



**GOLD**  
returns to  
**M-AD!**

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Old School wins the gold in Kansas City.

The Alexandria Harmonizers' prayers are answered on stage in Kansas City. Photo by Lorin May.

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The mighty awesome and talented *Old School* won the coveted Gold Medal at the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2011 International quartet contest Saturday evening at the Sprint Center in downtown Kansas City. The competition was fierce and the energy high among the 50 quartets participating in this year's International Convention.

Old School's members are tenor *Kipp Buckner* from Sellersburg, Indiana, bass *Joe "Beast" Kronos* of Hurst, Texas, lead *Joe Connelly* of Falls Church, Virginia, and baritone *Jack Pinto* of Hamilton, New Jersey. The group placed fifth in international barbershop competition in 2008, second in 2009, and second again in 2010. Old School stood out in the contest with their special attention to "old school" song choices and a huge energetic sound to go along with it.

Hundreds of Mid-Atlantic District barbershoppers leaped to their feet in the Sprint

Center in Kansas City July 8, cheering their throats raw as our own *John Santora* announced that the *Alexandria Harmonizers* had earned another 5th place medal at the 73rd annual BHS International contest.

The months of work paid off! Their score was 2,663 out of 3,000. Ninety-nine guys filled the risers and performed *If I Loved You* and *What Do I Need With Love?* This was the 17th medal earned by the *Alexandria Harmonizers*, including four previous golds. They have competed in 23 International chorus contests since their first one in 1978.

To no one's surprise, *Masters of Harmony* from California won with 2,829 points at 94.3 percent. *Great Northern Union* from Minnesota earned second after taking a year out of contest with 2,824 points at 94.1 percent. There was a tie for third: *The Northern Lights* from Toronto and *Sound of the Rockies* from Denver earned 2,733 points at 91.1 percent.

# HAIL<sup>the</sup> CONQUERING HEROES!

***Old School brings home the gold,  
Harmonizers grab a bronze***



*Alexandria Harmonizers, above left, and Old School, left, represented the Mid-Atlantic District at the 73rd Annual International Convention in Kansas City.*

*Alexandria photo by Lorin May. Old School from BHS website.*

Alexandria then was fifth with 88.8 percent.

The Harmonizers were fortunate to have their major coaches with them all week: *Geri Geis*, *Kirk Young* (who arranged *What Do I Need With Love?*), *Cindy Hansen*, and *Steve Tramack* (who arranged *If I Loved You*). They helped director *Joe Cerutti* keep the chorus on target, offering good advice and ideas.

All in all, it was a great week in Kansas City, and all of us were pleased with the district's well-rewarded showing.

*The Echo and the Livewire contributed to this story.*

# MID-ATLANTIC STRIKES GOLD

... both on and off the stage

by Dick Powell, DP

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**F**ourth of July week in Kansas City at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention was just amazing. Nearly 7,000 fans packed the Sprint Center in downtown KC to cheer on their favorite quartets and choruses. And, of course, some of the very best were ours.

The Mid-Atlantic District sent four quartets and three choruses to the contest. *Voices of Gotham* led off the chorus contest with a two and ¾ song set to help the judges verify the sound system. They did a fine job setting the tone for the contest to follow. *Brothers in Harmony* presented a moving set evoking the mood and emotion of the Vietnam era with style and grace. And the *Alexandria Harmonizers* gave an inspired performance to win their second fifth place bronze medal in a row.

On the quartet side of the ledger we had *Frank the Dog*, *Da Capo*, 'Round Midnight', and *Old School* in the race. Frank the Dog jumped from their pre-contest ranking of 41st to 26th with a powerful performance and a score of 79.1. DaCapo made it through two rounds, finished 14th with a score of 83.5, and won the Dealer's Choice award for having the highest score for a first time appearance at International. 'Round Midnight finished in 12th with a score of 84.0. All three groups were giving standing ovations by the crowd for their moving and artistic performances. Our M-AD collegiate quartet, *The Frat Pack*, was 21st in the College Quartet contest.

And our new International Champs are Old School, who earned 1st place and their gold medals with three solid sets that left no doubt they would win the contest from the first measure.

But there was much more going on. For those who were not able to attend the convention, or watch on the webcast, here are some highlights:

The Society Board elected two new members to serve three-year terms beginning in 2012 at their meeting July 5. Both new board members are well-known to all in the Mid-Atlantic District. *Joe Cerutti*, director of the Alexandria Harmonizers and *Gary Plaag*, Immediate Past President of the district, join currently serving *Rick Ashby* on the board. This means, Mid-Atlantic will be providing 1/3 of the membership of the Society Board for the next several years. Joe and Gary will join the rest of the board in helping us find a new CEO for the Society, in forming more effective bonds with music educators in support of youth programs, and in forging more and closer relations with society affiliates.

The board also approved the Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers as our newest affiliate organization.

Our very own *Chuck Harner* has been elected to serve on the Harmony Foundation Board of Trustees. Later on in the week, it was announced that a new challenge drive for Harmony Foundation had been initiated, focused on recruiting more members to be Ambassadors of Song. For all new enrollments, the challenge grant will match dollar for dollar up to \$100,000.



