



# MID-ANTICS

Volume 46, Issue 3 • SUMMER-FALL 2015  
A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

## Congratulations

*to all our District representatives at the Pittsburgh International Convention. Your performances made us proud!*

- 4th Place: Alexandria
- 6th Place: Voices of Gotham
- 8th Place: Brothers in Harmony
- 11th Place: 'Round Midnight
- 19th Place: Gimme Four
- 25th Place: Mayhem
- 29th Place: BSQ
- 32nd Place: Last Men Standing





... FOUR, SIX, EIGHT— WHO DO WE APPRECIATE? the MAD quartets and choruses that represented us so well at the International Convention in Pittsburgh, June 28-July 5.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To perpetuate the old American institution, the barbershop quartet, and to promote and encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship among its members throughout the Mid-Atlantic District by the formation in every city, town, and hamlet, of local chapters, composed of members interested in the purposes of this corporation, which shall be the same as the purposes of the Society; to hold annual, local, and district contests in quartet and chorus singing, to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation; to initiate, promote, and participate in charitable projects; and to promote public appreciation of barbershop quartet and chorus singing by publication and dissemination thereof.

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## 6 reasons your chapter should host the next Division Convention:

1. you get to see *what really goes on* behind the curtain
2. you get *up close and personal* with quartets, choruses, judges
3. you can look important with a *walkie-talkie!*
4. closing doors in people's faces is *power!*
5. so is waving a *hush!* sign
6. And did we mention you get **PAID** for having all this fun? Yep. **\$\$\$** in your treasury.

Contact Walter Griffith, *NOW*, to tell him your chapter is ready to meet this challenge — and have all this fun!

[imabari1@aol.com](mailto:imabari1@aol.com)

See you  
(and your walkie-talkies)  
in  
Reading, Harrisburg, Reston,  
Cherry Hill or Ocean City  
in 2016!



by *Walter Griffith, Jr.*  
VP Events

## Rock On with Mid-Atlantic Events

The 2015 Mid-Atlantic District convention cycle is just about over with the last event, the District Quartet Championship and International Preliminary Chorus Competition set to be held October 23-24 in Ocean City, Maryland hosted by the Brothers in Harmony of Hamilton, N.J.

This year, the Events Team had the great pleasure of running our International Preliminary Quartet competition and three Division Conventions (one was a combined convention) assisted by the *Bryn Mawr Mainliners* under the direction of *Tom Peck* and *Jeff Porter* and the *Fairfax Jubilaires* led by *Randy Moller*. The Mainliners actually served as hosts for two of our spring conventions and the Fairfax Jubilaires hosted the Southern Division convention. Both have been invaluable helping to make each event as efficient and enjoyable as possible. The Events Team sends a great big "THANK YOU" to these wonderful chapters of volunteers.

We continue to work to make our conventions more efficient and enjoyable. In 2015 we implemented a wristband policy for all attendees to make the entrance into the conventions easier by simply showing a wristband, and not being required to fumble for a registration card. This

Did you contact Walter to volunteer, yet? The Fairfax Jubilaires had a great time and experienced first hand all of the six great benefits. Email [imabari1@aol.com](mailto:imabari1@aol.com) RIGHT NOW and tell him your chapter is ready to sign up!

process has worked very well and most attendees really appreciated the new system.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding as we implemented this change. In the near future we hope to implement an electronic process to the score sheets sent to your phone as a text message.

Our schedule of 2016 conventions is finalized and *we are looking for Host Chapters for each of the events*. If you are interested in getting up close and personal with all the contestants and learning about everything that happens behind the curtain, please contact me at [imabari1@aol.com](mailto:imabari1@aol.com) for more information. Here is the lineup of conventions for all of 2016.

**April 15-16, 2016** – The International Quartet Preliminary Contest & Convention will be held at The Inn at Reading (<http://www.innatreading.com/>). This is later than usual to avoid conflict with Good Friday and Easter. The hotel is a new site for us but the convention center is attached to the hotel and the room rate of \$89.99 per night can't be beat.

**May 13-14, 2016** - The Atlantic/Western Division combined convention will be held at Harrisburg Hilton (<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/pennsylvania/hilton-harrisburg>).

**May 27-28, 2016** - The Southern Division Convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Reston, Va. ([www.reston.hyatt.com/](http://www.reston.hyatt.com/)).

**June 3-4, 2016** – The Northern Division Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Philadelphia - Cherry Hill Hotel ([www.crowneplaza.com/CherryHill](http://www.crowneplaza.com/CherryHill)).

**October 21-22, 2016** - The District Quartet and Chorus and International Chorus Convention will be held at the Ocean City Convention Center in Ocean City, Md. (<http://ocmdconventioncenter.com/>).

Please be sure to check the district web site for further information. And please mark down the new dates and locations on your calendar.

And please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Your participation in this fashion helps us meet our "room night" guarantees and keeps the cost of our conventions (and your dues) down to reasonable levels.

Thank you for all the support you provide to me and the Events Team throughout the year. And thank you for the opportunity to serve all the members of the Mid-Atlantic District as your Events Vice President. I am looking forward to another very successful year.

## Oct. 23-24

See you at the **DISTRICT CONVENTION** in Ocean City  
get your very own 2015 Ocean City Vacation Guide: [www.oceancity.org](http://www.oceancity.org)  
or call 1.888.626.3386

## Alexandria medals!

As 121 men entered the stage at Pittsburgh's Consol Energy Center, there was a noticeable buzz in the arena.

Perhaps it was the costumes?

Decked out in Edwardian/Victorian Era period attire (with a bit of steampunk thrown in for good measure), the Alexandria Harmonizers were certainly presenting a new look. The performance, however, was vintage Alexandria. The chorus opened with Steve Tramack's arrangement of *Someone Like You* from the musical "Jekyll and Hyde", taking the audience on a rollercoaster ride of emotion.

They followed that tender ballad with the rollicking, *Me Ole Bamboo* from "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", arranged by Clay Hine, complete with the chorus' 20-man front row twirling LED-lit "bamboo" poles. It was quite a sight and the audience's standing ovation let the Harmonizers know they had delivered a hit. That was confirmed several hours later as the chorus earned a 4<sup>th</sup> place bronze medal, its 19<sup>th</sup> medal in International competition.

The award was the result of months of preparation and the culmination of several days of intense rehearsals. The hours spent with Director **Joe Cerutti**, Choreographer **Carlos Barillo**, and Coach **Cindy Hansen-Ellis** drove the chorus to get the most out of every word and phrase and helped them deliver their award-winning performance.

These efforts will continue to benefit the chorus in the year ahead as well and their audiences will reap the rewards. The Harmonizers have several high impact events planned for the next year; including the **American Icon** concert in September, defending our District Championship in October, a newly formatted **Holiday Show** in December, and third annual



editions of our **Aca Challenge** a cappella contest and **Armed Forces Day Show**.

Other exciting events are in the early planning stages, and of course the chorus looks forward to next year's International Contest in Nashville. Between the current success and the exciting times ahead, it's great to be a Harmonizer!

*By Dave Branstetter,  
VP Marketing and Public Relations, Alexandria Harmonizers*

The Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention in Pittsburgh, Pa. brought 28 choruses, 53 quartets and 23 collegiate quartets to the competition stage. The top three quartets are: Instant Classic (97.5), Forefront (92.6) and Main Street (92.4). The top three choruses are: The Westminster Chorus (Westminster, CA) (97.5), Ambassadors of Harmony (St. Louis, MO) (95.6) and Central Standard (Metro Kansas City, MO) (92.8).

Congratulations to all the competitors. (Full details at [barbershop.org](http://barbershop.org).)

*Competitors photos in this issue by Lorin May, The Harmonizer*

# Into the Fire



## VoG steps forth 'defiantly and joyously'

When Voices of Gotham ventured to compete in Las Vegas last summer, the future was filled with uncertainty. Not only were we in the thick of recording our first album, trying to dust off and perfect old charts before the final sessions in August, but we were also immersed in a thorough search process for a new director as our founding conductor, **Larry Bomback**, had announced his departure in early

spring. It wasn't until December, after countless interviews and discussions that our new director, **Bill Stauffer**, stepped up to the podium.

The moment he did, the chorus was immediately ignited.

The kindling to spark Bill's passionate directing came in the form of two masterful, customized-for-Gotham charts by **Steve Tramack** and our

own **Matt Gallagher: *Into the Fire* and *How Could I Ever Know***. Beyond the innovative yet sturdy chord crafting in the arrangements, the lyrics themselves in both songs compelled us with their relevance.

*How Could I Ever Know* tells the story of a bittersweet goodbye, ending with the uplifting thought that "though we're apart / I'll be there in your heart," a sentiment which rang close

to home given our recent parting with our founding leader.

Meanwhile, *Into the Fire* summons the spirit of facing new challenges by defiantly and joyously stepping forth with one's beloved brothers into "valleys, waters, jungles and hell," all to "ride

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*See FIRE, continued on next page*

## FIRE

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home again with a story to tell." And as much as Gotham has always had that plucky spirit, there was something about the unknown of diving into competition with a new director this year which made the tune feel all the more timely.

