



MID ATLANTIC

Volume 44, Issue 1

Winter 2013

A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

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. . . AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!



Voices of Gotham singer Evan Shyer proposes to JJ Kovacevich, a Siren of Gotham, at the combined choruses' recent annual show as members of the combined choruses enjoy the romance of the unexpected moment.

Cupid works his magic in several other stories in this issue. Be the first to send an accurate count of the number of s in this issue to editor@midatlanticdistrict.com and we'll feature you in the next issue's spotlight!

Photo by D. Phelan Photography



Hear ye, hear ye!

All lovers of barbershop 7th chords draw near. By Royal Decree all subjects of the Realm of the M-AD are summoned to the royal palace of Parsippany to cheer on their brave knights in the realm's vocal jousting contest. The champions will carry the flag of the M-AD to the court of the great king of BHS in the land of Toronto.

At the request of the Queen Mother of the Realm, all will assemble in the great hall on Saturday morning, March 16, 2013 to celebrate the accomplishments of the young princes and princesses of the court and encourage their future triumphs.

With special dispensation from the Archbishop, all subjects shall partake of food and ale and sing mightily into the wee hours in celebration of the weekend and the great joy brought on through shared harmony throughout the land.



March 15 - 17, 2013

Event Highlights:

- **M-AD International Quartet Preliminary Contest** (Friday and Saturday nights) to select representatives to the International Contest in Toronto, Canada.
- **M-AD Youth in Harmony Adjudication** (Saturday morning) to promote and encourage male and female youth quartets in our schools and communities.
- **M-AD Board Meeting** (Friday from 11 am – 3 pm)
- **M-AD Honor Society (DELASUSQUEHUDMAC) Breakfast** (Saturday morning) to honor newly elected members
- **M-AD House of Delegates Meeting** (Sunday morning from 9-11 am)
- **Group rate available until February 22, 2013.** Subject to Availability. Call (973) 515-2000 to make your reservations.

Order your tickets at <http://www.mad-registrations.org/>.

True North Guiding Principles

1. The _____ Chapter holds as its highest priority the ever-increasing quality of its performing ensembles, to provide satisfaction for singing members, the best possible performance experiences for patrons, and increased recognition in the community.
2. Guests and members of the _____ Chapter always feel welcome and are: acknowledged for their skills and interests; engaged in useful roles to benefit the Chapter's activities; included in as many musical activities as possible; and included in opportunities to celebrate the Chapter's and individuals' successes.
3. The Chapter promotes and supports members' participation in musical and administrative leadership training opportunities.
4. The Chapter promotes and supports non-performing activities which involve members and their families and friends to further grow our bonds of friendship.
5. The Chapter identifies and participates in opportunities to provide service to our community, District, and Society, including, supporting vocal music education in schools and community organizations; charitable giving; participation in District, Society, and other chapters' events.
6. The Chapter seeks to align itself with other music organizations on a variety of levels, with an eye toward mutual understanding, growth and support.
7. The Chapter maintains, and seeks to grow, a secure, stable financial footing.
8. The Chapter places a high priority on effective communication to promote the Chapter and keep our members, families and patrons informed of our activity, taking advantage of as many traditional and innovative vehicles as possible.
9. The Chapter Board is responsible for guiding the Chapter by these Principles, holding designated officers responsible for planning and day-to-day execution of goals and strategies related to them, thus allowing its primary focus to be on the long-term health and growth of the Chapter. Every effort is made to insure EVERY Chapter member plays a role in the accomplishment of at least one of these guiding principles.
10. All decisions, actions and outcomes associated with Chapter activity are measured against their alignment to these Guiding Principles. If an activity or initiative undertaken by the Chapter does not directly affect these Principles in a positive way, the action or initiative should be modified or abandoned.

Finding 'True North'

A Guide Is Always Helpful

I'm not an outdoorsman. Ask my family! But I have had several important experiences in my life which have taught me the value of having a qualified guide to help navigate rocky terrain.



By Bill Colosimo,
M-AD President

When I was a teen, I experienced an Outward Bound expedition in the Great Smoky Mountains; a timid, awkward 15-year-old managed to "survive" a rugged mountain adventure -- with an experienced set of guides.

As newlyweds, Linda and I went whitewater rafting; again, a skilled guide steered us away from perilous rocks along the rapids.

More significantly, during difficult challenges in my personal and professional life, I floundered and began to sink under the heavy weight of self-reliance, only to find comfort and proper direction to find "True North" with the help of loving, experienced guides.

Perhaps you've experienced similar situations, in which course correction, small or substantial, has made a remarkable, positive difference in your potential for success.

Through these experiences, I learned that it's not enough to strap on self will and bore into the unknown, no matter how talented one may be. It's especially dangerous (or at least frustrating!) to go solo and try "the same things," expecting "different results!" Rather,

it's been awareness of and reliance on qualified personal help and a set of fundamental, tried-and-true principles which have helped forge a successful course.

Consider these thoughts as you examine the "success" of your barbershop life in preparation for this new year, whether individual or within the context of your chapter.

Throughout this terrific issue of *Mid'lAntics*, you will find helpful writings from experienced "guides" with whom I'm privileged to be associated as part of your dedicated District leadership team. Information abounds about educational opportunities and events, experiences involving altruistic service, and ways to make our music meaningful for ourselves and others!

These men are your guides to True North: a satisfying barbershop experience for yourself, and a growing, healthy and engaged chapter of which you can be justifiably proud. Their insight, shared experience and willingness to help you will pay great dividends to you...if you reach out for their guiding hand!

There is, however, a sobering (and perhaps daunting!) thought for you to consider. Despite all the "guides" whose talents are available to you, the successes you or your chapter experience will be short-lived if we rely on "personalities" alone. We all need "Guiding Principles" to complement the experience of mentors; in fact, it may be the "principles" which — if strictly followed — spell the secret to long-term success, long after the guide who pointed us to True North

has disappeared.

So, as I begin my term of humble service to you as District President, I offer a set of "Guiding Principles" recently forged by my DC Chapter for you to consider.

You'll notice that — as a set of principles — there are no "metrics" or specific "results" quantified, like "we will increase our membership by X%" or "we will increase our contest score to 70." Those metrics belong in detailed planning and goals...not in guiding principles.

But it's been the experience of successful people and organizations that — if everything you plan and do is based on a set of fundamentally sound, agreed-upon principles — you will succeed in achieving your specific plans and goals!

I, your District Board, and your District Operations Team (under the capable leadership of new Executive Vice-President, **Ig Jakovac**) stand ready to be your "guides." These Guiding Principles are a template for those you might consider adopting, too. May you and your Chapter find and follow a "True North" to guide you to a satisfying and prosperous 2013!

... if everything you plan and do is based on a set of fundamentally sound, agreed-upon principles — you will succeed in achieving your specific plans and goals!

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Hail and Farewell

Over the last two years I have had the great privilege of serving as your president. Since 1945 only 36 men have served as District President – among them some of the giants of our Society such as **Dee Paris, Leon Avakian, Newt Huff, Clyde Taber, Wilbur Sparks, and Merritt Auman** – to name but a few. Each of us has faced different challenges but all of us have benefited from the opportunity to travel around the district and meet many of the fine men and women who comprise our “district family”.

Becoming an intimate part of this wonderful family and building relationships with chapters, choruses, and quartets around the district was the greatest benefit of all. I wish each of you could come to experience the amazing diversity of our district and the vibrant fabric of musical talent that ties us together.

I have cheered so many of you in competition, applauded wildly at so many of your shows, broken bread at your installations, and thrilled to ring chords with you in so many pick up quartets. More than anything else, these will be the lasting memories of my term of office.

Now I turn the mantle of leadership over to my dear friend and colleague **Bill Colosimo**. I am proud to continue to serve as a member of his team as we move into exciting times that I am sure will be marked by continued accomplishment, growth, fun, and harmony.

Roxanne and I thank you all for your kindness and generosity over the last two years. We look forward to seeing you again soon and ringing chords with you in the years to come.

With a song in my heart,

Dick



*By Dick Powell,
Immediate Past
President, M-AD*



District “Barbershopper of the Year,” 2012

Submit your Chapter's candidate now!

Your District leadership is pleased to announce the nomination process for an important award recognizing the dedication and talents—in all phases of our barber-shop activity—of special men whose efforts have earned them the distinction of being named “Mid-Atlantic District Barbershopper of the Year.” While many of our Chapters bestow this fine award for service within their own group, it is an additional honor to be selected among Chapters’ award winners to be recognized by our District fellows in a special way.

Accordingly, each Chapter President (or a designee) in M-AD is invited to submit the name of his Chapter’s 2012 Barbershopper of the Year for consideration by a committee of District leaders, chaired by the District President, along with a brief-but-thorough description of the nominee’s credentials which not only earned him his Chapter award, but might spotlight how his efforts (in your view) positively impact our District as a whole. Only one nominee per Chapter, please!

Ideally, nominations should be emailed to billcatps@aol.com, with the narrative as an attached document OR in the body of the email, with the subject line “District BOTY” (please). If email is not possible, hard copy nominations may be mailed to:

Bill Colosimo
5730 N. 22nd Street
Arlington, VA 22205-3243

(If you have already submitted a nomination by mail, you need not re-send.)

The deadline for RECEIPT of nominations is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2013. Announcement and presentation of the Award will be made from the stage during the Saturday, March 16th evening “Show of Champions” in Parsippany during the District’s Spring Convention. (Don’t worry...the Award winner will be advised of the Award in advance, but will not forfeit the Award if he is unable to attend the Convention.) Announcement of this award will also be prominently featured in the next issue of Mid’l Antics. Thank you, in advance, for your participation in this important process!

TREASURER’S NOTE

It’s not too early to start preparing your IRS 990 filing. In fact if you are a new Treasurer, it’s a good idea to get the help of the out-going Treasurer to prepare (or help you prepare) the 990 filing.

Basic instructions are available on the Society website. From the public home page select **Documents**, then select **Tax Documents** under **Business & Finance**. We’ll have more information on IRS 990 filing in the April issue. The 990 due date is May 15.

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NEXT DEADLINE: March 20, 2013

Want to see your name in "print?" Have you or your quartet or your chorus had an amazing barbershop experience? Tell me all about it: editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

Past and Future: M-AD fields outstanding competitors

Congratulations to our 2013 M-AD Quartet Champions *Frank the Dog*, who took the crown in Ocean City, Md. where M-AD returned this past October after many years.



by John Santora,
*DVP Contest
and Judging*

Our district will be well-represented at the International Chorus Contest next July in Toronto with the Alexandria, Va. *Harmonizers*, Hamilton Square, N.J. *Brothers in Harmony*, Hell's Kitchen, N.Y. *Voices of Gotham*, and Dundalk, Md. *Chorus of the Chesapeake*, all confirmed to compete.

Visit the Society web site to see the order of appearance for the International Chorus Contest. I hope many of you are planning to attend the Toronto convention, or at least watch it on the webcast. It's sure to be a fantastic experience.

Congratulations to *Faces 4 Radio*, *Youth Reclamation Project* and *Legacy*, who will be the M-AD representatives to the International Seniors Quartet Contest in Orlando in January.

Spring Convention

Our Spring Convention will be held in Parsippany, N.J. from March 15-17, 2013. As in prior years, the International Preliminary Quartet Contest

(Prelims) Semi-Finals and M-AD Seniors Quartet Contest will be conducted on Friday night. Saturday at noon, the youth quartets and ensembles will be adjudicated and coached. Saturday evening will feature the Prelims Finals and Qualifiers Show.

Division Conventions to be Combined

After our successful combined Atlantic & Western Divisions convention in Lancaster, Pa. last spring, there will be two combined 2013 Division Contests. These are set for:

Southern & Western Divisions – April 26-28, 2013 – Reston, Va.

Atlantic & Northern Divisions - May 31-June 1, 2013 – Cherry Hill, N.J.

As we get closer to these contests, more information will be posted to the M-AD Web site concerning the contestant entry opening and closing dates for both of these events.

Passing the Baton

Finally, I will pass the baton of DVP C&J to **Gary Plaag** on January 1. It has been my honor to serve the district these past two years, and I thank you all for that opportunity. I hope I have contributed in some small way to the enjoyment, growth and satisfaction that comes from the competition and coaching process.

