damaging to vocal health. If you do strain yourself, make sure to rest your voice for a few days until it heals completely.

Managing your voice in the summer may seem tedious, but such care goes a long way in maintaining the overall health of not only your voice, but your body as well. If you still want a dose of concerts this summer, join us at one of our beautiful locations! Visit here for more information.

“How! (Greetings!)”
From your Coastal Georgia Big Chief
By John Cowlishaw

This year I organized a vocal group in our Peppertree Crossing Community.

We met twice a month since January for an hour each and finished the season with a little half-hour concert for the other residents, in which we thirteen performed ten songs. The level of vocality meant having electronic backup, which I prepared. The singers worked hard on the songs, and the audience was enthusiastic. Most importantly, it increased the sense of community in Peppertree. “Everyone in Harmony!” A video of the show is available on YouTube at:  youtu.be/nF2R7UGozlM

The songs we sang were: On the Road Again, Blue Skies, Under the Boardwalk, In the Golden Isles, Let Me Call You Sweetheart, When the Spirit Says Do, This Land Is Your Land, Getting to Know You, Try to Remember, and When the Saints Go Marching In.

Meet da’ Boyz

Our newest (yet to be named) chapter quartet tuning up with some southern gospel music: Jack Teuber, tenor; Ed Reed, lead; Art Carinci, bass and Ray Sturdy, baritone.
Chapter Leadership

(Mike Frye, Ray Sturdy and Jeff Doig)

Director: Thomas Blue (248) 705 7952
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

Upcoming Chorus Events

Rehearsals are 7:30 PM every Tuesday at Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Rd. Waterford, MI 48329. Sing outs are listed by performance times. Warm-ups are 30 mins. prior.

July 12 (Fri)  Walled Lake Villa, 1:30pm (12:45 Warm-Up)
  1035 Walled Lake Villa Drive, Walled Lake
July 15 (Mon)  DOC/Gross Point Picnic, 6pm
  Pier Park, 350 Lake Shore Dr. Grosse Pointe Farms
July 17 (Wed) Clarkston Garden Walk – OverTime event
  Sajdak Garden 5524 Avington Pkwy btw 11am&2pm
Aug. 20 (Tue) Big Chief Chorus Annual Picnic, 5:30pm
  2456 Pontiac Dr. Sylvan Lake
Oct. 18-20  Pioneer District Fall Convention, Muskegon
  Holiday Inn: OverTime will be competing.
Nov. 2 (Sat)  BCC 75th Annual Show at Mott PAC
Nov. 5 (Tue) Christmas Chorus

Tuning Up for Summer Singing

On Wednesday July 17, our chapter’s registered quartet, OverTime will be singing at the Clarkston Garden Walk. If you would like to hear their musical stylings come and take a walk at Sajdak Garden 5524 Avington Parkway between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM.

Attention All Quartets
We want to hear you Tuesday Nights at Quartet Time.

We might even be able to arrange for you to be a part of a bigger ensemble...