



MID-ATLANTICS

Volume 45, Issue 2

SPRING 2014

A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

*DA CAPO IS ONE OF **EIGHT** MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT QUARTETS COMPETING AT THE INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CONTEST IN LAS VEGAS!*



'We're going to Vegas, Baby!' exult 'Round Midnight and Gimme Four.

INSIDE:

Convention News — Book hotels NOW for District Harmony Foundation — Meet the Wile Challenge Harmony College East — “The Greatest Weekend

of Barbershop on the East Coast!”

Important message from President Bill News and views from Qs and Choruses and, as always, pictures, pictures, pictures!



MAD Qualifies 8 quartets for International in Las Vegas!

See them all at Harmony College East, June 12-15



photos from Mid-Atlantic District website

DA CAPO — Ryan Griffith, Tony Colosimo, Wayne Adams, Joe Sawyer — qualified for the 2014 International Quartet Contest in Las Vegas with a score of 83.6 percent.



'ROUND MIDNIGHT — TJ Carollo, Jeff Glemboski, Wayne Grimmer, Larry Bomback — qualified out of district with a score of 83.5 percent.

FRANK THE DOG — Tim Knapp, Steve Kirsch, Tom Halley, Ross Trube — also qualified out of district with a score of 81.5 percent.



In case you hadn't heard, eight (8) MAD quartets have qualified to represent the district at the International Quartet Contest in Las Vegas this coming July!

They are: **DaCapo**, **'Round Midnight**, **BSQ**, **Frank The Dog**, **Gimme Four**, **Up All Night**, **Mayhem** and **Last Men Standing**. When you see these quartets around the district at shows and upcoming division contests (some will be mic testers and mic coolers at these events), be sure to congratulate them and wish them well.

We will also have some collegiate quartets who will qualify to compete in Las Vegas at the International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest. Those quartets will be identified after the spring division contests are completed.

All of the collegiate and non-collegiate quartets who plan to attend the competition in Las Vegas will be at Harmony College East for some last-minute fine-tuning before they hit the big stage. Attending HCE this year would be GREAT way to see all of the Las Vegas-bound quartets at one time!

— By Gary Plaag
VP Contest and Judging



BSQ – Bob Seay, Kevin King, Al Mazzone and Rick Taylor — qualified with a score of 80.2 percent.

UP ALL NIGHT – John Ward, Cecil Brown, Dan Rowland, Joe Hunter — qualified out of district with a score of 77.2 percent.



GIMME FOUR – Paul Franek, David Ammirata, Will Downey, Joe Servidio, Jr. — qualified out of district with a score of 79.7 percent.

LAST MEN STANDING – TJ Barranger, Drew Feyrer, Mike Kelly, Ed Bell, II — qualified with a score of 76.0 percent.



MAYHEM – Matthew Fellows, Pookie Dingle, Ken White, Mike Pinto — qualified with a score of 77.125 percent.



For many, many more photos of your favorite quartets at Prelims, visit www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos

AHOY, LAND LUBBERS!
 JOIN US WHEN
THE PIRATES OF CARROLL COUNTY SET SAIL!
SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2014 3PM

PRESENTED BY
THE OLD LINE STATESMEN BARBERSHOP CHORUS

SCOTT CENTER
 CARROLL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 1601 WASHINGTON RD., WESTMINSTER, 21157

ALL TICKETS: **\$10**
 Children: Age 6 & younger: **FREE**

For information or tickets:
 Call: 410-795-5050
 Email: oldlinestatesmen@live.com
 Web: www.oldlinestatesmen.org

Tickets also available at:
 Carroll County Arts Council
 Coffey Music
 Menchey Music

WE WILL KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOU!

The OLS Chorus is funded in part by a Community Arts Development grant from the Carroll County Arts Council



But wait . . .
there's more!



THE NEWFANGLED FOUR



photos by Eric Herr



We need a host chapter for our Fall District convention in Wildwood, NJ October 24-25, 2014. **Your chapter can earn \$1,300 for helping host this great convention.** This is a perfect weekend activity for a chapter that may not be competing and would like to give their members and their families a chance to witness some of the best singing performances this side of an International Convention.

Although some folks will need to be in place on Thursday night, most of the work you have to do occurs on Friday and Saturday. In addition to the detailed guidance you can find on the Mid-Atlantic District website, our experienced Events Team will provide overall guidance and direction to help you have a wonderful experience.

Detailed information on the exact requirements may be found in the M-AD District Convention Regulation at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/pdf/CJ/FallREGS.pdf>. Check it out and then contact Events Vice President Walter Griffith at:

IMBAR1@aol.com

570-239-0025 (cell) 570-696-1218 (work)

Harmony Foundation Rocks – Thanks to You!



by Alan Wile,
VP Financial Development &
MAD Endowment Fund Chairman

Harmony Foundation supports those aspects of our hobby about which we care the most -- youth outreach and chorus director development. Donors enable thousands of young people to be introduced to Barbershop harmony for the first time and provide numerous training opportunities and terrific, fun-filled experiences to large numbers of Barbershoppers and music educators.

Here are some of the specific programs donors helped fund in 2013:

- 6,438 students and 241 music educators received scholarships to 53 youth camps and workshops
- 29 chorus directors, 23 music educators, and 9 quartets attended Harmony University (HU) on scholarships
- 2 individuals, 1 quartet, and 1 director attended HU on Lou Perry arranger, Larry Ajer, and Jim Miller scholarships, respectively
- 27 quartets were awarded scholarships to the Harmony Foundation Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest at the International Convention in Toronto, Canada
- 468 students and 19 choruses received scholarships to the Youth Chorus Contest at the Midwinter Convention in Long Beach, California
- 1,246 students and 23 music educators attended the College tour
- More than \$350,000 was given to Districts and Chapters to ensure the strength and vitality of barbershop music on a local level

All these programs were funded primarily by 904 members of the President's Council (PC) and 2,716 members of the Ambassadors

of Song (AOS). It is refreshing to know that the Mid-Atlantic District had, far-and-away, the largest number of AOS members (457) and ranks second in PC members (130). Fantastic? You bet!!

President's Council members contribute a minimum of \$1,000 annually and members of Ambassadors of Song contribute as little as \$10 per month. What else is really great is that donors may designate up to 30 percent of their donation to these programs to be returned to their chapter and/or the district.

"Donor Choice" funds that come back to the district are deposited into the M-AD Endowment Fund which also provides scholarships to current and aspiring music directors to attend Harmony College East and to youth quartets and their sponsor to attend the Youth Harmony Camp held simultaneously at the same location.

Continuing this long-standing tradition is only possible through generous, thoughtful, and intentional giving by members and chapters of the district. While some contributions are made directly, others result from those who elect the "donor choice" option as members of Ambassadors of Song and/or the Presidents Council.

Contributions may be made in honor or memory of an individual, to memorialize a special occasion, through end-of-life bequests, retirement programs, trust arrangements, etc. All are gratefully appreciated and acknowledged.

Imagine the impact if every M-AD Barbershopper joined the Ambassadors of Song or the President's Council and, further, if "donor choice" funds were returned to their chapters and/or to the district. Don't just think about it – please do it today! I can help. Call, write, or e-mail me!



The Bucks County Country Gentlemen



Invite You to the

3RD ANNUAL YOUTH IN HARMONY FESTIVAL

**Where: Lenape Middle School Auditorium,
313 W. State St., Doylestown, PA 18901**

When: Wednesday, May 7th, 7PM

**Featuring Youth Quartets from Tamanend MS, Unami MS,
Lenape MS and C.B. South HS**



Last year's winning quartet, *Band of Barbers*, showing their gold medal form.

**After the competition stay to enjoy a performance from "Frank the Dog".
Come out and support these very talented youth! Admission is free!**



www.buckscountybarbershop.com

HARMONY FOUNDATION



In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Society, Alan Wile has challenged Harmony Foundation with \$15,000 to enroll new President's Council members in the Mid-Atlantic District.

That's right; current Ambassadors of Song members who become President's Council members will have their support matched, dollar for dollar!

Here's how it works:

1. Join President's Council by increasing your level of support.
2. And, designate 30% of your new commitment to the Mid-Atlantic District.

To join, follow the link below or call Sean Devine at (714) 271-4506; it's that simple!

We sincerely thank Alan for his generosity and leadership and invite you to take part in the *The Wile Challenge*.



DONATE NOW



DOUBLE DOWN

Two ways to make your anniversary year donation to the future of barbershop harmony *count twice*.



Already an Ambassador of Song? Check out how moving up to the President's Council and designating 30% of your donation for the Mid-Atlantic District will result in twice as much money coming right back to help with District programs.

New to the Harmony Foundation? Alan Wile will match your first-time donation to *either* AoS or the President's Council when you designate 30% to the District.



In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Society, Alan Wile has challenged Harmony Foundation and the Mid-Atlantic District with \$15,000 to raise \$15,000 in new dollars to one of Harmony Foundation's annual giving programs.

That's right; members of the Mid-Atlantic District can have their donation matched, dollar for dollar!

Here's how it works:

1. Join one of Harmony Foundation's celebrated groups of individuals and become an Ambassador of Song or President's Council member.
2. Designate 30% in Donor's Choice to the Mid-Atlantic District.

To double the impact of your support, follow the link below or call Sean Devine at (714) 271-4506; it's that simple!

We sincerely thank Alan for his generosity and leadership and invite you to take part in the *The Wile Challenge*.



DONATE NOW



YIH women rehearse Africa under the direction of Anne Bureau at the 2013 Youth in Harmony Camp.



16 quartets participated in last year's HCE Youth Camp. They experienced two days of intensive coaching and performed in two shows.

The combined youth choruses, under the direction of Doug Carnes, blast the house to a standing ovation with their rendition of Summer Nights from Grease at the 2013 YIH Camp. To view Tom Guterbock's video of this inspired performance go to: youtu.be/MtYOnH9d67c You may also view videos of the men singing You're 16 and of the crowd closing the show with Keep the Whole World Singing at youtu.be/7zGkl86Yg8A.



Who are YOU sponsoring for Youth in Harmony Camp?

It's now time to identify a Youth In Harmony quartet, ensemble or individual to send to our annual Youth In Harmony Camp in June. Chapters are encouraged to sponsor a group or individual to attend.

available to help, especially for new quartets that have never attended HCE before.

shows, participants will perform on Saturday night with the all-women, all-male, and mixed ensembles...always an exciting experience for the performers and the audience, alike.

Please let your local music educators know about the camp and how much fun their students will have and how much they will learn about a cappella singing, in general, and barbershop, in particular. Young men and women are welcome!

Registration information is available on the Mid-Atlantic District website. For music educators who are unfamiliar with our YIH program, please direct them to this link to learn more: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=EsYjfr7Oz5A.

GQ (SAI 2012 Rising Star Champs and 2014 Region #19 Champs and International qualifiers) and **Gimme Four** (2013 MAD Collegiate Quartet Champs and 2014 International qualifiers) will be the teaching quartets, along with an all-star cast of coaches including **Sean Devine, Eddie Martinez, Carolyn Sexton, Mark Kettner, Anne Bureau** and more.

