



MID-ATLANTIC

**MAD qualifies
SIX quartets
for the big show in Las Vegas**

**Volume 48, Issue 2 • SPRING 2017
A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT**



*'ROUND MIDNIGHT
PRATT STREET POWER*

GIMME 4

ROUTE ONE

FRANK THE DOG

FORECAST

*qualify for
2017 International
Las Vegas*





MAD WILL BE REPRESENTED BY SIX QUARTETS IN LAS VEGAS!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To perpetuate the old American institution, the barbershop quartet, and to promote and encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship among its members throughout the Mid-Atlantic District by the formation in every city, town, and hamlet, of local chapters, composed of members interested in the purposes of this corporation, which shall be the same as the purposes of the Society; to hold annual, local, and district contests in quartet and chorus singing, to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation; to initiate, promote, and participate in charitable projects; and to promote public appreciation of barbershop quartet and chorus singing by publication and dissemination thereof.

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features

- 4 International Pre-lims Convention**
MAD QUALIFIES 6 QUARTETS FOR LAS VEGAS
SERENDIPITY
EARNS MAD MIXED CHAMPS TROPHY
ROTOGRAVURE:
QUARTETS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE
- 10 Youth in Harmony**
PRE-LIMS YOUTH FESTIVAL ROCKS!
ROTOGRAVURE:
YOUTH QS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE
- 14 Quartet Corner**
DISTINCTION EARNS
DISTRICT SENIOR QUARTET TOP HONORS

15-19 Around the District

ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS EXPLORE
GOSPEL ROOTS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY

ARLINGTON CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

NORFOLK CHAPTER:
'THE BEST VALENTINE I EVER HAD'

IN TRANSIT: VOICES OF GOTHAM
BRINGS BARBERSHOP TO BROADWAY

HARMONIZERS HOLD
9TH ANNUAL YOUTH HARMONY FESTIVAL

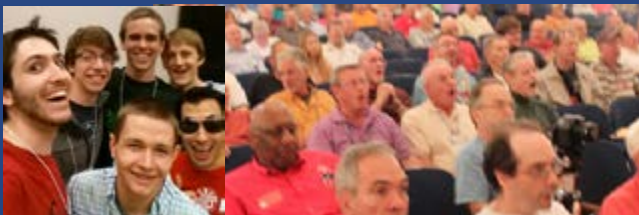
departments

- 3 Immerse yourself in a weekend of MAD barbershop learning and fun**
HARMONY COLLEGE EAST
- 13 What's with the MAD Endowment Fund?**
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- 14 Left face, right face, about face . . .**
HOW AND WHY THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR
MAD REPS TO THE INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET
CONTEST HAS CHANGED
- 20 The importance of riser placement**
DIRECTORS' FORUM
- 21 WE FOUND IT!**
A New Venue for District Fall Convention
EVENTS VP MESSAGE
- 22 Chapter Eternal**
CHUCK HARNER



immerse yourself
in a weekend of

MAD barbershop



The best value in barbershop!
Guaranteed to improve your
singing and performance skills, raise
your *Barbershop IQ* 30 points, double
your "friends" list and keep you
singing all night as well as all day.

Where: McDaniel College, Westminster, MD

When: June 15-18, 2017

Register: www.MidAtlanticDistrict.com/HCE

Did you know that Harmony College East:

1. Uses many of the same faculty who teach at Harmony University in Nashville.
2. Has unprecedented opportunity for individualized instruction.
3. Costs only \$220 per person and doesn't involve expensive airfare.
4. Extends only for a weekend so one's vacation isn't used up by a week-long school.
5. Uses an easy on-line registration method.
6. Has great food and fantastic fellowship.
7. Is in a beautiful setting at McDaniel College, with excellent facilities for both classroom work and for socializing in the "quad".
8. Is an easy drive – 3-4 hours – for most MAD members.
9. Has wonderful shows on Friday and Saturday nights, highlighting all the quartets and choruses, with special performances by several MAD quartets who will represent us at the International contest later in the summer.
10. Offers a chance to support our Harmony in Youth program

COURSES COVER ALL AREAS OF INTEREST

SINGING ACTIVITIES

- Sight Singing
- Woodshedding
- Tag Singing
- HCE Chorus
- Quartetting room with tag materials available
- Mass Sing prior to both the Friday and Saturday Show

THEORY COURSES

- Music Theory (Basic, Intermediate, & Advanced)
- Arranging (Basic & Individual Tutorial)
- Physics of Sound

PRESENTATION AND PERFORMANCE COURSES

- Engage on Stage [new]
- Planning an effective performance [new]
- Song Interpretation: Technique and Artistry
- Coaching Under Glass
- Look inside the music [new]

VOCAL TECHNIQUES CLASSES

- Sound Management: Listening for good sound and working with live ensembles
- Vocal Techniques: Essentials of Good Singing and Ensemble Singing
- Vocal Techniques: 40-min Individual Voice Lesson
- How to be a great ... tenor, lead, bari, or bass

MUSICAL LEADERSHIP COURSES

- Outstanding in Front: Introduction to directing for non-directors
- Rehearsal Techniques for Choruses Directors
- Directing (Basic, Advanced, & Individual Tutorial)
- Director Under Glass
- Director's Roundtable
- Leadership and the Rehearsal
- How to do chorus voice coaching

COURSES FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN GOOD CHORUS LEADERSHIP

- So...you be the judge
- Barber Shop to Barbershop: A History of our Hobby
- Chapter Meetings: How to have fun and be productive
- Likes, tweets, and homepages: Marketing your chorus or quartet
- Cathedral Building – The Secret to Winning With Young Singers
- Creating a sustained membership program for your chorus
- Revitalizing your chorus [new]
- Ready, Set, Sing -- A Program for Increasing Chorus Membership

MAD qualifies **six quartets** for the big show in Las Vegas

Distinction takes District Seniors Quartet crown

Serendipity is Mixed Quartet Champion

13 ensembles participate in District Youth in Harmony adjudication

Our 2017 Spring Convention was one for the record books. Held this year at The Inn at Reading in Reading, Pa., the audience was small but highly encouraging. We had 21 competitors in the following categories: International Prelims (17); Mixed (3); Senior District Championship (3). We had two out-of-district quartets vying for a qualifying score of 76% or higher to attend the 2017 International Quartet Contest in Las Vegas. Our annual Youth Adjudication drew 14 youth quartets and ensembles.

