



Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

Vol. 12, No. 8 (#140)

December 1, 2012

Camp Harmony

The 68th Annual Harmony Show of the Big Chief Chorus is over. The 41 members have returned home from “Up North” to form the Christmas chorus.

The audience of 590 was enthusiastic, responding with gusto to the flashing “applause” and “aah” signs. The chorus sang well, “You Tell Me Your Dream,” “I’m Always Chasing Rainbows,” “Home on the Range,” “Cabaret,” “Hands of Time,” “Coney Island Baby,” “Saints Go Marching,” (though a little late starting, basses!) “Breakin’ Up is Hard to Do,” and the closers, “God Bless America,” “Irish Parting Prayer,” and “Keep the Whole World Singing.”

The local quartets – CODA HONOR, LOCAL COLOR, JAYWALKERS, CLASSIC FIT, LIMITED EDITION, and BIDIN’ OUR TIME – all sang creditably.

4-MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOIR appreciated being invited back to our show. They arrived with new bass (and old Tenor) Don Slamka who has replaced retired Neil Nugent. Don doesn’t have the basement boom of Neil, but perhaps blends in with the other three members more smoothly.

The whole show was timed at 1:40, after which chorus and quartets retired to the Waterford Oaks Activity Center for the usual bountiful feast, and more music, MC’d by Mike Frye.

Thanks to Tom Blue for his patient and wise directorship. To Bill Holmes for his jokes, and to Barb Holmes for putting up with them. To Donna Bevington for sticking with us, year after year, as Stage Director. To Jeff Doig and Pete Mazzara for the script based on a concept from Roger Holm and the Music Committee. To Joe Maxwell for giving up several evenings to come lend his voice. To Jeff and Howard Lynn for the set (and the lighting guys for that green foliage on the back wall). To Dick Johnson and Jack Teuber for organizing the programs and to Doug Metzger for printing them. To Jim Owens for handling show tickets and Fred Pioch for handling Cast Party tickets. To Lance Shew for quartet liaison and hospitality. And for all those members who spent countless hours memorizing songs, garnering advertisements, and selling tickets.

Photos (33) by John Cowlshaw and Bob Stephenson are available at <http://share.shutterstock.com/share/received/welcome.sfly?fid=c342b6dec7cb8d1b0031ecd658bfd733&sid=0AbMWLFy0bOGrmQ>

Photos (39) by Utz Schmidt are at <http://share.shutterstock.com/action/welcome?sid=0AbMWLFy0bOGroo>
Donna Bevington’s photos (20) are on Shutterstock, and available by request at <http://bigchiefchorus.shutterstock.com/pictures/49>

Show DVDs available for \$15.



(Utz Schmidt)

From Director Tom:

Men and Friends of the BCC,

What can I say...good catch? There is something “fishy” about all of you. You seem to manage, every time to pull off a good show! Thank you all for what you do to make this a success. My family was in the audience, including mom. She had brought a friend of hers with her and now all of her neighbors want to come to the show next year! They even asked if we do a different show for Christmas or in the spring!

I am always impressed by how each one of you takes responsibility for something and gets the job done. You are all to be commended for your hard work, effort and dedication to putting on "Another openin', another show."

There is no rest for the weary, and exhausted (I'm talking about the campaign ads). We must get back to work and singing some music for a special time of year that means a lot to our audiences. Time to share and bring some joy into the hearts and lives of some of our biggest fans.

AROUND THE PATCH

Christmas Chorus

Our Singouts begin on Dec 4. We are delighted to have these guests in this year's Christmas chorus:

Doug Meiners, Paul Mouton & boyz Gavin and Martial, Dick Knapp, Tom Burder, Bruce Meyers, Ben Phillips, Gary Owens, Dillon O'Connell, Cliff Sausser, and Paul Kent

Mel Parrish died Thursday, November 8. He had been living at the Lake Orion Nursing Home. Mel was a 22-year member of the Big Chief Chorus (1986 thru 2008.)