YIH On Facebook: Our YIH Facebook page is the best place to find out about what's happening in our YIH program. 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.

In addition to performing with their quartets/ensembles on the Friday or Saturday night



Save The Date!!

The Brothers in Harmony Spring Concert

May 10, 2014 2:00 PM

Lawrence High School

2525 Princeton Pike Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Featuring



PLUS

A "Special Guest"

To order tickets, call – (215) 794-8075
www.brothersinharmony.org

2014 Youth in Harmony Update

by Gary Plaag,
VP Youth in Harmony



Held in conjunction with Harmony College East at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland, the fun starts the evening of Thursday,

June 12 and runs through Saturday, June 15. Everyone goes home on Sunday morning.

Our goal this year is 100+ students!! We need your help in making that dream come true. There is limited MAD scholarship money

Impressions from a First Timer at Harmony College East

by Gary Dukart, Lansdale Chapter

[Editor's Note: Harmony College East or HCE is run by the Mid-Atlantic District annually at Salisbury State University in Salisbury, Md. on Father's Day weekend. Instructors come from across the Society and many are also on the faculty at the Society's Harmony University held in Nashville, Tenn. every summer. In the opinion of many, HCE is an incredible bargain and an experience not to be missed. We asked Gary Dukart, who attended for the first time in 2013, to reflect on his experience for the benefit of other "potential first timers". Herewith, his story]

I am now in my 4th year as a member of the **North Pennsmen** Barbershop Chorus in Lansdale, Pa. Ever since I joined, I had been hearing from our leadership and other members how great HCE was and that I should really attend. Last year, it finally fit into my schedule, so I decided to give it a try.

I wasn't sure what courses to take, so I asked **Ig Jakovac**, our president and someone who is very involved with HCE, for advice. Being new to HCE and still relatively new to barbershop, he suggested that I sign up to sing in the **HCE Chorus**, and also take classes in **Presentation Basics**, **Song Interpretation**, and the **Physics of Sound**. Of course, I took his recommendations.

Our director is **Anne Bureau**, an outstanding director and teacher, but Ig wanted me to experience what it is like to work with a different director. The director for this first offering of the HCE Chorus was **Steve Armstrong**, another

amazing director. Yes, this is the director of the **Toronto Northern Lights**, the chorus that would shortly become the 2013 International champs!

What a treat to be able to sing for such a talented director. While the ideas that he was communicating to get us to improve the quality of our singing and performance were similar to what Anne works on with our chorus, the way he explained things and his style were different. With so much still to learn, it was helpful for me to hear things presented in different ways.

In addition to being fun, I understood why Ig recommended that I take this track. It was a great experience. I even got to perform with the HCE chorus on the big Saturday night show!

I also learned a lot from the other courses I took. They were taught by very experienced instructors and were fun as well. I particularly enjoyed **Theresa Weatherbee's** class in presentation. Even the warm-ups each morning before the class sessions began were different and fun.

The evening entertainment was great, with different groups and many quartets singing. Much of this was by high school and college students who were at HCE for their own sessions. I was in awe of these young singers. They were incredibly talented and entertaining, and their

... the best part of the weekend for me was getting to meet and sing with people from other chapters.

enthusiasm and love of singing were obvious. Seeing them perform was one of my favorite parts of the weekend.

As enjoyable as the classes and

entertainment were, the best part of the weekend for me was getting to meet and sing with people from other chapters. While there is some interaction with other chapters at our competitions, getting together in this informal setting was much more conducive to meeting and getting to know people that I otherwise would not have met.

There were many opportunities for this throughout the weekend: at the HCE chorus rehearsals and the other classes, as well as at meals and singing in the courtyard before dinner or after the evening entertainment. The impromptu singing in the courtyard was one of the highlights of the weekend.

If you haven't been to HCE before— and even if you have — I would strongly encourage you to go. Regardless of your experience level, I think you will find it beneficial and enjoyable. However, if you do go, one piece of practical advice: don't rely on the thin towel the college provides. Bring your own towels!

To download a printable course catalog or to register, go to www.midatlanticdistrict.com/HCE



*immerse yourself
in a weekend of*

MAD barbershop

What you can expect

- When you arrive on Thursday you will be given your room assignment
- Classes start Thursday evening
- Everyone starts Friday morning with breakfast at the cafeteria followed by vocal warm ups
- You will be involved in either classes or coaching (quartet or chorus) all day Friday with breaks for lunch and dinner
- There is a Friday night show where some of the quartets being coached get to strut their stuff
- Following the show you can sing or socialize until whenever...
- Saturday is similar to Friday
- There is a gala event on Saturday night where both quartets and choruses get to perform for you
- This is followed by more singing and socializing if you have any energy left
- Sunday morning you turn in your room keys and drive home — exhausted BUT VERY HAPPY!

Where, When, Cost?

FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND (weekend of the third Sunday in June). *Why not introduce your family member — son, grandson, dad or grandad — to our great art form?*

Jun 12-15, 2014

Tuition is around \$200, which includes a 3-night stay, 6 meals, all courses, two barbershop shows.



To download a printable course catalog or to register, go to www.midatlanticdistrict.com/HCE

Who is welcome?

All Barbershop Society singers and directors. Also (did you know?) music educators, youths interested in the art form, Society Associates, your entire quartet and choruses large, small and in-between!



The best value in barbershop!
Guaranteed to improve your singing and performance skills, raise your *Barbershop IQ* 30 points, double your "friends" list and keep you singing all night as well as all day.

Our host is:
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

Questions
or Comments?

Ig Jakovac
ijakovac@comcast.net

Roger Tarp
rtarpy@verizon.net



GETTING BETTER AFTER A CONTEST



by Roger Tarpy, VP Music & Performance

Let me begin with two incontrovertible assertions:

First, good singing is about more than just good singing. It's about building a fan base in your community, attracting new members, and, most assuredly, about having more fun (interesting how "public acclaim" and "having fun" are always mentioned in the same sentence).

Second, BHS holds contests for the purpose of fostering better singing (and, by extension, better public regard and membership growth).

Contests provide a means for choruses to assess their skills relative to other groups and, in turn, to be in a position to do better in the future. So if we want to impress upon others that our hobby is worth their while, and if we wish to have more fun in the process, then we need to become better singers by taking advantage of BHS contests (and/or by going to Harmony College East but that's another story!).

Often, however, contests don't seem to have this effect – we may delight (or despair) about our wonderful (or dreadful) scores, but we don't always come away with a good idea about how to improve. The scores *per se* aren't that "instructive."

Many will be interested to learn that contest scores really do mean something more than just excellent, good, fair, or poor. Scoring categories are associated with descriptors that illustrate what the category adjudicates. (What I'm about to illustrate can be read in detail in the C&J Handbook, which is downloadable from the BHS website).

For example, in the section devoted to the Singing category, there are five "elements" of good singing. The idea is that if we want to improve, we should focus on these elements. Here they are, along with their characteristics.

1. **Intonation:** tuning precisely, and maintaining the tonal center of a pitch.
2. **Vocal Quality:** singing that is well supported, freely produced, and resonant.

Many will be interested to learn that contest scores really do mean something more than just excellent, good, fair, or poor.

3. **Unity:** matching word sounds and timbre, showing good synchronization and sound flow.
4. **Expansion Quality:** creating the "lock and ring," producing overtones.
5. **Vocal Expression:** having an emotional impact and communicating meaningfully.

At this point, you might be saying something like "well . . . duh . . . I get this, but the whole process is still too abstract and mysterious. My chorus got a 61.2, but what exactly does that mean? And what's the difference between a 61.2 and a 66.2?"

Not an unreasonable complaint. The C&J Handbook is full of lofty language, technical jargon, and "thou-shalt-nots," but it doesn't contain a lot of detail about what a particular score means *viz a viz* how well the elements were served in the performance.

There is an interesting Sweet Adelines document that could be of some help in this instance. It's called the "Performance Level Guidelines" and it attempts to specify, for each of their four judging categories, what the scores mean (the document is accompanied by a DVD that illustrates each level). In the case of singing, there is considerable overlap between the BHS and SAI approaches.

I'm going to quote only a portion of the SAI paper – the material devoted to singing scores between 54 and 73. One reason is lack of space (those who are interested can email me to request the full document). But equally important is that most of the choruses in MAD perform within that range. Sure there's a handful of international-level chapters that score B+ or better, and there are a few choruses whose singing is dreadful, but the vast majority of chapters in MAD sing pretty darn well – at the high end of the C up to the low-to-middle of the B range.

See that portion of the document at right — >.

Score = 66-73 (B)

Vocal skills strong but not habitual
Solid sound overall but chords not consistently locked
Minor synch problems affect chord accuracy
Most vowels matched and properly resonated
Balance suffers at extreme ranges and dynamic levels
Energy and support for vocal lines inconsistent
Technique still evident and generally overrides artistry

Score = 60-65 (B-)

Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent
Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems
Frequent internal synch problems affect chord accuracy
Vowels initially matched but not sustained as tuned unit
Singers need better awareness of balance adjustments
Vocal lines occasionally supported and energized
Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry

Score = 54-59 (C+)

Work on vocal skills apparent but still in progress
Consistent minor intonation and tuning problems
Consistent minor synch problems affect overall unity
Frequent errors in vowel production and resonance match
Balance inconsistent due to vocal limitations
Energy sporadic with lack of consistent support
Fleeting glimpses of vocal artistry

I find this to be informative because it specifies for a given score exactly what problems remain.

Interestingly, it's obvious that **consistency** is what really differentiates most choruses – groups that score in the C+ range sing at the same good level as choruses in the B range, but they simply don't do it as consistently.

In my view, the smart director would listen to the contest recording with these guidelines close at hand. Cross-referencing the guidelines and the contest scores, in a deliberate and programmatic fashion, may very well lead to the hoped-for moment of insight – **"Aaaaa. So that's where we need to improve."**

2014 contest cycle is underway!



Walter L. Griffith Jr.
M-AD VP Events

DIVISION CONTESTS. . .

The **Northern Division** will be held **May 2-3**, at the Hilton Hotel in **Scranton, Pa.** This hotel is located in downtown Scranton within walking distance of the Steamtown Train Station. This is a wonderful historic station that will make you want to take a sightseeing train ride and enjoy the sights of northeastern Pennsylvania.

The 2014 **Atlantic/Western Division Convention** will be held at the **Harrisburg Hilton Hotel May 16-17**. The Harrisburg Chapter will host. This hotel is in the Capital City of Pennsylvania and is a wonderful place to visit. We need to take a quartet or chorus there to perform for the lawmakers in the wonderful rotunda. Wow, what a great sound!

The **Southern Division** will be held **May 30-31**. **Yes that's right, not on Memorial Day weekend again for the second year in a row.** The **Virginia Gentlemen**, under the direction of **Bill Clarke**, will host this event. The location is the wonderful and spectacular Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Va. This facility is a definite winner and a wonderful place to perform and enjoy the scenic beauty of this area of Virginia.