When the dust settled the results were as follows:

International Preliminary Qualifiers from M-AD:

- *'Round Midnight* 84.4% (2025 pts)
- *Pratt Street Power* 81.4% (1954 pts) * *First-time qualifiers!*
- *Gimme Four* 81.4% (1953 pts)
- *Route 1* 80.9% (1941 pts)
- *Frank the Dog* 80.8% (1938 pts)
- *Forecast* 76.3% (1832 pts) * *First-time qualifiers!*

See **SPRING CONVENTION**, continued on next page



'ROUND MIDNIGHT



PRATT STREET POWER



GIMME FOUR



ROUTE 1



FRANK THE DOG



FORECAST

SPRING CONVENTION

Continued from previous page

That's right! Six, count 'em SIX M-AD qualifiers for International. (another couple of likely qualifiers are competing outside of M-AD due to schedule conflicts with our contest.)

International Preliminary Qualifiers from out-of-district:

- Quorum (JAD) 88.1% (2115 pts)
- The Con Men (JAD) 79.6% (1910 pts)

Mixed Quartets

- 1st Place: Serendipity 70.3%
- 2nd Place: Sum of Each 65.8%
- 3rd Place: Mouthnoise 60.8%

M-AD Senior District Champions

- Distinction 67.5%

These results made for a very entertaining Jamboree on Saturday night. The new District Senior Quartet Champions sang, as did the Mixed Quartet champs and our two female mic tester/mic cooler quartets for the weekend Sweet Lucy and Brown-Eyed Girls.

Then the International qualifiers were announced, as has become the tradition in recent years, via the appearance of the "vessel" from behind the curtain. The "vessel" appears in different forms throughout its appearances and contains the name of the next International qualifier. A long as

the "vessel" appears, there is another qualifier. Happily, the "vessel" did not disappoint!

Once a qualifier's name is announced they are invited to the stage to sing one song. Nearly everyone seems to enjoy this...the quartets find it a bit nerve-wracking. Oh well.

The "Audience Favorite" Awards were back this year, however, there were some new twists. Gone are the days of paper and pencil voting. This time, voting was done electronically via smart phone, tablet or laptop and software called "EZVOTEONLINE.COM", created by our own

Webmaster and IT guru, Mike Kelly. Easy to use and a huge time saver, this made for MUCH easier tabulation at the end. Awards were, as always, cheesy, but highly coveted.

The 2017 Spring Convention Audience Favorite Award results:

Favorite Tag: Rhythm Is Our Business by Gimme Four

Favorite Outfit/Attire: Forecast

Favorite Tenor: Paul Franek (Gimme Four)

Favorite Lead: Scott Disney (Route 1)

Favorite Bari: Joe Servideo, Jr (Gimme Four)

Favorite Bass: Thomas Moyer (Route 1)

Big thanks go to the Reading chapter,



District President Dennis Ritchey presents the vessel to VP Contest and Judging Gary Plaag who draws forth the name of the final quartet to qualify for the International Quartet Contest in Las Vegas this summer.

See **SPRING CONVENTION**, continued on next page

SPRING CONVENTION

Continued from previous page

who served as hosts for this event and did an outstanding job. Thanks also go to our MCs: Friday night (1st half): Stephanie Britson; Friday night (2nd half) Rick Taylor; Saturday Youth Adjudication: Meredith (Didlake) Glemboski and Saturday night finals: Amy Rose, BHS Staff.

And, of course, a hearty thank you and a "Huzzah" to our judges, who gave of themselves the entire weekend working with all the competitors and adjudicated youth groups: Contest Administrators: Jim Sams (DIX) and Ron Eubank (PIO), Music Judges Evan Boegehold (JAD) and Rick Spencer (DIX), Performance Judges George Gipp (SUN) and Gary Wulf (JAD) and Singing Judges Jimmy Barr (DIX) and Richard Lewellen (MAD)

—By Gary Plaag, Vp Contest and Judging

Also qualifying for International at this contest were two Out of District Quartets:

QUORUM



THE CON MEN



First Place
Mixed Voice
SERENDIPITY

2nd Place
Mixed Voice
SUM OF EACH



3rd Place
Mixed Voice
MOUTH NOISE



Quartets

(in order of appearance)



MCs STEPHANIE BRITSON & RICK TAYLOR



HIGH SPIRITS



PRATT STREET POWER



FRANK THE DOG



SERENDIPITY



PARTY OF FIVE

Check out the many, many more quartet photos at
<http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos>

Contest score sheets may be found at
<http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/scores>



QUORUM (OOD)

Quartets

(in order of appearance)



DISTINCTION



BROTHERS IN ARMS



'ROUND MIDNIGHT



TONAL RECALL



STRAIGHT UP



SUM OF EACH



OASIS

Check out the many, many more quartet photos at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos>

Contest score sheets may be found at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/scores>

Quartets

(in order of appearance)



TONGUE IN CHEEK



LANSDALE STATION



MOUTHNOISE



ROUTE 1



GIMME FOUR



BREAK FROM BLUE COLLAR



FORECAST



THE CON MEN (OOD)



SWEET LUCY (MIC COOLER)

Youth Festival rocks!

