

# Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions



October 12, 2018

Dear Quartet Champ,

This year's **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was again held in Reading, PA on October 5-7 at the Santander Performing Arts Center. Our 20<sup>th</sup> annual quartet champ's association reunion and performance on the **Saturday Night Show of Champions** was fantastic, as usual. Attending the convention were **41** champs representing **37** foursomes spanning 6 decades ... from the **Out-of-Towners** (1960) to **Gimme Four** (2018).

First, to the end with the quartet results:

Our **2019 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions ... MIDTOWN**  
Anthony Fortino (L), Christian Diaz (Bs), KJ McAleesejergens (Br), and Nick Gordon (T).  
(Hell's Kitchen, NY and Kansas City, MO.)

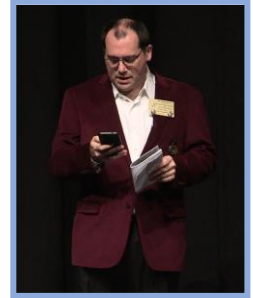
They sang **"Birth of the Blues"**, **"What Do I Need with Love"**, **"Death of a Bachelor"**, and **"Never Give All the Heart"** to earn a score of 2,024 (84.3%) and were 1<sup>st</sup> in both rounds and all three categories. The quartet is now the **74<sup>th</sup>** champion since 1945 for a total of 229 men to have earned this high distinction. All four men are new to our close fraternity. **CONGRATULATIONS and welcome, Fellas!**



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

✚ The Presenter for the **Friday Quartet Semifinals** was our own **Fred Womer**.

Our current **2018 M-AD Quartet Champs**, **Gimme Four** (**David Ammirata** (L) **Will Downey** (Bs), **Joe Servidio, Jr.** (Br), and **Paul Franek** (T), served as the Mic Tester and Mic Cooler quartet.



**Gimme Four**

The semifinals featured **19** quartet competitors including **4** foursomes containing **5** past M-AD quartet champion singers: **TJ Barranger** in **default\_quartet\_name**, **Mike Wallen** in **Youth Reclamation Project** (Sr), **Jack Pinto** in **The Philly Special**, and **Will Cox** and **Rick Savage** in **Silver Alert** (Sr).



**default\_quartet\_name**



**Youth Reclamation Project**



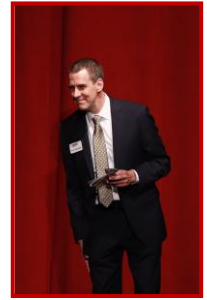
**The Philly Special**



**Silver Alert**

✚ The **MADAQC Chorus** met on Friday evening after the quartet session for a quick rehearsal in an echo chamber that made us sound like 50 men. **Kevin King** ran us through our paces.

✚ **Terry Reynolds** was the Presenter for the chorus competition which had a very early start for many and was an incredibly busy day for **11** champs who were the Directors of competing choruses. Competing MADAQC member chorus directors included: **Joe Servidio, Jr.** for the **Dapper Dans of Harmony**, **Richard Lewellen** for the **Fairfax Jubilaires**, **Jeff Glemboski** for the **Long Island Sound**, **Kevin King** for the **Chorus of the Chesapeake**, **Larry Bomback** for the **Voices of Gotham**, **Rich Gray, Jr.** for **The Pine Barons**, **Jay Butterfield** for **Parkside Harmony**, **Mike Wallen** for the **Virginians**, **TJ Barranger** for the **Sons of the Severn**, and **David Ammirata** and **Will Downey** for **East Coast Sound**.



**Sheryl Berlin** (1<sup>st</sup> row, far right) helped kick off the session by directing the **Joe and Jane Chorus** who served as the Mic Testers.

There were two Mic Coolers this year: the **Bella NOVA Chorus** from Harmony Inc. directed by **Richard Lewellen** and who are going the HI International Contest this November 1 in Orlando, FL and sang for the judge's evaluation only, and the

**Wildcat Harmonizers** directed by **John Wernega** who are headed to Mid-Winter Convention in January and were here to fundraise for their trip.