DISTRICT CONTEST. . .

The **Fall District Convention** will be held **October 24-25**. We are returning to **Wildwood, N.J.** The District Headquarters Hotel will be the Days Inn on Ocean Ave.

We will be using a Jumbo-Tron again at the Fall Convention, and selling ads to air on the Jumbo-tron just like we did last year. **Get your ads ready now!** Also, there will be no webcast this Fall.

The Wildwood Convention Center is excited to have us return to New Jersey. The District has many memories of the Wildwoods from Monster Trucks to torrential rain storms. I am excited to see what's in store for us as we return to New Jersey again in 2014.

The District Events Team is looking for a Host Chapter for this event as well. Please help the Events Team and the District and host this event. If your Chapter can help please contact me at lmabari1@aol.com

The Fall Convention is unusually late in 2014 due to the Holy Days of our Jewish barbershop families and friends. The ability to have the convention this late in October also presents additional challenges.

The Wildwoods is a resort area and hotels will be closing due to the end of the season. The hotels assured me they will remain open if we need their hotels but **we need to let them know as early as possible.** Therefore I



The Northern Division will be held May 2-3, at the Hilton Hotel in Scranton, Pa., within walking distance of the Steamtown Train Station.

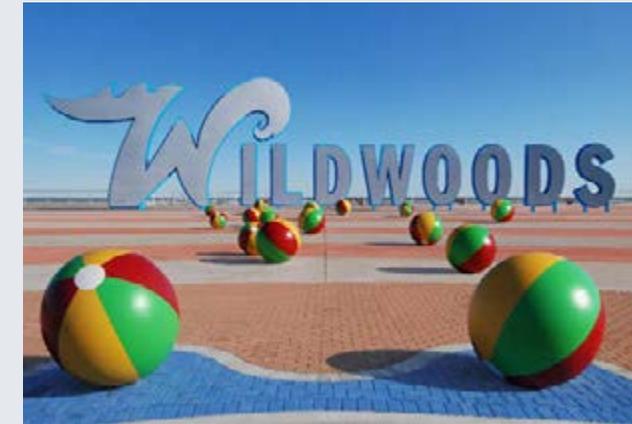
The Southern Division will be held May 30-31, missing the Memorial Day weekend again for the second year in a row.



The Harrisburg Chapter will host the Atlantic/Western Division Convention at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel May 16-17.

am requesting that if you or your Chapter is planning to attend the Fall Convention in 2014, please secure your hotel as early as possible. Not sure? Please make your housing reservation as early as possible, anyway, so you are not disappointed by waiting until the last minute. You can always cancel if plans change!

The 2014 Convention season looks like it will be both exciting and busy with quartets competing to go to **Las Vegas, Nev.** and choruses competing for the opportunity to represent the District in **Pittsburgh, Pa.** in **2015**. Please make your plans early. I am looking forward to seeing everyone next year as we continue to be the best District in the Society.



Book early . . . for the **Fall District Convention** in Wildwood, N.J.

Our fall district convention will be held in Wildwood, N.J. on October 24-25, 2014. The Headquarters Hotel is already sold out.

BUT the district events team has posted information on **16 other hotels** that have promised to remain open for us and our families. And rates are really good, ranging from \$50 per night up to \$125 per night depending on location and amenities.

If you think your chorus has a shot at qualifying for the district convention, or if you are just planning to attend to enjoy a weekend at the beach before the cold and snow of winter return, then **now is the time to call and make reservations.** *Don't be left out of the fun at the beach!*

www.midatlanticdistrict.com/Fall

NEW! Mixed Harmony Quartet Contest

... coming March 13-14, 2015

Next March 13-14, 2015, in Harrisburg, Pa., the M-AD will be hosting its first mixed harmony quartet contest. That's right! Along with our traditional men's international preliminary contest and the ever-popular youth adjudication, we will be branching out to include mixed quartets in any mixed-gender configuration (MFFF, MFMF or MMMF).

competition will be a one-round event with each quartet singing two songs. Except for there being male and female singers in one quartet, standard BHS contest rules will apply. If the maximum of 20 quartets has not been met by January 1, 2015, entry will be open to neighboring districts.

2014 Contest & Judging Update

by Gary Plaag,
VP Contest and Judging



Mixed harmony quartets are extremely popular in Europe and other BHS affiliate organizations, and there has been a recent ground swell of mixed harmony interest and activity in the U.S. and Canada. One of the BHS affiliates, BinG! (Barbershop In Germany), hosts the World Mixed Harmony Championships every even-numbered year (2014, 2016, 2018, etc.). Other European affiliates include mixed harmony quartet competitions in their annual national conventions.

Just this past March, a mixed harmony quartet from St. Louis, Mo., **Double Date**, claimed the World Mixed Harmony Champion title in Dortmund, Germany. Double Date will attend our inaugural event next March and will be very involved in the event serving as mic testers and mic coolers, conducting a mixed harmony "Master Class" on Saturday afternoon, and performing on the Saturday night Jamboree. As well as being excellent musicians, the members of Double Date are passionate about spreading the news about the mixed harmony quartet experience.

For those interested in entering the MAD's inaugural mixed harmony competition, there will be enough room for about 20 mixed harmony quartets in addition to the regular men's international prelims quartets. The mixed harmony quartet



Double Date members (from left) Michaela Slamka, Blair Brown, Ravi Raghuram and Nathan Johnston, recently won the gold medal in Barbershop in Germany's world mixed quartet division. Their goal is to bring barbershop and a cappella music to a new generation of singers and fans. (Photo by Eric Ideler)

Watch for additional information in subsequent Mid'l Antics publications, as well as the MAD website. This is going to be an exciting addition to the MAD Prelims weekend! If you have questions about this new initiative, please contact me at gplaagbhs@gmail.com.

Saturday
May 31, 2014

Dinner Show
@ 6 PM

KEYSTONE CAPITAL CHORUS
Presents
SOUTH SEAS ADVENTURE
TROPICAL LUAI
BARBERSHOP STYLE

BYOB

Cost:
Individual - \$30.00
Couple - \$55.00
Purchase a table
(8 Seats) - \$200.00

Location:
St. Patrick Catholic School
87 Marsh Drive
Carlisle, PA 17015

For Tickets: www.kccsing.com
or call - (717) 695-7527

Getting Your Chapter or Quartet Videos up on the Web *Legally*



by **Doug Brown**,
Immediate Past President, Hell's Kitchen Chapter
Member-at-Large, Board of Directors, BHS

Rumor has it that there is a grace period of sorts where intellectual property rights are waived when posting videos on the web. After all, everybody does it all the time, don't they?

For years, people believed that as long as a video clip or sound file was under a certain number of seconds it could be used without securing permission of the copyright holder.

That is entirely bogus.

It doesn't matter if the video runs 30 seconds, 22 seconds, 15 seconds, or even five seconds. If the song being performed is even remotely recognizable by someone, it is in violation of copyright laws unless permission has been secured to record and post it.

Do the right thing. Don't take a chance. Don't put our Society's reputation at risk. Don't subject yourself, your chapter officers and your chapter to fines....or worse.

Now that we have dispelled that common misconception as merely wishful thinking, let's discuss how easy it can be to get permission.

There is a difference between the permission needed to perform a song and the permission needed to videotape a song. And the permissions process for making a DVD is slightly different from the permissions needed to create only a *streaming* video. Let's discuss them one at a time.

Permission to Perform

For the majority of our arrangements, even when you purchase them through Harmony Marketplace, the right for public performance is a separate right and is secured through the ASCAP/BMI/SESAC fees the groups/chapters pay each year

through the blanket agreement the Society has with these organizations.

The alternative is to choose songs secured from arrangers independently. As the performer, we must ask the arrangers if they have actually secured permission from all the copyright holders to arrange that song before we sing it. Percentages of song rights can be divided among several parties and that is why you must verify that all the copyright holders have given permission to the arranger.

Regardless of the purchasing source, ASCAP/BMI/SESAC fees will still need to be paid.

Permission to Video-capture

Because of existing copyright laws, any time non-public domain music (published 1923 to present) and any movement whatsoever is being captured on video (or its equivalent), a license must be secured from the parties that own the *synchronization* rights. They will want to know if you are asking about creating a physical DVD, (where you will need a videogram license), or a Website Video, (where you will need a synchronization/internet streaming license).

I found it easier than I originally thought to get the rights. Here are the exact steps I used in the process.

1. I first determined the copyright holders of the song.

This information can usually be found with one or more of the following sources:

- on the arrangement itself;
- ASCAP (www.ascap.com);
- BMI (www.bmi.com);
- SESAC (www.sesac.com);
- SOCAN (www.socan.ca);
- Copyright Office Website (www.copyright.gov);
- Harry Fox Agency (www.harryfox.com)

“For years, people believed that as long as a video clip or sound file was under a certain number of seconds it could be used without securing permission of the copyright holder.
That is entirely bogus.”

- CMRRA (www.cmrra.ca)
- Other Various Websites (such as www.wikipedia.org, www.pdinfo.org, etc.)

There are wonderful, easy to understand resources such as “Copyright Basics For Barbershoppers” and “FAQS” documents that are on the Society website at the following web link:

<http://barbershop.org/document-center/category/8-copyright-legal.html>

2. I chose to phone the contact person versus sending an email because I wanted to ensure I was not just going to be a voiceless, faceless entity to them. I wanted to convey that I am a real person whose organization was interested in doing the right thing for all parties involved.

3. When I got the person on the phone, I always started out by telling them that I was not an expert in this area of licensing and law, but I wanted their help to ensure we understood what we needed to do to secure their permission to post the video on YouTube.

4. The first thing they tended to do was to check their internal records to see what percentage of song ownership they actually controlled and who any other owners might be.

5. Once they saw what the percentage they controlled, they

See **Legal**, continued on next page

Legal, continued from previous page

were able to talk from a more confident position.

6. **I explained what we were trying to accomplish.** All we wanted to do was post the video clip as a streaming, non-downloadable clip so that people who were trying to figure out if they should hire us or visit us could see a sample.

7. I further explained that I clearly understood if in the future we were going to ever try to produce a physical product or monetize the clip in any way, for example, creating a DVD for distribution, that would require us to have a different discussion and would involve signing agreements and paying fees as usual.

8. Once our intent was clear, many times the synchronization manager would verbally agree to give us permission to post it. I thanked them, and told them I would immediately send them an email to confirm and ensure our mutual understanding. The content of the email typically reads as follows:

Thanks so much for sharing your time with me. Please confirm back that I have correctly captured our conversation.

Memo of Understanding (MOU)

The song we discussed was **Song Name** from **Publisher**. It is our desire to create a video clip that would be posted on YouTube as a streaming video. There would be no product sales involved at this point. It would strictly be for promotional purposes. I understand that there is no charge for us to do that as long as we fulfill our obligation to provide you the URL so that you can send it to the Harry Fox Agency. We understand that HFA will receive compensation as a result of the blanket contractual agreement with You Tube that allows them to monetize the URL.

