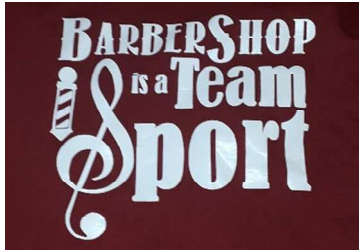




August 2019
Vol. 19, No. 4 (#220)
www.bigchiefchous.org



August is a sweaty month for High School football teams. Athletes from all over the state, show up to their practices with dreams of earning scholarships and

winning championships. Two-a-days are a gut-check designed by hard-nosed coaches to weed out half-hearted players and to further toughen the toughest of the bunch. Why would anyone put themselves through such a painful ordeal? As every coach will tell you, hard workouts increase a team's chances for success. As the old adage goes: "No pain, no gain."

All summer long, quarterback s will drill their teams



though their playbooks, setting each player's expectations into their muscle memory. The backs and ends, the linemen and special teams are gearing up together for what will hopefully be a winning season.

Similarly, in the brutal (not really) world of



competitive quartetting, tenors, leads, bases and (yes, even those mysterious) baritones must consistently bring their 'A games' when it comes time to perform. Before the big day successful quartets will have put in a lot of (not always physically) painful practice. Dedication to the

craft and good ol' elbow (vocal) grease pay big dividends for those who aspire to harmonious greatness. Just as winning teams have to reach a level where they know they can trust their teammates to perform well on game



day, barbershop quartets have the same concern. Words and notes need to be memorized perfectly so the finer details can come together. Rhythms and vowels, resonance and vocal placement, facial expressions and choreography are only chapter one of the barbershop playbook. To quote yet another tried and true (or perhaps tired but true?) cliché, "practice makes perfect."



Here in the Big Chief Chorus we have lots of fun quartetting. After our weekly business meetings we make it a point to encourage our members to form quartets and perform for the group. Some quartets are established and regularly perform for the community and some are thrown together at the last minute. Our tribe is supportive no matter how much or how little experience a singer may have. If you are hesitant to jump in and try your hand at quartetting please don't be. "Barbershop is a team sport," but it's not going to wreak havoc on your body. In fact, it's healthy. Some barbershoppers sing into their nineties and perhaps even beyond. Quartetting is a great source of fun without all of the aches and pains that go along with intense football practices.

Once you are hooked and find your way onto a four man squad that wants to become an established quartet it will open up a whole new world for you. At that point, like an all-state tight end, you will find yourself wanting to suit up and gut it out at every rehearsal.

Thank You Big Chief Chorus!

by Heather Halls
Waterford Coalition for Youth



On behalf of the Waterford Coalition for Youth, I want to thank you so much for hosting such a beautiful concert and fundraiser.

We cannot put into words how much we appreciate the generosity of all you and the guests in attendance! Your talents are a gift

you all so generously share for all to enjoy! Best wishes to all of you for a safe, happy healthy summer. I look forward to coming to more concerts in the future. Thank you so much for raising funds for us to continue to serve our youth in prevention and positive decision making.

Yet Another Fond Farewell

By Pete Mazzara



On July 18, 2019 our dear friend and fellow Barbershopper, Gene Downie, was laid to rest. The eulogy for Gene was conducted brilliantly by Bill Homes.

Attending the service at Coats Funeral Home in Waterford were

Gene's family (two sons, his daughter, and their spouses; eight grandchildren, and his wife Phyllis), many friends, and 21 Big Chief Chorus brothers who honored Gene's memory and comforted his family by singing "It is Well with my Soul" and "The Irish Parting Prayer." All attested to Gene as a decent, caring, and loving man.

In the BCC, Gene sang lead in quartets, served as chapter president, was a chorus librarian, and was the ultimate builder of show props (which included a real-life Juke Box that allowed men to walk through). Gene could learn the music faster than most. He will be missed. Our love and support are extended to his family.

