

# Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions 🏆

October 26, 2022

Dear Quartet Champs,

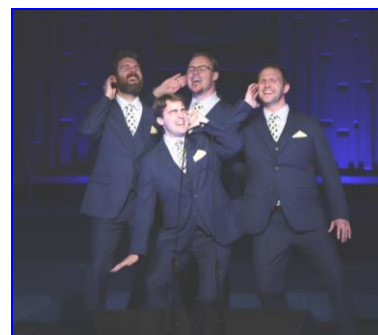
This year's **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was held in beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch Country on October 7-9 at the Lancaster Marriott and Convention Center and marked our 24<sup>th</sup> year as an association. As usual, the MADAQC performance on the **Saturday Night Show of Champions** was fantastic and a highlight of the weekend. Attending the convention were 35 champs representing 29 foursomes spanning over 60 years ... from the **Out-of-Towners** (1960) to **Pratt Street Power** (2020). **Starting at the end of the weekend, our newest champions are:**

## FIRST TAKE

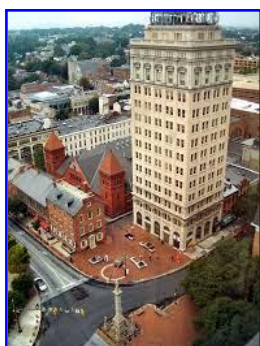
### 2023 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

**Anthony Colosimo (L), Andrew Havens (Bs), Drew Wheaton (Br), and Alex Corson (T)**  
Alexandria, VA; Louisville, KY; Nashville, TN; and Frank Thorne chapters

Reprising their incredible medalist performances from the Charlotte International Contest, **First Take** sang *"The Best Things Happen When You're Dancing"* (from "White Christmas"), *"Santa Fe"* (from "Newsies"), *"Not While I'm Around"* (from "Sweeney Todd") and *"You Didn't Want Me When You Had Me"* to earn the highest score ever in M-AD quartet contest history ... 3,178 (88.3%).



## Now, at the beginning of the weekend ...



At 1:00 on Friday afternoon over a dozen quartet champs and guests met at the Shot & Bottle Restaurant in the historic W.W. Griest Building across Penn Square from the Marriott Hotel for a **Quartet Champions Luncheon** coordinated by **Steve White**. In attendance were **Bob Parry**, **Marion Reagan** (wife of the late Larry), **Kevin King**, **Rick Taylor**, **Bill Colosimo**, **Mark Paul**, **Neil Dingle** and his son **Julian**, **Nick Gordon**, **KJ McAleesejergins**, **Tom Halley**, **Mike Kelly**, and **Steve**. There were great conversations, laughs, excellent food, and tasty craft beer. The group was highly excited about our first live M-AD convention in 3 years. Ahh, it felt good to be together again. The luncheon will have to become a new MADAQC tradition whenever and wherever we gather.



Throughout the afternoon, the Marriott Hotel lobby was bustling with the sounds of people meeting and greeting, checking in, and tag-singing, along with bridal parties for 7 weddings that day. Down the hall in the Convention Center and just across from the ticket registration desk was the MADAQC display table that attracted many folks throughout the weekend who were interested in viewing the slide show of champs from



1945-2020 and seeing the quartet trophy up close. The table also featured our new MADAQC banner.



The auditorium was busy with the stage crew led by **Dennis Ritchey** and the sound, lighting, and video crew led by **Mike Kelly**. Needing a pick-up quartet to initially test the mics and monitor speakers, **Brian Ammerman**, **Jamie Patricia**, **Steve White**, and **Rick Taylor** stepped in to make sure everything was adjusted properly.

## Quartet Contest Semi-Finals



The **Friday Quartet Semifinals** started at 5:27 pm sharp with presenter **Branden Lynk**, District VP of Events, getting the small but enthusiastic crowd charged up. Our own **Joe Hunter**, pictured here with other panel members, served as a judge for the presentation category.



Several MADAQC guys volunteered to be Friday and Saturday night quartet escorts and backstage cheerleaders (pictured far right are our two trophy guards). Thanks to **Jay Butterfield** and **Dennis Ritchey** for coordinating this effort which was well received and appreciated by all competitors.