I also understand that if we convert this to a product, such as a physical DVD, or allow for a digital download, we are obligated to secure a license from you that specifies agreed upon terms and quantities.

Have I missed anything? If not, please sign and return this MOU to me. If it can be attached and returned in an email right away that would be great.

Thanks again for your help!

9. Once the contact confirmed our understanding was correct and we had permission from all the owners, we could proceed as necessary to post the video, and send our contact the URL address.

10. For those instances where the copyright owners required a payment to license, **I requested they email me the forms** to complete. As part of the paperwork, you will be asked to propose a fee(s) for the length of time you want to keep the video posted. The owner can choose to accept or reject your offer. The paperwork requests details such as the anticipated duration of the clip, the use of the video, and the geographic area from which viewers are expected.

11. Once our offer was accepted, we were emailed the invoice and contract that was contingent upon the receipt of our payment.

12. We signed and mailed the contract and check to the addresses specified.

13. We proceeded to post the video, and send the URL address as we had agreed to do.

Most Favored Nations

There is one more licensing-related term that I became aware of in the licensing business. That phrase is “Most Favored Nations” (or “MFN”). Simply put, it means that whatever the most lucrative deal one owner of the song receives, *all* of the owners of the song rights get that same deal.

To give an example, let’s say a song is owned by four copyright owners. If three of the four song

copyright owners agreed to waive their fee, but the fourth refused, if you decide to proceed and use the song, all four owners would be entitled to the same compensation. In other words, if you must pay one, *you must pay all at the same rate.*

Public Domain Songs

Songs in the Public Domain do not usually require any permissions and can be posted as soon as you complete the video.

As a rule of thumb in the US, musical works published with a valid copyright notice of 1922 or earlier are usually in the public domain. Exceptions are if the arranger or other entity is claiming the copyright in the arrangement itself (a derivative work).

You will have to research this before making a decision, and, unfortunately, the U.S. Copyright Office does not offer an official website or resource as to what songs have fallen in the public domain! Also, please note that copyright laws and regulations do differ widely *outside* the USA.

Just to be sure, I suggest that you check with a trusted attorney who works with intellectual property law, or refer to the copyright resources posted on the www.barbershop.org website (and other trusted websites) *before* you record and post any song.

As you can see the process is fairly simple. In some cases, I have been able to accomplish all the steps in under an hour start to finish. There is no reason to not do the right thing.

Now go get started on posting your first legal video!

[Special thanks go out to Janice Bane, Music Licensing & Library Manager, Barbershop Harmony Society and Noah Funderburg, JD, for their technical assistance in creating this article.]



The beautiful tones of a *cappella* singing filled the State College High School North Auditorium in State College, Pa. Saturday, April 26 when the Nittany Knights, augmented with singers from the nearby Altoona chapter and under the very capable direction of **Joe Malafarina** and **Rick Crider** (also show Co-Chair) presented their spring show, "Searching for Love".

"The show was well organized and the theme was interesting", offered Leslie Wagner. And she hit the nail on the head.

Local radio personality and guest host **Ruth O'Brien** helped the Knights search for love in an exciting selection of family-friendly songs and skits. Also on hand was Mid-Atlantic District President **Bill Colosimo** (himself a past district quartet champion and international qualifier) who could be seen sporting a huge smile as son **Tony Colosimo** took the stage with **Da Capo**.

Past district quartet champion and many time international qualifier Da Capo was the featured guest performer. Their presentation took the audience on a musical journey with songs ranging from the early 1900s to songs on the radio today. President Bill wasn't their only fan. **Sue Polay**, lighting and stage manager told us, "Da Capo was simply amazing!"

The Knights' chapter quartets shared the stage with the chorus and searched for love by singing many favorite love songs in beautiful four-part harmony. But their lively choral performance – not just their singing but their entire performance – was the icing on the cake.

"It's amazing how all these men relate to one another in such a congenial way, and they all play a part in the quality of the performance," enthused **Jill Brighton**, new choreographer – and completely new to the barbershop style.

Great hall. Great script. Great singing. Engaging performance. **Ethan Wagner** (21-year-old son of chapter president Paul Wagner) summed it up nicely.

"It was a great show," he said.
— **Dick Powell, MAD IPP**

Nittany Knights Celebrate 52 Years of Harmony



Da Capo and the Nittany Knights search for love and find 7th heaven.



Memories & Favorites ... Yours and Ours

presented by The Dundalk, MD Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc.

The Chorus of the Chesapeake



and our featured quartet

OUR TOWN



Winner of Harmony Sweepstakes 2009 (oldest acappella competition in America!) and Barbershop Harmony Society Northeastern District 2009

Saturday, May 31, 2014 7:30 pm

Doors open at 7 pm

Parkville High School

2600 Putty Hill Ave., Parkville, MD 21234

Adults: **\$25** Children & Students (7-18): **\$15**
Children: (6 and younger): **FREE**

Afterglow at the Parkville Knights of Columbus, 7910 Harford Road, 21234
\$15 includes cold cut buffet, beer, soda, coffee and desserts

ORDER ONLINE: www.dundalk.org (order form on website)

MAIL: your order, with check made payable to 'Dundalk Chapter' to Frank Sigwart, 9313-A Snyder Lane, Perry Hall, MD 21128
(Please enclose self-addressed/stamped envelope)

CALL: your order to 410-529-0732 We accept: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express



Second-place medalists Big and Tall restrain lead Big Dave Adams who has a "thing" for a lady named Mary Lou.

It's
g-r-r-r-e-a-t
to be a
Barbershopper!

Bryn Mawr Mainliners savor all aspects of the hobby

Bryn Mawr Mainliners have enjoyed a chock-full calendar of activities already this year. Says Program VP Mark Sanders, "We kicked off the new year by supporting the **M-AD Top Gun** coaching program at Dowingtown East High School, and underwriting the lunch expense for the youth participants at the seminar.

"The following week we enjoyed an installation of officers banquet at Wayne Presbyterian Church, honored our 2013 barbershopper of the year **Jeff Porter**, and enjoyed a performance by **Faces 4 Radio**. They must have enjoyed the event as well, since they left for Long Beach, Cal. the following week, and returned from the mid-winter convention with the 2014 BHS gold medal in the senior quartet competition."

In March, the chapter renewed its intra-chapter quartet contest for the first time in many years, and had 10 quartets registered to compete. Congratulations to all the participants including the top three quartets; **Just 4 Tunes, Big & Tall**, and **Perfect Pitch**, and for medals earned by four of the newest members in their first quartet experience; **Dave Adams, Dan Beniker, Bruce Kautsky** and **Phil Kautsky**.

"Just 4 Tunes— **Dick Watson**(L), **Greg Berlin** (Bs), Jeff Porter (Br) and **John Fielding**(T) sang Disagreement, where each part sings a different song. The Lead sings The Old Rusty Mill; the Bass sings I've Been Working on the Railroad; the Baritone sings I Want a Girl (Just Like The Girl That Married Dear Old Dad) and the Tenor sings When You Wore a Tulip. And magically it all works!" reports Jeff Porter, himself a participant in five of the ten competing quartets.

The fun continued with Big and Tall earning second-place medals for their really off-beat interpretation of a Ricky Nelson favorite. **Big Dave Adams** got brought out in a straight jacket. Jeff Porter, Dan Beniker and **Sean Campbell**, dressed in lab coats, escorted Dave. Dave apparently had a "thing" for a lady named Mary Lou!

The chapter extends a special thank you to the judges and guest quartet, **Last Men Standing**. Interestingly, the following week they competed at the M-AD International Preliminary contest in Reston, Va., and won the right to represent the M-AD at the international convention in Las Vegas, Nev. this summer.

"There must be something to performing for the Mainliner's that brings out the best in quartets!" says Mark.



Members of The Bryn Mawr Mainliners worked with male singers in Concert Choir through Kenny Young's hit single, *Under the Boardwalk*.

Sophie Bodek/The SPOKE

Singers attend in-school barbershop workshop

From the Conestoga H.S. student newspaper:

Dressed in bright blue shirts, members of the Bryn Mawr Mainliners worked with students in Concert Choir at an in-school barbershop workshop on Tuesday, March 18.

The Bryn Mawr Mainliners is an *a cappella* chorus that sings primarily in the barbershop style. This all-men chorus makes up the Bryn Mawr Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

At the workshop, the Mainliners first introduced the concept of barbershop music, a genre of a cappella characterized by its constant four part chord and lack of beat boxing, before advancing onto a live performance of "Hello Mary Lou" by Gene Pitney and Father Cayet Mangiaracina.

Male singers whose voices ranged tenor one to bass two learned from these professional a cappella singers in their respective voice ranges by singing the 1960s hit single by Kenny Young, *Under the Boardwalk*.

Students were also invited to actively participate with the Mainliners during

a song before a final performance by a student barbershop quartet, Lt. Dan's Shrimp Company. Composed of seniors James Redmond, Alex Schon, Ian Wolfe and junior Asher Goldfinger, this student-run group sang David Wright's arrangement of "That Lucky Old Sun."

— By Jerry Zhu, Staff Reporter, StogaNews

For videos of the students' performances, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=WzSuFABFS3E

Lt. Dan's Shrimp Company performs David Wright's arrangement of "That Lucky Old Sun."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=y371NP635AU

Four members of the Bryn Mawr Mainliners sing "Hello Mary Lou," a piece by Gene Pitney and Father Cayet Mangiaracina, for members of the Concert Choir.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=06TUhp7_10w

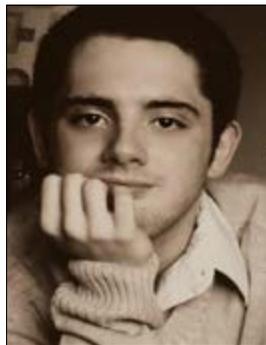
After working with the Mainliners, Concert Choir perform "Under the Boardwalk," a 1960's hit single by Kenny Young.



Harbormen perform at interfaith memorial service

The Harbormen Barbershop Chorus was honored and privileged to be invited to participate in the Good Shepherd Hospice's Interfaith Memorial Service Program: A Celebration of Life. The program was held at the Infant Jesus Church at St. Charles Hospital in Port Jefferson to honor those that have passed and to give comfort to those that were in mourning.

This is the fifth year that Harbormen have been invited to add their voices to this very beautiful and moving service. We hope our performance helped to bring meaning and comfort to those in attendance and thank the Good Shepherd Hospice for the privilege of sharing that special time with their staff and the families and friends of those that have departed.



Jared Lynch

Barbershoppers are friends in need

When 19-year-old **Keystone Capital Chorus** baritone **Jared Lynch's** friends suffered a devastating fire in early April, the freshman music major at Messiah College in Harrisburg, Pa. felt that a musical event would be a good way for the community to express their support.

