



# MID-ATLANTIC

## DISTRICT CONVENTION

*September 15-16*

*see pages 3-5*

**Volume 48, Issue 4 • FALL 2017**

**A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT**



**UP ALL NIGHT . . . Swashbucklers take the stage in Las Vegas. Brothers in Arms medal in International YBQC. International Contest results page 12-14**

## 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.

### Editor

Roxanne Powell  
editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

### Editorial Staff

Bob Eckman • Dick Powell •  
Ig Jakovac • Dennis Ritchey •  
Bill Colosimo • Steve Skolnick

### Contributors

Gary Plaag • Jack Pitzer • Alan Wile  
William Tilton • Doug Brown • Walter Griffith  
• Ross Trube • Joe Servidio • Stephen Banker •  
Clyde Kreider • Glenn Phillips  
• Ron Knickerbocker

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## District Convention moves to Reading!



by *Walter Griffith,*  
DVP Events

**F**or the first time, the Fall District Convention will be held at the Santander Performing Arts Center in Reading, Pa. September 15,16. Members, fans, guests, and just local residents wanting to experience the best in barbershop this side of the International Convention will find much to enjoy.

The Santander Performing Arts Center is located on 6th Avenue about two blocks from the Headquarters Hotel, the Hilton Doubletree on Penn St.

Everyone in attendance will be able to enjoy the entire event in a theater setting with great sound and great sight lines.

### Food

Everyone can bring in food and beverages purchased at the concession stand in the lobby. The Santander will offer soft pretzel braids, hot dogs, popcorn, candy, nacho chips & cheese, spiced nuts and assorted beers, red and white wines, and mixed drinks. They will be modestly priced and I am sure they will make the event very enjoyable. It will almost be like being at a football or baseball game — but better because of the great barbershop entertainment.



### Transportation and Parking

There will be complimentary bus transportation to the performing arts center from the Poplar and Walnut St parking garage and the Doubletree Parking Garage. The transportation will be available Friday, 3 - 10 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. See the map below for information about the bus route and pickup points.

There are several parking garages in close proximity to the PAC. Dropping off people at the PAC and then parking is the best way to arrive at the PAC on Friday and Saturday. There is a charge to park in the parking garages but if you are a guest at the Doubletree then parking is free as long as your ticket is validated at the front desk.

The PAC is in downtown Reading so finding a restaurant open on Saturday afternoon may be difficult. There will be a list of restaurants in the program book to help you in your search for places to eat after the chorus contest on Saturday. But seriously consider using the concession stand in the PAC lobby to sustain you until dinner!

### Contestant Evaluations

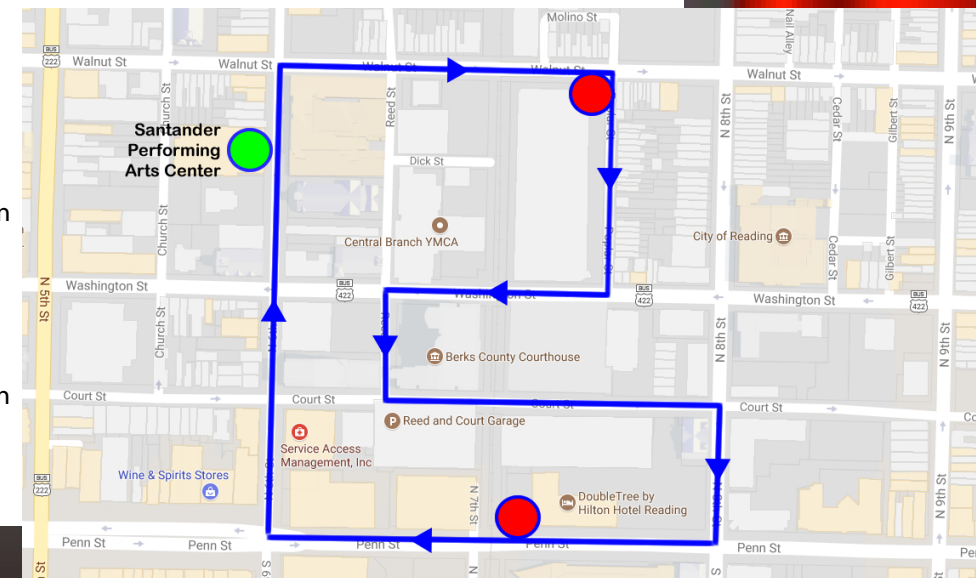
The quartet contestant evaluations will be held on the second floor of the Doubletree Hilton Hotel immediately following the quartet contest sessions on Friday and Saturday evenings. The chorus contestant evaluations will be held in the PAC on Saturday immediately following the contest.

### House of Delegates

The House of Delegates meeting will be held Sunday, September 17 at the Hilton Doubletree at 9 a.m. and will be in the Amphitheater room. Please be sure to attend this meeting to get information for your chapter.

I am looking forward to seeing all of my friends and fellow barbershoppers at the 2017 Fall District Convention in Reading, Pa. We hope everyone enjoys our new location and the Santander Performing Arts Center.

Drive safely!



## Order of appearance posted for Fall District Contest

### QUARTETS

Start: Friday, Sept 15, 4:57 p.m.

MT: Da Capo

- 1 - The Fource
- 2 - Distinction (Sr)
- 3 - 29 Seconds
- 4 - Park Slope Four
- 5 - LoCo 4
- 6 - R3P Harmony
- 10-minute intermission
- 7 - For Stories
- 8 - Brothers In Arms
- 9 - The Retreads
- 10 - Gimme Four
- 11 - Lansdale Station (Sr)
- 12 - Capital City Close Harmony Club
- 13 - Up All Night
- 20-minute intermission
- 14 - Loudmouth
- 15 - Madhattan
- 16 - Quatrain (Sr)
- 17 - Shameless
- 18 - Razzmatazz (Sr)
- 19 - Break From Blue Collar
- 10 minute intermission
- 20 - Hello Newman
- 21 - Age of Flight
- 22 - Forecast
- 23 - Silver Alert (Sr)
- 24 - Natural Segue
- 25 - Youth Reclamation Project(Sr)

MC: Potomac Sound

MC: Da Capo

The top-10 quartets will advance to the Finals on Saturday night (6:57PM)

The 11th-place quartet will serve as the mic testers for the Finals.