**ROUND MIDNIGHT** (Larry Bomback, T.J. Carollo, Jeff Glemboski, Wayne Grimmer) wowed the audience with its smooth blend of pop and barbershop and placed 12th with 5041 points (84%).

**DA CAPO** (Ryan Griffith, Tony Colosimo, Wayne Adams, Joe Sawyer), in its first appearance on the International stage, placed 14th with 5009 points (83.5%) and won the Dealer's Choice award for highest scoring first-timers.



**FRANK THE DOG** (Tim Knapp, Tom Halley, Steve Kirsch, Ross Trube) brought the audience to its feet — and earned a well-deserved 2374 points (79.1%), 26th place — with an intensely emotional performance of *I Won't Send Roses* and *One for My Baby*.



It was sure hot that week in KC. But the streets were wide, the traffic light, the food plentiful and inexpensive, and the people warm and friendly. It would have been a good week no matter what, but everywhere you looked you saw Mid-Atlantic folks standing out and being recognized for their administrative and musical leadership and their artistic performances. Not only in the board meetings and on the stage - but down in the judges area as well where our own John Santora (serving as Contest Administrator) was joined by Joe Hunter (Presentation), Ritchie Lavene (Presentation), and Rich Lewellen (Singing) making up 20% of the judges.

See <http://www.barbershop.org/list-of-all-past-champions.html> for a list of the 73 champs.

# OLD SCHOOL ENDS M-AD DROUGHT



by John Santora,  
DVP Contest  
and Judging

For 36 years, International quartet gold medals have eluded Mid-Atlantic quartets. In Kansas City this summer, Old School took an early lead and never looked back, winning gold and joining the Garden State Four (1946), Oriole Four (1970) and The Regents (1974) as Mid-Atlantic District quartets who have won it all.

Out of the field of 50 quartets from around the world who qualified for the International Quartet Contest, our other M-AD quartets were semi-finalists 'Round Midnight (12th place) and Da Capo (14th place), and quarter-finalist Frank the Dog (26th place). Da Capo also captured the Dealer's Choice Award, as the highest-scoring new quartet in the contest.

In the chorus contest, the Masters of Harmony from Santa Fe Springs, CA captured their eighth consecutive gold medal, narrowly outscoring the

Great Northern Union from Hilltop, MN. M-AD's Alexandria Harmonizers were awarded fifth place medals for a second year in a row. Two other M-AD choruses appeared on stage in Kansas City, the Brothers in Harmony from Hamilton Square, NJ (27th place) and the Voices of Gotham from Hell's Kitchen, NY, who were the chorus contest mic testers.

## **Congratulations to all of our M-AD competitors in Kansas City.**

I had the privilege of serving on the International judging panel in Kansas City, along with fellow M-AD

judges Joe Hunter, Richard Lewellen and Ritchie Lavene. It's an awesome vantage point from which to enjoy the contest and, this year, thanks to Harmony Foundation,

three audience members successfully bid and joined us in the judges' area with pencils in hand. Their scores were added in to the practice panel of judges, and they mingled with the judges during breaks and intermissions. If you'll be in Portland next year, look for the Harmony Foundation booth and bid on a guest seat in the judging area. Not only will you support a great cause, but you'll get to experience the contests from the "best seats in the house."

Late last month, BHS held its Candidate School for aspiring judges in St. Joseph, MO. M-AD is proud to have

four men attend. They are: Tony Colosimo (Singing), Wayne Grimmer (Music), Dan O'Brien (Music) and Adam Porter (Music).

We had four division contests this spring, including our Northern Division one-day experiment that was hailed by many for its excellent venue and scheduling. The District Operations Team will evaluate all the division convention experiences, and may make further changes that preserve the contest experience for the competitors, yet hopefully stem the finan-

**thanks to Harmony Foundation, three audience members successfully bid and joined us in the judges' area with pencils in hand**

cial losses of previous conventions. My thanks to Gary Plaag who, in addition to his many other duties, ably filled in for me as District Contest & Judging representative at the Northern and Southern division contests this spring.

## **Re-cap of the Division Contests**

• In Morristown, NJ, Flatiron Four was crowned the 2011 Division Champion Quartet and Manhattan's Big Apple Chorus was crowned the Division Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAAA Champion. The Plateau AAA Champion was Hunterdon County, NJ, the Plateau AA Champion was Morris County, NJ and the Plateau A Champion was Nassau-Mid Island, NY. The Most-Improved Chorus was Morris County. Collegiate quartet The Braden Show (later renamed The Frat Pack) competed in Northern Division and was later designated as M-AD's

official representative to the Harmony Foundation International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest in Kansas City.

• In Dover, DE, Escapade was crowned the 2011 Division Champion Quartet and Bryn Mawr's The Mainliners was crowned the Division Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAAA Champion. The Plateau AAA Champion was Bucks County, PA, the Plateau AA Champion was Red Bank Area, NJ and the Most-Improved Chorus was Milford, DE.

• In Reston, VA, Mayhem was crowned the 2011 Division Champion Quartet and No Vices was the Division Novice Quartet Champion. Richmond, VA's The Virginians was crowned the Division Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAA Champion. The Plateau AA Champion was Harrisonburg, VA, the Plateau A Champion was Prince William, VA and the Most-Improved Chorus was Germantown, MD.