He planned a cabaret-style concert at the local Moose Lodge April 19 that featured pulled pork sandwiches and cole slaw from Boulevard BBQ, a favorite local eatery, as well as a bake sale by

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

For the fifth consecutive year Heart of Maryland barbershoppers deliver the first pitch at Camden Yards. Orioles management regularly invites the chorus to sing when the Toronto Blue Jays are on the bill because the chorus is happy to sing both *Oh, Canada!* and the *Star-Spangled Banner*.



members of First United Methodist Church in Lewistown.

"The folks at the Moose Lodge were generous in offering their facility for the event," Lynch said.

The musical program included rock bands, vocal soloists, dancers and barbershop quartets, culminating with a presentation by the Keystone Capital Chorus.

"We are proud of Jared's initiative, and our

members eagerly accepted the chance to contribute their talents to this worthy cause," said KCC Director **Bob Bennett, Jr.**

Bennett noted that in addition to the chorus itself, **Gents Nite Out**, **City Island**, and **2nd Amendment** quartets also performed.

Other performers included rock bands **B-Side Avenue** and **Goodnight Revelry** from Lewistown, and vocalist **Amber Foose** from Mifflintown.

SEEKING DIRECTOR



Silver Ridge West Chorus of Toms River, N.J. is seeking a director.

This seniors chorus of 45 mixed voices sings popular, folk, show and patriotic tunes in four-part harmony.

The chorus rehearses weekly from **3-5 p.m.** on **Wednesdays** for 10 months of the year.

Director's duties include preparing and producing two concerts per year.

Please send resume to:

**Silver Ridge West Chorus, P.O. Box 3178
Toms River, NJ 08756-3178**

Questions?

Call Judy Belock, 732-228-8742

Other donors for the event include Sal-lee's Dream Restaurant in Strodes Mills, Hartley's Potato Chips, Lewistown Paper Co. and George Powell, of GP Audio in State College, who provided the sound system.

The event raised nearly \$2,000 for the fire victims.

Editor's note: Kudos to Jared and the men of the Keystone Capital Chorus for being true friends in need.



Everything Old Is New Again

Montclair Chapter's Dapper Dans of Harmony celebrated their 65th anniversary with an April 6 spring show, "Everything Old Is New Again".

The Doris M. Byrne Performing Arts Center at Mt. St. Dominic Academy in Caldwell, N.J. was decorated with memorabilia that captured moments from the histories of both the Montclair and Livingston Chapters prior to and following their merger.

In addition to the Dapper Dans of Harmony, the sell out crowd was treated to performances by youth chorus East Coast Sound, guest quartet Duly Noted and the Montclair Chapter's very own Gimme Four. The highlight of the afternoon was the performance by Montclair's very special guests, the 2008 International Quartet Champions, **OC TIMES**.

Shawn York, Sean Devine, Cory Hunt and Patrick Claypool (pictured from left) wowed the audience with their signature blend of energy, humor and a larger than life sound with chords that were truly ringing the rafters.

The fun, camaraderie and singing continued at the afterglow where both OC Times and Gimme Four favored the partygoers with a second round of great barbershop songs.

Perhaps the most memorable moment of the 'glow was when the



OC Times

two quartets joined together to sing an octet version of I Will Go Sailing No More. The unforgettable rendition was the perfect ending of the perfect day.

"Our goal is to bring the best of barbershop to our community through our shows", said Chapter President **Ray Liptak**, "and I think that today we more than met our goal."



The Dapper Dans of Harmony



Announcing the Second Annual

Chuck Greene Memorial NCHB Youth Scholarships

For qualified male singers age 18 to 28 to attend the North Carolina Harmony Brigade, a weekend of extraordinary Extreme Quartet Singing

- You don't have to be from North Carolina
- You don't have to have a quartet
- Up to **10 Full Free scholarships** available
- You'll sing in dozens of good quartets
- A great repertoire of championship songs
- A network of over 100 quartet singers
- Exceptional learning materials
- Includes great accommodations & meals

For a scholarship application or additional info, contact NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com



“...healthy, engaging chapter activity is the secret to member satisfaction and retention!”

TOGETHER...

We
are

STRONG!

The presidents of all districts in the Society were recently asked by the Society's Board of Directors to respond to five significant questions regarding the health of their respective districts. As I prepared our response, I realized that the incredible work of our MAD leadership team and our chapters' dedicated leaders, documented all throughout this issue of Mid'Antics, should be shared with you as our valued stakeholders.

I also realized that the answers provided only scratch the surface of how MAD's activity is in line with our Society's commitment to "Making the Music That's Making a Difference"...and that this is *only possible* when we work well *TOGETHER!*

Chapters getting the help they need from district leaders, leaders teaming with and learning from each other, and chapters collaborating with other chapters and their communities' partners... all these are examples, documented throughout this issue, of how we as a district are succeeding in our mission to propagate quality music, education and fun through barbershop singing!

I am confident that 2014 will give us more good news, like increased retention of members, a broader awareness of our value in our communities and continued progress in building and maintaining healthy, growing chapters that focus on providing satisfaction to their members, families and patrons. I believe the following Society Board questions and MAD's answers fuel that optimism, and hope you believe the same!

1. What is the state of the District moving out of 2013 (what went well and continues to be built upon?) and into 2014 (what major projects and goals) and how is that plan documented and being carried out?

* MAD is proud to report that the "state of the District is *strong*," both in terms of 2013 results and progress made to date in 2014.

* In 2013, the District maintained its *financial stability* through prudent overall financial management, reliable budgeting, and reasonably successful convention results, *while increasing its level of funding of important*

chapter and member-centric services!

* In 2013, the District Board supported an expert Operations Team to provide *new and continued high quality education, coaching and performance-enhancing initiatives* that directly respond to chapters' and members' needs. Particularly notable are the Music Assistance Service (coaching) program, Top Gun, Outstanding in Front (director and music leadership training) and a *greatly enhanced Harmony College-East, widely recognized as a model of district educational events.*

* In 2013, District leadership applied the results provided from the Chapter Visitation Program (in which we participated nearly 100%!) to begin our increased focus on those issues and challenges most directly affecting our chapters. To this end, we specifically dedicated resources to insure that select leadership could participate in the November Leadership Forum in Nashville. Immediately upon completion of the Forum, leaders at all levels were briefed on what next steps to initiate to achieve success in meeting the prioritized "Focus Areas" of Communication, Recruitment, Coaching and Collaboration (among chapters), and they were charged to prepare and execute specific initiatives for 2014.

* In 2013, the District Board began the process of updating its seminal documentation to insure accurate and legacy-leading guidance for our actions. This includes an ongoing review and revision of our Statement of Policy and the preparation of a new District Operations Manual.

* Overall, the District leadership at all levels, particularly Divisional Vice Presidents and Chapter Counselors, were more active (and supplemented) in providing valuable contact with and support of their chapters.

* As one result of the above, while the District lost individual members, our decline in membership did not vary significantly from that of the Society as a whole, and trends began to emerge showing increased "health" in struggling chapters and higher levels of

quality performance from our ensembles! Clearly, the focus on "retention" and "chapter health" is paying dividends. Several "nearly dead" chapters have been resurrected joyfully and a number of others began to "hear the message" that *healthy, engaging chapter activity is the secret to member satisfaction and retention!*

* Finally, and perhaps most significantly in terms of its potential for success and growth of our chapters and district, we are embarking on the planning, development and implementation of a significant **Chapter Relations Management tech-based platform** with which to document chapter health and challenges, inform district leaders, enhance solution provision and maintain regular, substantive and helpful contact with our chapters! We are *very excited* about this 2014 initiative, and have a gifted team already developing our model for roll-out mid-2014!

2. What is needed from the Society and Committees in terms of support, encouragement, training, resources, and/or other communications? From the Board?

* The District commends the Board on its focus on support of a planning process which solicits and measures success in the "Focus Areas" rather than exclusive concentration on "membership metrics." Further, the District enjoys a very positive relationship with Board personnel and the CEO in particular.

* MAD intends to participate wholeheartedly in providing our training needs regarding "legacy programs" (the traditional purview of the "Committees")

See **TOGETHER**, continued on next page



by **Bill Colosimo**,
MAD President

TOGETHER, *continued from previous page*

when solicited to do so by the CEO. We await that solicitation in order to respond in line with the process of determining what can/can't be accomplished in this regard from the Society level. We've been informed that "process is ongoing," and Marty has committed to solicit our input very soon.

* In the meantime, we are largely "self-sufficient" in the administration of programs previously shepherded by Committees (M&P, CDD, CSLT, EVENTS, etc.), inasmuch as our operational leadership is both experienced and strong in effective delivery of "legacy programs" like Standing Ovation, Top Gun, CDWI, Outstanding in Front, Leadership Academies and traditional Events.

3. What was the district feedback about the 2013 Forum meeting the district's expectations? What changes or plans are expected in preparation for the Fall 2014 Forum (Nov 1 noon on Saturday thru Nov 3 noon on MONDAY – in Nashville)?

* The format and content of the 2013 Forum was *exactly* as our District leadership had intended; our vision was aligned closely to that proposed by the District Presidents Council in Toronto in July of 2013. We found the Forum very valuable on all levels.

* Immediately following the 2013 Forum, all district leaders were charged with establishing and executing plans for 2014 which would specifically address the Focus Areas to benefit our chapters! We provided an abstract of our plans concurrent with the Mid-Winter convention in Long Beach (as have virtually all other districts).

* What distinguishes *our* intentions and actions was the resolution of the District Board at its annual Winter meeting in January to "insure that *all* district efforts in 2014 be dedicated to enabling our success in meeting the Forum's Focus Areas." This has been faithfully monitored thus far, and is the foundation of all our 2014 meetings and communications.

* We would expect that the 2014 Forum be structured along the same lines as 2013, but with more evidence and focus on the progress made in 2014 (to date), with collaborative planning among all the districts and the CEO/staff. We have budgeted full funding for a substantial number of MAD leader-stakeholders to attend. As in 2013, these men are not *necessarily* specifically charged with a conventional district responsibility (eg. M&P VP or Membership VP), but are selected based on their overall strengths, experience and potential for future high-level District leadership.

4. What is the status and health of your chapters in the district? What are plans for chapter contact, visitation, coaching in 2014?

* As stated above, the overall health of the District is strong, and this carries over to our chapters, in general.

* Struggling chapters are receiving well-informed "triage," across functional responsibilities, and often at the highest level of involvement (DP, EVP, IPP, etc.). We are encouraged about results thus far, and are doing all we can to sustain struggling chapters short of dissolution, as often as possible. Personal visits, goal-setting workshops, exposure to successful legacy programs, etc. are proving successful

* **Our new fully-funded initiative, "LEEAP" (Leadership Encouragement and Education Assistance Program)** is now in full swing. This is a grant-based program to provide stipends to struggling chapters to retain qualified music leadership (primarily music educators as directors) where chapter resources cannot afford this help. Just this week, **five chapters will receive**

LEEAP . . . is a grant-based program to provide stipends to struggling chapters to retain qualified music leadership . . .

significant grants, adjudicated and monitored carefully by District leadership, which we are confident will help these chapters sustain and grow in both quality and membership! We are truly "putting our money where our mouth is!"