### CHORUSES

Start: Saturday, Sept 16, 8:42 a.m.

MT: Joe and Jane Barbershopper Chorus  
(dir: Bill Colosimo)

- 1 - Patapsco Valley, MD
- 2 - Frederick, MD
- 3 - Bucks County, PA
- 4 - Lansdale, PA
- 5 - Alexandria, VA
- 6 - Five Towns College, NY
- 7 - Manhattan, NY
- 10-minute intermission
- 8 - Anne Arundel, MD
- 9 - Bryn Mawr, PA
- 10 - Montclair, NJ
- 11 - Westchester County, NY
- 12 - Dundalk, MD
- 13 - Hershey, PA
- 14 - Hell's Kitchen, NY
- 45-minute intermission
- 15 - Allentown Bethlehem, PA
- 16 - Cherry Hill, NJ
- 17 - Loudoun County, VA
- 18 - Richmond, VA
- 19 - Hamilton Square, NJ
- 20 - Queen Anne's County, MD
- 21 - Caldwell, NJ

MC: Party of Five (2017 International Senior Quartet Champs)

### 2017 Contest & Judging Update

by Gary Plaag,  
VP Contest & Judging



### CONTEST SESSIONS

All contest sessions will take place at the Santander Performing Arts Center (PAC) - 136 North 6th Street, Reading, PA) NOT at the Santander Arena!!) Many people get these two venues confused. They are NOT in the same place. They are about 2-3 blocks away from each other.

### WARM UPS

All warm-up rooms are located at the Santander Performing Arts Center. Please see the "grid" for warm-up room assignments. This is a large facility spanning 5 floors. There are two elevators: one for the general public and one dedicated to performers who cannot traverse stairs. If you don't NEED to use the elevator, please use the stairs. Please see the [Santander PAC floor plans at this link](#)

### EVALUATIONS

Quartet evaluations on Friday night (non-finalist quartets) and Saturday night (finalist quartets) will take place in the judges' rooms on the 2nd floor of the Doubletree Hotel - 701 Penn

Street, Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601.

The following quartets have indicated they will not participate in the evaluations: Brothers In Arms, Razzmatazz. Quartet evaluations will be 20 minutes with one judge from each category (MUS, PER, SNG) - total: 60 minutes.

Chorus evaluations on Saturday afternoon will take place in the function rooms at the Santander Performing Arts Center. All competing choruses have indicated they will participate in the evaluations. An evaluation schedule will be sent in the next couple of weeks so that chorus competitors can plan their Saturday afternoon activities based on their evaluation schedule. Chorus evaluations will be 15 minutes with one judge from each category (MUS, PER, SNG) - total: 45 minutes

The "grid" is also posted on the MAD website under Fall District Convention. The grid is subject to change until the day of the contest. [Please check it](#) often, just in case.



### Convention Information

by Bob Eckman,  
MAD EVP



## CEO Marty Monson to attend District Convention

Barbershop Harmony Society CEO Marty Monson will attend the Fall District Convention in Reading, Pa. September 15-17. Marty will take part in an informal Meet and Greet session on Saturday afternoon from 3 - 4:30 p.m. at the Santander Performing Arts Center. Joining Marty will be many of the District leadership team. New to the District Convention this year, the session is an opportunity for every Barbershopper to stop by, say hello, ask questions, or tell us what's on your mind. Questions on the new Society Vision statement, "Everyone in Harmony," or the rollout of the new Member Center? Marty will be glad to listen and discuss.

District leaders will also be on hand to chat. Curious about volunteer opportunities at the District level? Questions about conventions and other District programs and events? Kudos or complaints, we will be there to listen and talk.

The session will start immediately after the completion of the chorus contest. The schedule is such that chorus members in both evaluation groups will have time to stop by. Look for the signs in the lobby of the Santander directing you to our meeting space. So, grab a snack in the lobby and join Marty and the District team for some greetings and conversation.

Marty will also attend the House of Delegates meeting on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Doubletree, the headquarters hotel. The House of Delegates meeting is also open to all; however, only Chapter Delegates may vote.

I hope to see you there!

## TAG with the Champs and support M-AD YOUTH IN HARMONY



If you love to sing tags and believe in supporting the **YOUTH IN HARMONY (YIH) PROGRAM**, then it's time to join the "new tradition" and Tag With The Champs! "Tag" out a member of your current 2017 M-AD Quartet Champs *Da Capo* and sing a tag with them to support the Mid-Atlantic District Youth In Harmony (YIH) program.

### DETAILS:

- \$10 suggested donation per tag (any size donations always welcome and appreciated)
- Saturday, Sept 16, *immediately* following chorus competition
- Lobby, Santander Performing Arts Center

All proceeds are donated to M-AD Youth In Harmony Program

### HOW TO TAG WITH THE CHAMPS:

1. Recommended sign up for a performance time at the Will Call Ticket Desk at the convention.
2. Pick up the music for your tag and rehearse!
3. Pay when you arrive for your stage time.

Tag out the Champ singing your voice part and sing the tag!

### SUGGESTED TAGS:

Through The Years  
Run, Run, Run (Run To The City of Refuge)  
Lonesome Rose  
Lone Prairie  
That's What I Call A Pal  
Cry  
We'll Just Be The Same Old Friends  
When I Leave The World Behind  
It's My Song  
And Left Me Lonely Nights  
Mam'selle  
Sing An Old Time Song Again (5 part)

### Tags can be found at:

<http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/pdf/TagSheet.pdf>

Click on "TAGS FOR TAG WITH THE CHAMPS"

Or just bring your own—we LOVE ringing new tags!!!!



Visit Da Cap at <https://www.facebook.com/dcsingers/>

## Share the Joy!

Does your chapter want to have fresh faces in the hall at your next chapter show?

