

Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions



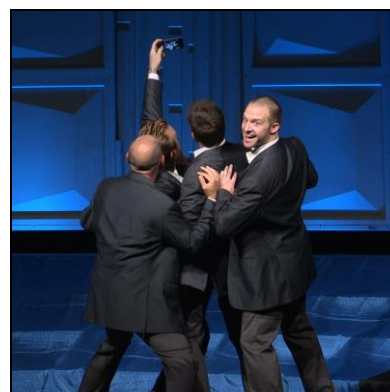
September 23, 2016

Dear Quartet Champ,

This year's **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was held in Lancaster, PA on September 16-19 and was hosted by the **Red Rose Chapter**. Ye Old Amish Country was beautiful and the weather ideal. Our 18th annual quartet champ's Association Reunion and **Saturday Night Show of Champions** performance was fantastic! **57** past champs representing **41** District champion foursomes attended the convention (highlighted on last page) spanning 6 decades ... from the **Out-of-Towners** (1960) to **ROUTE 1** (2016).

First, to the end with the quartet results:

Our **2017 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions ... Da Capo** – **Anthony Colosimo** (L), **Andrew Havens** (Bs), **Joe Sawyer** (Br), and **Ryan Griffith** (T). They sang *"You Don't Know Me"*, *"Blue Moon of Kentucky"*, *"Not While I'm Around"*, and *"Don't Be a Baby, Baby"* to earn a score of 3,060 (85.0%). This is one of the highest M-AD scores to win in our history. The quartet is now the **72nd** champion since 1945 for a total of 221 men to have earned this high distinction. Andrew is new to our fraternity and this is Tony's, Joe's, and Ryan's second championship. **CONGRATULATIONS, Fellahs!**



Now, starting near the beginning of the weekend ...

✚ The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** featured **24** quartet competitors including **8** foursomes containing **13** past M-AD quartet champion singers: **Pookie Dingle** (Mayhem) and **Joe Eckert** (New Release) in **Hershey Transit Co.**; **Ross Trube** (Frank the Dog) in **Party of Five**; **Matt Fellows** (Mayhem) in **Spruce Street**; **Rich Gray** (Runaway Sound, Wheelhouse, Touchstone) and **Mike Pinto** (Phat Cats, Ringers) in **The Bourbon Street Four**; **Mike Wallen** (Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino) in **Youth Reclamation Project**; **John Ward** (Reveille) and **Joe Hunter** (Four Under Par, Reveille) in **Up All Night**; **Ryan Griffith** (New Release), **Tony Colosimo** (Iguanas in Flight), and **Joe Sawyer** (Iguanas in Flight) in **Da Capo**; and **Al Fennell** (New Yorkers) in **Sounds Dangerous**. Our current 2016 M-AD Quartet Champs **ROUTE 1** (**Scott Disney**, **Thomas Moyer**, **Brandon Brooks**, and **Brian Schreiner**) served as the Mic Tester and Mic Cooler (though they left the mic hot with a great set).



Hershey Transit Co.



Party of Five



Spruce Street



Bourbon Street Four



Youth Reclamation Project



Up All Night



Da Capo



Sounds Dangerous

- ✚ Following the announcement of the Top-10 finalist quartets and mic-testers, the **MADAQC Chorus** gathered for a short meet-n-greet and then a rehearsal led by **Kevin King** (Pros 'n cons, The Untouchables, BSQ) who ran us through ***"This is the Moment"***. It was a sparse, but highly enthusiast group of 20 men. Lower attendance was mostly due to the very early chorus contest the next morning, late night chorus rehearsals, and quartet evaluation sessions. Kevin was tough on us, but the result was a championship sound.
- ✚ Starting at o'dark-30 am, Saturday was an incredibly busy day for 9 champs who were directors of competing choruses. They included **Bill Colosimo** (Copyright '86) directing the **Singing Capital Chorus**, **TJ Barranger** (Last Men Standing) directing the **Sons of the Severn**, **Matt Fellows** co-directing **Rittenhouse Sound**, **Richard Lewellen** (Four Aces) directing the **Fairfax Jubil-Aires**, **Rick Taylor** (Arcade, Old School, MAD Hatters) directing **Baltimore Vocal Corps**, **Rich Gray** directing **The Pine Barons**, **Bill Stauffer** (Doubletake) directing **Voices of Gotham**, **Jack Pinto** (BSQ, Old School) directing **The Garden Statesman**, and **Jay Butterfield** (Free Trade Agreement, Touchstone) co-directing **Parkside Harmony**. Six of these choruses finished in the Top-10 and four in the Top-5. Now that's an amazing number of champs contributing to their choruses.
- ✚ At the conclusion of the chorus contest, **Ron Knickerbocker** (Regents, Curtain Call, Free Trade Agreement) with the assistance of **Glenn Phillips** gave out several **Directors Service Recognition Awards**. **Jay Butterfield** was among them, receiving recognition for 25 years along with many other familiar faces.