So we set off for Pittsburgh fired up for the heat of competition, not realizing that it would be the warmth generated by collaboration between choruses which would leave the most lasting memory. The day before the big contest, we gathered in rehearsal rooms -- first with **Central Standard** and then with the **Alexandria Harmonizers** -- to exchange performances of our contest packages.

Personally, I often find it challenging to fully enjoy hearing other choruses while sitting on the opposite end of a gargantuan, sterile arena behind a barrier of stoic judges.

In contrast, sitting inches away and being dazzled by the spectacle of Alexandria's *Ol' Bamboo* or enchanted by the elegance of Central Standard's *Beloved* reminded me that the pettiness of competition pales in comparison to the deep sense of camaraderie which connects all men within the society. These up-close and personal performance swaps restored the human element -- a focal point of Bill's -- to the often impersonal and overwhelming convention experience.

Still, savoring the spirit of companionship between choruses didn't stop us from embracing the competition and reveling in the results. When we found out we'd gotten our highest scores to date, we were indeed overwhelmed. Perhaps it was just the contrast of not hearing our name when the top five were announced, assuming we were still leagues below, right before discovering just how on the cusp of medaling we were, having placed sixth. We were also thrilled for our



chapter quartets **Gimme Four**, who made it to the top 20 for the first time, and **'Round Midnight**, who advanced after four years of twelfth place to being the mic testers for the top ten.

Looking back, it's clear that we were in a more stable and prepared place for this year's contest than last. And yet there were two rehearsals in particular which seemed to make the biggest difference. First, the morning of contest day we warmed up with a silent rehearsal, running the entire package twice with no phonation, both to save our voices and to isolate the element of physical and emotional engagement that our choreographer, **Cy Wood**, had been sculpting tirelessly within us over the last three years.

Just two weeks prior, Cy also stepped up our game by bringing **Douglass Sills**, the Broadway star from **The Scarlet Pimpernel** who first performed *Into the Fire*, to our rehearsal. Doug spoke of the unknown impact music can

have; a special education teacher once told him she listened to *Into the Fire* every morning on the way to work to prepare for the epic and glorious battle ahead. He reminded us that the song exists only in the moment and need not be bogged down by comparisons to what was or what will be. But most importantly, he let us know the impact we'd had on him, explaining that "so often in this business, it's all about finding the next job...it's refreshing to see so many people doing this for the sheer love of craft."

That love of craft is what makes barbershop so meaningful: we join forces every Thursday to light a fire of four-part harmony. At times, that fire becomes a weapon and at times it provides warmth and sustenance, but ultimately the reason we keep it burning is simply for the joy we find basking in its beautiful glow.

By Josh Ehrlich,  
Voices of Gotham Chorus, Hell's Kitchen Chapter

photo by  
Steven N. Severinghaus

**Broadway actor and Tony Award Nominee Douglas Sills, who first performed *Into the Fire* fronts the *Voices of Gotham* in this rehearsal photo.**



# Onward & Upward

## Hamilton Square places in top 10

*Hamilton Square Brothers in Harmony, under the direction of Jack Pinto, reports via Facebook that the chorus received their best score ever (86.2) at the International Competition and placed eighth out of 28 competitors, keeping the Mid-Atlantic District in the even-numbered slots:*

*4th place — Alexandria  
6th place — Hell's Kitchen  
8th place — Hamilton Square.*

## International Collegiate Contest wows the crowd

In a Collegiate Contest that has gotten more competitive with each succeeding year, MAD quartets **Students of the Game** and **Brothers in Arms** acquitted themselves well.

The Collegiate Contest has developed into a springboard to the big contest, which has increasingly been dominated by past college champions, and offshore quartets such as current world champs **Musical Island Boys** of New Zealand.

Posting A-level scores, **Trocadero**, a quartet from Sweden, beat out 23 other young quartets from around the world to capture the college championship, leading a foreign takeover of the collegiate division. Four of the top five quartets hailed from outside the United States.



**7th Place: STUDENTS OF THE GAME**

Tenor:	Paul Franek	Bari:	Brian Mastrull
Lead:	Joe Servidio, Jr.	Bass:	Ethan Wolfe



**18th Place: BROTHERS IN ARMS**

Tenor:	Kevin Juliana	Bari:	Mike Duca
Lead:	Jamie Isley	Bass:	Jordan Dubois



## **FIVE** reasons you may be the **PERFECT** volunteer to staff the **Harmony Marketplace** in Ocean City in October

1. You like getting your hands on other people's money (temporarily).
2. You just loved playing store as a kid — fulfill your childhood fantasies!
3. You enjoy helping shoppers find just the right birthday gift or stocking stuffer.
4. You look forward to spending time totally surrounded by all things barbershop — charts, tracks, books, clothes, tchotchkes
5. Having 500 people smile at you and say, "Thank you," would really make your day.

**Contact Walter Griffith, NOW, to tell him you want to play store — and have all this fun!**

[imabari1@aol.com](mailto:imabari1@aol.com)



## A new look at *Our Society's direction*

### *What we expect at International*

As you are reading elsewhere in this issue, MAD's wonderful successes in competition during the recent Pittsburgh International Convention gave us a great sense of pride and joy! Wow! We have much to celebrate! Seeing all our quartets excel in the Collegiate and International contests, along with the terrific contest performances of our representative choruses, underscored our District's commitment to high-quality entertainment in the barbershop style, along with providing great direction, instruction, coaching and support through the initiatives available to our ensembles (like Top Gun,



by **Bill Colosimo,**  
MAD IPP

HCE and our Music Assistance Service).

For many veteran International Convention attendees who are not directly involved in a competing ensemble, the experience of watching and hearing the "best of our style" duke it out for hours and days has been the norm for years, decades...perhaps "always!" Competing participants, too, have come to know "the drill," involving, in most cases, arrival at a convention ready to "compete," and spending additional hours of rehearsal while in their convention hotel, only occasionally having "free time" to either watch other contests or participate in the limited number of "convention" activities that may be offered. And then, there are the "leaders," those whose arrival at International means a hasty hunkering down in a series of pre-convention meetings (District Presidents, Society Board, various judging category groups and committees).

Despite good intentions over years now, "International" had meant, for virtually everyone with a reason to be there, either

a "sit and watch," "rehearse and compete," or "meet, present, THEN sit and watch OR rehearse and compete" experience!

### *Expectations amended?*

Don't get me wrong; the "norm" as we've come to know it can still be an amazing experience for convention participants. But, over years now, there has been growing underlying rumble of dissatisfaction that the term "convention" -- implying that "convening" is to be with, learning from and just enjoying in "social ways" the company of others who share a common passion for our art form -- should really just be replaced with what the event had truly become: meetings and contests. Fortunately, over the last two-three years, not coincidentally under the leadership of CEO Marty Monson, this "rumbling" has clearly been heard.

Yes, there will always be time, expense and facilities constraints on what can be offered to convention attendees to enhance their experience. But, as this year's International proved, there can be and have been modifications to the convention experience which forecast a changing tide to a more participatory, educational and eye-opening experience for Society members and their families who attend. Further, the enhanced emphasis on outreach to our "communities," particularly the local community (generally a large metropolitan areas) hosting the convention, means involvement of more locally-based performing groups, many composed of excited young people, many non-barbershop, enrolling them and their families and fans into a favorable experience of our art form...many of whom have never heard the quality of our great music!

Here are just some of the notable "amendments" (really enhancements!) to this year's Pittsburgh experience that



provide evidence of our new view of "convention:"

- Enhanced numbers and qualities of educational events during the week, particularly 100+ class sessions of Harmony University offerings (several of which I was privileged to teach), providing valuable learning opportunities in singing, leadership, creativity, chapter management and music education;
- The enhanced "Saturday Night Spectacular," originally simply envisioned to "get butts in the seats before the Quartet Finals," now having developed into a wide variety of musical acts, many of which represented the Pittsburgh community, and some of which were cleverly staged and coached to provide collaborative performances with some of our best quartets and ensembles;
- An *intentional* effort, particularly with an *outstanding* (even relentless, daily!) social-media based broadcast campaign encouraging attendees to really *enjoy* the "social aspects" of

**See NEW DIRECTION, continued on next page**



**NEW DIRECTION**  
continued from previous page

Pittsburgh with each other—including meaningful merchant discounts for food, beverage and shopping, tourist attractions, and highly-visible venues for programmed and ad hoc singing by our ensembles *and rank-and-file barbershoppers* throughout the city; and

- An enhanced, *enforced* scheduling of competing choruses to insure an “on time” chorus contest (almost to the minute!), thus allowing for nearly an entire Friday evening of new “free time” to *enjoy oneself*, not necessarily collapse from exhaustion... of sitting!

**Really a “new direction?”**

It’s always hard to turn a battleship around. As a Society member for nearly 40 years now (yikes?!), I could be just as “jaded” as the next guy with what I might expect my Society’s

direction, including its events, to offer to me as a member. But I am steadfast in my support of any enhancements to what we do (how we offer it and how we broadcast it to others today and to future generations) that result in enhanced member satisfaction and community awareness of barbershop. Frankly, without such enhancements, we cannot hope to stem our Society-wide membership decline in the “21st century world,” garner a new generation of members and supporters, or gain sufficient public acclaim — press notoriety as more than just an “odddity of days gone by!” — necessary to influence those outside our Society to consider funding us on a large enough scale to further advance our efforts!