This year's Mid-Atlantic District youth adjudication featured 12 quartets and two "very large quartets," the Wildcat Harmonizers from Quinton Township School, directed by John Wernega, and Pieces of Eight from Phillipsburg High School, directed by Debbie Keretz. Two high schools and two middle schools sent participants to the event.

Every year the quality of these youth performances improves and this year was no exception. We saw some remarkable performances. In past years, Tamanend Middle School has sent some wonderfully talented boys quartets to the festival. They were notably absent this year – because they all had graduated!

So, choral director **Ian Sanchez** threw out the possibility of forming quartets for the pre-imp weekend to his female students. Following the school's spring musical production just two weeks before the adjudication, the four quartets got busy.

In his 7th year as the Choral Director at Tamanend Middle School, a school of about 900 students in grades 7-9 located in Bucks County, Pa., Ian has become a barbershop fan. His students comprise three grade-level choruses and individual students may audition for the school select chorus and choose from other opportunities as well, such as the smaller (25 member) select chorus, county chorus, Star Spangled Banner solos, and the barbershop program.

Barbershop, you say? We'll let Ian tell you about it in his own words:

"For many years, The Bucks County Chapter of BHS (Country Gentlemen) has had a strong relationship with another middle school in our school district, Lenape Middle School in Doylestown, as they use the school's facilities for rehearsal and concerts. Lenape has had boys and girls ensembles for many years, one of whom, the Acabellas, travelled to Harmony College East last June. Their director, Jaime Rogers (jrogers@cbsd.org), does a great job!

"In 2012, the Country Gentlemen created a Youth in Harmony Quartet Festival for boys and directed it first toward the 5 middle schools in the Central Bucks School District. The Gents have been so helpful each year – assisting with music selection, quartet coaching, and generally spreading the good that comes out of singing barbershop. None of us could really make barbershop happen the way we do without their help!"

"Since that time, most of the middle schools have had quartets participate in the festival. The first year, I handpicked my four strongest boys and created the 'Taminators,' who won the gold medal at the Festival and earned a scholarship to Harmony College East in June 2012 ([HERE](#) is a video of them rehearsing at HCE!). It was then that I really saw the true nature of the barbershop community – everyone was so supportive and helpful to the boys, and

we all had a great time!

"In the five years of the local quartet festival, my quartets have won 4 gold, 2 silver, and 2 bronze medals. Though they have been offered scholarships to HCE each year, scheduling issues prevented any quartets attending after the Taminators, until last June, when Who's the Bass? and the QuadraTONES attended.

"For many years, my girls have wanted to get involved with barbershop as well, but until this year, I didn't have the reason to pursue

it. The local YIH festival is just for boys, and there isn't quite enough support available from the Country Gentlemen to add girls quite yet. So,

when Kevin Boehm mentioned the MAD spring youth adjudications when I spoke with him at HCE, I thought this might be the perfect year to add some girl's quartets to my program.

"The girls were thrilled when I told them in the fall. I placed the girls in quartets earlier in the year, but the process of finding contestable Sweet Adeline music that was learnable by novice middle school barbershoppers, with learning tracks available was much more daunting than I had anticipated. I got started finding resources in the fall, but as much as I tried, I couldn't devote time to complete that process until after our musical closed on March 11th.

"When I double checked with the girls after musical, they were still excited to sing in quartets, so I continued the process, and finalized everything, giving them about 2 weeks to learn everything. They spent time on their own learning their parts, and we had 6 rehearsals, most for an hour and 45 minutes. I couldn't be happier with the results!"

"I put a good deal of time into getting the girls together, but I have to give credit to my family and my school administration for allowing me to follow through with my crazy ideas, and to the parents for being so supportive of my program. I'm so thankful that the Country Gentlemen (specifically Dave Ives and Erik Fleischer) brought barbershop into all of our middle schools 5 years ago. The large numbers of them who coach our quartets and their presence at numerous district events has been such a great positive force in our community. Their assistant director, Chas Bryam, also spent time working with our girl's quartets last week.

"Most of all, I have to give credit for all of my hard working students. The girls spent so much time learning their parts ahead of time and also had to lead large portions of their rehearsals, so I could spread myself around amongst all the quartets. My boys are always hard-working as well.

I feel fortunate to work in a great school with great kids and a very supportive community.

"I'm just thrilled I can get them hooked on singing in harmony!"

I'm just thrilled I can get them hooked on singing in harmony!

— Ian Sanchez, Tamanend M.S. Choral Director

Youth Quartets

(in order of appearance)



SWEET LUCY • Mic Tester



STAR CHORDS • Phillipsburg H.S.



QUARTER NOTES • Tamanend M.S.



LOOKING SHARP • Vernon Township H.S.



PITCH PLEASE • Phillipsburg H.S.



LETTUCE HARMONY • Tamanend M.S.



THREE MEN AND A TENOR • Vernon Township H.S.



BARBERSHOP BRATS • Phillipsburg H.S.

Youth Quartets

(in order of appearance)



HARMONIA • Tamanend M.S.



THE ACCIDENTALS • Vernon Township H.S.



BROADWAY BABIES • Tamanend M.S.



CHORD OF THE RINGS • Vernon Township H.S.



WILDCAT HARMONIZERS • Quinton Township School



PIECES OF EIGHT • Phillipsburg H.S.



BROWN EYED GIRLS • Mic Coolers



Pratt Street Power and Knock Out will act as teaching quartets along with an all-star cast of coaches and youth leaders.



HCE YIH Camp

Registration now open

Registration is now open for any quartets, ensembles or individuals to attend our annual MAD Youth In Harmony Camp!



Held in conjunction with Harmony College East at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, the fun starts the evening of Thursday,

*by Kevin Boehm,
VP Youth in Harmony*

June 15 and runs through Saturday, June 17. Everyone returns home on Sunday morning.

