

Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions

October 15, 2009

Dear Quartet Champ,

The autumn weather was beautiful and the Lancaster Convention Center/Marriott Hotel was quite a nice new venue for the District's 2009 Fall Convention in old Penn Dutch country on 2-4 October ... oh, yeah and the singing throughout the weekend was fantastic! Our 11th annual Quartet Champs Association reunion and Saturday Night Show of Champions performance was very successful. There were a total of 60 M-AD Quartet Champs in attendance representing 39 foursomes spanning 6 decades – from the Yorkaires (1957) to Old School (2009).

Here is a weekend recap. First the quartet results ...

- Our **2010 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are **'Round Midnight** winning with a scoring average of 80.5% (2,899 points). The quartet members are **Wayne Grimmer** (lead), **Jeff Glemboski** (bass), **T. J. Carollo** (baritone), and **Larry Bomback** (tenor). They were also 2009 International Quartet Semifinalists in Anaheim, CA placing 14th. They sang "*Anytime At All*", *Try a Little Tenderness*", *Since I Don't Have You*", and *Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me*". We offer a collective congratulation and give these new brothers a hardy welcome into our fraternity of 65 quartet champions since 1945, now with 212 total members (142 living).

'Round Midnight
2010 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions



Now starting from the beginning of the weekend ...

- The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** were jam-packed with 28 competitors including 8 foursomes containing 14 past M-AD Quartet Champ singers including **Hal Kraft, Mark Sanders, John Ward, Joe Hunter, Mike Wallen, Mark Paul, Ed Czenas, Nick Aiuto, Steve White, Bob Ramsey, Joe Sawyer, Wayne Adams, Mike Kelly** and **Shawn Thomas**. There were also several past champs from other districts. Mic-testors for the first round were Old School. Making the Top-10 cut were 11 champs in 7 quartets: 'Round Midnight, Escapade, Hudson Chronicles, Full *Tilt*, Crunch Time, Bigtime!, and Hit Parade. Placing 11th and mic-testors for the final round were Down a Fourth! who were also represented by 3 past champs.

- After the quartet semifinal round which ran very late, 35 dutiful champs gathered for the first of two MADAQC Chorus rehearsals for the weekend. There were a lot of handshakes, hugs, and smiles as longtime quartet pals greeted each other and tried to catch up quickly. **Jay Butterfield** and **Mike Wallen** were this year's honorary co-Directors who efficiently ran us through our paces, particularly on the newest repertoire song, "*Here's to the Winners*".
- On Saturday afternoon, under the direction of Joe Cerutti the **Alexandria Harmonizers** won their 22nd **Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Championship** with a scoring average of 87.5% (1,578 points) and earning another trip to the International Chorus Contest next July in Philadelphia. They sang "*You Tell Me Your Dreams*" and "*Clap Yo Hands*". The **Brothers of Harmony** under the direction of **Jack Pinto** placed 2nd with an 81.2% (1,461 points) and the **Chorus of the Chesapeake** under the direction of **Rick Taylor** finished in 3rd with an 80.0% (1,440 points). Both of these choruses will likely earn wildcards to Philly.
- Following a very-very late running chorus contest followed by the judges' evaluation sessions, the MADAQC Chorus assembled again for a rehearsal. We were pleased to welcome two champs who had never attended a reunion ... **Ed Smyser** and **Greg Eck** from the Yorkaires were applauded and given their member badges. Jay and Mike then worked "*This is the Moment*" which quickly took shape and sounded great. Unfortunately due to lateness of schedules, we were unable to fully prepare "*Here's to the Winners*", so the song was scratched from our evening program. Your effort in learning this song was greatly appreciated and it will likely be sung at next year's convention.
- The Quartet Champs Association again co-sponsored the **6th Annual MADAQC Showcase of Quartets/M-AD Endowment Fund Dinner and Fundraiser** on Saturday afternoon. The Showcase was emceed by past M-AD President Alan Wile and featured the **Four Aces** (2007 M-AD Champs) with **Nick Aiuto**, **Scott Risley**, **Richard Lewellen**, and **Ed Cazenias** and **Old School** (2009 International Silver Medalist and 2009 M-AD Champs) with **Joe Connelly**, **Joe Krones**, **Jack Pinto**, and Kipp Buckner. Alan reported that the audience was very generous with their donations. This event was a great success due to the time, talent, and voluntary contributions from these fantastic quartets. Many thanks, guys!