The **Quin-Tones** (**Jacob Lapp, Julian LeFlore, Tommy Hunter, Chris Crawford**), BHS 2019 Junior Quartet Champions from Salem County, NJ, served as the mic-testers, setting the tone for the entire weekend. The mic-coolers were scheduled to be Pratt Street Power, however one member had laryngitis so instead we had a put-together quartet playfully called **“Throw-Town”** – all sporting shiny new Charlotte International medals (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place) – with **Nick Gordon** and **KJ McAleesejergins** from **Midtown** and **Sean Devine** and **Michael Skutt** from **Throwback**. They wowed and amused the audience with some great singing and repartee between Sean and KJ about who should speak based on medal colors. Guess who had a gold medal in his pocket.



**Quin-Tones**



**“Throw-Town”**

There were 19 scheduled quartet competitors, but last-minute illness forced a couple of scratches. This was the first M-AD fall contest with non-male singers competing together for a single championship and the quality was extremely high. It was great to see 3 past champs on the boards in quartets ... **Anthony Colosimo** and **Andrew Havens** in **First Take** and **Jeff Glemboski** in **Quatrain**.

## **Chorus Contest**



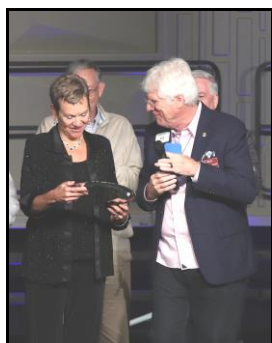
The Chorus contest started promptly at 9:27 am. **Sheryl Berlin**, M-AD Board Member, served as the presenter. The mic-tester chorus were the **Sirens of Gotham**. There were 17 choruses competing this year, 7 of which were directed by MADAQC members: **Vince Sandroni** (Parkside Harmony), **Will Downey** (East Coast Sound), **Rich Gray, Jr.** (The Pine Barons), **Jeff Glemboski** (Long Island Sound), **Mike Wallen** (The Virginians), **Joe Servidio, Jr.** (The Dapper Dans of Harmony), and **Neil “Pookie” Dingle** (Keystone Capital Chorus). While the choruses were smaller the quality remained high, and several groups exceeded their scores from 2019.

While we waited for the contest results the **Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor** (HoH) members present at the convention lined up on the stage for the induction ceremony for the district’s highest and more prestigious award. Note that 23 individual quartet champs have been inducted into the M-AD HoH since it was established in 1986.





**Rick Taylor**, the 2023 HOH Selection Committee Chair, recognized the two recipients from 2022, **Anne Bureau** and **Joe Cerutti, Jr.**, who were never publicly acknowledged due to the pandemic. He then read the lengthy biography and contributions by the 2023 recipient, **Stephanie Britson**, who was joined by her proud father **Chuck Lower** (HoH Class of 2003). Each recipient came to the stage separately to accept their engraved silver plates, recognition badges, rousing acknowledgements from the HoH members, and standing ovations by the district audience. Congratulations to all!



Anne



Joe



Stephanie (w/dad)

Then came the announcement of chorus results ...

Your **2023 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions** ... **PARKSIDE HARMONY!!!**



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

Under the co-direction of **Sean Devine** and **Vince Sandroni**, they staged 38, sang ***"If All My Dreams Were Made of Gold, I'd Buy the World for You"*** and ***"I'm Alright"*** (from *"Caddy Shack"*), and scored 1,601 points (88.3%). Parkside will represent the M-AD at the 2023 International Chorus Competition in Louisville, KY next summer.





### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – East Coast Sound (Caldwell, NJ)

Under the direction of **Will Downey**, they staged 20, earned a score of 1,460 (81.2%) and will represent the M-AD in Louisville.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Parkside Melody (Hershey, PA)

Under the co-direction of **Katie MacDonald** and **Melody Hine**, they staged 21, earned a score of 1,445 (80.3%) and will represent the M-AD in Louisville.

Filling out the Top-5 choruses were **Voices of Gotham** (Hell's Kitchen, NY) placing 4<sup>th</sup> with 20 people and earning a score of 1,410 (78.3%) and **The Pine Barons** (Cherry Hill, NJ) placing 5<sup>th</sup> with 43 people and earning a score of 1,409 (78.3%).