Recipients (some not pictured): Eric Phillips, Herman Rotsch, Diane Trautman, Marty Wise, Bill Eberius, Bill Byrd, Maurice Debar, Carol Johnson, Charlie Ross, Rick Serpico, Roger Tarpy, Jay Butterfield, and Jeff Liebknecht

✚ **Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor** members were then invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's distinguished recipients of the District's highest award. 2016 District HoH Chairman **Chuck Harner** read the criteria and detailed biographies after which the recipients were presented with commemorative engraved silver plates and name badges. The honorees included our own **Jay Butterfield** as well as **Walter Griffith** and **John Santora**. Congratulations and thank you for your lifetimes of service and contribution to barbershopping in our great District.



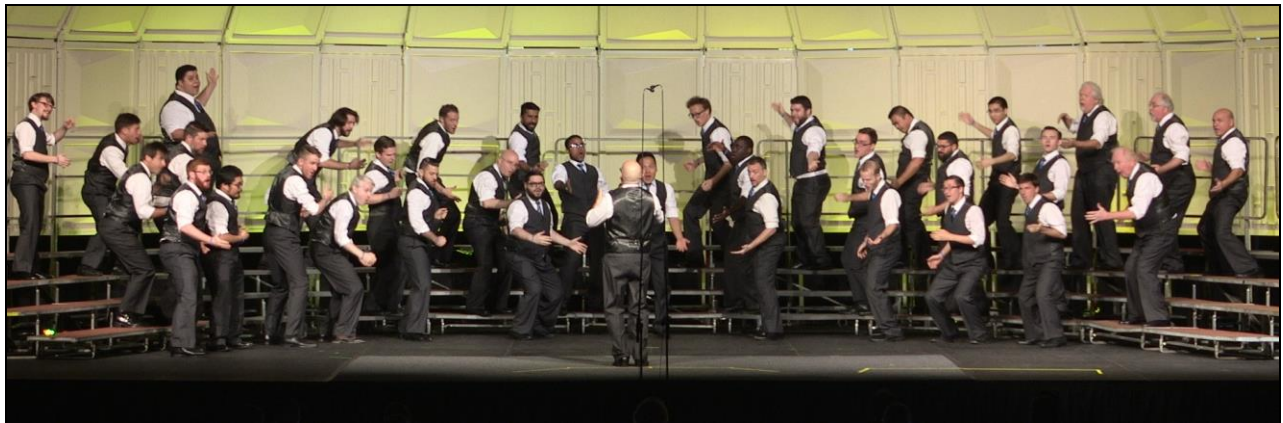
✚ The **2017 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions ... Parkside Harmony** (Hershey, PA) under the co-direction of **Sean Devine** and **Jay Butterfield**. They staged 46 men and scored 1,580 (87.8%) to qualify for the International Contest in Las Vegas next July. Their songs were *"You Belong to Me"* and *"Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea"*. This was Parkside's first District Chorus Championship after being formed as a chapter/chorus less than 2 years ago. Well done!



Jay Butterfield and Sean Devine with Gary Plaag



... in 3rd Place – **East Coast Sound** (Caldwell, NJ) under the direction of **Dave Ammirata** with just 20 very young men earned a score of 1,413 (78.5%)



... in 2nd Place – **Voices of Gotham** (Hell's Kitchen, NY) under the direction of **Bill Stauffer** staged 36 men and earned a score of 1,537 (85.4%)

Filling out the Top-5 were **The Garden Statesmen** (Princeton, NJ) who placed 4th staging 43 men and earned a score of 1,395 (77.5%), and the **Baltimore Vocal Corps** (Dundalk, MD) who placed 5th staging 18 men and earned a score of 1,387 (77.1%) in their first ever District contest.

- ✚ Immediately following the chorus competition, **Ross Trube** (Frank the Dog) organized a **Tag with the Champs** event to support the **Youth in Harmony** program throughout the District. **ROUTE 1** was the feature champ this year. The event generated a lot of enthusiasm and nearly \$500 for a really great cause.



Hmmm, this might be a photo from a different tag event.