5. What new direction(s) do your chapters want the district to take in 2014? How is the district moving forward to meet these expectations?

* Almost coincidental with the asking of this question, District leadership conducted a set of "roundtable discussions" at the March 2014 House of Delegates meeting, in which all chapters represented participated in one of four "Focus Area" discussions, moderated by one or two district leaders (and, in two cases, Society Board members). The deliverables from these discussions, *thoughtful, long lists of chapters' needs and solution suggestions directly related to the four Focus Areas*, have been compiled and distributed to the DP and EVP who are now processing the suggestions and assigning priorities to them for action in 2014! **The "lists" and resultant potential action items will be shared with ALL MAD Chapters in a variety of ways over the coming weeks.**

* Additionally, we are excited to report that, already, two intra-Divisional (largely based around major metropolitan areas, geographically) "Chapter Presidents' Meetings" (really "councils") have emerged and have already resulted in task forces being appointed to plan and implement self-administered and cost-shared ways for chapters within select areas to collaborate on *significant inter-chapter activities* with specific goals and objectives related to enhancing chapter health and member satisfaction! These council activities are being monitored and supported by Divisional Vice Presidents and other senior District leaders, and will be further supported by operational officers as needs warrant.



Surprise! welcomes WWII HONOR FLIGHT



Atlanta Honor Flight is welcomed to D.C. with water arch, brass applauding and Surprise! quartet.



Surprise! quartet (JC O'Donovan, John Grant, Bob Hirsh and Bruce Minnick — representing Alexandria, Mt Vernon, District of Columbia, Dundalk and Frank Thorne chapters) was privileged to be part of the crowd at Reagan National Airport that welcomed an Honor Flight from Atlanta April 2.

Starting with a water arch over the plane, over one hundred World War II veterans were welcomed to Washington to view the World War II memorial and tour other sites.

— Bob Hirsh, Quartet Contact

TA-DAH!

walks past

140 brews —

and *doesn't*

taste a one!

by Jim Rohn, Quartet Contact

During the weekend of April 4th and 5th, the quartet **Ta-Dah!** entertained over 20,000 visitors to Atlantic City's Beer and Music Festival. There were over 140 different breweries from around the corner and across the country that showcased their unique libations.

Unfortunately, Ta-Dah! was not able to taste any of them! Can you just imagine walking past more than 140 different brews and not being able to savor one of them? This was tough duty!

We had a unbelievable time. There were many musical groups, rock groups, which entertained on the main stage, and our quartet strolled through the crowd, entertaining as we went along singing songs and being photographed hundreds of times.

There were three sessions. Friday night from 7 to 11 and then Saturday 12-4 and 6-10. Each session was sold out (approximately 8000 people per session).

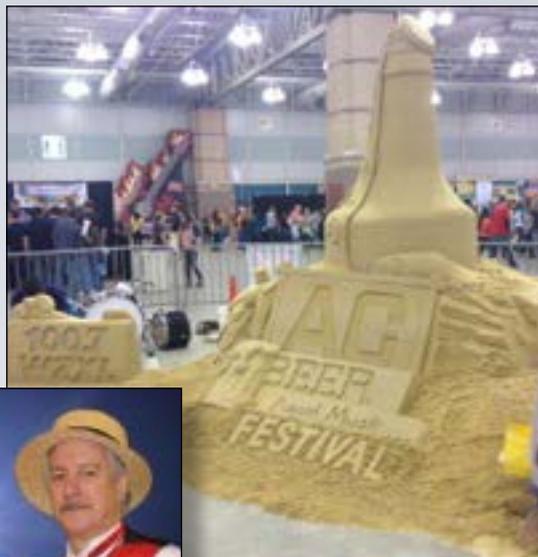
The quartet was very well received by all who heard us and we honored many

TAH-DAH! — Ed Rounsaville, Jim Rohn, Ed Wlazlowski, Steve Leventhal, entertains a crowd of 20,000 at Atlantic City's Beer and Music Festival April 4-5.



requests for songs for bachelor and bachelorette parties and sang Happy Birthday to quite a few who were there celebrating their special days.

Ta-Dah! Has become a crowd favorite and believe it or not, we also have a fan base! Much to our surprise, several people showed us pictures they took of us last year, and one even had a picture of the quartet taken three years ago. Two groups actually sought us out so they could hear us sing a song for them and brought along friends and family members to the festival just to see us! It continues to amaze that barbershop singing evokes



some unforgettable memories for some people and they want to hear that sound again, and hopefully create another special moment to remember for a lifetime.

We topped off the weekend by singing to the event staff at the end of the night. They had gathered in their "headquarters" room,

about 15 people were there. We sat, pretty tired from miles of walking and singing, and started to sing a song for ourselves, Lullaby in Rag Time, very quietly.

All of a sudden a hush came over the room, and all the staff stopped what they were doing and listened and closed the door to shut out the noise from the thousands of people exiting the convention center. That was a special moment we will treasure, as we literally "owned" the audience.

THEY created a nice memory for us we will never forget.



GIMME FOUR SINGS FOR YANKEE GREAT

We sang for a living legend! That's right, that's Yogi Berra! And no, Paul did not age very quickly, that is Joe Sr. filling in as he always does when we sing for patients at Mountain-side Hospital. We are thankful to him and feel so lucky that we got to meet and sing for this great Yankee!



RAHWAY VALLEY NOVICE CONTEST #53

Congratulations to TIGHT CHORDERS on their 1st Place Gold at the 53rd Rahway Novice Quartet Competition!

Pictured with Rahway Valley President from L to R: Chapter Member & Baritone Cory Bricton, Bass Tom Moyer, Lead Ben Sherman & Tenor Nicholas Englehardt!

Congratulations to For the Times — Gus Curry, Rob Weber, Dylan Lupo and Kofi Mills. — for tying for 2nd place in Rahway's 53rd Annual Novice Quartet Contest!



Thank You!

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Two weeks before our Spring Preliminary convention in Reston, Va. we were facing a major penalty due to low numbers of hotel registrations. (We normally commit to a certain number of "room nights" at the hotel in exchange for their providing the ballroom and warm up rooms free of charge.)

Thanks to an incredibly positive response from everyone – including some folks who live just 5 miles from

the hotel – we reduced a nearly \$20,000 penalty to less than \$2,000.

Words cannot fully express my gratitude to each of you who turned out to support the district in this fashion. M-AD families are the best!

Sincerely,

Walter

Walter Griffith
Vice President (Events)
Mid-Atlantic District

The next chapter: Congratulations, Larry!

Six years ago, **Larry Bomback** picked up the figurative baton and began his tenure as Director of **Voices of Gotham**. Since then, he has led us to two Mid-Atlantic District championships, the BHS Top 10 at International, and the production of the Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th Anniversary celebration and webcast.

As of last month, Larry has taken on the role of COO/CFO at the Cultural Data Project in Philadelphia. This is a tremendous opportunity for him, and the chorus wishes him the absolute best in this exciting new role. Larry has graciously agreed to stay on as Director of Voices of Gotham through the upcoming international chorus contest in Las Vegas, commuting back to NYC regularly and relying on the outstanding aid of Assistant Director Eric Engelhardt and the wonderful Music Team that Larry helped to build during his time here.

On a personal note, I want to say how absolutely proud I am to have been a part of the chorus from day one, watching Larry guide us from a ragtag group of twelve to an internationally-competitive chorus with 85 dues-paying members. Larry: your talents will be missed, but you are in the enviable position of watching Voices of Gotham's continued growth, always knowing you were absolutely integral to our success.

As we prepare to make a splash at International in Las Vegas, we have formed a Director Search Committee tasked with selecting a musical leader to continue our upward trajectory. The committee, chaired by former President Braden Lynk, is accepting applicants now. If you are interested in directing Voices of Gotham, a top ten chorus with a constantly growing membership, contact the Director Search Committee. Read more about the full position description and application details on our [website](#).

[And for those in the Central City Philadelphia area who are interested in being a part of the next big thing in barbershop, let Larry know!]

We wish Larry and his family- wife, Coren, and daughter, Baylee- the absolute best in this exciting new chapter of their lives. Live in the seventh!



Brian J. Lindvall
President, Voices of Gotham



Experiences at Harmony College East

As someone who has attended Harmony College East for the past several years, I can attest to the quality of the coaching our quartet has received during that time.

Our initial experiences were probably very typical of a new quartet. We had only been together for about six months when we first went, and really had no clue as to how to improve our sound, presentation and overall performance. We sort of centered on one thing at a time.

Over the years we have been coached by the likes of **Sean Devine, Duane Brobst, Steve Delahanty, Ig Jakovac, Marty Israel, Stephanie Brixton, Theresa Weatherbee, Jim Coates, Mike Wallen, Rob Hopkins, Ritchie Levine, Rick Taylor, George Gipp, Jack Pinto, and Al Baker** among others.

These coaches all found something for us to work on, both individually and as a group, in order for us to improve our level of performance.

After our first session down at Harmony College

East, one of the guys came to us after we had performed for our chorus and told us that he could not believe the expansion of our sound following those coaching sessions.

Of course there is a certain amount of regression that occurs following such intense coaching, so we have always returned with some specifics in mind and worked with each of the coaches to iron out some kinks and get back to the basics where necessary.

The level of coaching available at HCE is just great. I cannot say enough about the faculty and their abilities to address particular matters with each of the quartet members. They are truly exemplary.

We have always enjoyed our experiences there and plan on coming back until we get it right!

Al Anderton

Lead, Four TRAK Sound

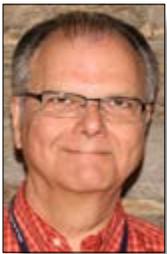
Welcome DELA Class of 2014!

The District's Honor Chapter **DELASUSQUEHUDMAC** meets annually in the two week window before Thanksgiving at Allenberry on the Yellow Britches in Pennsylvania.

Approximately 20 guests join over 80 members for a weekend of fun, frivolity, and harmony. And of course, lots of "sticky buns" with every meal! Following the meeting new members are elected from among the guests and these new members are honored (i.e. "roasted") at the annual DELA breakfast held in conjunction with the M-AD Preliminary Quartet contest and convention in the spring.

This year, three new victims— er, candidates — were invited to membership in this august body. Next time you see them be sure to congratulate them (and ask them to bring you some "sticky buns" from the meeting this coming November!).