• In Camp Hill, PA, MAD Hatters was crowned the 2011 Division Champion Quartet and the Chorus of the Chesapeake from Dundalk, MD, was crowned the Division Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAAA Champion. The Plateau AAA Champion was Anne Arundel, MD, the Plateau AA Champion was Lancaster Red Rose, PA and Harford County, MD was the Plateau A Champion. The Most-Improved Chorus was Lancaster Red Rose.

As a result of the division contests, 23 choruses qualified for the Fall District Convention in October at the

Lancaster, PA, Convention Center. The Alexandria Harmonizers and Brothers in Harmony, competitors at the International Chorus Contest in Kansas City, would ordinarily be invited to compete in the Fall, but both have chosen to pursue non-competition projects over the next year. On the quartet side, 26 quartets, including five seniors quartets, have been invited to participate in the Fall District Convention.

## **Contest Entry Deadline Looms**

**The Society's eBiz CJ20 Contest Entry Web site was opened on July 1, and will close on August 31 for contestant entry.**

The chorus risers will be in the 11-riser configuration, since by District policy they are set for the largest participating chorus — in this case, Dundalk — and will remain in that configuration throughout the chorus contest. Chorus and quartet coaching evaluation sessions will be held after each contest session, with the finalist quartets evaluated on Sunday morning. The top three choruses and quartets will be invited to participate in the Saturday evening Show of Champions.

Please remember to review the various articles and information on copyright requirements that are available on the BHS web site and other sources. Note that it is better to include too many charts in your contest entry form than to sing one that is not included, and face possible disqualification.

**Lock and ring; it's why we sing!**

## did *you* attend Harmony College East?



by Ig Jakovac, DVP Music & Performance  
and Board Member-at-Large

I attended Harmony College East (HCE) for the 4th year in a row. This year was once again a blast. If you have never attended or if you haven't recently attended, let me describe the kind of things that happened so you can get a better sense of our truly wonderful school.

HCE is an event which is held at Salisbury University in Maryland. This year it started with classes on Thursday night, June 16 and ended with a show on Saturday night, June 18 – followed by informal singing for as long as anyone wanted—most folks checked out on Sunday morning, June 19.

The Dean of the school is Ron Knickerbocker (Gold medal baritone of the 1974 champs, The Regents). Ron and his team are responsible for putting together classes, identifying and bringing in both M-AD-based and outside-of-district-based instructors and coaches and all of the other logistics (including sleeping accommodations and three squares a day for two days) that make the long weekend a great success.

Folks come to HCE either to take classes to help enhance their barbershop experience or they come as a quartet to be coached by some

of the finest coaches in the society.

Let's talk about quartets first: There were 14 quartets this year, including 4 of our International qualifiers. Of course, you don't have to be an International qualifier to attend. This experience benefits any quartet at any stage of their development. Imagine spending two days with your quartet getting coached. What an awesome way to kick start a new group or maybe re-energize one that has been around for a while. I went with a quartet for the very first time in 1986 and still have fond memories of that weekend. Talk to some of the quartet members that went to this, either from your chapter or a neighboring one. If you'd like to talk to someone about their experience but don't know who, drop me a line (ijakovac@comcast.net) and I'll hook you up.

The large majority of attendees were singers who came to improve their barbershop skills by taking classes. They started their adventure on Thursday evening. My favorite class that night was one taught by Ritchie Lavene, Marty Israel and me, all certified judges. In this class we viewed videos of performances and talked about what each of us would have scored for that performance — Ig for Singing, Ritchie for Presentation and Marty for Music. We shared with the class not only our scores but also why and what we were looking for. The class got the chance to score each contestant as well. Sound interesting? **Maybe you'll want to check it out at HCE 2012...**

All day Friday was chock-full of classes where folks could learn how to be a great Emcee, how to market their chorus or quartet, how to improve their vocal techniques, how to become a director or to enhance their directing skills, how to tune chords and much, much more... sound like something that you might enjoy? **Mark your**

**calendar now – June 14-17, 2012.**

On Friday night, we were treated to a show. Performers were quartets who had been coached all day. Folks from the Emcee class used the occasion to practice their skills and the quartets got to entertain and show a bit of what they had learned to a very appreciative audience.

Saturday was a very special day. Not only was there a continuation of some pretty awesome classes but we experienced a special treat — a Master Class by the Alexandria Harmonizers who were at the college getting coached. The Harmonizers showed us how they warm up, how they manage such a large organization, how they develop and execute their performance packages and of course, how they rehearse under the direction of Joe Cerutti. What a fabulous hour it was! I know that I walked away with several new insights and I'm confident that anyone who attended walked away with something of value. If you'd like to comment or see some comments hit the following link to our HCE Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/HarmonyCollegeEast>.

Saturday was another spectacular show with performances by a number of groups including the Alexandria Harmonizers and Old School along with all of the youth groups that were being coached in conjunction with HCE. As if things couldn't get any better, many of us treated ourselves to some "informal" singing/tags with old friends or new acquaintances.

