

January-April 2013

THE HARMONIZER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

BARBERSHOP HARMONY



Special Double Issue



Enriching THE PRESENT
Ensuring THE FUTURE

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CONTINUE TO BE
BOLD, COURAGEOUS,
AND ENGAGING AS WE
RAISE VOICES TOGETHER
FOR THE NEXT 75 YEARS!



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VOLUME
LXXIII
NUMBER
1

Cover by Eddie Holt • 75th Anniversary logo by Greg Backwell



Seventy-five years and counting

What an honor it is to be serving on the board during this historic time in the life of our Society! When Lorin told me my first article would be for the 75th anniversary issue, I thought about how I have been a member for less than half of the time our society has been around and felt somewhat less than qualified. Clearly, I would need help with this assignment. Some older and younger Barbershoppers were happy to oblige.

Barbershop in the days before television

Dr. Clare McCreary, who joined the Society in 1948, tells me about a society that existed before television, when people made their own entertainment and barbershop just became a way of life for some. Clare said he “worked, fished and sang.” His chapter shows were always sold out, even when they moved to a large theater; but eventually, entertainment became more commercially available and those performances declined in popularity. When entertainment options began to grow exponentially, men, especially the younger men, turned less frequently to barbershop to meet their social needs.



The best is definitely yet to come. I choose to believe our future is bright.

Clare says the way to get younger members today is with good singing. His chapter tried to win new members by improving the quality of its music but lost some men along the way who were there more for the social aspect. Clare’s chapter, like many others, was faced with a conundrum.

How do we improve quality without sacrificing the fun and camaraderie?

So, what does a 65-year member like Clare think about our future? In his own words, “I don’t think that our style of music will ever die out. It has become recognized as a valuable teaching tool and as an important genre of music. But it will never again be as popular [in pop culture] as it was in the days before TV. We must continue to strive for musical excellence to appeal to that small audience that appreciates the sound.”

Young Barbershoppers look to the decades ahead

Scott and Aaron are 26-year-old Barbershoppers who have been members for more than half their lives. For them, it is all about singing and the performance experience. Aaron initially joined to be part of that mysterious “Dad thing,” and Scott said the resulting peer pressure did it for him. They are turned off by the way the late night talk show hosts make fun of barbershop, and they hope we will be able to capitalize

on social and broadcast media to feature some of our awesome talent. They sing with a top youth chorus, are members of an excellent competition chorus and both have sung in several registered quartets.

Like Clare, Aaron and Scott agree barbershop will be around for another 75 years. They speak of opportunities to bring quality barbershop into the media mainstream and ways to recognize and encourage the multi-track community. They say “barber-brats” and other younger singers will expose future generations to their passions to make sure the art form survives.

We have the ingredients for a brighter future

As for me, I joined when I was 29 years old because I grew up singing and saw a billboard along the highway inviting me to do just that with the local chapter. Although I am a marginal singer, I have been able to perform with some excellent choruses and a handful of fun quartets over the years. I got hooked on harmony and I have been blessed by the camaraderie of many wonderful friends over the years.

From 1938 to 1955 (the year I was born), our membership grew to around 23,000 members. Since 1955, we have seen a fairly symmetrical growth and decline curve which peaked out somewhere near 38,000. Some bemoan the declines of our recent history and accept demise as the ultimate fate of the Society, but I am encouraged by the shared optimism about our future. There may be a lot of competition for our attention these days, but barbershop harmony offers men of all ages something that is totally unique and something which absolutely cannot be replicated by a typical Facebook or civic club experience. Clearly, we need to continue to look for and find better ways to introduce this wonderful art form to the world, but word-of-mouth made us strong in the past and can do so again. And, of course, each chapter needs to continue to crack the code for how to produce musical quality while preserving the fun and camaraderie.

All of us, young or old, are part of a very rich history. Stories of our inception and development are fascinating and we have been blessed with many excellent performers over the years, but the best is definitely yet to come. I choose to believe our future is bright, and I hope to still be taggin’ with my sons in 2038 when we celebrate our 100th.

Happy 75th anniversary, everyone!

shannon@rareblendquartet.com



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- ***Dining in the ship’s main restaurants***
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and an opportunity to be part of the “Cruise Chorus”***

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75 years! What an achievement!

I'm not sure that our founders, O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall, would have imagined that their first meeting in Tulsa would have produced such a recognized and long-lasting choral music society.

Sustaining and refining our organization and our art form has had its ups and downs over the years; but members of other musical arts organizations have told me that the Barbershop Harmony Society is an envied society that is admired by many, especially in the choral field. What other choral music societies are truly having as much fun every week as our chapters and quartets?

Recently, we've seen phenomenal growth of our financial investments by "enriching lives through singing" in our communities and around the world. Through Barbershoppers and our friends, Harmony Foundation has contributed nearly \$4.5 million to Society chapters, districts and to the international organization. And we are just starting to realize the capacity we have for our future. Can you imagine the opportunity we have to make an exponentially greater impact of good choral music during the next 75 years?



Why do I mention the *fun* we have as Barbershoppers? Why do I mention financial figures?

To get your attention!

One of the major reasons Mr. Cash sent his 1938 Tulsa meeting invitation was to revive quartet singing in America. When the singers got together that evening in Tulsa, they had a lot of *fun* and embarked on an inspirational campaign to bring men together in four-part a cappella singing.

Barbershop singing is alive and well in the *world*, not just in North America. We have more people singing Barbershop around the globe than ever before. Our successful youth programs are demonstrating very positive results. Our chapters and affiliates are supporting more choral singing in their local schools. Can you imagine if each of our chapters were supporting two or three schools or community choirs in our respective areas? Community singing and choral singing has been on a decline and needs continued organized efforts from our Society to help ensure that young and old are exposed to multiple singing opportunities. It is

clear: our "barbershop art form" has a support system second to none around the world, and *we* can help.

Sound familiar?

Just by creating more opportunities to sing, we will ensure our Society thrives for its next 75 years, and perhaps more important, universal singing will continue to be in a growth mode.

As Joe Liles stated 25 years ago, "Long live quartetting, woodshedding and good old barbershop camaraderie!"

It's great to be a Barbershopper!

What's on Marty's Daytimer?

- Jan. 10, Society Board Meeting
- Jan. 10-13, Mid-Winter Convention & International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival
- Jan. 26, Ambassadors of Harmony Officer Installment, St Louis
- Jan. 29, Music City Chorus board strategy session, Nashville
- Feb. 13, Center for Non-profit Management Executives, Nashville
- Feb. 14, Nashville Economic and Community Development meeting
- Feb. 22, Metro Nashville Public Schools meeting
- Feb. 28, Harmony Foundation Trustees meeting
- Feb. 28, Music Publications committee meeting, Nashville
- March 1, Dr Bob Fisher, President Belmont University, Nashville
- March 12-17, ACDA National Convention, Dallas



What is Marty reading?

- *Good to Great and the Social Sectors*, by Jim Collins
- *Ten Years of SPEBSQSA Harmony* by Deac (C.T.) Martin



What is Marty listening to?

- Live recording of the World's Top Quartets 1990-96 (three disc set)
- Metro Vocal Group: No Borders
- Gas House Gang: Some Children See Him



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International Conventions

1965
BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS

1987
HARTFORD
CONNECTICUT

2003
MONTREAL
QUEBEC, CANADA



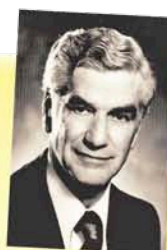
Carroll Adams
1941-1942



Harold Staab
1942-1944



Art Merrill
1955-1956



Richard Ellenberger
1975-1976



Alan Lamson
2011-2012

NED Int'l. Quartet Honorable Mentions

1963-1966
"Four Rascals"

1994-1995
"The Management"

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTS from the NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

"NED" PAST



1967 - Los Angeles
International Quartet Champs (NED)
Four Statesmen



1980 - Salt Lake City
International Quartet Champs (NED)
Boston Common



2005 - Salt Lake City
Collegiate Quartet Champs (NED)
Men In Black

The Great

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT



On Air



Men In Black



Average Joes



Timely Gents (Collegiate)

"NED" Present & "NED" Future



Vocal Revolution (Sounds of Concord)

2020 International Convention
(It could be in BOSTON again!)



Trade Secret (Senior)



G20 Youth Chorus



The Northeastern District
congratulates the
Barbershop Harmony Society
on our last 75 years and very much
looks forward to the next 75!





How do you condense 75 years of amazing history into just a few pages? You don't. But on the following pages, Society Historian Grady Kerr has created a cross-section of events, happenings, groups and people. Some are big, some are trivial, but all added to the rich 75-year history that has helped make us what we are today.

Grady@GradyWilliamKerr.com • Trivia (in blue) adapted from the Barbershop Trivia Page at www.barbershop.org/icq

Our landscape today is different from our birth and from our milestones at 25 and 50 years.

At 25, we were entering an exciting era of maturity. Innovators like the *Suntones* were starting to get broad public awareness, the *Buffalo Bills* were on Broadway and in theaters in *The Music Man*. Beautiful Harmony Hall in Kenosha and the Expansion program were creating an infrastructure for education and growth.

Similarly, at our 50th Anniversary, the Society was cresting in total membership. The art form had been codified and "perfected" (although some might have said "frozen") and was respected in musical circles. But change was already underway. An emerging emphasis on holistic performance and audience orientation would lead to a rethinking of contest and judging, an expansion

75th Anniversary catapults us into the future of the barbershop "umbrella," and, some will argue, a shift toward more accessibility of the style for the general public.

Now at our 75th Anniversary, where are we headed?

We are shifting again, this time emphasizing not only the "barbershop product," but the "barbershop experience." Today's trends and demographics have us evaluating our relationships with our respective communities, with other Barbershoppers and with the world at large.

Who could have foreseen in 1988 that the quartet contest would be won by a former collegiate champ from Sweden? (Or that we would even have a collegiate contest?) That silver would go to a quartet of young New Zealanders singing Marvin Gaye and Michael Jackson?

That the chorus contest would be electrified by songs from The Police and "Footloose"? Who could have foreseen a growing day-long festival filled exclusively with hundreds of youth from around the continent?

Today we are simultaneously focused on worldwide relevance and local relevance. We're declaring to the world that barbershop is more than great music, but is also a fraternity that fosters brotherhood, service and intergenerational values. These values are not new to the Society, but it is new for us to be conscious, overt and effective at communicating these messages.

Where we have gone points us to where we will go

As you read this special double issue, look at the



the sampling of great things we have accomplished through the years: as an arts organization, as an adult leadership trainer, as a safe place for men of all ages to express genuine emotion and passion.

Read between the lines. What we have been points to what we are, and impels us toward the future. In your community, use the occasion of our 75th Anniversary to tell our story—and yours. Society staff and volunteers are using our 75th Anniversary to tell this story:

- The Barbershop Harmony Society brand is dynamic, growing, relevant and appealing.
- Our membership ranks are being flooded with new young singers, who are seizing the style with a passion matched only by their forebears 75 years ago.

- Our music is enriching, uplifting, personally transforming and life-affirming.
- The social experience is a spontaneous jam session, a true oral tradition, a master-apprentice relationship, and a trans-generational sharing of values.
- The barbershop musical product is compelling, rich, surprisingly broad, and perfectly accessible to modern audiences of all ages.

CELEBRATE!

Look for ways this year to celebrate our heritage and share the future of our dynamic art form in your community. A big part of this message and brand-building will come from you. Watch for several new initiatives aimed at helping Barbershoppers tell this story to the

world, including:

- "Why I Barbershop" videos at HarmonizerTV.com.
- Oral history interviews
- Aggressive press coverage of our Youth in Harmony activities
- North American Tour of 2012 Champ Ringmasters

Watch www.barbershop.org/75 for a complete listing of resources, including

- 75th Anniversary press kit
- Show scripts
- Details of the Biggest Sing Ever: a coast-to-coast happy Birthday/Keep the Whole World Singing medley

— Brian Lynch, 75th Anniversary marketing consultant

TULSA DAILY WORLD

The Only Newspaper in Tulsa With Complete Associated Press Trunk Wire Service

FINAL HOME EDITION

TULSA, OKLAHOMA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1938

12 PAGES

No, No Folks—You're Wrong! That Was Musical History in the Making

Tulsa's Barber Shop Singers Tune Up Just For Fun

By RALPH MARTIN
Of The World Staff

A LITTLE YELLOW moon as thin as a fingernail paring was hanging in the purple sky Tuesday night as certain astonished Tulsa citizens coagulated along Main and Seventh at the base of the Alvin hotel.

Maybe they didn't know it—maybe they still won't believe it—but they were listening to musical history in the making.

The mighty sounds emanating from the French and lavender halls above were of such strength and volume as to cause one staid and settled taxpayer to voice the consensus fermenting in the group—

"Hell," he muttered in a tone of voice compounded of equal parts of alarm, astonishment and admiration, "has broken loose in the henhouse."

But it was not hell in the henhouse. Instead it was the aardvark's camisole—it was the berries—it was the mellifluous voices of the S.P.E.B.S.S.A. in action.

THE BROTHERHOOD of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America were congregated 63 strong in their sixth meeting and exercising the inalienable right of all American males to harmonize while imbibing beer.

National recognition was plucking at their sleeves as they vocalized, but as one man the warbling brethren paid it absolutely no mind.

O. C. Cash, who together with I. S. Hall, collaborated in hatching out this organizational idea in the first instance, revealed that in spite of the fact the

fraternity is less than two months old, it is begetting progeny in the form of local chapters in other cities with all the prolificacy of a roe shad hatching eggs.

The national magazine, Time, was clamoring Monday and Tuesday for further details, the Chicago Tribune had a newshawk hatching up a feature story, and the Associated Press up in Topeka was insisting on additional details to go with their story of the starting of a local chapter in that city.

But Tuesday night the pick, the pink and the perfection of local male bards gathered and sang soulfully and with not the slightest sign of self-consciousness.

THE WARBLING WAS led by that prize package of pandemonium, "Tubby" Young, who wears a rotund shape which could arouse enthusiasm in nobody but a circus owner, but who nevertheless possesses a base voice which sounds like somebody throwing big rocks in a deep well.

The song hit of the evening was a touching rendition of the "Old Gray Mare," sung with acrobatic adam's apples and realistic sound effects by S. M. (Puny) Blevens, who is an attenuated young man possessing lots of longitude but notably shy as to latitude.

There were tenors as mellow as aged wine casks, top tenors which would make you cry, baritones as full in tone as a Stradivarius, and basses as low as a rat's heel in the bottom of a deep cellar. Various talented persons took turn-about abusing a piano.

After a full hour of singing such favorites as "Roll Them Bones," "Down by the Old Mill Stream," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Sweet Adeline," "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," the brotherhood called a momentary halt by singing the theme song of the organization, "The Old Songs," and went in to eat.

Sidewalk Crowds Gape And Wonder—But Nobody Cares

* * *

AN ATTEMPT WAS made to rake up some competition singing between various tables where a cold lunch and beer was being devastated, but it ended in a flat failure. Each time a table would start a little bit of individual singing, all other singers found themselves unable to resist the urge to join in.

"Puny" Blevens was conscripted as emergency chairman and welcomed the delegation from Bartlesville, headed by "High Grade" Cunningham. A report was called for from the "nominating quartet," headed by Fred Graves, but Mr. Graves was conspicuously absent.

An investigation revealed that he had gone out to mobilize an additional supply of beer and had somehow failed to return. It was decided that an election will be conducted by mail and ballots from each member will elect a president, a vice president and secretary-treasurer for the charter member organization.

Judge Edgar Shook of Kansas City, originator of the chapter in that city, has indicated that plans will soon be complete to invite the national brotherhood in its first country-wide meeting there. Tentative plans are being outlined to invite Bing Crosby, who first gained recognition as a baritone in a barber shop quartet from Seattle.

The gathering carried on as gaily as busting bubbles in a champagne bottle until the small hours and eventually broke up when all voices became as weak as a gnat with the lumbago and the brethren departed for home after singing "Sweet Adeline" and exchanging mutual commitments that a "wonderful time was had by all."

1938

April 11: First meeting of what would soon become the Barbershop Harmony Society. Owen C. Cash, Rupert Hall and 24 other men met on the top of the Tulsa Club's Roof Garden/Sky Terrace. Everyone agreed that this was something they wanted to continue, so they scheduled another meeting. News of their third meeting hit the news wires. The story went national and inspired other men to meet. Additional chapters formed. The Society was born.



The Tulsa Club's Roof Garden/Sky Terrace, location of what turned out to be the Society's first chapter meeting.

S.P.P.B.S.Q.S.U.S.? The name first used by Founder O.C. Cash was the "Society for the Preservation and Propagation of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in the United States".

"Down Mobile." This was the first song under "Society auspices," sung by a pickup quartet while waiting for the first meeting to start. Members were Donnie O'Donovan (T), S. M. "Puny" Blevens (L), O.C. Cash (Br) and Elmer Lawyer (Bs).

Charter members. Of the 26 men on the roof top of that very first songfest April 11, 1938, Mo Rector (double gold medalist) was often quoted to say, "Through the years I've met 100 of them."

Chapters Charter. Thanks to the news media coverage, chapters began forming and ultimately, began becoming official *chartered* chapters. Here are the first 10:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| • Tulsa, Okla. | April 11, 1938 |
| • Kansas City, Mo. | June 2, 1938 |
| • Oklahoma City, Okla. | July 6, 1938 |
| • Wilmington, Del. | Sept. 9, 1938 |
| • St Louis #1, Mo. | Oct. 8, 1938 |
| • Wichita, Kan. | March 1, 1939 |
| • Chicago #1, Ill. | June 1, 1939 |
| • Long Beach, Calif. | June 29, 1939 |
| • Detroit-Oakland, Mich. | July 29, 1939 |
| • Grand Rapids, Mich. | Nov. 1, 1939 |

Cash, Inc. Early Society leaders filed our Articles of Incorporation June 30, 1938. Ten "incorporators" (including OC Cash and Rupert Hall) were named as "Board of Sing-chronizers" (directors). Society business was conducted rather informally. Cash took on the self-imposed title of *Founder and Permanent Third Assistant Temporary Vice Chairman*. He refused to take any official office and remained neutral in Society matters. He also never "officially" competed in a Society contest, to avoid any favoritism by the judges and, conveniently, to avoid losing.



O.C. Cash hangs the first Society logo at the Society's second chapter, the Kansas City, Mo. Chapter.

the "World's Champion." Out of 23 competing quartets, Tulsa's **Bartlesville Barflies**, George McCaslin (T), Harry Hall (L), Herman Kaiser (Br) and Bob Durand (Bs), were crowned our first quartet champ. They won the grand prize of \$50, with



During the 1940 convention, the Flatfoot Four, O.C. Cash, and the K.C. Police Quartet snarled Times Square traffic. The real cops turned traffic duties over to the singing quartet.

1939

Quartet Champ: The Bartlesville Barflies (George McCaslin, Harry Hall, Bob Durand, Herman Kaiser)

National Convention: Tulsa, Okla.

National President: Rupert Hall

Barflies Win First Quartet Contest. The Tulsa Barbershoppers hosted a contest to determine

the runners-up given a box of throat lozenges and best wishes for the next convention.

First foreign-born quartet champion. It didn't take long. Barflies lead Harry Hall was a native of the United Kingdom.

First Society Quartet Recording. The album featured the 1939 champs singing "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie," "By the Watermelon Vine," "Lindy Lou," "By the Light of the Silvery Moon," "Love Me and the World is Mine," "Just a Dream of You, Dear" and "When the Harbor Lights are Burning."

1940

Quartet Champ: The Flat Foot Four (Johnny Whalen, Britt Stegall, Red Elliott, Sam Barnes)

National Convention: New York City, N.Y.

National President: Norm Rathert

New York's World's Fair hosts second contest. The first real "national" quartet contest was held in New York City in conjunction with the World's Fair. Fifty quartets entered and judges included



The Bartlesville Barflies, the Society's first international quartet champion in 1939.

VM Chorus Members

Nick Alexander	Chris Denton	Eric Harmon	Don Kahl	Richard Morrison	Peter Schott
Greg Allman	Connor Denton	Marty Hathaway	Charles Kennedy	Pete Moxley	Dean Seeley
Tom Anderson	Robert Divers	Gary Hennerberg	Tim Kerby	Warren Nagumo	Marty Senstock
Jerry Andrews	Stephen Drye	Kellan Hickman	Alex Koch	Lance Neill	Mike Senter
Brian Armstrong	Chad Ehmke	Jared Holt	Jeff Koch	Jeff Oxley	Stretch Smith
Carl Axelson	Phil Elsner	Joe Hoofnagle	Joe Krones	Gary Parker	Barry Smith
Brad Bartel	Jeremy Epperson	Alan Hopper	Mark Lampe	Tom Pedano	Don Smith
Anthony	Dan Fullerton	John Hubbard	JR Leath	Frank Perez	Dan Stafford
Bartholomew	Duncan Gilman	Dave Huff	Tim Ledbetter	David Peterson	Tony Stafford
Rolland Bek	Bob Gooding	Lonny Hurwitz	Scott Lewis	Ken Piercy	Bill Steele
Brian Belcher					Steve Stripling
Robin Belcher					Richard Strunk
Justin Bell					Rich Tassone
Tom Bergmann					Martin Taylor
Mitch Berke					Marty Tayman
Rick Bivins					Dan Tippet
Mickey Bonesio					CB Turner
Mike Borts					John Vaughn
Steve Brandt					Bob Volpe
Don Bybee					Kevin Wagner
Bob Calderon					Paul Wallace
Arjun Chandy					Jack Ware
Greg Clancy					Don Webb
Jim Clancy					David Webb
Jim Croley					Jack Westbrook
Richard Crummel					Paul Westgate
Rich Cunningham					Rodney White
Dan Davis					Paul Whiteman
Wes Dean					Bill Whittle
Steve DeCrow					Steve Williams
Jim Degnan					Andy Wirtner
Jay Dennis					Clint Woodward
Chuck Denton					Eric Zipp



Congratulates the Barbershop Harmony Society for 75 Years of Enriching Lives

Chase Gooding	Tom Jackson	Charlie Lotspeich	Hank Pivarnik
John Griswell	Shawn Jeffries	Mike Mahone	Brad Randall
Paul Griswell	Mike (MJ)	Landon Maples	John Rasco
Steve Haas	Johnson	Tom Marsh	Tom Reedy
Dennis Hale	Michael Johnson	Jay Marsh	Lannis Roberts
Scott Hale	Steve Johnsrud	Phil McShan	Brad Roberts
Al Haller	Steve Jones	Alan Melville	Todd Roberts
Brooks Harkey	Al Josephson	Marlin Miller	Bob Ryan

VM Emeritus Members

Bob Arnold	David Bowen	Terry Diedrich	Joe Johnson	Smokey	Chuck Shelton
Ron Ashby	Jim Burgess	Don Dochterman	John "Jack" Kelly	Mountcaslte	Rod Spain
Prentice Barnett	Frank Cartisano	Dale Gaus	Grady Kerr	Curt Myers	John Spaulding
Brian Beck	Mike Charles	Don Gresham	Al Kvanli	Guy Nicosia	Kent Stadler
John Beck	Danny Colgrove	Tom Halverson	Bill Lyle	Jim Patterson	Doug Thiessen
Bruce Beer	Terry Cox	Larry Hearn	Peter Maddeaux	Bill Pierce	John Upchurch
Dan Bell	Dave Crans	Keith Houts	Doug Maddox	Lyle Rolofson	Eddie Wall
Terry Blaise	John Davis	Quinn Hunter	Frank Mahnich	Vic Sassone	Jack Walter
Jim Boone	Don Devenport	Lars Isaacson	Clinton Marks	Hal Schneider	Jason Williams
		Carl Johnson	Ken McKee		

Flat Feet vs. Barflies

An article from *TIME* Magazine. Aug. 5, 1940



Many an old time whiskey tenor crouched closer to his radio one night last week. Reason: the finals of the Second Annual National Championship for Barber Shop Quartets, broadcast from the New York World's Fair. All week winners of sectional contests had crooned, bleated and harmonized before a tableful of solemn judges. The performance to beat, all knew, was the precise, satin-smooth "Just a Dream of You" and "Mandy Lee" of last year's champs, the mustachioed, white-aproned Phillips "66" Barflies of Bartlesville, Okla. Most favored challengers were the Flat Foot Four, a quartet of Oklahoma City cops in uniform. By the time the cops had finished a slurred-toned Shine, a highly original Annie Laurie, a bouncing Roll Dem Bones, the Barflies were licked - by one point.

Sponsor of this contest was the Society for the Preservation & Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. No mere anything-for-a-laugh letterhead organization, the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. takes itself fairly seriously. Heart and founder of the organization is its Permanent Third Assistant Temporary Vice Chairman, bland, round-faced Tulsa oilman Owen Clifton ("O.C.") Cash. Long addicted to informal harmonization with friends, Barbershopper Cash applied in May 1938 for a corporate charter in Oklahoma, proclaimed: "In this age of dictators and government control of everything, about the only privilege guaranteed by the Bill of Rights not in some way supervised or directed is the art of barbershop singing ..." Local chapters of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. mushroomed all over the country, now number some 200. Among the 2,000 members: Major Bowes, Groucho Marx, Jim Farley, Bing Crosby, five Southwestern Governors.

Many a U.S. citizen finds it difficult to dissociate barbershop singing from barroom. Not so the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. which rarely mixes liquor with its lyrics, explains simply: "A drunk can't sing." Equally proud is the society of the propriety of its songs, not one of which "you couldn't sing in Church."

Mayor Fiorello La Guardia and Former Governor Al Smith, Harry Armstrong (who wrote "Sweet Adeline"). Sigmund Spaeth (The Tune Detective) emceed.

In 1940, 1939 champ **The Bartlesville Barflies** finished in second place. The same four men, now competing as the "**Philips 66 Barflies**", finished third in 1941 and in 1942. When the 1942 champion **Chord Busters** retired from competition after winning, they began the "once a champion, always a champion" precedent.

Barbershop Ballads and How To Sing Them.

A second printing of Sigmund Spaeth ground-breaking 1925 book was released by Simon & Schuster. A prominent member of the Society, Spaeth's book on close harmony was the only one of its kind. Most Society pioneers referred to it religiously. In the early Society, it was instrumental in unifying the style and judging.

1941

Quartet Champ: The Chord Busters (Doc Enmeier, Bob Holbrook, Bobby Greer, Tom Masengale)

International Convention: St. Louis, Mo.

International President: Carroll Adams

Society Executive Secretary: Carroll Adams 1941-1952

Editor: Barber Shop Re-Chordings: Joe Stern 1941

First state-sponsored quartet contest. On March 8, 1941, Grand Rapids staged Michigan's first official state contest of quartets, billed as the "second" statewide competition because Grand Rapids had been bitten early by the harmony bug and had already put on a "state contest" in 1940 even though it had no chapters and the affair was conducted largely by quartet enthusiasts in the Schubert Club "under sponsorship of SPEBSQSA." Any Michigan quartet could compete.

First SPEBSQSA Winter Board Meeting. Jan. 20. St. Louis, Mo., Mayfair Hotel.

First Society publication. Our first editor was National Secretary/Treasurer Joe Stern. His four-page newsletter, called the *Barber Shop Re-Chordings*, first appeared in November of 1941 (Vol. I, No. 1). A hand-written Phil Embury arrangement of "Sweet Roses of Morn" appeared in the issue, becoming the Society's first published arrangement.

Barbershop brothers. Identical triplets Anthony, Bernard and Charles Harris (A-B-C) were born on March 7 in Muncie, Ind., to Joe and Louise Harris. Multiples were rare in the '40s, so they caught the attention of the national media. They grew up singing and became Barbershoppers like their dad. They appeared on the Ted Mack Amateur Hour and became a sensation on barbershop chapter shows. Sixty years later, they still sing together.



1942

Quartet Champ: The Elastic Four (Herman Struble, Roy Frisby, Jimmy Doyle, Frank Thorne)

International Convention: Grand Rapids, MI

International President: Hal Staab

Editor: Carroll P. Adams 1942-1953: Barber Shop Re-Chordings / The HARMONIZER

First Society magazine. In September and December of 1942, Society members received the second and third issues of *The Barber Shop Re-Chordings*. The 16-page magazine reached a circulation 2,000 and was written by our new National Secretary/Treasurer Carroll P. Adams. They included photos and updates of the new and growing organization, results from the June Grand Rapids convention, and an article by National VP Maurice Reagan on the Mechanics of Barbershop Harmony. Each issue cost around \$1,300 to produce.

Difference of opinion about O.C. Cash. Showing the light-hearted nature of the Society and appreciation of our Founder's famous sense of humor, editor Carroll Adams included this in the December 1942 issue of *Barbershop Re-Chordings*:

A prominent attorney in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, who is a loyal member of the Chapter in that city, but who asked that his name be withheld, for obvious reasons, says this about the illustrious founder of our noble Society, O.C. Cash;



A group photo at the 1941 international convention in St. Louis.

Among tax attorneys throughout the United States, O.C. Cash is known as "damned good baritone." Among Barber Shop Quartetters throughout the United States, O.C. Cash is known as a "damned good tax attorney."

1943

Quartet Champ: *The Four Harmonizers* (Charles Schwab, Leo Ives, Huck Sinclair, Fred Stein)

International Convention: Chicago, IL

International President: Hal Staab

First issue of *The Harmonizer*. Appearing in March of 1943, the cover was skillfully drawn



by National Board Member from Atlanta Dick Sturges, who also suggested the new name.