Does your chapter want to interest and recruit new singers?

Does your chapter want to support your chapter chorus and quartets in their first or 50th appearance on a contest stage?

Does your chapter want a guaranteed way to reach over 2,000 barbershop fans in our area?

Then why not place an ad in one of the five M-AD convention programs that will be published in 2016?

### *What's the worst that could happen?*

You could spend \$60-\$100 and have nothing to show for it.

### *What's the best that could happen?*

You could sell 200 more tickets to your annual show and recruit 15 new singers.

*What's the worst that could happen if you don't place an ad?* Nothing changes and you wish you had.

*What's the best that could happen if you don't place an ad?* A few folks wander in to your show out of idle curiosity but leave at intermission and no one shows up for your guest night. So why not just place the ad and see what happens?

Your next opportunity is the Fall District Convention, Sept. 15-17 in Reading, Pa.

**DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM  
BOOK ADS IS SEPT. 1!**



Teaching quartets at Jersey Harmony Explosion! will be 2017 3rd place medalists, **After Hours** and 2017 Sweet Adeline's 5th place medalists and 2014 Rising Star champions, **Class Ring**.



## Promoting barbershop harmony...

Caldwell and Montclair sponsor

# Jersey Harmony Explosion!

The Caldwell and Montclair chapters are co-sponsoring Jersey Harmony Explosion!, a youth harmony festival in the West Essex, N.J. area Feb. 3, 2018. Venue details are still being finalized.

Douglas Carnes, director of The Great Northern Union chorus, will be head clinician. The male teaching quartet will be 2017 3rd place medalists, **After Hours** and the female teaching quartet will be 2017 Sweet Adeline's 5th place medalists and 2014 Rising Star champions, **Class Ring**.

Youth in Harmony is a subject near and dear to the hearts of both the Caldwell and Montclair chapters. The

Caldwell chapter began in 2006 as a youth chorus sponsored by the Montclair chapter and later chartered into the BHS. The two chapters work together closely to promote barbershop harmony throughout New Jersey.

Festival Chairman Will Downey anticipates as many as 150 campers will attend the event. It will be a one-day program featuring some of the very best talent that the Barbershop world has to offer and culminating in a blockbuster show Saturday evening.

For more information contact us at [jerseyharmonyexplosion@gmail.com](mailto:jerseyharmonyexplosion@gmail.com)

## D.C. men's chorus seeks new director

The Singing Capital Chorus, located in Washington, DC, an a cappella, close harmony ensemble of 30-35 men, performing in the barbershop style, seeks a new Music Director. Bill Colosimo, Music Director for 25 years, has announced his retirement, effective December of 2017.

The chorus members' commitment to ever-increasing musical and performance quality is strong, and we wish to continue our progress toward choral excellence. Since 1945, the chorus has entertained audiences throughout the Mid-Atlantic region with a varied and engaging repertoire spanning traditional-to-popular audience favorites. We have sung most recently at such prestigious venues as The University Club, U.S. Departments of Transportation and Justice, National Archives, D.C.'s Studio Theatre, the Oxford-Cambridge Club, the Society of the Cincinnati, Busboys and Poets, and Nationals Park, where the chorus has been privileged to perform the National Anthem for over 10 years.

The SCC has a commitment to encouraging young singers, and has supported local high school students with benefit performances and inclusion of student ensembles in our performances. The chorus also shares its music through outreach to the community at senior residences, among other locations.

Over 70 years, the chorus has held its popular annual show, the "Harvest of Harmony," each November. Over the years, the chorus has consistently participated in local and regional barbershop competitions, gathering valuable performance and coaching experience, and has achieved several Most Improved Chorus and Plateau Champion awards at these multi-state competitions.

The Music Director is supported by a strong board of experienced choristers who are unified in their mission to be the premier men's performing ensemble in D.C.

### The Successful

#### Music Director Candidate Will Possess:

- Strong choral conducting and teaching skills with experience as either a director, associate director, assistant director or section leader of an a cappella, close harmony ensemble (male, female or mixed), preferably (but not necessarily) in the barbershop

style;

- Strong rehearsal planning and performance programming skills to ensure engaging, satisfying rehearsal and performance experiences for members and patrons;
- Excellent communication skills, astute volunteer chorus management skills, cooperative engagement with Board leadership, and an upbeat, encouraging demeanor;
- Ability to select and execute a varied and skill-appropriate repertoire which will engage both singers and audiences, while challenging singers to grow and develop great performance habits;
- Willingness to continue his/her choral education through many resources available;
- Willingness to personally represent the Chorus publicly with pride, aligning with members' commitment to greater positive exposure and awareness of the Chorus as an integral part of the DC area performing arts community.
- Willingness to perform various administrative tasks relevant to rehearsals and public performances.

### The Position and Process

This is a 12-month, salaried position. Regular rehearsals are currently Monday evenings in Northwest D.C., 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. On average, the chorus seeks to perform once a month. Compensation will be commensurate with the applicant's musical/artistic skills, experience and potential, and based on the financial resources of the chorus. While it is not a requirement, the chorus encourages those with choral music education experience to apply. The Chorus's Director Search Committee welcomes expressions of interest as soon as possible, but no later than September 15, 2017.

Emails with resume or bio outlining experience should be sent to Allen Snyder, Search Committee Chair, at [allen.snyder46@gmail.com](mailto:allen.snyder46@gmail.com). Assessment and interviews of prospective candidates by Committee representatives will take place during September and October, with in-person auditions of select candidates to take place at regular Monday evening rehearsals in early November. The successful candidate will begin his/her duties January 1, 2018.

# Another Atlantic Harmony Brigade is in the books!



From noon Friday, August 11 until 10 a.m. Sunday morning, August 13, there was almost non-stop singing taking place at the Crowne Plaza Wilmington North as the Atlantic Harmony Brigade (AHB) came to town. The event featured a show and quartet contest open to the public on Saturday night. DaCapo served as judges for the quartet contest and clinicians for a master class -- then brought down the house with a fantastic set on the evening show.