I saw glimmers of this potential in Pittsburgh. The downtown area was, as I perceived it, our convention town for

the whole week! The new initiatives and events were, with a few hiccups here and there, successful. The content of offerings had become more innovative, but hardly dismissive of the style and art form we seek to encourage and preserve...after all, there still were over 40 hours of barbershop music contests during the week!

Bringing this “home,” I know our MAD Board is continuing to explore ways that we as a district can and will capitalize on this trend toward a new direction, both in the content of our own “conventions” and in the ways we broadcast them in our communities to broaden awareness and enjoyment of what we’re so privileged to hold dear! That way, every member of MAD, every chapter, every family member and fan can find it a real joy to experience our conventions...as I surely did our Pittsburgh experience!



The following attempts to capture and share a few thoughts and some of the experiences my wife Karen and I had at the BHS International Competitions in Pittsburgh.

First, if you ever have an opportunity to attend one of these annual affairs, DO IT! The levels of talent, performance, dedication, support and collegiality are amazing. The chorus and quartet performances often left us speechless — rather difficult to accomplish with me!

Gimme Four and ‘Round Midnight were both great. We talked with the GF guys at the hotel and they were indeed “over the moon.” They were pleased to hear of the reactions within the Harmonizers regarding their success. They, and the guys from Last Man Standing, agreed that the quartet competition was unbelievably keen this year.

Here is a personal anecdote that links my experience

at Harmony College East (HCE) and one of the great experiences of the past week: While at HCE I chose to sing with a mixed chorus of about a dozen folks. When **Rob Mance**, the director of that chorus found out I would be in Pittsburgh, he extended an invitation to visit his chorus, **Central Standard**.

Fortunately I was able to attend their afterglow when they received word and announced that they had placed third and won bronze! What a joy to observe the reactions of the chorus members and their families and friends to this accomplishment!

This accomplishment was even more impressive when the crowd was told the story of how the chorus started with seven people at the initial meeting and how they reached third place internationally, all in a time span of only eight years!

The Convention planning teams did a great job



including the history of the Society, awarding significant contributors, and providing joyous performances of local vocal groups and past winners. Particularly impressive were the messages and performances of the **Musical Island**

**Boys!** Wow, what a quartet!

In addition to all of this, for the first time ever, a female, Sweet Adelines Queen of Harmony Debbie Cleveland, served as one of the presenters. Good Show, BHS!

If you can attend a future international competition, be prepared to be thrilled and humbled. All told, I am now more than ever impressed with the quality and significance of our craft and our hobby and the impact we have on others!

—Ron Todd, *Hunterdon Harmonizers, from In Tune*

*My experience at*  
**BHS International in Pittsburgh**



Princeton Pro Musica Director Dr. Ryan James Brandau stands in at bass, singing a Barberpole Cat number with Faces 4 Radio at a fund-raising cabaret night for the classical music organization.

## Faces 4 Radio shares the music that makes a difference!

Faces 4 Radio had an excellent opportunity to spread the word about our hobby with the Sodexo Corporation aboard the tall ship L'Hermione, docked in Annapolis.

The CEO of Sodexo was a moving force in the rebuilding of this tall ship that originally brought Lafayette to the American colonies from France.

In 2015, the reconstructed L'Hermione sailed from France to the USA, stopping at numerous ports on our east coast and participating in a number of holiday and tall ship events.

F4R was invited to perform on the main deck of the L'Hermione for Sodexo's CEO, management team, and selected guests and dignitaries from the Annapolis area. The quartet enjoyed "performing at sea," but notes that unfortunately they had no sea chanteys in their repertoire.

By Mark Sanders

## A Night with Pro Musica

Princeton Pro Musica highlighted Mid-Atlantic's own Faces 4 Radio, 2014 International Senior Quartet champs on its fundraising cabaret night recently, and had its artistic director, Dr. Ryan Brandau stand in to sing a pole cat with the champs, creating that bridge crossing barbershop and classical styles.

It all came about last year when F4R's bass, **Jeff Winik**, offered the quartet to be auctioned off as part of last year's event. Jeff is also a member of Princeton Pro Musica. Lo and behold, the winning bidder decided to use the quartet's show package to entertain the classical group at this year's event, showing classically trained singers can indeed cross genres and still find fulfillment in singing harmony, even without instruments.

"When I re-auditioned for Princeton Pro Musica this year," Winik said, "Dr. Brandau

told me he once sang in a barbershop quartet in high school. I took that as a cue and invited him to sing a pole cat with us on the fund raiser. He took the bait, and with one 20-minute rehearsal in his studio at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, we were ready! We even put him in classic barbershop garb.

"When we told the crowd during our set we prepared a special treat," he continued, Dr. Brandau walked right up to the front of the room and the place broke out in applause. We bedecked him with our gold medal and he sang the bass part for Sweet and Lovely, finessing every note and even milked the tag. A standing ovation followed in order."

The quartet now had new fans, showing that the barbershop style can be enjoyed up close by audiences crossing genres.

By Jeff Winik



## Getting Paid in Goose Bumps

Ever wonder why some guys get into a quartet and stay with the same guys forever? They don't win contests, they don't headline shows, they don't get rich. But throughout the year they get paid in the currency that matters most – goose bumps!

Just listen to these examples from **Gent's Night Out**, a delightful quartet featuring four great guys (**Barney, Don, Al, and Carlo**) from the **Harrisburg, Pa.** chapter, as relayed to us by lead and **Western Division District Vice President Don Myers**:

"About three years ago Gent's Night Out was asked to perform for a local Alzheimer facility in Harrisburg, Pa. Our reaction was, 'Sure, you bet!' but we had some reservation about what to expect. On arrival, an audience of about 30 was sitting quietly waiting for us.

"We began our opening song and a gentleman sitting in a wheelchair, dead center, first row, raised his head and smiled. He stayed that way for the entire half hour we performed. When we finished his head went back down. As we were leaving, the staff nurse come over and asked if we had noticed him watching us perform.

"We said, 'Sure!'

"Then the nurse told us it was the first time in over a year that he had raised his head and stayed connected with anything or anyone!

"Another time we were at a local Senior Living Center. Following our performance, we were standing around chatting with some of the residents and an 87-year-old lady in a wheelchair came over and asked if we knew Lida Rose from

"The Music Man." We had just finished performing that very number on our annual show so of course, we said yes!

"She then asked if we would sing it for her, and asked if we would mind if she sang Marian's counter. So we started the song and came to the key change. She began to sing with a bright, clear, strong and gorgeous voice. She was awesome.

"When we finished we were stunned and everyone around us applauded wildly.

"Then she admitted that in 1956 she was the lead for Marian off Broadway and toured with the Music Man when they took the show on the road through New York and New England before returning and opening on Broadway.

"When we returned the following year, we learned that our "Marian" had died, but had talked continuously about singing Lida Rose with our quartet.

"Goose bumps, I have more than a few. But I can't wait to earn some more."



By Dick Powell

## Harbor City Chorus Energized!

Baltimore's Harbor City Chorus with its vibrant new director, John Rogers, has sung for four audiences in the past two months and plans several exciting activities for the fall.

**May 9, 2015: Lupus walk.** The Alliance for Lupus Research held a walk-a-thon at Baltimore's Inner Harbor on May 9, 2015. The event was well attended, and the cloudy morning cleared and became a sunny afternoon. Perhaps it was due to the harmonizing from Harbor City Chorus and friends. The Chorus opened the event with the National Anthem—a favorite in Baltimore, where the poem, "The Star Spangled Banner" was written. Then, a short distance down the route, our voices encouraged walkers with joyous songs as they passed by.

**May 25, 2015: Parkville, MD VFW.** HCC provided the music for the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Parkville, MD VFW. The former movie theater provides a nice venue for these events. Patriotic songs were sung and appreciated as we celebrated the members of the armed services and remembered those who have passed on. "Services 5 Medley" is always a favorite request.

**June 21 Fathers' Day: Brookdale Senior Living Community.** It is always a privilege for us to sing for the clients in senior living communities. The audience enjoyed our singing and even laughed at our jokes!

**July 5, 2015: Lighthouse Assisted Living Facility.** Since it was the day after July Fourth, we started with patriotic selections and then sang old favorites including some Barberpole Cat selections. A special honor was having an Army Viet Nam veteran right in the front row.

**Music Man:** Four HCC members are making the switch temporarily from Barbershop to Broadway. Tenor Sam



HCC provided tenor Sam Doolittle, lead Tim Prevatt, bass Jonathan Brune, and baritone Fred Frey to fill the roles of the barbershop quartet in Charm City Players performance of "The Music Man."

Doolittle, lead Tim Prevatt, baritone Fred Frey, and bass Jonathan Brune are performing as the River City school board/quartet in "The Music Man." The production is being staged by the Charm City Players through August 2, 2015. Fred has had so much fun learning the music, he has to find extra time to learn the lyrics. Besides Sincere and Lida Rose, singing with the chorus requires learning songs like You Got Trouble, and Wells Fargo Wagon. All agree the patter song Rock Island is especially fun and challenging.

**November concert:** The HCC annual concert is returning this autumn. "Sunshine, Redeem the Summer" will open Nov. 7 at the Towson United Methodist Church, 501 Hampton Lane, Towson, Md. The show will feature guest quartets and include lots of happy songs.