The BHS judging system – comprised of volunteers who gladly give up many weekends

a year to travel throughout the Society – strives to evaluate, educate and hopefully provide the tools for our contestants to improve their performances, and to provide ever more enjoyable experiences for our audiences.

Lock and ring; it's why we sing!



Orlando Offers Fun For Everyone!

Florida sunshine, show sets from *Ringmasters*, *Ambassadors of Harmony*, *Rusty Pipes*, *Musical Island Boys*, *A Mighty Wind*, *Masterpiece*, *Main Street*, and *Lemon Squeezy*, exciting Youth Chorus Festival, Seniors Quartet Competition, Golf tournament, Disney, Universal, Kennedy Space Center, the beach—so many reasons to come to Orlando January 8 - 13!

Catch the Wave!

District Convention returns to O.C.

Frank the Dog captures quartet prize

Alexandria wins

Hamilton Square, Hell's Kitchen, Dundalk — all get bids to International!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each year following the District Convention, MADAQC Historian Steve White crafts a newsletter for all M-AD quartet champs chronicling the events of the weekend. We thought our readers would enjoy Steve's account.

As the song goes, **"By the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea"** ... the **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** came back to the beach, this time to Ocean City, Md. Oct. 12-14. **The Mainliners Chorus** from Bryn Mawr, Pa. did a great job hosting the event. The Show of Champions performance was a perfect finish to a wonderful weekend of close harmony, tough competition, camaraderie, and fellowship. Here is a weekend recap. First, to the end with the quartet results.

The **2013 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are ... **Frank the Dog** – **Tom Halley** (L), **Steve Kirsch** (Bs), **Ross Trube** (Br), and **Tim Knapp** (T). They sang "I Won't Send Roses", "One for My Baby (And One More for the Road)", "When There's Love at Home", and "All I Do is Dream of You". The quartet is now our **68th** champion since 1945 for a total of 213 Men.

Now, starting near the beginning of the weekend ...

The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** featured 25 quartet competitors, **Bill Colosimo** was the Master of Ceremonies and the **MAD Hatters** served as the mic-testers.

Congratulations to **Faces 4 Radio** (Brad Brooks, Jeff Winik, Mark Sanders, and Bob Bristow) who qualified to represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the **International Seniors Quartet Contest** this coming January during the Mid-Winter Convention in Orlando, Fla. **Legacy** (**Rick King**, Gary Rogness, Steve Peterson, and Dane Marble) who competed outside of M-AD for score also qualified. **Youth Reclamation Project** (**Mike Wallen**, Vic Owen, Roger Tarpy, and Hardman



Frank the Dog brandishes their first place trophies.



Senior Champs Faces 4 Radio display their best side.

Jones) earned a wildcard invitation.

The chorus contest started early on Saturday. At its conclusion and following the Directors Recognition segment, the **Mid-Atlantic District "Hall of Honor"** members were invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's distinguished recipients. 2012 HoH Chairman Mike Wallen read the detailed biographies after which the recipients were presented with commemorative engraved silver plates and name badges. The honorees were **Bob Bohn** (Easternaires) whose daughter Melody Bohn Disney accepted the honor posthumously for her dad, **Roger Tarpy** and **Rick Taylor**. Congratulations to all of the inductees and thank you for your lifetimes of service and contribution to barbershop in our great District.

The **2013 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions** were announced ... the **Alexandria Harmonizers** under the direction of **Master Director Joe Cerutti** staged 98 men and took top honors for their 24th time since 1978, earning a trip to the International Chorus Contest next July in Toronto, Canada with a score of 1,573 (87.4%). The chorus reprised their 1995 International Gold Medal winning package of "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Sweet Georgia Brown" to a standing M-AD ovation.

The **Hamilton Square, N.J. – Brothers of Harmony** under the direction of **Jack Pinto** placed 2nd and the **Hell's Kitchen, N.Y. – Voices of Gotham** under the direction of **Larry Bomback** finished in 3rd Place. Both of these choruses earned a wildcard to the Toronto International Contest, as did the **Dundalk, Md. – Chorus of the Chesapeake**. That means the Mid-Atlantic District will be represented by FOUR choruses at the International Chorus Contest this year!

The **Quartet Finals** immediately followed and turned out to be a close battle between **Frank the Dog** who led with a big score (1,456, 80.9%) from

Catch the Wave! continues on next page.

Catch the Wave! continued from previous page.

Friday night and **Mayhem** who edged them out in score (1,435, 79.7%) on Saturday night. The Dogs held their leash (err ... lead) to win by 41 points.

Show of Champions: The **Brothers of Harmony** and the **Voices of Gotham** performed and then the **Alexandria Harmonizers** wowed the audience with "I'm the Music Man", then featured **Mayhem** in "Circle of Life" from the "Lion King", and finished up with "Sweet Georgia Brown."

The **MAD Hatters** (**Scott Disney, Steve White, Rick Taylor, Rob Seay**) brought the audience to their feet twice during their performance to close out their championship year. They thanked **Kevin King** (Pros 'N Cons, Untouchables, BSQ) for his fine work as their primary coach. The quartet had qualified for the 2012 Portland International Contest; however, circumstances prevented them from attending. Rick assured everyone they are having fun, rehearse weekly, and are available for chapter shows.

The MADAQC Chorus, directed by Tony Colosimo, sang "Just between Old Friends" which was the perfect sentiment for another great reunion weekend.

On a special note, this year was the 50th anniversary for our 1962 champs, the Main Street Four with Wes Clemens, Dick Floersheimer, Robert Royce, and Fred Kirberger. Dick and Fred are the surviving members, but could not be with us this weekend. It was also the 25th anniversary of our 1988 champs, Copyright '86 with John Casey, Steve White, Mike Wallen, and Bill Colosimo. Bill, Mike, and Steve proudly represented their quartet.

THE BIG FINALE: As the Top-10 quartets huddled back stage in great anticipation of what could be for each, Gary Plaag and VP for Contest & Judging John Santora gave the much-awaited results. The MAD Hatters handed out lapel pins and congratulations to the Top-3 finishers.



Sweet Georgia Brown takes Alexandria Harmonizers to 1st place.



... in 3rd Place – Up All Night

Cecil Brown (L), Dan Rowland (Bs), Joe Hunter (Br), and John Ward (T)



... in 2nd Place – Mayhem

Neil "Pookie" Dingle (L), Kenny White (Bs), Mike Pinto (Br), and Matt Fellows (T)



Outgoing champs MAD Hatters wow the crowd.

[Note: Also rounding out the Top 10 was **Limelight** (4th Place), **Escapade** (5th Place).

Frank the Dog was named champions and awarded the traveling MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy by **District President Dick Powell**, individual James E. Grant Performance Award trophies (provided through Bob Disney), and shiny blue 1st Place lapel pins.

Bill Colosimo then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing the traditional song of celebration and congratulations, "This is the Moment". As has become customary, towards the tag the guys came off the risers to sing just in front of the quartet. A few tears were shed, both by members of the quartet and by some of the champs who may have been reliving in their hearts the night they became champions. This was followed by lots of hugs, handshakes, high-5's, and slaps on backs with the rest of the champs.



Society President Alan Lamson then directed the entire Mid-Atlantic District audience in "Keep the Whole World Singing" as all of the champs locked arms together, bringing to a close another fantastic barbershop convention. The Convention Center cleared out quickly because it was now off to the hospitality rooms extending up



and down Ocean Highway for more fun, food, and quartet entertainment.

Numerous champs wore multiple hats throughout the weekend to help the convention run smoothly. While I won't list them all here, we must applaud in particular our District Chief Information Officer Mike Kelly (Casino, Wheelhouse) who coordinated all of the video filming for the contestants and the audio/video of the Webcast.

M-AD Webcast with hosts Kim Gray Hudson (MAXX Factor, 2011 SAI Queen), Frank the Dog, Sean Devine (OC Times, 2008 BHS Gold Medalist), and Joe Cerutti (Other hosts not pictured: Sheryl Berlin and Eric Wallen)



We will be back in Ocean City next year. Please make plans to join us for the best barbershop harmony on the east coast ... <http://www.mad-registrations.org/>. I look forward to seeing and hearing you again very soon. Please stay well and stay tuned.

— Steve White

More Excitement for 2013 !

Events Team plans two combined division conventions

2012 witnessed a return to a long-time M-AD tradition: well-attended and financially successful conventions, great performances, and lots of fun and excitement all around. Highlights of the past year included new Events Team staff, professional hosting, and popular venues.



by **Walter L. Griffith, Jr.**,
Events Team Chairman

The Events Team welcomed a new addition to the team with Jim Botelle stepping

up to organize the Program Book this year.

Convention Host Chapters **Fairfax Va., Lancaster Pa., Bryn Mawr Pa., Roanoke Va., Morris County N.J.** distinguished themselves and

ensured that every convention moved smoothly and efficiently.

Based on the comments and letters we have received, everyone was pleased to be back in Ocean City for our Fall District Convention and is eagerly looking forward to being there for the next few years as well.

And now, for 2013 . . .

We have some enhancements to your convention experience for the coming year.

The Events Team, under the guidance of **Chief Information Officer Mike Kelly**, will place a TV monitor in the lobby of all the hotels and convention centers this year to allow our patrons to watch the convention while waiting to enter the auditorium. The monitors will also broadcast ads from the program book and publicize the scores as soon as they are available from the judges.

And of course, we are going to some "new" locations in 2013.

The **Spring Quartet Preliminary Convention** will be hosted at the Sheraton Hotel in **Parsippany, N.J.** on **March 15,16 2013**. This is our first time at this facility so please reserve

your rooms online early so you are not disappointed. The hotel will fill up quickly so don't delay. Go to the District Website and reserve your room today.

The Division Conventions begin early this year with the first combined division convention scheduled for **April 26-27, 2013** in **Reston, Va.** at the Hyatt Regency Reston.

This combined **Western and Southern Division Convention**, hosted by the **Alexandria Harmonizers**, marks the first time in 20 years that the Southern Division convention will NOT be held on Memorial Day weekend.

The combined **Atlantic and Northern Division Convention** will be hosted by the **Brothers in Harmony** in **Cherry Hill, N.J.** This convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cherry Hill, N.J. on **May 31- June 1, 2013**.

Again, we will be at a new site and participants will want to go online and make their reservations early to make sure they have a room.

The **Fall Convention**, which will

2013 Contest Schedule Set!

The schedule of all contests and conventions for 2013 has been set and the Events Team is planning for another season of spectacular conventions full of great singing and great fellowship and great fun! Mark your calendars and plan to join us for these great events.

Spring Prelims (including quartet contest to select our representatives to Toronto, a stirring YIH adjudication, HOD meeting, DELASUSQUEHUDMAC welcome breakfast for new members, and much more.)

March 15-17, 2013

Sheraton Parsippany Hotel
199 Smith Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054
Sheraton.com/Parsippany

be hosted by the **Bryn Mawr Chapter**, will be held in **Ocean City, Md.** on **October 4-5, 2013**. There are already several hotels that have been reserved for this fantastic convention by the sea.

Combined Southern/Western Division Convention

April 26-27, 2013

Hyatt Regency Reston Town Center
1800 Presidents Street,
Reston, Virginia, USA 20190

Combined Northern/Atlantic Division Convention

May 31 – June 1, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel
2349 West Marlton Pike
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Fall District Convention

October 4-6, 2013

Roland E. Powell Convention Center
4001 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

The Events Team is looking forward to an exciting 2013 convention cycle. All the information regarding the hotels and reservations are on the District website at www.midatlanticdistrict.com

A Short History of the Mid-Atlantic District

It all started in 1938 when George Lucus read a newspaper article, which announced the beginnings of the Society in the Midwest. George promptly placed his own article in the local

newspaper announcing the first meeting of a group devoted to barbershop quartet singing. About 45 men attended. It was a huge success and early in the first chapter was chartered on the East Coast.

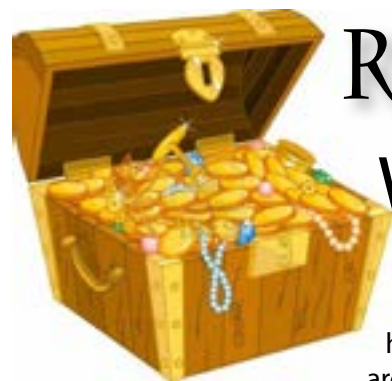
Soon many new chapters were springing up, among them the New York Police Dept. Quartet placed fifth in the International Contest at the World's Fair. Dr. Sigmund Spaeth served as an officer of the Manhattan Chapter.