## Late Saturday Afternoon

Immediately following the chorus competition in the lobby of the Marriott, **Donna** and **Tom Halley** coordinated the ever-popular **Tag with the Champs** event (formerly known as "Dog Tags"). **Ross Trube** who managed this for several years was on hand to offer his support. **Pratt Street Power** and **Gimme Four** were the featured champ quartets who helped generate a lot of enthusiasm, a big crowd (including non-barbershop guests of the hotel), and about \$300 for the district's **Youth in Harmony Program**. Some great younger voices stepped to the microphone to sing entire quartet songs and sounded like champs themselves. Thanks to all who participated and kudos to the Halley's.





**Gimme Four w/Niko Porter**



**Donna and Tom**



**Pratt Street Power w/ Anne Bureau**

Also in the afternoon was a new program for chorus director development coordinated by **Larry Bomback** and **Jeff Glemboski**. The **Alexandria Harmonizers**, **East Coast Sound**, and **Voices of Gotham** participated as the practice choruses with some great new directors honing their skills. Following that, the **Alexandria Harmonizers** also held an hour-long Master Class on the main auditorium stage.



**Alexandria Harmonizers – Master Class**

## Quartet Finals and the Show of Champions



**Steve Kirsch** coolly emceed the **Quartet Finals** and the **Show of Champions** which featured our new chorus champions, **Parkside Harmony** (also 2022 BHS 4<sup>th</sup> Place Chorus Medalists), and the **Alexandria Harmonizers** (2022 BHS 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Chorus Medalists).

Our 2020 M-AD Quartet Champs, **Pratt Street Power** (**Ed Schubel**, **Darren Schmidt**, **Ben Hawker**, and **Vince Sandroni**), had waited 2 additional years for their swansong set only be dashed by a last-minute vocal illness. However, they quickly recruited a highly qualified fill-in lead, **Melody Hine** (2019 Harmony Inc. Quartet Queen in **Hot Pursuit**), to form **"Pratt Street Melody."** They sounded great and the audience expressed their appreciation with cheers and applause.





**Parkside Harmony**



**Alexandria Harmonizers and Joe Cerutti, Jr.**

The **MADAQC Chorus** met briefly at the intermission. We were well-prepared and our honorary director, **Kevin King**, needed only to make a few tweaks before we were ready. As we took the stage **Steve Kirsch** commented on many quartet champs attending the convention and read the names of the quartets they represented. The audience gave each their due applause. He then recognized the always dapper **Bob Parry** (right) from our 1960 champs, **Out-of-Towners**, as the oldest quartet represented. Steve also recognized the decade anniversaries of all champion quartets with living members.



**Frank the Dog (10<sup>th</sup>)**



**Wheelhouse (20<sup>th</sup>)**



**Doubletake (30<sup>th</sup>)**



**Curtain Call (40<sup>th</sup>)**



**Fifth Edition (50<sup>th</sup>)**



**Yankees (60<sup>th</sup>)**





As the top 10 quartets huddled backstage, anxiously waiting for the possibility that their names will be called among the top 3 finishers, **Bill Vermue** (Administrative Judge) and **Ig Jakovac** (M-AD President) gave the late-night eval instructions and then announced the contest results. **Pratt Street Power** stood at-the-ready to award the yellow, red, and blue lapel pins and bring out the heavier hardware for the new champions.



**Secret Best Friends ... 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (2,817, 78.3%)**  
**Kevin Juliana (T), James Isley (L), James Pennington (Br), and Will Daniel Simmons (Bs)**  
 Hershey, PA; Nashville, TN; Frank Thorne chapters



**Rule #1 ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (2,851, 79.2%)**  
**Michael Cawley (T), Ian Wolfe (L), Justin Ross (Br), and Joshua Whitney (Bs)**  
 Hershey, PA chapter

As you know, the Barbershop Harmony Society is now **“Everyone in Harmony”** and open to all who love harmony. This was the first M-AD Fall District Contest where there were numerous qualifying quartets and choruses contained non-male singers. Three all-female quartets earned top 10 honors (pictured below), and one all-female chorus placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.