**HCE comments:** John Rogers, Michael Bereson, Tim Prevatt attended. Harmony College East. Director, John Rogers was especially intrigued by the Directors' roundtable. He is using what he learned at rehearsals as we prepare for fall concert. Tim Prevatt attended the director classes and music theory.

By Fred Frey

## air powers all



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

A machine cannot run without a source of energy to fuel it, and the same can be said for the energy that powers our singing: air. This may seem self-evident, but directors spend a lot of rehearsal time imploring their singers to put more air into the sound.

The problem here, I think, is that most singers will not of their own volition put sufficient amounts of air (energy) into their vocal production in order to excel at singing.

We directors need to find the ways to highlight this important matter and, most importantly, to create in our singers the impetus to change their default in the way they put air into the sound.

In this article, I will discuss air from multiple perspectives, particularly interchanging the concept of “air” with the concept of “energy.” I will also provide some techniques and exercises to get the process rolling.

### Posture first!

The process of putting air in the tone cannot get under way until we address a good singing posture. After all, if you try to water your lawn while there is a kink in the hose, the water will simply not come out of the hose well, nor will it be a productive use of your time.

Some general guidelines for good singing posture include:

- feet shoulder width apart;
- one foot slightly in front of the other;
- legs straight but not locked at the knees;
- upper torso (carriage) straight and not hunched forward;
- shoulders raised and comfortable (quiet);
- head resting naturally and, if anything, tilted **slightly** down (many singers raise their chins to sing the high notes, adding lots of tension to their vocal production);
- arms hanging comfortably to the sides.

Given these conditions, “press” the body slightly forward. This puts all the components of singing in a relaxed, comfortable position, and the “forward press” ensures that the energy while singing will be sent out toward the audience.

### Air intake

The next part of the process is critical and arguably the most difficult default to change: taking a full “singer’s

breath.”

Why is this so hard?

Because we all take approximately 20,000 breaths a day, **ALL** of which are shallow and weak. As directors, we must remember that our singers are fighting against a lifetime of shallow default breathing. It takes a decided effort to change our breathing when we sing and perform.

With this in mind, have your singers place their hands on their stomachs, sides, or lower backs. Have them breathe in slowly, taking in as much air as possible, and notice how their abdominal areas expand as the air comes in.

Gradually speed up the intake of air while insisting that they take a full breath. As they quicken the intake process, some of your singers will start to raise their chests and shoulders when they breathe in.

Psychologically, the human mind “thinks” we should raise our chests and shoulders while breathing in quickly, but this is a misconception we must overcome. For those in this situation, have them hold an imaginary straw in one of their hands and “sip” in air as if from that straw. Suddenly the chests and shoulders remain quiet!

Ultimately, your singers have to realize how important it is for them to have a full tank of air before they start singing, and throughout the singing process. They must change their default and take a good “singer’s breath” at all times.

### Expending the air into the sound

But no amount of air/fuel/energy in the tank is worth much unless we put it into our vocal production. This is another tricky default to change.

Many singers learn how to take a good “singer’s breath,” but then they only allow a trickle of the air to go into the sound. On the contrary, we must teach them to continually give the air back into the sound, repeating the breathing in/expending out process whenever necessary. Singing without sufficient air will sound thin, reedy, and uninspiring, and almost certainly out of tune (flat) and sluggish.

Our singers must learn to expend the air into their sound at a consistent rate. It is common to expend 40 percent of one’s air in the first two to three notes of a phrase, then have to conserve air the rest of the phrase.

It is also very common for singers to make it successfully

through around 70 percent of the phrase and then start to tighten up and add tension into the vocal instrument when they start to run out of breath at the end of the phrase.

We must teach them to regulate the flow of air into their tone consistently, from the first syllable of the phrase all the way to the end. If you cannot make it, no problem; stagger-breathe when you need more air and then get back to singing with maximum air support.

I will add one more thing to the topic of putting air into the sound.

Ends of phrases suffer — often dramatically — because singers unconsciously stop singing with support as they near the ends of phrases. (Point of fact: Even the choruses who score the highest in our contests have to constantly work to improve this A-level skill!)

One way to help add energy and completion to each phrase is to ask your singers to put “ski tips” on the end of each phrase. Ski tips always tilt in an upward direction at the forward end of the ski. This serves as a good analogy for putting “upward spin” (or energy) at the end of each phrase in order that the phrase doesn’t dwindle away.

**Air = energy .....**

**facial and body movement = energy, too!**

I have compared air sometimes in this article with “fuel,” and other times with “energy.” There is another way we can channel energy into our singing that goes hand in hand with air expenditure and, in fact, will help us better regulate our air when we sing. This is by moving our bodies sympathetically with the emotion of the song.

Most directors spend a lot of rehearsal time asking the men to move their bodies when they sing, as it is very common for our singers to stand still when they perform. Think of it in terms of energy: if the men exhibit no energy when they sing (read: they stand completely still), then there will likely be limited energy in their singing.

The audience will feel this and go away unimpressed.

*Movement in the face and body adds life and meaning to the vocal line.* As an added benefit, it also serves as a continuous reminder to keep putting energy (not just movement but also air!) into the sound. Simply put, your singers will likely increase their use of air in their singing



See AIR, continued on next page

## AIR

*Continued from previous page*

if they come to embrace facial and body movement as necessary qualities for good singing.

Finally, intonation problems are often a result of insufficient air in the tone. In general, the higher the pitch, the more air and energy one needs to sing that pitch well. Train your singers to be aware of where the peaks are located in their vocal line, then train them to put more air/energy/fuel into the tone in order to sing those notes well.

Word of caution: more air does not equate to "louder". The idea is not to get your chorus singing at a louder dynamic level, but rather fuller. A "full" sound may seem louder to you in that it achieves a higher decibel level, but I assure you that a "full" sound is a byproduct of your men singing in tune with good tone, good balance, and sufficient energy. This correlates to barbershop catch-phrases such as "lock and ring" and "expanded sound." You will be able to achieve this even while singing at a very soft dynamic level, but the use of air is the most important technique to master in your quest to sing and perform better.

### Conclusion

Good posture puts our men in a position to be able to excel in singing, but **NOTHING** is more important than the flow of air in the sound toward making great singing a reality. I urge all of us in the directing community to rededicate ourselves to the importance of air when our choruses sing. We must teach our singers how to make air come alive in their music, explain to them why this is important, and hold them accountable in changing their singing default in this area. One must never underestimate the power of air!

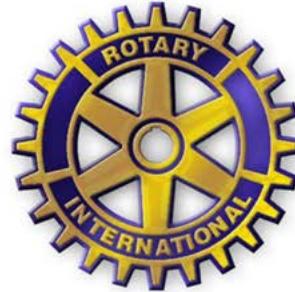
*Glenn Phillips directs the Patapsco Valley and Queen Anne's County Chapters in the Mid-Atlantic District.*

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**Tickets**

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How often do choral singers get to sing eight-part harmony? Combine a female barbershop chorus with a male chorus, and that is what you get!

Great job on the arrangement Ben Hawker, especially with that 8-part jazz chord at the end.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WpMgpUhSwU&feature=youtu.be>

This was the finale number for Harmony College East.

*Below, Pittsburgh-bound BSQ entertains the HCE crowd.*

*photos by John Wernega*



from **8**  
to **88**

## Barbershop chords unite the generations

# HARMONY COLLEGE EAST



GIMME FOUR

Beyond gathered at Salisbury University June 18-21 for the annual Harmony College East weekend of classes, coaching, good food, shows, and most important – singing! New this year was a dedicated Tag Room, complete with tag sheets.

As in past years, there were shows on Friday and Saturday night featuring both new and established quartets, youth ensembles and female and mixed-voice groups. The Mt. Vernon chapter chorus, Harmony Heritage Singers, also came for a weekend of coaching and appeared on the Saturday night show.

The fun weekend lasted long into the evenings and even an appearance by the tropical storm on Saturday didn't dampen the singers as chords rang in the courtyard well into the morning hours.

MOSAIC



THE VIRGINIANS with DIRECTOR MIKE WALLEN



MASQUERADE



YOUTH RECLAMATION PROJECT



# HARMONY COLLEGE EAST



AFTERGLOW  
from Gaithersburg High School

LOCO 4



HARMONY HERITAGE SINGERS WITH DIRECTOR BOB WACHTER



FOR THE TIMES



C'EST LA VIE  
Gaithersburg High School

JEWEL TONES





DORM JAM SESSION



LAST MEN STANDING



Youths take the stage



COSMO



Young men's study session



Afterglow Quartet from Gaithersburg High School returned for a second year of coaching at Harmony College East.

## UNCHAINED HARMONY



Of all the shows and opportunities Afterglow was given to perform this year, Harmony College East was definitely the one we were most enthusiastic about. Our attendance at HCE in June 2014 was a huge introduction to barbershop for three of our members – it is what hooked us on this art form.

We were incredibly happy to be attending for the second year in a row as a quartet. We were looking forward to reconnecting with our barbershop family and showing them our advancement as a quartet – we were also excited about meeting new people and seeing how barbershop has impacted their lives.