More than 90 singers showed up from as far away as California and Windsor, Canada, to ring chords and make new friends while singing some extremely challenging songs in both a quartet and chorus setting. This year featured songs as sung by Instant Classic, Gala Lads, Michigan Jake, Blue Grass Student Union, Dealer's Choice, Lemon Squeezy, Gas House Gang, and M-AD's own Wheelhouse and Pratt Street Power.

Examples of songs included: All I do is dream of you, Have a little talk with myself, I love a piano, I got the world on a string, Rock it for me, Some lucky day, and This could be the start of something big.

AHB welcomes strong, independent singers who like the challenge of extreme quartetting for hours on end all weekend long. If this sounds like your kind of fun, contact Richard Townsend, AHB Membership VP, [powermt@gmail.com](mailto:powermt@gmail.com), to be notified when applications open up in the winter for our August 10-12, 2018 Rally. Visit [www.atlanticharmonybrigade.com](http://www.atlanticharmonybrigade.com) to find out more.

*FROM TOP: First-, second-, and third-place quartets display their hard-won certificates. Photos by Bill Tilton*

## Making wishes come true



FROM LEFT: Twisted Mustache and Buddy Valastro of TLC's *Cake Boss* smile for the camera.

Danny Dragone tries out his new, smooth look.

Bass Doug Brown serenades the crowd with Pat Kelly, Steve Skolnick and Allan Dean.

Photo Credit: Ryan Skolnick, seo-social media marketing

Make A Wish New Jersey invited **Twisted Mustache** barbershop quartet to be part of a special event to raise money for future wishes. On the appointed day, Twisted Mustache joined Buddy Valastro, Ralph Attanasia, and Danny Dragone from the TLC television show **Cake Boss** to participate in a rare tonsorial escapade.

Mr. Valastro and Mr. Attanasia shaved off Mr. Dragone's mustache at the Samuel & Josephine Plumeri

Wishing Place in Monroe Township, a whimsical castle that is the home of Make A Wish New Jersey. In front of over 100 wish family members, staff, and special Make A Wish New Jersey friends, Mr. Dragone bravely bid adieu to his hirsute facial decoration. It was the first time in over 30 years that Mr. Dragone's face had gone naked.

"The atmosphere at the castle that day was truly wonderful and magical for our wish families and guests

(and of course the Cake Boss team), and having a barbershop quartet was the perfect addition to this exciting day," said a representative of the foundation.

The event raised over \$50,000 in one day. The Make A Wish Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporation. The vision of Make A Wish New Jersey, is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions, to enrich the human experience with hope,

strength and joy. Thanks to the thousands of volunteers and donors across the globe, the Make A Wish Foundation is able to grant a wish every 34 seconds. This is truly remarkable.

*Charity Navigator* has awarded Make A Wish New Jersey its top 4-star rating. Almost 80 percent of all funds raised go to make the wish of a child come true. If you would like to donate your time, talents or money please visit [Make A Wish New Jersey](http://www.makeawishnj.org).

## News from Party of Five

**W**e've been having a wonderful championship year (so far) after coming home from San Antonio. The goodwill and encouragement from the Mighty M-AD during our travels after winning the Seniors Championship has been so heartwarming, so thank you M-AD!

While personal obligations kept us from competing at Division this year, we've been focusing on expanding our repertoire and booking performances in Fall 2017 and beyond. We'll be "mic cooling" after the chorus contest at the M-AD Convention and look forward to seeing all of you there.

We're also thrilled to see that 13 Seniors quartets competed in the Division contests, 23% of the competitors were Seniors quartets! So encouraging!

We'll be cheering on the four quartets (Quatrain, Razzmatazz, Distinction and Silver Alert) as they compete in Reading in their bid to qualify for the International Seniors Quartet Competition in Orange County in January.

Party on M-AD!

— Ross Trube





## Quartet picks up new song in a New York minute



THE "I LOVE NEW YORK" QUARTET, Dan Rendich (tenor), Bill Kruse (lead), Stephen Banker (bass), and Scott Kruse (bari) sing for the arrival of the inaugural international flights by Norwegian Air from Ireland and Scotland to Stewart International Airport in N.Y.

*under one week  
to prepare and  
perform for new  
international  
flights at airport*

There's something special about all quartet performances: the camaraderie, the opportunity to blend and make beautiful music, the absolute exposure of being the only one singing your part, and the joy of sharing with the audience. It was especially memorable and gratifying that a state agency hired us to sing the New York State theme song.

The Empire State Development Corporation created a special event to mark the inaugural international flights by Norwegian Air from Ireland and Scotland to Stewart International Airport in Newburgh. Through a fortuitous contact, the ESDC reached out to The Westchester Chordsmen for a quartet to sing at the arrival of each flight. We had less than a week's notice to prepare.

I Love New York was not in our repertoire, nor could I find any arrangement in four-part harmony. Even before my panic fully set in, Steve Delehanty, our ace arranger, came to the rescue. In short order Steve created a very singable and entertaining version for a quartet.

Finding four guys to sing at such a unique event was not difficult. With only a few days to learn the song, Erik Contzius (bass), Bill Kruse (lead), Scott Kruse (bari) and Dan Rendich (tenor) headed for the airport to sing I Love New York to each group of passengers as they deplaned. The passengers stopped to listen, and many wanted their photos taken with the quartet. The event was topped with airplane-themed cupcakes and gift bags for all of the passengers (including an "I Love New York" T-shirt), courtesy of the ESDC.

At the second event, which was much like the first, I had the good fortune to fill in for Erik as bass. The photo shows (left to right) Dan, Bill, myself and Scott. The audience was enthralled by the greeting, and of course we added My Wild Irish Rose for the flight from Ireland. Our visitors from abroad shared our joy of music, and appreciated their special welcome. We were just as thrilled, seeing their reactions.

The ESDC was impressed with our initiative and our skill, and could see the value we bring to the community. It was a privilege to participate in this event, and we all look forward to a return engagement.

