“A Picnic too at the Old Point View”

By Eric Domke

What brings happiness and joy to everyone? A Big Chief Chorus potluck picnic! Chuck Murray and Mike Fry have done just that in orchestrating a great festive potluck with the 2 chefs preparing Angus beef burgers, hot dogs, Jim Owens amazing corn on the cob, and of course Chuckles great Kapusta (Alexa and Google know Kapusta, but not Microsoft Office).

We look forward to our summer picnic every year and wish we had the room for everyone to join us, as many chapters invite other chapters. But we fill the Sylvan Lake Community center with our families and this year we were delayed a week from our planned picnic date due to a broken water main and lack of water. Even though we planned on lake water for toilet flushing (when we heard about the break) and bringing in fresh water for cooking, the Sylvan Lake officials said “no go without fresh water”. It all worked out and Tom received a Yamaha award. The award has a thumb piano on which you can actually strum the tuned strings ...

Word has it that Emma and Noah actually learned 2 songs on it while at the picnic. How fun!

Thank You Big Chief Chorus!

by Phyllis Downie

I cannot tell you how grateful I am for adding such a beautiful and moving touch to Gene’s service. I know he would have loved it because barbershop meant so much to him, not only for singing, but also the fellowship. He considered the members his friends. Thank you for being with us to celebrate his life.

Happy September Birthdays!

6th Charlie Perry
8th Greg Moss
10th John Cowlishaw
29th Dave Myre

Life’s Essential Element.
Making the World Go ‘Round

An amazing vocalist recently said, “fat-bottomed girls make the rockin’ world go ‘round.” Perhaps Freddie Mercury was right about that, however, we traverse a much higher plain than the rockin’ world. We inhabit the celestial sphere of barbershop harmony. Our currency isn’t screechy guitar rips and rebellious lyrics, but the ringing of juicy chords and selling the messages of songs so sublime they make even the hairs on your arms pay close attention.

Our hobby celebrates a more noble era when that once-in-a-lifetime special someone would come along, and every day with her became a new adventure. It took quite a lofty art form to capture all that she meant to us.

In those good ol’ days that “ol’ gang-0-mine” would rhapsodize in glorious song about what really makes the world go ‘round, the kind of true love that lasts forever. No need for amplifiers, no smoke machines, no jiggling bodies... just the ear candy of heaven--sweet, luxurious four-part vocal harmony.

The good news is that the Big Chief Chorus’ 75th annual show is in production, and the theme of “Ladies Night” will highlight the inspiring and nostalgic music we all love. The not so good news is that the pure artistry of this historic slice of Americana, our favorite genre of music, is painfully lacking in today’s pop culture. The chaotic world in which we live needs a trip back to a happier time, but to take them back is an expensive undertaking. Yet another ol’ saying might better fit our current situation, “Money makes the world go ‘round.”

When it comes to putting on a show, we don’t have the allure of rock stars, and we certainly don’t enjoy their seemingly endless resources, but we do have a few things we can use to fund our obsession. Neil Braun runs a weekly 50/50 raffle that accounts for over $600.00 per year for our chorus’ expenses, and Roger Holm provides ad kits so we can better cover the cost of the show. And when we pay our annual dues to the Barbershop Harmony Society a portion of that comes back to us. But it’s old fashioned ticket sales that keeps us going from year to year. Let’s spread the word and make this year’s show “ROCK!”

The Evolution of Vocal Music
Part II – The Culture
by John Cowlishaw

Early singing was probably monophonal, that is, just one tone at a time, in some simple melodic patterns. Perhaps like Australian aboriginal music.

Christian church chants were monophonic, with everyone (men) singing in unison – mostly octaves, fifths and fourths. However, they sound richer because the resonance in the cathedrals harmonically augments them.

In the 14th-16th centuries, major and minor triads (using 3rds) were introduced. The 16th and 17th centuries saw the introduction of the 7th chord (dominant) and a rich variety of harmonies and progressions.

As women joined male singers, their different vocal range would have made it plausible for them to sing exactly one octave higher. This might have been the first harmonizing. Pitches that are an octave apart sound pleasant, or consonant. But so do fifths and fourths. The Sumerians knew about octaves and fifths and fourths and had already developed a system of entire scales 2000 years ago that were based on alternating fourths and fifths.
On July 7, 2019, the Vocal Majority had what many describe as a "Bucket List" opportunity. Following their swan song appearance at the 2019 Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention, the 13-time gold medal-winning chorus performed with the Tabernacle Choir Sunday morning on a long-running TV program known as "Music and the Spoken Word." On the air for 90 years and over 4,600 weekly broadcasts, Music & the Spoken Word is the longest-running uninterrupted network broadcast in the world, according to their website.

The music was superbly beautiful, as the Tabernacle Choir (formerly known as The Mormon Tabernacle Choir) performed songs with the huge pipe organ and a professional orchestra. Our VM performed alone, singing How Great Thou Art and I’ll Walk with God, and then joined with the "Tab Choir" on the last song, All Creatures of Our God and King.

Yes, it was all very uplifting and wonderful, but during the program, a point was made that bears repeating again, and again, and again.

Lloyd D. Newell, American journalist, announcer, and author, who is the current voice of Music and the Spoken Word, had a wonderful message that goes right to the heart of our hobby...."You can't sing Barbershop alone." We won’t repeat the entire message here, but this excerpt sums it up:

“For many, the music is only part of the experience. Relationships, to them, are inseparable from the sound. Its friendship, as much as music, that keeps them singing. One expert has written that ‘Barbershoppers feel a strong fellowship—a wave of warmth and friendliness—when they sing together. An important facet of the fun and personal enrichment gained from barbershop singing...Is its camaraderie.’... We all do better, we all live happier and more peaceful lives, when we are in harmony with others.”

Visit http://android.trendolizer.com/2019/07/music-the-spoken-word---live-stream-july-7-2019.html to watch the program. You can catch the Vocal Majority performance (at the 58:20 mark) and Mr. Newell’s message (at the 1:14:18 mark) but you will appreciate seeing the whole program.

Congratulations Jeff Doig!

Here a smiling Charlie Perry presents his long-time friend and former OverTime, lead singer, Jeff Doig, with his all-time record 11,582nd Barbershopper of the Month award. Thank you, Jeff, for being our assistant director and for volunteering to fill in whenever Tom can’t be with us.

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.

Sept. (Sat) 14 Wheels & Teal Ovarian Cancer Auto Show 388 N. Adams Rd. Rochester Hills 9 AM & 10:30 AM
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.
Dec. 11 (Wed) Canterbury on the Lake Assisted Living - TBD Dec. 12 (Thu) Canterbury on the Lake Independent Living 6:30 PM

Chapter Leadership...

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Section leaders: G. Moss, R. Sturdy, J. Doig, P. Hefner
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Words by PATTY HILL
and MILDRED J. HILL

Melody Traditional
Arrangement by JOE LILES

Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday dear someone. Happy birthday to you.

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