1944: first Regional Contest held in Paterson, NJ included quartets from New Brunswick to Florida. 1945: the Mid-Atlantic District was organized. 1946: First District Contest at the Mosque Temple. Winners: NY Police Dept. Quartet.

Garden State Quartet wins the 1946 International Contest at Cleveland. Jan 11, 1947: 2nd District Contest. Harmonizers (Baltimore) become champs. 1948: Districts in Philadelphia. Winners: Four Chords (Newark). 1948: Virginia was joined to the Mid-Atlantic District.



REVEALING HIDDEN TREASURES



When I took over the Mid-Atlantic District historian/archivist

duties from Scott Disney two years ago, I "inherited" 17 cardboard boxes and two wooden footlockers filled with documents, programs, photos and more. Some of the boxes were pretty beaten up from storage and travel to M-AD events a couple of times a year. Scott had transported them in his minivan, largely taking up the back of the vehicle.

One of the first things I did was move the items from the battered boxes to new ones. In preparation to inventory the

items, I also emptied the footlockers and moved the material to the boxes for easier transport to co-historian, John Russo, who took the lead in recording what items we actually had.

In emptying the footlockers, I found a couple of packages wrapped in plain brown paper and tied with string. Buried in the bottom of a footlocker, one of these packages turned out to be an early history of the district to about 1964. Its pages were lettered and decorated by hand. The letters were done in ink with watercolor images interspersed with the text. Each panel measures about 17" high x 14" wide. The whole thing runs about 17.5 feet stretched out. I don't know who the artist is, but his initials are (or were) P.K. If anyone has information on his identity, I'd love to have it.

There was a bit of damage due to moisture so we are in the process of finding a way to preserve these pages. Images of these pages will be featured as a part of the M-AD historical exhibition booth the we will use in 2013 to celebrate the history of the district as the Society celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Our plan also is to have the booth present at district events through the year leading up to the International in Toronto. Please stop by and have a look at what the district has accomplished and celebrate the contributions our members have made to the Society as a whole.

— Jim Botelle
M-AD co-Historian/Archivist
203 New Avenue
Reisterstown, MD 21136
gblead@verizon.net

Hoping for a photo finish

As the district's historian/archivist, I am charged with presenting the district's history. In 2013, the Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th anniversary, we will be displaying M-AD history with our new exhibition booth. I would like to display a collection of photos representing the proud musical history of the district.

To that end, I am seeking photos of M-AD quartets (both regular and senior) and choruses that have gone on to medal at the International level. Preferably, I'd like the photo where you received the medal, but will take what I can get. Quartets and choruses that earned medals more than once only need to send one picture. If you are willing to send an original, I will ensure it will be handled carefully and returned to you in good shape. If you'd rather scan them, please do at the highest resolution you can and either burn to a CD you can send me or email it to me. I have been unable so far to find some of the older quartets like the Garden State Four.

I have great hopes to display the booth early this coming year, perhaps as soon as the International Prelims weekend. Thank you for your help. Please use the information at left for submissions and questions.

STANOLIND PIPE LINE COMPANY



TULSA OKLAHOMA

O. C. Cash
TAX COMMISSIONER

April 8, 1938

Gentlemen

In this age of Dictators and Government control of everything, about the only privilege guaranteed by the Bill of Rights not in some way supervised and directed, is the art of Barber Shop Quartet singing. Without doubt we still have the right of "peaceable assembly" which I am advised by competent legal authority includes quartet singing. The writers of this letter have for a long time thought that something should be done to encourage the enjoyment of this last remaining vestige of human liberty. Therefore, we have decided to hold a songfest on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club on Monday, April 11, at six thirty p.m. A Dutch lunch will be served.

After several months of research and investigation, we are convinced that your record warrants our tendering you the honor of joining this group. We sincerely trust you will not fail us.

As evidence of the work that your Committee has done in this connection, we inclose a compilation of most of the good old fashioned Barber Shop Quartet songs which we trust you will look over and familiarize yourself with. Bring this list with you. It is our purpose to start right in at the first, sing every song in numerical order, plow right down the middle, and let the chips fall where they will. What could be sweeter than ten or twelve perfectly synchronized male voices singing "Dear Old Girl" just thinking about it brought back to your Committee fond memories of a moonlight night, a bay ride and the soft young blonde summer visitor from Kansas City we dated on that occasion years ago.

Do not forget the date, and make every effort to be present, telephone us if convenient. We will have a private room and so will not be embarrassed by the curiosity of the vulgar public. You may bring a fellow singer if you desire.

Harmlessly yours,

O. C. Cash, Third Assistant Temporary Vice Chairman

Rupert Hall, Royal Keeper of the Minor Keys

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN THE UNITED STATES



happy
birthday
to us!
April 11,
1938



Dundalk's Dods inducted into Senior Hall of Fame

Richard "Dick" Dods of Brackenwood Court in Timonium, Md. was one of 43 nominees inducted into the 26th annual Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc. (MSCHF) for the year 2012.



Dick was inducted because of a wide variety of volunteer work. He wears many hats at his church, Timonium

United Methodist, including managing the kitchen and singing in the choir. He delivers food donations to the Assistant Center of Towson Churches and serves on its board of directors. He also delivers leftover food to Sharp Street United Methodist Church in Baltimore.

He is a longtime member of the Chorus of the Chesapeake where he has served in many board positions, including president several times. He is also a past honoree as Mid-Atlantic District's Barbershopper of the Year.

Dick has served for the past 20 years as a member of the Executive Board of the Dundalk Recreation Council. His service with this group enabled him to convince the Council to make the necessary repairs to the auditorium of the closed North Point JHS so that it serves as a rehearsal hall for the Chorus of the Chesapeake and a local theater group.

There's a saying among his family and many friends which best describe him – "Dick'll do it."

The induction ceremony and luncheon was held on Thursday, October 18 at Michael's Eighth Avenue in Glen Burnie, Md. In recognition of his service, Richard received a membership certificate, a lapel pin, and a copy of the Blue Book which includes his biography and picture.

MSCHF is a private, non-profit, all volunteer organization which has been functioning since 1987. The sole purpose of the organization is to publicly recognize and honor individual senior citizens who are at least 65 and have exhibited an exemplary history of volunteer work in their communities.



ATLANTIC HARMONY BRIGADE

We're looking for a few good men... serious quartet men, that is!

FLASH! RINGMASTERS will be the 2013 AHB Special Guest Quartet and Judges of Our Contest

If you are a competitive quartetter – passionate, ambitious, experienced, a quick-learner – and you yearn for good, challenging quartetting with a network of like-minded and accomplished men, then the Atlantic Harmony Brigade is for you!

A weekend of wall-to-wall quartetting!

The AHB is an invitational weekend event with nonstop quartetting, including switching of quartet members to make new foursomes. Up to 130 men will come to Wilmington, DE in August, ready to sing 12 challenging songs and prepared to enjoy an intensive weekend of quartetting – the core of barbershop singing!

Applications open in December 2012... voice parts are limited... so apply early to assure a place at this great quartet weekend.

Come to our big show Sat Aug 24, 7:00pm Concord High School 2501 Ebright Rd. Wilmington, DE

**Featuring 2012 BHS Champs RINGMASTERS
Tickets: Reserved Seats \$25
General Admission: \$20 (\$15 before Dec 31, 2012!)**

AHBTICKETS@yahoo.com



**THE eXtreme Quartet Experience
August 23-25, 2013
Wilmington, Delaware**

For applications and show tickets, visit AtlanticHarmonyBrigade.com



The Atlantic Harmony Brigade

Presents
our 8th annual show

A Night of Great Vocal Harmony
Saturday August 24, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Featuring **RINGMASTERS** quartet

2012 Barbershop Harmony Society International Champs!



Also featuring the renowned Atlantic Harmony Brigade Chorus



And a parade of Atlantic Harmony Brigade Quartets!

**Concord High School
2501 Ebright Rd. Wilmington, Delaware**

**Tickets: Reserved Seats \$25
General Admission: \$20 (\$15 before Dec 31, 2012!)**
AHBTICKETS@yahoo.com

AtlanticHarmonyBrigade.com

2013 Youth In Harmony Update

What's Happened In 2012: We've just completed a GREAT YIH year in the Mid-Atlantic District! Those of you at Prelims in March experienced the inspiring Youth Quartet Adjudication. Then you may have seen some of the male collegiate quartets competing at our Division contests trying to earn a qualifying score for the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest. We had a great YIH camp at Harmony College East in June, where four (4) collegiate level and 6 high school level quartets participated. Two of the male collegiate quartets (**Gimme Four** and **The Good Old Days**) and one male high school quartet (**Sound Street**) qualified for and competed at the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest in Portland, Oregon in July, placing 8th, 19th and 17th, respectively. The female collegiate quartet, **COSMO**, recently competed at the Sweet Adelines International Rising Star competition in Denver, Colorado,



by Gary Plaag, VP Youth In Harmony

where they placed 5th. We have some very skilled, talented and enthusiastic young men and women here in the M-AD!

Thinking Outside The Box: If we are serious about growing our YIH programs and exposing more young men and women to our wonderful musical art form, we need ideas from the young men and women

who are currently participants (read "hooked" and "engaged" in our YIH program) to provide their input to making our programs as attractive as possible to their peers. Thus, for

2013 and beyond, the members of COSMO, Gimme Four, The Good Old Days and **Sfourzando** will be members of the M-AD YIH Team. While many of them are still in college and/or are new in their careers, their participation at whatever level they are able to give will be golden.

As I am also serving as the VP Contest and Judging in 2013, **Edd Duran**, tenor of The Good Old Days (and a member of the YIH Team), attended the BHS Leadership Forum in Las Vegas as our M-AD representative to the Youth In Harmony meetings. As the old adage goes, many hands make light work. Already, these young men and women have been asked to contribute to and have begun sending ideas and suggestions to develop the curriculum for the YIH camp at Harmony College East.

Stay tuned for continued exciting developments from this robust team of forward thinking musicians.

Financial Support: Our new district champion quartet, **Frank The Dog**, continues to be a great supporter of our YIH program through their annual "Dog Tags" program. At the fall district convention in Ocean City they collected and donated \$500 to the YIH program. Please thank **Tim, Tom, Ross** and **Steve** when you see them!

Speaking of awesome gifts to the YIH program, the **Greater Brunswick, N.J. Deans of Harmony** recently made the difficult decision, after many wonderful years of singing and service, to cease their operation as a chapter. They chose to make a major legacy gift of their remaining treasury to the M-AD Youth In Harmony program. This substantial gift was earmarked for use only in support of our YIH program. A committee comprised of the District President, Executive Vice President, District Treasurer, and Youth In Harmony Vice President will have oversight of these funds, which will greatly benefit our youth outreach and education efforts in the future.

YIH Adjudication: Our annual Youth In Harmony adjudication will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013, in Parsippany, N.J., at the M-AD Spring Convention and International Quartet Preliminary Contest. This is an "open" adjudication, so please get started enlisting your local high school and collegiate quartets (male and female). As always, the more groups the merrier. Information about the adjudication will be available on the M-AD website as well as on the Mid-Atlantic Youth Barbershop Facebook page.

Help With Your YIH Program: If you need help putting together a YIH outreach strategy and plan, please contact me at gplaagbhs@gmail.com for some tips and ideas. Chapters should also plan to send a representative to the YIH track held at the annual Leadership Academies next year (November/December/January). That's where you really learn how to get involved in the YIH program. If you have any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions about our YIH program, please feel free to contact me. I welcome your suggestions, comments and inquiries!

YIH On Facebook: Our YIH program has embraced social media. Yes, we have a page on Facebook! As we all know, if you want to communicate with young people you have to use their tools. Our Facebook page is "*Mid-Atlantic District Youth Barbershop*". Be sure to visit and "like" our page, so you can receive notifications of newly-posted YIH information and resources, as well as upcoming YIH events.



2012 Carnegie Hall Performance

Once again, the No Borders Youth Chorus performed at Carnegie Hall Dec. 26. The 2012 performance included five songs with special guests **OC Times** and **Vocal Spectrum**.

