

Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions



September 22, 2017

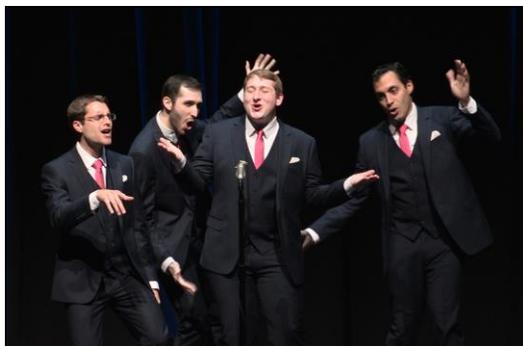
Dear Quartet Champ,

This year's **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was held in Reading, PA on September 15-17 at the Santander Performing Arts Center and was hosted by the **Alexandria Harmonizers**. Our 19th annual quartet champ's association reunion and **Saturday Night Show of Champions** performance was fantastic, as usual! About **45** past champs representing **37** foursomes attended the convention (highlighted on last page) spanning 6 decades ... from the **Out-of-Towners** (1960) to **Da Capo** (2017).

First, to the end with the quartet results:

Our **2018 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are ... **Gimme Four** with members **Dave Ammirata** (L), **Will Downey** (Bs), **Joe Servidio** (Br), and **Paul Franek** (T).

They sang "*Rhythm is Our Business*", "*Come Dance with Me*", "*I Get a Kick Out of You*", and "*Five Minutes More*" to earn a score of 2,958 (82.2%). The quartet is now the **73rd** champion since 1945 for a total of 225 men to have earned this high distinction. All four men are new to our close fraternity. **CONGRATULATIONS, Fellahs!**



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

- ✚ The Presenters for the **Friday Quartet Semifinals** were **Bill Colosimo** (Past District President, Copyright '86) for the first half and **Tony Colosimo** (Iguanas in Flight, Da Capo) after the intermission.



Our current **2017 M-AD Quartet Champs, Da Capo** (**Tony Colosimo, Andrew Havens, Joe Sawyer, and Ryan Griffith**), served as the Mic Tester quartet and our current **2017 International Seniors Quartet Champions, Party of Five** with **Ross Trube** (Frank the Dog), were the Mic Cooler quartet.



Da Capo



Party of Five

The semifinals featured **23** quartet competitors including **4** foursomes containing **5** past M-AD quartet champion singers: **Ken White** (Mayhem) in **Capital City Close Harmony Club**, **Al Fennell** (New Yorkers) in **Quatrain (Sr)**; **Mike Wallen** (Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino) in **Youth Reclamation Project (Sr)**; and **Will Cox** (Hijinx) and **Rick Savage** (Premier) in **Silver Alert (Sr)**.



Capital City Close Harmony Club



Quatrain



Youth Reclamation Project



Silver Alert

- ✚ This year due to logistical issues and extremely busy late night chorus schedules, the **MADAQC Chorus** did not meet on Friday evening for a rehearsal as usual. This will likely be the norm in the future.
- ✚ Saturday had a very early start for many and was an incredibly busy day for **8** champs who were the Musical Directors of competing choruses. **Bill Colosimo** kicked things off by directing the **Joe and Jane Barbershop Chorus** who served as the Mic Testers. A couple of champs joined in as did some DELA members and **BHS CEO/Executive Director Marty Monson**.



Ken White was the Presenter for the chorus competition session and **Da Capo** (working exceptionally hard throughout the weekend) was also Mic Coolers after the chorus contest.

Competing MADAQC chorus directors included: **Jeff Glemboski** ('Round Midnight) for **Long Island Sound**, **TJ Barranger** (Last Men Standing) for the **Sons of the Severn**, **Kevin King** (Pros 'N Cons, Untouchables, BSQ) for the **Chorus of the Chesapeake**, **Jay Butterfield** (Free Trade Agreement, Touchstone) for **Parkside Harmony**, **Bill Stauffer** (Doubletake) for **Voices of Gotham**, **Rich Gray, Jr.** (Runaway Sound, Wheelhouse, Touchstone) for **The Pine Barons**, **Mike Wallen** (Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino) for the Virginians, and **Jack Pinto** (BSQ, Old School) for the **Brothers in Harmony**. Six of these choruses finished in the Top-10 and three in the Top-5. Now that's an amazing number of champs contributing to their choruses.