1944

Quartet Champ: *The Harmony Halls* (Ed Gaikema, Bob Hazenberg, Ray Hall, Gordon Hall)

International Convention: Detroit, MI

International President: Phil Embury

New Society lapel emblem introduced.

The Society's second logo was the result of the combined talents of Charles Cimerro of Atlanta, Joe Wolff of Detroit, and Art Editor of *The Harmonizer*,

Dick Sturges. First appearing on the cover of the March 1944 issue of *The Harmonizer*, Dick combined ideas from the other two and "horn-



That didn't take long. 1943 saw the formation of the first super-chorus, the Corn Belters Chorus (John Hanson, dir.). It was made up of 150 men from the Bloomington, Canton and Peoria Illinois chapters.

swoggled the National Board into accepting my design as a new lapel emblem."

Society opens first national headquarters.

Carroll Adams became full-time executive secretary, operating from a three-room office in at 19311 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Mich., at a salary of \$500 per month. He was aided by a staff of two stenographers and his boast was that every incoming letter was answered within 24 hours of receipt. As a help to chapters, the Society published and distributed a

comprehensive "operations manual." Other printed literature gave advice about the organization of

new chapters. Loose-leaf song arrangements were released at an average of one per month.

More state associations.

Chapters in Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio organize state associations and will soon hold official quartet contests. Soon to come are

New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Missouri in the young Society's expansion.

Past champs club formed. Chord Busters tenor



A Vision of the Future

My vision of the Society in years to come is that of an organization made up of more than 50,000 members with a thousand or more Chapters scattered in every State in the Union.

Many of these Chapters will be located at Colleges and Universities. National Officers and Directors will be elected annually by a House of Delegates representing each Chapter. National Headquarters will be managed by a permanent paid National Secretary who will be selected on the basis of ability by the National Board. He will be responsible for the conduct of Society business under the supervision of the President and the Board of Directors.

District Associations will cover the United States. These will be headed by District Officers who will become an integral part of a National Plan of Organization. Each District will have its own Convention and Quartet Contest, the climax of the year being the National Convention and Quartet Contest at which National Officers will be elected and the championship quartet will be crowned.

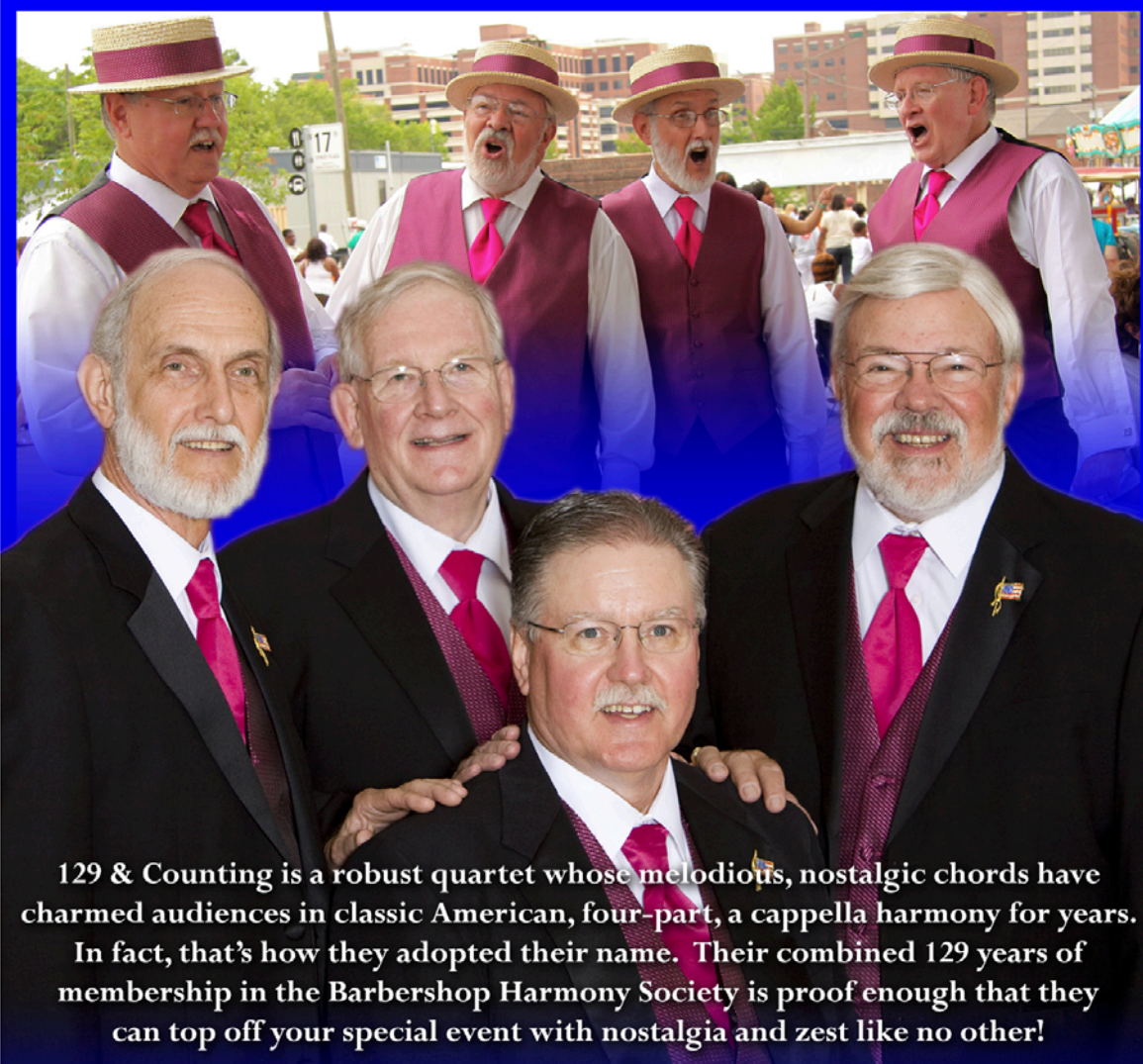
A sound movie of the National Convention and Contest will be provided, and the annual showing of this movie will be a gala event for each Chapter. National Officers will call in many Districts and on many Chapters during the year. There will be a National Council of District Presidents who will meet at the time of the National Convention and collaborate with the National Board of Directors. There will be an association of Past National Presidents who will remain continually active in a consulting capacity especially on problems of the future. There will be conferences of Chapter Secretaries at which mutual problems will be discussed.

Constructive bulletins and pamphlets of assistance to Chapters will be published regularly by the National Office. Barber Shop Quartet arrangements of hundreds of songs will be available for every member. There will be a resurgence of barber shop quartet singing all over America. Recording companies will become more Barber Shop conscious and will produce records of our top flight quartets. Recordings will be made each year at our National Contest, and will be available to all members.

Our quartets will often be heard over the radio, and our National Contest will be listened to by millions over a National hook-up and seen by millions by means of television. The Society will become one of the most favorably known Service Organizations in the nation. Our Founder, O. C. Cash, will become as well known as is Harris of Rotary and Prince of Kiwanis. The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America will have reached its zenith only when these things have been accomplished.

My vision is not only a vision, it is a prophecy. If we love our Society enough we will reach the heights.

— Hal Staab, 1943 National President, May 1943 issue of *The Harmonizer*



129 & Counting is a robust quartet whose melodious, nostalgic chords have charmed audiences in classic American, four-part, a cappella harmony for years. In fact, that's how they adopted their name. Their combined 129 years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society is proof enough that they can top off your special event with nostalgia and zest like no other!

129 & Counting



A very entertaining quartet!

Phone (770) 953-3970 Fax (770) 956-7931
MrBill@129andCounting.com | www.129andCounting.com

Congratulations BHS on our 75th Anniversary!

Doc Enmeier decided a group should be formed of gold medal champs. A maximum eligibility of only four new members a year makes this a very exclusive club. George McCaslin and Frank Thorne were elected President and Secretary. It was agreed this new group would be of considerable value to the future growth of our Society. The group would eventually become known as the Association of International Champions (AIC).

Society becomes international. The first Canadian chapter was organized in the spring of 1944 in Windsor, Ont.

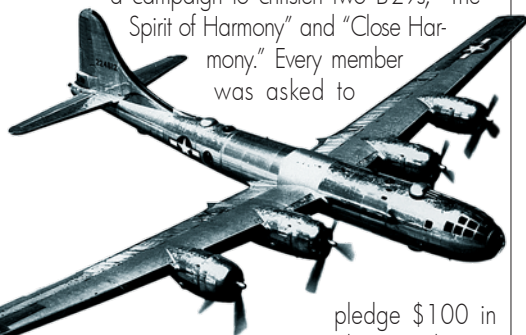
1945

Quartet Champ: *The Misfits* (Joe Murrin, Art Bielan, E.V. "Cy" Perkins, Pete Buckley)

International Convention: Detroit, MI

International President: Phil Embury

War Bonds and B-29s. Many members were serving overseas and many quartets and choruses entertained servicemen and those recovering in hospitals. The Society promoted War Bonds with a campaign to christen two B-29s, "The Spirit of Harmony" and "Close Harmony." Every member was asked to



pledge \$100 in War Bonds. Many chapters held special meeting nights to raise the money. The goal was \$1.5 million. In the end, the average pledge from our members was \$300, with still only half of the members reporting in. Enough War Bonds were pledged to purchase not two but five B-29s, with the nationwide total reaching \$3 million. Thankfully, the war ended before the money was needed.

Presidential pitch. Late June, President Harry S Truman officially joins the **Kansas City Chapter.**



Society member Harry S Truman

War affects the Society. Restrictions on wood pulp and paper affected magazines and newspapers across the country. *The Harmonizer* uses wartime paper stock to support war efforts.

An early convention. The 6th annual Michigan SPEBSQSA contest was held in Flint February 24, 1945, in the 6,500 seat I.M.A Auditorium. Tickets \$1.20 (main floor), \$.90 balcony. **The Gardenaires** won.

1946

Quartet Champ: *The Garden State Quartet* (Ted Rau, Bob Freeland, Jack Briody, Joe Marrese)

International Convention: Cleveland, OH

International President: Frank Thorne

Society welcomes vets home. Society membership numbers skyrocketed when "The Greatest Generation" returned from overseas to their families, jobs and singing.

The Harmonizer charts growth.

Page count increased from 16 pages in 1942 to 56 pages in 1946, while circulation grew from 2,000 to 13,500.

Frank Thorne elected Society president. He becomes the first quartet gold medalist (bass, 1942 **Elastic Four**) to serve as Society president.

Canes, canes and more canes. Of the 31 quartets in the 1946 contest, 19 used canes.

1947

Quartet Champ: *The Doctors of Harmony* (H.H. "Jumbo" Smith, Max Cripe, Butch Hummel, Lee Kidder)

International Convention: Milwaukee, WI

International President: Charlie Merrill

Bills begin. Eventual 1950 champs **The Buffalo Bills** held their first rehearsal on Sept. 20 in the home of baritone Hershel "Hersh" Smith. Other members were Al Shea (L), Vern Reed (T) and Bill Spangenberg (Bs). Later, with a new baritone (Dick Grapes), they would win the 1950 quartet championship. With yet another baritone, Scotty Ward, they would star on Broadway and in the film of *The Music Man*.

"Keep America Singing" first sung. The Society's theme song (later changed to "Keep the Whole World Singing") is introduced during the 1947 convention. Words and music were by Society board member Willis Diekema of Holland, Mich.

Old Songs Library begins. "Now all we need is thousands of copies of old songs," says President Charlie Merrill. The permanent library was approved by the Old Song Committee. With the



The Four Bees entertain shipboard crew before returning from the war to join the Bloomington, Ill. Chapter. Returning GIs exploded the Society's numbers following WWII.

demand for lead sheets and words of the oldies, it was enthusiastically welcomed and promoted. Over the years the collection grew. Today it is estimated to exceed 110,000 pieces and is one of the largest collections of popular sheet music in

the country

First Old Songs Committee - George O'Brien, Russell Cole, James Emsley, Marvin Lee; Ted Livingston, William McKenna, Sigmund Spaeth, Arthur Sweeney and Jerry Vogel.

International travel costs. Travel

to Oklahoma City for the upcoming international convention was a bit



When a quality quartet sings, a quality-size crowd gathers

more involved in 1948. You could drive the 1,694 miles from San Francisco at 26 cents a gallon. You could take a 58-hour bus ride for \$49.70, or a 55-hour train ride for \$95.70. A 13-hour airplane ride cost \$158. The two-day convention registration was \$5.

Sweet Adelines hold first national convention in Tulsa, Okla.

1948

Quartet Champ: *The Pittsburghers* (Harry Conte, Tom Palamone, John Ward, Bill Conway)

International Convention: Oklahoma City, OK

International President: O.H. "King" Cole

Fast growth. By our 10th Anniversary, the Society had 450 chapters, 22,500 members, 1,700 quartets and 175 organized choruses. Honolulu and Anchorage also chartered this year.

Year	Chapters	Members
June 1944	95	4,490
June 1945	169	8,064

June 1946	242	12,772
June 1947	364	19,527
May 1948	459	22,348

The Chordettes start as a barbershop quartet.

Society President O.H. "King" Cole's daughter, Jinny, sings in a barbershop quartet, **The Chordettes**, performing on many chapter shows. Most famous for "Mr. Sandman," they were to become one of the most famous quartets of all time, male or female.

Society publishes first music books.

The first in a series of 12 annual Society music folios, *Songs For Men*, this popular series was sent to all members. and included 28 four-part Society-approved songs.



1949

Quartet Champ: *The Mid-States Four* (Bob Rodriguez*, Marty Mendro, Forry Haynes, Art Gracey)

International Convention: Buffalo, NY

International President: O.H. "King" Cole

* Bob Rodriguez performed under the stage name Bob Mack

Mid-States Four win. They greatly influenced future quartets with entertainment value beyond singing.

The Singing Capital Chorus sings for Inaugural Gala. The 91-man chorus from the Washington, D.C., Chapter performed for President Harry Truman's Jan. 20 Inaugural Gala. Directed by Dr. Robert Howe Harmon, 10 million television viewers watched along with the highest officials in all branches of government. They shared the stage with Abbott and Costello, Edgar Bergen, Phil Harris, Alice Faye, Lum and Abner. Among the songs sung on the nation-wide TV broadcast was "Keep America Singing."

Southwestern District is born. The Southwestern District broke away from the Central States District for geographic and travel reasons. Its first quartet contest was Nov. 5 in Beaumont, Texas.

Old Songs collection grows. The Society received 360 pounds of old sheet music from the collection of a literary editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*. A full-time librarian is now needed to classify, inventory, repair and integrate into the thousands of songs already in the Society's collection. Members are still sending in their collections to this day.

Logopedics supported by first chapter. The Wichita, Kan., Chapter donated proceeds from a chapter show to the Institute of Logopedics, which cared for speech handicapped children



MARCH, 1949

THOSE CHORDETTEs

Currently the most sought girls' quartet for the Society's parades, the Chordettes of Sheboygan serenade Pres. Cole in just the right setting, and sitting.

in a speech correction center. The Society Board voted to encourage support for the Institute as well as local centers in their communities. This would begin a relationship between the Society and the Institute that would raise \$16 million between 1964 to 2000.

Kratt on pitch. The Society first offers Kratt Pitch Pipes for \$2.50, or \$3.50 with the Society emblem, postage pre-paid.

Al Young designed the fluorescent "Mr. Big" for the Charlevoix, Mich. Chapter's Parade of Quartets.



1950

Quartet champ: *The Buffalo Bills* (Vern Reed, Al Shea, Dick Grapes, Bill Spangenberg)

International Convention: Omaha, NE
International President: Jerry Beeler

Jim Clancy discovers a cappella. At age 13, Jim Clancy heard the **Four Freshmen's** "It's A Blue World" for the first time. This set him off on a life-long journey of music. "I knew then that I wanted a career as a singer." Jim would eventually win 11 chorus gold medals as director of **The Vocal Majority**.

Harmony Halls tour Europe. The 1944 champs entertained the troops on a circuit of Army posts of the European Command. Their 23-day trip included 50 scheduled and 200 unscheduled

The "fiesty" Barbershopper behind the beautiful trophy nobody requested

While today's quartets hoist the OC Cash Memorial Trophy, for 38 years, they were presented the "Landino Trophy," the creation of a not-so-typical Joe Barbershopper, Ben Landino. He was a chubby, feisty and rather unorthodox little guy who was 50 years old when he walked in to a Gross Point, Mich., chapter rehearsal and proudly proclaimed that he was a bass and wanted to join.

Ben was also a master craftsman who would surprise members with various hand-crafted awards for special occasions. His first big trophy was for the Michigan District (now Pioneer District) quartet champions, an impressive piece still in use today. In 1949, he decided the Society quartet champs needed a trophy without ever telling anyone what he was doing—he just went ahead and devoted more than 600 hours to a masterpiece hand-crafted down to the finest detail.

When news of this non-commissioned trophy reached Society leadership, they informed Ben that they might not want the trophy, as quartets "already receive individual medals, and once we start presenting our champs with trophies, who knows where it will end?" Once they saw the beautiful trophy, their reservations vanished.

They arranged for Ben himself to be at the 1949 International contest in Buffalo, N.Y., to make the first presentation. That year's winners, The Mid-States Four, actually only received the top part. The base was added in time to present the heavy and impressive complete award to the Buffalo Bills in 1950. Al Steiner, also of Gross Point, did the engraving. It underwent very few changes over the years and was presented to every quartet champ for the next 38 years.

Through the years, the original trophy underwent many repairs due to the number of miles traveled. In some cases it wasn't presented on stage at the convention due to the state of its disrepair.



Chordial Invitation

The Kelowna, British Columbia
Canada Chapter

*We are Small and mighty
proud to be part of this society.*

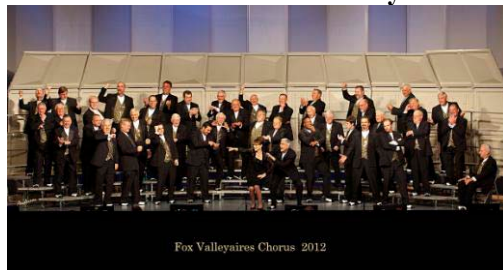
Come to the Okanagan Valley of BC
Enjoy the wine and sun plus the harmony, the
fellowship and the joy of ringing chords with us
any Monday evening.

Visit us at: chordial.groupanizer.com

A Happy 75th anniversary BHS- and many more.



The Appleton Chapter, Fox Valleyaires Chorus,
Congratulates the Barbershop Harmony Society
On its 75th Anniversary



Fox Valleyaires Chorus 2012

As the 2nd chartered chapter in the Land O'Lakes
District, July 1944, we will present Our 69th Annual
Barbershop Show "Kountry Korn" April 14th, 2013



"We're outstanding in our field"
www.foxvalleyaires.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY ON 75 YEARS OF SERVICE





The 150-voice Louisville Chorus in 1950. Along with several barbershop quartets, the Nov. 18th show included an up-and-coming jazz quartet called The Hi-Lo's. With large choruses formed all over the Society, the inevitable chorus contest started in 1953 or 1954, depending on whether you're asking someone from Michigan or Washington, D.C.

performances, They broke all records and were very well-received. Many other Society quartets later followed their lead.

1950 medalist album sells out. The three 78-rpm set of recordings sells out, as does the 1951 recording, which cost \$5.50 postage pre-paid.

1951

Quartet Champ: The Schmitt Brothers (Fran Schmitt, Joe Schmitt, Paul Schmitt, Jim Schmitt)

International Convention: Toledo, OH

International President: Jim Knipe

Society searches for new home.

While a small office operated in Detroit, many leaders were searching for a new upscale building and location to serve the rapidly growing membership. Past Society president "King" Cole led the building committee and entertained ideas from the membership. Some promoted the Detroit area as well as Atlantic

Coast/New England/Boston area. Considerations were overnight mail service, taxes, sales tax, cost of living and the availability of "well trained clerical workers."

1952

Quartet Champ: The Four Teens (John Steinmetz, Jim Chinnock, Don Lamont, Don Cahall)

International Convention:

Kansas City, MO

International President: Ed Smith

Youth will be served. Jim Chinnock of 1952 champ **Four Teens** became the youngest-ever quartet gold medalist at 19,



1952 champ The Four Teens served together in the military after their win.

nosing out his three 20-year-old quartet mates. His record would stand 40 years until a slightly younger 19-year-old, Tony DeRosa, would win gold in 1992 as bari of **Keepsake**.

Sacred and patriotic music disallowed for contests.

Notice published in *The Harmonizer*: "Any song or medley (except sacred or patriotic numbers) that is in good taste, and lends itself to barbershop styling shall be considered appropriate for barbershop quartet contests. Songs which are suggestive or offensive to good taste shall be barred from competition and any quartet that presents such a song shall be summarily disqualified. It shall be unlawful for a quartet to an-

nounce its numbers. The penalty shall be disqualification."

The Buffalo Bills show off new duds. The 1950 champs stunned the convention audience when they took the Kansas City stage in their new "Buffalo Bill" buckskin outfits.

Kansas City sells out early. Many members had to cancel their trips after learning as early as Jan. 1 that seats were no longer available. The 1953 convention in Detroit added 1,700 more seats and made 900 more hotel rooms available. Registrations were still hard to come by in the population center of the Society, especially with the first chorus contest scheduled.



1953

Quartet Champ: The Vikings (Bob Maurus, Bruce Conover, Bob Lindley, Bob Livesay)

Chorus Champ: Great Lakes Chorus

International Convention: Detroit, MI

International President: Johnny Means

Executive Director / CEO: Bob Hafer 1953-1963 (International Secretary/Executive Director- Detroit Office/Kenosha)

Harmonizer Editor: Robert G. Hafer 1953 / 1955: 1956

Harmonizer Editor: Robert H. Breunig Jr. 1953-1954

First chorus contest is popular. Sixteen choruses representing nine of the Society's 14 districts competed. Bob Weaver directed the 38-man **Great Lakes Chorus** of Grand Rapids, Mich., to the win. They were declared International "Convention" Chorus Champions because not all the Society's Districts were represented. Second place went to **Q Suburban, Illinois**, and third place was **East York Toronto Barbershoppers** of Ontario.

Decca begins producing Society contest records.

Major recording label Decca began recording and producing Society contest records. Decca would continue to produce Society recordings, including many special non-contest LPs, until 1970. These records were available through the Society offices as well as in record stores nationwide.



The above quartet, shown in a U.S. Army barbershop contest, would likely never have formed in 1951 outside of the newly desegregated military, which was working to become a color-blind meritocracy. The military played a major role in dissolving long-standing, rarely examined racial attitudes and customs in broader society. A decade later, SPEBSQSA and many other organizations were to follow the example..

TONIGHT AND EVERY NIGHT...

BARBERSHOP CONCERT

IN YOUR HOME

on **DECCA RECORDS**

BARBERSHOP WINNERS 1953
MEDALIST OFFICIAL RECORDINGS
DL 5493 (33 1/3 RPM) • ED-567 (45 RPM Extended Play)
A-945 (78 RPM Album)

BARBERSHOP WINNERS 1954
MEDALIST OFFICIAL RECORDINGS
DL 5545 (33 1/3 RPM) • ED-690 (45 RPM Extended Play)
A-995 (78 RPM Album)

And for the first time...

BARBERSHOP CHORUS WINNERS

1954 MEDALIST OFFICIAL RECORDINGS
DL 5543 (33 1/3 RPM) • ED-688 (45 RPM Extended Play)

Your favorites... THE BUFFALO BILLS

"BARBERSHOP GEMS"
DL 5361 (33 1/3 RPM) • ED-653 (45 RPM Extended Play)
A-882 (78 RPM Album)

"BARBERSHOP FAVORITES"
DL 5494 (33 1/3 RPM) • ED-551 (45 RPM Extended Play)

DECCA RECORDS

A TREASURY OF HOME ENTERTAINMENT



O.C. Cash (right) and his Okie Four quartet.

CBS TV show, which aired later that night for an estimated 24 million viewers. **The Schmitt Brothers** had also appeared on the show soon after their win in 1951.

1955 convention sells out nine months early.

The June 15-19 convention in Miami Beach was declared a sell-out in Sept. 1954. Many members placed their names on the headquarters waiting list.

First official International Chorus Contest. Following the popular experimental chorus contest of 1953, the 1954 chorus contest attracted a large audience and many additional convention registrations among the 23 competing choruses. The Society's first official winner was the 72-man **Singing Capital Chorus** directed by Lew Sims.

Mega Chapters formed. The top 10 chapters as of Oct. 31, 1954, in terms of membership:

- Manhattan, N.Y.: 240
- Sheboygan, Wis.: 159
- Chicago, Ill.: 143
- Minneapolis, Minn.: 141
- Tulsa, Okla.: 133
- Muskegon, Mich.: 127
- Dearborn, Mich.: 124
- Detroit, Mich.: 124
- Miami, Fla.: 119
- Peoria, Ill.: 116

George Evans joins the Confederates. October 1953, George Evans, former tenor of the **Treble-shooters**, replaced the **Confederates** retiring tenor and joined Dave LaBonte, Wally Singleton, and Buzz Busby. They also began wearing their iconic Confederate officer uniforms, complete with long swords. The Memphis-based quartet would win gold in 1956 and become one of the more innovative and influential foursomes in our Society.

O.C. Cash dies. Born Feb. 13, 1892, on a farm near Keytesville, Mo., Owen Clifton Cash died of pancreatic cancer on Aug. 15, 1953 in Tulsa, Okla. at the age of 61.

1954

Quartet Champ: *The Orphans* (Bud Bigham, Bob Groom, Pete Tyree, Jay Bond)

Chorus Champ: *Singing Capital Chorus*

International Convention: Washington, DC

International President: Berney Simmer

The Chordettes hit #1 with "Mr. Sandman."

1954 convention PR coup. The international convention in Washington, D.C., received outstanding nationwide exposure. For example, the June 12 quartet finals (top 5) was recorded and edited for broadcast that night (11:30 p.m.-midnight) on the CBS radio network and made available to local stations. Some past champs were also recorded for the broadcast.

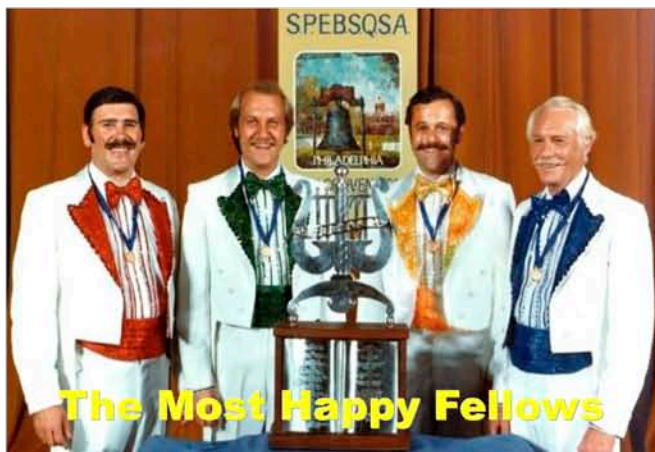
The Orphans on Sullivan. Only a few hours after winning, **The Orphans** flew to New York City for an afternoon taping of Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town"



The Great Lakes chorus won the first chorus contest held at an International convention, but were not formally recognized because not all districts were represented.

CELEBRATING EVERGREEN'S 65th BIRTHDAY

EVERGREEN'S INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CHAMPIONS



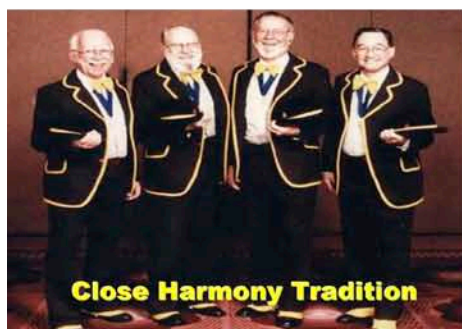
The Most Happy Fellows

1977 International Quartet Champion
(left to right) **Bob Hodge** - Tenor, **Larry Hassler** - Lead,
Jack Lyon - Baritone and **Ken Hawkinson** - Bass



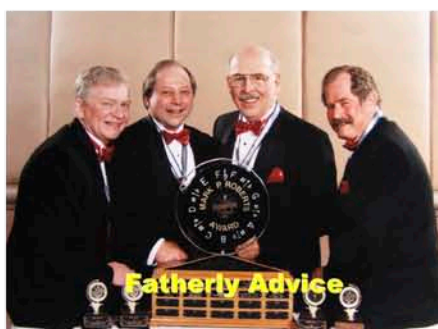
Realtime

EVERGREEN'S INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET CHAMPIONS



Close Harmony Tradition

1987 International Seniors Quartet Champion
(left to right) **Bob Mahoney** - Baritone, **Warren (Mitch) Mitchell** - Lead, **Chuck Benson** - Bass and **Dick Merritt** - Tenor



Fatherly Advice

1996 International Seniors Quartet Champion
(left to right) **Dick Bek** - Lead, **Dan Tangerone** - Tenor, **Burt Staffen** - Bass and **Bill Thurmon** - Baritone



OVER TIME

2000 International Seniors Quartet Champion
(left to right) **Jim Richards** - Tenor, **Jerry Harrison** - Lead, **Bud Roberts** - Bass and **Mel Knight** - Baritone



Antique Gold

2006 International Seniors Quartet Champion
(left to right) **Tom Bates** - Tenor, **George Wakeham** - Lead, **George Metzger** - Bass, and **Charlie Metzger** - Baritone



Friendly Advice

2007 International Seniors Quartet Champion
(left to right) **Dan Tangerone** - Tenor, **Wes Sorestokke** - Lead, **Forrest Lamotte** - Bass and **Bill Thurmon** - Baritone



Think only today's international quartet contest is dominated by young guys? There aren't a lot of a middle-aged faces in this snapshot of the 1955 international quartet medalists.