1. The Muppet Show Theme (arr. Kirk Young)
2. You're A Mean One Mr. Grinch (arr. Greg Volk)
3. Lullabye (arr. Kirk Young)
4. Nearer To Thee (arr. James Stevens)
5. Higher and Higher (arr. David Wright)

ANOTHER ONSTAGE PROPOSAL

In what is rapidly becoming a M-AD tradition, No Borders Director **Joe Cerutti** proposed to his sweetie on the Carnegie Hall stage before this performance. She said, "Yes!"

Mid'l Antics sends the happy pair best wishes for a long and harmonious life.

Chorus Selection

Participation in the performing chorus is open to all men ages 30 and younger. The ensemble included 102 performers with an average age of 22.8 representing 4 countries and 30 states/provinces. Selection was based on auditions submitted through Groupanizer and email.



Joe and Bridget

Made By Millie

Rhymes from Mrs. Ricci

Ode to Hurricane Sandy

The sky is blue

The storm is gone

Yet I am cold

No heat is on

My cookies dwindle
on the counter

Lover where can you be ?

All phones are dead

Except, old wall one

No one to call

Cell phones all done

And so I lie beneath my covers,

Lover where can you be?

Belmar's fish, on grass and smelling

Wait until, our governor yelling

Everything is out of order

Governor, where can you be?

Yet with all, the troubles landing

My Sneak Box Boat, in yard still standing

Nature dealt us one swift blow

Lover where can we go?

FROM Atlantic Gazette, Dec. 2012

Red Bank, N.J. Chapter



EDITOR'S NOTE: When Hurricane Sandy swirled up the east coast the end of October, the meteorologists did a pretty good job of predicting and recording the ferocity of this mega storm. But few expected the devastation to be as far reaching -- and as long lasting -- as it was (and still is). What follows are a couple of accounts of how this storm and its aftermath have affected District barbershoppers.

Hurricane Sandy is a once-in-a-lifetime experience (we hope)!

The end of October and beginning of November were most memorable this year, to say the very least. Folks who have lived in our area of the Jersey Coast had never experienced anything remotely like it before, and, I am sure, would not care to ever experience it again.

Hurricane Sandy blew in with a devastating ferocity that was abetted by the unfortunate precise timing of lunar high tides and joined to wreak death and destruction along the East coast residential shore. Homes were demolished, hospitals and nursing homes evacuated, traffic lights were out, roads were impassable.

Those who escaped the sea surge, while more fortunate, had serious problems of their own. Millions of citizens were without power or communications. Those who were prepared with backup generators found they were at the mercy of non-functioning gas stations which were unable to fill the empty gas canisters with fuel to keep the generators running.

The temperatures dropped, keeping warm was a problem. Stores were without power, leaving people unable to replenish food supplies and other dwindling necessities.

Invincible New York City was brought to its knees, subways and tunnels were flooded, all transportation halted; even the Stock Exchange closed down for several days.

Very slowly, with the help of out of state emergency workers, some power was restored and things were beginning to

look hopeful. Then, with little warning, the first winter storm, a nor'easter, Athena, bore down on the very same scene of devastation, undoing much of what had already been repaired and adding new victims to the pool of suffering humanity.

This all had very personal impact on chorus members and their families and some of the stories are contained in other articles in this issue.

All of this unfortunately coincided with an event of great national importance, the Presidential Election. While it gave the politicians opportunities to bolster their campaigns, their presence, in fact, brought little change to those who were still in desperate straits.

On the other hand, communities did their very best to make certain that the precious voting rights of citizens were protected and makeshift polling stations were organized and made available. For the most part, people behaved in a civilized fashion, cooperated, volunteered and did their best to work together for the benefit of all.

Chris Papa
Red Bank, N.J. Chapter

Northern LA cancelled

Attendees will go to Central Leadership Academy

Our Leadership Academy was scheduled for Nov. 3 and we had 38 scheduled to attend. Then along comes a late entry named "Sandy" who messed everything up!

Early Thursday morning, Nov. 1, there were an unbelievable number of trees and wires down and I and everyone I knew had lost power. Realizing that

NORTHERN DIVISION THOUGHTS

By George "Oley" Olson,
Northern Division Vice President

most of the attendees and faculty would also be dealing with their own similar issues, we made the decision to cancel the scheduled Leadership Academy.

When Saturday arrived the Community Center, which we were to use for our classes, had been turned into a warming and recharging center and then it became a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center. So, it seems we made a good decision.

Subsequently, we decided to hold the Northern Leadership Academy in combination with the Central Leadership Academy Jan. 5. A big inconvenience to many, but because of the valuable instruction to be gained, many who had signed up originally have chosen to rise

very early in the morning on the 5th and will be at Central location. Members of those chapters owe these men a debt of gratitude for their efforts and dedication.

A happy event to close the year on is the rejuvenation of the Sussex, N.J. chapter. After going through a rough period, they refused to die and have interested a number of men to join their ranks. In just a few months their membership has gone from 5 to 18! Fantastic! And they are not intending to stop there!

What a great success story.

Finally, after several years without a Northern Division Chorus Champion trophy, we gave up the search, declared the old trophy permanently lost, and commissioned a new one – complete with the engraved names of all past champions. The new trophy was presented to the current **Northern Division Chorus Champions, the Westchester Chordsmen**, at their chapter meeting on Dec. 3 by **Tom Pease**, Chapter Counselor and me as Northern Division VP.



Long Island has some dramatic tales

from *Toosday Tunes*, Nassau-MidIsland Chapter, Dec. 2012

Very few areas of Long Island remained unscathed after Hurricane Sandy's visit to our shores in late October. The South Shore communities were particularly affected, for which we can only hope for a speedy restoration to some degree of normalcy for our South Shore members. Not that the remainder of the island didn't suffer its fair share of damage, as witnessed in areas such as Brookville, Lynbrook and Roslyn to name a few. For the rest of our members, loss of electric power and warm homes paled in significance when compared to the destruction rendered elsewhere.

The major setback for the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter was the loss of two weeks of chapter meetings, thus cutting into Maurice's schedule in preparation for the holiday performances, as well as continuing our progress towards getting ready for next April's annual show.

Our newest member, Mike Creaney, had the misfortune to lose two cars, which were buried in his garage in the flood waters of Long Beach. Fortunately, for him, they live high and dry on the second floor of their apartment complex. The first floor had five feet of water.

Bob and Mo Roth shared the hospitality of their basement for a neighborhood couple and their three cats in Massapequa Park, another South Shore town. There must be a plethora of similar experiences, too numerous to recount here, but, suffice it to say, our hearts go out to them.

Bob Merrill bonds with his son

Monday night with no power, we lit a fire, and I got

my 11-year old to take out his alto saxophone and taught him to play "The Pink Panther" with me on piano. This would not have happened with electricity; I could not have torn him away from his computer games. The next night it got cold, and my wife and kids stayed with friends while I held down the fort. I lit a fire and a bunch of candles and played the piano by candlelight for a few hours. I felt like Liberace!

Maurice Debar in his own words

The lights went out and the search for the candles was on. We have hundreds of candles but only one working flashlight. Fortunately, the cats were not curious about the light from the candles.

After spending a day without heat or light, our neighbors offered us an extension cord so we could watch TV and keep the freezer going. We wandered from Mc Donald's to the library to the mall and then home each day.

Our dancing instructor offered us the floor in her den which we gladly accepted. After the second day we were joined by her brother and his wife. We now had six people and two dogs sharing a small house.

I called to see if any time sharing was available in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey or Connecticut areas. I found that Massachusetts had power and drove up to Bently Brook and stayed through the snow storm. As we drove up the Taconic, we stopped for gas—no lines. Our time share was a ski slope which was making snow in anticipation of the coming season. However, we never saw an inch of snow during the time Long Island experienced six inches.

We returned home after four days to two cranky cats and glorious heat.

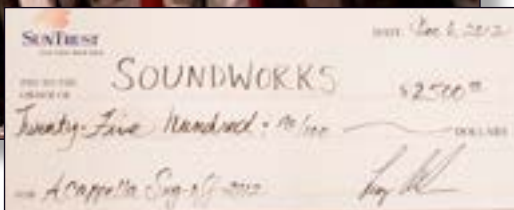


Photo by Kimberly Kiely

Soundworks and recording artists ROCKAPELLA.


Soundworks Wins ‘A Cappella Sing-off’

James River chorus competes at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg

Soundworks has been crowned champion of the “*A Cappella Sing-off*” held at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Dec. 6.

The competition was a fund-raising event for local non-profit charities, Literacy for Life and the Williamsburg Choral Guild. Recording artists, ROCKAPELLA, performed and judged the event. Second place went to Epic, the 2012 Harmony Queens of Harmony Inc. Third place went to the Octaves, a men’s ensemble from the University of Richmond.

The ten groups competing in the Sing-off included ensembles from The College of William and Mary, University of Richmond, Christopher Newport University, James Madison University, the quartet Epic, and Soundworks.

Soundworks is thrilled to be the 2012 *A Cappella Sing-Off* Champions. The ensemble is looking forward to another great performance season in 2013. To book Soundworks for chapter shows or other special events go to <http://soundworkschorus.org> 

Jeffersonland Chorus announces changes

Thom Faircloth has been appointed by the Board to the position of Music Director. In August **Dave Rogers** moved back to Florida for employment. While we will miss him dearly, we are really blessed to have had Thom in our midst for a few years, available when the need arose. Thom is an experienced barbershopper: quarteter, award winning chorister and a talented director. He sings both bass and lead, preferring the latter, which he sings in his quartet **Velvet Blend**. Thom also serves as Program-VP, planning and managing our meetings.

Richard Carr is our VP-Music. Music is his academic and professional background. He sings bari/lead/tenor, arranges barbershop and recently attended Harmony U. He sings lead in **Special Delivery** quartet. He is also our Associate Director. As such he leads our warm-ups, manages the Barber Pole Cat Program and directs at least one of our rep numbers.

Scott Seki, a young barbershopping gem from California, recently enrolled in UVA Med School, found us, and is contributing in so many ways. He sings, I mean SINGS, all four parts. Already he has made part predominant learning tracks for us. He has been appointed Tag Meister which is a part of every Monday meeting. He sings bari in Special Delivery quartet. Oh, yes,— he’s managing our Harold Hill Program.

*Art Grahame, Secretary
Charlottesville Chapter, BHS
434-263-4378*



Jeffersonland Chorus poses onstage at Division contest with Director Dave Rogers. Inset: New director, Thom Faircloth.

Harrisburg Chapter Salutes Veterans

It had been many years since the Harrisburg Chapter's Keystone Capital Chorus sang with music in hand – not to mention an SATB arrangement with organ and a small orchestra, but that's what happened on Veterans' Day.

The chorus joined with the Greater Harrisburg Chapter Sweet Adelines, and the excellent choirs from Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, Pa., for a two-hour concert in tribute to military veterans.

After each contingent performed its respective patriotic package, the 100-plus singers joined to perform the Armed Forces Medley to a packed audience of more than 500 on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Keystone Capital Chorus Director Bobby Bennett described the afternoon as "a very moving experience."

*Bob Fisher, President
Harrisburg Chapter*



Photo by Polly Matthews

The Ches-Mont Jubilaires

Pottstown, Pa. Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society
~ present their ~

28th Barbershop Show

"Celebrate Harmony"

A Salute to the Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th Anniversary
~ featuring ~

The Ches-Mont Jubilaires Barbershop Harmony Chorus

Under the direction of Eric Phillips
with Chapter Quartets

Sound Generation ~ Downtown Sound ~ Time Frame

Special Guest Quartet

FACES 4 RADIO

Mid-Atlantic District Quartet

Saturday, March 9, 2013 ~ 2:00 p.m.

Berean Bible Church

2675 E. High St., Pottstown, Pa. (near Cutillo's Restaurant)

Adults \$10.00 ~ Students ~ \$5.00

For Tickets call:

610-323-9078 ~ 610-326-4451 ~ 610-323-9068

Tickets also on sale in auditorium lobby

Visit us on the Web at: www.jubilaires.com

stage present

Gotham barbershopper proposes to his Siren

By **Brian Lindvall**

VP Marketing/PR

Hell's Kitchen Chapter

<http://www.voicesofgotham.org>

Audience and choristers alike were in for a big surprise at Voices of Gotham's annual show.