**Champagne Alley (5<sup>th</sup> Place)**



**Breakfast for Dinner (8<sup>th</sup> Place)**



**Up & Away (10<sup>th</sup> Place)**

Others placing in the top 10 were, **Madhattan** in 4<sup>th</sup> Place, **Ovation!** In 6<sup>th</sup> place, **Default Quartet Name** in 7<sup>th</sup> place, and **Age of Flight** in 9<sup>th</sup> place.

**First Take** (3,178 (88.3%)) was then crowned **2023 M-AD Quartet Champions** and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, individual **James E. Grant Award** trophies (provided annually by **Bob Disney** in memory of Jim), and 1<sup>st</sup> Place lapel pins. MADAQC badges will be issued later.



**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 **First Take** stood together pridefully. Kevin then led the entire audience in ***"Keep the Whole World Singing"*** ... bringing to close another fantastic barbershop convention.



## Quartet Champs Reception

Immediately following the close of the convention, we all moved to the backstage area where **Tom and Donna Halley** had set up the traditional **Quartet Champion's Reception**. District President **Ig Jakovac** was there to make some very nice comments about MADAQC's high visibility and contributions throughout the convention. **Steve White** led the toast and welcomed **First Take** into our association of champions and close friends saying, *"First Take is now and forever an indelible part of our district's great history of quartet singing."*



**Ben Hawker** offered **Pratt Street Power's** hearty congratulations and continued the tradition of offering a legacy gift, this time with a comical theme (pictured below).



**First Take** – You also earned the admiration and respect of your fellow Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions for this enduring achievement.





The celebration continued as we drank more champagne (well, sparkling cider due to restrictions), ate cake (the remaining went to the stage crew who worked past midnight tearing down), and hung around for a while longer before heading out to the hospitality rooms. But before most left we gathered for a group photo with our new champs (with Mike Kelly behind the camera lens). **Priceless!**



## **Lost Members**

Sadly, over the past 3 years 13 quartet champs are no longer with us. There could be others, but we do not have contact information with a few men from the late 1950's and early 1960's. We remember the following men with fondness and will miss their spirit and voices:

**John Adams (T)** – Alexandria's Ragtime Band

**Ralph Brandt (Bs)** – Play-Tonics

**Barry Brown (Bs)** – Union Jacks, B&O Connection, Curtain Call, and Tradewinds

**Don Clause (L)** – Hometown Quartet

**Roy Eckert (L)** – Sound Revival and Northeast Extension

**Brian Horwath (Br)** – Four Under Par



**Cal Johnson (T) – Sound Revival**  
**Fred Kirberger (T) – Main Street Four**  
**Gene O'Dell (T) – Friends of Yesterday**  
**Bart Plescia (Br) – Hallmarks**  
**Eddy Ryan (T) – Tradewinds**  
**Frank Szente (L) – Rocket Tones**  
**Forest Williams (L) – Union Jacks**

## **Appreciation and Thanks**

Numerous MADAQC members have held leadership and management roles in the M-AD or have contributed to the BHS throughout this past year, and for that we are all so very appreciative.

- **Brian Schreiner** — 2021-2022 District President
- **Steve Kirsch** — Executive Vice President, Quartet Promotion & Assistance
- **Jay Butterfield** — Board Member at Large
- **Joe Servidio, Jr.** — DVP Northern Division, Chapter Support Leadership Training, YIH/Student Activities Team
- **Larry Bombback** — DVP Chorus Director Development and Team Chair
- **Bill Colosimo** — Leadership Development Committee, HCE Committee
- **Chuck Lower** — Coaching Coordinator
- **Rick Taylor** — Hall of Honor Chair
- **Richard Lewellen** — Hall of Honor Team
- **Gary Plaag** — YIH/Student Activities Team
- **Jeff Glemboski** — Chorus Development Team
- **David Ammirata** — YIH/Student Activities Team
- **Will Downey** — YIH/Student Activities Team
- **Paul Franek** — YIH/Student Activities Team
- **Mike Kelly** — Chief Information Officer, District Communications, Photographer/Videographer, Marketing & PR Team, Webmaster, Advanced Technology, Team, and HCE Committee
- **Gary Plaag** — Presentation Judge Emeritus
- **Joe Hunter** — Certified Presentation Judge
- **Anthony Colosimo** — Certified Singing Judge
- **Jay Butterfield** — Certified Singing Judge
- **Ross Trube** — Candidate Singing Judge
- **Steve White** — MADAQC “Wrangler” and Executive Committee Chair
- **MADAQC Executive Committee: Kevin King, Gary Plaag, Jay Butterfield, David Ammirata, Tom Halley, Anthony Colosimo, Larry Bombback, and Steve White**

