

Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions



October 14, 2011

Dear Quartet Champ,

Well, “just between old friends” I have to say that the Mid-Atlantic District Convention in Lancaster, PA (September 30 - October 2) was a fantastic weekend of close harmony, good company, camaraderie, and fellowship. Our 13th annual quartet champs association reunion and the Saturday night Show of Champions performance was the highlight for many. By my count, **53** past champions attended representing **44** foursomes that spanned **7 decades** ... from the **Play-Tonics** (1955) and the **Easternaires** (1956) to **Touchstone** (2011). In addition to our mid-Atlantic residents, men travelled from North Carolina, Florida, Ohio, and Illinois to attend. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Here is a weekend recap. First, to the end with the quartet results.

- ✚ The **2012 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are ... **MAD Hatters** – **Scott Disney** (L), **Steve White** (Bs), **Rick Taylor** (Br), and **Robbie Seay** (T). They sang “*With a Song in My Heart*”, “*Darkness on the Delta*”, “*My Foolish Heart*”, and “*Powder Your Face with Sunshine/Smile, Darn Ya, Smile Medley*”. The quartet is our **67th** champion since 1945.

MAD Hatters



Now starting near the beginning of the weekend ...

- ✚ The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** featured 23 quartet competitors including 9 foursomes containing 13 past M-AD quartet champion singers: **Bob Ramsey**, **Mike Wallen**, **Bill Colosimo**, **Mike Pinto**, **Al Fennell**, **Joe Hunter**, **John Ward**, **Rick King**, **Joe Eckert**, **Scott Disney**, **Steve White**, **Rick Taylor**, and **Robbie Seay**. Making the Top-10 finals cut were 10

past champions in 6 quartets: **Legacy**, **Escapade**, **Up All Night**, **Mayhem**, **Limelight**, and **MAD Hatters**.

- Well done to **Legacy** (**Rick King**, Gary Rogness, Steve Peterson, Dane Marble) who qualified to represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the **International Seniors Quartet Contest** this coming January during the Mid-Winter Convention in Tucson, AZ. "Break a lip", fellahs!

- Father and son tag-team, **Bill and Tony Colosimo** were this year's **honorary MADAQC co-Directors**. Over two short rehearsals, they efficiently and effectively ran the **MADAQC Chorus** through its paces, emphasizing the newest repertoire song, "**Just between Old Friends**" – which started a little rough on Friday, but was quickly polished and a great success on stage. I am very pleased to announce that Bill and Tony have agreed to serve a second year as our maestros.



- Saturday morning was busy for 8 quartet champs who were preparing to direct competing choruses: **Larry Bomback**, **Rick Taylor**, **Wayne Grimmer**, **Chuck Lower**, **Mike Wallen**, **Richard Lewellen**, **Bill Colosimo**, and **Mark Paul**. Their choruses placed 1st, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 11th, 13th, 16th, and 19th, respectively. Now that is impressive!

- At the conclusion of the chorus contest, the **Mid-Atlantic District "Hall of Honor"** members came on stage for the announcement of this year's distinguished recipients. **Mike Wallen** represented the HoH Selection Committee and read the detailed biographies while **Steve White** stood at-the-ready with the engraved silver plates, badges, and a handshake. The honorees were Rick Ashby, Lew Sims, and our own **Kevin King**. Congratulations to all selectees; thank you for your lifetimes of service to our great District.

- Then the **2012 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions** was announced ... **Hell's Kitchen, NY – Voices of Gotham** under the direction of **Larry Bomback** took top honors and earned a trip to the International Chorus Contest next July in Portland, OR. These "young" men sang "Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)/Let's Misbehave" and "Anything Goes".

Voices of Gotham



The **Manhattan, NY – Big Apple Chorus** under the direction of Justin Miller placed 2nd and the **Dundalk, MD – Chorus of the Chesapeake** under the direction of **Rick Taylor** finished close behind in 3rd Place.