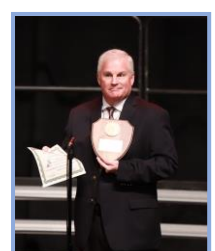


**Bella NOVA Chorus**



**Wildcat Harmonizers**

✚ After the chorus contest, **Ron Knickerbocker** assisted by **Rich Gray, Jr.** gave out **Chorus Directors Service Recognition Awards** to front-line directors of 10 years or more (in 5-year increments). Seven men were recognized including our own **Bill Colosimo** who received his 30-year award. **Kevin King** then presented a very special "**Fred King Award**" to **Glenn Williamson** for his **35** years of service.



✚ And speaking of chorus directors, it is also well worth noting that two amazing ladies whom we all know as terrific performers and quartet coaches also directed top-level choruses: **Anne Bureau** led **The North Pennsmen** to a 4<sup>th</sup> place tied finish, and **Stephanie Britson** led **The Country Gentlemen** to a 10<sup>th</sup> place finish and earning Most Improved Chorus honors.

✚ The **Barbershopper of the Year Awards** followed and were given to 13 recipients.



✚ **Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor** members (many of whom are quartet champs) were invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's recipients of the District's highest award. **Jay Butterfield** read the criteria and short biographies after which the recipients were presented with commemorative engraved silver plates and HoH name badges. The distinguished honorees were **Robert Eckman** and **Roger Heer** who are also both DELA members. Each man received a well-deserved standing ovation from the audience for their lifetime of service and contribution to barbershopping in our great District.



✚ **Dick Powell** (2019 BHS President) and **Rob Arnold** (Panel Administrator) announced the results. The **2019 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions ... Parkside Harmony** under the co-direction of **Sean Devine** and **Jay Butterfield**. They staged 51 men and scored 1,120 (93.3%) and sang "*American Tune*" and "*If I Can Dream*". This was Parkside's 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive District Chorus Championship. They earned a 3<sup>rd</sup> Place medal in the 2018 International Chorus Competition this past summer in Orlando, FL, but will not be going to the 2019 competition next summer.



**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Parkside Harmony (Hershey, PA)**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Voices of Gotham** (Hell’s Kitchen, NY) under the direction of **Larry Bomback** staged 38 men and earned a score of 1,020 (85.0%). They are the M-AD qualifying chorus for the BHS International Chorus Contest in Salt Lake City, UT next July.



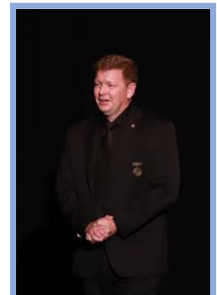
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – East Coast Sound** (Caldwell, NJ) under the co-direction of **David Ammirata** and **Will Downey** staged 19 men and earned a score of 961 (80.1%)

Filling out the Top-5 choruses were **The North Pennsmen** (Lansdale, PA) who tied for 4<sup>th</sup> staging 38 men earning a score of 872 (72.7%), and **The Virginians** (Richmond, VA) who tied for 4<sup>th</sup> staging 47 men and also earned a score of 872 (72.7%).

✚ Immediately following the chorus competition, **Ross Trube** again coordinated the ever-popular **Tag with the Champs** event in the Santander lobby to support the District’s **Youth in Harmony** program. **Gimme Four** was the featured champ. The event was fun and generated a lot of enthusiasm ... and over \$500 for a great cause. Thanks to all.

✚ The MADAQC Chorus gathered at 8:30 pm on Saturday evening to rehearse under the steady hands of **Kevin King**. Once again there was some confusion about our rehearsal space, but we hope to work that out next year. Still, everyone was well-prepared, so it did not take long until we were ready.