What an awesome barbershop experience! What an outstanding school! You will hear much more from me throughout the year as we prepare for HCE 2012 – **I invite all of you to attend – please mark you calendars now – June 14-17, 2012.**



**LEARNING CURVE** — (from top) Dr. Stash Rossi explains how "just" tuning impacts a barbershop chord to the advanced

theory class; Theresa Weatherbee explains the "power of presence" to fascinated students; Marty Israel demonstrates chord progressions to students seeking to understand the theory of barbershop harmony; Ron Knickerbocker shows how to develop vocal skills through tag singing (fun!); and Steve Delehanty explains how he managed to write a barbershop tag "without a penultimate diminished chord" — yeah, they really talk like that!

## ROSENDAHL WINS SCHOLARSHIP District Endowment Fund selects “barbershop brat”

by Alan Wile, Chairman, M-AD Endowment Fund

Each year, the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund offers scholarships to musical directors (and those with an interest in becoming one) to attend Directors College East at Salisbury University. This year Matt Rosendahl was the recipient.

Although appointed director of the Kilmarnock Chapter’s Northern Neck Bay Tones only recently, barbershop harmony is in Matt’s blood — both his parents were active in the hobby and (when he first started to teach) he had two successful barbershop groups: a quartet of high school boys and a combined faculty/boys ensemble.

Matt has a BS in Music Education from Gettysburg College (Pa.) where he was a voice major. He taught school for 28 years before retiring at the conclusion of the 2010-11 school year.



MATT ROSENDAHL

In addition to his barbershop interests, Matt is the artistic director for a 110 voice SATB community chorus (Chesapeake Chorale) — a group he’s been with for the past ten years; together they’ve raised in excess of \$100,000 in support of area school music programs. He is also the Director of Music and organist at a church in Gloucester, Va. where one of the groups is a men’s ensemble that sings both TTBB and barbershop music.

Matt has always admired barbershop harmony as an artform, especially because it is a *cappella* which, in his opinion, teaches all of the fundamentals of good singing and on top of it all, it’s fun!

**“every Barbershopper should take advantage of this opportunity”**

— Matt Rosendahl, DCE scholarship recipient

His total DCE experience (the instruction, shows, impromptu singing, and meeting new friends) added up to a fantastic weekend ... and he says “every Barbershopper should take advantage of this opportunity” (and we couldn’t agree more).

Last month Ye Ed wrote to several attendees at Harmony College East asking for their impressions of the 2011 session. Here are a couple of representative responses:

### In their own words . . .

*I could probably write for a long time about HCE but I will be succinct.*

*I have been a Barbershopper for just over four years. No singing background, a friend brought me to a rehearsal — I loved the sound and the feeling of ringing a chord when the director taught me a tag. This was my first HCE visit. I can say it was my best Barbershop experience to-date and really the first time it really felt to me like a ‘society’. I met and was warmly befriended by many — including Barbershop luminaries, and newbies alike.*

*I went to HCE with a particular interest in arranging. Over the last few years I have made it about 3/4 of the way through the text “The Theory of Barbershop Harmony” by Burt Szabo. Imagine my privilege to have Burt as instructor for my arranging class (an all-day one mind you) and only three students! Burt shared his knowledge freely and clearly. Together, the class took an old (boring) folk song and created a smokin’ Barbershop arrangement.*

*I went there knowing only a few men and had a blast. Next year for sure.*

Sincerely, Kevin Hacker

*First off, I really enjoyed HCE. I’m in my third year as a barbershopper and my chapter awarded me the tuition as a new progressing member. I heard from other members that it is a great experience and decided there was no point in waiting.*

*What I liked most about being at HCE was the feeling of fellowship and brotherhood with members from all over. It was the first time that I felt that I belonged to a society that was more than my chapter and more than competitions between my chapter and others.*

*I met quite a few guys and found all of them to be friendly, helpful, and interested in the camaraderie of singing. This was true in the classes, at meals, and of course at night in the late night shmoozing and singing.*

*The courses I attended all addressed better singing in one way or another. The instructors were excellent and insightful and my fellow attendees were no less helpful and supportive. While I did not necessarily hear anything astonishingly new, I found new perspectives and I think I left a better singer than I arrived.*

*What I look forward to most in attending another HCE or similar event is renewing and developing relationships with my fellow barber-shoppers - wherever they may sing.*

Regards, Avi Paradise



## Western Division News

by Don Myers,  
Western Division Vice President

**M**-AD Division Conventions are in the books and we begin to look forward to the Fall District Convention in Lancaster, Pa. The line up for this year's fall convention looks to be a great show, and I encourage you to schedule your weekend to be part of the fun...

The Western Division Convention this year was a success in terms of attendance. Last year the Western convention was attended by five choruses from the Western Division with one chorus competing out of Division. This year the attendance grew to 11 choruses, an improvement of 6 choruses, with one of the choruses competing out of division.

A number of choruses have returned to the contest stage this year, most notably The West Branch Chorus who returned after being away since 2008. Welcome back guys!

Five other choruses' returned to compete after being away for the previous year. The Nittany Knights, The Chorus of the Chesapeake The Keystone Capital Chorus, Heart of Maryland Chorus, and Bay Country Gentlemen.

Quartets were about the same this year as last, but it would be really great to see 25 or 30 quartets competing. It's not just about winning when you take to the contest stage. It's about entertaining the audience, your friends and family. The really neat part is the coaching that comes with the chance to stand on that stage.