- At the conclusion to the chorus contest, **Ron Knickerbocker** (Regents, Curtain Call, Free Trade Agreement) along with Glenn Phillips gave out several **Chorus Directors Service Recognition Awards**. **Al Fennel, Mike Wallen, Kevin King, and Jack Pinto** were among the recipients, receiving much-deserved kudos.



- And speaking of chorus directors, it is also well worth noting that **David Ammirata** and **Will Downey** from **Gimme Four** also co-directed two choruses, **East Coast Sound** and **The Dapper Dans of Harmony** who placed 5th and 13th, respectively.

- Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor** members (many of whom are quartet champions) were invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's recipients of the District's highest award. **Keith Jones** (2017 HoH Chairman) read the criteria and short biographies after which the recipients were presented with commemorative engraved silver plates and name badges. The distinguished honorees were **Glenn Phillips, Neil Keihm, and Hardman Jones**. Each man received a hearty standing ovation from the audience for their lifetime of service and contribution to barbershopping in our great District.



- DVP-Contest and Judging **Gary Plaag** (Past District President, Hijinx) announced the much-awaited results. The **2018 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions ... Parkside Harmony** (Hershey, PA) under the co-direction of **Sean Devine** and **Jay Butterfield**. They staged 51 men and scored 1,642 (91.2%) to qualify for the International Contest in Orlando next July. Their songs were **"Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea"** and **"Don't Be a Baby, Baby"**. This was Parkside's 2nd consecutive District Chorus Championship. They earned a 5th Place medal in the 2017 International Chorus Competition this past summer in Las Vegas.



1st Place – Parkside Harmony



2nd Place – Alexandria Harmonizers (Alexandria, VA) under the direction of **Joe Cerutti** staged 82 men and earned a score of 1,596 (88.7%)



3rd Place – Voices of Gotham (Hell's Kitchen, NY) under the direction of **Bill Stauffer** staged 36 men and earned a score of 1,561 (86.7%)

Filling out the Top-5 were **The Brothers in Harmony** (Hamilton Square, NY) who placed 4th staging 43 men and earned a score of 1,499 (83.3%), and **East Coast Sound** (Caldwell, NJ) who placed 5th staging 22 men and earned a score of 1,417 (78.7%).

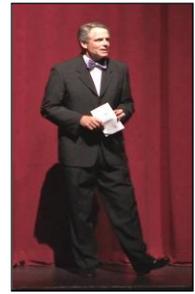
✚ Immediately following the chorus competition, **Ross Trube** (Frank the Dog) again managed the ever-popular **Tag with the Champs** event in the Santander lobby to support the District's **Youth in Harmony** program. **Da Capo** was the featured champ. The event generated a lot of enthusiasm and over \$500 for a great cause.

✚ About half of the MADAQC Chorus gathered at 6:00 on Saturday evening to rehearse under the steady hands of **Kevin King** (Pros 'N Cons, Untouchables, BSQ). It did not take much time as everyone was well-prepared.



✚ **Kevin King** was dressed to the nines as the Presenter for the **Quartet Finals** which were quite exciting with 3 quartets scoring International qualifying numbers. Add these to the active previous champs **Da Capo**, **Route 1**, **'Round Midnight**, plus some new foursomes with great potential and clearly the M-AD is going to be well-represented next summer at the Big Show in Orlando, FL. The **M-AD Spring Prelims Convention** April 6-8, 2018 (Reading, PA) is going to be a real barnburner.

✚ Our very dapper **District President Dennis Ritchey** emceed the Saturday night **Show of Champions** which featured performances by the Top-3 finishing choruses: **Voices of Gotham**, the **Alexandria Harmonizers**, and our repeating new champs **Parkside Harmony**. Congratulations again to all!