1955

Quartet Champ: The Four Hearsemen (Wendell Heiny, Deane Watson, Dwight Elliott, Dick Gifford)

Chorus Champ: Janesville Chorus

International Convention: Miami Beach, FL

International President: Arthur Merrill

[1955 medalists]

Gordon Lightfoot, Barbershopper. The Teentimers quartet (right) of Orillia, Ont., placed second in their district contest behind the singing of Terry Whalen (L), Bob Branch (T), Bill Hughes (Bs) and Gordon Lightfoot (Br). Gordon would go on to help define the folk-pop sound in the '60s and '70s with a decades-spanning series of interna-

tional chart-topping hits, including "If You Could Read My Mind," "Sundown" and "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." He became an Honorary Lifetime Member of the Society in 2006.

1956

Quartet Champ: The Confederates (George Evans, Dave LaBonte, Bill Busby, Wally Singleton)

Chorus Champ: Ambassadors of Harmony

International Convention: Minneapolis, MN

International President: Rowland Davis

Harmonizer Editor: Curtis Hockett 1956 / 1959-1963

Song of the Contest

1956 Confederates: Goodbye Old Dixie, Goodbye

First Harmony Week. April is named Founder's Month in memory of O.C. Cash, who died in 1953. One chapter meeting each month was to be "O.C. Cash Night". This would later become Harmony Week and be observed Society-wide for many years.

Society Mans Booth at 1956 MENC. The Schmitt Brothers and past president Johnny Means led a contingent to the April 13 Biennial Conference in St. Louis to promote barbershop harmony to 13,000 music educators and students. This began a healthy relationship between the Society and the teacher's organization.

Society receives 60,000 Old Songs. Upon the death of advertising executive Walter Wade, Chicago Barbershopper Lynn Hauldren saw to it that his \$30,000 collection of popular sheet music and folios was added to the 20,000 pieces already donated by membership. This collection



The Teentimers of Orillia, Ont.: (Front) Gordon Lightfoot (Br), Bill Hughes (Bs), (back) Terry Whelan (L), Bob Branch (T)



The Singing Capital Chorus, under the direction of Lew Sims, was winner of the first official Society International Chorus Contest.

still makes up part of the Society's library today.

Frank H. Thorne dies. The Society's influential sixth President, Frank Thorne, died Oct. 26 at age 65. He was one of the Society's foremost arrangers, judges and administrators, as well as bass of 1942 champion the **Elastic Four**. The current "chapter-at-large" membership is named in his honor.

Greg Backwell wins Joe Barbershopper cartoon contest. Canadian Greg Backwell's cartoons and art continue to be used. He also designed this year's 75th Anniversary logo, on the cover and elsewhere. (Look in the upper corners of the shield for a subtle tribute to O.C. Cash.) His art also appears on pages 22 and 28 of this issue.

1957

Quartet Champ: Lads of Enchantment (Don Pitts, Dan Aycock, Carl Wright, Gil Wallace)

Chorus Champ: Californians

International Convention: Los Angeles, CA

International President: Joe Lewis

Harmonizer Editor: Robert M. Hockenbrough 1957-1959

DID YOU KNOW?

Barbershop Harmony Australia was formed in 1985 in Perth, Western Australia, and was originally known as the "Australian Association of Men Barbershop Singers (AAMBS)".

The change of identity to Barbershop Harmony Australia was made in 2012.

Nearly 1,000 Australian men are members of a quartet or chorus, and there are barbershop groups in every major city and regional centre across Australia.

Barbershop Harmony Australia hosts a national convention and contest every two years to find the best choruses and quartets in the nation.

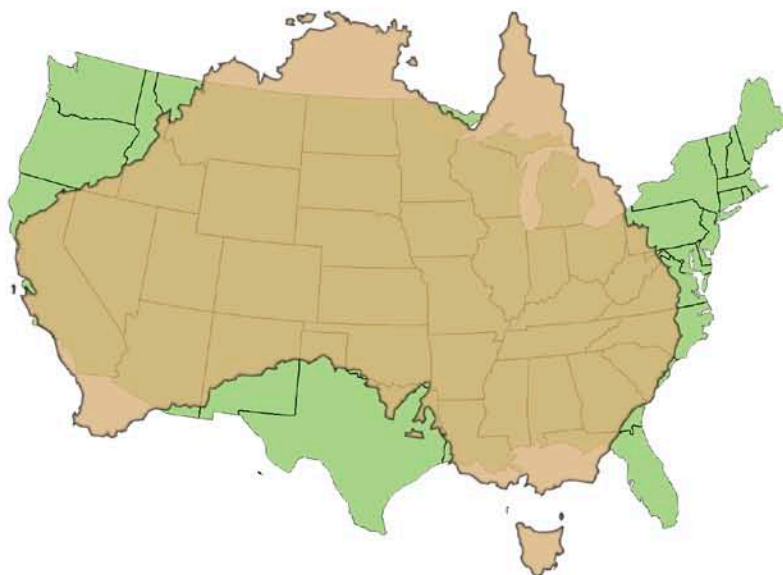
Australian conventions typically have over 20 choruses and about 40 quartets competing from all over the country – making the contest as big as an International!



BARBERSHOP HARMONY AUSTRALIA

**SALUTES THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY!**

The members of Barbershop Harmony Australia warmly congratulate our brothers in harmony in the United States of America and Canada on reaching this great milestone – 75 years of keeping the whole world singing!



**The next BHA convention will be held in Perth,
Western Australia, from 6-13 October 2013
and YOU'RE INVITED!**

Visit

www.barbershop.org.au
for more details!





The former Harmony Hall, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 1957-2003

New headquarters. Following an eight-year search, the Society purchases the spectacular 18,000-square-foot Alford Mansion in Kenosha, Wis., for the cost of back taxes. The castle-like building was purchased for \$75,000, or slightly more than the assessed value of the living room rug that came with the house; the structure had cost \$500,000 to build during the Great Depression. It remained the Society's headquarters building for nearly 50 years.

Past champs host first show. The Association of Past International Champions (later renamed the Association of International Champions) staged its first show after the Saturday chorus contest. Performers were **The Pittsburghers**, **Schmitt Brothers**, **Confederates** and **Lads of Enchantment**. This annual convention tradition continues to this day.

Jim Miller joins Society. He joined the **Louisville #1 Kentucky Chapter** at the age of 33 and would go on to become the director and lead them to

six chorus championships, then a seventh with **Southern Gateway Chorus**. He followed in the footsteps of his father, "King" Miller, who joined in 1948.

Bills on Broadway. From 1957-62, the 1950 champ **Buffalo Bills** appeared on Broadway and in the movie *The Music Man* that first opened on Broadway on Dec. 19.

1958

Quartet Champ: *The Gaynotes* (Harold Jones, Howard Rinkel, John Loots, Morris Rector)

Chorus Champ: *Dixie Cotton Boll*

International Convention: *Columbus, OH*

International President: *Joe Lewis*

Bill Cain walks into a Miami Chapter meeting. There he meets Gene Cokerft, Bob Franklin and Bill Wyatt and they quickly decided to enter the Dixie District Quartet Contest just two weeks away. They rehearsed nine nights in a row and came in second. A year later, they would sing some tags with Harlan Wilson and **The Suntones** were born. They would go on to win the Society's gold medals in 1961, perform for the next 50 years and greatly influence virtually all future quartets.

Confederates first LP marks major milestone in sound. The 1956 champs' groundbreaking LP included "Chloe," "Redhead" and "A Nightingale Sang in Barkley Square," "Creole Cutie" and "Twelfth Street Rag." The many innovative and progressive arrangements by SK Grundy

caused some controversy among traditionalists, but it also was a major influence among many then-young Society members and future quartets such as Jim Clancy, **The Dealer's Choice**, Jim Henry, **The Suntones**, **Bluegrass Student Union** and many more. Some consider this record a major milestone in the evolution of the barber-shop sound.

Mass chorus forms at International. At the "America Discovers Columbus" convention, all 13 choruses performed together on the Ohio State Capital steps under the direction of Aylett Fitzhugh of Dallas.

Man of Note program begins. Lapel pins were given to those who brought in 1-3 new members; with five or more, his chapter dues were paid by the Society. Chapters, Area Counselors and Districts



The Buffalo Bills spent years on Broadway

are also recognized for their increase. Membership grows from 25,000 in 1958 to 32,700 in 1968.

1959

Quartet Champ: *The Four Pitchikers* (Larry Hedgepeth, Keith Keltner, Keith Young, Joe Delzell)

Chorus Champ: *Pekin Chorus*

International Convention: *Chicago, IL*

International President: *Clarence Jalving*

Chicago Convention sold out. The convention in the Civic Opera House (3,600 seats) has sold out early. Bigger venues were used for future conventions (Dallas 1960: 8,000)

Decca's first live recording. For the first time, Decca recorded the actual stage performances in "sparkling high fidelity" stereo. Pre-

CARTOON CONTEST



JOE BARBERSHOPPER

★ **FIRST PRIZE** ★
GREG BACKWELL — LONDON, ONTARIO



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BHS FROM WHERE IT ALL STARTED, JUST OVER 75 YEARS AGO!



The Kansas City (Mo.) Chapter will celebrate proudly and harmoniously this spring in the lobby of the Hotel *Muehlebach*, almost exactly on the spot where **O.C. Cash** and **Rupert Hall** met on a snowy night in early 1938. The Founder's Plaque in the lobby commemorates a pledge after a night of singing by the two Tulsa businessmen: they would return home and round up other four-part harmony fans. The subsequent April meeting, as we all know, gave the world **SPEBSQSA**. And in June, Kansas City became the No. 2 chapter in the Society – personally chartered by Cash and a trainload of singers from Tulsa!

Some Kansas City Chapter highlights since June of 1938:

Joseph E. Stern, first director of the **Heart of America Chorus**; member of the first Society Board, followed by a six-year term as international Secretary/Treasurer; editor and publisher of first Society bulletin, *Barbershop Rechorings*, forerunner to the *Harmonizer*; credited with being first to suggest some codification of Society contest and judging rules; prominent arranger and composer in his day.

Only chapter to host **SIX INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS**: 1952, 1962, 1974, 1989, 2000, 2011 (**Joe Connelly** loves it here!)

Produced two Society presidents: **Robert D. Gall**, 1969, and **Gilbert L. Lefholz**, 1985-86.

The Heart of America Chorus has won 13 **Central States District** championships since 1978 and competed 22 times (so far) in international competition.



Stern



Gall



Lefholz



Rural Route 4

The Rural Route 4, then representing the Kansas City and Cass County, Mo., chapters, won the international quartet gold at Salt Lake City in 1986 (**Don Kahl, Calvin Yoder, Jim Bagby, Willard Yoder**)



HOA has been a century chapter since the late 1950s – well over 60 consecutive years. As a community leader, local charities annually include **Children's Mercy Hospital** and the **Salvation Army**.



The Merry Mugs

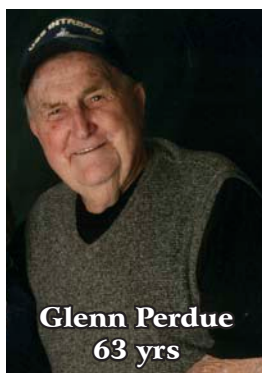
The **Merry Mugs** quartet was the first chosen by the Society to make a USO tour of the Pacific in 1968, then was among the first group of foursomes to sing for the Navy at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (**Ed Rooker, Frank Leone, Dan Henry Bowser, Bob Gall**). Bowser also is known as one of the Society's top emcees.

Here's to an even BRIGHTER FUTURE!

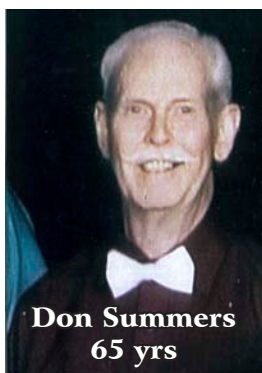


Harmony, Inc.

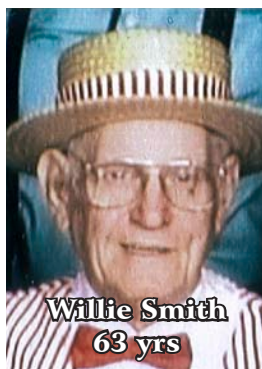
CELEBRATES YOUR 75 YEARS OF "ENRICHING LIVES THROUGH SINGING!"



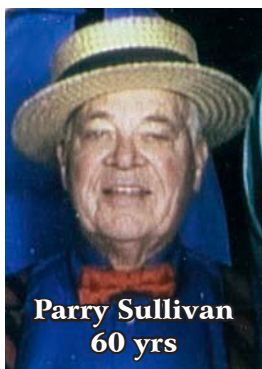
Glenn Perdue
63 yrs



Don Summers
65 yrs



Willie Smith
63 yrs



Parry Sullivan
60 yrs

**Peoria Barbershop Chapter founded 1942
treasured legacy**



'73 Champs Dealer's Choice

Congratulates the Barbershop Harmony Society on its **75th Anniversary!** We're also celebrating our 40th Anniversary Portland, OR win with a special *DC Anthology* offer, a four-CD collection of all our recorded works for **US\$24.95**. To order, contact: Holly Beck, hbeckbari@aol.com. 2555 Roundtop



Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 532-0334



Chuck Hudson of the Fairfax, Va., chapter presents Jane and Jim Henson with an award of appreciation for their television show "Sam and Friends" (Washington, D.C., 1955 to 1961) and their quartet of Muppets, The Four Spectacles: Marshmellon, Sam, Yorick, and Kermit.

Harmony Foundation is born. Harmony Foundation was formed to further the charitable and educational arm of the Society. In its initial stages, its main purpose is to enable the Society, as a whole, to gain credit for the charitable work its chapters

viously, quartets would record before or after their on-stage appearances.

First Honorary Memberships. Irving Berlin and Meredith Willson were presented the Society's first Honorary memberships in Chicago during the International convention. Ted Lewis accepted on behalf of Berlin and Byron Mellberg (**Frisco Four**) accepted on behalf of Willson.

Mortgage burned. The mortgage of Kenosha's Harmony Hall was set afire on stage in Chicago. The International Board paid it off from general funds with a promise that they would soon pay it back from the Society's Expansion Fund, which was doing very well.

First Barbershop Harmony Week. Previously called Founder's Week, the week of April 11 would henceforth be "Barbershop Harmony Week." It is still celebrated today.



The Dapper Dans first appeared at Disneyland in 1959. Here they're pictured at Disneyworld, where they first appeared in 1971.

were doing in their communities. Functioning as a clearing house, chapters reported their good works and these in turn were compiled to come up with Society-wide figures.

1960

Quartet Champ: *The Evans Quartet* (Turk Evans, Pres Evans, Gene Smith, Jack Evans)

Chorus Champ: *Chordsmen*

International Convention: *Dallas, TX*

International President: *Clarence Jalving*

Cost for the 1960 International in Dallas:

Registration \$15
Hotel rooms: Single \$5 to \$13
Double \$7.50 to \$17
Twin \$8.50 to \$19
Suites \$20 to \$65
Dormitory \$4 a man

Bill "Buzz" Busby injured in car wreck. The director of the 1958 champ **Cotton Boll Chorus** and bari of the 1956 champ **Confederates** suffered a fractured skull and concussion with a crushed cheek bone, broken ribs, a collapsed lung, compound fractures of his leg and arm, and his pelvis was fractured in several places. The response of the Society was overwhelming. The cards, letters and telegrams filled "more than three fat scrapbooks." Buzz writes, "This has been a great revelation to me and attests the true value of what our organization means. Medals, trophies and such are insignificant when compared to the overwhelming number of personal messages I have received from Barbershoppers everywhere."

Century Clubs. In 1960, a handful of chapters boasted more than 100 members:

Dundalk, MD	218
Pittsburgh, PA	156
Manhattan, NY	152
Washington, DC	136
Tell City, IN	129
Skokie, IL	125
Miami, FL	122
Minneapolis, MN	114
Fort Worth, TX	108
Buckeye OH	105
San Gabriel, CA	105
Philadelphia, PA	100
Grand Rapids, MI	100

1961

Quartet Champ: *Suntones* (Gene Cokeroff, Bob Franklin, Harlan Wilson, Bill Cain)

Chorus Champ: *Chorus of the Chesapeake*

International Convention: *Philadelphia, PA*

International President: *John Cullen*

Song of the Contest:

Nighthawks: *Brother Can Your Spare a Dime*

Suntones: *A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet*

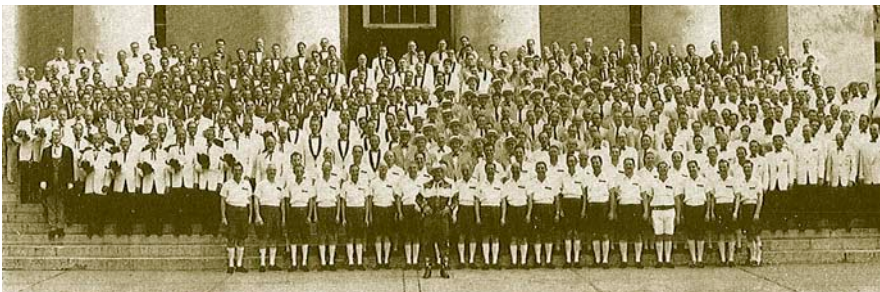
Osmond Brothers begin. The quartet's first appearance as a barbershop quartet (coached by Dr. Val Hicks) was on the **Pasadena, Calif., Chapter** show. They sang on many chapter shows afterwards and appeared at Disneyland for several years before becoming famous.

SPEBSQSA and SAI release a joint statement on policy. Among many items:

1. Regular meetings shall in no event be held at the same time and place..
2. Invitations of a social nature, extended by



Just Plain Barbershop folio is published. The book of traditional barbershop arranged songs included; "After Dark," "Bill Grogan's Goat," "Down Our Way," "Honey: Little 'Lize Medley," "Kentucky Babe," "My Wild Irish Rose," "The Old Songs," "Shine On Me," "Sweet Roses of Morn" and "Keep America Singing." Its companion book, *Strictly Barbershop*, wouldn't be published until 1973.



All 13 choruses at the 1958 International Convention pose in uniform on the steps of the Ohio State Capital building.



The Harmony Brigade Barbershop Chorus of Fort Dodge Iowa would like to congratulate the society on its 75th diamond anniversary. We were chartered in 1947 and have kept the whole world singing for 66 years. Happy anniversary!!!



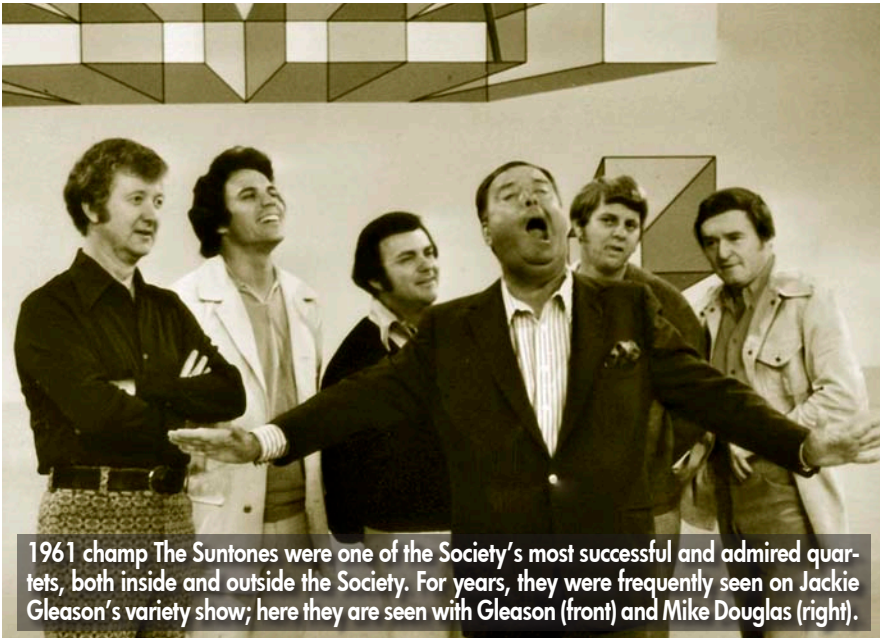
***The Stampede City Chorus of
Calgary, Alberta
Wishes the BHS a Happy 75th
Anniversary!***

Chartered May 14, 1955, chapter president, Hugh
Ingraham

Two members from 1956, Don Clarke & Ray
Gilbert, are still with the chapter.

Accomplishments

Hosted a number of Evergreen District conventions
Achieved membership of 127 men (1985)
Won the Evergreen District chorus contest in 1984
Participated in the Int'l chorus contest in Minneapolis in 1985
Hosted the 1993 International Convention with 11,500 attendees



1961 champ The Suntones were one of the Society's most successful and admired quartets, both inside and outside the Society. For years, they were frequently seen on Jackie Gleason's variety show; here they are seen with Gleason (front) and Mike Douglas (right).

a unit of one organization to a unit of the other organization, shall include the wives and husbands of members. Such social events should be held to a minimum.

3. Attendance at meetings or special functions by individual members of one organization must be by invitation of the officer in charge of the sponsoring organization.

NOTICE OF VIOLATION - Any violation of the above policies shall be reported to the International Headquarters Office of the reporting member.

First HEP Summer School. The Society's first Harmony Education Program (later Harmony College / University) was Aug. 24-27, 1961, at St. Mary's College in Winona, Minn. The three-day registration was \$10 plus \$4 a day for the dorm room. Meals were included. Faculty included primary organizer Rudy Hart as well as Molly Reagan, Dan Waselchuk, Bob Johnson, Willis Diekema and John Peterson. The 500 students represented 37 states and six provinces. There were live remote broadcasts by a local radio station and a sell-out Saturday night show featuring the 500-man chorus (70 tenors).

Chorus of the Chesapeake sets record. Spirited director Bob Johnson and his 161-man **Dundalk, Md.**, chorus win the chorus trophy in Philadelphia. While some chapters were beginning to require auditions, Dundalk allowed any man to compete. Additional risers had to be purchased and additional buses were put in service for this record-breaking chorus.

CABC begins huge annual shows. The Chicago-land Association of Barbershop Chapters staged its first annual show on Feb. 3, an impressive event held every winter that eventually included nearly every international quartet champion from 1962-

2000. Other legendary performers included the **Nighthawks**, **Four Rascals**, **Sundowners**, and even SAI's **Ambiance**. Their largest-ever venue had approximately 5,000 seats.

1962

Quartet Champ: The Gala Lads (Dave Panther, Tom Keehan, Gordon Lees, Bill Cockrell)

Chorus Champ: Thoroughbreds

International Convention: Kansas City, MO

International President: Lou Laurel

Louisville Thoroughbreds Chorus win. It becomes the first of seven championships.

Young Osmond Brothers Quartet featured at International Convention. Only ages 7-13, some attendees believed they could have won had they competed. Beginning with appearances on *The Andy Williams Show* the same year, they enjoyed many years of fame on television variety shows and then as a rock and roll band.

Bob Johnson joins Society staff.

The 1961 international champion director is hired at age 43 to head up the new Music Department. His "evangelist-like" qualities made disciples of most all he directed. In 21 years, he influenced the Society's music direction in every area (manuals, recordings, C&J, quartet registry, expansion in England and Sweden, audio/visual, ASCAP, MENC), always with an emphasis on "Keeping it Barbershop." He was the dean of Harmony College for 20 years.

He retired in 1982 and was succeeded by Joe Liles.

Gala Lads (1962) and **OC Times** (2008) are the only quartets to win the international contest without winning a round.

Leo Fobart becomes editor of The Harmonizer. The longest-serving editor, he produced 120 issues until he died in 1984 at age 61.

Suntones release their first of 10 LPs. The 1961 champs released "A Touch of Gold," featuring many of their contest songs, including "Chordbuster's March," "Mother Machree," "Mighty Lak a Rose" and a hint of things to come—more progressive arrangements like "That Old Black Magic," "I Had the Craziest Dream (their eyebrow-raising acceptance song), "Lazy Bones" and "Doin' the Raccoon."

HEP summer schools expand to five. Thanks to the popularity of the first school, the same faculty taught three-day schools in Reading, Pa.; Berkeley, Calif.; Winona, Minn.; Fort Worth, Texas; Niagara Falls, Ont.

Four parts in color. Color pictures of the quartet and chorus competitors appeared in *The Harmonizer*. This didn't happen again until 2003.

Buffalo Bills, movie stars. The 1950 champs spent three months in California filming the movie version of *The Music Man*.

1963

Quartet Champs: The Town and Country Four (Leo Sisk, Larry Autenreith, Jack Elder, Ralph Anderson)

Chorus Champs: Pekin Chorus

International Convention: Toronto, ON, CAN

International President: Wayne Foore

Executive Director / CEO: Barry Best 1963-1977



Osmond Brothers Quartet in 1962 with father, George, NBC-TV's Jerry McPhie, and Val Hicks.

Harmonizer Editor: Leo Fobart 1963-1984

First Canadian international convention. The Society's 25th anniversary convention was held in Toronto, also site of the 75th anniversary convention for 2013.

Commemorative plaque placed in Muehlebach Hotel. To recognize the historic March, 1938, meeting between O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall in the lobby of the Kansas City Hotel Muehlebach, the **Kansas City Chapter** placed a commemorative plaque where the two met.

JFK proclaims April 15-21, 1963, National Harmony Week. It came thanks to work by New York Congressmen Frank Horton and Harold Ostertag, Senators Henry Schadeberg (Wis.) and Ken Keating (N.Y.).

The Hartsmen stun international audience. Rudy Hart led this 15- to 20-man Very Large Quartet (VLQ) before there was such things as VLQs. From Michigan City, Ind., they eventually performed over 200 shows and sold four popular LPs with folios of all arrangements, all by Hart. Their repertoire included traditional and contemporary barbershop, glee club, religious and classical

numbers—a controversial mix at the time. While they didn't compete, their Toronto performance received a five-minute standing ovation.

1964

Quartet Champs: *The Sidewinders* (Jerry Fairchild, Joe Daniels, Gene Boyd, Jay Wright)

Chorus Champs: *Border Chords*

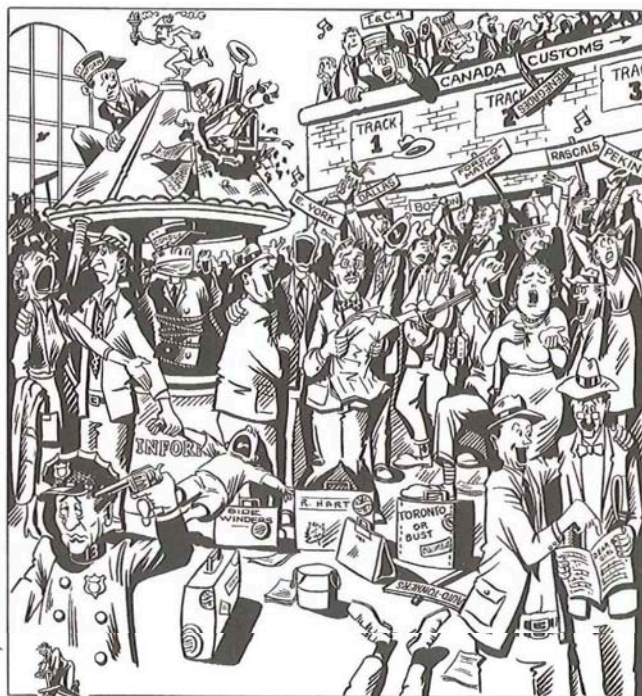
International Convention: San Antonio, TX

International President: Dan Waselchuk

We sing that they shall speak. The Society Board unanimously adopted The Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, Kan., as the unified Society-wide service project.

East York Barbershoppers jump-start barbershop in Britain. The **East York, Ont. Chapter** toured England, Ireland and Scotland. Led by George Shields, they performed several town hall shows. On one show, they shared the stage with a new barbershop group from Crowley led by Harry Danser. This meeting helped spark overseas interest in barbershop clubs that eventually led to the birth of The British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS).

1963 international convention in Toronto, by Greg Backwell.



1965

Quartet Champs: *The Four Renegades* (Buzz Haeger, Ben Williams, Jim Foley, Tom Felgen)

Chorus Champs: *Miamians*

International Convention: Boston, MA

International President: Al Smith

Song of the Contest

Four Renegades - Last Night Was The End Of The World

Suntones on Gleason.

The 1961 champs first appear on Jackie Gleason's nationally-televised *American Scene Magazine* show. **The Suntones** were regulars on the show who made countless appearances as back-up singers and featured guests until 1971.

Data punch cards come to headquarters.

Staff began converting 30,000 Society member records to the key punch card



Sing Along With Jack

system. A "glorified typewriter" punched one card per member, another sorted in any sequence desired, a third "accounting" machine produced mailing lists, membership cards, dues reminders, chapter rosters and other reports.

Harry Danser forms the first "Barbershop Harmony Club" in England. The second (Tyneside) wouldn't be chartered until 1971.



More clubs would soon spring up in Brighton and Hove, Boumemouth, Kent, Reading, Plymouth and Leeds. Littlehamton, Poole and Portsmouth.