The aptly named "Double Feature" showcased Mid-Atlantic District chorus **Voices of Gotham** alongside their sister chorus (and prospective Sweet Adelines chapter) **Sirens of Gotham**, as well as several chapter quartets including **Flatiron Four** and **'Round Midnight**. But the absolute highlight of the show happened at the very end, during the chorus' joint performance of Lida Rose.

The combined choruses sang the final words of the Barbershop classic together, and then — an unexpected fermata! At the director's cue, Voices of Gotham member **Evan Shyer** strolled to center stage singing the solo line "Lida Rose, oh won't you be mine," and silence fell as he knelt in front of Sirens member **JJ Kovacevich** with an engagement ring in hand.

Her reaction, accompanied by the audience's thunderous applause, is best described by her new fiancée: "Her hands jumped in front of her mouth, her eyes lit up, and then she nodded. It was definitely the best hug I have ever had in my life."

...and did JJ have any idea this tender moment was imminent? In her own words, "Not. A. Clue."

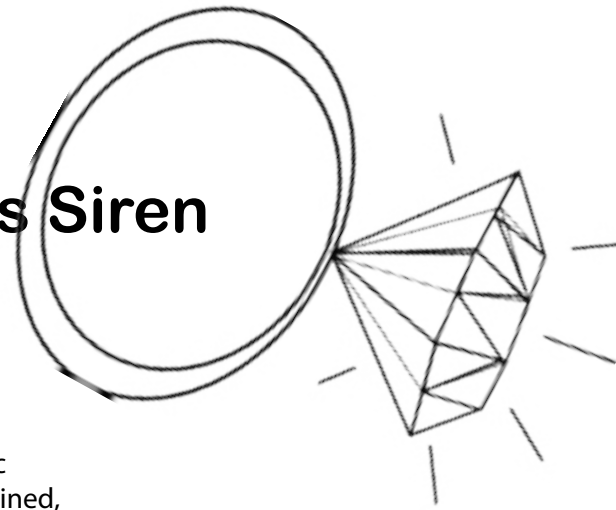
Although the proposal was carefully planned nearly three months in advance, the only people "in the know" were the music directors. "Right before the show," Evan explained, "we had to create a new phony ending so that no one would sing over my solo. Everyone was groaning about the changes because it was terrible from a musical perspective. It was killing me not to tell everyone why they had to make bad music ever so briefly!"

And all of that planning paid off for the audience. Said one audience member, "It was really an awesome moment. I think any guy with a date next to him and a ring in his pocket was like, 'Maybe I'll wait a little while.'"

Considering all the excitement, JJ couldn't help but wonder, "What will our choruses possibly do for the finale at next year's concert?!"

Well, VoG Director Larry Bomback is already scheming! "I'm thinking for next holiday's show, 'Baby It's Cold Outside' with a jazz band made up of Gotham members."

The members of Voices of Gotham and Sirens of Gotham were thrilled to be a part of this event, and are positively delighted for JJ and Evan. As Sarah Clay, director of Sirens, wished the happy couple: "May your marriage be filled with love, joy, & barbershop!"



Photos by D. Phelan Photography



LEFT: Voices of Gotham singer Evan Shyer shares a smooch with fiancée JJ Kovacevich, a Siren of Gotham, following his onstage proposal at the combined choruses' recent annual show. ABOVE: Members of the combined choruses enjoy the romance of the unexpected moment.

Check out a video of the proposal on Voices of Gotham's YouTube channel, <http://youtu.be/tryD1Dy1lq8>, and be sure to follow their very active Facebook feed at <http://www.facebook.com/voicesofgotham!>

Bucksmont Chapter has busy holiday schedule

The Squires of Song presented a program of pop standards and holiday music to an enthusiastic crowd at Woods Services in Langhorne, Pa. Over 80 residents participated, enjoying the chorus, the As Time Goes By quartet and sing-alongs by Joel Bacher and Joe D'Andrea.

Woods Services has been serving clients with special needs to achieve their highest level of individual achievement since 1913. The main campus, in Langhorne, Pa., covers 300 acres and provides home-like residences for their 1,100 residents.

On Dec. 8, the Squires of Song sang a double header, first at the Third Annual Railfest of the Southampton Railroad Station Society then at the Bucks County Visitors Center. The chorus presented an all-holiday program with the As Time Goes By quartet for the audiences enjoying the trainshow. Even Santa Claus thanked us for coming to the Railfest.

Then the Squires headed for the Visitors Center where their appearance featured repertoire and holiday music, a visit by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, and two quartets, 4Tunes and As Time Goes By.

Again, an appreciative audience, seated near the fire-side, with the backdrop of the many decorated trees of the 7th Annual Holiday Treefest on display at the Center.

from *The Squires' Wire*

Dec. 11, 2012



As Time Goes By



DC CHAPTER IN ACTION

Day of Service In Song

The D.C. Chapter held its first "Day of Service In Song" on Sunday, December 9. The men of the Singing Capital Chorus and the chapter's small ensemble, Capital Assets, dedicated the day to performing selections from their traditional and holiday repertoire at two locations: The Methodist Home of Washington, D.C. and the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center.

Residents, staff and families gathered thoroughly enjoyed the performances and choristers were gratified to spend some time chatting with residents to lift their spirits and offer good wishes for the holiday season!

Chapter leadership and members found this an ideal way to fulfill their altruistic purpose and expand awareness of the Chorus's presence in the DC community while simply offering what they do best, providing "Service In Song!"

Members found it especially moving and memorable to entertain and honor veterans in their Community Living Center at the VA Hospital, providing some small measure of gratitude for these fine men and women who sacrificed so much for our nation's freedom.

Members of the DC Chapter's Singing Capital Chorus gather to sing for welcoming seniors at DC's Methodist Home.



Singing Capital Chorus members Alyster Alcudia (left) and Rob Barnovsky visit with a lovely 105-year-old WWII veteran following their performance during the Chapter's "Day of Service In Song."



CUPID'S AGENTS: Gent's Nite Out

Several years ago our quartet was performing at a popular Harrisburg restaurant as part of the restaurant's weekly entertainment. The quartet would stroll from table to table singing for the guests. We would ask each group if we could sing for them and what would they like to hear. A ballad, a love song, something patriotic or perhaps an up tune?



As we moved from table to table we came upon a young couple sitting in a booth on opposite sides of the table. We asked, may we sing something for you..... the girl look to her companion and he sheepishly said "Ah-yeh".

Well, our normal

table conversation went like this.....is tonight something special? A birthday or perhaps an anniversary? The young lady (maybe 18 or 19) said that this was their first date so what would be a good song?

Without hesitation we said, "a love song." The young man looked really uncomfortable and the girl just smiled and chuckled. We asked them to hold hands as we sang "I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU."

A little trickle of sweat slid down his forehead (Lauren told me later) and she smiled as we finished our song and wished them a great evening as we moved on.

Now this is a really cute story in itself but about 6 or 7 months ago I got a call from a young lady wanting to know if Gents Nite Out does weddings? I said yes we do and she then proceeded to tell me the story of this barbershop quartet who sang for their very first date at The Firehouse Restaurant and asked if I remembered it?

I said yes (which I did) but that was over two years ago. She said yes, it took Nick that long to propose. Now, she wanted to know, could we entertain at their reception and then sing the same song we sang to them on their first date.

Gents Night Out,

As we are reflecting on our wonderful wedding day, we wanted to take a moment to thank you all for sharing part of it with us. Having you perform added a special, personal touch to our reception and we had many people comment that they enjoyed you guys. Beyond that, it was so special to us to have you there. You all are officially a part of TWO incredible and unforgettable memories in our relationship :) There are few people that can say that!

Sincerely,

Lauren and Nick Ebersole

They wanted that song for their first dance as husband and wife.

I said yes but I was sorry I didn't remember which song we sang. She laughed and she said, "That's OK! I have all that, along with your business card in my diary. It was I Only Have Eyes for You."

The wedding day was a picture perfect October day and as the guests began to file past us standing in the lobby of the restaurant, many stopped and said, "OH, you guys are the barbershop quartet that the minister spoke of in the service."

It turns out the story of how we sang for Nick and Lauren on their first date was part of the ceremony.

This experience may not be unique to a lot of folks but to us it is the type of thing and the reason we sing in a quartet. You never know how your music will affect folks and the sign that we have done a great job often comes from a tear in their eye, a smile on their face and also a groan at our jokes. The letter we received from this couple says it all for us!

— Don Myers

The Alexandria Harmonizers experienced a fantastic trip-of-a-lifetime in China. We left Sept. 2 for either 7, 9, 12 or 15-day tours depending on the trip packages offered by the tour company, NSA.

About 60 Harmonizers went on this trip, which allowed us to treat the Chinese audiences we encountered to the Full Harmonizer Experience.

We performed a short concert that was arranged for us on the Great Wall, which included a performance of the amazing quartet "The Great Wall of Sound".

The Great Wall tourists that happened by, were treated to a short-form version of our recent concert repertoire — Great Day, I am the Music Man, Sweet Georgia Brown and I'll Be Seeing You. Surrounded by the awesome sights of the Great Wall of China, it was an experience that will not be soon be forgotten.

[A short YouTube video of the performance can be viewed here: http://youtu.be/_4tFACKx1iw](http://youtu.be/_4tFACKx1iw)

On Thursday, Sept. 6, we performed an evening concert at the Peoples Concert Hall, located in the Forbidden City. It was a gorgeous space with crystal-clear acoustics.

We performed in conjunction with Toronto's Northern Lights. We performed a 40-minute set, followed by a 30-minute set by The Northern Lights, then we did a joint performance to round out the evening.

One of the highlights of our joint performance with the NL was performing a traditional Chinese folk song, Rainbow Sister, that we had learned especially for our trip. The predominantly Chinese audience was impressed, and clapped along in time with the music.

After 5 days in Beijing, some Harmonizers returned home, while others traveled on to experience more of China. Those that continued their travels saw the Terra Cotta Warriors, near Xi'an, the iconic limestone karst formations in the Guilin province, an overnight stay in a mountain lodge in the village of Ping'an, and visits to the cities of Shanghai and Hong Kong.



HARMONIZERS in CHINA

The Great Wall Of Sound — from left Randy Lazear, Joe Cerutti, Steve White and Ken Ives.



The People's Concert Hall in the Forbidden City, Beijing, China



Do you Razoo? No?? We Do!!

Barbershop chapters are more than just fraternal membership organizations; they are performing arts groups as well. So the Alexandria Harmonizers have joined many other non-profit arts groups on Razoo, an on-line fundraising site.

The easier it is to give, the more likely donors are to give, no matter what the economic climate. Websites have made many types of transactions simpler (such as eBay for auctions, Amazon for purchases, Craigslist for personal ads, CafePress for branded merchandise, ConstantContact for newsletters, Kickstarter for entrepreneurship, and Facebook for social interaction), and Razoo does that for groups looking to raise funds and donors looking for good causes to support.

Harmonizer fundraiser **Josh Roots** explained, "The Razoo site lets new potential donors be exposed to our mission to enrich lives through harmony, allows contributors to target their gifts toward specific programs, such as our youth outreach program or our upcoming participation in the D-Day anniversary celebrations in Normandy, and gives us the ability to better track and thank our donors."

'Crowdfunding', as its called, is the latest in modern philanthropy, and the Harmonizers want to be in it from the start.

'Round Midnight Brings Barbershop Harmony to ... **Latvia!**



*EDITOR'S NOTE: The U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Latvia sent 'Round Midnight to Latvia to bring barbershop harmony to those who had never heard it before — and it happened to be on Tenor **Larry Bomback's** birthday. Herewith, his account:*

My birthday started off in grand fashion. We stumbled upon an international party at our hotel around 1:00am, right as we were about to turn in. There were people from every eastern European country there - Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Estonia, Poland, Russia and several more that I can't remember. They taught us many different folk dances and we taught them the hokey pokey. Then they sang happy birthday to me in about thirty different languages.

Today we held two master classes in Rezekna and the students fell in love with our music. One of the classes also surprised me by singing "happy birthday" when we walked into the room.

But the best part of the day was the concert we just put on at the city's cultural center. Over 400 people attended

the free concert and they called for two encores. I think we sang seventeen songs straight. And the amazing thing is that even though we were physically drained, our final encore was probably the best single performance of a song we've ever had in our eight years together as a quartet. When you're out of gas there's very little that the lungs, diaphragm, and vocal chords can do to make you sound good, but I am now convinced that there is always something left to access, as long as you access it right through the heart. Our emotions were riding such a high that they carried us through that final tune. The audience was loving it and we were responding back, despite a lack of common language. It was all about our faces and our bodies — the actual lyrics we were singing were secondary.