His obituary, published in the Oakland Press, is at <http://tinyurl.com/aa2r6g6> and is reprinted here:

PARRISH, MILFORD R. SR. "MEL"; of Lake Orion; age 94; November 8, 2012; beloved husband of the late Rosalie; loving father of Gary of Warren, Rick (Renee) of Lake Orion, Ruth (Jim) Ankney of Allendale, and the late Danny; loving grandfather of 11; and great-grandfather of many. Mel was a Veteran of WWII serving in the Pacific Theater. He was a longtime member of the Big Chief Barbershop Chorus in Pontiac and also sang for many years with the Church Street Singers. Mel was also a recipient of the



Citizen of the Year award in Pontiac. Private family funeral services have been held through SPARKS-GRIFFIN FUNERAL HOME, Lake Orion. Reflections may be shared by visiting www.sparksgriffin.com

(From [Smoke Signals, #40](#))

"Mel saw a sign on the CAI marquee (c.1984) advertising an upcoming barbershop event. Mel attended, liked it, and joined the Pontiac chapter. He was President of the chapter for two years. Along with Bill Pascher, Len Barnes, and Paul Lemkhuel from Flint, they formed THE LAST GOODBYE,

which sang together for a decade. They were very busy, sometimes doing three or four gigs a week. They sang often at the Ewald Community Center and at the Phoenix Plaza in Pontiac. One day they had three gigs, one at the University of Michigan, one in Flint, and one in Port Huron. The money raised was kept in safety by Bill Pascher in a galvanized pipe in his basement. Every so often they would remove their money and donate it to the chapter, which would match it and send the funds to SPEBSQSA for their charitable work with Heartspring. After their contributions had reached about \$11,000, the quartet was honored with an award at the International in Louisville for contributing the most money to the program, and their quartet name is on the trophy."

Mel's wife Rosalie passed away last year (October 6, 2011).

And this, from Bruce Brede, in the October, 2011 Smoke Signals:

"About noon ... a five man quartet visited Mel Parrish at the Lake Orion Nursing Center. Included were Leads Barnes & Brede, Bass Murray (and Parrish), Tenor Teuber and Bari Johnson. They sang most of the polecats with Mel mouthing most of the words, as well as "Heart of a Clown," "Let the Rest of the World Go By," "Irish Blessing," "Kitty, Kitty," and several formerly sung by The Last Goodbye quartet that Mel and Lennie and Bill Pascher sang in for years, years ago.

"Mel was relatively inactive physically during the visit but no shaking and not bad for a 93 year old. He was weak and hard of hearing but very joyful, enthusiastic and thankful for the singing. We talked about Bill Pascher and their activities together over the years. The "quartet" was invited back and soon."

2012 Chris Miller Honorary Quartets

10/11: GIL SCHREINER QUARTET (McFadyen,Schreiner,Johnson,Holm)

From the Heroes weekly advertiser:

"Join the Big Chief Chorus at Heroes for some great Holiday Carols. The Barbershop Singers will don their Santa Hats and break out into song during the evenings of Tuesday, December 11th and Tuesday, December 18th."

2013 Woodshed contest has been scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2013.

CODA HONOR has accepted the honor of judging the contest.

Quartets

JAYWALKERS

(From Bob Stephenson)

Old sol rose early for four guys on the morning after our annual show and afterglow.

It was "All Saints" Sunday, November 4th, 2012, and the Jaywalkers had been invited to sing at Central United Methodist Church, on Highland Road in Waterford.

They met around a quarter of nine for a little warmup, then sang the gospel tune "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" at both the early and late morning services.

The four warblers consisted of Bob Wallace at bass, Walt Denio at baritone, Bob Stephenson handling melody, and Jack tickling the high notes.

Having had no ripe vegetables come their way, the quartet deemed their Sunday morning outing a success.



LIMITED EDITION will join the Motor City Brass Band for their Holiday concert, Dec 1, 7 pm, at Central United Methodist Church, presented by the Waterford Area Cultural Council.

BCC 2012 Performance thru November: Total: 70 gigs to 6353 folks.

MEMBERSHIP (at 53)

Renewals: Lance Shew (6)

Overdue: Wayne Oberstadt, Charlie Perry, Gil Schreiner

Due Dec: Brede, Denio, Keith, Nevaux, Prueter

December Birthdays: Austin Quinn (7th), Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23rd), Stan Lawrence (26th), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Jim Owens (28th), Tyrel Hunter (31st)

In Memoriam: Nov 19, 2006, Bill Pascher, Smoke Signals, #68

Dec 7, 2001, Bob Woodward, #8

Dec 18, 2005, Bob Wisdom, #57

AROUND THE DISTRICT

The local **Langsford Men's Chorus** sings its Christmas Celebration, Friday, Dec 7, 8pm, at Holy Name Catholic Church of Birmingham, and Sunday, Dec 9, 4pm, at St James Catholic Church of Novi.