1966

Quartet Champs: *The Auto Towners* (Al Rehkop, Glenn Van Tassel, Clint Bostick, Carl Dahlke)

Chorus Champ: *Thoroughbreds*

International Convention: Chicago, IL

International President: Reddie Wright

Song of the Contest: *Auto Towners: In My Brand New Automobile*

Schmitt Brothers bring "family" to convention. On the 15th anniversary of winning, the **Schmitt Brothers** rented a bus and brought 36 family members to the Chicago convention. The Schmitts appeared on stage for the past champs show. They would do this again in 2001, their

MASTERS OF HARMONY

Nightlife 1996

Revival 1998

Michigan Jake 2001

Gotchal 2004

OC Times 2008

The Vagrants '09 Collegiate Champs

75th Anniversary 1938-2013

The Masters of Harmony salute our wonderful Barbershop Harmony Society! For 75 years, SPEBSQSA has enriched lives, created memories, inspired a desire for excellence, entertained, trained, and blessed our members with the gift of music. Congratulations to our membership, and may this fabulous Society continue to thrive for generations to come.

JURASSIC LARKS

1998 International Seniors Quartet Champions

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY TO THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY!

THANK YOU, BHS, FOR GIVING US THE OPPORTUNITIES, THE BEST POSSIBLE MEANS—TO SING OUR HEARTS OUT, TO HARMONIZE IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY (well, much of the time), TO LAUGH TILL IT HURTS, TO IGNORE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US, TO LIGHTEN THE LOAD OF EVERYDAY CARES OF OUR AUDIENCES AND OURSELVES.

The Melbourne, FL Chapter of the Sunshine District
Congratulates the
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
 for 75 years of keeping the
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

S P E B S Q S A



50th Anniversary.

Big-name groups perform at Carnegie Hall. The show included **The Buffalo Bills**, **Four Renegades**, **Four Statesmen**, **The Dapper Dans of Harmony** chorus from Livingston, N.J., and Marjorie Latzko of the **Chordettes**, who sang "Lida Rose" with the Bills.

All-time recruiter is recruited. San Francisco Barbershopper Ed Rategan invited 35-year-old paint store owner Jerry Orloff to chapter meetings on many occasions. Jerry finally relented when his baseball game was rained out, just to get Ed off his back. After two rehearsals and a lot of tagging, Jerry was hooked and baseball was history. Jerry would later originate Auditions For Admissions, Sing With the Champs, the World Harmony Jamboree, and the Mixed Harmony Barbershop Quartet Association. To date, Jerry's Man of Note count reaches 201. The Society's annual recruiting award is named after him.



1967

Quartet Champ: The Four Statesmen (Frank Lanza, Dick Chacos, Richard Sause, Don Beinema)

Chorus Champ: Dapper Dans of Harmony

International Convention: Los Angeles, CA

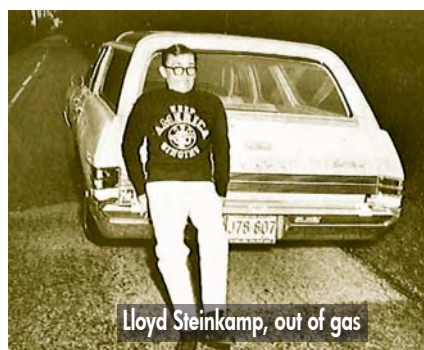
International President: Jim Steedman

Lloyd Steinkamp joins Society staff. Arguably the most popular Society Field Representative, Lloyd and the other reps travelled around the Society to meet with officers and make presentations to chapters.

First quartet DQed. To the shock of everyone at the international convention in Los Angeles, it was

announced: "**The Potomachords** have been disqualified for a flagrant violation of the barbershop style." Judges determined that "This Is All I Ask" did not fit the barbershop style because the melody didn't lend itself to harmonization. The judges later regretted the way it was announced, as they didn't mean to suggest that it was done deliberately or that it was a "bad song or arrangement." Rules have become more lenient over the past 20 years.

Life Memberships established. The Board said



a one-time payment of \$200 (annual Society dues were \$6.75 back then) would cover Society dues for life, chapter and district dues not included. Many members took advantage of this sweet deal starting with Freeman Groat of Fort Dodge, Iowa, later director and charter member of the **Nashville Chapter** and now a regular volunteer at Society headquarters. Today, Lifetime membership costs \$2,020. Our 188 current Life Members includes well-known names like Paul Agnew, Ron Black, Joe Cerutti, Steve Delehanty, Don Clause, Bill Colosimo, Charlie Davenport, Sean Devine, Bob Dowma, Russ Foris, Tom Gentry, Jay Giallombardo, John Hohl, Eric

Jackson, Joe Krones, Joe Liles, Robb Ollett, Gary Steinkamp, Trep Treptow and Jason Warschauer.

Anchorage charters.

The first attempt at a Society chapter was Oct. 28, 1947, but the group never chartered. By 1967, Anchorage and Fairbanks Sweet Adelines chapters gave

considerable support to the up-and-coming men's chapter, which chartered Dec. 26 and was sponsored by the **Idaho Falls, Idaho**, chapter. **The Midnight Sons**, directed by Kirk Muse, chartered with 37 men, including six active-duty Air Force men. Their charter show included current champs **The Western Continentals** and emcee Lloyd Steinkamp.

Looking forward 25 years ago: Val Hicks' reflections still valid today.

The following is excerpted from *Heritage of Harmony*, a book Val Hicks assembled for the Society's 50 anniversary in 1988. The below excerpts from the book were extensively quoted by current Society CEO Marty Monson in his 2013 Keynote Address.

The first five decades have taught several vital lessons. First of all, it becomes evident that Society members have not yet fully caught the vision of service and public awareness contained in Article II of the Society Bylaws. Perhaps Barbershoppers have indulged their bent toward self-entertainment at the expense of the greater, outside world of public awareness and service.

It would be useful to review these purposes and powers found in Article II.

1. "To perpetuate the old American institution, the Barbershop quartet, and to promote and encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship among its members throughout the world by the formation of local chapters and districts composed of members interested in the purposes of this corporation;"
2. "to hold annual, local, district, state, national and international contests in quartet and chorus singing;"
3. "to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation, and"
4. "to promote public appreciation of Barbershop quartet and chorus singing by publica-



tion and dissemination thereof;"

5. "to initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects and to establish and maintain music scholarships and charitable foundations;"

6. "to initiate and maintain a broad program of musical education, particularly in the field of vocal harmony and the allied arts."

The broad scope of these purposes and powers is a challenge to chapters and districts to get beyond self-entertainment and musical self-indulgence. Albert Einstein said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not what he is able to receive." By more "giving" and less "taking" Barbershoppers can help solve problems that the future may hold for the Society.

Myopia

A second lesson from the past is to avoid musical myopia. Barbershop harmony is not the only musical act in town, or the world, for that matter. This view of Barbershop as the "only" music closes the door to giving and learning. It is selfish, limiting and naive. The world of music is vast and Barbershop is just one of hundreds of styles.

Much of this musical myopia has to do with a lack of awareness of other great capella organizations. For instance, the Swedish Radio Choir is unsurpassed in musicality and sound. There are choral organizations in colleges, universities and high schools that achieve greatness in their own realm. To give account of the choral musicians who are

75 years!



Way to go!

To those who got us involved so many years ago,



...and those who make it worth another 75 years,



THANKS! We love ya!

WWW.STORMFRONTQUARTET.COM

**Storm
Front**

**Storm
Front**

Let's Celebrate BHS

Celebrate two Langley Lifetime Members who have been there for 65 of the 75-year history of our society.

Thank you John and Gareth, from the Langley First Capital Chorus and from all those other voices taught and lives touched by you two.



Tribute to Gareth Evans - 66 Years a Barbershopper

Gareth Evans - one of this world's most genuine and sincere individuals.

Toronto "Rythmaires" International Quartets 1954 (4th) 1955 (5th)

Toronto "Rhythm Counts" International in 1962 - 1965 in the top 10

Toronto "Duke's of Harmony Chorus"- Music Director 1970s

- International Gold in 1977 and 1980

Chorus Director "Merry Men of Markham", "Queen City Harmonizers", "Chorus of the Bluffs"

1990s Chorus Member Vancouver "Gentlemen of Fortune"

1990s founder of "Antique Gold", Bari - later International Seniors' Gold 2006

"Langley First Capital Chorus" has been Gareth's chorus for 20 years

Music Director White Rock "Pacific Showtime" a cappella chorus for 10 years

After 66 years a BHS member, he competed at 2012 Division 1 Chorus and with "Winedroppers" quartet. Amazing!



Tribute to John West - 64 Years in BHS

In 1949 at 17 years of age, John started singing with the "Wheat City Chorus" Brandon, Manitoba

"Golden Chordsmen Chorus", in Winnipeg for 5 years

Founder & Director "Stratford Festival City Chorus", Stratford Ontario

Scarborough "The Chorus of the Bluffs", placed 8th at International in Chicago in 1966

Director "Queen City Harmonizers" and later "Merry Men of Markham"

Quartet "The Markhamaires" were Ontario District Novice Champions, 1970

Vancouver area 1990s "Capilano Chorus", "Thunderbirds" & "Gentlemen of Fortune"

"Langley First Capital Chorus", his home for the last 15 years

Quartet "Mixed Company" has his daughter, Barbara Bourbonnais as tenor

His son Mark, is many times an Evergreen Division 1 quartet champ as bari

Music Director for 6 Chapters including one Sweet Adelines Chorus and four BOTY awards



Langley First Capital Barbershop Chorus, BC Canada

1968

Quartet Champ: *The Western Continentals* (Al Mau, Ted Bradshaw, Paul Graham, Phil Foote)

Chorus Champ: *Pekin Chorus*

International Convention: *Cincinnati, OH*

International President: *Wes Meier*

Canada Barbershoppers build "Harmony Hall North." With Harmony Hall in Kenosha and other Society chapters setting up customized meeting

used five days a week by Call-A-Service/Centre For Seniors, which pays 70% of the chapter's overhead.

Brian Beck is the only man to place in the top ten in all four voice parts. As tenor in **Doo-Dads** (1968/70), baritone in 1973 champ **Dealer's Choice**, lead

in 1983 champ **Side Street Ramblers** and bass in **Great Stage Robbery** (1994/95). A 2004 bronze medal as bass of **Saturday Evening Post** made him the first medalist on three voice parts. Brian also won Seniors gold singing bass with **Eureka** in 2008 (Don Barnick medaled at bari with **Riptide** the next year, becoming the second three-part medalist. (Don previously won gold as tenor of 1979 champ **Grandma's Boys** and bass of 1992 champ **Keepsake**.)

Last-minute switch from Pitts-

burgh to Cincinnati. The fast change of venues for the international convention (due to various strikes) was followed a week later by a date change as well, causing havoc to schedules of competitors and convention-goers. Convention registration refunds (\$15) were allowed.

Swedes introduced to barbershop. Brothers Olle and Svante Nyman begin exchanging quartet arrangements in 1968. On Olle's return from the states, they formed **The Elastic Harmony Four**, the first Swedish barbershop quartet, which introduced barbershop to chorus singers in Stockholm, Sweden.



Jim Richards begins teaching his trademark class. Minneapolis Barbershopper and future international president Jim Richards began teaching a new class at Harmony College called the "The Physics of Barbershop Sound." It quickly became one of the most popular classes. He would teach this class 35 years through 2007.

1969

Quartet Champ: *Mark IV* (Franklin Spears, Al Koberstein, Dale Deiser, Mo Rector)

Chorus Champ: *Thoroughbreds*

International Convention: *St. Louis, MO*

International President: *Robert Gall*

Dave Stevens joins headquarters staff. At age 47, long-time Barbershopper Dave Stevens moves from San Francisco where he directed the **Berkeley Californians** chorus. Already a HEP school veteran and popular arranger, he served until 1985. He is still best known for his educational, humorous and inspirational presentation, "What Are We Trying to Preserve?" He took his one-man show to almost every Society chapter and headed up the Society's



William Hanna was an avid Barbershopper who worked quartetting into many Hanna-Barbera cartoons storylines.

halls, the **East York, Ontario Barbershoppers** (Toronto area) raised funds to build a home for harmony and as an information center for Logopedics (now known as Harmonize for Speech and one of the two Ontario District recognized charities, the other being Sing Canada Harmony). The official ground breaking took place on Dominion Day (now Canada Day) July 1, 1967, on land leased for \$1 a year for 99 years. The building was dedicated on May 11, 1968, and became the home of the **East York Chapter** and an important part of the **Ontario District**. It is still in use today. The Hall is

working with pure (just) intonation, would provide material for volumes of books. The Society is among the world's leaders in the study of just intonation and expanded sound, but there are many great choral conductors, teachers, voice coaches and researchers out there, beyond barbershopping.

It is true that many musicians can learn from barbershop singing the joy of expanded sound, but the Society is not the only group teaching this skill and art. Musical narrow-mindedness can be boring and isolating. The cure is awareness, cooperation and an openness for new ideas. Barbershoppers can continue to give others the benefit of their experience, research and discoveries with this wonderful synergistic singing.

Spectatoritis

One almost never hears community singing anymore. Some churches seem to do fairly well with hymn singing, but the general public has fallen into a nonparticipant lethargy.

Songs written in the '30s and '40s were more difficult for the average person to harmonize, but at least there were many memorable melodies that could be sung in unison. From the '50s on, there have been fewer melodies that lend themselves to community sing-alongs.

People must be coaxed out of being spectators. They must experience the joy of group singing along with the togetherness it creates. Maybe the Society should consider developing songbooks to be used in the elementary and primary grades in schools. They

could be written to be sung in unison with optional two- or three-part harmony. Parents and grandparents can expose the young to melodies, wholesome lyrics and harmony by sharing the heritage, teaching it, singing it, and involving the community.

Decline of School Choral Music

In the past few years school boards have felt the crunch of financial problems. One of the first curricular programs to go is choral music. As an organization interested in singing and, in particular, male singing, the Society can help unite communities to support vocal music in the school, including Barbershop harmony. It is part of the Society's purpose.

If there are no vocal music programs in the vicinity, the challenge is still there to help create some programs and teach children and youth in the community. The encouragement and support of personnel to develop boy choirs is vital, thus teaching young men that it is masculine and rewarding to sing. The Society can provide leadership in vocal music education and all the while still protect and preserve its own unique contribution, Barbershop harmony.

Coming of Age

It is predicted that at the turn of the century, 20 per cent of the population will be elderly. What a pool of people to organize as singers! They will have time to practice together

music publishing, expanding the music library of barbershop arrangements. His presentation can be read in *The Harmonizer* (Sept. 1977) www.barbershop.org/harmonizer and seen on YouTube at tinyurl.com/DSpreserve.

Fatal plane crash kills district champs. Six Central States district Barbershoppers were killed while flying to a licensing show in Durango. The men lost were Denver Chapter President Larry Detwiler, CSD Executive Vice President Daryl Stafford and the district champion **Hi-Landers** quartet: Karl Penner (T), Wayne Hood (L), Hugh Hohnstein (Br) and Russ Thompson (Bs). All were members of the Denver Chapter.

1970

Quartet Champ: *Oriole Four* (Bob Welzenbach, Jim Grant, Fred King, Don Stratton)

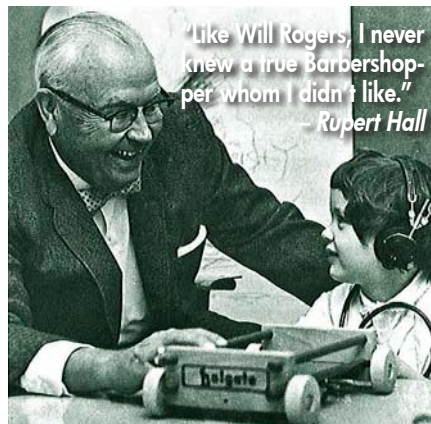
Chorus Champ: *Dapper Dans of Harmony*

International Convention: Atlantic City, NJ

International President: Wilbur Sparks

Winning and losing song. "Danny Boy" was one of the **Oriole Four's** winning songs and most popular numbers. By the 1980s, the song was considered unacceptable for contest due to circle-of-fifths sequences less conducive to a barbershop song.

First week-long HEP school. Held in several locations a year until 1970, HEP's first week-long school was held Aug. 2-9 at Dominican College in Racine, Wis. Faculty and coaches included Bob Johnson, Dave Stevens, Mac Huff, Hugh Ingraham, Burt Szabo, Joe White, Jack Hines and Bob Bohn. The current champ, **Oriole Four**, was also on hand to perform and sing tags. A complete registration was \$75. It continues today as Harmony University.



Boston Pops and barbershop. The Four Statesmen (1967 champ) appeared on "Evening with the Boston Pops" with the famous orchestra and conductor Arthur Fiedler. The "Old Timers Night" show was later broadcast on National Education Television Sept. 27.

1971

Quartet Champ: *The Gentlemen's Agreement* (Al Rehkop, Drayton Justus, Glenn Van Tassel, Bob Whitledge)

Chorus Champ: *Chorus of the Chesapeake*

International Convention: New Orleans, LA

International President: Ralph Ribble

Barberpole Cat program begins. This popular program encouraged more members to sing in quartets as well as promote standard Society arrangements that all could sing together, anywhere. Barbershoppers can still bust a chord with strangers singing such standards as "My Wild Irish Rose," "Down Our Way," "Shine On Me" and "Wait 'Til The Sun Shines, Nellie."

1972

Quartet Champ: *Golden Staters* (Gary Harding, Milt Chris-

tensen, Jack Harding, Mike Senter)

Chorus Champ: *Phoenicians*

International Convention: Atlanta, GA

International President: Richard deMontmollin

The dynasty begins. Jim Clancy becomes a charter member of the **Dallas Metro** chapter (**The Vocal Majority**) in October. He would direct the chorus to 11 gold medals.

Rupert Hall dies. Our Society's Co-Founder passed away on March 14 at the age of 70. It was his chance meeting in Kansas City with O.C. Cash and the half-serious, half-humorous letter to friends after that meeting that started the Society.

1973

Quartet Champ: *Dealer's Choice* (Al Kvanli, Bill Thornton, Brian Beck, Gary Parker)

Chorus Champ: *Southern Gateway Chorus*

International Convention: Portland, OR

International President: Charles Abernethy

Dealer's Choice wins with "expanded sound" techniques. One of the first quartets to use these techniques, the quartet credits coach Don Clause and Harmony College for their win on their first contest. The techniques have since become standard hallmarks for Society quartets and choruses.



and socialize over a song. Maybe there will be retirement centers for Barbershoppers. The historical trend toward increased leisure time will give many men the opportunity to sing as a hobby. Over 90 per cent of American men don't know of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., so there's a vast field, ready for musical planting and harvesting.

There is, however, much more competition for a person's time. Organizations have sprung up to take a man's mind from singing and harmonizing. Barbershop singing has to withstand competition from community organizations and events, or it deserves to lose. Chapter meetings have to be fun, rewarding and worthy of a man's time in order to attract and maintain members.

I Can Do Anything You Can Do ... Better

It is safe to say that musical contests have been one of the activities which have helped refine the Barbershop style and develop outstanding performers. Some of the side effects have been unfortunate, however.

Overkill on a few songs, with endless extra rehearsal hours, has taken its toll on patience, enjoyment and self-esteem. Chapters have split apart to form super groups intent on winning a gold medal, often reducing the talent pool in the area.

Henri Bergson noted that true superiority lies not in being better than someone else. It lies in being superior to one's former self.

Only one chorus each year can win a gold medal. More emphasis can be placed on competing against one's former score, reaching a singing goal and trying to maintain or surpass it. There can be a positive attitude and enjoyment in hearing other groups perform Barbershop songs and cheering them on as brothers in music.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

There is no single standard of vocal prowess in the Society's more than 800 chapters. Choruses have differing levels of expectations, depending on talent available, community standards and tradition. There is a need to accept and support the various levels of singing proficiency. However, that doesn't mean mediocrity should be forced on listeners. The Society's image is severely tarnished by quartets and choruses that sing with poor quality or badly out of tune. A discerning listening public will be repelled by poor singing, so before quartets and choruses perform in public, they should get someone—a musically experienced friend—to determine readiness. It is vital to develop minimal standards and adhere to them.

Channel Overload

A quick survey of the radio dial will reveal ... appreciation of so many other wonderful styles is stunted and reduced to practically zero. In general, young people are simply not exposed

All the champions were great, but not all the greats were champions

Read all about them in the Nov./Dec. 2006 issue of *The Harmonizer* at www.barbershop.org/harmonizer



Four Rascals



139th Street Quartet



The Clef Dwellers



Nighthawks



Pacificaires



Center Stage



The Vagabonds



Uptown Sound



Sundowners



West Coasters

Congratulations

From the White Mountains
Show Low, Arizona Chapter D-110



and its Quartets.

The High Country Chorus

There are eight junior high, high school and college youth, about 17% of the membership, in our chorus at the present time. We are looking forward to recruiting many more in the very near future and sending them to Harmony University.

The chorus will be celebrating 13 years of entertaining and working with the young men and women in the local schools. Carl 'Doc' Dockendorf is the founder of the chorus. He is now retired and is our director emeritus. We are very proud to be a part of the BHS and look forward to many more years of great barbershop style singing.

NOT PICTURED: Bob Koons, Lloyd Lang, Carl 'Doc' Dockendorf, Larry Kennedy, Bill Stephens, Keith Thorson, Jimmy Wagner, Jim Bohart, Dave Gilmer, Josh Fish, Tom Johnson, Doug Krueger, Ivan Mahaydik, Jim Morrow, Ron Montez, Mick Mitchke and Dick Murphy.



Top row: left to right: Rich Hall, James H. Burden, John Graham, Alan Beste, Jim Murphy, Jim Dye, Dan Lewis. **Second row:** Ron LaMar, Jerry Schunk, Don Murrow, Tim Foley, Shaun Davis, John Welker, Steve Pansulla, Ron Monette, Steve Countryman. **Front row:** Dallin Davis, Alexander Pansulla, James-Mark Burden, Eric Pansulla, Blake Sullivan, Calvin Rowell, and Donnie Pansulla. Photo by chorus member Jerry Schunk



Singing Along with the Society!

Congratulations from the Roaring 20's on 75 Years of Harmony!

Sorry we missed the first 20 years. Here's to the 2020's!

-Mike, Ron, Tom, Pat, Don, Gerry, Hobart, Jim, Bob & Nat

The quartet's sound marked a fairly audible line between the "classic" barbershop sound of the 1940s-1960s and the "modern" barbershop sound of the last few decades.

BABS becomes Society's first affiliate. The first all-British convention was held in Crawley on May 26, with members from all four barbershop harmony clubs. The first quartet champs were **Ringleaders** of Crawley, with founder Don Amos singing lead.

Tom Gentil is the only person to direct choruses to gold for both the Society and Sweet Adelines. (**Southern Gateway Chorus**, 1973, and **Seven Hills**, 1981)

Gassmans join the Society. Twins Larry and John Gassman of Whittier, Calif., join in October. Both blind from birth, they each served as chapter presidents, chapter Barbershoppers of the Year, and as very popular contest emcees, including a session at the 2009 International convention. Quartetting continuously since 1977, their current quartet is **Four Fifteen** (po-

lice lingo for ... "Disturbing the Peace").

Society donations to Logopedics top \$1 million.

In only eight years, Society

chapters and quartets reached the first on many milestones in helping "our kids" in Wichita, Kan.

Strictly Barbershop music book released.

The second in the popular collection of standard barbershop songs and arrangements includes "Aura Lee," "Dear Old Girl," "Honey

Gal," "In The Evening By The Moonlight," "Sweet Adeline," "When The Sun Shines Nellie," "When You Were Sweet Sixteen," "Love Me And The World Is Mine" and many more. This compilation is still popular today. Cost in 1973 was \$1.

1974

Quartet Champ: The Regents (Harry Williamson, Joe Mazzone, Ron Knickerbocker, Hal Kauffman)

Chorus Champ: Thoroughbreds

International Convention: Kansas City, MO

International President: Leon Avakian

Barbershopping in Brass. Barbershopper and 40-year career trumpeter Roger Blackburn released a ground-breaking LP of four-part barbershop arrangements performed by trumpets.

A principal trumpeter in the St. Louis Symphony, Roger used multi-track recording techniques and 26 hours to produce this first-of-a-kind barbershop LP. His treatment of "12th Street Rag" was practically beyond belief.

Carroll P. Adams dies. Carroll Adams, the Society's first national secretary and 1941 Society President, died on Dec. 19 at age 81. His administrative talents and energy created the solid organizational foundation upon which the Society stands today.

New SOUND category begins. The SOUND category replaced the existing Harmony Ac-



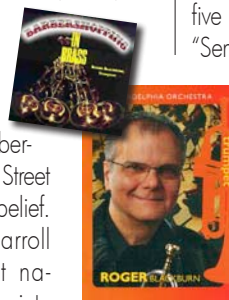
The First BABS Convention in 1973.

curacy and the Balance and Blend categories. After testing and new judge certification, the category debuted in the fall of 1975.

The Regents' 1974 win was by a margin of 439 points, the highest under the old "Balance/Blend, Voice Expression, Harmony Accuracy" judging.

Boston Common releases "In The Heart of the City" LP. The first recording of the perennial top five quartet includes "Lida Rose," "Imagination," "Sentimental Journey" and "Dancing At The Moving Picture Ball." An audience favorite that placed in the top five four times ('71, 12th; '72, 5th; '73, 4th; '74, 3rd; '75, 4th; '77, 4th; '78, 3rd; '79, 2nd) before finally winning gold 1980, this recording cemented their popularity and become a favorite item of many who "stole" the Lou Perry arrangements off the LP.

Barbershopper appears on the Johnny Carson Show / All in the Family. Reseda, Calif., Barbershopper and well-known character actor Burt Mustin makes one of several repeat appearances on Carson (mentioning barbershop) and an appearance as a recurring character on top



to anything else. There are dozens of wonderful styles in art, music, pop music, folk music and sacred music. The seduction of pop styles stands in the way of wider musical experiences.

Educational institutions that provide broad programs of music education and teach and develop other styles of music are appreciated. The Society supports and encourages the various school and community music programs available. Barbershoppers can be known for their love of music and the arts.

It is a challenge to develop the best quartets and choruses possible to sing Barbershop harmony at school and community functions. This is an excellent way to promote the hobby and style. The S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. enjoys many musical friends and encourages other musical organizations as they promote their styles of music. The potential for musical cooperation is vast: 1) joint programs to confirm interest and support; 2) invitational choral festivals; 3) visitations to other choirs; 4) sharing our printed music and community choral groups; 5) lending voices occasionally to assist other community choirs and ventures; 6) craft demonstrations; 7) student body assembly programs and community concerts.

Tag

During its first half-century the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. achieved much. Its contest and judging program is among the world's finest adjudication systems, and the Society's ways of organizing and training choral groups are the envy of many musicians. Its educational programs, such

as Harmony College, have received acclaim from educators, and the training materials, such as tapes and manuals, are first-class by any standards.

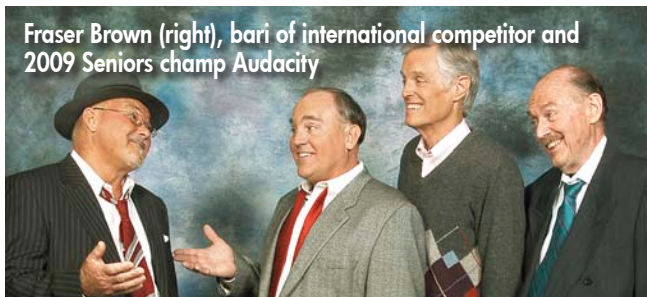
The Society's altruistic musical performances each year number in the tens of thousands, with choruses and quartets providing service through song at hospitals, rest homes and countless other venues.

Self-entertainment will always be a strong appeal in attracting and holding members, but as the Society matures, its local chapters and members will become less self-centered. Barbershoppers will reach out in more creative ways to give service and spread their art form through planned performances. The world can be the audience!

Constancy 'Midst Change?

Can the Society, an organization which fights musical change, survive in the 21st century? Can the style be preserved basically intact for the next generation? Or, another even more probing thought: Should the style remain constant? Can musical evolution be slowed, or can the geometric pace of modern change be steered away from the Barbershop style? Can the style remain healthy and vibrant in a hothouse museum atmosphere?

Youthful Barbershoppers of today will help answer these questions, for the quandaries posed are among the most vital in the noble 50-year history of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.



Fraser Brown (right), bari of international competitor and 2009 Seniors champ Audacity

Fraser Brown, record maker. Who has the *most* consecutive appearances in the International quartet contest? Phoenix-based Fraser Brown. He joined the Society in 1966 and first made the contest stage in 1977. He made 27 Internationals in a row from 1980-2006; no one else even comes close. In 21 of his first 22 appearances, his quartet made the semifinals 21 times. His quartets placed as high as third twice and hit the top ten 13 times. 2008-09 **Audacity**, 2005-06 **Dazzle**, 2002-04 **Broadway**, 2000-01 **Applause!**, 1990-99 **Standing Room Only**, 1980-89 **Remember When**, 1977 **Sound Committee**.



Fraser (third from left) in 1977 as lead of Sound Committee

A big word of thanks to all our great arrangers

With all due credit to the songwriters who create most of our melodies and lyrics, it's the arrangers who make those songs soar in four-part harmony. Woodshedding is a barrel of fun, but it's thanks to arrangers like these (and many others) that most of us are singing barbershop harmony in the first place. Thank you for making the rest of us sound good and for keeping barbershop harmony relevant today and for future generations.