This year the Judging was top notch and the A&R sessions were not only fun but informative. Performing, to me, is the reward for working hard all year long; the chance of being the winner is the icing on the cake.

Going into competition with the idea of doing the best you can at that given time is what I think contest's are all about. So take a look at your chorus/quartet and think about being part of the contest cycle next year. Hope to see you all in Lancaster!



## Northern Division Thoughts

by Oley Olson, Northern Division Vice President

**A** lot has happened in the Northern Division in these last few months. Our competition at the Morristown Beard School included a number of chapters competing for the first time in years and was a great success. Because of the increased participation, I am pleased to report we actually turned a profit after many years of \$5-6,000 losses.

As a direct result of this, the District felt confident enough to return to the two-day format and has signed a contract with Morristown Beard for June 1-2, 2012. This later date is after the school closes and will increase parking availability. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend. More information is forthcoming on local hotels and restaurants. Thank you all for supporting the one-day experiment. I look forward to seeing even more participants next June.

International President Alan Lamson and the Society Board have developed a Chapter Visitation Program whereby every chapter in our Society will be visited during 2011. I am pleased to report this assignment has been completed in the Northern Division primarily through the efforts of your Chapter Counselors.

I was able to visit twelve chapters in the course of this program. It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you and to hear your thoughts which we have forwarded to Nashville. This information will help the Society Board and Headquarters Staff direct their efforts to help us all.

As your Division VP, I am pleased to say I have now visited all twenty-four chapters in the Northern Division and I look forward to future repeat visits over the

coming year.

An item I brought up to each chapter visited has to do with the importance of an ongoing membership recruiting program. In the last two years two Northern Division chapters ceased operations. In their case they simply dwindled down to one or three members.

What happened?

Over the years some members moved away, others passed on, some lost interest, and each week the remaining members became a week older. Then "suddenly" they realized they were all in their 70's and 80's!

I urge you not to let this happen to your chapter! Every member should be a part of the membership committee and every week needs to be a "Guest Night". Do whatever you must to remind yourself to be on the lookout for someone you can share this wonderful hobby with. Suggestion -- carry chapter cards with you at all times to give to a prospect. Get his name, call him, offer to pick him up, and take him to your meeting. Amazingly, 100% of the men you drive to a chapter meeting will actually show up.

Send out weekly e-mails reminding members to bring a guest to a chapter meeting and public performances and afterglows. Let them see how much fun you are having and offer to share it with them. Pretty soon your problem will be finding a bigger rehearsal hall and that is a fun problem to have.

We have made big strides these last few months thanks to each of you. The Northern Division is moving forward into a bright and harmonious future. Don't be left out of the fun.

## Spring Convention schedule changed!

2012:

- March 9-10 – Prelims in Reston
- May 18-19 – Atlantic and Western in Lancaster
- May 25-26 – Southern in Roanoke
- June 1-2 – Northern in Morristown
- Oct 12-13 – Fall in Ocean City

2013:

- April 27-28 – Combined Prelims and Southern Division Convention in Reston, VA
- TBD – Western
- TBD – Atlantic
- TBD – Northern

Here is the link for the master planning calendar:  
[www.MidAtlanticDistrict.com?Code=MPC](http://www.MidAtlanticDistrict.com?Code=MPC)

For those of you who use Google calendar, if you subscribe to the MAD calendar, your schedule will be automatically updated as we make changes.

# Youth Qs team up with DaCapo and Frank the Dog for thrilling performance



Gary Plaag, VP  
Youth In Harmony

Our Youth Harmony Camp at Harmony College East, June 16 – 19, was a great success. Although we only had 6 quartets (24 students) and 3 music educators, all of them raved about this great learning experience. Our numbers were down, due to schedule conflicts (graduations, proms, etc.) and a “down” economy.

## 2011 YOUTH IN HARMONY SUMMER UPDATE

If you were there for the Saturday night show, then you witnessed an impressive parade of YIH quartets as well as a spectacular mixed ensemble performance of Lida Rose/Will I Ever. Since we were short on male quartets this year, DaCapo and Frank The Dog helped to fill out the male quartet ranks during that performance. What a thrill it was for the young quartets to share the stage with two of our M-AD International competitors!

While the students and teachers are

all planning to attend again next year and have vowed to “bring a friend”, we need your help to really grow the program.

Next year we are planning to offer the opportunity for individual male and female singers who are not in quartets to participate in a male and a female ensemble. Each of these ensembles will work on their own piece of music and will strive to hone it for performance on Saturday night’s show.

Please help to get the word out to high school and college quartets and singers about this awesome barbershop education opportunity.

If you haven’t made contact with the middle and high school music educators in your area (public AND private schools, as well as home-school programs!) to talk with them about adding barbershop harmony to their school music programs and getting a few quartets/ensembles ready to successfully participate in the upcoming regional adjudications (January/February of 2012), now is the time to line up your resources.

Plan to reach out to the music educators/administrators once school starts in late August/early September.