Please let your local music educators know about the camp and how much fun their stu-

dents will have and how much they will learn about a cappella and barbershop singing. For music educators who are unfamiliar with our YIH program, please direct them to [this link](#) to learn more. .

We are thrilled to announce that **Jeff Glemboski, Meredith Glemboski, and Doug Carnes** will be this year's chorus directors. **Pratt Street Power** and **Knock Out** will be the teaching quartets along with an all-star cast of coaches and youth leaders. Registration for the camp can be [completed here](#). .

Chapters and individuals who would be willing to sponsor a group to attend are also needed. Any help would be much appreciated!

Please contact Kevin Boehm, DVP – Youth in Harmony at kboehm86@gmail.com for additional information and further questions.

What's with the MAD Endowment Fund?

This year (as last) the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund is offering scholarships to nine front line and assistant directors and one adult quartet to attend Harmony College East (HCE) and two youth quartets (and their sponsor) to attend the Youth Harmony Camp held simultaneously at the same location! Recipients will enroll in classes geared toward improving conducting skills, perfecting singing and performing abilities, and choose from a host of courses related to their individual needs.

How is the Fund doing? At the beginning of this year the Fund total exceeded \$198,400 – an increase of over \$24K from a year ago. WOW! This results from intentional giving by a host of individuals, chapters, and quartets plus investment earnings.

Contributions were received over the course of the year in the form of individual donations and through the "donor choice" option available from Harmony Foundation International (HFI) by members of the President's Council (PC) and Ambassadors of Song (AOS). Selecting the "donor choice" option when contributing to PC or AOS, offers contributors the ability to designate up to 30% of their donation to be returned to their chapter or the district or (in combination) to both. In fact, during



*by Alan Wile,
VP Financial Development,
MAD Endowment Fund Chairman
& HFI Regional Representative*

2016 over 100 individuals added a total of over \$12,500 to the Fund by exercising "donor choice."

To be clear, the Fund principal is never touched. Scholarships are provided only from the interest and dividends earned during the year.

Want to help send more young M-AD singers to camp and provide musical directors and those on the way up with additional educational opportunities and adult quartets the opportunity for focused coaching to improve their contest potential? Give me a call (703-538-6526) or e-mail me (alan.wile@comcast.net) to explore donation options. I can help with membership in one of the Society's major donation programs (PC or AOS) and accept direct donations to the Fund.

Attention Chapter Treasurers!

990 Reports due to the IRS by May 15, 2017!

Update eBiz once you submit to the IRS!

Financial Reviews due by May 15, 2017!

Update eBiz once the Financial Review is Complete!

Your attention to this is appreciated by the Society, your District, and your chapter donors (for your continued non-profit status)!

Bob Eckman, Executive Vice President

bob.eckman@comcast.net

<https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/>



Calling All Seniors

Congratulations to Distinction

Superb performance earns District Championship

The results are in from the Spring Pre-Lims, and hearty and prodigious congratulations go to Distinction (Dave Harbove, Rafael Colon, Walter Barnes and David Gale) for a superb performance. Kudos go also to Lansdale Edition and High Spirits for excellent efforts.

On behalf of all senior quartets throughout the M-AD, I thank all three for representing the dominant demographic of the district and the society. Perhaps the most unexpected news is that senior quartet participation this year increased by fifty percent. I take no credit for that but only continue to urge more senior quartets to form and experience the thrill of victory and the external affirmation of appearing on a district stage.



by **Phil Merkel, Senior Quartet Advocate**

The 2016 senior champs, Sympatico, offer their congratulations and wish that they could have

been there to hand off the trophy.

To all the seniors in the district who aspire to loftier achievement and recognition in quartet singing (the foundation of our society), this would be a good time to form up, get a catchy name, pick a couple songs, get a little outside help (fancy costumes are very optional) and join your harmonic brothers on the competition stages. Now that the district rules have been aligned with those of the society, it is even more straightforward to find your path to greatness.

Left face, right face, about face . . .

How and why the selection process for MAD reps to the International Seniors Quartet Contest has changed

The way the Mid-Atlantic District chooses its official quartet representative to the BHS International Senior Quartet Contest held at the Mid-Winter Convention in January has changed a few times and is admittedly . . . confusing. To clear up the confusion, I will explain some of the history of the selection process and then conclude with how it will work this year and beyond . . . until it changes again.

A few years ago we selected our M-AD senior representative to the International Senior Quartet contest at our spring convention (aka "Prelims"). This worked well for us until the BHS changed the rules and all districts were mandated to select their representative at their fall conventions. We complied and selected the top 5 senior quartets overall from the spring contests (prelims and division) and advanced them to the Friday night round of the Fall District Convention's quartet contest.

When some of the smaller BHS districts changed to having only one contest each year the BHS relaxed the requirement that district senior representatives to the International Senior Quartet Contest be selected at fall district conventions. With that change, we went back to selecting the M-AD senior quartet representative from the overall senior quartet scores from all of the M-AD spring contests (prelims and the division contests).

In 2014, the BHS changed the rules again but we had already begun our spring convention cycle in M-AD so we were granted an exemption from the "newest" rules for that year. Unfortunately, we erroneously continued to conduct our senior selection process in that way in both 2015 and 2016. As of 2017, we

have been requested to comply with the current selection process, which requires that we select our senior representative to Mid-Winter at one contest with all senior quartets being scored and adjudicated by the SAME judging panel, at the same time. After discussions with the BHS Contest and Judging Committee that one contest will be our Fall District Convention in September.

As many of you know, our district is blessed with a plethora of quartets and choruses and we usually have 25 quartet competitors and 20-22 chorus competitors. Due to our wealth of competitors we use our division contests as a way to "qualify" our quartets and choruses for the Fall District Convention contests. We simply do not have the luxury of conducting an "open" contest for non-senior quartets or choruses . . . or senior quartets.