✚ The Presenter for the **Saturday Night Show of Champions** was our own **Steve Kirsch**. The show kicked off with a performance by the 2018 M-AD Champs, **Gimme Four**, who gave a highly-entertaining set – bringing to close a great



championship year. Thanks, and keep up the good work, fellas! You have shown yourselves to be true champions, especially with your volunteer support, chorus directing, coaching, and other team contributions to the District.



Following that, the Top-3 finishing choruses performed. **Parkside Harmony** was awarded their trophy (well, actually it was still on a table in the lobby) and **Sean Devine** and **Jay Butterfield** offered a few heartfelt words of appreciation to the District. They then gave an amazing performance of *“Bridge Over Troubled Water”* that featured soloists **Alex Corson** and **Pratt Street Power**. Just awesome!



**Steve White** emceed the **MADAQC** finale segment. The curtain opened on the **MADAQC Chorus** who were standing proud on the risers. He commented on the 41 men at the convention representing 37 championship quartets and read the list of quartet names while the audience gave a rousing clap for each. He then recognized our 2 International Quartet Champions present this weekend, **Ron Knickerbocker (1974-Regents)** and **Jack Pinto (2011-Old School)**.



Steve then highlighted the induction of our **1955 M-AD Champs**, the **Easternaires**, into the **BHS Hall of Fame Class of 2018**. Six specific members of the quartet (of 12 overall during their 30 years together) were honored: **Danny Heyburn, Tommy Dames, Bob Bohn, Bill Annichiarico, Dave Middlestadt, and Eddy Ryan** who was in Orlando to accept the award on behalf of his pals along with family of the other quartet members.



**Easternaires**

(left pic – Danny Heyburn, Bob Bohn, Bill Annichiarico, Eddy Ryan)  
 (center pic – Dave Middlestadt, Bob Bohn, Danny Heyburn, Eddy Ryan)  
 (right pic – Danny, Bob, Eddy, Bill)

It was the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of our **1994 M-AD Champs**, the **Bingo Brothers** with **Fred Womer (L), Gary Parker (Bs), Dennis Malone (Br), and John Casey (T)**. Freddie was on the risers with MADAQC to accept the recognition.



It was the landmark **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of our **1969 M-AD Champs**, the **Classics** with **Carl Snyder** (L, deceased), **Paul Kline** (Bs), **Jack Malone** (Br), and **Phil Steel** (T). Paul, Jack, and Phil were all there (wearing the original tuxedos they won with) to accept the adulation of the District audience.



### **THE BIG FINALE:**

As the Top-10 quartets huddled back stage, anxiously waiting to hear what could be for each a “momentous moment”, **Dick Powell** and **Rob Arnold** announced the results as **Gimme Four** stood at-the-ready to award the lapel pins and congratulate the Top-3 finishers.



#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place (1,931, 80.5%) – Prime Time**

James Isley (L), Ethan Wolfe (Bs), Brian Mastrull (Br), and Kevin Juliana (T)  
from Frank Thorne, Hamilton Square, and Hershey chapters



#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1,012 / 83.8%) – Pratt Street Power**

Ed Schubel (L), Darron Schmidt (Bs), Ben Hawker (Br), and Vincent Sandroni (T)  
from the Hershey chapter



Also, in the Top 10 was **Youth Reclamation Project** (w/ **Mike Wallen**) who were winners of the **District Seniors Quartet Contest** and will go to the BHS Mid-Winter Convention in January. **Silver Alert** (w/ **Will Cox** and **Rick Savage**) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Seniors Contest.

**Midtown** was then crowned District Quartet Champions and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies (provided annually by **Bob Disney** in memory of Jim and **Arcade**), and blue 2019 1<sup>st</sup> Place lapel pins.



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

- ✚ **Dave Ammirata** then led the entire audience in *“Keep the Whole World Singing”* ... bringing to close another fantastic barbershop convention as only the Mid-Atlantic District can do. Every champ then congratulated **Midtown** with handshakes, hugs, and slaps on their backs.