If you need help putting together a YIH outreach strategy and plan, please contact me at [gplaagbhs@gmail.com](mailto:gplaagbhs@gmail.com) for some tips and ideas. Chapters should also plan to send a representative to

# Another *record* for Youth In Harmony at HCE

Mid-Atlantic District Barbershoppers are THE GREATEST! This year, a new and enviable record of giving was achieved at Harmony/Directors College East. Extremely generous Barbershoppers (including staff and faculty members) donated a total of \$1,553 ... all for the benefit of the district’s Youth in Harmony program!

Responding to repeated calls to purchase “opportunities” at every meal on Friday and Saturday, bighearted Barbershoppers came through, time after time, and parted with \$5, \$10, or \$20 — some more than once (and a few several times!).

Why? Certainly not for the possibility of taking home one of the four packets of related goodies (although winning a scholarship to attend HCE again next year and other special “opportunities” certainly were inviting). No, it was because all the proceeds were targeted to support the district’s Youth in Harmony program. Quite a number of purchasers gave their “opportunity” tickets to YIH staff members for distribution to the younger singers. What a great bunch of guys and gals!

We, the money-hungry haranguers, want each of you who willingly responded to our subtle and sensitive invitations to part with your hard-earned cash to know how grateful we are for your friendship, good humor, and commitment to further the future of barbershop harmony. You are the best! It is GREAT to be a Barbershopper in the Mid-Atlantic District!

*Howard Fetterolf & Alan Wile*



Money-hungry haranguer Howard Fetterolf practices looking sensitive as he hawks “opportunity tickets” outside the dining hall at Harmony College East. Attendees donated \$1,553 to benefit the Youth in Harmony program.

the YIH track at the upcoming Leadership Academies (October/November). That’s where you really learn how to get involved in the YIH program.

Our YIH program has embraced social media. Yes, we have a page on Facebook! We figured out that if you want to

communicate with young people you have to so using their tools. Our Facebook page is “Mid-Atlantic District Youth Barbershop”. Be sure to visit and “like” our page, so you can receive notifications of newly-posted YIH information and resources, as well as upcoming YIH events.

If you have any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions about our YIH program, please feel free to contact me at [gplaagbhs@gmail.com](mailto:gplaagbhs@gmail.com). I welcome your suggestions, comments and inquiries!



by Dick Powell,  
District President

# Be all you can be

## *a homily on the Zen of Barbershop*

**M**uch like a baseball team at the All Star break, half-way through the year is usually a good time to assess how well you and your chapter are doing and determine what changes, if any, you want to make for the remainder of the year.

I've had an interesting six months as your district president. I have attended our International Quartet Preliminary convention, every division convention (four in all), and Harmony College East.

I have visited many chapters, and chatted with directors, presidents, quartets, and members across the district. Many of them are having great years, but many continue to struggle in some fashion — be it finding a new director, attracting new members, or trying to figure out what kind of chapter and chorus they are and want to be.

One man told me, "We thought that learning how to sing and perform better and score higher in competition would help us attract more members, but it hasn't. Maybe we've become too intimidating for the average singer? We are struggling to figure out what to do."

I was reflecting on that quandary and recalled the advice my chorus got from one of the Presentation judges at the recent Western Division Convention. He asked us if we knew what our ballad was about. We all said yes.

Then he said, "Then please be that person for me when you sing the song again. Don't think about "doing" anything, just please "be" who you should be when singing that song."

So we did what he asked, and blew the roof off the hall. Wives who were sitting in the session told us they had never heard us sing better nor seen us perform with more powerful and authentic emotion. And we didn't "do" anything! We just let ourselves "be" the person we had all agreed to be.

Can it really be that simple? And can this same lesson apply to the daily activities of our chapters? I believe the answer is a resounding "yes"!

Let's look at the issue of membership through this lens.

When guests arrive at your chapter do they find themselves on the outside looking in? Is the feeling they get, "Here we are! Watch us work and perform!"?

If they do it won't matter how many follow-up emails you send, or phone calls you make, they are not likely to return. They may not know why, but they will know they didn't feel welcome, wanted, or important to you — no matter what you actually did.

Conversely, when guests arrive do they find themselves the center of attention and celebration? Is the feeling they get from you and your members, "Wow, there you are! We're so glad you came!"?

Do your guests get that warm feeling of acceptance and welcome? Do they sense that any man of good character and willingness to learn to sing and perform is not only welcome, but a treasure without price to you and your members? Do they know, without even being told, that your chapter is organized and dedicated to helping every man achieve the special joy of ringing seventh chords and savor the fabulous fellowship of barbershop harmony in your chapter, division, district, Society, and around the world?

It seems obvious that men finding themselves in the second situation will find ways to come back and make the experience a continuing part of their lives.

So what do you do to create that situation in your chapter?

The answer: You can't "do" anything. But you and every member in your chapter can choose to "be" the warm, welcoming, inclusive, joyful, and loving person who would constitute such a chapter. And then, just as my chorus did when we chose to "be" the person in our ballad, everything else will shift and align around you so that what happens is consistent with whom you are being.

So, at the barbershop world's "All Star Break" (aka – International Convention), consider who you will choose to be for the remainder of the year, and then let the good times roll.