Thus, all of the M-AD senior quartets desiring to represent the M-AD at the International Senior Quartet Contest at the 2018 Mid-Winter Convention will need to have competed at one of the spring quartet contests (Prelims, Central, Southern or Northern). After the Northern Division quartet contest is completed, the top three (3) senior quartets (overall) who competed at the four (4) 2017 M-AD spring contests (no senior quartets competed in the International Senior Quartet Preliminary at the Spring Convention (aka Prelims) so this year the selection will be made from the three (3) division quartet contests) will be invited to compete at the M-AD Fall District quartet contest in September. Based on Friday night performance scores, the highest scoring senior quartet from the 2017 Fall District Quartet Contest will be



by **Gary Plaag, VP Contest & Judging**

named the M-AD representative to the International Senior Quartet Contest at Mid-Winter. The second and third place senior quartets from that contest, based on their Friday night quartet contest scores, may be invited by the BHS to fill in the competition field at Mid-Winter as "wildcard" quartets.

Should any of the top three senior quartets from the M-AD spring quartet contests decline the invitation to compete at the M-AD Fall District Senior quartet contest, the next senior quartet(s), in order of finish at the three division contests (overall) will be invited to compete until a total of three (3) have accepted the invitation to compete. It is possible that some or all of the three senior quartet competitors who advance to the Fall District Senior quartet contest will have also qualified as non-senior quartets to compete in the Fall District quartet contest. This will not affect the number of three (3) senior quartets competing at the Fall District quartet contest.

I trust that explanation gives an adequate history and explanation of where we were and where we now are in selecting the M-AD Senior Quartet representative to the International Senior Quartet contest at Mid-Winter Convention in 2018. Any questions, suggestions, etc. should be forwarded to me at gplaagbhs@gmail.com.

NITTANY KNIGHTS BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Annual Spring Show

New Beginnings



Featuring Gold Medal
Championship Quartet



SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

7:30 PM | State Theatre

Tickets available at: thestatetheatre.org



The Grammy Award-Winning Fairfield Four

**Alexandria
Harmonizers
explore
Gospel
roots of
Barbershop
Harmony**

The Alexandria Harmonizers have an exciting year ahead. Their special focus this year is exploring the musical roots of barbershop harmony. A uniquely American art form, barbershop shares a common ancestry with gospel music and spirituals.

To celebrate and showcase this musical heritage, they are learning a number of great new gospel songs. They are co-hosting, with the City of Alexandria, the city's annual gospelFEST celebration on May 19-21. They also have a number of other collaborations and public performances planned throughout the year with local gospel groups and churches.

They will be bringing to the Alexandria area the Grammy award-winning gospel quartet, The Fairfield Four. Based in Nashville, Tennessee, this remarkable a cappella group was first formed nearly 100 years ago. The Fairfield Four will be joining the Harmonizers for the gospelFEST in May and again for their fall show in October, which will feature a gospel theme.

The Fairfield Four were made honorary members of the Barbershop Harmony Society last year. Check out [this video](#) of them singing with gold-medal quartet Crossroads at the BHS International Convention:

The Harmonizers are thrilled at the prospect of sharing the stage with The Fairfield Four in their local community.

Arlington Chapter celebrates Sixtieth anniversary

On April 15th, The Arlington, Virginia, Chapter celebrated Sixty Years of harmony and fellowship with a concert accompanied by ice cream and cake. They were joined by the Fairfax Jubil-Aries, their Sponsoring Chapter, who contributed several songs to the concert. Congratulatory remarks were made by the President of the Fairfax chapter, the Mid-Atlantic District President Dennis Ritchey, and Jon Hensley, a Member of the Arlington Commission of the Arts, on behalf of its Chair Jeff Zeeman. The Chapter also received a congratulatory Celebration of Harmony letter from Society Executive Director and CEO Marty Munson.

On April 12, 1957, the Arlington, Virginia, Chapter, sponsored by the Fairfax, Virginia, Chapter, received its charter from the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated. This marked the beginning, according to Marty Munson, of "... a friendly atmosphere where many men find a respite from the cares of the day ..."

Festivities began with everyone singing The Old Songs. The Arlingtones performed several songs, including two numbers by their chapter quartet, Arlington Ridge Runners (Bob Haydon, Doug First, John Becker, Keith Schreiber). The Fairfax Jubil-Aires, under the direction of Cliff Shoemaker, performed several songs from their show the previous weekend.

Next on the program were laudatory remarks by Alex Laufer, president of the Fairfax Chapter. He noted that 1957 was a banner year for the Jubil-Aires. They performed in the International Chorus Contest and won the Mid-Atlantic District Championship. They also had the pleasure and honor of sponsoring the chartering of the Arlington Chapter.

Mid-Atlantic District President Dennis Ritchey,

although unable to be present, congratulated the Arlingtones by email. He noted that "the Arlington Chapter represents a long rich history of preserving and performing our beloved art form. ... The Arlingtones can be very proud of their legacy of entertaining shows, tireless outreach efforts to spread barbershop harmony throughout the local community, and continued engagement with the local arts community."

Arlington County and the Arlington Commission for the Arts provide generous support to the Arlingtones. Jon Hensley represented the Commission and on behalf of its Chair, Jeff Zeeman, congratulated the Arlingtones on "its high artistic standards" and thanked them for "serving its local community and the National Capital Region through fellowship, building musical and vocal skills, and opening its membership to all men who wish to be a part of this tradition. Your organization's continued contributions bring enjoyment to families and individuals and add to the cultural and artistic identity of Arlington County."