— By Stephen Banker, The Westchester Chordsmen



## Harbor City welcomes new musical director



*The Baltimore Chapter announces the appointment of Nicholas Clare as Musical Director of the Harbor City Chorus. Nicholas also sings with two quartets, Splash of Lime and Tags to Pitches, and the Anne Arundel County Chapter Sons of the Severn Chorus.*

*The Harbor City Chorus is looking forward to working with Nicholas.*





Assistant Director Dan Biondo directs the Northeasters at Crankers Museum.

North East Spirit Quartet — Clyde Kreider, Bari, Ban Biondo, Bass, Ray Gillette, Lead, and Jeff Granger, Tenor, are featured at a community performance.



# Northeasters get energized

## District New Director grant sparks renewed focus and activity

The Northeasters Barbershop Chorus from Honesdale, Pa. is experiencing a very active and fun year. We have a very energetic director, Tammy Ebert, who has motivated these old boys to work harder than we thought we could work.

We would like to thank the District for the New Director Grant they provided a couple years back. In 2017 we have sung over 14 performances throughout our community at which we have featured our local quartets. We have also participated in our Area Novice Quartet Competition as well as inter-chapter/inter-district fun evenings.

The Northeasters Chorus has adopted the Fair Hill Therapeutic Riding Center as our main charitable community project. Their Certified Therapeutic Riding Program has expanded throughout our school districts with the expanded resources we were able to provide.

Any questions: Please contact Clyde Kreider, harmony2@ptd.net or 570-253-1982 H or 570-253-1982 C.

Northeasters sing in Honesdale Central Park, directed by Tammy Ebert.



The Chesapeake Harmony Chorus invites you to our



# 1st Annual Quartet Invitational

September 24, 2017 @ 1:30 pm

Elks Lodge

160 Truckhouse Rd., Severna Park, MD

Men \* Women \* Mixed \* Novice \* Experienced  
Seniors \* Youth in Harmony \* International-Bound

Please join us for an afternoon of quartet singing and barbershop fun.

Each group may sing at 1 - 2 songs, or a performance package.

Refreshments will be provided.

Admission \$10 Adult / \$5 Youth (under age 26)

Pre-registration is encouraged!

For more information, please call or text

Sally Burton at 410-336-9139 or email [sallygb619@gmail.com](mailto:sallygb619@gmail.com).



Mid-Atlantic District



Harmony, Inc.



Atlantic Bay - Mountain Region  
Sweet Adelines International

## Looking Back

Alexandria  
Harmonizers  
attend

Seventy-five Harmonizers attended Harmony University on the campus of Belmont University in Nashville July 23-30!

By all counts it was a tremendously beneficial week for the chorus, the chapter and each of the singers. It will certainly rank high in the list of "Breathless Moments" in our chapter's history.

The chapter musical leadership recommended this event for the chapter a couple years ago and we decided to do it and not go into the competition cycle. In preparation for our week, we learned three contest songs – two ballads and an uptune – for the coaches to work on with us.

Each guy paid his own way for the week and guys traveled over the weekend to be there for the opening session on Sunday night, July 23. Some came with family for vacation time. One member drove his RV and parked nearby and was a commuter for the week.

Belmont University is meticulous about its grounds and the campus is beautiful. The weather was very hot and muggy most days, but we were not outside all that often except when walking between classes.

The chorus was enrolled in a coaching pod and had four coaches assigned to us for the entire week: Kevin Keller, Cy Wood, Joe Hunter and Jordan Travis. They worked hard with us to shape and develop a musical and performance plan for the songs and created a plan for us to use for the upcoming district convention. By mid-week we settled on a ballad arranged by Brent Graham and the uptune arranged by Rasmus Krigstrom.

Each day at HU started with a general session we attended with the rest of the 700 HU folks – men and women barbershoppers from all over the USA and from 14 other countries. These morning sessions usually involved some instruction, teaching of a song and singing a tag. Then the chorus had a morning and an afternoon two-hour block of coaching time each day. The rest of the day the guys, like all the other attendees, took a variety of classes to improve themselves as singers, coaches, administrators, arrangers, quarteters, directors and leaders. One of our chapter quartets, SILVER ALERT with Rich Savage, Mike Edison, Will Cox and Steve Murane attended as many classes as possible as a

quartet and were coached during the week when they could. Terry Reynolds was a faculty member in the leadership pod during the week. Mike Kelly was a staffer working on video productions during the general sessions and helping produce the shows on Friday and Saturday nites.

Director Joe Cerutti helped us work with our coaches and apply the lessons they brought us to our music for contest and other songs. Chuck McKeever and Phil Ashford recorded videos of the coaching sessions so we could capture, for future use, all the pointers. Part of our last day session we talked as a group about how to integrate all we had learned into our program and how to help the 25 or so other guys, who could not attend, catch up.

This was the first time at HU for several members including 12-year-old Mickey Robertson who was a star all over campus. He was certified as an official "woodshedder" by the Ancient and Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW). He was the youngest attendee at HU and, for that distinction, won his own new pitch pipe from the barbershop Harmony Marketplace store (which was open in the cafeteria all week with t-shirts, caps, music and other barbershop gear plus umbrellas (for the couple times we had a little rain).

Meal time was great fun and often guys would sit with barbershoppers from all over the world and swap stories. But it was also a chance for our guys to sit together with their chapter friends to discuss the results of the day and the coaching pointers and swap stories about the chapter. In the evenings after classes were done, many of us would gather at the bars/restaurants across the street from Belmont for socializing and singing.

Monday evening we had a late-nite session with Theo Hicks, the lead of INSTANT CLASSIC. He spent time with us on of the ballad he had arranged for us.

On Wednesday morning we were up early and warmed up so we could sing for that day's general session and help demonstrate the meaning of the music judging category with Steve Tramack, David Wright, Kirk Young and Kevin Keller. We sang passages from our 1995 gold medal ballad, I'll Be Seeing You, and from Summertime. At the end of the demonstration, Steve asked us to sing the entire

ballad. The HU audience gave us enthusiastic cheers and congratulatory and thank you comments all week!