### *a message from the prez . . .*

I am pleased to announce some special additions to the Saturday evening activities planned for the Fall District Convention in Lancaster, Pa. Specifically:

At 6:30 p.m. on Saturday we will have a special

#### **TRIBUTE TO OLD SCHOOL**

in honor of their gold medal finish in Kansas City. They will deliver a 30 minute show for everyone in the hall and we will have a chance to honor the first gold medal quartet from the Mid-Atlantic District since the Regents won in 1974 — also in Kansas City!

Normally our reigning quartet champion would appear on the Show of Champions to sing their farewell set. But in this case Touchstone is no longer active and its members are in other quartets which will be in the competition. So we are fortunate to have the "immediate past quartet champion" and reigning 12th place International quartet, 'Round Midnight in their place.

So the Saturday night show in Lancaster is shaping up to be a real barn burner. Here is the tentative schedule for events that night:

- 6:30 pm – Tribute to Old School
- 7:00 pm – Final round of the quartet competition
- 9:00 pm – Intermission
- 9:20 pm – Show of Champions
  - 2011 Chorus Champion
  - 'Round Midnight
  - MADAQC Chorus
  - Announcement of 3rd, 2nd, and 1st Place quartets
  - Grand Finale

This is going to be a fabulous show. If you can't be there in person plan to watch via the M-AD Webcast and be part of the fun!

Thank you.

*Dick*

# Being a great director... means knowing how to fake it!

by Roger Tarpy,  
VP Chorus Director Development

How would you characterize a great chorus? The question, of course, has no single answer because choruses can be great in different ways.



Everyone would agree that the Alexandria Harmonizers are a great chorus, and yet most would also claim that the Harmony Heritage Singers, a very different sort of breed, are great in their own way – the members work hard, have high standards, they sing well and often, and they provide a satisfying musical experience for their community.

I would argue that both choruses have become great, because each has a great director. Great directors create great choruses that, in turn, accomplish lots of good things.

A connection between great choruses and great directors? Well, duh!

So let's assume that you want to have a great chorus. How do you become a great director?

Easy. Just analyze the behavior of those who are recognized as being the Jedi Warriors of our hobby — Greg Lyne, Jim Henry, Jim Clancey, Mark Hale, Jim Miller to name just a few —

and copy them.

In case you miss the irony in my answer, I'll quickly point out the obvious catch: These wonderful musical leaders were almost surely born with an exceptional talent and, too bad for the rest of us, we weren't.

I would hope, however, that no one, certainly not those entrusted with directing our Society's chapters, would accept that cop-out. Just about every man on earth needs to make up in hard work, or guile, what he lacks in native skill – musical or otherwise. So the question really becomes: If we aren't naturally gifted, like the conspicuously great directors, then what can we do?

I am going to mention two areas in which great directors excel and suggest how the rest of us might rectify our shortfall. There surely are other areas, each complicated and nuanced, but discussing just two is, at least, a start.

**Musical Education.** Most of us, for lots of reasons, cannot reasonably expect to earn a Ph.D. in music any time soon. But ask yourself: How many great directors do not have an extensive and formal background in music? Lots. Indeed, most of them. Ask them how they did it and you'll hear a familiar answer — through the Music Education program sponsored by BHS, and

*'Just about every man on earth needs to make up in hard work, or guile, what he lacks in native skill...'*

some extra hard work on the side, of course. So please don't underestimate the possibilities for substantial growth when next asked by your Music Team to attend Harmony University, participate in a CDWI, go to DCE, or get some coaching. Given the amazing resources that BHS offers, you too could be on your way to becoming a great director.

**Energy and Charisma.** For many of us, this is the most difficult characteristic of all to emulate, but probably the most important one to tackle. When we see the great directors in action, we are awed by their style. We are blown away by their high-octane performance. We marvel at their quick decision-making and heightened energy level. Indeed, their behavior can be so awe-inspiring that we're likely to think to ourselves: "That's not me — I just don't have the personality to be like that!"

But consider for the moment what makes them so "in command," so animated, and so exciting to sing for.

I suggest it's that they don't have to stop to think about what they're doing. Their terrific physical energy translates into quick thinking, and that's the heart of their invigorating rehearsal pace.

No, I am not saying that you should prance around the room in a frenzy, hoping to exude the kind of energy and enthusiasm that we typically see in our Jedi Warrior Directors.

But here's what you can do: **FAKE it.**

Here's how.

Plan your rehearsal in advance and in great detail:

For instance, plan the sequence of songs so that your rehearsal has variety.

Plan to work on only those parts of a song that need it (incidentally, rehearse each song for no longer than about 15 to 20 minutes).

Or plan to rehearse only those chords that are difficult to balance or tune.

Or plan to rehearse only those segments of a song that need considerable work.

Plan to drill, or to introduce new interpretation, only where needed.

Plan what you "expect to hear" on a passage, so that you can instantly provide some useful feedback without having to muddle through your analysis.

Plan to give praise and then, as quickly as possible, add a challenge before getting your singers started again.

Get the message? Plan your rehearsal in excruciating detail. You owe it to your chorus. Planning your rehearsal in detail will facilitate quick thinking, because you will have already anticipated the points you wish to make to your singers before you actually have to utter the advice. Your competence in providing feedback will never have been better. You will be so on top of your game — smooth and effective. All the fumbling will be gone. No more "winging it." No more "hmm....let's see.... maybe we could..." Your pacing will be stellar. Your instruction will sparkle. Your perceived authority will soar. Your musical insights will be penetrating. You will have the energy, enthusiasm, and command that we see in all truly great directors.