Following a rendition of Happy Birthday, Tm Wiener, President of the Arlingtones, Alex Laufer, President of the Jubil-Aires, and Jon Hensley of the Arlington Commission on the Arts cut the birthday cake, which was then shared with all present. Coincidentally the inscription on the cake, "Enriching Lives Through Harmony," echoed the title of the plan for developing the Arts in Arlington: "Enriching Lives: Arlington Arts and Culture Strategy."



Fairfax Jubil-Aires entertain at Arlingtones 60th anniversary party.

Alex Laufer, President of the Jubil-Aires, Tim Wiener, President of the Arlingtones, and Jon Hensley of the Arlington Commission on the Arts cut the birthday cake



The formal festivities closed with everyone singing Keep The Whole World Singing. Many remained after the formal session for informal quartetting, tagging, woodshedding, and finishing the refreshments.

‘The best Valentine I’ve ever had’

Barbershop quartet serenades Hampton Roads

By Katherine Hafner

The Virginian-Pilot

Feb 14, 2017

People stared as the four men in suits and shimmery turquoise bow ties huddled in the lobby of an office building.

Then Pat Patrick hummed and pulled out a pitch pipe, and the quartet started singing. “Let me call you sweetheart, I’m in love with you...”

Sure, you can send cards or flowers for Valentine’s Day. But why not say “I love you” with a song? Or rather, let some guys with much better voices say it for you.

For \$40 to \$60, depending on timing, you can order a song from the Acclaim! barbershop quartet, complete with a card and long-stemmed red rose. Chocolates or a dozen roses cost extra.

The huddle Tuesday morning marked the day’s first singing telegram for Acclaim!, one of several local quartets in the Norfolk chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The all-male singing organization has some 30,000 members in North America.

Patrick, Dick DeLuca, Dave Watts and Van White piled into a white van for their annual scramble to deliver the singing valentines. They’ve been together for almost a quarter-century.

At an office off Kempsville Road, Board President Cliff Yellen had ordered a surprise for the staff at Susan G. Komen Tidewater.

The four walked in, handed Executive Director Sharon Laderberg a rose and sang.

“That was a beautiful surprise,” Laderberg said. “These guys have unbelievable voices.”

Singing’s the easy part. Getting to each gig around Hampton Roads, on time, can be harder.

Being flexible is key, Watts said.

DeLuca made calls from the van’s back seat Tuesday as the quartet reviewed the day’s schedule. Patrick’s wife, Peggy, acts as chauffeur,

allowing the men to pop in and out of the van when they arrive.

“It’s not as easy getting out of the van as it was 20 years ago,” Watts said with a laugh.

In addition to orders, they surprised a few friends at local nonprofits.

“Oh my God, hi!” said Joan Rhodes-Copeland, executive director of the Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads as she opened the door. “I’m glad I wore a nice outfit today.”

She swayed to the music. “This is the best Valentine I’ve ever had.”

On Tuesday, Jamin Casselman requested Acclaim! sing to his wife, Heather, an operating room nurse at Sentara Leigh Hospital.

“She’s going to be so embarrassed,” he said while they waited.

Heather Smith-Casselman came out of surgery for the surprise in scrubs. As the quartet sang, people in the waiting room shot video with their cellphones. Afterward, they cheered.

“It was lovely,” Smith-Casselman said.

Then the singers piled back into the van.

“So what’s next?” Patrick said.

Patrick beamed. “We get that all the time,” he said.

That’s what makes the rush worth it.

“It’s rewarding when you make someone’s day,” White said. “It’s better than balloons, it’s better than candy.”

“And you never know what’s going on in the lives of the people you sing for,” Watts said.

White even sang through intense tooth pain one time, tears streaming down his face. He got a root canal later that night.

The quartet’s gone up and down the region, from Gloucester to Suffolk, from an “uncomfortable” occasion singing to a construction boss on site to singing in classrooms and senior homes.



photo credit: Stephen M. Katz/The Virginian-Pilot

Members of the Norfolk Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Pat Patrick, Dave Watts, Van White and Dick DeLuca, present a singing valentine to their friend MaryAnn Tovboz, founder and executive director of Tidewater Arts Outreach.

Dick DeLuca presents Sharon Laderberg, executive director of Susan G. Komen for the Cure Tidewater, with a rose after his valentines quartet sang for her and her staff.



in transit:

Voices of Gotham brings Barbershop to Broadway!

As New Yorkers, the members of Voices of Gotham are no strangers to Broadway, but—until recently—the chorus had never actually performed on the Great White Way...

That all changed after a call from the marketing team behind [In Transit](#), the first a cappella Broadway Musical. VoG was invited to perform for the gathering crowd before the musical began and—much to the ushers' surprise—the attendees stayed late to watch Voices of Gotham perform!

For the members of Voices of Gotham, this was a huge treat. Performing was a thrill, but the performance of In Transit that followed was even more special. To top it off, the cast and crew held an informal Q&A after the curtain. Thanks to all involved for an incredible evening!

Check out [Voices of Gotham on Facebook](#) for more about this experience—including videos of the group performing before the show!



Voices of Gotham with In Transit writer Sara Wordsworth

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

Tickets On Sale Now to VoG's Spring Show: New York State of Mind featuring guests Gimme Four & Sirens of Gotham!

Join Voices of Gotham, with special guests Gimme Four and Sirens of Gotham, as they present New York State of Mind, a night of close harmony in NYC at a beautiful historic theater just steps from Central Park.

The curtain will open at 7:00 pm Saturday, May 20 at the historic El Teatro at El Museo del Barrio (1230 5th Avenue, between 104th and 105th St, two blocks from the 103rd St 6 train stop).

[Tickets are available now.](#)

New York State of Mind

featuring guests Gimme Four & Sirens of Gotham

El Teatro at El Museo Del Barrio

1230 5th Avenue, NYC

Saturday, May 20th

6:30 pm doors | 7:00 pm concert

New York State of Mind



Saturday, May 20th at 7:00pm
El Teatro at El Museo del Barrio
Tickets: [voicesofgotham.org](#)



Alexandria Harmonizers hold

9th annual Youth Harmony Festival

The students (and instructors) are hard at work at the Youth Harmony Festival.