- ✚ The **Quartet Finals** were exceptional with 4 quartets scoring International qualifying numbers. Add to that active previous champs Route 1, 'Round Midnight, Last Men Standing, and Frank the Dog plus some wildcards and the M-AD is going to send a lot of quartets going to the Big Show next summer.
- ✚ In the M-AD Program this year was a form that allowed the audience to vote for the Friday night contest **Audience Favorite Awards**. Among the winners were **Tony Colosimo** as Favorite Lead, **Joe Sawyer** as Favorite Baritone, and **Ryan Griffith** as Favorite Tenor. Andrew, Andrew ... anyone??? Sorry, pal! Still, it looks like the Official Judging Panel pretty much agreed with everyone else.
- ✚ The Saturday night **Show of Champions** featured performances by the M-AD Novice Quartet Champs **Break from Blue Collar**, the District Seniors Quartet Champs **Sympatico**, a long-standing vocal group from William & Mary called the **Gentlemen of the College**, and the top 3 District choruses: **East Coast Sound**, the **Voices of Gotham**, and our new champs **Parkside Harmony**.



Break from Blue Collar



Sympatico



Men of the College

ROUTE 1 gave a thrilling and beautifully sung swan song package to close out a great championship year. Thanks, guys, keep up the good work. You have shown yourselves to be true champions, especially with all of the volunteer support and contributions to the District and MADAQC.



Scott Disney (L), Thomas Moyer (Bs), Brandon Brooks (Br), Brian Schreiner (T)

The **MADAQC Chorus** was now lined up on the backstage ramp, ready to take the boards. **Steve White** (Copyright '86, The Bay Rum Runners, Phat Cats, Touchstone, MAD Hatters) was our emcee ... assisted by **Freddie**. For the second year in a row, we have featured a special showcase champion quartet. This year, **Frank the Dog** (2013 M-AD Champs) pleased a loudly barking audience.



Tom Halley (L), Steve Kirsch (Bs), Tim Knapp (Br), Brian Lindvall (T)

The **MADAQC Chorus** proudly took the stage one by one as the names of their championship quartet(s) were read. As we stood silently in reverence, Steve noted the absence of 3 outstanding quartet men who had passed away this year, our pals ...

- **Al Baker**, bass of our 1998 champs, **Free Trade Agreement**, and the 2013 International Seniors Quartet Champions, **Border Patrol**;

- **Bob Welzenbach**, tenor of our 1958 champs and the 1970 International Gold Medalists, the **Oriole Four**; and
- **Tom Ewald**, bass of our 1973 champs, **Fifth Edition**, and 1984 champs, **Pros 'n Cons** (International Top-10 Finalists).

On a much happier note, it was time to acknowledge two very BIG quartet anniversaries:

It was the **25th anniversary** of our 1992 champs, **Arcade** with **Bob Disney** (L), **Jim Grant** (Bs, deceased), **Rick Taylor** (Br), and Dave **Hinnman** (T). Rick and Dave were at the convention to celebrate.



It was the **50th anniversary** year of our 1967 champs, the **Continental Four** with **Kirk Roose** (L), **Joe Schmid** (Bs, deceased), **Roger Blackburn** (Br), and **Phil Steel** (T). The others had a great weekend together including a reunion dinner. Pictured below right is the trio with **Mike Kelly** (Casino, Wheelhouse, Last Men Standing) filling in on bass for some songs in the lobby. Fun fact: 50 years and 1 week ago prior, the Continental Four were featured on the Lancaster Red Rose Chapter show which launched them to their championship.



(Yes, Phil can still wear the same red quartet jacket!)



Continental Four applauded by the MADAQC Chorus

THE BIG FINALE: As the Top-10 quartets huddled back stage, anxiously waiting what could be for each a “momentous moment”, DVP-Contest and Judging **Gary Plaag** (Hijinx) announced the much-awaited results. **ROUTE 1** stood ready to award the lapel pins and congratulate the Top-3 finishers.



... in 3rd Place (2,876 / 79.9%) – **Gimme Four**

Dave Ammirata (L), Will Downey (Bs), Joe Servidio, Jr. (Br), and Paul Franek (T)



... in 2nd Place (2,911 / 80.9%) – **Pratt Street Power**

Ed Schubel (L), Darren Schmidt (Bs), Ben Hawke (Br), Vince Sandroni (T)

Note: Also rounding out the **Top 10** were past champs **Rich Gray** and **Mike Pinto** in **The Bourbon Street Four** (4th), **John Ward** and **Joe Hunter** in **Up all Night** (5th), **Pookie Dingle** and **Joe Eckert** in **Hershey Transit Co.** (8th).

Da Capo was then crowned champions and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies (provided annually by **Bob Disney** on behalf of Jim and **Arcade**), and shiny blue 1st Place lapel pins.