Waterford Kettering High School's production of "Legally Blonde" included some of Zaven's neighbors, Heroes' owner's son, and the cousin of the Milford High Richardson's brothers in the cast.

The November issue of our district's **Troubadour** newsletter is now online at: http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/print/2012November_2012.pdf

Clay Shumard

There has been much talk of Pioneer's Clay Shumard since his death a couple weeks ago. His quartet, THE VAGABONDS, has been called the best quartet to have never achieved Gold. He went on to sing with THE RITZ.

And recordings. This one, "The Little Boy," was posted on SoundCloud (I never heard of that before) by Mike Slamka. What a rich, vibrant, slightly darker (for a Bari) voice! <http://goo.gl/b7aQ6>

Historic White Horse Inn closes after 162 years

Several of our quartets have sung there over the year, including JACKPOT (Nevaux, Ford, Melkonian, Cowlshaw)

Chuck Murray sang there with a Bruce Brede quartet, and later with Mike Green of the BATH CITY BOYZ quartet. "There was another time when we just met there for dinner with our wives, and sang impromptu in the bar for our desserts! CHUCKLES"

The DROP CHORDS also sang there... Rawley Hallman, John Smith, Al Meier and Dick Johnson.

Thanks, Dick

(Photo by AMY POWERS SAUNDERS/Detroit Free Press)



SINGER'S LOCAL #4 has lost its lead, Joe Queen. OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET has lost its Bass, Jim McKay, due to a job switch.

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

(From Mike O'Donnell, President, Great Lakes Harmony Brigade (GLHB))

The Great Lakes Harmony Brigade will be having our 4th annual meeting in 2013 at Okemos, MI (near E. Lansing) on May 31 – Jun 2. Please visit our website for registration information.

<http://www.harmonybrigade.org/glhb/> If you are not yet a member (we have 47 Charter members) make sure you click on the GLHB Guest Registration link. We'd like you to be sponsored by one of our Charter members and their names can be found at the Charter members link. Please contact me for any questions about this at: BBSMike@Comcast.net

We have an exciting lineup of eleven songs.

Indiana Harmony Brigade

Tom Blackstone, Ray Sturdy, and Chuck Murray attended the Indiana Harmony Brigade on Nov 9-11.

One of the chosen songs was "Gee, I'm Glad It's Raining," arranged by Jeremy Johnson, who also conducted it at the Saturday night show.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxLnouFV9Ws>

(From Ray Sturdy)

Hey John - Isn't that just one of the most amazing Brigade videos you've ever seen? It was one of the high points of the weekend.

What's really amazing is that this is a brand new arrangement that, until this weekend, has never been sung by anyone. The song is a new arrangement by Jeremy Johnson who is conducting the inaugural performance by the Brigadiers. During our rehearsal earlier in the day, he gave us some very helpful keys to his intentions when he was working with certain passages and they came through in the performance very well. Jeremy is a young composer and arranger from central Indiana who founded and operates High Note Music Industries. He has degrees from Ball State and Indiana University and has been singing barbershop for 17 years. I got a chance to visit with him a little and he's really a nice guy.

Welcome to the Society's 75th Year



As part of the 75th anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the society has produced a script and set of songs that local chapters may choose to celebrate the anniversary. Our chapter has decided not to make use of the script, but other local chapters are intending to learn seven songs of the package and sing them on each other's shows. These chapters include:

LANSING – Saturday, March 9, Wharton Center, East Lansing

HOLLAND – Saturday, May 4 Knickerbocker Theater?, Holland

GRAND RAPIDS – still being confirmed

GRATIOT COUNTY – Saturday, September 28, Alma

"In addition to the singers from these chapters for the shows, we also welcome participation from other barbershoppers who would like to help us celebrate this BHS Diamond anniversary and sing with our large combined chorus. For example, Lansing is looking for men who would commit to learn seven songs in the next 3 ½ months and come to several of the practices to be ready to sing on the Lansing show.

The songs are:

1. "Sweet Adeline"	SPEBSQSA	8049	11353
2. "Celebrate Harmony"	Joe Liles	205682	206102
3. "Old Piano Roll Blues"	Mo Rector	8808	11309
4. "Muskrat Ramble"	Rex Reeve	7362	11204
5. "If My Friends Could See Me Now"	Rob Hopkins	7376	11218
6. "Can You Feel The Love Tonight"	June Dale	8203	11473
7. "Armed Forces Medley"	Freddy King	200906	201407

AROUND THE WORLD

Midwinter Convention Orlando

January 8 - 13, 2013, Orlando, FL

Youth Chorus Festival, Seniors Quartet Contest, and more...