The Evolution of Vocal Music

Part I – The Biology
by John Cowlshaw

Sound occurs whenever a vibrating source sends a vibration thru the air (at 767 mph). It could be a vibrating solid, like a Tibetan bowl, or the legs of a mosquito rubbing together. But singing requires that the vibration occur in an animal's breathing passageway, like a loon's

mournful cry and the throat-cries of thousands of other animal species.



When animal evolution reached the stage of mammals, the airways became more specialized. A larynx evolved which houses vocal folds or cords. By comparing our anatomy with the fossils of early hominids, anthropologists

think that primitive singing may be a million years old, and most surely would have been possible for Neanderthals, 500,000 years ago.

The Top 25 Things O.C. Cash Forgot to Tell Us

By Bill Gibbons

Submitted by Tom Blue

1. There is no such thing as being a little flat.
2. The worst (insert your choice: tenor lead, bari or bass) always sings the loudest.
3. 90 % of the members of any given barbershop chorus will consider themselves to be in the top 50 % of that chorus talent pool.
4. The older you get, the better your voice used to be.
5. There's too much apathy in most chapters... but who cares.
6. Chorus favorite; a bass, baritone or tenor who would say, just once, that he wasn't brought down by the lead section.
7. Chorus sadist; the guy who feels obligated to blow the pitchpipe at the end of the song.
8. God has given man the seemingly infinite capacity to remember countless tags plus one of the chapter chorus contest songs.
9. The three other guys in your quartet will always have the uncanny ability, without any apparent signals between them, to simultaneously go sharp.
10. There is nothing wrong with being seen by the Chorus Director while looking at your watch...try to avoid his seeing you shaking it.
11. All choruses have chaos...the successful ones are those who hide this fact from the judges, at least most of the time.
12. Leads; the longer a song is, the higher the probability that the tag will be in your comfort zone.
13. A correctly delivered relative third never needs to be sharpened, brightened or sung on the high side.
14. Volunteer to be the chorus pitch-pipe person. You'll never again have to sing a song outside of your range.

15. I'd like to live long enough to see; a quartet who could sing the phrase "gonna build a little home for two, or three, or four or more" without using their fingers as counters.
16. I'd like to live long enough to see; a chorus who could sing the phrase "strolling/walking down the lane" without sweeping their many right arms from stage left to stage right.
17. Your favorite song will always come out of your car speaker when you reach your destination.
18. Advice to newly formed quartets; don't ask for requests. You'll never know it.
19. Advice to newly formed quartets; never challenge a heckler to come up and sing it better. He or she will.
20. Advice to newly formed quartets; a pitch-pipe makes an excellent medium-range weapon.
21. Chorus progress is made on alternate meeting nights.
22. The bass section: never needlessly disturb a thing at rest.
23. The easiest way to find your misplaced pitch-pipe is to buy a new one.
24. No matter how many rooms in the headquarters hotel, the guy who starts up his car at 5 am is always parked under your window.
25. Sound-judges will believe anything if you whisper it.

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.

- 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
- Nov. 11 (Mon) Veteran's Recognition, 12:30pm
Lake Orion Community Center
1335 Joslyn Rd. Orion Twp.

Happy August Birthdays!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 th Jim McMMain | 5 th Mike Keith |
| 8 th Pat Hefner | 24 th Bill Auquier |
| | 29 th Jeff Doig |



Membership Renewals

Mann, I Reed, E

Chapter Leadership...

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

...doin' the kind of stuff they do...



Past President Jack Teuber explaining something very important to Music Committee member Pete Mazzara.



Assistant Director Jeff Doig doing what Director Tom Blue would be doing if he weren't on vacation.



President Eric Domke taking care of business at our business meetings.... because that's what we do when we have business meetings... business and stuff like that....



Oh, wait, that's my granddaughter, Arielle, how'd she get in there? Someone needs to have a word with the bulletin editor about that.