- ✚ Immediately following the close of the convention, we moved from the stage to the Dasani Lounge of the Santander along with friends and family for a **Quartet Champion’s Reception** where **Steve White** congratulated the **Classics** with a toast for their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and welcomed **Midtown** into the fraternity with a toast. The Classics offered some sage advice to the new champs and **Gimme Four** offered congratulations and gave personal legacy gifts. Midtown thanked the District and MADAQC and then entertained everyone with a song. Afterwards we all enjoyed a championship cake and photos were taken. Many guys remained for a while to chat and sing tags before heading off to the afterglows.



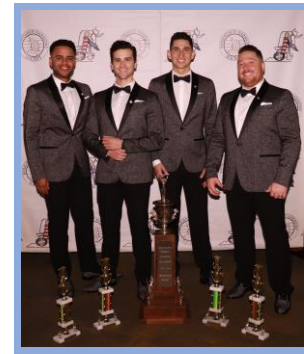
**Classics**



**Toasting our new Champs**



**Gift from Gimme Four**



✚ Numerous champs have held M-AD leadership roles throughout the year and for that we are all so very proud and appreciative: **Gary Plaag**—DVP-Contest & Judging, C&J Committee Chair, Leadership Development Committee, YIH/Student Activities Team, Past Presidents Forum; **Bill Colosimo**—Nominating Committee, Hall of Honor Team, Harmony College East Committee, Chorus Director Development Team, and Leadership Development Team Chair; **Chuck Lower**—Coaching Coordinator; **Jay Butterfield**—Hall of Honor Team; **Brian Schreiner**—Board Member at Large, Marketing & PR Team Chair and Events Team/Program Book Coordinator; **Rich Gray, Jr.**—DVP-Chorus Director Development Team; **Rick Taylor**—Hall of Honor Team; **Will Downey**—YIH/Student Activities Team; **Joe Servidio, Jr.**—YIH/Student Activities Team; **Steve White**—MADAQC Wrangler; and **Mike Kelly**—Chief Information Officer, Photographer/Videographer, Webmaster, Advanced Technology, Team, HCE Committee, and DELA President. **Note: Most all photos in this Recap are a direct result of Mike and his team’s efforts at the back of the auditorium (a BIG-BIG thanks to all).**

✚ Finally, the **Harmony Foundation International** was well-represented by **Sean Devine** and **Rick Taylor** who discussed the organization and your funds support and encouraged participation.



... cracking himself up.

Well, my good friends, that does it for the annual recap. My sincere apologies if I have left anyone out, made an error, or missed highlighting something important. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon. Please stay healthy, happy, and keep singing.

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

*Steve*



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



## Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions, 1945-2019

1	1945	<i>NY City Police Department Quartet</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmoneers</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>
10	1954	<i>Play-Tonics</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>
14	1958	<i>Oriole Four</i> <i>(1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>
15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>
16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>
17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>
18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>
19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>
20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>
21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>
22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>
23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>
24	1969	<i>Classics</i>
25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>
26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents</i> <i>(1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>
33	1978	<i>Baltimore &amp; Ohio Connection</i>
34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>
35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>
36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>
37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>
38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>
39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>

40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>
41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
64	2009	<i>Old School</i> <i>(2011 International Quartet Champions)</i>
65	201	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>
67	2012	<i>M-AD Hatters</i>
68	2013	<i>Frank the Dog</i>
69	2014	<i>Mayhem</i>
70	2015	<i>Last Men Standing</i>
71	2016	<i>Route 1</i>
72	2017	<i>Da Capo</i>
73	2018	<i>Gimme Four</i>
74	2019	<i>Midtown</i>

Note: Represented in Reading this year.

Note: No living members.

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

Note: We celebrate quartet anniversaries based on the Fall Contest date.

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