

Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions

October 22, 2006

Dear Quartet Champ,

If you were with us in Wildwood two weekends ago then you know that the 8th annual reunion and Jamboree/Extravaganza performance of the **MADAQC Chorus** at the M-AD Fall Convention was a fantastic success. We have received many kudos and congratulations for a great job from the District President, Alan Wile, and the Events Team who were very impressed and appreciative of our contribution. Though our members are scattered throughout the country, 65 men traveled to the Atlantic shores to join in the fun and celebration. There was a lot of hugging and backslapping, a few tears, some reminiscing and telling of old lies and stories, wood-shedding, and tag singing. It was truly a wonderful weekend of fellowship and harmony. If you could not make it this time around, please plan to join us next year. You are forever a part of this District's great quartet legacy and we'd really like to see and sing with you again.

Here is a brief recap of our great weekend together. I'll jump to the end by telling you the quartet contest results ...

Our **2007 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are **RINGERS**. The quartet members are already MADAQC brothers from previous championships ... Al Mazzoni (bass, BSQ), Mike Pinto (baritone, 2004 Phat Cats), and Rob Seay (tenor, 1995 BSQ) have won their second M-AD championship while Scott Disney (lead, 2000 Casino & Phat Cats) joins his dad, "Diz", and seven others to win his third M-AD championship. Congratulations to each of you for a job well done ... we are so proud!

Now for the start of the weekend ... the MADAQC Chorus assembled on Friday evening immediately after the Quartet Semi-Finals for some camaraderie, cavorting, and a late night rehearsal. With our largest and most enthusiastic Friday night group ever, honorary co-Directors Freddie and Kevin King ran us through our paces – working the newest song, ***"On a Wonderful Day like Today"*** with altered lyrics that gave us a few stumbles, and brushing off our celebratory standard, ***"This is the Moment"***. Gary Plaag made a special surprise presentation to Joe Sawyer (baritone, 2005 Iguanas in Flight) who this past year lost all of his District championship memorabilia (trophy, champ pin, plaque) and his International Collegiate Silver Medal in a tragic fire at his home. The District replaced everything. Steve White and Gary also unveiled the new Oriole Four-MADAQC trophy which was rebuilt and engraved to now include all 61 past champion quartet names going back to 1945 and room for many more.

On Saturday afternoon, 1997 Premiere (Womer, Clark, Grimes, Savage) gave a tremendous swansong performance during the tally of the chorus competition

scores to close their illustrious 10-year career. They never sounded better as the tag to “*Auld Lang Syne*” spun on forever and the crowd jumped from their seats in appreciation. Thank you ... we’ll miss you guys.

The MADAQC Chorus assembled again following the chorus contest (won again by the Alexandria Harmonizers) for more fun and fine tuning of the songs. Several more guys joined us who could not get there on Friday night. The excitement was mounting as the chords began to lock and overtones rang overhead.

Following the rehearsal, many went over to the third-annual **MADAQC/M-AD Showcase of Quartets** held in conjunction with the Saturday evening open buffet dinner as a fund-raiser for the M-AD Endowment Fund. The Showcase was the most highly attended to date (SRO) and featured Wheelhouse (2003) and Four Aces (2006). The event raked in \$500 for the Endowment.

After the Quartet Finals, we all gathered in the warm-up room for a final tweaking for the Jamboree (now called the Extravaganza). While lining up backstage, we were greeted by the top ten quartet finalists who were nervously waiting for the big announcement. Among the top three quartets were seven past M-AD quartet champion singers including Tony and Bill Colosimo and Mike Wallen singing in a father-son quartet. The Extravaganza featured a number of treats including the exciting revival of the ever-popular Arcade (1992) with Jack Pinto filling in for our departed Jim Grant. Wheelhouse, who again hit the Top-10 in Indianapolis this past summer, had a feature spot and Four Aces gave their championship swan song.

Finally, we got the thumbs-up and our emcee, Ev Nau, introduced the MADAQC Chorus. We took the stage with enormous pride and spirit. The applause was overwhelming as the District audience expressed their appreciation. And the risers were full. Among our ranks were men from 38 championship quartets – from the Playtonics to the Four Aces. As the roar died down, Ev solemnly paid tribute to our four dear members who passed on this year: Ray Stone (1956 Hometown Quartet), Hal Kauffman (1971 Regents), Ed Waesche (1965 Townsman, 1982 The New Yorkers), and Roger Payne (1986 Four Under Par, 2002 Reveille).

As only champions can, the MADAQC Chorus energetically launched “*On a Wonderful Day like Today*” and kept the overtones churning through the extended tag. Kevin was pleased. The top three quartets were then announced ... in third, Last Kids Picked ... in second, New Release ... and the jubilation began for Ringers. When accepting their trophies and taking a bow, a touching moment occurred when Bob Disney secretly slid up behind his son Scott to give him a big hug and present him with his championship pin (Nick Aiuto graciously gave up this honor to make this happen). The MADAQC Chorus with Freddie at the helm then threw themselves into the celebratory message of “*This is the Moment*”

(...and best tag of the weekend), reliving the moment that each man won his individual championship. Seasoned as they are, there was boyish joy and great big grins on the faces of our new quartet champs. What a moment!

The MADAQC Chorus was then joined on stage by the top three choruses and quartets as the risers overflowed with 200+ people for a huge gang sing. Richard Lewellen then capped off this fantastic weekend by directing the entire auditorium in "***Keep the Whole World Singing***" as everyone locked arms, touched shoulders, and sang to last another year. Now that's what barbershop is all about!!!

Well, that does it for now. Following Arcade's lead, what a treat it would be to hear some more quartet reunions next year. So, call up your old buddies and start singing again. I can guarantee you a feature spot on the dinner Showcase of Champions. For Freddie, Kevin, and your Board of Directors ... good health and we'll see you next year.

Yours in close championship harmony,

Steve White
MADAQC President