We had an amazing weekend last year at Harmony College East, but because most of our close friends were not in attendance, we were afraid that this year was not going to be as memorable. However, this year's barbershop-filled weekend did not disappoint. From running across campus in the pouring rain at 1 o'clock in the morning the last night of camp with the other youth in the program to hearing everyone's progression in their performance over the weekend to woodshedding in a stairwell with new friends to awesome coaching sessions from our barbershop superheroes; we had another amazing experience at Harmony College East yet again.

We are already counting down the days to Harmony College East 2016 and hope that we will be able to attend as a quartet for the third year in a row. We would recommend HCE for anyone and everyone in the Mid-Atlantic District, especially for youth who are interested in singing barbershop. Where else do you get the opportunity to meet and be coached by award winning members of your favorite quartets and sing alongside others who share your passion?

Harmony College East is and will always be one of our favorite memories as a quartet!

— Annisha Montgomery,  
Baritone of Afterglow Quartet, Gaithersburg HS,  
Gaithersburg, MD

Girls' chorus rocks the staging



The Quin-tones barbershop quartet of Quinton Township School had a weekend of coaching at Harmony College Youth Camp at Salisbury University, Maryland, part of the Harmony College East weekend. The "old guy" on the right is Music teacher and director John Wernega. To see the entire performance, visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlgUYI-X3yQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlgUYI-X3yQ)





*Hardman Jones prepares to sell "Opportunities" at HCE*

## The 'Generous Generation' opens their wallets at HCE

**M-AD** Barbershoppers proved once again that they are generous to a fault, as they voluntarily (???) parted with their hard-earned cash to support the District's Youth in Harmony programs at Harmony College East again this year. Anxious Barbershoppers elbowed each other to get to the head of the line to donate. And donate they did ... for a total of **\$1,341.68** (including \$5.00 in Canadian currency)! The "Generous Generation" at HCE spans many years – and, collectively, they are inspiring!



*by Alan Wile,  
VP Financial Development,  
MAD Endowment Fund Chairman  
& HFI Regional Representative*

Yes, these remarkable men and women responded to repeated calls at every meal on Friday and Saturday to purchase "opportunities." Some gave \$5; some gave \$10; some gave \$20. Some even asked that their ticket stubs be distributed to the singers in the Youth Harmony Camp.

The motivation for such generosity was not the possibility of taking home a collection of valuable prize goodies (although winning an HCE scholarship or a collection of material goods certainly were inviting). No, it was because all the proceeds were targeted specifically to support the district's youth. With that information provided, the cash came rolling in. Once again, your money-hungry, sweet –talking, beguiling, diplomatic "front men" are grateful to each of you who willingly responded to our subtle, sensitive, non-invasive, and discreet invitations to open up your wallets, especially those who didn't wait to be asked but came to the table with money in hand. Your friendship, good humor, willingness to be harassed, and your demonstrated commitment to further the future of barbershop harmony just go to prove that "Mid-Atlantic District Barbershoppers are THE GREATEST!"

## Plan Now to Attend Leadership Academy

All new chapter officers should take advantage of the training available at our annual leadership academies. Courses taught by experienced instructors cover every aspect of chapter administrative and musical leadership.

Learn the secrets of success and then apply them in your own chapter! Connect with successful chapter officers and great instructors to provide a network of friends you can turn to for free advice whenever you need it.

The cost of attendance is a legitimate chapter expense

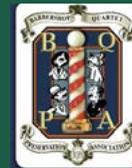
so you won't be on the hook.

Find a chapter officer with a van and sing all the way there and all the way home. It is a day you won't forget and will never regret.

Check the M-AD Web site ([www.midatlanticdistrict.com/](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/)) for registration information coming in the near future. See you there!

- October 31, 2015 – SLA – Falls Church, VA
- November 7, 2015 – NLA – Morris Plains, NJ
- January 9, 2016 – CLA – Newark, DE

## Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association/Pioneers (BQPA)



Treat yourself to a four-day, do-it-yerself quartetting festival. No assigned music, no pre-requisites.

We sing all the old songs you already know and love in quartets that form, melt away and re-form.

The emphasis is always on the fun of barbershop quartet singing.

Both guys and gals are welcome.

**Fall Festival - Chicago - 2015**

September 9-12, 2015.

[Click here for details.](#)

**Spring Festival - Tempe - 2016**

April 6-9, 2016.

info: [www.bqpa.com](http://www.bqpa.com)

## Great way to contribute to Harmony Foundation

There is a great new (easy) way to support the Harmony Foundation International.

If you shop at Amazon, as most of us do, just go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Harmony Foundation Intl. (Not Harmony Foundation).. Make sure it's the one in Nashville, and 0.5% of every purchase goes to support Barbershop Singing through the foundation. It takes less than a minute to do.

AmazonPrime purchases (subscription, videos, etc.) also are included in this promotion.

# lock & ring

## Bucks County Middle school festival showcases awesome young talent

The Bucks County Country Gentlemen are thrilled to announce that our 4th Annual Youth in Harmony Festival was a huge success. The audience has multiplied greatly; the participating schools, music educators, and participants grow more excited about barbershop; and our chapter has such a great time with the whole process!

On Wednesday, May 27, our Festival was held in the Auditorium of Lenape Middle School (which is also where we rent the chorus room for rehearsals during the school year). Five Central Bucks Middle School quartets entered the contest for a chance to win a full ride scholarship to the District's Harmony College-East. The medalists were all invited to attend (with their music educators).

Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were presented by the Atlantic Division's current quartet champs: **The FOURCE**.

This year's Festival Champs are Tamanend Middle School's **TARbershop Quartet** (they utilized the first letter of each member's name to cement the group together).

As always, the Bucks County Chapter thanks you for your continued support of our YIH Program and encourages you to attend next years festival!

*By Chas. Byram, President/Asst Director Bucks County Chapter*



1st Place — Tamanend TARbershop



2nd Place — Tamanend Harmonix



3rd Place — Unami TurtleTones

# song fest

## North Pennsmen kickstart the summer harmony season with neighboring barbershoppers

**A**t a large picnic grove in Sellersville, Pa., the North Pennsmen started their busy summer season in mid-June by hosting 300 barbershoppers and their guests at the 30th Annual Sellersville Songfest. Ten regional choruses participated, along with 23 quartets.

The evening was filled with music, food, and beverages and fellowship as old friendships were renewed and new friendships created. Many of those present have been attending for all (or most of) the 30 years of the event.

During the summer, the North Pennsmen perform at several churches and community events, and work to improve their barbershop harmony craft through coaching by local and guest coaches.

As the summer winds down and fall begins, they look forward to joining with fellow singers at the Mid-Atlantic District Convention in October. In addition to fall contest, a primary focus in the summer and fall months is preparation for their annual Christmas Show December 4th and 5th (more to come in the next Mid'lantics issue).

By Bruce Aldinger



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**

*A cross-section of the North Pennsmen is shown as they present Sixteen Tons.*

*Attendees enjoy the great harmony presented by the many choruses and quartets.*

*Walt Rittenhouse, the Hatfield Hot Dog King, works the grill while Wally Payne, event chairman, assists with the buns.*



# Miracles

are happening right in our own backyards

With all the excitement and attention surrounding Harmony College East, the International Convention in Pittsburgh, and Harmony University in Nashville it is sometimes hard to remember that incredible things are happening right in our own backyards. The following vignette focuses on a recent initiative by the Patapsco Valley Chapter and is just one of many that are springing up across the district and the Society.

Young **Ben Hawker** sings with the **Heart of Maryland** chorus and is the baritone in the current M-AD Mixed Voice Quartet champion, **Half & Half**. He will be graduating shortly (or so he tells us!) from Towson University with a degree in vocal music. And in his spare time he serves as the Patapsco Valley Vice President for Youth in Harmony.

For some time Ben has wanted to promote interest among young men in forming a barbershop chapter in the Baltimore area and recently he approached several members of the district to learn how to make his dream a reality.

As a former member of the Towson University Choir and Maryland State Boychoir, Ben decided to reach out to former and current members in the local area and invite them to learn some barbershop songs and perform them for chapter members and guests at a special celebration of vocal harmony.

But he didn't stop there.

He reached out to other vocal groups in the

community and got their commitment to participate and then set about organizing and planning a multi-faceted guest event with the enthusiastic support of the chapter and its director, Glenn Phillips.

In the end 27 youth guests and 12 adults attended the guest event July 21 in addition to our normal contingent of 35 regular members. The evening's program included vocal warm ups, learning new music, learning a tag, and special performances.

At one point we had all the youths in one room working on two songs, and all the adults (members and guests) working on two other songs on the risers in the main hall. When we came back together the youth chorus performed for everyone and then the adult chorus performed.

Both groups had fun, garnered lots of applause and the appetite of our guests for more barbershop was stimulated. The youth chorus was awesome. Their joy in singing and their excitement at the reception they received was moving. Ben has already scheduled their next meeting & rehearsal.

Among the groups performing that night were:

- 3 Wise Men (chapter quartet)
- Quorus (a cappella classical music ensemble from Towson)
- Brothers In Arms (2015 MAD International College Quartet representative)
- Knock Out (SAI Region 19 2015 Novice



Ben Hawker's youth chorus and guests sing [Once Upon a Time](#) at a recent Patapsco Valley Chapter guest night. Give it a listen!