ROGER BLACKBURN



Roger has been a Society member for 47 years. Roger is currently a member of the Hamilton Square, NJ chapter. His previous chapters include: Frank Thorne, Bryn Mawr, Cherry Hill, Hobart, IN, Philadelphia, and the Houston Tidelanders. In his chapters he has held the following positions: Director of the Quaker City Chorus, the Chorus of the Dunes in Hobart, the St. Louis Number 1 Chapter, and the Pine Barons of Cherry Hill. His quartet involvement: Roger sang with the Continental Four – M-AD's 1966 Champions; the Lake Shore Harmony Four; R-Gang; and Moments of Glory. Honors & Recognition: M-AD Quartet Champion and International Quartet Finalist – 1966; 5th Place International Chorus Director – 1971. Other interesting facts about Roger include: attended the 1st Harmony College session at Dominican College in Racine, WI the summer of 1970; author, composer and performer of Barbershopping in Brass. Stepping out of his role as a symphony trumpeter, Roger combined his classical music training with his love for barbershop quartet harmony and created his own barbershop trumpet quartet. Through the technique of overdubbing, he single-handedly recorded all parts of these arrangements to create a quartet that existed only in his imagination and then got the Sun Tones to help sell the records!

DONALD MYERS



Donald has been a Society member for 24 years. Don is currently a member of: Harrisburg, PA. In his chapters he has held the following positions: President (3), Executive VP (4), Membership VP (3), Board Member at Large (4), Chorus Manager (6), Show Chairman (8), Host Chapter Division Convention Chairman (4), and Lead Section Leader (7). His District involvement includes: Area Counselor (4), Western Division Vice President (3), Chairman of three Western Division Competitions, and Chairman of an International Preliminary convention. His quartets have been: Gent's Night Out (22). Honors & Recognition: Western Division Novice Quartet champion, BOTY Harrisburg, and Barbershopper of the month (many). His quartet has also won second place (1) and first place (2) in the Carlisle United Way Glee Competition. Other interesting facts about Don: He directs his church choir and has 15 Men of Note awards.

RICK SERPICO



Rick has been a Society member for 30 years. Rick is currently a member of: Bryn Mawr, PA. His previous chapters were: Houston, TX and New Braunfels, TX. In his chapters he has held the following positions: Section leader (3), Assistant Director (5), Director (20). His District involvement includes: Chorus and quartet coach (15) and HCE instructor in sound management (8). At the International level he has been a chorus and quartet coach (15). His quartet involvement includes singing with Deuces Wild (SWD), and Kmotion (M-AD). Honors & Recognition: Rick won the Southwestern District Quartet championship with Deuces Wild. Rick has also directed choruses at international competitions 3 times and was the 2011 recipient of the Ron Shea Award – the highest award given by the Bryn Mawr chapter for long and dedicated service.



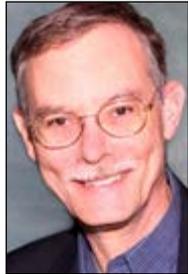
BAY COUNTRY CHORUS

Come Sing With Us at Brookletts Place (Senior Center) Every Monday Night
from 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM



- ▶ **Requirements**
- ▶ You enjoy singing and like to have fun
- ▶ You do not have to be able to read music, we supply learning CDs and sheet music
- ▶ If you are interested or wish to learn more, please contact Dick Hott at [410-763-8835](tel:410-763-8835)
- ▶ The Bay Country Chorus is a Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and is supported in part with Grants from the Talbot County Arts Council

Timely Notes for Chapter Treasurers



by **Bob Eckman**,
M-AD Treasurer

May 15 is the deadline for filing your chapter's IRS 990 form as well as reporting the completion of the annual Financial Review.

Failure to file a 990-N, 990-EZ or a full 990 at least once every three years will lead to

the automatic loss of a chapter's non-profit tax status, with negative

consequences to the chapter, it's patrons, the district and the Barbershop Harmony Society. Here is what each chapter Treasurer needs to do:

- File IRS Form 990-N or Form 990EZ or Form 990 with the IRS by the May 15 deadline. The table below shows which form you will need to complete, based on the chapter's gross revenue and year-end total assets.
- Send a copy of the completed 990 form to the Society office and retain a copy for the chapter.
- Submit a copy of the chapter financial review and year-end financial statements (Statement of Assets and Liabilities, and either a Balance Sheet or a cash account reconciliation report for chapters using the Cash Basis of accounting) to the Society office by May 15.
- Record completion of the 990 and Financial Review in eBiz (chapter Treasurer or Secretary).

IRS Form 990 Filing Information

Every US chapter MUST file an IRS 990 (N, EZ or the full form) by May 15.

For the 2013 tax year, here are the filing requirements:

CHAPTER GROSS RECEIPTS	FILE THESE FORMS WITH THE IRS	SEND TO SOCIETY HQ & RECORD IN eBIZ
\$0 - \$50,000	Form 990-N (electronic filing only)	File a copy of the electronic receipt with the Society office
\$50,001 - \$199,999, and total year end assets under \$500,000	Form 990EZ, Schedule A and Schedule T (if unrelated income is more than \$1,000)	File a copy of these forms with the Society office
\$200,000 and over, or total year end assets over \$500,000	Form 990, Schedule A and Schedule T (if unrelated income is more than \$1,000)	File a copy of these forms with the Society office

Reference material and instructions for filing is available on the Society web site. From the main page select Documents in the top menu bar and Tax Documents under Business and Finance. Once you file, be sure to update your 990 status on eBiz.

Chapter Financial Review

Section 4.4 of the Chapter Treasurers Manual describes the financial review process. A sample form is in the Chapter Treasurers Exhibits manual and is available in Excel format on the Society web site (Resources/Document Center/Chapter

Treasurer and Expenses/Chapter Treasurer Templates). As noted above, the completed Financial Review Form and year-end financial statements should be sent to the Society office. Update eBiz to record your completion of the review.

Useful Links

990N Filing: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

If you would like to automate (somewhat) the filing process for forms 990 and 990EZ, the Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute runs an online 990 preparation and filing site. I've used this service for over 8 years and find it simplifies the work and reduces errors. Similar to tools like TurboTax, it guides you through the

preparation of the form and checks for errors. It also saves your data from year to year for the historical parts of the form. The site is free for organizations with less than \$100,000 in gross receipts. Fees for larger organizations start at \$35. As part of the service you can file your 990 electronically with the IRS. You receive a .pdf copy for your records (and to email to Society HQ). Point your browser to: <http://efile.form990.org>

Finally, if you have any questions about the 990 filing or the Financial Review, please drop me an email or give me a call.

Voices of Gotham, Sirens of Gotham, FRED, and GQ in

FOUR OF A KIND

Saturday, May 10th, 2014 at 7:00pm
El Teatro at El Museo del Barrio
1230 5th Ave between 104th & 105th
East Harlem, New York City

FOR TICKETS VISIT WWW.VOICESOFGOTHAM.ORG

Bob Eckman, District Treasurer, (434) 589-1262
bob.eckman@comcast.net

Choosing your chapter's music



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

Perhaps the single most important decision that a singing organization faces is choosing which music to perform:

Who chooses the music in your Chapter, and why?

What kind of songs should you pick?

How does music difficulty-level play into your decisions?

What about choosing music for contest?

This topic is exhaustive and can stretch into many diverse sub-sets that are interconnected in your music program.

In my article this quarter, I will present a number of important factors to ponder when establishing your chorus repertoire. The final section deals specifically with choosing your contest literature.

Who chooses your Chapter's music? – There is no right or wrong answer to this question, but there are some things to consider.

The Chapter VP of Music and Performance should be a critical resource in the decision-making process. As a member of the Board and the Chair of the Music Team, the VP of Music and Performance understands the Chapter membership at large quite well and has a good idea of what the men might enjoy singing.

The Director is another critical player in choosing repertoire, as he or she is the person best able to understand what the chorus is capable of singing at any given point in its musical journey, as well as what skills the singers need to learn.

The VP of Music and Performance and the Director can therefore jointly lay the foundation and guidelines for the Music Team to choose new music for the chorus.

Why pick new music in the first place? – Regularly choosing new music is advisable for a number of reasons. For one thing, old music = old singing techniques. If your chorus is learning new musical

skills, it will tend not to employ the new skills in older repertoire because the chorus will revert back to “muscle memory”, or singing the way it used to sing.

Secondly, new music breeds new excitement in both the singers and the audience.

Thirdly, new repertoire keeps a Chapter's music program from stagnating.

Finally, no matter how hard the Music Team tries, there will always be a song or two in the repertoire that the singers do not universally enjoy. They will be happy to sing these songs for a while if they know that, at some point, new songs will replace them.

Show package considerations – Whether the chorus is singing a 20-minute or 60-minute performance, there should be a lot of variety in the repertoire.

A good performance always starts with a rousing show opener, has plenty of fun, up-tempo and toe-tapping songs that keep the audience's interest high, contains a tender ballad or two for poignancy, and finishes with an appropriate show closer.

Additional variety in your show might also include a patriotic number or two, a doo-wop set from the 1950's or '60's, and perhaps even a non-barbershop song.

I advise you to look at your current repertoire to determine whether or not you have sufficient variety in your song list. If not, you will certainly discover which types of songs you should consider purchasing in your next order of new music.

Music should be fun for the singers and for the audience, but there is a catch! – Your audience will

want to keep coming back to your shows if they like the music you sing; don't ever forget that!

For that matter, the men in your Chapter will want to keep coming to rehearsal every week if they like the music you sing.

In most cases, the Music Team can judiciously choose

... if the music is mostly up-beat, so are the singers and so is the audience.

music that both the singers and the audience will love. However, please keep in mind that most barbershoppers love to sing ballads, whereas most audiences don't like to hear them! 😊

In choosing your music, up-tempo and toe-tapping songs are viewed favorably, as are arrangements of famous songs (Yesterday by the Beatles, or Elton John's Can You Feel the Love Tonight), comedy songs, and songs that include some choreography. In general, if the music is mostly up-beat, so are the singers and so is the audience.

Level of musical difficulty is an important factor – The music sung by top quartet champions such as OC Times and Vocal Spectrum is incredible to hear and experience. But this music is also far beyond the scope of most barbershop choruses.

Barberpolecat songs such as My Wild Irish Rose and Down Our Way are fun to sing, but singing songs like this all night every rehearsal would not seem challenging at all to most Chapter choruses.

The Music Team must be extremely aware of a new song's difficulty level before choosing it for repertoire. Always choose pieces that will allow the chorus to succeed, even if there are some challenges to overcome along the way.

I also recommend that the Music Team determines what new skills the chorus will focus on learning in the

See Choosing, continued on next page

Legal, continued from previous page

next 12 months, and choose new music that will help teach and reinforce those skills.

What music should we choose for contest? – Without a doubt, your choice of contest literature is most important, for these two songs are going to be the breeding ground for some of your most significant improvement in the coming year. So choose wisely.

Some questions to ask in this regard:

Is the range in this song appropriate for our chorus? (Meaning, does it go too high for our Lead or Baritone sections? Is it too low for our Basses?)

Is our chorus able to handle all the difficult syncopation in this song?

Does our chorus demonstrate sufficient emotion in our performances on a regular basis that will allow us to sing this highly emotionally-charged ballad?

Is this song too easy or bland, and therefore, will our singers be bored learning it?

The list of such questions is endless.

I encourage you to choose contest vehicles that will challenge your singers to learn new skills. But make sure that you believe that they will be able to achieve success once they've learned them; that they will be able to grasp and appropriately perform the contest set.