In Latvia, it is not common to meet and greet performers after a concert. We told the audience that we wanted to meet them and shake their hands and sing with them. We taught them snippets of American songs in four parts and they caught on quickly. We must have taken over a hundred photos with members of that audience and you could see in their eyes and ours how much we all enjoyed the moment.

The night ended magically. A teacher handed us music to a beautiful Latvian folk song. We sight read it and everyone who was still there stopped what they were doing and sang along, and some people started to cry. We found out afterwards that this folk song was the unofficial anthem of Latvia during the Soviet occupation.

As we were packing up and heading to the car, a young woman came up to us and said she hasn't had the opportunity to attend many concerts since they are usually very far away from her rural community and also very expensive. She was so grateful for the opportunity to hear our unique brand of American music and said the concert was the most enjoyable experience of her life.

Can't ask for a better birthday present than that!

— **Larry Bomback**

Check out this [Latvian TV report of the adventure:](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xuv8v1_barbershop-quartet-round-midnight-in-latvia_news#.UODpy2_Ad2A)
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xuv8v1_barbershop-quartet-round-midnight-in-latvia_news#.UODpy2_Ad2A

It's all about the chapter...

As we celebrate our 75th year we are reminded that everything started with 26 men singing barbershop harmony on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club. This quickly expanded to barbershop chapters across the country and today I think that most of us would agree that pretty much everything starts with the "chapter".



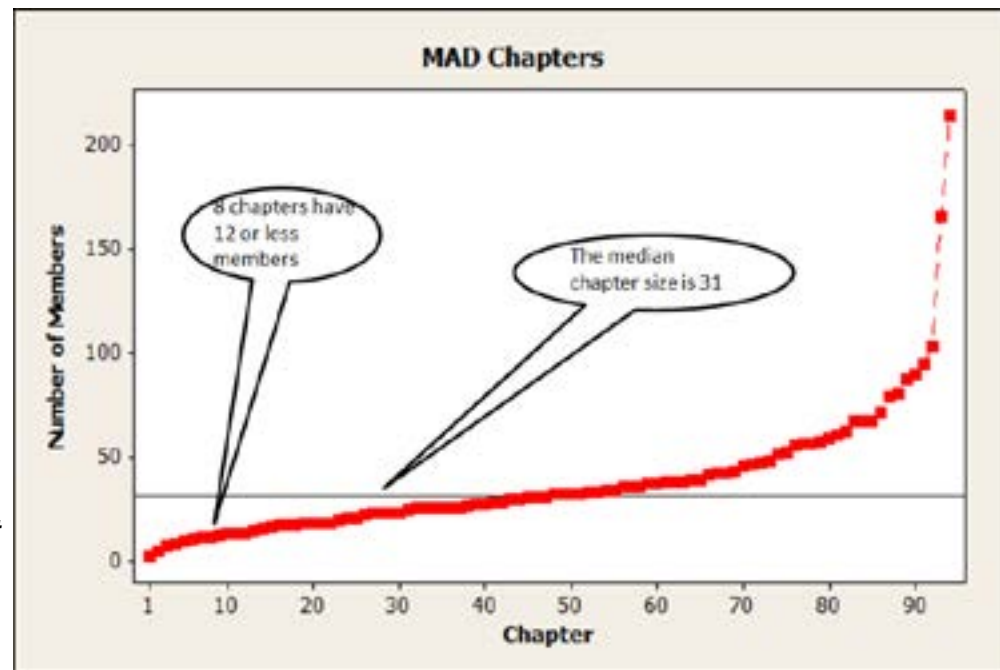
by **Ig Jakovac**,
Executive Vice President

At right is a quick snapshot of the membership in our 94 MAD chapters - eight chapters have 12 members or less. For larger chapters the size of the roster can be deceiving - some of the "large" chapters may have hundreds on the roster but how many are active? In my chapter we have 73 on the roster but only about 64 are active.

So, for those of us who are active, what makes our chapter "successful"?

SUCCESSFUL CHAPTERS HAVE A GOOD "PRODUCT"

In my mind it all starts with the "product". In other words, does the chapter "sing well"? A chapter that has developed it's "product" to the point where a guest walks through the door and is enjoying the sounds that are being



produced will likely see that guest return. But how do you know if the "product" you are presenting is enticing enough? You could ask your wife, or the men you sing with, but a more quantitative way to get this information is to compete. You'll receive a score which will instantly tell you where your singing level is and you will get coaching on the spot to help you sing and perform at a higher level. We have a wealth of knowledge as well as dedicated individuals right here in our great District to help your chapter sing better. Contact our VP of Music and Performance Roger Tarpy (rtarpy@verizon.net) who will be more than happy to discuss the various programs available to help you. You just have to ask.

SUCCESSFUL CHAPTERS HAVE ENGAGING DIRECTORS

Directors enable a good "product". I have visited many chapters across the Society and have had the opportunity of working with a large number of choruses through the evaluation process as a Singing Judge. It's not too difficult to read the body language of chorus members who have a less or a more engaging director. Wherever your chapter is on that continuum, there are a number of ways that your director's overall effectiveness can be enhanced. Besides the awesome classes available for directors at Harmony College East, our VP for Chorus Director Development Glenn Phillips (scalhorn@msn.com) would be more than happy to

discuss/provide growth opportunities for your director.

SUCCESSFUL CHAPTERS ATTRACT SINGERS

Success breeds success. Once you have a good product it will be a whole lot easier to attract singers. Our Membership and Chapter Development VP, Christian Hunter (njbblead@yahoo.com) has more than just a few proven ways of attracting new members and retaining existing members. He will be more than happy to work with your chapter to help identify the right approach for you. Membership growth is the responsibility of everyone in your chapter and is a full time job. Is your chapter fully engaged?

SUCCESSFUL CHAPTERS ARE ACTIVE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

If folks in your community don't know who you are it will be much tougher to attract singers. There are two primary avenues to attract people to a chapter meeting - personal invitation and hearing a chapter sing somewhere. Of course you need a good product before singing in public. Remember that you represent all of us when you perform in public so the impression that you make is not just about your chapter, it is about all of "Barbershop". In my view, if your chapter does not sing at an adequate level (for example, if your contest scores are lower than about 50%) you should consider getting to a least that level before performing in public. If

your chapter does that, they will have a better chance of both entertaining the audience and of attracting singers. If your chapter doesn't frequently perform in your community (once you have a good product) you are missing opportunities to attract new members. Our VP for Marketing and Public Relations Eric Herr (ewh14@comcast.net) can help/advise on ways for you to reach out to potential singers in your community.

SUCCESSFUL CHAPTERS HAVE AN EFFECTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

An effective board of directors oversees chapter activities and ensures the chapter is successful when it comes to a good music program which enables good singing, making sure that the finances of the chapter are strong, making sure that there is an ongoing membership recruitment and retention effort and ensuring an environment where folks can enjoy themselves. If you are a board member please consider getting some training. You can do this by attending a Leadership Academy (contact Chuck Harner CACHuck@cox.net for more information) or if you are unable to attend just contact Chuck and he'll be happy to provide a path for enhancing your capabilities.

As your District EVP for 2013 I commit to being available to helping each of our chapter to being successful. Contact me at 215-429-8495 or email me at ijakovac@comcast.net any time for any reason.

Sing better and grow

Do you want your chorus to sing better? How about grow in numbers? Well ... duh! And, by the way, the two are *never* independent. Sing better, enhance audience appreciation, have more fun, entertain more guests, and grow your chorus.

If you want to accomplish this, however, you'll need to develop a detailed plan and execute it with skill and resolve.

The BHS, generally, and M-AD, specifically, have many suggestions to help you. Some of them fall under Music & Performance and are well known — Harmony College, the Standing Ovation Program, chapter and quartet coaching, and the Music

Mentor program. Others, however, are less well-known. It is one of these that I'd like to describe here.

The Learn to Sing program is built around a chorus' offering free singing lessons. The idea is that, in the process of learning to sing well, guests will discover our hobby and your chorus and enjoy themselves enough to want to become a member and sing with you all the time.

You can get details about this initiative by going to www.operationharoldhill.com and clicking on "Ideas for growth" followed by "Learn to Sing." But here are some of the main ideas.

The vocal lessons extend from four to six weeks, each lasting about an hour, using the following suggested format (although bear in mind that there is nothing rigidly fixed in any of this. The format is entirely flexible).

Guests arrive at the start of the rehearsal, but are directed to a separate room where they are given a vocal lesson by a trained coach (see below). In successive weeks, the lessons might focus on breath support, posture, and lack of tension; singing with resonance; vowels and diphthongs; dynamics and range expansion; and barbershop harmony principles.

After each lesson, guests are invited (ever so gently!) to stay and sing with the chorus. Some will stay, but most will leave. The tone of the invitation is critical because guests must not see this program simply as a recruiting tool; they must genuinely want to stay because the prospects of having fun by singing well look promising.

Sound simple? Well it's not. In fact, before you think about doing this, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you have dynamic leadership in your chapter, the kind that follows through on projects?
- Do you have lots of fun singing at your rehearsals?
- Does your chorus compete regularly, sing well when performing in public, and have a challenging musical program?

If you can honestly answer "yes" to these questions, then I recommend that you consider this program. (And please note: Funding and detailed advice are available. Email me about the options).

Good leadership is essential. Your chorus needs to get the word out to the public (newspapers and Craig's list, flyers to schools, churches, and

Karaoke bars), prepare materials for each session (handouts, guest books), and follow up with each guest (letters of appreciation for their attendance; free tickets to an upcoming show).

Having fun at your rehearsal is also essential. Ostensibly, guests are coming because of their interest in singing, so if they are to get hooked on barbershop, they need to discover that singing well and having fun are intricately related in your chorus. If your chorus doesn't have fun during rehearsal, then ... hmmm ... perhaps you had better tackle that issue before even thinking about offering vocal instruction to the public.

Finally, the vocal coach is critical. The person, of course, does not have to be a member of your chorus. In fact, perhaps it's better if he/she isn't. Hire someone who is conspicuously experienced in vocal instruction – a trained school, church, or community musician. Well-meaning but marginally talented chorus members typically won't generate much buzz with your guests.

Here are a few more things to keep in mind. First, these lessons should not be lectures. Be honest: that's boring to the max. Second, vocal coaches should have the guests engage in lots of singing. Nothing's worse than not singing at a voice lesson. Third, advertise the program as lessons in a cappella singing, not lessons in barbershop harmony. Indeed, given the uncertain image that barbershopping has among the general populace, even mentioning barbershopping at the outset could be a deal-killer. Finally, don't push membership. If your guests have fun and like what they're getting from the vocal coach, an interest in your chorus

... guests are coming because of their interest in singing, so if they are to get hooked on barbershop, they need to discover that singing well and having fun are intricately related in your chorus.

may well develop. The last thing they need from you is a pitch on how wonderful barbershopping is as a social organization.

Does the Learn to Sing program work? It will if done properly, although don't expect miracles. Lansdale did it more than once and got a few members each time (10 percent of the guests is probably a realistic figure). If that sounds OK, and you can manage the demands of this program, then give it a try by all means.

But don't ignore this important fact. Nothing will help your membership numbers without good singing. Indeed, focusing on the quality of singing in your chapter may pay off much more in the long run than staging any specific membership initiative, because better singing leads to wider recognition in your community, increased ticket sales to your shows, higher contest scores, enhanced appetite for tackling more interesting music, and ... yep ... more members.



by Roger Tarpy,
VP Music &
Performance

What they see is what you get



by **Glenn Phillips, DVP**
Chorus Director
Development

Directors universally want their choruses to achieve their full musical potential. We work to impart the best musical techniques and practices to our singers. We try to inspire with well-paced rehearsals, humor, and dedication to craft. We learn the best warm-up exercises, adopt creative ways to demonstrate and teach, and bring in the occasional coach in order to foster a mixed bag of learning opportunities that will hopefully reach every barbershopper. We also hope and expect that our singers will spend time practicing at home so that their habitual singing technique, or 'default' singing, becomes elevated. In a nutshell, as singers learn to sing better, the chorus, by extension, will sound better.