Wednesday night Rob Mance spent a couple hours voice-placing us on the risers – all new positions and a new concept for riser location. The idea is to put men whose voices share similar characteristics near each other on the risers, to create a more uniform sound. It took a while but the resulting sound difference was breathtaking! There were some laughs as each man sang Row Your Boat several times while Rob evaluated and placed him accordingly.

At the end of the week, president Randall Eliason presented each of our four coaches a black Harmo camp shirt with our logo on it and a Harmonizer lapel pin! They were seen wearing them later in the week too.

As is a tradition at HU, there was lots of ice cream to have each night. Of course the chorus members were there for that. And some even braved the rock wall there in the student building. YeEd saw Masahisa Takahashi make it to the top. He and his dad, Antony, were with us on the risers all week. Don Thompson's son Devon was at HU too and sang in the Next Generation chorus. Jack Cameron and Johan Westberg found time to sing in the Honors Chorus. Both of those special choruses learned songs in advance, were coached during the week and appeared on the Saturday nite show. Some of guys also found time to sing with the Brigade during the week.

Quartets and other groups attending HU appeared on the Friday night show. A quartet called BARBERSHOP INSTANBUL appeared too. They had learned a lot of tags! At the end of the week, they shared how grateful they were for the freedom to come join in the larger world of barbershop.

On Saturday afternoon the chapter and chorus conducted a Master Class for any other HU students to attend. We sang the songs we had worked on all week, and Joe and Terry spoke about how we conduct a chapter meeting, what tools the music team uses to help the members, plus shared background about some of our activities over the past few years including Harvey Milk and our exploration of gospel music. Joe took a minute to show the demographics

of the chorus when he asked for a show of hands for length of membership, for professional musicians, and for government or military men. President Randall Eliason spoke about our board and administration and the changes we had made over the past few years, including pioneering the idea of community board members. We used AV to help share video clips and slides, thanks to Terry and Jeff Burkey. As the end of the session we answered any questions.

The Harmonizers debuted their "Chicago" medley for the wildly enthusiastic HU audience near the end of the Saturday show. It was arranged by Steve Tramack. Kellen Hertz "sang" a trumpet solo in the introduction and Drew Wheaton from INSTANT CLASSIC sang a solo during "25 or 6 to 4."

Also we surprised our fellow barbershoppers and had THE FAIRFIELD FOUR sing with us on that show. They came in to warm up with us back stage before the show and when we got to the tag of one of their songs, Joe welcomed them to the stage. We sang three gospel songs with them out front on the stage. It was a huge success and loved by all. It was great fun for all of the Harmonizers to see our Grammy award-winning friends again – they performed with us in May and will be back in Alexandria for our fall show.

The Saturday show also featured gold medal quartets INSTANT CLASSIC and FOREFRONT, the honors chorus and the next generation choruses, and our M-AD friends, PRATT STREET POWER.

The chapter appreciates the work and effort by the HU staff, particularly Donny Rose and Antonio Lombardi, for helping us all prepare for our arrival and help us get the most out of the week. The campus has ideal classrooms for seminars or workshops as each is fully equipped with modern AV equipment. The buildings and dorms were air conditioned and had elevators.

Our guys were impressed to have BHS CEO Marty Monson on hand to bid farewell to each bus departed for the airport very early Sunday morning.

For certain we were worn out, but we were exhilarated over all we had learned and accomplished during HU week and eager to put it all into use going forward.

— By Jack Pitzer, Alexandria Harmonizers

# 2017 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH BARBERSHOP QUARTET CONTEST



MAD PARTICIPANTS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: BROTHERS IN ARMS earns 5th place Bronze Medal, TRADITION places 10th, ELEMENTARY MIX and THE QUINTONES bring down the house as mic coolers.

# 2017 INTERNATIONAL BARBERSHOP QUARTET CONTEST

15 Route 1



The crowd cheered as Sunshine District's Main Street was announced 2017 International Quartet Champions. The perennial crowd favorite had clearly indicated their last set would be their last contest appearance so it was doubly pleasing to all barbershoppers present that they walked off with the championship.

Mid-Atlantic District's cohort of seven (!) quartets also turned in stellar performances. Congratulations to all!

38 Up All Night



16 Gimme Four



23 Frank the Dog



18 Pratt Street Power



10 'Round Midnight



44 Forecast



# Parkside Harmony medals, Voices of Gotham places in top 10 at International Chorus Contest in Las Vegas

In front of an enthusiastic audience of over 5,000 and 18 judges, covering three categories (music, performance, & singing), 30 choruses from across the US, Canada, and two foreign countries (Great Britain and Australia) vied for the top slot as International Chorus Champion for 2017.

With only two tenths of a point separating the top two choruses, the Masters of Harmony (Santa Fe Springs, CA), with an average score of 96.4 (2893 points), edged out the Vocal Majority (Dallas Metro, TX), who averaged 96.2 (2885 points).

Following close behind were the Central Standard Chorus (Metro Kansas City, MO - 94.3), Toronto Northern Lights (Toronto, ON - 94.0), and Parkside Harmony (Hershey, PA - 92.0).

Mid-Atlantic District's Voices of Gotham (Hell's Kitchen, NY) rounded out the top 10.

David Wright, associate director of 2016 International Chorus Champion Ambassadors of Harmony (CSD) summed up this year's contest by saying to the 1,580 men who competed, "Every person who stood up here and competed on this stage today, really, really deserves accolades. It's an accomplishment to get here, and we understand that it takes the desire, the attention to detail, the diligence, the character [to be here]. You are to be commended and congratulated. And we thank you for your performance. It was wonderful!"



# Planning is essential for outstanding potential

by Glenn Phillips,  
DVP Chorus Director  
Development



The most important element a director brings to the chorus is musicianship: sound conducting technique, a deep understanding of the inter-workings of music (including theory), and the ability to convey and teach these concepts and techniques to the singers. Next to musicianship — and very much a close second in importance — is planning. A great director can help guide the chorus to singing and performing very well, but without proper planning, the group will never achieve its maximum potential. Simply put, planning is essential for outstanding potential.