Northern Lights



The Toronto Northern Lights proudly salutes
the Barbershop Harmony Society
on its 75th Anniversary!



www.northernlightschorus.com

Mo Rector
Jerry Beeler
Jim Clancy
Earl Moon
Tom Gentry
David Wright
Bill "Buzz" Busby
Rudy Hart
Greg Lyne
Steve Tramack
Sam Stahl
Deac Martin
Hal Purdy
Lloyd Steinkamp
S. K. Grundy
Jack Baird
Charles Merrill
Don Gray
Brent Graham
Renee Craig
Joe Liles
Mark Hale
Molly Reagan
Larry Wright
Ed Smith
Tom Gentil
Bob Brock
John Hill
Renee Craig
Adam Reimnitz
Frank Thorne
Hal Boehler
Greg Volk
Lyle Pilcher
John Peterson
Don Webster
Nancy Bergman
Walter Latzko
Steve Delehanty
Kevin Keller
Mac Huff
Buzz Haeger
Jay Giallombardo
Freddie King
Dick Svanoe
Burt Szabo
Val Hicks
Clay Hine
Rob Campbell
Sigmond Spaeth
Al Rekhop
Roger Payne
Don Gray
David Harrington
Sherry Brown
Ed Waesche
Rudy Hart
S.K. Grundy
Kirk Young
Willis Diekema
"Molly" Reagan
Bob Bohn
Greg Backwell
Brian Beck
Mel Knight
Renee Limburg
John Hill
Renee Craig
Adam Reimnitz
Frank Thorne
Hal Boehler
Greg Volk
Lyle Pilcher
John Peterson
Don Webster
Nancy Bergman
Walter Latzko
Steve Delehanty
Kevin Keller
Mac Huff
Buzz Haeger
Jay Giallombardo
Freddie King
Dick Svanoe
Burt Szabo
Val Hicks
Clay Hine
Rob Campbell
Sigmond Spaeth
Hal Staab
Aaron Dale
Dennis Driscoll
Joni Bescos
Greg Backwell
Renee Limburg
John Hill
Renee Craig
Adam Reimnitz
Frank Thorne
Hal Boehler
Greg Volk
Lyle Pilcher
John Peterson
Don Webster
Nancy Bergman
Walter Latzko
Steve Delehanty
Kevin Keller
Mac Huff
Buzz Haeger
Jay Giallombardo
Freddie King
Dick Svanoe
Burt Szabo
Val Hicks
Clay Hine
Rob Campbell
Sigmond Spaeth

NEW TRADITION SALUTES BHS ON 75 YEARS!



2001 International Gold Medal Performance



Congratulations to the Barbershop Harmony Society on 75 years of preserving a treasured art form, encouraging generation after generation to create incredible music. In the process, the Society has enriched the lives of both participants and patrons of our craft.

The New Tradition thanks the Society for supporting chapters worldwide in:

- **Promoting an Art Form**

The New Tradition has enjoyed sharing barbershop music through its annual shows, guest appearances, joint concerts with local symphonies and performances in California, Ireland and England.

- **Encouraging Contribution**

The New Tradition appears at community events, sponsors YIH Festivals, provides organizational leadership at the District and Society level and generously supports the Harmony Foundation.

- **Inspiring Musical Excellence**

The New Tradition is proud to have been a part of the celebrated history of the Society for the past 30 years with nineteen consecutive International medals beginning in 1988, including an unprecedented eight consecutive silver medals from 1993-2000, culminating in a gold medal in 2001.



Our First Competition in 1984



1999/2000 Silver Medals - Our "Revolutionary" Les Mis Package



10th Anniversary of 9/11 with the Northbrook Symphony

TV show *All in the Family*. Despite beginning his acting career at the age of 67, over the next 25 years he appeared in nearly 400 television shows, 70 movies and dozens of commercials. He also emceed many barbershop shows in the '60s and '70s. A baritone with the **San Fernando Valley Valleyaires** chorus, he attended almost every weekly rehearsal.



Burt Muslin

1975

Quartet Champ: *Happiness Emporium* (Bob Dowma, Rod Johnson, Bob Spong, Jim Foy)

Chorus Champ: *Vocal Majority*

International Convention: Indianapolis, IN

International President: Richard Ellenberger

Dallas Vocal Majority Chorus win first of 11 championships. The chorus took silver their next time back to the international stage, and then returned to win gold on its next six tries, winning every contest it entered through 2006.

Bowling Green University offers first course in barbershop quartet singing. The idea of Dr. Wallace DePue, Society Music Services Assistant Dave Stevens went to the Ohio university as a guest instructor. **The Northwesterners** chorus (Defiance, Ohio) led by Jim Shisler and two chapter quartets (**Fort City Four** and **Four in Legion**) presented a workshop demonstration. Seven quartets registered for the course; the first to receive college credit was **The Quartertones**, with eventual double-gold medalist Jay Hawkins on bass. Thanks to eventual hall-of-famer Dr. Richard Mathey, men from 32 international medalist quartets (including gold medalists **Acoustix**, **The Ritz**, **Interstate Rivals**, **Marquis**, **Yesteryear**, **PLATINUM**, and **Max Q**) came out of BGSU.



Double gold medalist Jay Hawkins (top), like many other top quartetters, sang barbershop for college credit at Bowling Green.

First HC @ WMSC. Harmony College 1975 is held at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Mo., for the first time. Since then, all but one Harmony College (now Harmony University) have been held at this location.

Salute to America celebrates America's Bi-

centennial. A special show script written in a 1974 Harmony College class was performed at the end of the week. All chapters were requested to do the show, which traced 200 years of U.S. history through music. Many chapters obliged. The show was officially recognized by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. It officially debuted Jan. 31 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., during the Society's Midwinter convention. The 250-man **Potomac Chorus** (made up of Washington

area chapters) was joined by many quartets including reigning champ **Happiness Emporium** and eventual champ the **Innsiders**. They were directed by Bob Johnson.

Second HQ building. Having grown beyond the space in the Third Avenue mansion, Society headquarters added a second building in a 15,000-square-foot converted supermarket on Sheridan Road, a few miles away. Thanks to Society fundraising promotions, it was fully paid for by 1979.

YMIH for NMEC. 175 young men gathered, rehearsed and performed in Anaheim, Calif., for the Music Educators National Conference. More than 700 music educators were entertained by **The Dealer's Choice** ('73), **The Golden Staters** ('72), **The Pacificaires** (silver medalists) and the **Reseda (Calif.) Valleyaires** chorus directed by Burt Staffen.

Joe Liles joins Society staff. The newest Music Services Assistant arrived on Sept. 1, 1975. An international gold medalist director with the **San Antonio Chordsmen**, he was an arrangement judge and Harmony College faculty member. He would later serve as Society Executive Director from 1988 to 1995 and win a seniors quartet gold medal with **Harmony** in 2001. He retired from the Society staff in 2010. A prolific arranger and composer, he is a member of the Society Hall of Fame.



The Society had a big presence at the 1975 MENC conference in Anaheim.

1976

Quartet Champ: *The Innsiders* (Mike Cox, John Devine, Guy McShan, Tom Pearson)

Chorus Champ: *Phoenicians*

International Convention: San Francisco, CA

International President: Plummer Collins

Keep "The Whole World" Singing. The Society's motto/theme song is officially changed from "Keep America Singing."

Official "Keep it Barbershop" policy universally ignored. At the encouragement of Bob Johnson, the Society Board passed a controversial "Keep it Barbershop" policy for non-contest settings, which required all quartets and choruses to sing 75% barbershop harmony in all performances and recordings, with sanctions to follow for violators. The policy was very unpopular with the membership, and nobody ever reported a violation. The policy went by the wayside.



Harmony Hall expanded to a second building in 1975

1977

Quartet Champ: *Most Happy Fellows* (Bob Hodge, Larry Hassler, Jack Lyon, Ken Hawkinson)

Chorus Champ: *Dukes of Harmony*

International Convention: Philadelphia, Pa.

International President: Sam Aramian

Executive Director / CEO: Hugh Ingraham 1977-1988

Farewell to the Alvin Plaza Hotel. The 37-year meeting place for the first Society chapter (Tulsa, Okla.) was imploded in December. A plaque was placed in this spot in 1988 to mark the historic importance of this building to the Tulsa chapter



Society Director of Music Education Bob Johnson was used to having large crowds follow his direction, as seen here at the "Massed Sing" at international conventions. However, his 1976 "Keep it Barbershop" initiative was dismissed even by fellow KIBbers.



and the Society.

Musical chairs at HQ. Society Executive Director Barrie Best fires powerful but polarizing Bob Johnson. Johnson convinces the Society board to reinstate him as Director of Music Education and Services and to instead fire Best. Hugh Ingraham replaces Best as CEO. Frank Santarelli joins the staff as Manager of Membership and would stay on as CFO until retiring in 2009.

What Are We Trying To Preserve? Dave Stevens publishes his first article in *The Harmonizer*

covering what would become his trademark presentation.

Rocky Mountain becomes 16th district. Colorado, Wyoming and parts of New Mexico, Utah, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, and Idaho break off and form the new Rocky Mountain District. Distance and isolation made it somewhat difficult for chapters to participate in the events and programs of the Southwestern, Evergreen, Far Western and Central States districts. With 1,100 members and 26 chapters, the new district held its first contest in October. The main men behind this successful annex were Jack Smith and Lynden "Lindy" Levitt.

Mixed doubles champions. Four choruses in

Miami were being directed by four different quartet gold medalists; these four directors were drawn from only two households and two quartets. Gene Cokeroff ('61 **Suntones**, tenor) was the director of the **Miamians** and quartet mate Harlan Wilson ('61 **Suntones**, bari) was directing the **Palm Beach County Coastmen** chorus. Their wives were Iris Cokeroff ('67 **Hurricane Honeys**, lead), who was leading the **Miami Sweet Adelines** chorus; and Ruth Ann Wilson ('67 **Hurricane Honeys**, bari), who was directing the **Royal Palm chapter Sweet Adeline** chorus.

The 23-year-old international chorus trophy was stolen from a car belonging to a chorus member. The chapter paid for a new trophy.

1978

Quartet Champ: *Bluegrass Student Union* (Allen Hatton, Ken Hatton, Dan Burgess, Rick Staab)

Chorus Champ: *Thoroughbreds*

International Convention: Cincinnati, OH

International President: Roger Thomas

Dave LaBar joins staff. David LaBar, age 23, joined the headquarters staff as a Music Services Assistant responsible for Quartet Activity Development. Dave is remembered as an extraordinary emcee, an international quartet medalist and overall funnyman (among other top-shelf talents). The Society's lifetime achievement emcee award is named after him.

A Kentucky sweep. For the first time, the international quartet (**Bluegrass Student Union**) and chorus (**Thoroughbreds**) champions came from the same chapter. This would be repeated in 1996 with **Nightlife** (**Masters of Harmony**) and in 2009 with **Crossroads** (**Ambassadors of Harmony**).

This was also the year that Jim Miller Photography of Louisville, Ky. (below, left), began taking the official portraits at Society international conventions; the family business continues to do so to this day. Jim Miller was director of the **Thoroughbreds** this same year.

Grandma's Boys' ground-breaking 1978 set.



Ground-breaking "Toy Soldiers" set debuts.

Grandma's Boys impressed the international audience as bewildered marching toy soldiers. The quartet finished the semifinal round in first place, and the next year saved the set for the finals and won. The creation of bari Jay Giallombardo, this set opened up contest choreography and encouraged quartets and choruses to be more creative.

1979


Quartet Champ: *Grandma's Boys* (Don Barnick, Hank Brandt, Jay Giallombardo, John Miller)

Chorus Champ: *Vocal Majority*

International Convention: Minneapolis, MN

International President: Ernie Hills

Song of the Contest: *Grandma's Boys, "Toy Soldier March"*



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- Floyd Connett, 2nd director and first Society field man



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Storytelling Through Song



1980

Quartet Champ: *The Boston Common* (Kent Martin, Rich Knapp, Larry Tully, Terry Clarke)

Chorus Champ: *Dukes of Harmony*

International Convention: *Salt Lake City, UT*

International President: *Les Hesketh*

Boston Common finally wins it. After nine contests and eight top-five finishes, **Boston Common** officially won the international contest, although



many argue that it was far from the first time they were the best quartet. (As 1999 champ **FRED** sang to the judges: "They won in '73 and '74 and '75 and '77 and '78 and '79 and finally in '80—WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!" Defiantly ignoring the performance and judging trends of the era, Boston Common's entire focus was "selling the song." The hit song of the contest was the

Most Happy Fellows, 2005 reprise performance



quartet's last song, "That Old Quartet Of Mine." They won by 226 points, became one of our most beloved champions, greatly influenced many other competitors, and inspired many members to sing Boston Common songs.

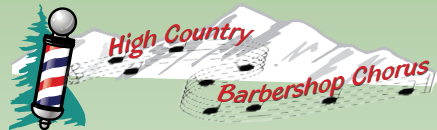
Most Haps debut Oz masterpiece. The 1977 champs **Most Happy Fellows** took everyone by surprise in Salt Lake City on the AIC Show. With the direction and inspiration of creative genius Lloyd Steinkamp, the guys worked up a full set and 10-song tribute to *The Wizard of Oz*. Lloyd

and The Scarecrow (Jack Lyon), The Cowardly Lion (Ken Hawkinson), The Tin Man (Bob Hodge) and a reluctant Dorothy (Larry Hassler) finalized their set a month before on May 30 in a rehearsal dominated by more uncontrollable laughter than actual singing.

The visuals were greatly enhanced by Hodge's sister, Carol, who created incredible outfits for all but her brother, who constructed the Tin Man's outfit. The Haps closed the first half of the AIC show and were mobbed in the lobby during the

Congratulations

From the White Mountains
Show Low, Arizona Chapter D-110



and its Quartets.

The High Country Chorus

There are eight junior high, high school and college youth, about 17% of the membership, in our chorus at the present time. We are looking forward to recruiting many more in the very near future and sending them to Harmony University. The chorus will be celebrating 13 years of entertaining and working with the young men and women in the local schools. Carl 'Doc' Dockendorf is the founder of the chorus. He is now retired and is our director emeritus. We are very proud to be a part of the BHS and look forward to many more years of great barbershop style singing.

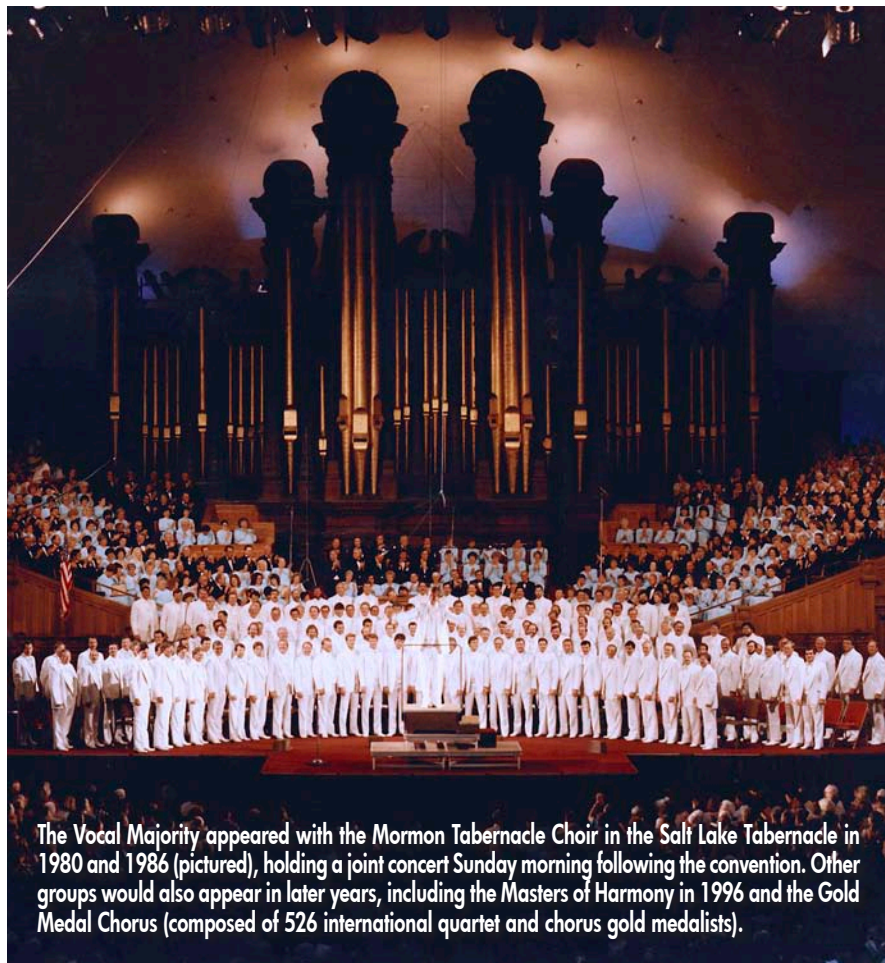
NOT PICTURED: Bob Koons, Lloyd Lang, Carl 'Doc' Dockendorf, Larry Kennedy, Bill Stephens, Keith Thorson, Jimmy Wagner, Jim Bohart, Dave Gilmer, Josh Fish, Tom Johnson, Doug Krueger, Ivan Mahaydik, Jim Morrow, Ron Montez, Mick Mitchke and Dick Murphy.

To The Barbershop Harmony Society,
aka S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., for 75 years of wonderful four-part harmony style a cappella sound around the world.

and Happy Birthday!



Top row: left to right: Rich Hall, James H. Burden, John Graham, Alan Beste, Jim Murphy, Jim Dye, Dan Lewis. **Second row:** Ron LaMar, Jerry Schunk, Don Murrow, Tim Foley, Shaun Davis, John Welker, Steve Pansulla, Ron Monette, Steve Countryman. **Front row:** Dallin Davis, Alexander Pansulla, James-Mark Burden, Eric Pansulla, Blake Sullivan, Calvin Rowell, and Donnie Pansulla. Photo by chorus member Jerry Schunk



The Vocal Majority appeared with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in the Salt Lake Tabernacle in 1980 and 1986 (pictured), holding a joint concert Sunday morning following the convention. Other groups would also appear in later years, including the Masters of Harmony in 1996 and the Gold Medal Chorus (composed of 526 international quartet and chorus gold medalists).

intermission, delaying the first act of the second half (some '61 champ from Florida that wasn't used to having someone else steal the show).

Vocal Majority performs with Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The VM and the world-famous MTC performed twice, once on the weekly world-wide radio show, *Music and The Spoken*

Word, and again for the over-capacity crowd of Barbershoppers crammed into the Tabernacle. The performance was released on a CBS records LP.

4 Under Par breaks comedic ground in contest. A young comedy quartet from New York surprised everyone with fresh, original and hilarious parodies, finishing in 10th place more on entertainment



4 Under Par

and stage presence than with its singing. Under the creative genius of Roger Payne and Joe Hunter, the quartet gained an enthusiastic following and inspired other competitive comedic quartets like **FRED** and **Storm Front**.

Laughter, Love and a Barbershop Song. Published by Fred Gielow of the **Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Chapter**, he gathered more than 200 barbershop anecdotes and experiences from more than 60 of the biggest Society icons. The project took more than three years and 1,400 hours to complete. It sold very well.

1981

Quartet Champ: *Chicago News* (Ray Henders, Butch Koth, Greg Wright, Tom Felgen)

Chorus Champ: *Thoroughbreds*

International Convention: *Detroit, MI*

International President: *Burt Huish*

Auspicious debut for The Harrington Brothers. Doug (T), David (L), Mike (Bs) and Jeff (Br) would take the Society by storm, and after changes in personnel and voice parts, Doug and David would go on to win gold in 1989 as **Second Edition**. Doug would move to Sweden and later play a key role in the "Swedish Invasion" as he directed 2012 chorus medalist **zero8** and mentored 2012 quartet champ **Ringmasters**.

A few Barbershoppers share their "Desert Island Disc"

Tracing the musical evolution of the Barbershop Harmony Society is tricky. Ask a dozen Barbershoppers, "Who's the greatest quartet of all time?" and you'll get a dozen answers, a long, beer-fueled argument on modern versus traditional arrangements, plus a fistfight. Rather than attempt and fall short on a musicological disquisition, we decided to ask some famous friends for their short lists of absolutely essential albums or tracks they'd rely on to keep their barbershop sanity if stranded with Gilligan and the gang. (Presumably the Professor could rig up a coconut-and-palm-frond iPod.) We've scattered these comments along the timeline. For links to all these titles, plus full discussions by our distinguished panel of whomever-answered-our-email. — *Compiled by Brian Lynch*

The Confederates

One of the ALL Time Greats -- "Twelfth Street Rag," "Pal of My Cradle Days," and "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square." No more needs to be said. — *Jay Hawkins*

"Give Me Your Smile." Actually, I put Dave LaBonte as one of the most recognizable barbershop voices of all time—a clarion, slightly honky/masky, and stronger than dirt. (And, yes, giving

away my age, I knew all those guys quite well.) — *Brian Beck*

The Buffalo Bills

A pivotal quartet who changed the sound of quartetting from that point forward. "Lucky Old Sun" by Vern Reed is amazing. — *Bill Rashleigh*

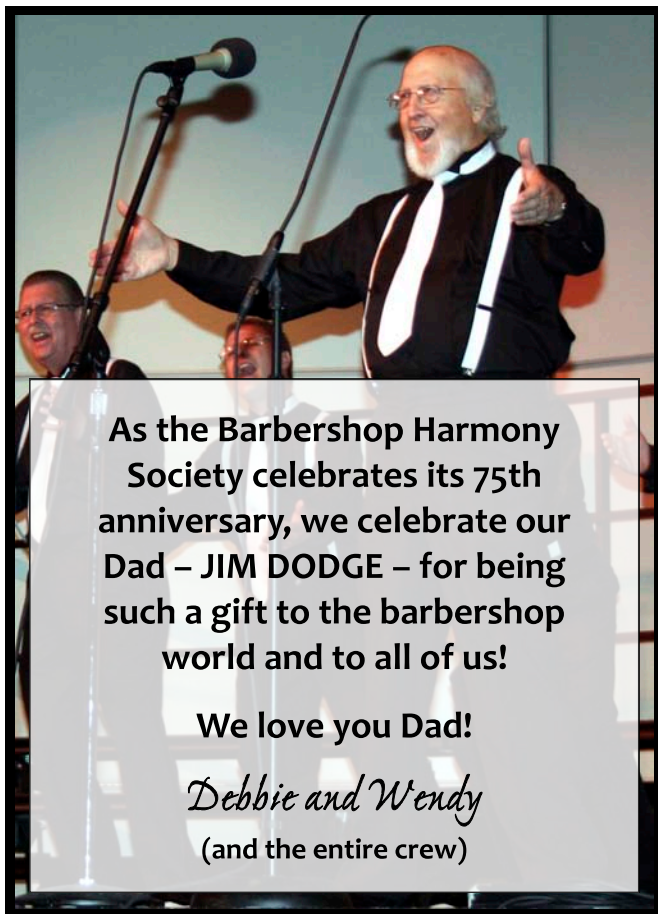
Most people will put down the Buffalo Bills because of "Music Man," and they were great, strong singers. But I almost put them

outside of the "mold" that we thought barbershop was supposed to sound like. It was almost too strong and operatic. — *Brian Beck*

The Buffalo Bills with Banjo album and their snappy, toe-tapping version of "My Honey's Lovin Arms." It was a controversial song choice at the time. Many of the "barbershop-only" purists complained, but everyone had the record and listened to it often, if even while hiding in the closet. — *Grady Kerr*

4 Pitchhikers

"Wedding Bells are Breaking Up that Old Gang of Mine" from "Golden Barbershop Ballads" (I think). The tag was thrilling, not so much the "break-KEE- ngUP", but full-voice tenor on "OF—MINE." It was a spread chord in Bb, very hard to make exciting with that voicing and range, but somehow it just peeled paint. Great! — *Jay Giallombardo*



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Chartered in 1974





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First of many golds for Ray Henders. The tenor of Chicago News wins his first quartet gold after nine appearances and five medals. He would go on to win three Seniors gold medals with **Old Kids on the Block** (1991), **New and Improved Industrial Strength Mini-Chorus** (1994) and **Chicago Shuffle** (2002), along with three other seniors medals. Ray's last competition was in 2010 with the **Chicago Times** at the age of 82. He was twice the oldest in the contest and continues to sing in his quartet, with several shows booked in 2013.

1982

Quartet Champ: *Classic Collection* (Curt Hutchison, Larry Wilson, George Davidson, Terry Heltné)

Chorus Champ: *Vocal Majority*

International Convention: Pittsburgh, PA

International President: Merritt Auman

Bob Johnson retires. After 20 years as Director of Music Services, Bob presides over one last Harmony College. In a display of "mutiny," faculty and students perform a secretly-learned version of "We'll Follow the Old Man ..." He is replaced by Joe Liles.

Kid quartets dazzle. The Pittsburgh international convention audience was electrified by quartets that brought "the cute factor." **The Harrington Brothers** of Louisville, Ky., finished 7th while **The Knudsen Brothers Barbershop Quartet** (Owen, Lynn, Kevin, Jak) four of ten brothers from Utah, competed one of their five times at international. After three top 10 finishes, the Knudsen Brothers added two brothers to become a professional a cappella group on television, cruise ships, and now with the most popular show in Branson, Mo. Now called **SIX**, they include barbershop harmony in their show.



The Harrington Brothers



The Knudsen Brothers

In 1982, an Interpretation judge gave **The Harrington Brothers** a perfect 100 on "We Wouldn't Trade The Silver In Our Mother's Hair."

Suntones final LP. The 1961 champ produces its last recording, *My Fair Lady*, with replacement lead Drayton Justus, bringing the quartet's complete collection to 10 LPs.

Tom Neal starts the Pioneers. The popular subsidiary held their first gathering in September in Memphis. The response was overwhelming, with many Society icons and heroes attending the revival of old-style barbershop quartets and conventions, with plenty of woodshedding and

old songs. The Saturday night show is an old-fashioned Parade of Quartets with many top Society foursomes, some coming great distances at their own expense. Now known as the Barber-shop Quartet Preservation Association, the group continues its semiannual gatherings.

1983

Quartet Champ: *Side Street Ramblers* (Keith Houts, Brian Beck, Dennis Malone, Earl Hagn)

Chorus Champ: *Phoenicians*

International Convention: Seattle, WA

International President: Hank Vomacka

Membership peaks. 38,151 members were reported in 1983, the highest ever. (This number has long been a point of historical dispute for those who contend the actual number was lower.)

Bluegrass Student Union knows the territory.

The 1978 champs release a popular LP of songs from *The Music Man*, arranged from the genius of Walter Latzko. Rivaling the monster medleys and commitment by the **Suntones**, BGSU had by this point begun a long run as the era's premiere show quartet. They are regarded as one of the few champs to dramatically improve after winning.

Burt Szabo joins Society staff. His first role is Music Service Assistant.

1984

Quartet Champ: *The Rapsallions* (Dave Smotzer, David Wallace, Tim Frye, Jeff Oxley)

Chorus Champ: *Thoroughbreds*

International Convention: St. Louis, MO

International President: John Gillespie

BGSU sings in Oval Office. On Monday, Dec. 17, 1978, champ **Bluegrass Student Union** sang for President Ronald Reagan in the Oval Office.

The Suntones

"Bye, Bye Blues"—not only will it cheer me up, it'll remind me of the many hours of joy the Suntones have given me and so many others, to hold me over until the search party arrives.
— Grady Kerr

Depth and breadth of repertoire, interesting, sort of foggy sound. "Old Black Magic" was probably the hippest, slightly modern chart of the period. Ditto for "After You've Gone." Very hip for about 1963. — Brian Beck

"Just A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet"—it was one of the first songs I heard at age 15, on the "Golden Barbershop Ballads" recording. I listened

to just the tag over and over and over again, until I virtually destroyed the grooves on the vinyl.
— Jay Giallombardo

The Nighthawks

High, bright to the point of brilliant, and like a freight train that had audiences literally screaming—and arrangement judges breaking pencils. I'm sure that had the Greg Backwell arrangements been tempered just somewhat, this highly popular Canadian foursome would have found their way to gold somewhere among their four medals. Remember, this was in the old five-category days when every judge had 100 points per song. In my 52 years as a Society member and 45 internationals, we have reacted

to comedy, artistry, beauty, emotion, overwhelming rich sound and blistering overtones—on occasion, some of those all from the same quartet. But the "I was the kid with the dru-um" swipe from "Buddy, Can You Spare a Dime" by the Nighthawks defied description.
— Jim Bagby

Gentlemen's Agreement

The number one song on my iPod will be "One of Those Songs," with future International President Drayton Justus on lead. It's a great sing-a-long song and only 58 seconds short. It was one of those songs on my FIRST barbershop LP, Barbershop Bonanza of 1973. It still holds a special place in my heart.
— Grady Kerr

The Four Renegades

After they got Ben Williams, very, very rich clarion sound. Specialty numbers like "I Will Stay Younger than Spring."
— Brian Beck

Renegades belong in the pantheon, but their recordings did not measure up to live performances. — Jim Bagby

Dealer's Choice

The technique of their vocal production was practically flawless, overtone ringing on every sound, amazing."
— Bill Rashleigh

"Who'll Take My Place When I'm Gone"
— Don Gray



The quartet consisted of Allan Hatton (T), Kenny Hatton (L), Dan Burgess (Br) and Bill Myers (Bs) substituting for Rick Staab.

"This was worse than any competition," said Meyers. "It was exactly 3 p.m. when we walked through the door of the magnificent Oval Office. We walked briskly toward the man, seated at first, and for one short moment I honestly thought I would pass out." They sang "Java Jive" in "the shortest five minutes" of their lives. Reagan noted the event in his memoirs, saying, "That's my kinda music."