Kevin then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing our traditional song of celebration and congratulations, ***“This is the Moment”*** (arranged by **Freddie King**) as Da Capo stood embracing each other – their pride of accomplishment showing proudly.



MADAQC Chorus directed by Kevin King singing to Da Capo

🚩 **Rick Taylor** then led the entire convention audience in ***“Keep the Whole World Singing”***, bringing to a close another fantastic barbershop convention. Every champ then congratulated **Da Capo** with handshakes, hugs, and slaps on their backs.



Rick Taylor directing EVERYONE in harmony and friendship after a great weekend

✚ Starting a new MADAQC tradition, we all quickly moved to an adjacent room for the **Champion's Reception** where photos were taken, a champagne toast was offered by Steve to the new champs, MADAQC badges were given out, a legacy gift was presented by Route 1, the time-honored (wink, wink) initiation given of our newest member – “Baby Champ” Andrew Havens, and cake was served to everyone. Many guys remained for a while to chat and take pictures in front of the new photo background that Route 1 purchased for the District before heading off to the afterglows.



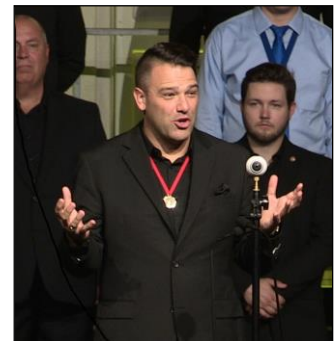
- Several champs have had M-AD leadership roles throughout the year and for that we are all so very proud and appreciative: **Gary Plaag** - DVP-Contest & Judging, Leadership Development Committee, YIH/Student Activities Team, Past Presidents Forum, and he also gave a 45-minute presentation this weekend entitled "Introducing the New Performance Category"; **Bill Colosimo** - Immediate Past President, Hall of Honor Committee, Harmony College East Committee, and Chorus Director Development Team; **Chuck Lower** - M-AD Coaching Coordinator; and **Mike Kelly** - District Chief Information Officer, Photographer, and HCE Committee. Most of the photos in this Recap are thanks to Mike and his team and Brian Schreiner.



Also, **Rick Taylor** worked feverishly the entire convention weekend as the **Harmony Foundation International** representative and co-ceeded a contest session. He is pictured here with **Elizabeth Wilde-Foody**, Eastern Regional Director for Major Gifts. Looking at the list of contributors printed in the Convention Program I see that **13 champs** are **President's Council** members and **16 champs** have contributed to the **Ambassadors of Song**.

- Speaking of contributing, **thanks to a number of you who provided checks/cash totaling \$675.** That will be a big help in keeping us solvent for a while, though not yet enough to establish an annual MADAQC Youth in Harmony Scholarship to Harmony College East. I will accept money at any time and let you know the status of our coffers.

- Finally, a shout-out to a man who, while not in MADAQC, is an International Quartet Gold Medalist and a huge contributor to the Mid-Atlantic District ... **Sean Devine** (OC Times, Throwback), DELA member, co-director of Parkside Harmony, quartet and chorus coach, and serves on the Leadership Development Committee.



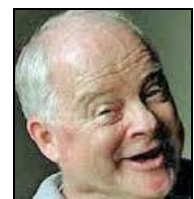
Well, that about does it for my Annual recap. My sincere apologies if I have left anyone out or missed highlighting something important. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon. Please stay well and stay tuned.

Yours in friendship, service, and close *championship harmony* ...

Steve



... always remembering our dear **Freddie**



Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

1	1945	<i>NY City Police Department Quartet</i>	37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmoneers</i>	38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>	39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>	40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>	41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>	42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>	43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>	44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>	45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
10	1954	<i>Play-Tonics</i>	46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>	47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>	48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>	49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
14	1958	<i>Oriole Four (1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>	50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>	51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>	52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>	53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>	54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>	55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>	56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>	57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>	58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>	59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
24	1969	<i>Classics</i>	60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>	61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>	62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents (1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>	63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>	64	2009	<i>Old School (2011 International Quartet Champions)</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>	65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>	66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>	67	2012	<i>MAD Hatters</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>	68	2013	<i>Frank the Dog</i>
33	1978	<i>Baltimore & Ohio Connection</i>	69	2014	<i>Mayhem</i>
34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>	70	2015	<i>Last Men Standing</i>
35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>	71	2016	<i>Route 1</i>
36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>	72	2017	<i>Da Capo</i>

Note: Represented in Lancaster this year.

Note: Due to a change in accounting, there was no 1964 champion.

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