Quartet Champion)

- Half & Half (2015 MAD Mixed Quartet Champion)
- Heart of Maryland Chorus
- Youth Chorus
- Adult Chorus

The evening wrapped up with refreshments, tag singing, and more. This was a good example of what can happen when someone just chooses to make a dream come true. In this case it was Ben and his belief that there was a market for a youth chorus in the Baltimore area. He enrolled our chapter in his vision and now exciting things are happening. Stay tuned. I have the feeling this is only the beginning.

By Dick Powell

Below, MAD MVQuartet champs Half & Half [perform](#) at Heart of Maryland Chorus guest night.



Above, SAI Region #19 Novice Quartet champs Knock Out strut their stuff.

# Oceanaires' 58th annual show will weave two themes together

Not one but two themes will weave their way through the **Oceanaires' 58th annual show** Sunday, October 4, at 4 p.m. in Toms River, N.J. The first theme is "Unforgettable Hits of the '20s to the '60s". The second theme is, "Barbershop Singing Is a Family Affair".

The first theme is designed to appeal to a broader audience that we seem to have under nurtured in the past. The Oceanaires know from years of experience singing in Ocean County that many people in the audience have a preconceived notion of Barbershop singing. They think they will only hear "the old songs" like Sweet Adeline and Let Me Call You Sweetheart. Therefore, in all of the Chapter's advertising, from "Save the Date" post cards, to store-front posters, to a print ad campaign in 55+ Adult Community magazines people are reminded that Barbershop is more than "the old songs". Barbershoppers sing classic pop tunes from the recent past that are "standards" today...songs that everyone knows and loves ... songs made famous by icons like Sinatra, Crosby, Satchmo, and Sedaka. It is hoped that this advertising strategy will bring in a larger audience, and create converts to our unique style of four-part harmony.

The second theme, "Barbershop Singing Is Family Affair", will unfold during the show as the audience learns that Barbershop singing is often a family affair. **Ritchie Lavene**, the Oceanaires music director, began singing Barbershop with his dad in the **Cherry Hill Chorus** when Ritchie was just six years old. Music VP **Jim Ewin**, grew to love Barbershop with the urging of his grandfather who was a founding member of the **Singing Capitol Chorus** in Washington, D.C. That chorus won the very 1<sup>st</sup> International Competition. Those two members, plus

several of the current Oceanaires chorus, were attracted to our style of singing through family members' involvement in Barbershop.

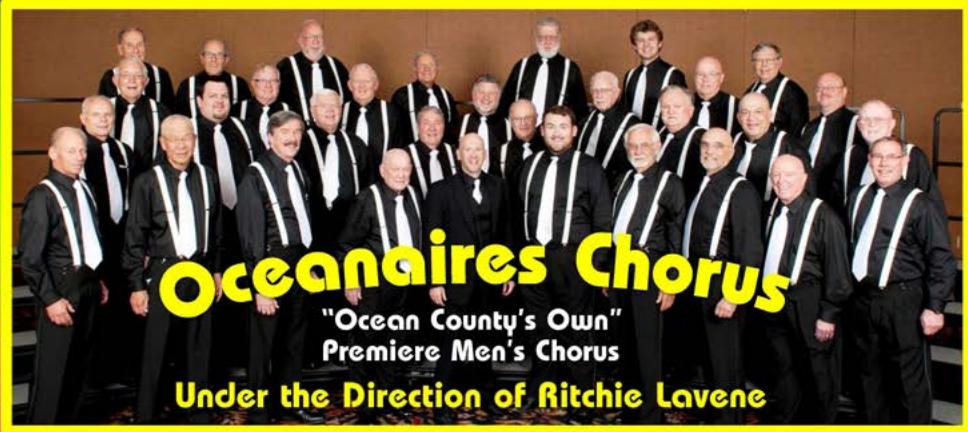
No surprise then, the three fabulous guest quartets appearing in the Annual Show reinforce the family theme. **Achording to Dad** from Watsonstown, Pa. includes a father, **Ken Paulhamus**, and his three sons **Adam, Ken and Brian!** This consistent top ten finisher in District Competition will be a real treat for the show's audience. What Barbershopper dad (or son) wouldn't want to have a similar singing experience! **Stephanie Britctson**, lead singer in the fabulous **Mosaic** "Sweet Adelines" quartet (also from Pennsylvania), is the proud mother of **Cory Britctson**, who sings lead in the show's third guest quartet, **Fource**. That quartet recently finished in first place at its Division competition. The show on October 4 just may even feature a Mother-Son octet!

As previously noted, the show is scheduled for a Sunday afternoon. This change from the usual Saturday evening curtain should be more attractive to many seniors who are reluctant to drive at night. Also, the 4 p.m. start may help local Toms River restaurants since our audience members will be able to enjoy dinner with friends and family at a reasonable hour after the show. Also, for the third year, **The Top Hats**, a Mummer style band, will be playing its foot stomping music beginning at 3:15 p.m. as the audience takes its seats.

The venue is the Toms River Intermediate School at 1519 Hooper Avenue in Toms River. For ticket information call 732 503 8611, or visit [www.oceanaires.com](http://www.oceanaires.com). And, of course, there will be special pricing for seniors.

## Unforgettable Hits

Music from the '20s to the '60s



Oceanaires Chorus

"Ocean County's Own"  
Premiere Men's Chorus

Under the Direction of Ritchie Lavene

Sung a Cappella in 4-Part Barbershop Harmony

Special Guest Quartet Appearances



Achording to Dad



Mosaic



The Fource

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM

Enjoy a Sunday Afternoon of Music and Fun!

Toms River Intermediate School East  
1519 Hooper Ave, Toms River, NJ

SAVE!

SAVE!

SAVE!

Call 732-503-8611 NOW!  
to Save \$5.00 per Ticket

Special Pricing on Orders  
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Come Early!

Pre-Show Begins at 3:15 PM

Be entertained by **The Top Hats**, a Mummer-Style string band.  
Enjoy classic Mummer melodies reminiscent of the '20s and '30s.



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Long Island Harmonizers featured online



Published July 3, 2015  
 NASSAU COUNTY BARBERSHOP CHOIR IS BOUND BY MUSIC AND BROTHERHOOD  
 The Nassau Mid-Island Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society has graced the ears of Long Islanders for 65 years and has no intention of slowing down. They gave viewers a behind-the-scenes look at their rehearsal on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015. (Credit: Newsday/Tim Nwachukwu)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Qb38v7xzTU&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Qb38v7xzTU&feature=youtu.be)

Useful Links of Interest

	<a href="#">Barbershop Harmony Society Home</a>
	<a href="#">Barbershop Tags</a>
	<a href="#">Barbershop: The Original Glee for Guys - Video - TIME.com</a>

Montclair Chapter Goes To The Ball Game

It was Tuesday, July 21st at 6:50 PM, just 15 minutes before the start of a game between the Fargo-Moorehead Redhawks and the New Jersey Jackals.

Twenty men stood behind home plate at Yogi Berra Stadium waiting to take their places in front of the microphone to sing the National Anthem. Suddenly one of the coordinators ran over and said, "There's going to be a thunder storm, you

members of the grounds crew. As the minutes slowly ticked by Director Adam Porter said "Let's sing." The chorus looked up as he announced the title of the song. The pitch was blown and the Dapper Dans tuned up on the first chord.

The corridor suddenly reverberated with the sounds of ROLL OUT THE BARREL in glorious four-part harmony. As the song continued more players left the

corridor with their infectious energetic version of "SOLD." As the applause and cheers faded a supervisor called the grounds crew to the field. The rain had stopped.

Ten minutes later the Dans were in front of the microphone where they delivered a stirring rendition of The Star Spangled Banner followed by a rousing round of applause and the call to "Play ball."

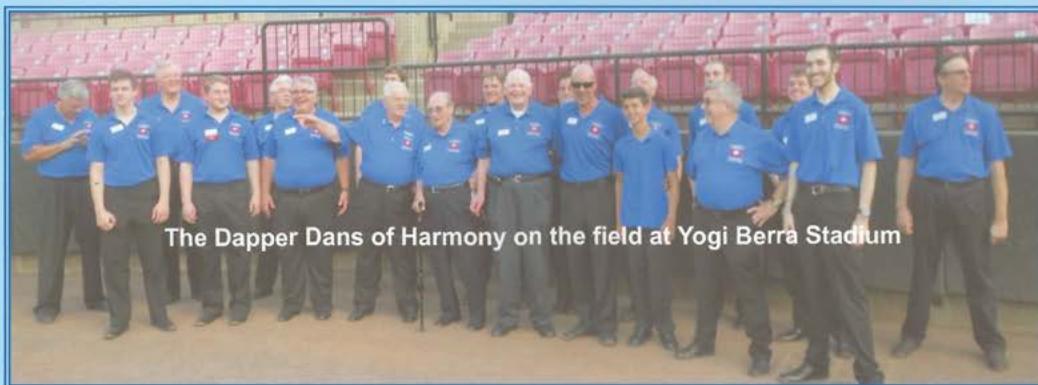
The Dans took their seats and spent some quality time enjoying the game with family and friends. As the innings passed by everyone sampled the special cuisine that's available at ball parks all across the country.

But there was still a small surprise in store. At the seventh inning stretch the Dans stood up and from right in the stands sang GOD BLESS AMERICA to a most appreciative crowd.