But...what if our directing techniques are partially responsible for some of the vocal problems we are striving to improve in our singers? Much great musicianship and musical craft can be undone if the director's gestures, posture, or facial expressions send mixed messages to the chorus. Some examples, in no particular order and by no means an exhaustive list, include:

- **Inconsistent ictus** – When the director changes the location of the downbeat, the chorus will struggle to sing with precision.

- **Shoulder/arm tension** – If the director is working too hard trying to pull interpretation from the chorus, oftentimes this leads to tension in the directing arm(s) or shoulders, and even the neck and face. Director tension translates into singing tension.
- **Mouthing the words** – Do you want the chorus to watch your hands for the song interpretation? Mouthing the words gets the men to watch your mouth instead, thereby minimizing or negating the very interpretation your hands demonstrate, and contributing to precision inconsistencies.
- **"Sharp"; "brittle" hand gestures** – These will prevent the chorus from singing smooth, legato phrases.
- **"Flapping" or "disjointed" wrist movement in conducting hand** – If your wrist and arm do not move as one--- meaning that your arm places the beat but your wrist "follows along" a bit late---then you are actually giving two beats instead of one, and both beats appear indistinct to the chorus. This leads to difficulty in establishing and maintaining tempo.
- **Insincere facial involvement when conducting** – A director should not be surprised that the chorus is not emoting or singing with proper interpretation if the director is not conducting with the appropriate interpretation either. When you come alive in song, the chorus follows suit!

- **Hands/arms too far from body** – Large conducting gestures, especially ones where the arms stretch out too far from the body, accomplish little to nothing in terms of dynamics. Your conducting power comes from the center of your body, from your mid-section to your thighs. Use this area to generate conducting "strength."

Suffice it to say, what the chorus sees is what the director gets. The better we are as conductors, the less we will "get in the way" of great singing! Fortunately, there are a number of means by which we can improve our directing:

- **Video record yourself in front of the chorus.** Station the recorder in the middle of the front row, facing you, and be sure to record sufficient time rehearsing the group and directing repertoire from start to finish in full performance mode. Your self-evaluation starts the moment you watch yourself conducting for the first time!
- **Take director's training courses at Harmony College East or Harmony University.** Whether you need help in conducting methods, rehearsal strategies, music theory, or a host of other things, there are many classes out there that will set you on the right path.
- **Seek out a director in the District whom you trust and whose conducting skills are sound to be your mentor.** Then seek advice and wisdom from your mentor on a

regular basis.

- **Attend a CDWI (Chorus Director Workshop Intensive) or schedule an Outstanding in Front session for you and your music team.** There are highly-skilled, highly-trained instructors available to give you the tools to succeed in your conducting and musicianship skills.

Above all else, remember this. As the director you expect the men in your chorus to put in time and effort practicing to become better singers. They have every right to expect that you will also practice to get better yourself.

Glenn Phillips directs the Patapsco Valley and Queen Anne's County Chapters in the Mid-Atlantic District.





Donor Choice returns \$12,000 to chapters



By Alan Wile,
DVP Financial
Development
&
Endowment
Fund
Chairman

Thirty-two chapters received checks from **Sean Devine** (the Harmony Foundation Director of Development responsible for our district) at the fall House of Delegates meeting, October 14.

Individual Ambassadors of Song and President's Council members have the option of designating their chapters (and/or their district) to receive up to 30 percent of their donation. Known as the "donor choice" option, these 32 chapters received a total of nearly \$12,000 from gifts to Harmony Foundation made during the first half of 2012! Impressive? Yes!

And that's not all. Many of these same individuals also asked that some portion of their gift be returned to the

district. Together, the "donor choice" gifts totaled nearly \$16,500 during this period. What a great return on these individual investments in barbershop harmony! Truly impressive!!

So, how much is involved? For a minimum of \$10/month (\$120/year), Ambassadors of Song members may designate up to \$36 to be returned to their chapter/district. President's Council members who donate \$1,000/year may designate up to \$300 to come back to their chapter, their district, or a combination of both.

The chapters that were honored financially by their members are: **Alexandria, Allentown-Bethlehem, Anne Arundel, Arlington, Carroll County, Charlottesville, Cherry**

Hill, District of Columbia, Dundalk, Fairfax, Germantown, Hamilton Square, Harrisburg, Hells Kitchen, Hunterdon County, James River, Lansdale, Manhattan, Montclair, Montgomery County, Mt. Vernon, Nassau-Mid Island, Norfolk, North Brookhaven, Patapsco Valley, Philadelphia, Rahway Valley, Richmond, Roanoke Valley, Smith Mountain Lake, Somerset Hills, and Westchester County.

Contributions to both the Harmony Foundation and the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund support the Society's youth outreach and director education programs. Congratulations to each member of the above chapters for their significant investment in the future of barbershop harmony!

The job isn't done until the paperwork is complete

What every chapter needs to know about BMI/SESAC applications and ASCAP reports

By Neil Keihm,
Assistant District Secretary for Show Clearances

Most of our chapters put on an annual show and most of us are familiar with the tasks involved. Agreeing on a theme and a date, finding a hall, preparing a script, picking and learning new music, contracting for and hosting a guest quartet, building props and sets, selling program ads, organizing an afterglow, and so forth.

But it is vitally important to remember two items in order to remain "legal" and protect your chapter and members.

BMI/SESAC and ASCAP are what is known as "Performing Rights Organizations" or PROs. They issue licenses to anyone who plays or performs copyrighted music in public and ensure that the songwriter's intellectual and financial rights are protected. To make it easier for chapters to acquire these licenses, the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) has negotiated agreements with both groups that give chapters the ability to acquire these licenses easily and cheaply.

The published Society procedures call for the District Secretary to be the contact and the approval authority for both the BMI and ASCAP

license requests. However, in the Mid-Atlantic District, the contact and approval authority is assigned to the **Assistant Secretary for Clearances**. That's me.

Instructions for obtaining the forms and the procedures for their submission are described on the Mid-Atlantic District website under "Documents & Information" and then the "Show Clearance Procedures" section (<http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/?Code=ShowClearances>). The information on the website is accurate but will change when the new ASCAP fees are determined for 2013. We should have the updates in place by mid-to-late January 2013.

Please remember to plan ahead and avoid conflicts with district and Society events that

are already scheduled. You can find detailed schedules for these events on the district website Master Planning Calendar (<http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/?Code=MPC>).

REMEMBER: If you mail your Clearance forms and checks to the District Secretary, or to BHS headquarters in Nashville, **this will delay the approval process by two to four weeks!** Please just follow the instructions on the district website.

FINALLY: Any questions may be directed to Neil Keihm, Assistant Secretary-Clearances, at (302) 737-6141, or keihm@verizon.net. I will have this job in 2013, and I'm happy to help make this process as painless as possible for you.

Positioning Ourselves for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year



by Eric Herr
DVP
Marketing
& PR

Isn't it amazing how quickly the holiday season rolls around and how we always ask ourselves, "Where did this year go"?? Well, since 2012 is just about over, perhaps we should look ahead to 2013. Did you realize that 2013 is the Society's 75th Anniversary Year?

It is indeed a HUGE milestone and offers more opportunities than ever to spread the Barbershop Gospel through print, electronic and social media, and live performance venues!

So, if you are the guy in charge of Public Relations and Marketing for your chapter, ask yourself the following questions to position your chapter to take advantage of this great marketing opportunity.

Do you have an overall chapter activity plan for 2013?

Do you have a supporting Marketing and PR Plan that synchs up with those activities?

Have you identified the events that will require external promotion to be successful?

Have you prioritized those events and set aside time to work on your part of the plan?

Have you reached out to other

members of your chapter and asked for help to get various things done?

Have you committed yourself to following up and knowing where things stand at least every other week as the year moves along?

Have you laid the ground work for an effective approach to local print and broadcast media? Do you know who to talk with and have you built a rapport with them through singing valentines, complimentary tickets, and other means?

Do you have a strategy for an effective presence on the web and through social network sites? Do you have someone focusing on that aspect of your plan?

Every chapter is unique – but we all have many activities in common as well. Marketing and PR teams should be involved in critical aspects of chapter activity to help those things succeed. As a framework, consider the following areas:

Chapter Development: Do you have a well developed annual PR plan to support outreach and special guest events throughout the year? Is what you have planned realistic and is it achievable? Is the majority of your membership on board with your plan? Think about where you'll need to be to succeed and

create a plan for getting there. Maybe engage a partner, either inside or outside your chapter, who can help you stay focused, provide support and give feedback as you work your plan.

Team Development: Do you have the right people in place to accomplish your goals for 2013? Who needs to be coached, mentored, trained or given new developmental opportunities in 2013? Who is ready for the next level of responsibility? When you figure that out, contact your Division VP and get ideas on how to help you and your team move to a higher level.

Stakeholder Engagement: Who are the people (both inside and outside your chapter) you'll need to influence, engage and motivate? How well do you know them? How well do they know you? Set a plan for developing and building key relationships inside and outside your chapter. Think about ways of enhancing credibility and trust, developing effective channels of communication and working towards mutually rewarding goals and objectives. Bear in mind, relationships are the key to getting things done.

As busy as I'm sure you may be, it's essential to set aside plenty of time to reflect upon your approach for 2013. Get a plan in place and use it as a daily

reminder of where you're going and how you intend to get there. Plan your work and then work your plan. It's a surefire strategy for success in 2013.

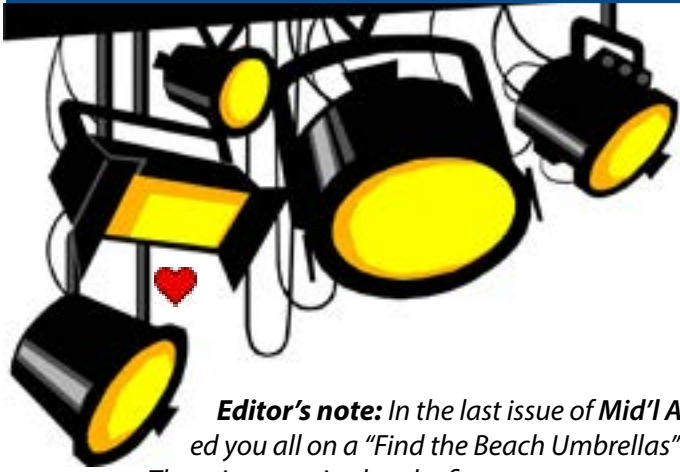
To paraphrase the great Walt Disney ~Keep moving forward and opening new doors, because in doing so we discover new things, and that leads us down new paths~

One Additional Note~ Steve Skolnick, from the Hells Kitchen chapter has joined me as Assistant District for Marketing and Public Relations VP. Steve is especially knowledgeable in search engine optimization and the use of social media. His specific expertise in these areas will be a definite plus as we move forward on several exciting M-AD PR and Marketing initiatives for 2013 and beyond! Welcome aboard, Steve!



Introducing . . .

LORI JO WHITEHAUS



Editor's note: In the last issue of *Mid'l Antics* we invited you all on a "Find the Beach Umbrellas" treasure hunt. The prize promised to the first person to correctly identify the number and location of the Ocean City icons on our pages was a spotlight interview in the Winter 2013 *Mid'l Antics* and an invitation to the President's Reception at the District Convention in Ocean City in October. Within an hour of the time the Fall issue was posted, **Lori Jo Whitehaus** had correctly responded with, "9."

Meet Lori Jo

"Oh, I couldn't live a single day without you

Actually, on second thought, well, I suppose I could

Anyway, what I'm trying to say is, honey, you're the greatest

Well, at any rate, I guess you're...pretty good"

So sings the Lancaster Red Rose Chorus to Director Lori Jo Whitehaus as she mimes consternation and exasperation to the chortling crowd with her peerless rubber face. The Weird Al Yankovich ditty has been a perfect vehicle for fulfilling the chorus' goal of developing musical excellence while having fun together.

To that end, the chapter hired Lori Jo in 2007 with the stated intention of qualifying for the District Contest — which they did in 2012, as well as taking honors at the 2011 and 2012 Western Division Contests.

"Winning the Most Improved Chorus Award at division contest two years in a row shows that hard work infused with laughter pays off," says Lori Jo. "The chorus was proud to be on the District



Director Lori Jo Whitehaus proudly hoists the 2012 Most Improved Chorus plaque the Lancaster Red Rose Chapter earned at the Western Division Convention.

stage in 2012 and plans to make that a standard event on the chapter calendar."