Toronto International Convention

June 30 - July 7, 2013, Toronto, ON

Celebrate the Society's 75th Anniversary...



Early-bird deadline for Toronto is: Jan 15 (\$189 to \$215).

Media

Patriotic Premiere Series

A special edition of the Music Premiere Series has been published this fall that includes: "The Star Spangled Banner," "America, the Beautiful," "Armed Forces Medley," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "God Bless America" and "God Bless the U.S.A." As with previous series, four-part learning tracks are available for each song, voiced by VOCAL SPECTRUM's Tim Waurick and MAX Q's Tony DeRosa <http://tinyurl.com/cdcu8zw>

AARP published Jacquelyn Mitchard's List of 16 Songs Everyone Over 50 Must Own. Whadya think?

"Once Upon a Time" (Frank Sinatra, 1965)

"Harvest Moon" (Neil Young, 1992)

"Lately" (Stevie Wonder, 1980)

"A House Is Not a Home" (Dionne Warwick, 1964)

"Little Green" (Joni Mitchell, 1971)

"Gangsta's Paradise" (Coolio, 1995)

"Landslide" (Stevie Nicks, 1975)

"Hotel California" (Eagles, 1977)
 "You Shook Me All Night Long" (AC/DC, 1980)
 "C'est La Vie — You Never Can Tell" (Vocals by Emmylou Harris, 1977)
 "He Stopped Loving Her Today" (George Jones, 1980)
 "For What It's Worth — Stop, Hey What's That Sound" (Buffalo Springfield, 1967)
 "Crazy" (Patsy Cline, vocals; Willie Nelson, lyrics; 1962)
 "God Only Knows" (Beach Boys, 1966)
 "Jailhouse Rock" (Elvis Presley, 1957)
 "In My Life" (The Beatles, 1965)

Comcast Barbershop Picks for November/December

XFINITY customers - check out the newest lineup of barbershop videos, available through January 7, 2013.

Four Voices - "After You've Gone"
 Metropolis - "They Go Wild, Simply Wild Over Me"
 Vocal Spectrum - "Wonderful One"
 Masters of Harmony - "Yona, from Arizona"
 Redline - "Hello My Baby"
 Michigan Jake - "Somebody Knows"
 Great Northern Union - "Put Your Arms Around Me Honey"
 Northern Lights - "Alexander's Rag Time Band"
 Tag Time

To view, go to the Comcast menu > On Demand Music > Music Picks > Barbershop Harmony. Be sure to tell all your friends and fans to watch too. Thanks to Xfinity for posting Barbershop!

The Music Committee met at Roger Holm's home, and under his aegis on November 18. The committee reviewed this year's show and began to plan next year's.

This year's show was well-received from all accounts. - "maybe the best ever; chorus sang very well - "never heard them sing better"; chapter quartets (6) were all good; sound system was good (often a complaint in the past); 4MFTC (guest quartet) were very entertaining. Some negatives were: "disconnects" between chorus songs and their song lead-ins; ragged start to "Saints," financial return less than past shows due to fewer-sold show program ads (39 vs 62 in 2011), and fewer ticket sales; media advertising prior to the show was not particular evident.

Among other issues, there was discussion of the show quartet audition process, the chorus song learning process, librarian issues, what the theme for 2013 should be, who to be invited as the major guest quartet, and what songs should be in our 2013 repertoire.

Historic photos, #12



Fred McFadyen, Tom Blue, John Northey, and Bob Butcher
 The headdress ceremony at Higgins Lake, April 2007

Editorial

When one of our Christmas baritones asked for training tracks of the Christmas repertoire, it hit me that we don't have such a thing. In response, I prepared and distributed baritone-only tracks of this year's thirteen songs, but it would be easy for our four section leaders to prepare a set of part-dominant tracks next year.

Letters

Appreciations from our local guest quartets:

Thanks Jack.

We appreciate the support we get from Pontiac-Waterford chapter, and thanks for letting us steal Ray on a few chapter nights.
 -Aaron Wilson (Lead, CODA HONOR)

Jack,

Thank you for the kind words and thoughts. We had a ball being part of your show, and love the opportunity to perform given how new we are the experience is very important to us, so thanks to you and the chorus for the opportunity.

PS I'm starting to feel a little better.