The Alexandria Harmonizers held their ninth annual youth festival April 22. 50 students from seven schools — 20 boys and 30 girls — participated in the all-day event

Chapter director education Vickie Dennis was organizer for this year's festival. Joe Cerutti was dean of the school and brought opening remarks and welcome to the students, other faculty, guest quartets and school music educators. Tony Colosimo was clinician for the men and Hailey Parks was clinician for the women.

Two guest quartets came to help with the teaching, singing and working with the students: SIGNATURE from BHS and CLASS RING from SAI. Carlos Barillo was choreo instructor for the youth choruses.

Just before dinner and after an exhausting day of hard work on music and choreo, the student's energy level was getting low. What better way to spark instant interest than a spontaneous judging event. The student body was divided into three groups, each containing a mix of young men and women. The music teachers attending became the judges and each

group chose a name and decided what tag they had learned during the day to sing for the contest. The three groups were vying for a guaranteed place at the front of the dinner buffet line. The competition was fierce for that prize. After the announcement of the winning group, Joe had one more surprise to up keep up the interest level. Each group had to meet one more time and decide three things they would do to improve their presentation and a spokesperson from each group reported the results to the audience. After that, it was a race to get in line for the pizza feed at 6 pm.

Three guest quartets: UP ALL NIGHT, CLASS RING, SIGNATURE, shared the stage with the youth choruses for the evening show which concluded with The Harmonizers singing Rock My Soul, Summertime, and All You Need Is Love.

— By Jack Pitzer, editor *Looking Back*, a weekly publication of the Alexandria Harmonizers

The importance of riser placement

Directors ask me all the time about placing singers on the risers. Most directors believe that riser placement is an important factor in helping to enhance the ensemble's sound, yet many do not know how to get started. There are important factors to consider, yet this is hardly an exact science, so



by **Glenn Phillips, VP Chorus Director Development**

sometimes trial and error will help you decide the best riser placement for your chorus. My goal in this article is to delve into two primary factors for consideration (should your singers stand in sections or all mixed up, and the importance of matching resonance and timbre for effective placement) and then list a number of additional issues to consider.

Sectional singing or shotgun?

Many directors want to know which method is "better": placing their singers in sections or mixing them up throughout the risers (often called a shotgun formation). There are several advantages to both placements, some of which are as follows:

Sectional singing:

- When singers are grouped in sections, they can more easily balance and blend within their section and learn to sing as one voice.
- In the short run, music is learned quicker.
- "Leaners" (singers who are less confident on their own and depend on stronger singers for support) can best assimilate into their sectional sound and sing confidently.
- One outstanding singer will tend to make the composite sectional sound better with regard to tone color and richness of sound.
- Proper balance among sections (sufficient bass and lead, appropriate levels of tenor and baritone, etc) is easily achieved by setting your sections on the risers accordingly.
- But please keep in mind that:
- Singers will not hear the barbershop sound as much when relegated to sections, so their ability to achieve

ideal intonation may be compromised.

- Singers will learn to become dependent on others in their section, which may result in your chorus sounding quite different if your attendance varies at rehearsals or performances.

Shotgun formation:

- Barbershoppers tend to prefer singing this way, as they can hear all of the parts around them.
- This formation develops independence in singers.
- Singers learn to listen a lot more in this formation.
- Intonation problems may be mitigated because one individual singing out of tune (especially flat) will not necessarily drag the entire section down with him.
- In the long run, learning music may be enhanced because the independence that a singer learns in this formation can generate a more aggressive approach to learning music.
- But please keep in mind that:
- Though some "leaners" will become stronger and more confident in a shotgun formation, a good number of others may feel overwhelmed and may hold back so as not to "mess everyone else up."
- Though barbershoppers prefer singing this way, this does not necessarily translate into a better sound from your chorus.

The importance of resonance and timbre in riser placement:

Singers have different vocal characteristics with regard to resonance and timbre. For ease of understanding, I will differentiate between three types of "inherent head resonance." The number "1" singer has the least resonance, number "2" has medium resonance, and the number "3" singer is most resonant. As for timbre, a number "1" voice is bright and/or strident, a "2" voice is well-balanced, and a "3" voice is dark and/or throaty. It is important to remember that this numbering system only has to do with resonance and timbre. It does not indicate a "good" voice or a "poor" voice whatsoever.

The key to using resonance and timbre in setting riser positions is that singers should stand next to a singer of like or similar resonance and timbre. Once you have classified your singers within their sections, here are some guidelines in placing them on the risers:

- Place "3's" toward the center and the least resonant "1's" to the outside.

- "3's" are ideally not placed in the front row because their resonance may add weight to the tone. Best to place "3's" behind "2's", which adds depth to the "2's" resonance.
- "2's" are ideal in the front row
- Another option is to start from either the left or the right or the front or the back of the risers and put "3's" on one side, moving to "2's", then finally "1's" on the other side. Some directors alternate rows, going from dark to bright on one riser, then bright to dark on the next riser, etc. In all such combinations, the most important factor is not to place two singers together who have differing resonance and/or timbre.

Additional considerations

Theory of threes:

- This concept suggests that, when two voices are singing, you can differentiate between the two, and when four voices are singing, you can pick out individual voices. But when three voices are singing, they seem to form a more composite sound that is pleasing to the ear.
- This system comes into play when you have three singers of a certain voice part singing together, all three in one row. Some directors choose to place singers in threes in a triangular formation: two singers next to each other in a row, and the third in between them one row down.
- This system works best in a shotgun standing formation.
- Of course, you will never have a perfect number of singers who fit into the theory of threes. There will always be singles, such as very good quartet singers or strongly independent singers who can sing their part no matter where they are placed. Fill them into open spots as you see fit.
- The theory of threes is based on the premise that each singer should not change the way he naturally sings. Meaning, he isn't trying to match anyone in the chorus but rather he is trying to sing his best using his natural voice type.