- ✦ At 4:30, the MADAQC Chorus assembled again for a final practice, but the late-running chorus evaluation sessions pushed us back by 45 minutes. Once we got started, Bill and Tony worked the two songs until they were ready, then most guys headed off for a quick dinner before the evening activities started again at 6:30.
- ✦ Saturday evening started off with a very special tribute to our new **2011 International Gold Medalists, Old School** (Kip Buckner, **Joe Connelly**, **Joe Krones**, **Jack Pinto**), with guests performers **MAXX Factor** (2010 Sweet Adeline International Gold Medalists – Kim Hudson, Valerie Hadfield-Rasnake, Leslie Wodday, Molly Dalton Plummer).

Old School



MAXX Factor



- ✦ The **Quartet Finals** immediately followed and turned out to be a friendly dogfight with **Frank the Dog** leading the pack after the first round. Once the scratching was over and the fur had settled, some of the rankings changed a tick (see results a little later).

- After a short intermission, the **Show of Champions** started. The **Chorus of the Chesapeake** and the **Big Apple Chorus** performed, and then the **Voices of Gotham** gave a terrific championship performance to a cheering audience.



Fresh off of their 12th Place International finish this past summer in Kansas City, our 2010 M-AD champions **'Round Midnight** with **TJ Carollo, Jeff Glemboski, Wayne Grimmer, and Larry Bomback** W-O-W-E-D the crowd with a rousing and energetic set that had the whole audience involved.

- The **MADAQC Chorus** was now lined up in the wings ready to take the stage. The ever-dapper **Jay Butterfield** was our emcee. As he read the names of each quartet represented during the weekend, we proudly took our places on the risers as the audience sustained its applause to the last man.



This year was the **50th anniversary** for our 1961 champs, the **Rocket Tones**. **Dick Geiger** (Bs) was on-hand to receive accolades for himself and his buddies **Frank Szente** (L), **Chuck Fisk** (Br - deceased), and **Bert Lumley** (T). Dick, up from North Carolina, looked and still sounded great.

This year also marked the **25th anniversary** of our 1987 champs, **Northeast Extension** with **Roy Eckert** present for his pals ... **Greg Zinke** (Bs), **Al Ziegler** (Br), and **Darrel Hill** (T).



*Note: You may be wondering why it is the 50th for a 1961 champion and the 25th for a 1987 champion. I believe the following is correct: In 1964, the District changed the designation of the championship year, making it the year following the fall convention. So, the **Yankees** won in the fall of 1963 and are the 1963 champs, but the **Townsmen** who won in the fall of 1964 are the 1965 champs. There was no 1964 champion.*

Last year, I slipped up and did not recognize the achievements of two great quartets:

The **Out-of-Towners** (1960) celebrated their **50th anniversary**. As usual, **Bob Parry** (Br) and **Larry Reagan** (Bs) were with us. Other members of the foursome are **Charles Ruth** (L) and **Carl Roberts** (T).



Four Under Par (1986) celebrated their **25th anniversary**. **Joe Hunter** (L) represented his partners in high comedy ... **Frank Hendricks** (Bs), **Brian Horwath** (Br), and the late **Roger Payne** (T).

Our two most senior champion quartets in attendance this year were the **Easternaires** (1956) represented by **Tommy Dames** (up from Florida) and the **Play-Tonics** (1955) represented by **Dave Mittelstadt**. What nice gents, and a great treat to see them both.

Easternaires



Tommy and Dave



Play-Tonics



✚ **Tony Colosimo** then directed the **MADAQC Chorus** in singing **“Just between Old Friends”** which was the perfect sentiment for another great reunion weekend. I am sure we can all relate to the lyrics, **“And as we cheer together, we share each other’s joys. For here on the stage there’s no time or age, we’re all just grown-up boys.”**

✚ **Jay** sorrowfully recognized the 3 brothers who had passed away this year:

- **Wes Clemens** – lead of the **Main Street Four** (1962)
- **Tom Magarro** – baritone of the **Yankees** (1963) and **Four Cracker Jacks** (1979)
- **Tom Sterling** – bass of **Sound Revival** (1976) and **Broadway** (1990)

✚ Contest Administrator, Bill MacLaurine, made the usual housekeeping announcements about quartet evaluations bright-and-early on Sunday morning. Then District's Immediate Past President, **Gary Plaag**, gave the much-awaited quartet contest results as the members of **'Round Midnight** stood by to hand out hardware and congratulations.