While the game did not end well for the home team, the Jackals lost 13 to 12, it was still a great evening for the chapter.

Together we watched some baseball, ate a few hot dogs, drank some beer, talked and made people smile as we shared our passion for singing barbershop. All in all a pretty good night out.

Ray Liptak - The Montclair Chapter



The Dapper Dans of Harmony on the field at Yogi Berra Stadium

should take cover." The Dapper Dans left the field and stood in a concrete passage way watching the activities outside.

Thunder could be heard in the distance as the grounds crew covered the infield with a huge tarp. Players abandoned the dugouts and headed to their respective locker rooms.

As the rain began to fall in earnest the Dans passed the time by chatting with several of the Jackals' players and the

locker room to find out what was happening. The members of the 'hallway audience' looked at each other and smiles began to appear as the Dans continued their impromptu performance. Applause broke out with the final chord.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic response, and not wanting the good feelings to evaporate, the chorus asked chapter quartet Gimme Four to sing. After a brief discussion a song was selected and Paul, Dave, Will and Joey filled the

# 'Ready, Set, Sing' Road Show a resounding success

The Morris County chapter has been holding "Ready, Set, Sing" programs which are held over six Tuesday nights. **Nate Barrett**, director of the **Morris Music Men**, researched various chapters in BHS and Sweet Adelines and, taking the best from each, tailored a program to fit the Morris County chapter. As a result, the first four

methods.

In addition, **Chris Reel** and **Rich Petillo**, both men having joined as a result of RSS explained why they then chose to join the chapter. The attendees were very enthusiastic and all indicated their intent to consider a "Ready, Set, Sing" program in their own chapters.

Due to the success of this first presentation, we are planning to set up similar presentations for the Northern Division chapters in Long Island, N.Y. and Pennsylvania. Then, in cooperation with **Jeff Porter**, DVP-Membership, we will video one of these presentations to allow Jeff to share throughout the District.

## NEWS from NORTHERN DIVISION

by **Oley Olson**,  
VP Northern Division



sessions have resulted in 13 men choosing to join. Currently, the chapter is half way through their fifth version with 13 men attending.

Nate asked me if there was some way they could share this with other chapters, suggesting possibly a "Road Show". I sent out an e-mail asking if the chapter's were interested and they all responded, "Yes!"

On Saturday, June 11 five Northern N.J. chapter musical directors and marketing men from **Caldwell, Hunterdon, Montclair, Ridgewood, Sussex & Somerset** chapters attended a very successful three hour presentation. Nate demonstrated his methods for teaching and **Mike Yodice** explained their marketing/PR



*New barbershopper Chris Reel explains how his experience with the Ready, Set, Sing program inspired him to join the Morris Music Men.*



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**Join us for a night of a cappella music at its finest!**  
Featuring the ladies of the Women's Harmony Brigade with special guest quartets

**The Buzz & Epic**

**When: Saturday, August 8, 2015 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30)**

**Where: Crowne Plaza Wilmington North  
630 Naamans Rd Claymont, DE 19703**

**Ticket Price: \$20.00**  
Tickets available at the door.





by Roger Tarpy,  
VP Music & Performance

## DISTRICT COACHES

The following is a list of the official MAD District Coaches to date. I want to thank these men for being willing to share their considerable talents by becoming a District Coach.

- Dave Ammirata
- Jeff Glemboski

## MAS

Most everyone knows that MAD subsidizes a coaching program (called the Musical Assistance Service – MAS) that serves both quartets and chapters. It has been very ably managed, for many years, by its coordinator Chuck Lower.

The idea is that a quartet or chorus arranges to meet with a coach of their choosing, after which Chuck reimburses the coach, up to \$75, for expenses.

Thanks to this District initiative, many groups have received some wonderful coaching.

# Let's check out the Inner Game of Chorus Singing

Over 40 years ago, as many of you may know, Tim Gallwey wrote an iconic book called "The Inner Game of Tennis." Although I've not read it, reviewers say that it approached the challenge of tennis from a non-technical, or non-physical, point of view.

As the title suggests, the mental game was said to be more important to achieving success than the physical game per se. One's attitudes and expectations, one's awareness of the game's subtleties, the will to win, and the unconscious confidence about one's skill, all conspire to make a champion. Those who don't explore their inner game are doomed to fall short because they focus merely on the physical or technical side of the sport.

Gallwey's book was an enormous success and so, not surprisingly, it didn't take long before the concept of "inner game" was applied to just about every challenge in life – golf, stress, work, even skiing. And ... yep, you guessed it ... music. (For those who are interested, "The Inner Game of Music" was authored by Barry Green and Tim Gallwey in 1986. It is still available from places like Amazon.com).

A decade after his book with Gallwey, Barry Green, with lots of help from two awesome barbershoppers – **Larry Ajer** and **Greg Lyne** – published a workbook containing exercises for those who wished to apply the inner game concept to barbershop choruses and quartets. It was printed by BHS but, as far as I can determine, is no longer available.

Exercises to enhance singing level

My purpose here is to take a few selected exercises from Green's workbook and explain how you might use them to enhance your chorus' singing and performance levels. For the most part, they deal with one's awareness of what's "happening" in the music – sounds, feelings, and musical understandings.

Let's consider a few of these in more detail. Note that they look a lot like tools in a director's bag of tricks but Green urges us to think of them in a different light – as activities that can change the way chorus members perceive their own singing in relation to the music. Using these exercises, a person may gain an inner awareness that cannot be achieved from receiving ordinary technical instruction.

**AUDIATING** (the term means "singing in one's head without actually making noise"). Ask the leads to sing the melody aloud while the harmony parts audiate their own part. According to Green, this exercise will help singers better

*If we see these activities ... as a way to get singers to discover their inner sense of the music – then we'd be helping our singers to experience the music on an elevated level.*

understand the holistic nature of the music and how their part fits into that pattern.

**BODY AWARENESS.** While singing a Polecat, consciously focus on the areas of the body where one feels tension. Deliberately create tension in these areas (say, neck or tongue) and then deliberately feel the relaxation.

**MAGIC MARKER.** While singing, have your chorus members grab a handful of imaginary marbles, and then drop one every time they sing a syllable.

What do you get? Choppy singing, of course.

Now have them hold an imaginary Magic Marker and draw an unbroken line from the first note of the phrase to the last. Listen for the smooth and connected singing. Again, this exercise is designed to develop an inner awareness of the musical flow, a lesson that's hard to learn through conventional instruction.

**MUSICAL CONTOURS.** Discuss how the dynamics of a phrase might be handled and then have your singers join hands and move them up and down, collectively, as they crescendo (or decrescendo) toward (or away from) the peak of the phrase.

**INTERNALIZING PULSE AND RHYTHM.** Ask your singers to speak a passage of music while tapping lightly on their arms. Feel (that is, internalize) the regularity of the beat.

**STUDIO RECORDING.** Ask your chorus members to grab an imaginary hand-held microphone, close their eyes, and sing their part as if they were alone in a recording booth. You will be amazed at how heart-felt the singing will be. No more singing just notes-and-words.

**PRESENT INSTRUMENT.** Tell the singers to pretend they have a musical instrument in their hands, and then ask them to "get ready" to play. They will, of course, put imaginary trumpets to their lips, or violins under their chins. Now ask them to "get ready" to sing, that is to "present their vocal instrument." They'll develop an inner sense of how good posture feels.

**DANCE.** Have your performers sway as a group while singing. According to Green, they'll soon develop a feeling of how the music flows and, more importantly, how their body movement relates to that feeling.

Green suggests that if we consider these exercises to be tools in a tool box, then we'd use them simply as technical pointers, with the hope that the singers could execute our instructions in a competently left-brain manner.

If, however, we see these activities in a new light – as a way to get singers to discover their inner sense of the music – then we'd be helping our singers to experience the music on an elevated level.

And that could make the difference between a lifeless rendition of a song (even if it were technically adequate), and a connected, integrated, and possibly artistic performance of the music.

## NORTH CAROLINA HARMONY BRIGADE ANNOUNCES 2016 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Full Scholarships are NOW AVAILABLE for qualified male a cappella singers ages 18-28 to attend the North Carolina Harmony Brigade and its "eXtreme Quartetting" rally in Pinehurst, N.C. on

**January 15-17, 2016.**

Recipients will enjoy an expense-paid weekend of wall-to-wall singing in dozens of quartet combinations with over 100 well-prepared and experienced quartet singers, while being treated to the first-class lodging and cuisine, found only in the Carolina Inn and Resort.

Interested? Click on [NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com) to receive a prospectus from the Scholarship Chairman.

For information about all "eXtreme Quartetting" rallies: [www.harmonybrigade.org](http://www.harmonybrigade.org)

# Has Your Nominating Committee Met Yet?

**MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT OFFICERS**

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

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

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

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

**Executive VP:** Dennis Ritchey (Sherrie); 540-846-6408; denritcheys5@cox.net

**Board Members-at-Large:**

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Chuck Harner; 703-938-3001; CAChuck@cox.net

Christian Hunter (Tracey); 908-806-7122; njbbslead@yahoo.com

Steve Skolnick (Donna); 973-993-9253; stevesko@me.com

**2015 DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM**

**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:**  
Cliff Shoemaker (Gretchen); 703-281-6184; cliff@attorneyaccess.net

**VP Western Division:**  
Don Myers (Verna); 717-838-6146; gnolead@yahoo.com

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

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

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

The Society's Standard Chapter Bylaws require that "The annual meeting for the election of officers and directors shall be held prior to October 15 of each year and notice of the date of such meeting shall be given to the members at least two weeks prior to such date."