Alexandria Harmonizers also do the White House. They performed a 45-minute set in the Grand Foyer for members of the press and guests arriving to attend the White House Correspondents party. Later, the chorus was greeted by the President and First Lady.

"What Are We Trying to Preserve?" released. The 1982 Harmony College presentation by

Dave Stevens is still popular today. Back then it cost \$27 to buy or \$8 to rent. Today, the Society posts it online for free at tinyurl.com/DSpreserve.

Leo Fobart dies. Long-time editor of *The Harmonizer* died April 2 at the age of 61. He produced 120

issues March 1963 thru March 1984, more than all others.

1985

Quartet Champ: *The New Tradition* (John Sherburn, Dan Jordan, Bob Gray, Jr., John Miller)

Chorus Champ: Vocal Majority

International Convention: Minneapolis, Minn.

International President: Gil Lefholz

Song of the Contest: *The New Tradition: Marx Brothers Opener*

Rural Route 4: *Tie Me to Your Apron Strings*

The New Tradition as the Marx Bros. The hit of the year was the 1985 champs winning with their irreverent set as Harpo, Groucho, Zeppo and Chico. They had the audience and some of the judges rolling with their "Marx Brothers Opener" ("Hello, Hello, Hello, Hello ... Hi" / "Hooray for these fine judges, they really are curmudgeons, let's throw them in the dungeon, Hooray, Hooray, Hooray") and "Lydia the Tattooed Lady."



Mitch Miller receives Honorary Membership.

Accepting in person, Miller told the Minneapolis convention audience, "To me, you typify the love of music. While half the

country is going bananas playing two chords, you show what the true meaning of love of music is and the true meaning of the word 'amateur.' Amateur means 'for the love of it.' Some of the best musicians are amateurs."

First Annual Gospel Sing at International. In 1985, four International champions came together from different backgrounds with a common goal—to make available good, simple, four-part barbershop arrangements of hymns and gospel



songs for the average Barbershopper. They produced recordings, learning tapes and folios as the **Good News! Gospel Quartet**. Members included: Jerry Fairchild (T, 1964 *Sidewinders*), Joe Mazzone (L, 1974 *Regents*), Dale Deiser (Br, 1969 *Mark IV*), Mo Rector (Bs, 1958 *Gaynotes* & 1969 *Mark IV*) and Jim Foy, (1975 *Happiness Emporium*).

Rose Bowl. America Sings Float wins Animation Award in the 1985 Rose Bowl Parade.

Well, there was this quartet I sang in—they say we changed the style for the better. We re-did the Confederates' "Goodbye Old Dixie" that some people remember. (We were the fourth champ quartet to do it, I believe: The Chord Busters, The Buffalo Bills, The Confederates, then Dealer's Choice. I would say that we were never known for one song, more for the style changes that allegedly happened around that time." — *Brian Beck*

The Vagabonds

What great sounds—so easy to listen to and love. Great ballads and fun uptunes." — *Jay Hawkins*

Bluegrass Student Union

"Fire, excitement and drive. They got

better the longer they were together." — *Bill Rashleigh*

"Depth of repertoire and the easy, semi-funky entertaining style. Accurate? You want accurate? Rick Staab. I thought they won in 1976 with "Whippoorwill." I had to take it off the recording for someone, so I listened 122 times. One of the most perfect renditions of any song, any time." — *Brian Beck*

The Citations

Complete Works. "These guys were some of the greatest ambassadors and finest people in barbershop. They recorded each of their albums in a single day, back when you used one stereo mic and no cuts or splices. Some great tunes

that should make their way back into circulation." — *Jay Hawkins*

Boston Common

"Old Quartet of Mine." Actually, they had more good solid old Lou Perry charts that more Joe Barbershoppers sang then and still sing, than any other quartet, all time, I believe. — *Brian Beck*

"If All My Dreams Were Made Of Gold" This had me transfixed when I first heard it—had to close the office door, crank it up, and repeat five or six times to bask in its nuances. — *Brian Lynch*

Grandma's Boys

"When The Toy Soldiers March on Parade." My favorite, because I wrote

it. In '77, the new SP category became 1/3 of the score. The toy soldier songs were written and arranged with an eye toward taking advantage of this shift with a very strong visual "theme" set of songs. The songs set a new standard for the wedding of music and visuals. — *Jay Giallombardo*

"William Tell Overture" A classic for the ages (a cappella) — *Jay Giallombardo*

Rural Route 4

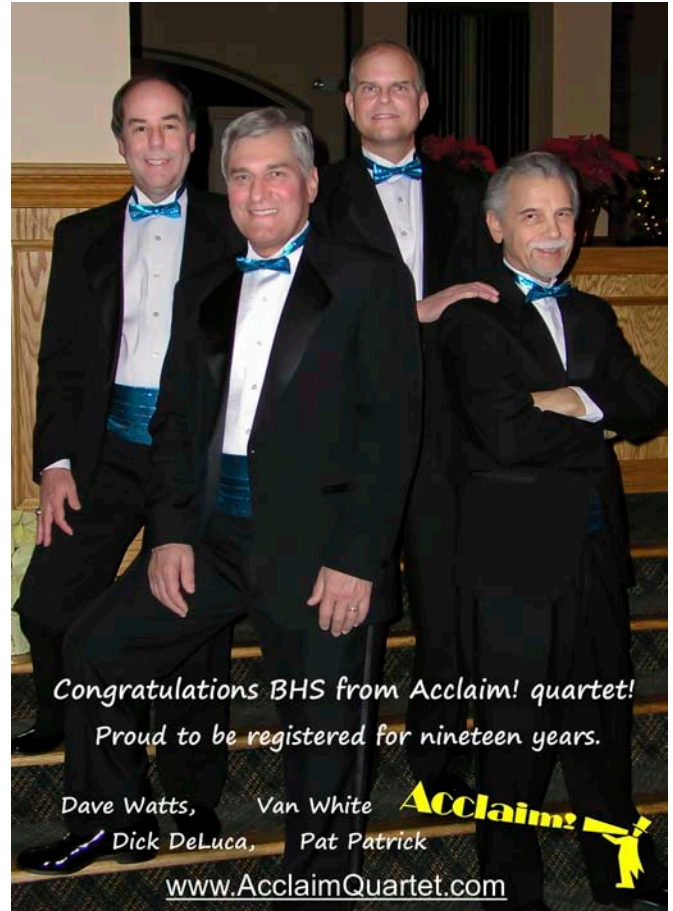
Nothing can touch the RR4's "Tie Me To Your Apron Strings" for pure, elegant simplicity and heart. — *Bill Rashleigh*

"Farm In Old Missouri." Back to just plain old organ-sounding singing—Ru-

Congratulations BHS on 75 years
and Bryn Mawr Chapter 50th
Anniversary



Join us for our Spring Show April 13, 2013 and be a part of our 50th anniversary celebration! Join our chorus onstage at the matinee show for a two song finale, and/or our celebratory afterglow following the performance. All are invited to join us for this special occasion. Contact secretary@mainliners.org to save your spot, get the music and learning tracks, and purchase your tickets to the afterglow.



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The International Board of Directors
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the BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY for

**75
YEARS**

of the preservation and encouragement
of barbershop harmony!

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75 Years Young!
Happy Anniversary
from the Shenango
Valley Chapter
Penn-Ohio Singers

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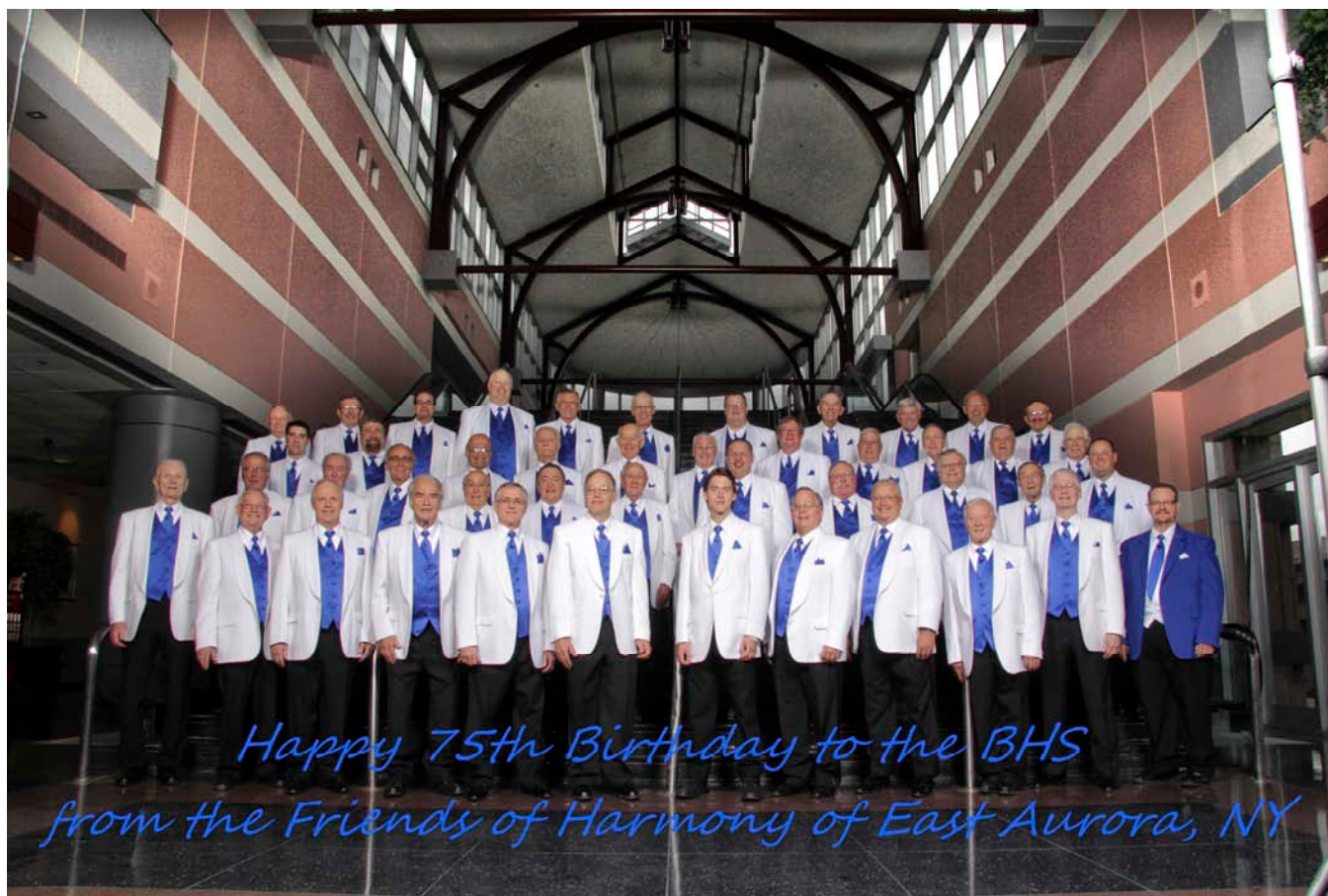
THE ALOHA CHAPTER, HONOLULU

> Far Western District <
celebrating 66 years
of Barbershop singing

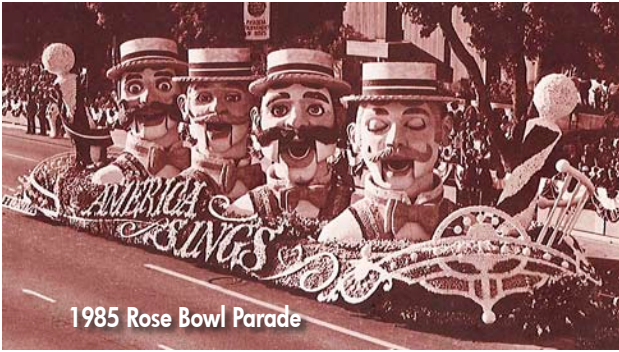


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Sounds of Aloha
Chorus

Congratulates the
Barbershop Harmony Society
on its
75th Anniversary



*Happy 75th Birthday to the BHS
from the Friends of Harmony of East Aurora, NY*



1985 Rose Bowl Parade

Sponsored by American Honda, it was a 60-foot float with four 16-foot figures rotating their heads, blinking their eyes and mouthing the words to a barbershop-style song.

Dave Stevens retires. Beginning in May of 1969, Dave Stevens spent 16 years on staff, directed the Society's music publishing operations and expanded the Music Arrangement Library. He was also well-known for his thousands of miles travelling to almost every chapter and presenting his one-man-show, "What Are We Trying to Preserve?" He was also on the HEP / Harmony College faculty from the beginning. He retired in June and still inspires us to "Keep It Barbershop". Every-one agrees that we got a "helluva deal."

TNT Sings Along with Mitch.

The New Tradition (1985 champ) performed on Oct. 17 with the Rochester, N.Y. Philharmonic Orchestra. The quartet did its Marx Brothers routine as well as other duties on the show. It was hit with the 6,000 audience members at the Rochester Riverside Convention

Center. Mitch Miller (newly inducted Society Honorary Lifetime member) was the guest conductor and had invited the quartet to appear. They were brought back to perform again on the Philharmonic's Pop Concert as featured guests in August 1986.

1986

Quartet champ: Rural Route 4 (Don Kahl, Calvin Yoder, Jim Bagby, Willard Yoder)

Chorus champ: Alexandria Harmonizers

Senior Quartet champ: George Baggish Memorial Quartet

International Convention: Salt Lake City, UT

International Presidents: William Park / Gil Lefholz

First Seniors Quartet Contest. George Baggish Memorial Quartet won the first Seniors Quartet contest during the Midwinter convention in Tucson. Members were Fred Steinkamp, Ed Keller, Doc Sause, Frank Lanza. Frank and Doc won the



George Baggish Memorial Quartet

quartet gold in 1967 with the **Four Statesmen** and sang with the popular comedy quartet **The NoteWits** of Westchester County, N.Y.

The Senior's trophy was donated by the **Grosse Pointe, Mich., Chapter** and named for one of its founding members, Mark Roberts. Grosse Pointe is



139th Street Quartet on Cheers

also the chapter whose member, Ben Landino, created and donated the original Quartet and Chorus trophies.



139th Street Quartet appears on Cheers. In one of the most viewed barbershop quartet performances ever, the quartet appeared on the #1 hit NBC Show, *Cheers*. Doug Anderson, Larry Wright, Pete Neushul and Jim Kline sang on the episode entitled "Dark Imaginings" that aired Feb. 20.

President Park Passes. The first International President to pass on while in office was Bill Park. He died Jan. 22 at the age of 61.

The first formal Singing Valentines program. Singing Valentines, the brain-child of Eldon Clausen of the **Santa Rosa, Calif., Chapter**, started in 1986. With the help of Bert Smith and John Burby, the **Redwood Chordsmen** organized the concept

ral Route Four—after a lot of athletic stuff, it was a relief to have just plain singers win. — *Brian Beck*

139th Street Quartet

"If I Were You (I'd Fall In Love With Me)" Barbershop is defined as "what it sounded like when I joined." This was it for me—straight from the heart of Tin Pan Alley, sung with that unmistakable, exuberant style, from the quartet that never won the contest, never lost the audience. — *Brian Lynch*

Acoustix

"I'm Afraid The Masquerade is Over"—again, nearly perfect singing. They brought back that song into the mainstream, seemed like. They could handle it, instead of it handling them. — *Brian Beck*

Keepsake

For my money, one of the best sound-making quartets of all time: attention to detail, word sounds, exquisite tuning—and that damn 19-year-old baritone earning a gold medal. — *Brian Beck*

"When the Saints Go Marching In" — *David Benson*

The Gas House Gang

Top three in fan base, I'm sure. No song in particular, but people loved them. And of course, the unfortunate drama of Rob's death made it all the more poignant. — *Brian Beck*

"Where The Southern Roses Grow"—This might be the perfect ballad performance: unforced, natural delivery,

the biggest, fattest chords, and a sweet, richly evocative lyric. — *Brian Lynch*

Special Feature

"You Are The One I Love" was masterfully performed and remains one of my favorites. — *Bill Rashleigh*

Marquis

Diamond Cuts. The quality of singing and the song selection is fantastic. It demonstrates singing with heart and soul. They had one of the greatest lead singers (Randy Chisholm) of all time. — *Don Gray*

Four Voices

"If I Only Had A Brain" — *Grady Kerr*

OC Times

(Any of their doo-wop songs converted to Contest Barbershop) — *Don Gray*

Musical Island Boys

"I Heard it through the Grapevine." Each contest represents a "sea change" in what is acceptable in contest. — *Don Gray*

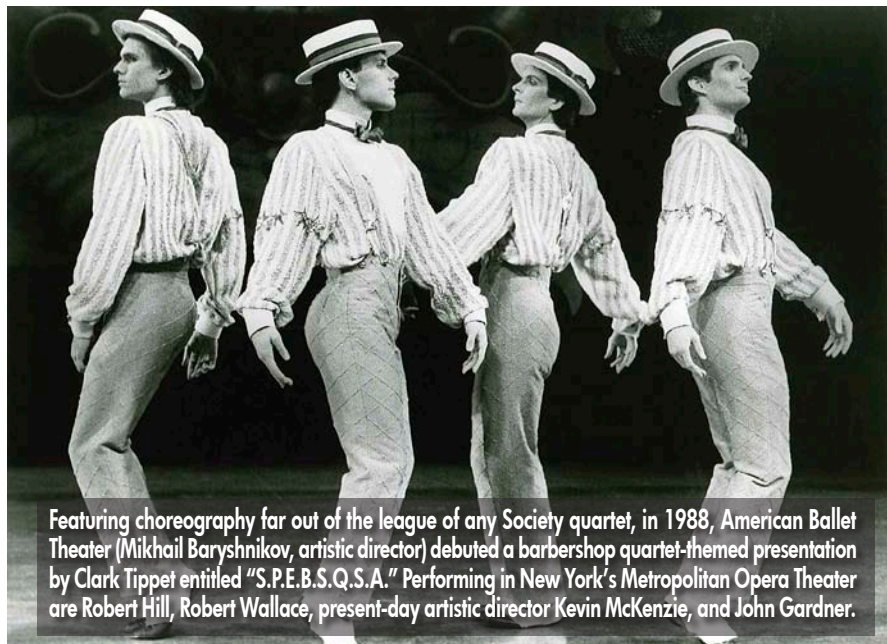
Crossroads

First Album — *Jim Bagby*

I like the bad grammar in "You Don't! You Won't!" — *Luke Benson*

Ringmasters

Sheer vocal skill. — *Brian Beck*



Featuring choreography far out of the league of any Society quartet, in 1988, American Ballet Theater (Mikhail Baryshnikov, artistic director) debuted a barbershop quartet-themed presentation by Clark Tippet entitled "S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A." Performing in New York's Metropolitan Opera Theater are Robert Hill, Robert Wallace, present-day artistic director Kevin McKenzie, and John Gardner.

of giving a card, a rose and singing two songs for only \$25, and it was successful right off the bat. The first year, they sang 120 Valentines and raised about \$5,000.

Eldon also created a manual and offered it to other chapters. The program gained speed Society-wide, and it became a major fundraiser with chapters, many of which quickly picked up on the idea.

Society headquarters later provided an 800 number and then website for referrals. Headquarters also successfully promoted the program to the national media. Society quartets appeared on the *CBS Morning Show*, the *TODAY Show*, *Good Morning America*, and print coverage in the *New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*, among others.



1987

Quartet champ: *Interstate Rivals* (Kipp Buckner, Joe Connelly, Paul Gilman, Jay Hawkins)

Chorus champ: *West Towns Chorus*

Senior Quartet champ: *Close Harmony Tradition*

International Convention: Hartford, CT

International President: Darryl Flinn

Harmonizer Editor: Ray Heller 1987-1988

Super Finals chorus contest. For the 1987 and 1988 international chorus contests in Hartford and San Antonio, the top six choruses qualified for another round and sang two additional songs. The 86-man, Lombard, Ill., **West Towns Chorus** directed by Dr. Greg Lyne won over Manhattan's **Big Apple Chorus** directed by Don Clause. The following year, the **Vocal Majority** directed by Jim Clancy

beat out the **Louisville Thoroughbreds** led by Allan Hatton. Any chorus expecting to make the super finals had to have four songs ready. Many who complained about the super choruses perfecting only two contest songs all year drove the decision to create this short-lived concept. Perhaps the happiest bystanders were the **Alexandria Harmonizers**, who won the year before the trial (1986) and

again the year after the trial (1989) and never had to do the two-round grind.

Tab Choir and VM.

On June 19 and 20, **The Mormon Tabernacle Choir** performed

in Dallas on a joint concert with the **Vocal Majority** to celebrate the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The highlight for many was the joint finale performance of "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

1988

Quartet champ: *Chiefs of Staff* (Tim McShane, Chuck Sisson, Dick Kingdon, Don Bagley)

Chorus champ: *Vocal Majority*

Senior Quartet champ: *Silvertones*

Executive Director / CEO: Joe Liles 1988-1995

Harmonizer Editor: Jack Bagby 1988 - 1989

International Convention: San Antonio, TX

International President: Jim Warner

Society Celebrates 50th anniversary. A massive historical display was organized and included a display of every *Harmonizer*, hundreds of LPs, the O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall portraits from headquarters, the quartet and chorus trophies, photos of all the quartet and chorus champs and examples of almost all of the uniforms worn by

the champs when they won. Also displayed were historical booths by each district.

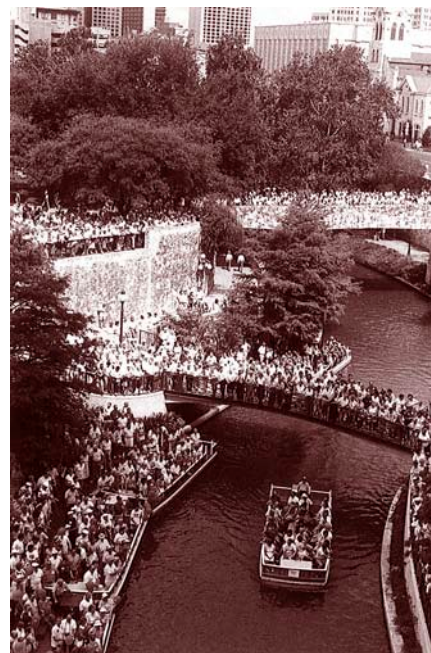
50th Anniversary Show Debuts at Constitution Hall. The Society's 50th anniversary show, *Heritage of Harmony*, was written by Gary Stamm, manager of the Society's Audio-Visual Services. It debuted Jan. 29 and 30 at the historic Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Joe Palmquist, a Barbershopper and actor from California, portrayed O.C. Cash to rave reviews. Also performing were **Interstate Rivals**, **Second Edition**, **Chiefs of Staff**, **139th Street Quartet**, and many more. The **Chorus of the Potomac**, made up of the **Alexandria Harmonizers** chorus and other Barbershoppers from area chapters, was directed by Joe Liles.

A *Heritage of Harmony* song book was also produced with the definitive arrangements of 65 classic songs.

Tulsa rededicates historical plaque. The Southwestern District held its spring convention in Tulsa, Okla., on the 50th anniversary of the original April meeting. The district held a ceremony to rededicate a historical marker on the site of the Alvin Plaza Hotel, the long-time home of the chapter. The Society's Executive Committee attended, as well as Cash and Hall family members and several pioneers from those early days. Jim Warner, Jim Richards, Charlie McCann and Joe Liles sang on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club, repeating songs that were sung at the first 1938 meeting.

Harmony Foundation becomes main charity.

After millions of dollars had been raised for "our kids" in Wichita, Kan., and a 36-year relationship with the Institute of Logopedics/Heartspring, the



Attendees pack San Antonio's Riverwalk at the Society's 1988 50th Anniversary convention.



Congratulations to the Barbershop Harmony Society

on its 75 years of success,
and wishing many more from the

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT The District of Champions

The Far Western District, with more than 75 chapters in Hawaii, California, Nevada, Southern Utah and Arizona, is proud to be a major part of the great Barbershop organization that brings the joy of music to our audiences and our members around the world.



International Chorus Champions

- ★ 1957 Californians, Berkeley
- ★ 1972 Phoenicians, Greater Phoenix
- ★ 1976 Phoenicians, Greater Phoenix
- ★ 1983 Phoenicians, Greater Phoenix
- ★ 1990 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs
- ★ 1993 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs
- ★ 1996 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs
- ★ 1999 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs
- ★ 2002 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs
- ★ 2005 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs
- ★ 2007 Westminster Chorus, Westminster
- ★ 2008 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs
- ★ 2010 Westminster Chorus, Westminster
- ★ 2011 Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs

International Quartet Champions

- ★ 1960 Evans Quartet
- ★ 1962 Gala Lads
- ★ 1964 Sidewinders
- ★ 1968 Western Continentals
- ★ 1972 Golden Staters
- ★ 1985 The New Tradition
- ★ 1996 Nightlife
- ★ 1998 Revival
- ★ 2004 Gotcha!
- ★ 2008 OC Times

Senior Quartet Champions

- ★ 2009 Audacity

Collegiate Quartet Champions

- ★ 2009 The Vagrants

Home of the 2014 International Convention and Contests, where it "Happens in Vegas"



The Bowery Boys (left) dominated the first Buckeye Invitational in 1989. While participation declined after the International Chorus Contest was expanded, the spectacular Singing Buckeyes Harmony Camp (above) continues on.

switch; LPs soon disappear.

Landino Trophy retired; new quartet trophy presented. The Hugh Ingram Memorial Trophy (below) was designed and built by Jim Law.

1989

Quartet champ: Second Edition (Fred Farrell, David Harrington, Doug Harrington, Jamie Meyer)

Chorus champ: Alexandria Harmonizers

Senior Quartet champ: Bayou City Music Committee

International Convention: Kansas City, Mo.

International President: Jim Richards

Harmonizer Editor: Dan Daily 1989-1999

Song of the Contest: Second Edition - "I Dream Of Jeannie (With The Light Brown Hair)"

Dan Daily becomes editor of The Harmonizer.

Following Leo Fobart's passing in 1984, The Harmonizer was helmed successively by public relations director/editor Robb Ollett (1984), Lynne Soto (1984-87), public relations manager/editor Ray Heller (1987-88), and Jack Bagby (1988-89), before Dan Daily settled in for a ten-year run in 1989. Daily, a retired Navy pilot and air safety investigator, pulled the magazine forward into the electronic publishing era, and was a meticulous reader of the several hundred chapter bulletins mailed to Harmony Hall each month.

Suzanne Harrington (lead of 1989 SAI champ **Growing Girls** and 2003 champ **Swinglish Mix**) is married to Doug Harrington, bari of 1989 Society champ **Second Edition**. Naima Meyer (bass of Growing Girls and Swinglish Mix) is married to Jamie Meyer, bass of Second Edition.

First Buckeye Invitational. The Columbus, Ohio's **Singing Buckeye**

Society decided to focus more on programs that would benefit Barbershoppers, youth and singing. The Society encouraged members to support the efforts of The Harmony Foundation.

With so many years of emotional commitment and generosity to Logopedics, the change was controversial. While some chapters continued to support Logopedics, our new focus evolved to programs like Young Men In Harmony/Youth in Harmony and many other similar programs supported by Harmony Foundation. In 2000, the Society formally discontinued its association with Logopedics/HeartSpring.

Hugh Ingraham passes away. The long-time executive director died of cancer on July 23 at age 60. He served on the Society staff beginning in 1962 as an administrative field rep and was promoted through the ranks: PR director, director of communications, and finally Executive Director in 1977. In 1966, he made his second trip to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba to entertain the troops for the USO along with the **Four Renegades** and the **Midnight Oilers**. He retired in 1987.

One Eight Hundred Eight Seven

Six Sing. The Society invests in an 800 number. Until recently, chapters were charged a small quarterly fee based on membership to pay for the service, which was free to individual callers. Today it is paid via membership dues.

Say hi to CDs. The Society begins producing the contest recordings on CDs. Society groups also begin to make the



Chorus hosted an annual contest different from all others. Organized primarily by Mike Renner and organized before contest wildcard slots were introduced, the chapter promoted this contest as "a place where choruses and quartets that placed second in district contests could compete. Audience members could judge for entertainment value and groups could win in "barbershop contest," "entertainment" and "overall" categories.

The "invitational" part of the event was suspended five years ago due to the expansion of the Society's chorus contest, but the Singing Buckeyes Harmony Camp continues.

Society offers credit card. Using the image of the Norman Rockwell quartet, the Society introduces its own MasterCard/MBNA America credit card, complete with logo. Each use makes a donation to Young Men In Harmony. By 1990, there were more than 5,000 card in use. Bank of America,



which had bought MBNA America, discontinued the cards in 2012.

AAMBS becomes affiliate. The Australian Association of Men's Barbershop Singers (now called Barbershop Harmony Australia) joined BABS, SNOBS, and NZABS in the growing roster of affiliates. The Netherlands, Ireland and South Africa would follow.

1990

Quartet champ: Acoustix (Todd Wilson, Rick Middaugh, Jason January, Jeff Oxley)

Chorus champ: Masters of Harmony

Senior Quartet champ: Grandma's Beaus

International Convention: San Francisco, CA

International President: Charlie McCann

Sound score determines champion. Nobody in San Francisco scored higher than the **Louisville Thoroughbreds** under the direction of Allan Hatton, trying for an eighth chorus championship. The trouble was that the nearly-new **Masters of Harmony**, directed by Dr. Greg Lyne, scored the same total points (1593). For the first time, the championship was determined by tie-breaker; with the Masters winning the Sound Category by six points. This was the first of three consecutive championships with Lyne, and the Masters eventually won eight consecutive championships under three different directors.