Lori Jo says she discovered barbershop just after graduation from Millersville University in 1978 when joined the Greater Harrisburg Chorus of Sweet Adelines International as a bass. She held many leadership roles in the chapter and it wasn't long before the Region 19 leadership took advantage of her energy and expertise.

For ten years, she served the Region as the Regent and then the Director of Musical Activities. She continues to serve on the Regional Faculty teaching classes and coaching choruses. She also served Sweet Adelines International on several committees. In 1994, she began directing SAI's Red Rose City Chorus in Lancaster, Pa.

Currently, Lori Jo directs three vocal groups: Red Rose, Red Rose City, and the Hummelstown UCC Chancel Choir.

Strange as it may sound, Lori Jo actually has more time for

non-singing activities. She recently retired after 33 years teaching English as a Second Language to the immigrants and refugees in Harrisburg, Pa. She continues to substitute at her favorite school while also leading a 4-H Rabbit Club at that building. She is co-chair of the Rabbit Department at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. She is also an officer in the Mid-Atlantic Rabbit and Cavy Show Circuit Club which is bring the national rabbit show to Pennsylvania in 2013.

"We expect 20,000 rabbits to be at this national show — which is free to the public," she says.

Lori Jo's extensive 4-H involvement has included raising dairy goats — and that (of course!) was the beginning of her soapmaking business. Currently, Willow Creek Soaps wholesales handmade soaps to six vendors including Troegs Brewery in Hershey, Pa. And Lori Jo has developed special fragrances for each of the four barbershop voice parts. (Ye ed is especially partial to the herbal scent in the Bass soap.)

Tom and Lori Jo have been married for 29 years. Their daughter, Tori, is married and living near Norristown, Pa. Their younger daughter, Julie, is studying photography at the Antonelli Institute in Philadelphia. Tom and Lori Jo are members of the Susquehanna Valley Jaguar Club and they love to travel.

Hmmm. *Mid'l Antics* wonders if there isn't a potential show package here: the Red Rose Most Improved Chorus, 20,000 rabbits, a mountain of handmade soaps and the lady who is much more than "good enough for now."



A PAWS TO GIVE THANKS

In all the excitement and energy at the Show of Champions when we were announced as the 2013 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions, we did not have the opportunity to offer thanks to everyone who has helped us on our journey.

To our wives, **Donna, Deb, Tracy** and **Diane**. They have been wonderfully supportive of our time away as we play. They have encouraged us, kept us grounded, helped bake and sew, provided guidance and coaching, and supported us so much. Also to our kids and parents. Some of them are singers, and they are all supporters, and proud of what we do. We love you all.

To our coaches. From Harmony College East, to Top Gun, and individual coaching sessions, we have received coaching from the best in the business. Over the last three years, **Gary Plaag, Theresa Weatherbee, Al Baker** and many others have helped us on our way. This year, our trip to Harmony University brought **Rik Johnson, Barry Towner, Roger Stanfield** and **Brent Graham** into our corner. What they taught us built on all we had learned and encouraged us to play consistently at a level that lead us to our victory in Ocean City, and will lead us onward and upward. Finally, **Ron Knickerbocker** and **Jack Pinto** have kept us in line week in and week out, to stay focused on emotion and artistry founded on attention to the vocal fundamentals. These coaches and mentors have enriched our lives and made us better performers.

To our home Chapters. Our brethren in the **Mainliner, North Pennsmen** and **Brothers In Harmony** choruses have always encouraged and supported us.

To the chapters and their audiences that have continued to welcome us, laugh along with us, and sing with us at Chapter shows, conventions and afterglows, throughout the M-AD and beyond. We look forward to sharing so many more good times with you on our journey.

To those who have participated in our efforts to support and encourage **M-AD Youth In Harmony**, with your voices and your funds. Together we are making a difference, having fun, and making it possible for young singers to have fun doing what we love to do.

Finally, to the men, families and friends of the mighty Mid-Atlantic District, those who manage the details, those who put their best on stage at the contests, and those in the audience who bark for us and cheer for everyone. We are honored, humbled and thrilled to represent the best District in the Barbershop Harmony Society in 2013.

Woof!

Frank the Dog

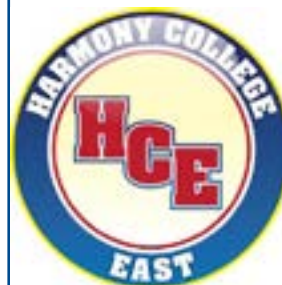
Ross Trube, Baritone



Where: Salisbury State University, Salisbury MD

When: June 13 - 16, 2013

Who: As always, the very best teachers and coaches in the Society will be at HCE. Last year the list included:



Jim Bagby, Al Baker, Brian Barford, Don Barnick, TJ Barranger, Brian Beck, Sheryl Berlin, Bill Biffle, Stephanie Bricton, Dwain Brobst, Kipp Buckner, Jim Coates, Bill Colosimo, Joe Connelly, Dan Cook, Steve Delehanty, Nancy Disney, Ernie Doyle, Bob Eckman, Howard Fetterolf, Claire Gardiner, George Gipp, Don Gray, Warren Hettinga, Marty Israel, Ig Jakovac, Hardman Jones, Keith Jones, Neil Keihm, Mike Kelly, Mark Kettner, Jerry Knickerbocker, Ron Knickerbocker, Bruce Koepcke, Joe Krones, Jen Kueth, Ritchie Lavene, Chuck Lower, Lori Ludlum, Greg Lyne, Denise Martin, Fred Morton, Vic Owen, Glenn Phillips, Jack Pinto, Gary Plaag, Stash Rossi, Rick Serpico, Fred Stabley, Burt Szabo, Roger Tarpy, Bob

Wachter, Mike Wallen, Scott Ward, Theresa Weatherbee, Jim West, Alan Wile.

For 2013, many of these same people will be there, as well as some new luminaries, such as Jean Barford and Steve Armstrong.

What: Harmony College East is always evolving; indeed, 2013 will be the biggest and best school ever. This year, we'll be featuring the HCE CHORUS, led by the awesome director of the Toronto Northern Lights – Steve Armstrong. If you want to see how a real master director handles a rehearsal, then be sure to sign up for this option, but PLEASE NOTE: SPACE FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY IN REGISTERING!. There will be other new options as well, for instance in the areas of vocal instruction, sound analysis, and performance creation. And there will be new courses that haven't been covered in recent years, for example, the (1) Physics of Barbershop Sound, (2) Using Technology in Barbershop Rehearsals, (3) Creating Comic Routines for quartets and choruses, (4) Rehearsal Strategies for quartets and choruses, and (5) Coping with Performance Butterflies!

Why: Here are just a few reasons why you won't want to miss HCE this year:

HCE is within driving distance, so you won't need to pay for plane fares.

HCE is a 3-day school so you won't have to give up an entire week.

HCE has many of the same faculty that teach at HU.

HCE has more course options than ever before.

HCE provides for lots of personalized work, much more than available at HU.

HCE has the best fellowship in the world!



Hanover Chapter seeks director

The Hanover Pa Standardbred Chapter is taking applications/ Letter of interest for the position of Musical Director. The chapter membership is stable and is located in an area of great potential for growth.



Contact Ralph McGregor by email mgregorra@gmail.com or 717-873 -5466 or 98 Bentz Mill Rd, East Berlin, PA 17316

www.hanoverbarbershopchorus.org/



First State Harmonizers

A Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

VACANCY NOTICE: Musical Director

POSITION: Musical Director

LOCATION: Milford, DE

PRIMARY FUNCTION

Act in the full capacity as the Musical Director of the First State Harmonizers, an all-male chorus of the Milford Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

PERFORMANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Essential Requirements

1. Ability to plan and execute effective weekly music rehearsals within the context of a chapter meeting.
2. The ability to teach and demonstrate the necessary vocal production skills required for quality ensemble singing.
3. Prepare the chorus for all performances, annual shows and contests.
4. In conjunction with the VP of Programming and VP of Music, prepare and lead weekly, and if necessary, additional rehearsals.
5. Participate as a member of the Music Committee which decides on pertinent music

matters of the Chapter.

6. Strong desire and willingness to grow as a Director of a men's barbershop chorus.
7. Availability to direct the chorus at performances not part of the weekly rehearsals.

Desirable Requirements

1. Charismatic and motivational personality.
2. Knowledge and experience and a strong desire to develop an understanding of four part male a capella voice harmony.
3. Ability to develop musical, singing and presentation plans for individual pieces of music for competition purposes.
4. Knowledge and experience singing in the Barbershop style.
5. Ability to effectively direct a male voice chorus in social and competitive musical venues.

EVALUATION: Performance of this job will be evaluated annually.

JOB POSTING CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

To Apply:

- Letter of Interest
- Resume
- **Call (302) 382-1961**



AULD LANG SYNE

Auld Lang Syne is a Scots poem written by Robert Burns in 1788 and set to the tune of a traditional folk song. It is well known in many countries, especially in the English-speaking world; its traditional use being to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight. By extension, it is also sung at funerals, graduations and as a farewell or ending to other occasions. The international Boy Scout youth movement, in many countries, uses it as a close to jamborees and other functions and, of course, barbershoppers sing it year 'round.

Singing the song on Hogmanay or New Year's Eve very quickly became a Scots custom that soon spread to other parts of the British Isles. As Scots (not to mention English, Welsh and Irish people) emigrated around the world, they took the song with them.

Canadian band leader Guy Lombardo is often credited with popularising the use of the song at New Year's celebrations in America, through his annual broadcasts on radio and television, beginning in 1929. The song became his trademark. In addition to his live broadcasts, Lombardo recorded the song more than once. His first recording was in 1939. A later recording on 29 September 1947 was issued as a single by Decca Records.

New Year's Eve Radio and TV Programs

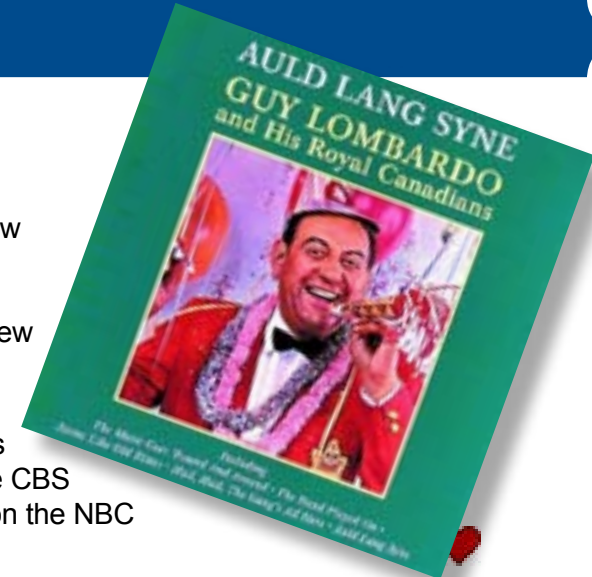
Guy Lombardo is best known for almost a half-century of New Year's Eve broadcasts, first on radio, and then on television. Lombardo's orchestra played at the "Roosevelt Grill" in the Roosevelt

Hotel in New York City from 1929 to 1959, and their New Year's Eve performances continued with Lombardo until 1976 at the Waldorf Astoria. Broadcasts (and later telecasts) of their performances were a major part of New Year's celebrations across North America; millions of people watched the show with friends at house parties.

The band's first New Year's Eve radio broadcast was in 1928; within a few years, they would be heard on the CBS Radio Network before 12 Midnight Eastern time, then on the NBC Radio Network after 12 Midnight EST.

On December 31, 1956 the Lombardo band did their first New Year's TV special on CBS; the program (and Lombardo's 20 subsequent New Year's Eve TV shows) included a live segment from Times Square (long the focal point of America's New Year's Eve celebrations) showcasing the arrival of the New Year.

Even after Lombardo's death, the band's New Year's specials continued for two more years on CBS. The Royal Canadians were noted for playing the traditional song Auld Lang Syne as part of the celebrations. Their recording of the song still plays as the first song of the new year in Times Square.



AULD LANG SYNE

for auld lang syne

we'll drink a toast to days

gone by for auld lang syne

Learning tracks and sheet music may be downloaded for free at www.barbershoptags.com/tag-151-Auld-Lang-Syne