Parkside Harmony w/ trophy



Sean Devine and Jay Butterfield, Co-Directors

2017 M-AD Champs Da Capo thrilled with a beautifully sung package to close a great championship year. They were unable to compete in Las Vegas due to a “baby watch” for Tony, but will surely make their mark next year. Thanks, guys, keep up the good work. You have shown yourselves to be true champions, especially with the volunteer support and contributions to the District.



Da Capo



Steve White (Copyright '86, The Bay Rum Runners, Phat Cats, Touchstone, and M-AD Hatters) was the Emcee for the **MADAQC** segment. The Association again showcased an active and very popular quartet champion, **Route 1 (2016 M-AD Champs; Scott Disney, Thomas Moyer, Brian Schreiner, and Brandon Brooks)**. For their second song, they began *"That's What I Call a Pal"*, but were then pushed out by the **M-AD Hatters (2012 M-AD Champs; Scott Disney, Steve White, Rick Taylor, and Rob Seay)** who were then pushed out by **Wheelhouse (2003 M-AD Champs; Rich Gray, Mike Kelly, Jeff Gray, and Brandon Brooks)**.

Together they crushed the tag and then enjoyed an enthusiastic roar from an appreciative audience. It was a wonderful demonstration of friendship and close harmony among quartetmen.



Route 1



Route 1, M-AD Hatters, and Wheelhouse

The curtain then opened on **MADAQC Chorus** who were standing proud on the risers. Steve commented on how many championship quartets were represented, the presence on the front row of lifelong pals **Larry Reagan** and **Bob Parry** from the **Out of Towners**, and recognized our 2 **International Quartet Champions, Ron Knickerbocker (Regents)** and **Jack Pinto (Old School)**.

It was the **25th anniversary** of our **1993 Champs, Doubletake** with **Bill Stauffer (L)**, **Tony Carlini (Bs)**, **Rob Rund (Br)**, and **Jamie Carbone (T)**. Bill and Rob were at the convention to celebrate.

It was the landmark **50th anniversary** of our **1968 Champs**, the **NOVA Chords** with **Scott Werner (L)**, **Dick Whitehouse (Bs, deceased)**, **Brian Rodda (Br, deceased)**, and **John Adams (T)**.



Doubletake



NOVA Chords

THE BIG FINALE:



As the Top-9 quartets huddled back stage, anxiously waiting to hear what could be for each a “momentous moment”, **Gary Plaag** announced the results as **Da Capo** stood ready to award the lapel pins and congratulate the Top-3 finishers.



3rd Place (2,770 76.9%) – Brothers in Arms

James Isley (L), Jordan Dubois (Bs), Michael Duca (Br), and Kevin Juliana(T)



2nd Place (2,779 / 77.2%) – Forecast

Tyler Rackley (L), Kevin Jones (Bs), Travis Murray (Br), and Michael Fitch (T)

Also, in the **Top 10** was **Youth Reclamation Project (Mike Wallen)** who were named the **Most Improved Quartet** and will represent the M-AD at the International Seniors Quartet Contest next January at the Mid-Winter Convention. Unfortunately, they had to scratch from the Quartet Finals due to a sudden illness. **Silver Alert (Will Cox, Rick Savage)** were the runners up in the contest for the seniors and placed 14th.

Gimme Four was then crowned champions and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies (provided annually by **Bob Disney** in memory of Jim and **Arcade**), and shiny blue 2018 1st Place lapel pins.



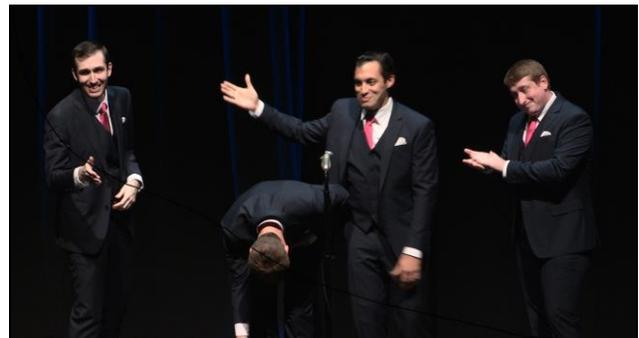
Kevin King then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing our traditional song of celebration and congratulations, **"This is the Moment"** (arranged by **Freddie**) as **Gimme Four** stood embracing each other – their pride of accomplishment showing proudly.