Bryn Mawr experiment successful. Eric Jackson led his chapter to positive results with increased membership, quartet involvement and more members attending Harmony College and an increase in show ticket sales. Many other chapters picked up on the concepts that they had proved would work well.

The first second-generation gold medalist was Todd Wilson, tenor of **Acoustix** (1990); he is the son of Harlan Wilson, baritone for the **Suntones** (1961).

1991

Quartet champ: *The Ritz* (Jim Shisler, Doug Nichol, D.J. Hiner, Ben Ayling)

Chorus champ: *Vocal Majority*

Senior Quartet champ: *Old Kids on the Block*

International Convention: Louisville, KY

International President: Robert Cearnal

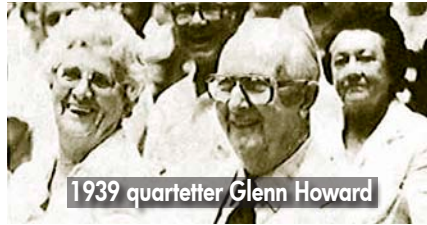
The Aliens' legendary Saturday night surprise.

One of the most popular comedy quartets ever, **The Aliens** of Hillsboro, Ore., pulled one over on the audience and judges in the 1991 Evergreen quartet prelims. They had no plans to qualify, so after fudging with the judges for a last-place slot, they began by lip-synching with a **Boston Common** recording, the latter half of which had been specially modified to skip, slow down, speed up and repeat, all of which of course affected the pitch and their "planned" choreography. They followed the rigged recording perfectly. The bit got more ridiculous as they sang "Barbershop Strut," which played so slowly they abandoned the "performance" and attacked their dummy bari Chuck Olson, who was presumably at fault for the defective recordings.

A hilarious pantomimed slow-motion fight ensued as the other three beat him to the ground and left the stage.

At the end of the first song, the judges stood up, broke their pencils and threw them onto the stage in "protest." They *did not* disqualify them, they just gave them zero scores (a first) and saluted their creativity. The Aliens got two exuberant standing ovations from the crowd. The bit became so famous that the quartet was "forced" to release it on VHS and later DVD. The entire bit can still be found on YouTube.

The first father/son combination to win medals in the same year: Mike Connelly with **The Naturals**



1939 quartetter Glenn Howard

and his son, Joe, with **Keepsake** in 1991.

Glenn Howard attends 52nd consecutive Int'l Convention. His last was Louisville in 1991. He died Feb. 9, 1992. Howard placed second in 1939 with **The Capitol City Four**, only missing out on first place by, reportedly, "a sixty-fourth note." He died at 89 years old, having been a Barber-shopper for 73 years.

1992

Quartet champ: *Keepsake* (Roger Ross, Joe Connelly, Tony De Rosa, Don Barnick)

Chorus champ: *Southern Gateway Chorus*

Senior Quartet champ: *One More Time*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Waterstreet Junction*

International Convention: New Orleans, LA

International President: Terry Aramian

First collegiate quartet contest: *Water Street Junction*

Tony DeRosa was the youngest man to win international quartet gold, at age 19 with **Keepsake**. He is also the youngest to triple-gold as well as the youngest to direct a chorus at the international contest. He directed the **Heralds of Harmony** in 1994 at age 21.

Chiefs of Staff in The Babe. Our 1988 International champs (Tim McShane, Chuck Sisson, Dick Kingdon and Don Bagley) appear in the 1992 movie, *The Babe*, starring John Goodman as Babe



1988 champ Chiefs of Staff hang with "The Babe" on the movie set

Kuth. They played the part of the cheering section for the 1914 **The Boston Bean Eaters**, singing "Here Come The Bostons" from atop the dugout and using megaphones to be heard. It took some sleuth work and help from the Old Songs Library to find the lyrics. Joe Liles wrote the music and arranged it for the movie.

First Collegiate Quartet Contest. The winner of the first MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop

Quartet Contest was **Water Street Junction**, but that milestone is remembered less than the impact this annual contest would eventually have on the Society. A list of past collegiate competitors includes many of the Society's prominent chorus directors, coaches, district and chapter leaders, judges, International leaders and headquarters staff. Of the last 13 international quartet champs, nine had at least one member who had competed in the college contest, including three intact past collegiate champion quartets (**Four Voices**, 2002; **Vocal Spectrum**, 2006; **Ringmasters**, 2012). Today, the contest is sponsored by Harmony Foundation.

Harmony Explosion starts with a bang. The new push to get kids singing barbershop harmony



First collegiate champ Water Street Junction

worked to combine the efforts already being made in Young Men in Harmony by establishing "clubs" and offering with new materials such as videos, a patch, posters, membership cards, educator's brochures, song lists and a manual.

1993

Quartet champ: *The Gas House Gang* (Kipp Buckner, Rich Knight, Rob Henry, Jim Henry)

Chorus champ: *Masters of Harmony*

Senior Quartet champ: *Rockies IV*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Heritage Station*

International Convention: Calgary, AB CAN

International President: Ernie Nickason

Song of the Contest. 1993: *Gas House Gang - Bright Was The Night*

Largest-ever International Convention. The 1993 International convention was held in Calgary with 11,103 registrations sold. That topped 1991 Louisville (10,570), 1997 Indianapolis (10,525), 2003 Montreal (10,210).

All six of the songs **The Gas House Gang** won with in 1993 were arranged by David Wright.

AIC finale sets the bar for barbershop sky high. Jay Giallombardo's soaring 12-part "Anthems/Ode to Joy" masterpiece with the **AIC Chorus**, **Acoustix** and **The Ritz** was an all-time barbershop high for many at the two AIC Shows in Calgary—singers and audience alike.

The Gas House Gang's 303 point-margin win in 1993 was the highest under the "Stage Presence, Interpretation, Sound, and Arrangement" judging.

Entire Simpsons episode centered on bar-



The Greater Vancouver Chapter Gentlemen of Fortune Chorus



"Home of International champs Realtime and Antique Gold"



CDs



<http://www.gof.bc.ca>

- * Evergreen District champion x 2
- * 3 time International competitor
- * Bronze Medalist Pan-Pacific Convention
- * 1990 Carnegie Hall performer

Salutes



On its 75th

Anniversary

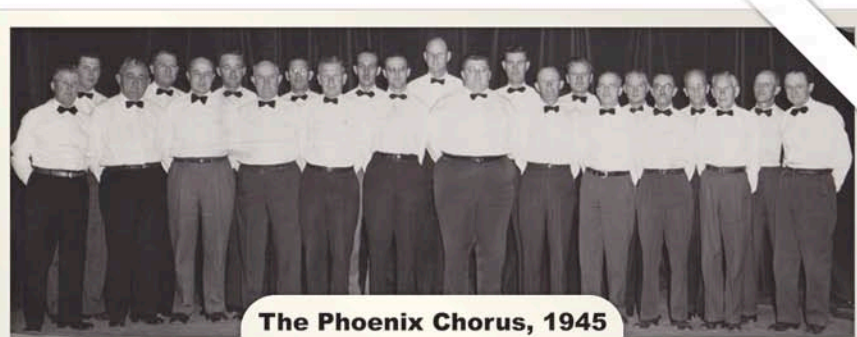
*Congratulations
B.H.S.!*



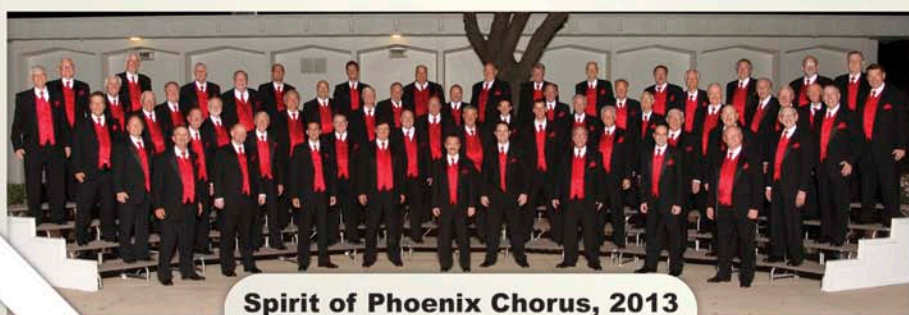
On 75 years

of Harmony, Fellowship and Fun

"Best wishes for another 75 and more years"



The Phoenix Chorus, 1945



Spirit of Phoenix Chorus, 2013

from the Spirit of Phoenix Chorus, marking our 70th year. (Greater Phoenix Chapter, chartered on March 15, 1943. Three-time International Chorus Champions).



"It's Great to Sing With Spirit!" Contact us at 480-947-SING or www.sopchorus.org

Happy 75th Anniversary!

from the Y-City Chorus family, Zanesville, OH



The Zanesville, Ohio Chapter is proud that two of its long-time members had an indirect tie to the Society's inaugural meeting. According to O.C. Cash, the first song ever performed under the auspices of the SPEBSQSA was "Down Mobile" sung by a pick up quartet in a hallway of the Tulsa Club prior to the meeting getting underway.

The bass in that foursome was E.J. Lawyer. Lawyer's son married a Zanesville girl whose brother and brother-in-law both were charter members of the Zanesville Chapter (Y-City Barbershoppers, that's us). This has always given us a special feeling of closeness to that historic event of April 11, 1938.

2,880 new or reinstated members in six months. They reached the lofty goal on the last day and we had 877 more members in 1996 than we had in 1995. It was the last year of net membership growth.

1996

Quartet champ: *Nightlife* (Rob Meneker, John Sasine, Jeff Baker, Brett Littlefield)

Chorus champ: *Masters of Harmony*

Senior Quartet champ: *Fatherly Advice*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Four Voices*

International Convention: *Salt Lake City, UT*

International President: *Tim Hanrahan*

A plan for wind chimes anyone? The Harmonet is born. In 1991, three Barbershoppers employed by Cray Research began what by 1996 had become the Harmonet e-mail discussion group. David Bowen (Hilltop, Minn.), Paul Yankowskas (London, Ont.) and Tom Arneberg (Chippewa Falls, Wis.) nurtured the group to 1,300 Barbershoppers almost overnight. The group is open and is filled with a wide range of ideas, complaints, rants, opinions and news from all over the barbershop world. Subscribers exceeded 10,000 members and today the Harmonet still lives (even with Facebook being so dominant) and continues with 5,800 subscribers.

Nightlife received a 100 score from a Music judge for "Basin Street Blues" in the 1996 international contest.



Barbershop's "Swedish invasion" is only figurative today. The Entertainmen (SNOBS) staged a Swedish Invasion of Salt Lake City in 1996 that was nearly literal.

Joe Liles retires. Effective Feb. 2, 1996, Joe retired, having joined the Society staff in 1975. In 1982 he became Director of Education and Services, and Executive Director in 1988. He also served as a certified judge in Arrangement and Singing. He continues today as part-time music consultant and continues to write and arrange.

Darryl Flinn takes the helm. Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn started his nine-year run. From Canton, Ohio, Darryl directed the **Hall of Fame Chorus** for 22 years and a Sweet Adeline chorus for 20 years. He was a certified Sound judge and, at the time, had taught directing at Harmony College for 19 years.

Ball State University hosts first HX Camp. The first Harmony Explosion (HX) Camp, with 180 kids registered, was held July 18-20 in Muncie, Ind. The project was developed by The Youth Outreach Committee, Society staff and volunteers to involve Barber-

shopers, youth and music educators equally, and was sponsored by area chapters. Hundreds of other HX camps have followed.

PBS Special II: Voices In Harmony. The 1994 PBS special, "Keep America Singing," was so successful that Mitch Miller hosted a second.



Harmony Explosion camps have spring up all over North America since the first was hosted in 1996.

Harmony Foundation transforms through the years

A steadfast partner since its incorporation in 1959, the Harmony Foundation has always played a key role in building for the future. Initially created as a non-profit organization before SPEBSQSA was accorded that status, the Foundation was a trust holding the deed to Harmony Hall in Kenosha and later the assets of the Old Songs Library. In 1964, it became the conduit through which charitable donations were made for the Society's unified service project, the Institute of Logopedics (later Heartspring).

The growing realization that shrinking school music programs would ultimately lead to a dearth of men who sing at all, much less sing barbershop, lead to a realignment of the Foundation's mission. Under the leadership of Gary Stamm, the Foundation expanded its mission to encourage vocal music in schools and communities. Ultimately, the affiliation with Heartspring was severed in what was understandably a difficult transition after more than three decades.

In 2003, Clarke Caldwell signed on as CEO and charted an even more aggressive expansion of the Foundation's fundraising capabilities. Harmony Foundation International went through a transformation that reinvested 100% of its fundraising to preserve and grow the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Foundation's ever-expanding support of youth outreach programs such as the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest and the International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival have made the Foundation one of the most visible and dynamic forces in the Society today.



shopers, youth and music educators equally, and was sponsored by area chapters. Hundreds of other HX camps have followed.

Acoustix, Masters of Harmony join Tab Choir. During the Sunday Service in Salt Lake City (a repeat of the popular 1980 concert) Acoustix and the Masters of Harmony joined the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** in a special joint concert in the Tabernacle.

Heritage Hall Museum opens. The Society history museum opened with an exhibit showcasing OC Cash. Thousands of artifacts and a collection of past champ uniforms and Society archives resided in the basement of Harmony Hall.

The Vikings Invade Salt Lake City. The EntertainMen

Performers included 1993 champ **The Gas House Gang**, 1995 champ **Marquis**, 1993 Sweet Adeline Champs **Showtime** and Sweet Adeline chorus champs **Gem City Chorus** directed by Jeanne Barford. It aired on many PBS TV stations in December.

Charles "Bub"

Thomas retires. The founder and patriarch of the **Dapper Dans of Disneyland** and Disney World announced his pending retirement after performing barbershop to millions of park guests. Sadly, soon after announcing his retirement he was killed in a car wreck on Jan. 28, 1997. He was 85.



1997

Quartet champ: *Yesteryear* (Dan Trakas, Mark Blake, Rod Nixon, Randy Baughman)

Chorus champ: *Vocal Majority*

Senior Quartet champ: *Saturday's Heroes*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Freefall*

International Convention: *Indianapolis, IN*

International President: *Tim Hanrahan*



The Death of Randy Chisholm.

The Society was saddened by the sudden death of the 1995 champion **Marquis** lead on Aug. 3. He died of complications from a staph infection while working at a hospital. He was 46.



Nixon's the One.

Rod Nixon, 59 wins a gold medal as the baritone of **Yesteryear**, becoming the oldest man ever to win a quartet championship in the "regular" contest. He beat the previous record-holder, Ken Hawkinson of the 1977 champ **Most Happy Fellows** by almost a year.

San Fernando Valleyaires and Jerry Lewis.

Expanded Sound and the **Valleyaires** chorus made an appearance on the Aug 31 Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon broadcast nationally from CBS Television City to an estimated eight million viewers.



Jerry Lewis surprised the Valleyaires ...



... but not before Expanded Sound stole the show.

First up was Expanded Sound (Ed "Big Daddy" Coco (Br), Charlie Buehrle (Bs), Bill Benner (L) and Larry Gans (Br) with their crazy biker outfits. The audience and Jerry loved their "Bikers Medley" ("Cycle Gang," "Harley, How I Love Ya," "Su-Su-Zuki Goodbye"). They followed up with "My Old Harley" and ended with their customary cat calls, high fives and belly bumps as they exited. They got a standing ovation and a rare curtain call, plus another standing ovation in the green room by the other performers.

Afterwards, the Valleyaires chorus took the stage. Unrehearsed and unannounced, Jerry joined them on the risers wearing one of their jackets and ties. He "messed" with the guys in

the chorus and parodied their choreography. The audience ate it up. It was a great moment for barbershop and new barbershop harmony fans.

Live barbershop on the air. The Applause Show went on the air playing barbershop harmony from a large collection of CDs with live DJs. The show aired four hours each Thursday on WDVR in Sergeantsville, NJ. The show was also streamed on the internet and gained a loyal following. Hosts were Rich Taylor, TJ Barranger, and Rich Pearson.

1998

Quartet champ: *Revival* (Royce Ferguson, Mike Spencer, Mike Lawton, Bill Myers)

Chorus champ: *Alexandria Harmonizers*

Senior Quartet champ: *Jurassic Larks*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Prime Cut*

International Convention: *Atlanta, GA*

International President: *Ed Waesche*

Hotel Muehlebach. Our famous plaque was returned April 4 to the restored lobby during a special re-opening ceremony, with performance by the **Heart of America Chorus**.

SingingValentines.com. A website dedicated to Singing Valentines was launched in time for 1998 Valentine season. It continues as a one-stop national clearinghouse to connect those who want a Singing Valentine with those who were delivering them.

In 1998, **Metropolis** became the first Society quartet to win the Harmony Sweepstakes National A Cappella Championship. They were followed by **The Perfect Gentlemen** (2002), **Hi-Fidelity** (2006) and **Da Capo** (2011).

Larry Ajer dies. Influential coach, Presentation judge and Harmony College faculty member Larry Ajer died June 13 at the age of 57 of complications from heart surgery. There is now

an endowment fund established in his name to assist quartets to go to Harmony College. A Tuesday night party at International conventions to raise funds is hosted by in his honor by the **Salem, Ore., Senateaires**.

1999

Quartet champ: *FRED* (Jared Carlson, Rick LaRosa, Clay Hine, Joe Clay)

Chorus champ: *Masters of Harmony*

Senior Quartet champ: *Tri-County Reclamation Project*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Station 59*

International Convention: *Anaheim, CA*

International President: *Ed Waesche*

Harmonizer Editor: *Reed Sampson / Brian Lynch 1999 - 2000*

Jeff Oxley Directs MOH to Chorus Gold.

He was one of only three men who had, at that time, both directed a gold medal chorus and won a quartet gold. Jeff won chorus gold with **Masters of Harmony** in 1999, quartet gold with the **Rapsallions** (1984), **Acoustix** (1990) and would win another quartet gold in 2007 with **Max Q**.

Other gold medal quartet/directors were Freddie King (**Oriole Four/Dundalk**) and Buzz Busby (**Confederates/Dixie Cotton Boll**). Later, they would be joined by Mark Hale (**Michigan Jake/Masters of Harmony**), Jay Giallombardo (**Grandma's Boys/New Tradition**), Royce Ferguson (**Revival/Westminster Chorus**) and Jim Henry (**The Gas House Gang/Crossroads/Ambassadors of Harmony**).

Mutual Fun Appears on Diagnosis Murder. A California quartet, **Mutual Fun** with Art Taylor (T),



Les Weiser (L), Lefty Parasson (Br) and Dave Briner (Bs), appeared with Dick Van Dyke on CBS's *Diagnosis Murder* starring Dick Van Dyke. Dick appeared in Anaheim to receive his honorary life member presentation and sang again with **Mutual Fun**.

Can't Stop Singing. Another successful PBS documentary, hosted by Nick Clooney, included **Revival**, **Bank Street**, **FRED**, **Alexandria Harmonizers**, **Ambassadors of Harmony** and the **Vocal Majority**. The show goes behind the scenes of the Atlanta convention in 1998 and shows individual stories, coaching, rehearsing and the performances. It aired on many PBS Stations in August of 1999 and is still available on DVD.

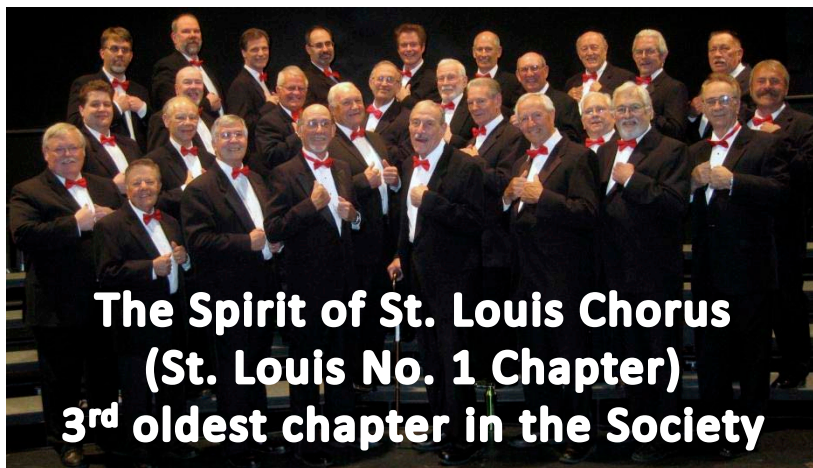
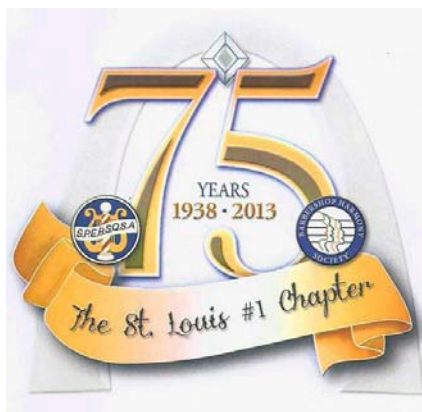
Masters Appear on Jerry's Telethon. The **Masters of Harmony** appear on the Jerry Lewis MD Telethon (Barbershoppers were becoming regular acts). Jerry has trouble reading SPEBSQSA off the cue cards which adds to the show's unpredictability.

Harmony Hall West Renovated. The renovation of 7930 Sheridan Road, the second Society building, was completed. It housed Harmony Marketplace, Harmony Foundation, the print

Happy 75th Birthday to the Barbershop Harmony Society!



THE ST. LOUIS #1 CHAPTER WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY ON 75 YEARS OF HARMONIOUS EXISTENCE.



**The Spirit of St. Louis Chorus
(St. Louis No. 1 Chapter)
3rd oldest chapter in the Society**



*Congratulations,
Barbershop Harmony Society*

*on your
75th Anniversary*

Columbia Basin Chapter, Ephrata, WA

*On board with
Barbershop Harmony
since 1963*



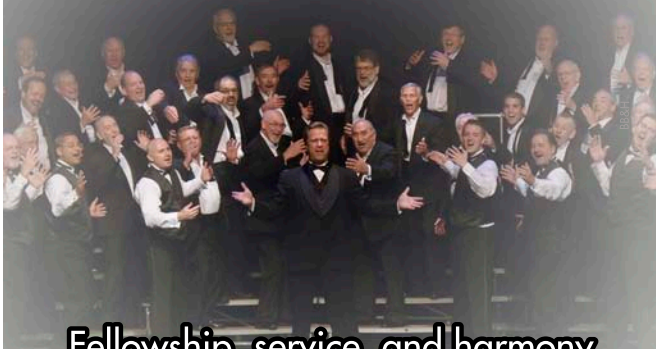
*Celebrating our
50th year*

Ontario District's



sends

Congratulations to the
Barbershop Harmony Society
on 75 incredible years



Fellowship, service, and harmony
in Ottawa since 1957

www.capitalcitychorus.org

The Chordial Four Wishes the BHS a HAPPY 75th Anniversary!

"Together 50 years!!"

From the Ontario District, Samia area, these same four singers have sung from the Stratford Festival theater stage to every smaller hall, church and community building in a wide area. In 1967, they performed for a week in "The Music Man" in Samia. They have paraded on a self-made Bicycle-for-four that now is on display in a local museum and once rode onto the stage in a Model T replica built on a lawn tractor! The major highlight was in 1995, touring and singing 3 weeks in Ireland and Scotland!



The Chordial Four

Ron Madill, Melvin Murphy, Bill Boyington, Bruce McCallum



THE CHORUS WITH THE
NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SHOWS
AS SEEN ON PUBLIC TELEVISION



Bruce
Newhall
Playright
1925-2012

Congratulations to BHS for 75 Years of Harmony!



Chartered in 1944 by O. C. Cash Himself!

Our chapter was chartered in 1944 as the "Sycamore Chapter". Later we changed the name to "The Chorus of the Ohio Valley" and finally changed the name to "The Cincinnati Chapter, Delta Kings Chorus". We hosted the International contest in 1978, performed at "Tall Stacks" in 2006 and won a Bronze Diploma in the World Choir Games in 2012. Our fraternal sense of brotherhood has made us the "Fun" chapter for 69 years and will lead us into the future for many years to come.



Dick Davis
54 Year
Member

Bill Gates
53 Year
Member



TALL STACKS - 2006



Singing
Valentines



Acoustix helps ring in the Millennium. The 1990 champ sang "This is the Moment" live on ABC 2000 hosted by their fan, friend and patron Peter Jennings. At least 175 million viewers tuned in during the 23-hour marathon production.

shop, finance, membership, data processing and convention management staff. Our investment in both facilities confirms our commitment to the city that has been our home for nearly 40 years. The entire staff would later move into this building in 2003 and then to Nashville in 2007

Metropolis appears on Diagnosis Murder. Metropolis sang "Winter Wonderland" with Dick Van Dyke at bass, on the Dec. 16 episode. They also sang "Hushabye Mountain," a song Van Dyke performed in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

2000

Quartet Champ: PLATINUM (Gary Lewis, Joe Connelly, Tony De Rosa, Kevin Miles)
Chorus Champ: Vocal Majority
Senior Quartet Champ: Over Time
Collegiate Quartet Champ: Millennium
International Convention: Kansas City, MO
International President: Chuck Watson



Chorus contest adds wildcards. With 171 choruses scoring over a "B" level, the Society decided that more than just the 16 district winners should be invited to sing on the big stage. Four wild cards were invited, along with three affiliate choruses, bringing the total to 23. As expected, the wildcards did very well. (**Great American Chorus**, 3rd; **Midwest Vocal Express**, 8th; **Singing Buckeyes**, 11th; **Heart of Texas**, 15th)

PLATINUM holds the largest winning margin under the current "Singing, Music, Presentation"

judging, with a margin of 412 points in 2000.

Lorin May begins as editor of The Harmonizer.

Utah Barbershopper Lorin May joins headquarters staff in January. To date, he has produced more issues (71) than all but Leo Fobart (120).

The Music Man is revived on Broadway. Choreographed by Susan Stroman, the revival of the 1957 Meredith Willson musical (which originally starred the **Buffalo Bills**) opened in April at the Neil Simon Theater and ran 699 shows. The School Board quartet, **The Hawkeye Four**, was made up of professional singers/actors. The show's touring production featured Broadway performer Stephen Wilde (stage name for Stephen Iannacchione, tenor of 1994 champ **Jokers Wild**) as a School Board member. The theme for the 2000 Kansas City International was *The Music Man*.

International Webcast 1.0.

Those not able to attend the convention in person could log in to the Kansas City quartet and chorus contests, hosted by Rich Taylor and Phil DeBar. Society Audio Visual Manager Russ Foris led the technical team that included Brian Lynch, Scott Hoge and Scott Wetle. Within the first six minutes, all 500 streams were full and another 1,500 were quickly arranged. Those, too, were filled before the end of the broadcast.

Gary Lewis was the first person to win both a collegiate gold (**The Real Deal**, 1994), and a regular gold (**PLATINUM**, 2000). He won again in 2007 with **Max Q**. Gary sang bass,

tenor and bari respectively for the three championships.

Society ends direct association with former Logopedics. Harmony Foundation shifted its focus from supporting a high-overhead speech therapy organization (renamed Heartspring) to a focus on preserving the Barbershop Harmony Society, with a strong emphasis on promoting singing and barbershop among youth.

2001

Quartet Champ: Michigan Jake (Drew Kirkman, Mark Hale, Joel Wilson, Greg Hollander)
Chorus Champ: New Tradition Chorus
Senior Quartet Champ: Harmony
Collegiate Quartet Champ: Reprise
International Convention: Nashville, TN
International President: Chuck Watson
Song of the Contest: The Northern Lights, "Brother Can You Spare A Dime"

First barbershop radio station. For five nights a week, one could hear barbershop on New Jersey/New York area and elsewhere via Internet streaming. Founder Rick Taylor and friends set up shop in a local public radio station (WVRM in Upper Montclair, NJ).

The New Tradition Chorus (finally) wins. After thirteen consecutive medals, the last eight at



"Something About a Soldier" was by far the most memorable uptune of the 2001 contest, propelling New Tradition Chorus to its first gold medal. However, "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?", by that year's silver-medalist Northern Lights Chorus, was arguably the most powerful chorus ballad of all time.

Barbershop quartets and choruses answered the call following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Males voices singing solemn patriotic barbershop songs was a chosen musical backdrop at hundreds of large-scale commemorative events throughout the United States.



silver, Jay Giallombardo directs **New Tradition Chorus** to gold. The Northbrook, Ill., chorus won with "There's Something About A Soldier" and "The White Cliffs Of Dover," complete with dress white soldier uniforms and precision drill routines. In 1999, the chorus had missed gold by only two points; in 1994 by four points.

The Gas House Gang/Power Play sing the Grand Ole Opry. With the convention in Nashville, top Society quartets were asked to sing on the Carnegie Hall of Country Music, The Grand Ole Opry. **The Gas House Gang** (1993 champs) did a Tuesday afternoon and **Power Play** (later the 2003 champs) appeared on a Friday night with an encore and two standing ovations. Their reception was so special that another performer gave up one of his



songs so they could do an encore.

The silver medalists from all three North American barbershop organizations in 2001 repeated their silver in 2002: **Uptown Sound** (BHS), **Brava!** (SAI) and **Diamond Girls** (HI).

Lou Perry passes at 90. The great songwriter and arranger Lou Perry died Feb. 21. He was responsible for many songs still sung by nearly every Barbershopper. His work was simple, singable and his personal philosophy could have been summed up as, "Tasteful simplicity is always in style." Perhaps his most famous composition was "That Old Quartet of Mine," made famous by the **Boston Common** in its 1980 win.