3rd Place – Limelight



Steve Griffith (T), Drew Feyrer (L),
Joe Eckert (Bs), TJ Barranger (Br)
... and family

2nd Place – Frank the Dog



Tim Knapp (T), Tom Halley (L),
Steve Kirsch (Bs), Ross Trube (Br)

Note: Rounding out the Top 10 were past champions **Mike Pinto** in **Mayhem** (4th Place), **Joe Hunter** and **John Ward** in **Up All Night** (6th Place), **Bob Ramsey** in **Escapade** (7th Place), and **Rick King** in **Legacy** (8th Place). Now that is quite an impressive showing.

The **MAD Hatters** were named **Champions** and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies (provided by **Bob Disney**), and shiny blue lapel pins. **Bill Colosmio** then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing our tradition song of celebration and congratulations, **"This is the Moment"**. Near the tag, the guys came off the risers to form a crescent in front of the quartet.

What a wonderful sound and a great feeling! Thank you all for a lasting memory.

– Scott, Rick, Robbie, and Steve



✚ After hugs, handshakes, and slaps on backs with the rest of the champs, **Tony Colosimo** directed the entire Mid-Atlantic District audience in **"Keep the Whole World Singing"**, bringing to a close another incredible barbershop convention.

- ✚ The Convention Hall cleared out quickly because it was now off to the hospitality rooms for more fun, food, and entertainment. In addition to the competing quartets making the rounds, listeners were treated to visits by **Old School**, **MAXX Factor**, **Wheelhouse** (2003 – **Brandon Brooks**, **Rick Gray**, Dan Van Wetering, **Jeff Gray**), and a new foursome with great potential ... **Top Shelf** (**Jay Butterfield**, **Fred Womer**, Brett Thomas, Andrew Havens).

Wheelhouse



Top Shelf



- ✚ **Who says that singing is all we can do?** Numerous quartet champions were busy throughout the weekend in a variety of activities and duties. For instance, **Tony Colosimo** was a Singing Category Candidate Judge involved in scoring and evaluations; **Joe Connelly** served as a Presentation Category Judge; **Bill Colosimo** competed with Roll 'O The Dice, is a District EVP with House of Delegate responsibilities, and did some TV and newspaper interviews as a District spokesman; **Mike Kelly** and Mary Anne Cleaveland coordinated all of the video filming for the contestants the audio/video of the Webcast; **Joe Sawyer** was a co-host with Sheryl Berlin on the Friday night Webcast; and **Gary Plaag** had Immediate Past M-AD President duties, emceed the Semifinals, and worked backstage with Dennis Ritchey. My apologies if I forgot to mention anyone in this recap.

- ✚ Finally, I had the pleasure of an impromptu Sunday breakfast with the 2-Time Gold Medalist John Miller (bass of Grandma's Boys and TNT) who was in Lancaster as the Society Board Member. He was very impressed with the MADAQC Chorus, the number of men and quartets represented, the singing quality, and the sentiment, respect, and pride shown on stage. He will take this experience back to the FWD Quartet Champs Association.

Next year, the Fall Convention will be moving back to Ocean City, MD. Please make your plans to join us for the best barbershop harmony on the east coast ... <http://www.mad-registrations.org/> and <http://134.192.106.33/MAD/?Code=OC-hotels>.

Remember that YOU are forever a part of this District's great quartet legacy. I look forward to seeing and hearing you again very soon. Please stay well.

Yours in friendship, service, and close championship harmony.

Steve

Proud Champ!



... always remembering Freddie

Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

1	1945	<i>New York Police Department Quartet</i>	34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmoneers</i>	35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>	36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>	37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>	38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>	39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>	40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>	41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>	42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
10	1954	<i>Play-Tonics</i>	43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>	44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>	45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>	46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
14	1958	<i>Oriole Four (1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>	47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>	48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>	49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>	50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>	51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>	52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>	53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>	54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>	55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>	56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
24	1969	<i>Classics</i>	57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>	58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>	59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents (1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>	60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>	61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>	62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>	63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>	64	2009	<i>Old School (2011 International Quartet Champions)</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>	65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
33	1978	<i>Baltimore & Ohio Connection</i>	66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>
			<u>67</u>	2012	<i>MAD Hatters</i>

Note: The *Garden State Four* were the 1946 International Champions, but never M-AD champs.