Kevin Moriarty (Lead, CLASSIC FIT)

(From Donna Bevington)

I want to thank you for inviting me back to be your Stage Manager again this year. Quite a few people from church stopped me and said they were there and had a great time. It was an easy script, Joe just read it so we didn't need anyone to memorize anything. The chorus is singing better than ever. BCC Quartets were fun, the guest quartets were fun, and 4MFTC were outstanding, weren't they? Wow! Ten songs for the show then close to that for the afterglow. I love you all, and hope to meet you at Hero's for a beer some night. If I can't do that, I'll see you at VG's in Waterford on your bus trip.

Hugs to all of you.

Donna

(From Barbara Stenson, Daughter of Bob Kleeman)

THANK YOU ALL for holding the tix for us..... WHAT A WONDERFUL SHOW....and dad LOVED every minute of it...great to see him with a smile ! I will try to be up by 6:30 in order to get him down front for seating as he needs to be close to things now in order of any hopes of seeing bit.

Barbara {{ :>)

John, I have been so busy I was unable to thank you for the tickets. My husband and I loved the show. Thank you again. I will be in touch.

Maryann Lambrecht

All articles and photos are by the Editor unless stated otherwise.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: F. McFadyen, D. Johnson, B. Holmes, & M. Frye

President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)

Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)

VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Open

Secretary: Charlie Perry

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large - Walt Bachmann, Mike Frye, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy

Chorus Manager: Open

Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield

Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlshaw, Moss

Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray,

Prueter, Moss, Cowlshaw, and Stephenson

Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw, (248-891-4498)

2012 CHRISTMAS SING-OUTS

(Performance times shown; Warm-up 30 minutes before Performance)

- Dec 4, T, 6:30 INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE OF WHITE LAKE 935
Union Lake Rd., White Lake Twp. 48386 (between Cooley
Lake & Eliz. Lake Rds)
- Dec 6, Th, 1:00 OAKLAND COUNTY RETIREES, WHITE LAKES OAKS
991 N. WILLIAMS LAKE RD. (NR M-59), White Lake
Twp. 48386
- 2:30 LOCKWOOD OF WATERFORD M-59 @ CRESCENT
LAKE Rd. (1407 Skipper Dr. behind Kroger's on the river
bank) , Waterford 48327
- Dec 9, Su, 3:00 CEDAR CREST LUTHERAN CHURCH 485 Farnsworth
@ Union Lake Rd., White Lake Twp.
- Dec 11, T, 7:00 LAKELAND PLACE, 2700 ELIZABETH LAKE (Nr
VOORHEIS), WATERFORD, 48328
- 7:45 HEROES
- Dec 12, W, 6:15 CANTERBURY ON THE LAKE 5601 HATCHERY (NR
AIRPORT Rd.), Waterford, 48329
- Dec 15, Sa, 12:00 BUS TOUR 2800 WATKINS LAKE RD. (Waterford Oaks
Activity Building) WATERFORD 48328 (Returning ~5:30)
- Dec 18, T
OUR LADY OF LOURDES 2300 WATKINS LAKE @
DIXIE , Waterford 48328
6:00 NURSING CARE BUILDING
6:30 CLAUSEN MANOR
7:00 MENDLESON
7:30 FOX MANOR
8:30 HEROES
- Dec 20, Th., 2:00 THE INN at CASS LAKE, 900 N. CASS LAKE Rd
. @ PONTIAC LAKE Rd., Waterford 48328
- 3:30 PM AMERICAN HOUSE ROCHESTER HILLS, 3741 S.
Adams Rd., Rochester Hills

NOTE: THE UNIFORM FOR ALL EVENTS IS WHITE, LONG-SLEEVE
DRESS SHIRT WITH CHRISTMAS TIE, BLACK PANTS, BLACK
SHOES.

CHRISTMAS HEAD PIECE (OPTIONAL).

RED, BLACK OR GREEN JACKET AND HAT IF POSSIBLE FOR BUS
TOUR AND OTHER OUTSIDE VENUES

CALENDAR, 2013 (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45' earlier)

- Jan 1, T New Year's Day
Jan 8, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
Jan 15, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center

Jan 22, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
 Jan 29, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
 Feb 5, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, Waterford Oaks Activity Center
 Feb 16, Sa DOC Shows (Matinee and Evening)
 Mar 9, Sa Wharton Show
 Mar 29, F Annual Woodshed Contest
 Apr 19-21 District Convention, Traverse City
 Oct 18-20 District Convention Kalamazoo Radisson
 Oct 26, Sa Rochester Guardians of Harmony Chapter Show