One common standing formation using the theory of threes is as follows:

Chorus of 36 members: (T = tenor, L = lead, b = baritone, B = bass)

```

BBB   bbb   LLL   TTT
TTT   LLL   bbb   BBB
bbb   BBB   LLL   TTT
    
```

Should your singers stand in sections or all mixed up?

Various vocal characteristics and some thoughts about them:

- Voices that blend well fit in quite nicely in the 2nd row.
- Voices that do not blend well (large vibrato, extremely big voices, "unique" voices, etc) are good candidates for the 3rd row. Additionally, these voices are best placed to either side of the chorus and should not be centrally located.
- Your front row may be made up of all light voices or all mature voices with carrying power. However, you should not mix and match light and mature voices in the front row, as there is a greater likelihood for individual voices to stick out.
- Insecure singers should not sing in the first or second rows (in choruses of four rows or more), and they should always be placed in between or in front of secure singers.

Regarding the performance category:

- Expressive faces are necessary in the front row and the middle of the chorus.
- Singers with strong performance skills should ideally be located in the back row and along the left and right sides of the chorus.
- The front row is comprised of select singers based on expressiveness, extreme believability in conveying the song's message, and timbre and resonance considerations.
- The tallest men are most often put in the back row.

Does all this sound complicated? Well, to some degree it is! But it may be to your advantage to consider some the concepts I touched upon to determine whether changes in your riser placement might benefit your chorus. If you try a new system and it doesn't produce the results you hoped for, then reevaluate and try again. At the end of the day you want your singers standing in a configuration where they feel the most comfortable and create the best sound. A new riser placement might just be the key to new levels of success for your singers.

Glenn Phillips directs the Patapsco Valley and Queen Anne's County Chapters in the Mid-Atlantic District.

We found it!

A NEW Venue

for a

Better

Performance

Experience



by **Walter Griffith, Jr.**
VP Events

This Fall's Convention is going to be the best convention ever. We anticipate a huge crowd — and the venue will be fantastic for our type of performances. The date is new as well: September 15,16.

We will hold the contest at the Santander Performing Arts Center, home of the Reading Symphony Orchestra, at 136 North 6th Street Reading, PA19601.

The District Events Team, with the help of the host chapter, Alexandria Harmonizers, are working very hard to be certain that everyone has a great experience at the new venue.

The headquarters hotel, Hilton Doubletree Downtown, is already sold out. However, the District Events Team has designated several other hotels in the area at discount prices available on the District website.

The Hilton Doubletree Hotel has plenty of parking in their parking garage for over 900 vehicles and there is validation available if you are staying at the hotel or enjoying any of the meals there. Remember to get your parking ticket validated. Parking is also available at several

parking garages in the area in addition to the drop off area in front of the Santander Performing Arts Center.

The District Events Team is also thinking about having a “Buffet Dinner on the Mezzanine” on Saturday, September 16. This would allow folks to stay and eat at the Performing Arts Center on Saturday while they wait for their chorus evaluations. Staying onsite offers the opportunity as well to a great time socializing with fellow singers, family, and friends.

Please watch for future announcements regarding happenings at the event so you can plan your day with us.

The Mid Atlantic District Events V-P, Walter Griffith, invites everyone to enjoy our new venue and encourages anyone that may have a question or concern about the new venue to email him at lmabari1@aol.com or 570-239-0025 for assistance.

Please also go to the Santander Performing Arts [webpage](#) for additional information regarding parking and accommodations.



The Santander Performing Arts Center



1800 plush theatre seats, spacious lobby and backstage amenities, full-fledged stage, and concert-hall acoustics will make the 2017 District Convention an awesome experience for competitors, audience, and judges.

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**NEXT DEADLINE:
JUNE 7, 2017**

Want to see your name in "print?" Have you or your quartet or your chorus had an amazing barbershop experience? Tell us all about it:
editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

In memoriam



Chuck Harner

Charles F. Harner (Chuck) passed away on March 1, 2017 at his home in Vienna, Va. Following a 25-year career in the United States Navy, Chuck worked for Booz, Allen Hamilton as Manager of Navy Logistics Training before retiring for good.

He was a 49-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) which was the passion of his life, after his wife Marjorie and children and grandchildren. During his barbershop career Chuck served as:

- president of the Alexandria Harmonizers (1978-80),
- president of the Centreville, Va. Chapter (2001-02),
- Mid-Atlantic District (MAD) Potomac Area Counselor (1981),
- MAD Vice President of the Southern Division (1982-83),
- Chairman of the BHS International Mid-Winter Convention in Washington, DC (1988),
- Certified Contest Administrator (1998-2017),
- Chapter Advocate for three MAD Chapters (2005-2017),
- MAD VP (Contest & Judging) (2007-10),
- MAD VP (Chapter Support and Leadership Training) (2011-2017),
- Member Harmony Foundation International (HFI) Board of Trustees (BOT) (2011-2017),
- Secretary, HFI BOT (2015-2017), and
- MAD Board of Directors Member-at Large (2015-2017).

Chuck was a member of both the Alexandria Harmonizers and the Harmony Heritage Singers.

He was inducted into the MAD Honor Chapter (DELASUSQUEHUDMAC) in 1983 and into the MAD Hall of Honor in 2009.

Long time "dean" of the MAD Leadership Academy program, Chuck was actively pursuing certification as one of the BHS' new leadership trainers at the time of his death.

His life of service to our nation, his chapters, the MAD, HFI, and the BHS was an inspiration and example to all. He will be missed.

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