✚ **Rick Taylor** (Arcade, Old School, M-AD Hatters) then led the entire audience in *“Keep the Whole World Singing”* ... bringing to close another fantastic barbershop convention as only the Mid-Atlantic District can do. Every champ then congratulated **Gimme Four** with handshakes, hugs, and slaps on their backs.

✚ Immediately following the close of the convention, we moved from the stage to the Dasani Lounge of the Santander along with friends and family for a **Quartet Champion’s Reception** where **Steve White** formally welcomed **Gimme Four** into the fraternity and **Da Capo** offered congratulations and gave personal legacy gifts along with MADAQC badges. Photos were taken and everyone ate a delicious cake provided by **Frank the Dog**. Many guys remained for a while to chat and sing tags before heading off to the afterglows.



Take a bow, Boys ... err, or maybe just Dave. Hey, you’re a Champ now – do what you want.

✚ Several champs have held M-AD leadership roles throughout the year and for that we are all so very proud and appreciative: **Gary Plaag** – DVP-Contest & Judging, Leadership Development Committee, YIH/Student Activities Team, Past Presidents Forum; **Bill Colosimo** – Hall of Honor Committee, Harmony College East Committee, Chorus Development Team, and Leadership Development Team Chair; **Chuck Lower** (Free Trade Agreement) – M-AD Coaching Coordinator; **Jay Butterfield** – Hall of Honor Committee; **Brian Schreiner** – Marketing & PR Team Chair and Program Book Coordinator; **Steve White** – DELA Relocation Committee; and **Mike Kelly** – District Chief Information Officer, Photographer/Videographer, Webmaster, and HCE Committee. Note that most all photos in this recap are a direct result of Mike and his team’s efforts at the back of the auditorium (BIG thanks to you, pal).



Finally, **Harmony Foundation International** was well-represented by **Bob Rund** who worked throughout the convention weekend and **Rick Taylor**. Both men are pictured here presenting **District President Dennis Ritchey** with a big-big check (\$28,000) that represents the Donor Choice funds that come back to the District through member designations.

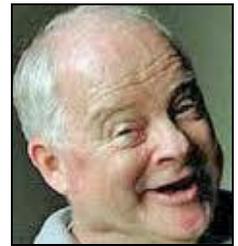
Well, my good friends, that about does it for the annual recap. My sincere apologies if I have left anyone out or missed highlighting something important. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon. Please stay healthy, happy, and keep singing.

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

Steve



... always remembering our dear Freddie



Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions, 1945-2018

1	1945	<i>NY City Police Department Quartet</i>	37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmoneers</i>	38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>	39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>	40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>	41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>	42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>	43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>	44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>	45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
10	1954	<i>Play-Tonics</i>	46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>	47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>	48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>	49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
14	1958	<i>Oriole Four (1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>	50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>	51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>	52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>	53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>	54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>	55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>	56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>	57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>	58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>	59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
24	1969	<i>Classics</i>	60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>	61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>	62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents (1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>	63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>	64	2009	<i>Old School (2011 International Quartet Champions)</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>	65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>	66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>	67	2012	<i>M-AD Hatters</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>	68	2013	<i>Frank the Dog</i>
33	1978	<i>Baltimore & Ohio Connection</i>	69	2014	<i>Mayhem</i>
34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>	70	2015	<i>Last Men Standing</i>
35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>	71	2016	<i>Route 1</i>
36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>	72	2017	<i>Da Capo</i>
			73	2018	<i>Gimme Four</i>

Note: Represented in Reading this year.

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

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

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