There are three forms of planning, all of which are critically important in different ways. **Short-term** planning is necessary to prepare for short-term goals, including learning repertoire in an appropriate amount of time, honing sections of songs while ramping up for contest, and preparation for weekly rehearsals. **Mid-term** planning addresses more substantial goals that take additional time, such as learning multiple songs for inclusion on the Chapter's annual show, preparing your singers to represent your Chapter in Singing Valentine quartets, and developing and teaching the performance plan to multiple songs. Finally, there is **long-term** planning for those issues that make up your vision for the future of the chorus. This includes teaching your chorus several new singing concepts and having the time to develop these new skills, teaching your chorus how to sing jazz harmonies in order to add a non-barbershop song to the repertoire, and working with your Music Team to make fundamental changes to the way your Chapter does business (often called 'changing the Chapter's culture') in order to jump-start a sluggish program and get your singers back on a successful track. In this issue of *Mid'l Antics*, I will explore all three planning categories and provide examples of their importance and relevance.

## 1. Long-term planning (6-12 months out)

This is the planning that is most often ignored by directors and is, in my opinion, the most critical if you and your chapter want to grow and develop musically. Why? Because working from rehearsal to rehearsal fixes little things, temporary things, things that deal with a given song at a given time. But this method generally fails to teach fundamental concepts that your singers can apply to every song at every time. In order to teach them such concepts so that they can elevate their 'default' singing, you must have a long-range plan that maps out how to get there. Please consider the following:

When involved in a seminal event such as going to contest

or bringing in a coach, record the session, including the contest evaluation session with the judges. Have someone on the Music Team meticulously go through the recorded session and highlight all of the points that were mentioned.

You might compile multiple lists:

- What items applied to singing?
- To performance?
- To music?
- What items applied to one of your sections?
- And what applied to the chorus as a whole?

After writing these things down in a form that makes sense, convene a Music Team meeting to discuss the results. Then pick two or three significant items on that list — for example, putting more air into the sound, singing unified target vowels, and singing to the ends of all phrases — and put together a plan by which you will repeatedly drill these two or three concepts for the next six months or so. Of course, you will do lots of things in six months, but you will keep coming back to these two or three skills week after week. In six months time, your chorus should be significantly better at these skills, and you will all notice a difference in the finished product. And guess what? It is probably time for another significant event whereby you can repeat this process.

Furthermore, once you identify the significant skills you wish to focus on in the coming six or more months, you might consider purchasing new music for the chapter that fits very well with the skills you wish your chorus to learn. For example, if you are striving for a unified tone and timbre across sections, you could choose a song that includes some unison singing (the Beach Boys song *In My Room*, for example), which is a perfect tool to develop unified singing. Tailor new repertoire choices to the skills you wish your chorus to learn or develop.

The point is that, with long-term planning, you are not looking at daily/weekly/monthly learning opportunities, but you are instead looking at the big-picture and trying to design a road map that will help revolutionize your singers and their ability to sing and perform.

“Good preparation will afford you and your singers the best opportunity to make sizeable gains in singing and performance”

## 2. Mid-term planning (2-6 months out)

You will note that I covered long-term planning first, and the reason should be obvious: Without a long-term plan, how can you put together a mid- or short-term plan? Once you have your long-term plan in place, consider ways by which to break it into sizeable chunks that take your overall chapter calendar of events into consideration. For example, you do not want to spend much time learning new things when you are within a month from your contest appearance. Instead, you want to use that

final month honing and getting better at all of the skills that you currently know. Another example is the holiday season in December. Many singers take vacations at this time of the year, so this may be an appropriate time to take things easy for a few weeks, focus on repertoire maintenance and the joy of singing, and allow your singers time to recharge their batteries so that they will come back in January ready to work.

The mid-term plan is also when you map out the order and time line for learning new music. If you want your chorus to learn four new songs for the annual show in six months, figure out which songs to learn first and which to learn last. Develop your rehearsal plan to allow maximum time for everyone to learn and master the difficult spots in this new literature. And of course, ensure that your mid-term plan fits nicely within your long-term plan, poised to accomplish all the goals set out in the long-term plan. Please keep in mind that no matter how well you prepare, things may not always go according to plan—and that is okay! With proper planning in place, you will be able to easily adjust to accommodate departures from your schedule.

## 3. Short-term planning (1 week to 2 months out)

The short-term plan must go hand in hand with your long- and mid-term plans. This is where you work out the details for your weekly rehearsals, where you plan how to hone a song that the chorus has finally learned but is still raw and unfinished, and where you break down significant singing skills into smaller sub-skills. For example, if your chorus will be working for the next six months on singing with better intonation, there are a lot of sub-skills that should probably be explored to determine the true causes of why your chorus is singing out of tune: for example, poor posture, poor intake of air, poor

distribution of air into the tone, limited or uneven support, not preparing in advance for the most difficult notes in each passage, etc. Your short-term plan is where you insert the nuggets that you have on your musical tool belt that will enable your singers to make gradual improvements in their singing each week, in accordance with your mid- and long-term plans.

Please note that your short-term planning will always be the most detailed, and the more detail the better! This is where you are digging into the weeds of singing technique, developing believability in performance, and learning how to bring each arrangement to life. Many directors are content to merely 'wing it' and make up their rehearsal schedule as they see fit at that moment in time. If this applies to you, I respectfully suggest that you are doing yourself and your singers a great discourtesy this way, and your chorus will wind up treading water for a very long time and learning new skills at a snail's pace. Attention to detail is the director's best friend!

Preparation should always be concurrently ongoing in several stages (short, medium, and long) in accordance with your overall plan and vision for your chorus. If you find you don't really know which direction to take your chorus, look to your long-term plan for insights and answers. If your chapter has numerous fun events and a lot to accomplish in the next four months and you are uncertain how to work everything out, your mid-term plan is a good place to start looking. Finally, if you are putting the finishing touches on some things (learning new music, tweaking the final details for your annual show, etc.) and you find yourself getting lost in the details, consider writing out a rehearsal lesson plan each week to help you with your short-term goals.