Sometimes the process to put together a slate of officers and directors can become quite lengthy, so it is important for your chapter nominating committee to be assembled and working already. It is doubly important this year, because the first two Leadership Academy sessions (Southern & Northern) will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2015 and November 7, 2015, and we need to get an early count on attendees to make sure all is in readiness for their arrival.



*by Chuck Harner,  
DVP CSLT*

Incoming officers and directors can all benefit from attendance at one

of the district's Leadership Academies where they will learn all about their new jobs, make important contacts with their peers from chapters across the district, and connect with instructors who can mentor them throughout the year.

While the chapter nominating committee is at it, there is nothing to prevent them from identifying candidates for office in 2017 as well. Some chapters already do this (and send their "officers-elect") to a Leadership Academy) so that future chapter leaders may be mentored during the year before they are installed.

Many new chapter officers have found that it takes 4-6 months to become fully effective, leaving them with only half a year left to accomplish their intended objectives. But when someone is designated as an "officer or director-elect",

they can be an understudy for a year before taking on the job full time.

Leadership Academy (LA) is where our chapter leaders for the coming year gain the knowledge and skills (tricks of the trade) needed to carry out the duties of the offices to which they were elected in an efficient and effective manner. Feedback from previous attendees indicates that even "old dogs" (guys who are repeating in office for the umpteenth time) learn something new from the instructor or other class members.

So, don't miss out on the opportunity to learn something that would make your life easier and more fun in the coming year.

M-AD will continue to have three, one-day 2015 LAs to reduce transportation and per diem costs, using a tiered attendance payment plan since available funding is a problem affecting all chapters. The following pricing is in effect up until two weeks before each LA starts.

<u>Number Attending</u>	<u>Price Per Student</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
1	\$45.00	\$45.00
2	\$42.50	\$85.00
3	\$40.00	\$120.00
4	\$37.50	\$150.00
5	\$35.00	\$175.00
6	\$32.50	\$195.00
7 or more	\$30.00	\$210.00 plus

If you register closer than two weeks before the scheduled LA start date the price goes up to \$45.00 per student. The 2015 LA Registration Form is now posted on the M-AD web site.

So for 2015, M-AD would appreciate ALL chapters holding their elections before October 15 in accordance with the Standard Chapter Bylaws and register all of the new or repeating officers at the upcoming LAs as soon as possible.

The three LAs will be held on

- **October 31, 2015 (Southern) in Falls Church, VA;**
- **November 7, 2015 (Northern) in Morris Plains, NJ; and**
- **January 9, 2016 (Central) in the vicinity of Newark, DE.**

Atlantic DVP Rob France is trying to firm up a location for the Central LA and as soon as that is done we will let everyone know.

Finally, as soon as your chapter officers for 2016 have been determined, please ensure that information is recorded in your chapter's Future Leaders page on the Society's ebiz. barbershop.org/ebusiness/ site. That way both the district and the Society will be able to communicate quickly with your chapter anytime they need to contact you. Thank you!

**FILL OUT FORM FOR  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
ON NEXT PAGE, PLEASE**

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Steve Skolnick (Donna); 973-993-9253;  
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The *Mid' Antics* is published by the Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It is for and about barbershoppers in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.  
**Editor:** Roxanne Powell, 1717 Sturbridge Pl, Crofton, MD 21114; 443-454-0604;  
editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Nov. 10, 2015**

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

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)

## Registration Form

### DATE and LOCATION OF LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PROGRAMS:

**South:** October 31, 2015, Longfellow Middle School, 2000 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church, VA 22043  
**North:** November 7, 2015, Morris Plains Community Center, 51 Jim Fears Dr, Morris Plains, NJ 07950  
**Central:** January 9, 2016, TBD, Newark, DE vicinity

Check the location of the Leadership Academy that you wish to attend and mail this form and a check covering all fees to (or E-mail the form and send a check):

\_\_\_\_\_ SOUTH: Chuck Harner, 1704 Hicks Dr, Vienna, VA 22182-2059  
(cell) 703-994-7975 [CAChuck@cox.net](mailto:CAChuck@cox.net)

\_\_\_\_\_ CENTRAL: Rob France, 4803 Rush Dr, Pipersville, PA 18947  
(home) 215- 766-8066 [rob@soundkat.com](mailto:rob@soundkat.com)

\_\_\_\_\_ NORTH: George (Oley) Olson, 28 Malapardis Rd, Morris Plains, NJ 07950-2507  
(home) 973-539 7941, (cell) 973-886-7977 [olevols@aol.com](mailto:olevols@aol.com)

Fee includes course materials, continental breakfast, & lunch:

	Number Attending	Price Per Student	Total Cost
1		\$45.00	\$45.00
2		\$42.50	\$85.00
3		\$40.00	\$120.00
4		\$37.50	\$150.00
5		\$35.00	\$175.00
6		\$32.50	\$195.00
7 or more		\$30.00	\$210.00 plus

Those who delay registration until later than two weeks before the scheduled LA start date will pay \$45.00 per student.

NOTE: You MUST Register EACH attendee in the following spaces - by CLASS

Classes	Name(s)
President/EVP	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Music & Performance	
Chapter Development/ Membership Marketing & Public Relations	
Operation/Program (SLA & CLA Only)	

Number of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ at above cost each \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Enclosed is a check in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT**

Name:	Chapter:
Home Phone:	Cell phone:
Email:	Date:

**HOTEL: If you need hotel accommodations please contact the LA Coordinator, and he will provide hotel information to you.**

Schedule: Registration: 8:00 – 9:00 Joint session: 9:00 – 9:15 Morning session: 9:15 – 12:00  
Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 Combined sessions - 1:00-2:00 Afternoon sessions: 2:00 – 4:00  
Closing: 4:00-4:15

# A Labor of Love

## Arranged as a signature song for Barbershoppers



STEVE DELEHANTY

By Bob Heim, Editor, Toosday Tunes, monthly publication of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter

As a 52 year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society with an impressive history of contributions as singer, skilled arranger (as well as contest judge), Steve Delehanty knows with absolute certainty about the blessings of barbershop and all that it entails. That zeal for barbershop was underscored, two years ago with words and music that understandably is finding itself in more and more chorus/quartet repertoires.

It prompted contact by this editor to its masterful creator. It's called There Is Love Wherever There Is Song.\*

In an e-mail received from Steve about it, he provided this background:

"I was attending the BHS Music Publishing Committee meeting in Nashville and we were discussing the 75th Anniversary celebration. The staff was lamenting the fact that although they had a fine uptune for the occasion by Joe Liles, there was no anthem-like song. I said I would write one.

"When I got home, I looked in my file of melodies I have written over the years and picked one I thought would work well. I then wrote the lyrics and submitted it to the BHS. It was published and Tony De Rosa made the learning tracks. Tony, of course, was just voted as baritone in the Fantasy quartet that will perform at the International Convention in Pittsburgh.

"I am amazed and pleased with the success of the song. I have been told it is being sung at the beginning or closing of Chapter meetings in more than a few places."

In our research I also discovered that in the suggested BHS script prepared for Chapters to use in celebration of the Society's 75th Anniversary, the emcee observes:

"Yes Barbershop has allowed us to preserve the old songs, discover some great quartets, serve our community, salute our troops and create some lifelong friendships. It's often said that Barbershopping is not a hobby – it's a way of life. And now 75 years later that love still holds true."

A recommend song to sing at that point? Steve Delehanty's apropos lyrics and barbershop chords. Here are the words:

*Joining in song, we gather here  
with friends that we hold so dear.  
There is love whenever there is song.  
Feel that love: it's here where we belong.  
For when we sing our part,  
there is joy in every heart.  
Get the world to sing along.  
Here today we sing along with friends,  
and we pray our music never ends.  
The joy of harmony is a gift for you and me.  
So let us join in song.  
Everybody sing our song.  
Make the rafters ring with song.*

*May the whole world join in song, in song, in song!*

A fellow barbershopper summed it all up this way when he recently heard it sung: "One of the songs at the end of the performance particularly struck me, as the men who formed the Oregon Trail Pitchpipers Barbershop Chorus sang a line: 'There is love wherever there is song.'"

"There are many kinds of love involved with song," he went on.

"Those who write music (or create art in general) often do so out of love for others. Those who love others will often sing or learn or listen to music to show their love and appreciation for others. Those who perform in groups or musical acts often develop a sort of love for the people they perform with (likewise, people often tend to watch music with those they care for). In all of these ways, and many more besides, music is an expression of love in its creation, performance, and enjoyment. Just as we appreciate harmony in our own lives when we have mutual love and respect for others that they have for us, we appreciate harmony in music, when voices blend together as one."

It's a special anthem-like song for a very special society.

Thank you, Steve.

\*Part of the Showtunes Collection of the Society, it is purchasable, as stock number 206095.

## TAG TIME: RING, RING THE BANJO

with thanks to Linda Williams, editor  
Hunterdon Harmonizers *In Tune*