A chorus does not have to win the contest or qualify for the District finals to have a wonderful experience on the contest stage.

Along the lines of choosing contest repertoire, please consider the following. Many Directors prefer that the chorus sings the same contest songs year in and year out, and for good reasons: more time spent on the songs means that the chorus will sing them better over time; more time spent with a choreography package means that the chorus will deliver the presentation better, etc.

However, it has not escaped my notice that **NONE** of the best choruses in our Society (Vocal Majority, Masters of Harmony, Westminster, Toronto, Ambassadors of Harmony, to name just a few) **EVER** repeat the same contest songs from year to year.

I believe this is the case because they know that singers will respond with much more enthusiasm to new music rather than continuing to re-hash the same material year after year. Their singers, therefore, will be fresher, sing fresher, and breathe fresh air into their new contest package, and this always translates for the better to the audience.

Yes, choosing new contest literature every year requires advance planning, but I believe the pay-off is so well worth it.

Learning new music is an exciting and worthwhile opportunity for all of our singers. Most barbershoppers are quite comfortable in learning 4-6 new songs a year; some Chapter choruses learn as many as 12! Your Music Team should be able to come up with the appropriate number of new songs for your Chapter. There are thousands of selections to choose from at Harmony Marketplace.

What are you waiting for? ☺

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

HARMONIZER SHOWS 2014

THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS & THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY, TOGETHER IN...
CRESCENDO!
TWO MEN'S CHORAL POWERHOUSES IN THEIR FIRST JOINT SHOW! WITH TOP QUARTETS VOCAL SPECTRUM, CROSSROADS, & DA CAPO!
GMU Arts Center Fairfax VA
JUN 21

THE ULTIMATE WOMEN'S CHORUS MEGA-CONCERT IS
Harmony at the Harbor
HOSTED BY THE HARMONIZERS, STARRING THE PRIDE OF BALTIMORE CHORUS, AND FEATURING THE GREATEST SLATE OF FEMALE QUARTETS YOU WILL EVER HEAR!
Meyerhoff Hall Baltimore MD
NOV 3

EVERYONE WANTS TO GET THE START THE SEASON AT
The Harmonizer Holiday Show
ALWAYS SOLD-OUT EARLY! CELEBRATE WITH THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS AT THEIR WACKIEST AND THEIR MOST SUBLIME!
1st Baptist Church Alexandria VA
DEC 5-6

Gathering My Thoughts

by Bob Heim, editor
Toosday Tunes, March 2014
Nassau Mid-Island Chapter

Have you heard this one? No, I'm not talking about a joke making the rounds. What I AM referring to is ringtones specifically, some sort of ringtone in true barbershop. Probably hard to find, but, certainly "findable."

The idea regarding possible benefits again became top-of-mind in a supermarket a

few weeks ago when some guy's iPhone made heads turn with a truly dreadful sound effect of a squealing pig. It didn't trigger my thoughts to bacon and eggs; rather how great it would be if I could easily input a suitable barbershop tag on my iPhone, prompting hearers to smile, begin a conversation and perhaps, just perhaps,

lead to a discussion of our Chapter, or where they might hear more such four-part harmony (and who knows, maybe become a member of the Society).

Yes, I have a feeling such ringtones are out there at a price, but a special three-second tag of a foursome singing "pick up and answer your phone" would surely identify

me as a devotee of four-part harmony (and a barbershopper). It might be expensive to set up, but I've always wanted the BHS to supply a FREE ringtone to members as one of its marketing tools.

Is it worth pursuing?

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT OFFICERS

President: Bill Colosimo (Linda); 571-213-7376; billcatps@aol.com

Immediate Past President: Dick Powell (Roxanne); 410-451-1957; rpowell74@verizon.net

Secretary: Keith Jones; 202-651-1268; keith.m.jones@MidAtlanticDistrict.com

Treasurer: Bob Eckman (Maggie); 434 589-1262; bob.eckman@comcast.net

Executive VP: Ig Jakovac (Anne Bureau); 267-932-8344; ijakovac@comcast.net

Board Members-at-Large:

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Hardman Jones (Amanda); 804-379-6257; hajones425@aol.com

Dennis Ritchey (Sherrie); 540-846-6408; denritche5@cox.net

Roger Tarpy (Jean); 804-829-2466; rtarpy@verizon.net

2013 DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

VP Chapter Support & Leadership Training:
Chuck Harner; 903-938-3001; CACHuck@cox.net

VP Chorus Director Development:
Glenn Phillips; 410-519-5385; scalhorn@msn.com

VP Contest & Judging:
Gary Plaag; 703-868-5152; gplaagbhs@gmail.com

VP Events: Walter Griffith (Mary Jo); 570-735-5577; imabari1@aol.com

VP Financial Development:
Alan Wile (Patty); 703-538-6526; alan.wile@comcast.net

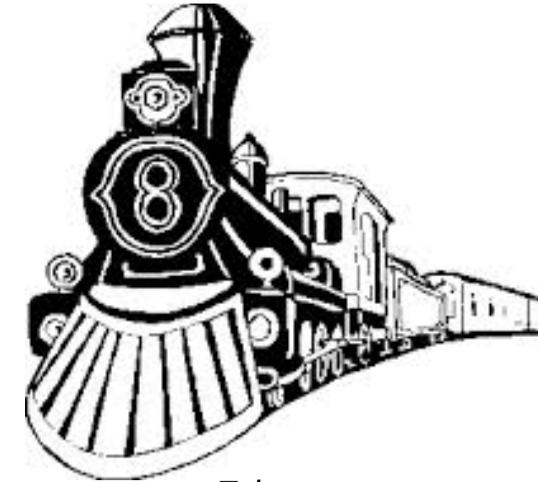
VP Marketing & Public Relations:
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VP Membership Development:
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VP Music & Performance: Roger Tarpy (Jean); 804-829-2466; rtarpy@verizon.net



Over 400 guests enjoyed a day of feasting and harmonizing at the Lansdale Summer Picnic last year. Make your plans to join the crowd eatin' chili and just chillin' out to the sounds of barbershop harmony. Ah, the livin' is easy!



Take a

Sentimental Journey

with the Red Rose Chorus

On Sunday, May 4, the Red Rose Chorus will escort you down memory lane with songs you remember from yesterday including, Wedding Bells, You Make Me Feel So Young, It's a Good Day and, of course, Sentimental Journey.

The show will feature perennial favorites, Razzmatazz – Mid-Atlantic District's 2014 Senior champs!

You'll also be delighted by the sounds of our chapter quartets, 4PM Curfew, Break from Blue Collar, Jewel Tones, Old Dogs New Tricks, Evening Mist, Lazy Daze, 3 Dads and a Lad, and Sum of Each.

Sentimental Journey will be presented at 3 p.m. in the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pa. 17601. There's plenty of free parking available.

Tickets available at www.RedRoseChorus.com

Coming soon: Lansdale's 29th consecutive Barbershop Picnic

The Lansdale Summer Picnic began in 1985 when the North Pennsmen Barbershop Chorus of Lansdale, Pa., under the direction of Chuck Lower, qualified to sing at the District Competition for the very first time. Fast forward to the present and the Lansdale Chapter, under the direction of Anne Bureau is stronger and healthier than ever, having qualified to sing at the District Competition for the 29th consecutive year. And we still celebrate by having a songfest!

The event has been traditionally held on the third Tuesday in June. Since 1998 our gala event has been held at the grove behind the Sellersville Fire Company in Sellersville, Pa. It is hard to beat off-street parking, sheltered seating for more than 400 people, refrigerated beer stand, cooking shed, plus flushing toilets! Shelter at this grove allows us to run the picnic as scheduled in all kinds of weather.

Last year we had 400 paid attendees! The price of admission has remained \$5/person for at least the last 20 years. We serve beer, birch beer, water, coffee, hot dogs with chili or sauerkraut, onions, mustard and ketchup, chips, pretzels.

Core attendees have been Allentown/Bethlehem, Abington/

Levittown, Brothers in Harmony, Bryn Mawr, Bucks County, Cherry Hill, Delaware County, Pottstown, Philadelphia, Princeton, Mahahoy City, Pottsville, Reading, and of course the North Pennsmen. More recent participants have been The Liberty Bells (Anne Bureau's Harmony, Inc. Chorus), Ringing Hills Sweet Adelines Chapter from Pottstown, and Harrisburg.

Each of the 13 chapters who attended last year along with 28 quartets performed one song each with the exception of the four International Competitors (Brothers in Harmony, Frank the Dog, RhythMix (HI), and Up All Night) who each sang two songs. Plus, throughout the evening, we heard hundreds of tags from all corners of the grove and lots of socializing with new and old friends - what an awesome night!!!

This year's picnic will be held on Tuesday, June 17 – save the date on your calendar – and take a moment to let us know you're coming by emailing wpayne01@comcast.net

The North Pennsmen expect to qualify for District Competition again next year!

— By *Walter Payne, Chapter PR Guy*

SUMMER IS FOR SOCIALIZING IN THAT GOOD OLD BARBERSHOP STYLE!

At last.....spring has arrived and the cold winter is finally behind us. Cheers and celebration!

NEWS from SOUTHERN DIVISION



by **Hardman Jones,**
Acting VP Southern Division

The Southern Division contest is coming in May and Harmony College East is coming in June. How about even more singing and fellowship fellow barbershoppers from other chapters in your area... a family picnic, a joint show, singing the National Anthem at a baseball game, a day of coaching and singing ... the ideas are endless.

I know that some chapters have standing events and other chapters in the northern and southern reaches of the Division are planning events for the summer

and fall. Start planning an event now with other chapters and have more fun singing.

Southern Division Convention and Contest will be held May 30-31 in Roanoke. Make your plans, bring your quartet, bring your family, reserve your hotel room... Roanoke is a great venue for the convention with a first class hotel, great convention center and good restaurants within easy walking distance. It would be great to have 20 or more quartets and choruses to sing for a great audience. I look forward to seeing a large and enthusiastic crowd in Roanoke.

Harmony College East – June 12-14 – Salisbury State College, Salisbury, Md. HCE is a great weekend that you should not miss. There will be a lot of singing, learning, coaching, and fellowship.

And.... it's not your grandfather's HCE. **Roger Tarp** and **Ig Jackovac** have developed new classes and assembled a group of outstanding coaches and instructors. Check the MAD website for details and make your plans to attend.

VP Youth In Harmony:

Gary Plaag; 703-868-5152;
gplaagbhs@gmail.com

VP Atlantic Division:

Rob France (Lisa); 215-766-8066;
rob@soundkat.com

VP Northern Division:

George "Oley" Olson (Pat); 973-539-7941;
oleyols@aol.com

VP Southern Division:

Hardman Jones (Amanda); 804-379-6257;
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END NOTES



WHO SANG THAT FAMOUS THEME SONG?

Early vocals about Mighty Mouse's "saving the day" are credited to *The Terrytooners*, the made-up name for a barbershop-quartet-in-residence for Golden Records. The group was also called *The Sandpipers*.

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