Thanks to Mike Kelly and his team’s efforts at the back of the auditorium for most of the photos in this recap. And my personal gratitude to the **MADAQC Executive Committee, Kevin King, Tom & Donna Halley, Jay Butterfield, Steve Kirsch, Gary Plaag, Ig Jakovac, Dennis Ritchey, and Branden Lynk.**

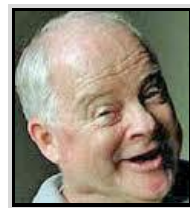
That about wraps it up. My sincere apologies if I have left anyone out of this recap, made any errors (likely), or missed highlighting something important. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon, especially at the Fall 2023 Convention. Please stay healthy, happy, and keep singing.

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

*Steve White*



... always remembering our dear Freddie



## Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions, 1945-2023

1	1945	NY City Police Department Quartet
2	1946	Harmoneers
3	1947	Four Chords
4	1948	Potomac Clippers
5	1949	Columbians
6	1950	Melloaires
7	1951	Volunteers
8	1952	Jerseymen
9	1953	Ryth-O-Mats
10	1954	Play-Tonics
11	1955	Easternaires
12	1956	Hometown Quartet
13	1957	York-Aires
14	1958	Oriole Four (1970 International Quartet Champions)
15	1959	Checkmates
16	1960	Out-Of-Towners
17	1961	Rocket Tones
18	1962	Main Street Four
19	1963	Yankees
20	1965	Townsmen
21	1966	Hallmarks
22	1967	Continental Four
23	1968	NOVA Chords
24	1969	Classics
25	1970	Union Jacks
26	1971	Exclusives
27	1972	Regents (1974 International Quartet Champions)
28	1973	Fifth Edition
29	1974	Friends of Yesterday
30	1975	Reign-Beaus' End
31	1976	Sound Revival
32	1977	Sussex Counts
33	1978	Baltimore & Ohio Connection
34	1979	Four Cracker Jacks
35	1980	Keystone Congregation
36	1981	Vaudeville
37	1982	The New Yorkers
38	1983	Curtain Call
39	1984	Pros 'N Cons
40	1985	Alexandria's Ragtime Band

41	1986	Four Under Par
42	1987	Northeast Extension
43	1988	Copyright '86
44	1989	Tradewinds
45	1990	Broadway
46	1991	Untouchables
47	1992	Arcade
48	1993	Doubletake
49	1994	Bingo Brothers
50	1995	BSQ
51	1996	The Bay Rum Runners
52	1997	Premiere
53	1998	Free Trade Agreement
54	1999	Hijinx
55	2000	Casino
56	2001	Runaway Sound
57	2002	Reveille
58	2003	Wheelhouse
59	2004	Phat Cats
60	2005	Iguanas in Flight
61	2006	Four Aces
62	2007	Ringers
63	2008	New Release
64	2009	Old School (2011 International Quartet Champions)
65	2010	'Round Midnight
66	2011	Touchstone
67	2012	M-AD Hatters
68	2013	Frank the Dog
69	2014	Mayhem
70	2015	Last Men Standing
71	2016	Route 1
72	2017	Da Capo
73	2018	Gimme Four
74	2019	Midtown
75	2020	Pratt Street Power
76	2023	First Take

Note: Represented in Lancaster this year.

Note: No living members. There may be others but do not have contact with several older champs.

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

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there were no contests in the fall of 2021 and 2022.

Note: We celebrate quartet anniversaries based on the Fall Contest date (e.g., Frank the Dog's 10<sup>th</sup> in the fall of 2022).

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