Four Aces



Old School



- The **Quartet Finals** on Saturday evening proved to be quite a shoot out and very entertaining, starting with the mic-testors, Down Fourth, who unabashedly imitated ‘Round Midnight – from costumes to mannerisms – testing every microphone on the stage.
- The **District Show of Champions** followed the contest and featured Old School who brought to a close their very successful championship year with a riveting swan song package. The 2nd and 3rd place choruses sang and then the Alexandria Harmonizers gave a thrilling performance that brought the crowd to its feet.
- The MADAQC Chorus lined up backstage, getting ready to take the stage. District President **Gary Plaag** (and tenor of Hijinx) was our emcee and read the names of each quartet represented as the men proudly took their places on the risers. A very appreciative District audience applauded loudly in delight.

MADAQC Chorus



- Contest Administrator Brian O’Leary then gave the much-awaited announcement of the quartet contest results as Old School stood at the ready to hand out pins, hardware, and congratulations.

Hit Parade with **Hal Kraft**, Brad Brooks, **Mark Sanders**, and Tom Felgen qualified to represent M-AD at the International Seniors Quartet Contest this coming January at the Mid-Winter Convention.

In **3rd place** with a score of 78.7% (2,833 points) was **Crunch Time** with **Shawn Thomas**, Eric Wallen, Matt Fellows, and **Mike Wallen**.

In **2nd place** with a score of 79.0% (2,843 points) was **Full Tilt** with **Nick Aiuto**, **Steve White**, **Pete Frank**, and **Ed Cazenias**.

‘Round Midnight was announced as the winners and awarded the MADAQC/Oriole Four Traveling Trophy along with shiny new blue 2010 District Championship pins. After thanking their coaches, friends and families, and the audience they sang one last song. Then with smiles ear-to-ear (and a few tears), they stood proudly arm-in-arm as Mike Wallen directed the MADAQC Chorus in “*This is the Moment*” which stirred strong emotions as we individually relived that special moment ourselves. Near the tag

the chorus slowly came down off the risers and formed a crescent in front of ‘Round Midnight who was overwhelmingly touched by this gesture of welcome and friendship.

MADAQC Chorus, Mike Wallen directing



- Jay Butterfield then directed the entire Mid-Atlantic audience in “*Keep the Whole World Singing*”, bringing to a close another incredible barbershop weekend. It was now off to the hospitality suites for more fun and well-deserved relaxation.

Well, that about does it for now. Next year, the Fall Convention will again be in Lancaster, PA, so make your plans now to join us for the best of barbershop on the East Coast. Remember that you are forever a part of this District’s great legacy and I look forward to seeing and hearing you again very soon. *Stay well!*

Yours in friendship, service, and close championship harmony,

Steve White
MADAQC President

List of Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

1	1945	<i>New York Police Department Quartet</i>	14	1958	<i>Oriole Four (also the 1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmoneers</i>	15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>	16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>	17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>	18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>	19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>	20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>	21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>	22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>
10	1954	<i>Playtonics</i>	23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>	24	1969	<i>Classics</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>	25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>			

26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>	46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents (also the 1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>	47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>	48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>	49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>	50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>	51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>	52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
33	1978	<i>Baltimore & Ohio Connection</i>	53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>	54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>	55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>	56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>	57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>	58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>	59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>	60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>	61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>	62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>	63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>	64	2009	<i>Old School</i>
45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>	65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>