Planning takes time, but as a director this time will be very well spent. I urge you to do yourself and your singers the favor of designing and implementing a master plan in all three phases: long-, mid-, and short-term. Good preparation will afford you and your singers the best opportunity to make sizeable gains in singing and performance, and I think you will find that these gains come much quicker than you might expect.

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

## MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT OFFICERS

**President:** Dennis Ritchey (Sherrie);  
540-846-6408; denritchey5@cox.net

**Immediate Past President:**  
Ig Jakovac (Anne Bureau); 267-932-8344;  
ijakovac@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Keith Jones; 202-651-1268;  
keith.m.jones@MidAtlanticDistrict.com

**Treasurer: Lamar Bortner**  
717-889-9450; lebortner@comcast.net

**Executive VP:** Bob Eckman (Maggie);  
434 589-1262; bob.eckman@comcast.net

### **Board Members-at-Large:**

Walt Griffith (Mary Jo);  
570-735-5577; imabari1@aol.com

Doug Brown (Jill); 908-276-5811;  
dbrown607@comcast.net

Steve Skolnick (Donna);  
973-993-9253; stevesko@me.com

vacant



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**Editor:** Roxanne Powell, 1717 Sturbridge Pl,  
Crofton, MD 21114; 443-454-0604;  
editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

**NEXT DEADLINE:  
NOV 10, 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



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

## Charity begins at home

Have you made your charitable financial commitment for the year?

- To your chapter?
- To the District (to the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund)?
- To the Society (to Harmony Foundation)?

It's all about "giving back." Giving back for all the good and fun times -- for the special social aspects of chapter membership, for the thrill of affecting audiences at public performances and on the competition stage, for celebrating when your family member/friend/colleague/neighbor becomes a Barbershopper like you ... for all your years of barbershop harmony (just a few or 50 or more).

Donating to Harmony Foundation and the exercise of the "donor choice" option is the key

to multiple rewards. That way up to 30% of your donation is returned to your chapter, the district, or (in combination) to both.

- You get the double benefit of "giving back" and for getting a significant tax deduction;
- Harmony Foundation benefits by increasing its outreach capability;
- Your chapter benefits from additional income that supports its annual activities;
- The district benefits because these funds are deposited to the Endowment Fund which provides scholarships to chorus directors and youth/adult quartets to attend Harmony College East and the simultaneous Youth Harmony Camp; and
- Barbershop harmony benefits from the combined result of your investment,

changing lives through singing and perpetuating this unique American musical genre for future generations.

Of course, it is always possible to contribute directly to the Endowment Fund. Members and friends often donate in recognition of a special event, to honor someone special in their lives, to acknowledge the life of a family member or fellow Barbershopper, or, simply, to "give back" for all they've received over the years from this great hobby.

Have questions about donating to Harmony Foundation or its principal annual giving programs (President's Council or Ambassadors of Song) or about any aspect of the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund? Please contact me: 4825 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22207, alan.wile@comcast.net, 703-538-6526.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi, all

Ron Knickerbocker here. Some of you may remember that my YOUNGER brother Jerry participated in a 50 kilometer walk/run on a trail in the Appalachian Mountains. For the last couple of years, we have asked members of the M-AD to sponsor him at so much per kilometer (km), with the money going to our youth program. In particular, Jerry would like the money to be used to defray the expenses of our youth groups competing at the Mid-Winter Convention this January being held in Orange County, CA (but he's not real fussy about that). Your response has been quite rewarding! Jerry told me that knowing that you were backing him while he was participating helped him a LOT, and he got an award for being the oldest participant to complete the 50 km event, as he did for the last couple of years. I do have to say that, at 77, he is certainly old enough to know better! He has every intention of completing it again this October 14. Incidentally, there are 3 events

going on at the same time - the 50 km event, a 100 km event, and a 100 MILE event. A few more than 450 people will participate - runners from around the world run/walk that day.

We are asking that you sponsor him again. If you'd like to sponsor him, please send me an email at rgkbari@comcast.net or a "snail mail" at 315 Horseshoe Lane in Downingtown, PA 19335 telling me your name, contact information, and how much per km you'd like to donate. You can donate a lump sum, if you prefer. It is simplest if, after we find out how he did at the race, you send me a check, made out to me, so I can send the M-AD treasurer a single check for the whole amount. It has worked out well for the last three years. If you prefer, you can give the check to me at the M-AD Fall Convention in Reading, PA.

Jerry will certainly appreciate your sponsorship, and be assured that our youth will appreciate it, as well.

Thank you, and I hope to hear from you soon.

## 2017 DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

**VP Northern Division:**  
Rich Galdi; 973-839-21150; rgaldi@optonline.net

**VP Southern Division:**  
Cliff Shoemaker (Gretchen);  
703-281-6184; cliff@attorneyaccess.net

**VP Central Division:**  
Don Myers (Verna);  
717-838-6146; gnolead@yahoo.com

**VP Chapter Support & Leadership Training:**  
vacant

**VP Chorus Director Development:**  
Glenn Phillips (Sheryl);  
240-360-2271; scalhorn@msn.com

**VP Contest & Judging:**  
Gary Plaag;  
703-868-5152; gplaagbhs@gmail.com

**VP Events:**  
Walter Griffith (Mary Jo);  
570-735-5577; imabari1@aol.com

**VP Financial Development:**  
Alan Wile (Patty);  
703-538-6526; alan.wile@comcast.net

**VP Marketing & Public Relations:**  
Brian Schreiner (Jenn); 717-659-7470;  
brianschreiner23@gmail.com

**VP Membership Development:**  
Shawn Tallant; (Joanne)  
703-399-1826 ; tallantsr@aol.com

**VP Music & Performance:**  
Roger Tarpy (Jean);  
804-829-2466; rtarpy@verizon.net

**VP Youth In Harmony:**  
Kevin Boehm;  
973-919-7078; kboehm86@gmail.com

**Chief Information Officer:**  
Mike Kelly (Kristin);  
MikeKelly@MidAtlanticDistrict.com

