On Saturday, September 14, eighteen Big Chief Singers and one (proud?) Big Chief Director were on hand to open the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance's annual Wheels & Teal car show. We sang the national anthem and God Bless America to the nearly 600 people who attended the daylong event in Rochester Hills, and later that morning the Chorus put on the first of a series of concerts in the downtown gazebo.

If you ask our baritone section leader, Ray Sturdy, how many guys are in his quartet, he would tell you, “Three”... and then after a well-timed pause would add, “and two gals.” We were honored to provide an opportunity for his mixed quintet, the “Surf Tones” smartly attired in their Hawaiian shirts to have their public debut a few hours ahead of their appearance in the Detroit Oakland Chapter Show. And what a crowd pleaser it was.

Overtime Quartet sassily leaning against one of the car show entries was also on hand. Their harmonious contribution to the day’s festivities included an hour of singing after the various groups had all performed and gone home. As the tables and chairs and displays and snacks and sound equipment and practically everything else was being packed up and carried away, a smattering of applause could still be intermittently heard in the distance. And during all the commotion, in true appreciation of our great American artform, an enthralled audience of precisely two ladies noted hearing some impressive overtones.

Happy October Birthdays!

18th  Art Carinci
22nd  Walt DeNio
29th  Roger Holm
30th  Dave McDonald
Congratulations!

Standing a mere 12’ and 13” tall, here’s a Big (in more ways than one) Chief we have all come to admire and appreciate. Chuckles Murray, seen here towering over President Eric, receives his well-deserved Barbershopper of the Month certificate for the fabulous work he does each year planning and preparing our delicious picnic dinners. Chuckles is also a double extra-large source of music to share with us, and his giant heart is always willing to share the love whenever we need someone to help out. Thanks, Chuckles for the many things you do for our tribe. Not only are you a velvety smooth bass, you encourage the rest of us to step up our artistry. A giant harmonious teddy bear of a man, you are a model barbershopper that we can all get behind... and when we do, the photographer has to rearrange the pose so the rest of us can be seen in the photo.

The Vocal Warmup Plan for our Chorus
by Tom Blue

Physical Warm-up Activities
- Stretches (arms, neck, shoulders, spine)
- Rhythmic patterns – echo (snapping, clapping, vocal fricatives)

Vocal warm-up Activities
- Lip Trills
- Barbershop phrases
  - air in the voice to elicit head tone singing
  - “garlic” or “out of breath” feeling
- Vowels & Scales (Speaking register to low register and then to upper register on “oo” then “oh” then “ah” with five-tone descending scales – starting with most comfortable range for chorus and then extend range.)
- Number patterns

Unified Singing (Selected Polecat)
- Unison on lead part
- Then unison on lead adding only the base part
- Then unison on lead adding base and baritone
- Finally singing all four parts

Choral singing
- Additional Polecats
- Repertoire selections

The goal here is to get our voices working at their optimal production so we can focus the remainder of our rehearsals on cleaning and polishing our songs and raising the level of artistry in our performances.

The Best of Both Barbershop Worlds

by Jon Knapp

Some of our Big Chiefs double with other choruses in the area, such as D.O.C. and the Guardians of Harmony. Three of our members in particular, tenor, Pat Hefner, lead, Austin Suthers, and myself, also sing with the City Lights Chorus. Each chorus has its own particular culture and style. The youthfulness and enthusiasm of City Lights Chorus is unique in the Pioneer District, and their success as district champs owes a lot to the energy and expertise of Next Generation world Champion Frontier Quartet, which provides leadership for the chorus.

The Big Chief Chorus enjoys a special place in the barbershop world. We enthusiastically support quartetting and we schedule frequent sing-outs for the benefit of people in our community. By contrast, City Lights focuses on improving their proficiency and performances for the sake of international recognition and success. But since their membership comes from all over Michigan, they don’t have as much opportunity to perform publicly.

Being a dual member is hard work, but it allows for a huge opportunity to grow as a performer. Yet, being a member of only one chorus also requires a lot of dedication and effort. Whether success means putting smiles on the faces of people who really need some harmony in their lives, as it is in the BCC, or winning on an international stage, as it is at City Lights, we all need to do our very best every single time we sing.

Directors can only point us in the direction of artistry and excellence. Getting there is the combined personal responsibility of each and every member of the tribe.

Membership Renewals

Mann, I
Don’t forget to pick up your advertising kits! Thank you, Roger Holm for preparing them for us! Our Show “Ladies Night” will be here before you know it. Get your tickets from Eric Domke.

The Evolution of Vocal Music
Part III – The Harmony
by John Cowlishaw

Pythagoras is credited with the discovery that pitches that are in whole number ratios sound pleasant/consonant. Other pitch combinations sound dissonant. If one builds a scale by sequential perfect fifths (e.g. G is a perfect fifth above C, because their frequencies are in a 3:2 ratio, then take a second step, from G to D, etc.), one can generate the whole chromatic scale (all of the white and black keys on the piano). But, although the fifths are consonant, other intervals are not. Attempts to correct the dissonances led to the Equal Tempered Scale, where all of the notes are equally spaced, but slightly out of consonance; and the Just Tempered Scale, where all the notes are in consonant whole-number ratios, but the pitches differ from key to key. Barbershop singing uses the Just Tempered Scale and makes the proper adjustments for each key and chord that is used. A beautiful example is Crossroads’ recording of “That Lucky Old Sun.” www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7mGjSZpdpk

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

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.

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

We put our hands together many times to honor the years of service of Bob Greenwood and John Northey! Chapter secretary, Art Carinci led the clapping, and boy did our hands get sore. Congratulations fellas for your glorious singing careers!

On September 21, OverTime performed as a strolling quartet at Milford’s annual Historic Home Tour.