2002

Quartet Champ: *Four Voices* (Lester Rector, Chad Guyton, Brandon Guyton, Jayson Van Hook)

Chorus Champ: *Masters of Harmony*

Senior Quartet Champ: *Chicago Shuffle*

Collegiate Quartet Champ: *Catfish Bend*

International Convention: *Portland, Oregon*

transformed in 1999, placed 13th in 2000, third in 2001 and first in 2002.

Eleven quartets in the top ten. The judging program's new software had performed flawlessly in District contests, but with an added third round in Portland, the program incorrectly listed **Finale** as the mic tester and put 11th-place **Cheers!** in the finals. The error was discovered only after the finalists had been announced from the podium and Friday-night tagging was underway. The powers-that-be quickly decided that to be fair to all, eleven quartets would sing in the finals. 12th-place comedy quartet **Freestyle** became the mic tester and they devoted their set to mocking the judges over the debacle. Unfortunately, only after the contest did **Cheers!** learn that their finals set had not been scored and that they should have been mic testers all along. Being kept out of the loop left an unpleasant aftertaste, particularly for the quartet wives, and the judges later sent the wives flowers and a note of apology. **Cheers!** showed they belonged by finishing sixth the next year.

And the winner is ...

In the history of all Society contests, there have been few rules violations and very few disqualifications, especially those that seriously affected the results. In 2002, **Westminster Chorus** was announced as the Far Western District champion—earning

International President: *Roger Lewis*

Song of the Contest: *Four Voices: "Lazy Bones"*

The first college champion to become quartet gold medalists, **Four Voices**, re-

them their first international berth. Less than an hour into their celebration, the chorus learned it had been disqualified on a rule violation. At the time, to eliminate "stacking," all members of fall district contest choruses had to either be registered as members of that chapter before the year's contest cycle started (March 1) or, if later, be brand new Society members. Some young Society veterans had joined Westminster well after the deadline.

Many Westminster pioneers look back on this painful event as a turning point that bonded the earliest members together. They went on to win the district championship the next year, and placed ninth in Louisville in 2004 before winning the gold in 2007.

2003

Quartet Champ: *Power Play* (Don Slamka, Michael Slamka, Mark Slamka, Jack Slamka)

Chorus Champ: *Vocal Majority*

Senior Quartet Champ: *The Barons*

Collegiate Quartet Champ: *Heat*

International Convention: *Montreal*

International President: *Roger Lewis*

Song of the Contest: *Power Play - The Best Times I Ever Had (I Owe 'em To My Good Old Dad)*

Goodbye Harmony Hall. The 18,000-square-foot lakeside mansion sold for \$1.6 million.

Expensive renovations would have been required to continue using the building, which was admittedly more impressive as a home than as a place to do business. Staff moved to the Sheridan Road location. That building was also sold in 2003 and the Society became a renter while continuing to look for a permanent home either in Kenosha or elsewhere.

2003 champ **Power Play** was made up entirely of the Slamka family; brothers Mike (I) and Mark (Br) sing with father, Jack (Bs), and cousin, Don (T).

American Profile. Barbershop Harmony gets



Late in 2003, Society staff waved farewell to our historic former headquarters building.

SING CANADA HARMONY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Supporting barbershop harmony singing in communities and schools throughout Canada.

We will fund learning opportunities for Canadians, particularly young people, to expand many facets of musical leadership and to gain expertise and experience in harmony singing in quartets & choruses.

From a gathering on a rooftop in 1938 to an international society encompassing the United States and Canada, we wish to pay tribute to the Society's rich history which we proudly support in harmony. We will endeavour to ensure that there will be someone to sing tomorrow – and for many, many years to come.

We wish the Barbershop Harmony Society a happy 75th anniversary!

SingCanadaHarmony.ca



Celebrating 75 Years of Barbershop Harmony

Best Wishes from Cambridge, Ohio

Chordial – The Cambridge Barbershop Chorus

Happy 75th Anniversary Barbershop Harmony Society

from

The Central States
District

Chartered 1946



Thank you to our founders

In 1938 O.C. Cash & Rupert Hall met and sang
"barbershop harmony" at the Muehlebach Hotel
Kansas City, MO

**Home of three of
the first ten society
chapters chartered:**

Kansas City - 1938

St. Louis #1 - 1938

Wichita - 1939

**In 1939 Tulsa hosted
the first society
quartet contest**

**Two Kansas quartets
competed:**

Topeka State Journal

Jayhawkers



In 2003, the army men of Midwest Vocal Express got huge ovation before they sang a note. They topped themselves in 2006 with "The Fish."



a cover story in the national Sunday magazine, *American Profile* in January. **Catfish Bend**

(2002 collegiate champion) made the cover.

The little green soldiers. In the first of many "What's next?" moments, **Midwest Vocal Express**, directed by Russ Foris, staged a ground-breaking Little Green Army Men set at international. It started with a kid in his PJs playing with little green Army men in front of the curtain. What was behind the curtain took the audience by complete surprise. The singers were dressed out as soldiers with green faces, and they received a long, monstrous ovation *before* they began singing.

2004

Quartet Champ: Gotcha! (Garry Texeira, Chris Vaughn, Alan Gordon, Jim Kline)

Chorus Champ: Ambassadors of Harmony

Senior Quartet Champ: Downstate Express

Collegiate Quartet Champ: Vocal Spectrum

International Convention: Louisville, KY

International President: Rob Hopkins

Executive Director / CEO: Don Harris 2004: 2005

Harmonizer Editor: Brian Lynch 2004: 2006

Harmonizers perform for the Kennedy Center Honors Again. The **Alexandria Harmonizers**, directed by Richard Lewellen, sang for the fifth time at the Kennedy Center Honors in December as part of the salute to Broadway and movie producer Michael Nichols. In attendance was President George H. W. Bush. Previously, the chorus helped salute Perry Como, Charleston Heston, Angela Lansbury, and Van Cliburn.

Keith Houts is believed to be the oldest man to compete on the International quartet stage; he was 74 years and 11 months when competing as tenor of **L'Audible** at the 2004 contest.

Ambassadors of Harmony approach record for

men on stage. The chorus wins its first gold medal in large fashion, putting an almost unprecedented 160 men on stage ... and exceeding the number of gold medals brought to Louisville. The chorus performed on the Saturday night show with some members wearing medals borrowed from members of the returning champion, **Vocal Majority**.

The Ambassadors put 158 on stage in 2009, and enough medals were on hand. The record for a

gold medalist is the **Dundalk, Md., Chapter**, which had 166 men on stage in 1961.

Kline #30. Jim Kline won gold with **Gotcha!** after 30 appearances on the International stage. He finished with 21 top 10 performances, having won three silver and five bronze medals.

Vocal Spectrum won the 2004 collegiate contest with a score (84.3) that would have been good enough for fifth place in that year's international quartet contest.

SPEBSQSA now dba "Barbershop Harmony Society." Following extensive external marketing surveys, the most prominent recommended change to be implemented was the Society's public name. For years, many had called the Society the "Barbershop Harmony Society" among outsiders as an unofficial short-hand, since "SPEBSQSA" could be dif-

ficult for the uninitiated to understand, remember or pronounce. Although the Society's legal name had not changed, the unofficial name became the official public-facing name. Barbershoppers' reactions to the change ranged from anger to resigned acceptance to jubilation.

2005

Quartet champ: Realtime (Tim Broersma, John Newell, Mark Metzger, Tom Metzger)

Chorus champ: Masters of Harmony

Senior Quartet champ: Texoma Sound

Collegiate Quartet champ: Men In Black

International Convention: Salt Lake City, UT

International President: Rob Hopkins

Executive Director / CEO: Roger Lewis* April 2005: July 2005

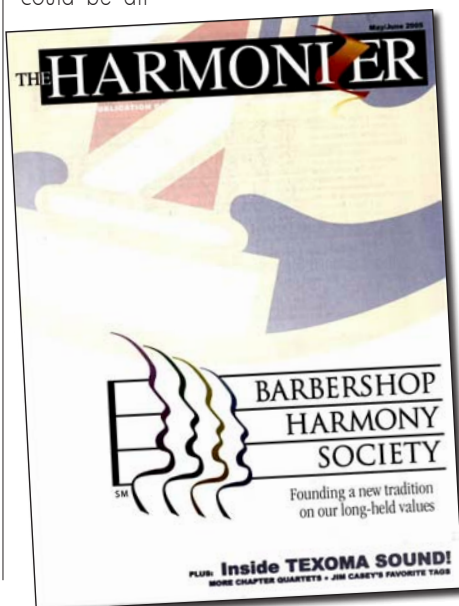
Executive Director / CEO: Ed Watson: 2005-2011

Sacred Gold concert, 2005. The gold medal chorus champs joined the Mormon Tabernacle Chorus in Salt Lake City after our convention for a free spectacular concert in the new Conference Center. Jim Clancy and Dr. Greg Lyne directed the 526-voice **Gold Medal Chorus**. The Gold Medal Chorus included past gold medal quartet and chorus members plus Senior and College champs. Guest performers included Four Voices, Power Play and Acoustix. The grand finale of the combined 900 voices was the performance of Jay Giallombardo's "A Tribute to World Peace".

First "international" quartet champs. While not all previous gold medalists were U.S. born, all had been U.S. residents at the time of victory. **Realtime** had three members living in Vancouver, B.C., with only one American commuting across the border to sing with two Canadians and one recently relocated Australian.

New Society logo. After 60 years of using the SPEBSQSA Society logo, the Society's goal was to create a new, fresh identity with a contemporary, human visual element to the fellowship and music. After several failed attempts to design something everyone liked, we engaged Dan Delaney, a 20-year Barbershopper (**Kentucky Vocal Union**), who had designed the nifty logo for the new College Quartet Contest.

Dan describes his thought process this way ... "My underlying goal was to design an image that would be appealing to men of my generation and generations to come - something that I myself would feel proud to wear on a T-shirt, sweater, or anything else. I wanted to convey that this is a musical organization, without being so trite as to use literal musical symbols. I was also concerned to retain the dignity of the original Society logo. I didn't want this to look like a silly cartoon or some kind of extreme sport. It should be modern, but have a taste of classicity.



Happy 75th Anniversary to the Barbershop Harmony Society!



2011 Mid-Atlantic District Contest, Lancaster, Pa.

1961 & 1971 International Chorus Champion
2007, 2008 & 2010 International Top 20 Chorus



*Our music directors,
past and present.*

Bob Johnson
Clarence Wroblewski
Ed Allison
John Hohl
Jim Kraus
Fred King (Emeritus)
Rick Taylor (2005 to present)

*"Fifty-five years and
still going strong!"*



Our very first CD release!

Order your copy at www.dundalk.org



The Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters wish to congratulate the SPEBSQSA aka (Barbershop Harmony Society) on its 75th anniversary. We began in 1973, the year International was in Portland. Chuck Olson was chairman that year and was encouraged to start a chorus of his own.

It needed to be a distinguished, elegant design to represent a dignified art."

2006

Quartet champ: *Vocal Spectrum* (Tim Waurick, Eric Dalbey, Jonny Moroni, Chris Hallam)

Chorus Champ: *Vocal Majority*

Senior Quartet Champ: *Antique Gold*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Musical Island Boys (NZABS)*

International Convention: Indianapolis, IN

International President: Drayton Justus

Harmonizer Editor: Lorin May 2006 - present

Song of the Contest: *Vocal Spectrum, "Cruella de Vil"*

Gold Medal president. Drayton Justus began his term as Society President and became only the second quartet gold medalist to hold the top Society position. The first was Frank Thorne of the **Elastic Four** (1942). Drayton got his gold with **Gentlemen's Agreement** in 1971. He also was the replacement lead of the **Suntones** for many years.

In 2006, **Musical Island Boys** won the collegiate contest, becoming the first affiliate group to win any International contest. 2008 collegiate champ **Ringmasters** (Sweden) was the second.

Nashville new headquarters. After a four-year search by the Harmony Hall Task Force, the Society Board of Directors instructed the Headquarters Relocation Committee to find an appropriate site in Nashville, Tenn., for the new Society Headquarters. CEO Ed Watson stated, "The Board applauds the dedication and patience shown by our staff during this unsettling period

of uncertainty."

The Year of The Fish! The **Midwest Vocal Express** chorus of Greendale, Wis., (directed by Chris Peterson) performed one of the most talked-about chorus contest routines of all time. The chorus was picked to sing last, and like 2003's Toy Soldiers set, once again got a long standing ovation before singing the first note. Who will ever forget the "turtle cam" when the arena crew followed the MVE turtles (still in character) after they left the stage? It took quite a while to settle down everyone before the



results could be announced. They placed 5th.

Barbershop and basketball. A gold medal quartet (Greg Clancy, Jeff Oxley, Jason January and Joel Rutherford) performed the National Anthem live for game six of the NBA Finals between the Dallas Mavericks and Miami Heat. It was televised for 15.7 million viewers.

Dapper Dons turn 50. The popular professional quartet of Disney hit the big 5-0. Many Society members were members of this Main Street troupe. A show version of the group (**Humdingers**) also added to this group's impact on the Society. The quartet **Main Street** composed of **Dapper Dons** is



now working its way up the contest ladder.

The digital age of barbershop. A new venture, **Naked Voice Records**, was launched in August by the members of 1994 International champ, **Joker's Wild**, to make digital barbershop music available for sale through top online music stores. Partnering with the Society, top quartets and choruses and other a cappella groups, they sold tens of thousands of songs in the first few months alone.

2007

Quartet champ: *Max Q* (Greg Clancy, Tony De Rosa, Gary Lewis, Jeff Oxley)

Chorus champ: *Westminster Chorus*

Senior Quartet champ: *Friendly Advice*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Road Trip*

International Convention: Denver, CO

International President: Noah Funderburg

Song of the Contest: *Max Q - Here's to the Losers*

Westminster appears on America's Got Talent

2007. The AGT producers found **Westminster Chorus** on YouTube, and convinced the chorus to audition. Under the direction of Royce Ferguson, the 36-man version of the chorus had a private audition. They were then invited to a TV taping at a studio. All three of the judges made positive comments, and two voted to push them through to the Las Vegas round.

In May the chorus travelled to Las Vegas, but unfortunately they did not make it to the next round. Their initial audition was never aired, but they did make air with a clip of Westminster's signature "wave" showed all those who tried out.

Westminster ties but wins. After a controversial 17-point loss to the **Vocal Majority** in 2006, **Westminster Chorus** won its first gold. Westminster could have won by a comfortable margin, but was docked 30 points by Presentation judges for a too-lengthy stepping/dance routine. The resulting tie with **Ambassadors of Harmony** was broken by Westminster's 11-point lead in Singing scores. With only 63 on stage, they were out-numbered by the Ambassadors' 158. With an average age of 19, Westminster was by far the youngest chorus in Society history to win a gold medal.

Kenosha is history. On Aug. 24, after 49 years in Wisconsin, we no longer called Kenosha home. We opened our new headquarters in Nashville on Sept. 4 in the renovated 36,000-square-foot, four-story building at 110 7th Ave N, Nashville, Tenn. We held the 2008 International Convention in Nashville to show off our new digs.

Steve Irwin "The Crocodile Hunter" Memorial. **The Blenders**, Australia's top barbershop chorus, performed for an estimated 300 million world-

wide viewers on the Sept. 20 memorial service for Steve Irwin, The Crocodile Hunter. It was held at the Australia Zoo and attended by Prime Minister John Howard and many celebrities. The last-minute booking and three songs proved to be a very emotional experience.

2008

Quartet champ: *OC Times* (Shawn York, Sean Devine, Cory Hunt, Pat Claypool)

Chorus champ: *Masters of Harmony*

Senior Quartet champ: *Eureka!*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Ringmasters (SNOBS)*

International Convention: *Nashville, TN*

International President: *Noah Funderburg*

International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival a hit. The inaugural International Youth



Westminster Chorus is tops in the world for 2009.

Barbershop Chorus Festival took place in San Antonio during the 2008 Midwinter convention. Unique rules required choruses to have an average age of no more than 25 (with no singer over 30) and perform a 10-minute set featuring two contestable barbershop numbers plus a third from any a cappella genre. Six entries and nearly 200 students participated from The U.S., Canada and New Zealand. Top honors went to **The Marcsmen** of San Marcos, Texas, directed by Brent Dunavant. Both the Marcsmen and **Northwest Vocal Project** of Bellevue, Wash., soon became Society chapters and have gone on to compete in international chorus contests. Today's festivals feature close to 20 choruses and nearly 500 young men.

All 40 men who competed in the 2008 quartet finals had competed in the finals at least once before.

Out of This World. The **Houston Tidelanders** performed "Peg O' My Heart" for the commander of the International Space Station on March 8. Peggy Whitson was the first female commander of the ISS and the tribute to her was on International Women's Day.

2009

Quartet champ: *Crossroads* (Fred Farrell, Michael Slamka, Brandon Guyton, Jim Henry)



Participating choruses have more than tripled since the The Marcsmen of San Marcos, Texas, were tops in the 2008 inaugural Youth Chorus Festival.

Chorus champ: *Ambassadors of Harmony*

Senior Quartet champ: *Audacity*

Collegiate champ: *The Vagrants (FWD)*

International Convention: *Anaheim, CA*

International President: *Bill Biffle*

Song of the Contest: *Crossroads, "Lucky Old Sun"*

American Harmony hits the big screen. The award-winning documentary created by director/writer/producer Aengus James, was released in February and began showings nationwide in selected theaters. Focusing primarily on eventual champs **Max Q**, **OC Times** and **Vocal Spectrum**, the documentary covered several years of competition, received a great deal of support from the membership, and would later appear on the Documentary channel and be available on DVD.

Crossroads (2009) was the first quartet champ comprised entirely of past international champions. The four members had previously sung in **Second Edition** (1989), **Power Play** (2003), **Four Voices** (2002), and **The Gas House Gang** (1993).

Westminster Chorus named Choir of the World. The boys of **Westminster** travelled all the way to Wales, U.K., and competed in the 2009 Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod. Led by new Director Justin Miller, they competed in three categories, winning Folk and Barbershop and placing second in Male

Chorus. Ultimately they were named "Choir of the World" and received the prestigious Pavarotti Trophy.

After 32 years, Frank Santarelli retires. The Society's longest tenured employee retired Oct. 1 and moved back to Kenosha, Wis. He was our Chief Financial Officer and staff director to a long succession of Executive Directors and CEOs going all the way back to March 1977.

In 2009, **Ringmasters** and **Musical Island Boys** became the first affiliate quartets to make the top 10. Ringmasters went on to place fourth, becoming the first affiliate quartet medalist.

What? No Wimmin? The Society Board approves a new Associate designation that grants women official Society status. The new "Associate"





status expanded our family to include female fans as well as the many female directors that lead many of our chapter choruses. While this is not "membership" per se, it grants a type of official Society status to wives, widows, female relatives, girlfriends, female directors and female friends of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

VM sets personal record but "loses" first contest since 1978. The mighty **Vocal Majority** had won every contest it entered with the exception of 1974 (3rd) and 1978 (2nd). 2009 was the year the Dallas dynasty hit an unexpected bump. The **Ambassadors of Harmony**, led by Jim Henry, out-scored the VM by only 37 points. It was the VM's highest score ever, but the AoH set a record for the highest score ever in International Chorus Contest. (**Westminster Chorus** broke that record the following year, again outscoring the VM.)

Jim Henry also sets personal record. Jim Henry was the first man to ever win the quartet gold (with **Crossroads**) and direct the gold medal chorus (**Ambassadors of Harmony**) in the same year.

2010

Quartet champ: *Storm Front* (Jeff Selano, Jim Clark, Darin Drown, Sydney Libsack)

Chorus champ: *Westminster Chorus*

Senior Quartet champ: *Resisting-a-Rest*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Swedish Match*

International Convention: *Philadelphia, PA*

International President: *Bill Biffle*

Song of the Contest. *Storm Front, "Bluegrass Student Union Car Medley"*

HF 50. Formed in 1959, Harmony Foundation turned 50 years old.

Yucksters hoist the trophy. Joining **FRED** (1999) and **The New Tradition** (1985), **Storm Front** becomes one of the rare comedy quartets to win an international championship. Thanks to arguably the contest's highest-ever quartet Presentation scores, the quartet leapfrogged **Old School** in the final round to take gold.

Society mulls, tables two-year rotation proposal.

Following positive results in a study by the Society Contest & Judging committee, Society members were asked to provide their input on a proposal that would allow Society choruses to compete no more than every other year, similar to the schedule followed by Sweet Adelines International. Following Society-wide surveys and a vigorous public debate, consensus among competitors and fans was not to be found. The Society board tabled the proposal indefinitely.

2011

Quartet champ: *Old School* (Kipp Buckner, Joe Connelly, Jack Pinto, Joe Krones)

Chorus champ: *Masters of Harmony*

Senior Quartet champ: *Over Easy*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Prestige*

International Convention: *Kansas City, MO*

International President: *Alan Lamson*

Interim Executive Director/CEO: *Larry Deters (2011-2012)*

Song of the Contest. *Lunch Break, "Old McDonald Had a Deformed Farm"*

Song of the Year. *The SUNTONES (Gene Cokeroff) "Danny Boy"*

A new district. The Carolinas District (NSC: North/South Carolina) was officially born on July 1, 2010, becoming the 17th Society district

made up of 28 chapters from the Dixie district. This is the first new district since Rocky Mountain formed in 1978. This change benefitted these chapters by cutting down on travel across the Appalachian Mountains to Dixie district events.

After Hours became the only quartet to compete in, but not win, the collegiate contest, and then reach the semifinals in the regular contest the same week. The quartet also holds the record for highest regular contest finish by a quartet that competed in the college contest the same week.

Quartet Gold record broken. With Old School's win, lead Joe Connelly becomes first man to win four quartet gold medals. His prior wins (all at lead) were with **Interstate Rivals** (1987), **Keepsake** (1992) and **PLATINUM** (2000).

2012

Quartet champ: *Ringmasters* (Jakob Stenberg, Rasmus Krigström, Emanuel Roll, Martin Wahlgren)

Chorus champ: *Ambassadors of Harmony*

Senior Quartet champ: *Rusty Pipes*

Collegiate Quartet champ: *Lemon Squeezy*

International Convention: *Portland*

International President: *Alan Lamson*

Interim Executive Director/CEO: *Alan Lamson: 2012*

Executive Director/CEO: *Marty Monson: 2012-Present*

Song of the Contest. *Ringmasters, "Love Me And The World Is Mine"*

Ringmasters of Sweden (SNOBS) wins International. The first off-continent quartet champion had also won the Collegiate gold medal in 2008.

First affiliate chorus medal. With a fourth-place finish in 2012, **Zero8** (Sweden) became the first affiliate chorus to win an international medal.

Marty Monson hired as new Society CEO. After an extensive search spanning many months, the then-president of the **Hilltop, Minn., Chapter** was selected to lead the Society into the future.

2013

Society celebrates its 75th anniversary

International President: *Shannon Elswick*



The accuracy of the below historical items cannot be verified, as they have not happened yet. However, they were found on "Facebook," so they must be true.

2019

College contest's fault. Age requirement to become a Seniors champ is dropped to 27.

– Paul Fernando

2025

Snare drum in B-flat. C&J adds fifth part to official quartet configuration for "beat box."

– Tom Martyn

2027

Bork! Bork! Bork! 38 of the 51 international quartet qualifiers are under-25 and Swedish, with few North Americans able to achieve the new qualifying score of 82. SNOBS officially retracts its long-standing request to become the 18th Society district and submits a proposal to allow the Society to become a district of 65,000-member SNOBS.

– Lorin May

2029

Grandma's Boys, Part Deux. Grandma's Boys Grandsons win the Collegiate Quartet Championship during their grandpas' 50th anniversary celebration. This is a real feat as the boys are still in junior high!

– Helen Sparks Giallombardo

2032

As if other humans could imitate that. The Society officially adopts the Monson Laugh as an alternate to applause as an appreciation for a great performance. In reading decibel levels it turns out it is significantly louder than thousands of clapping hands.

– John Douglas Miller

2033

But their 37 CDs are awesome! The 160-man Vocal Majority Chorus announces that after a brief 23-year hiatus from the international stage, they plan to start competing again after recording "no more than three or four more" albums.

– Lorin May

2038

One ring baton to rule them all. Justin Miller directs all 25 competing choruses in the International contest on the Society's 100th Anniversary.

– Billy Crutcher

2042

Who's up for "Dubai in July"? After experiencing the lowest attendance ever at the International Convention in Auckland, N.Z., Society President

Patrick McAlexander expressed his dismay. "I just don't understand why only 489 people came. We even had a killer trivia contest! I guess we need to rethink next year's convention in Ulan Bataar...."

– Scott Kitzmiller

2043

Actually, this one might happen some day. The Westminster Chorus, now with and average age of 60, makes a dramatic return to the contest stage winning in a close-fought battle against the youthful European Union Aires, with an average age of 22. With reconstructed bionic knees the remarkable Westminster guys sing half their ballad in a deep crouch because they can.

– John Douglas Miller

2048

Except for FRED. On the 50th Anniversary of their win, still sadly, nobody cares about Revival.

– Jeff Myers

2050

Still does low notes in the morning. Tim Waurick successfully sings in 20 consecutive octaves.

– Brian Williams

2051

By this time, aren't they all Swedish? The AIC successfully lobbies the International Board to reduce the number of quartets at International to 10, whereupon the AIC Board then voted to officially change their name to "Association of International Competitors." Asked about the change, AIC President and 12-time Champion Joe Connelly remarked, "Anyone worth hearing is in the ten anyway." Also on their agenda was a proposal to change their name to SNOBS, but another organization already had the name. President Connelly: "We thought SNOBS was the perfect name to describe our organization. However, we didn't want people to think we were Swedish."

– Scott Kitzmiller

2052

Maybe try "Footloose," like the Bills sang it. "The chorus contest is getting out of control," stated past Society president Aaron Dale after watching the Santa Fe Serenaders' international set, which featured a six-minute flying trapeze segment. "This is a singing Society," he continued. "Give me the days when we could win medals while singing traditional arrangements sprinkled with some basic choreography."

– Lorin May

2053

He was too busy singing to declare what O.C. Cash would have done. A shock ripples through the barbershop world as founder O.C. Cash was revived after 100 years in cryogenic stasis. One eye witness claims that O.C.'s first words were, "Let's sing a tag."

– Michael Nichols

2055

Beiber choreographed, sang tenor. Petty C. Cash, the great, great, great grandson of O.C. Cash, cancels his membership over the disqualification of his five-man quartet, The Biffalo Bulls, for the use of the song "Baby," a vintage Justin Beiber song arranged by Sam Szabo.

– Grady Kerr

2056

Bad, bad, bad, bad vibrations. On the 50th Anniversary of Vocal Spectrum's win, while they sing the "Go The Distance" Tag (about being "right where they belong") an interstellar wormhole opens up and sucks them back to the dimensional plane to which they belong.

– Sam Hubbard

2062

Dick Grapes or Scotty Ward Bills? In an attempt to increase membership retention while keeping in *The Music Man* theme, Operation Harold Hill version nine is renamed Operation Buffalo Bills and somehow remarkably works.

– John Douglas Miller

2064

But DeRosa ties him in 2066. 99-year-old Joe Connelly becomes the Society's first 11-time quartet gold medalist, showing he's still got it despite a low-scoring semifinals round in which he fell asleep twice during the ballad.

– Lorin May

2089

"And Beach Boys songs are still inappropriate for contest." Burt Szabo II, famously cloned from a hair sample of Hall of Fame arranger Burt Szabo I, discussed his popular new "Strictly Barbershop" compilation, featuring barbershopped songs from classic entertainers like LL Cool J, Lady Gaga and Eminem. "Songs written after 2010 just don't lend themselves to the barbershop style," Burt explained. "We need to stay close to our roots." ■

– Lorin May

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The Barbershop Harmony Society brings men
together in harmony and fellowship to enrich lives
through singing.

Vision

To be the premier membership organization for men
who love to sing.



THE TAG

Joe Liles, Tagmaster!!



Get your 75th Anniversary show ready!

Steve Delehanty is one of our finest barbershop arrangers and songwriters. When the 75th anniversary show was being developed, Steve composed a powerful, beautiful number, "There is Love Wherever There is Song," expressing what we all have experienced in our hobby. The tag reiterates the word "song" and emphasizes it as the vehicle that carries our message, compelling everyone—even the whole world—to sing along.

The lyrics leading up to the tag are as follows: "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." Then comes this powerful tag. The first two notes in the bass are on the third of the chord, so, basses, sing it nice and high and softer in volume than the other parts. This will keep the chord sounding cleaner and clearer. If you're wondering why, maybe we can discuss harmonics and compatible overtones someday—maybe in the "Tune it or Die" class at

Harmony University.

I hope your chapter will be performing the 75th anniversary show in 2013! Get the script and music at www.barbershop.org/75. ■



THERE IS LOVE WHEREVER THERE IS SONG

from the BHS 75th anniversary show
Celebrate Harmony

Words and Music by STEVE DELEHANTY

Arrangement by STEVE DELEHANTY

Tag

Tenor Lead

1. Let us join in song. — Ev - 'ry - bod - y sing our

Bari Bass

2. song. — Make the raf - ters ring with song. — May the whole world

3. join in song, — in song, — in song! —

4. (Bass line continues with sustained notes)

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*The Nighthawks
1963 Silver Medalists*

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*The Dukes of Harmony
Scarborough, Ontario
1977 & 1980 International Champions*

Happy 75th Anniversary
to the world's greatest members!



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