Planning your rehearsal in excruciating detail will affect your singers, too. Their jaws will drop in delight. Like you, they will be more energized, and they'll sing better. Their discipline on the risers will suddenly improve. And they will compliment you at night's end for leading a productive and enjoyable rehearsal — all without knowing that you faked it.

## EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES FOR YORK CHAPTER

The White Rose Chorus, the York, Pennsylvania chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society has made a recent resurgence, doubling in size in the last three years. The chapter and its single performing quartet have made numerous appearances around the community including adult assisted living communities, churches, Christmas parties, singing valentines and civic functions. They will perform the national anthem for the York Revolution for the third consecutive season on June 23rd.

In addition, the chapter held its 2011 officer installation dinner this spring. This was the first such installation for the organization in several years -- a huge step forward in reversing the recent trend of diminishing enrollment for this and a great many society chapters across the country. The installation of officers was conducted by Mid Atlantic



*White Rose Chorus members entertain at installation.*

District, Western Division Vice President, Donald Myers. Officers inducted for the 2011-2012 term include:  
 Edward Simmons - Chapter President  
 Bruce Van Order - Director and Chapter Executive Vice President  
 Robert Eppinger - Secretary/Treasurer  
 Robert Renjilian - Music and Performance V. P.  
 Roger Weigand - Marketing and Public Relations V.P.  
 David Kelly - Webmaster, Secretary Sub-

stitute and Society Delegate  
 Vern Baum - Board Member at Large

*EDITOR'S NOTE: York was the first Mid-Atlantic District chapter to have 100 members. In fact, at one time York was the largest chapter in the Society with over 200 members. It's great to see them on the way back to those heights.*

*For more information about the White Rose Chorus, visit the web site at [www.whiterosechorus.com](http://www.whiterosechorus.com)*

### Now available — **Barbershop ON DEMAND** . . . on Comcast!

Comcast customers can now catch barbershop on cable through Comcast's On Demand service!

Just go to the Music Folder, Music Picks Folder, and choose Barbershop Harmony.

Artists available this month are: Ambassadors of Harmony, OC Times, Vocal Spectrum, Storm Front, Max Q, Masters of Harmony, Old School, plus Tag Time #1 with Society Music Specialist Adam Scott.

Enjoy, and tell all your friends and fans of barbershop!



*Performing as the Brittany Pointe 2+2 are Bill Heinz (Tenor), Jerry Heebner (Lead), Doug Martinez (Bari), and Jack Kratz (Bass).*

## North Pennsmen entertain centenarians

The Montgomery County (Pa.) Department of Aging and Adult Services, a department that touches more than 45,000 each year through a network of services and programs available for older county residents last year started a program honoring centenarians, or those people who had reached 100 years of age. The initial program in 2010 was held at Brittany Pointe Estates, an ACTS retirement community near Lansdale, Pa.

Two of the residents are members of the North Pennsmen Barbershop Chorus and they were asked to find two other members who could round out a quartet to serenade the centenarians who would be having lunch and entertainment.

A quartet was formed with two from Brittany and two that are on the waiting list to come in with the predictable name of Brittany 2+2. The quartet apparently did a creditable job because they were invited back again to sing at this year's program held June 9th at Dock Woods Community, another retirement community in the Lansdale area.





Soundworks Chorus poses with Colonel Van Baroot, USA (ret.) at a recent performance.

Photo by Jason Ward

## Soundworks performs for Medal of Honor recipient

by Bob Wilson, Soundworks Chorus

Soundworks, (James River, VA Chapter) was recently privileged to perform at the Sitter-Barfoot Veteran's Care Center in Richmond, Va. The center, operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, provides rehabilitation and nursing care for military veterans.

In attendance for the performance was Van T. Barfoot, one of the two veterans for which the Veteran's Care Center is named and one of the few surviving Medal of Honor recipients from World War II.

Now 92 years old, Van Barfoot retired from the U.S. Army as a colonel after service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for action near Carano, Italy on May 23, 1944.

Then a Tech Sergeant in the 45th Infantry Division, Sgt. Barfoot single-handedly took out several German machine-gun emplacements, disabled a tank and an artillery piece, and personally took 17 prisoners.

He also helped two seriously wounded members of his platoon to positions of safety. The closing sentence in his Medal of Honor citation reads as follows:

*"Sgt. Barfoot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of point-blank fire are a perpetual inspiration to his fellow soldiers."*

Inspiration, indeed! What an honor and privilege it was for Soundworks to share

*'Sgt. Barfoot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of point-blank fire are a perpetual inspiration to his fellow soldiers.'*

this evening of harmony with Colonel Barfoot, members of his immediate family, and an appreciative gathering of men and women—veterans all—at the Sitter-Barfoot Veteran's Care Center.

For further information about Soundworks, please visit our web site at [www.soundworkschorus.org](http://www.soundworkschorus.org) or email to [president@soundworkschorus.org](mailto:president@soundworkschorus.org)

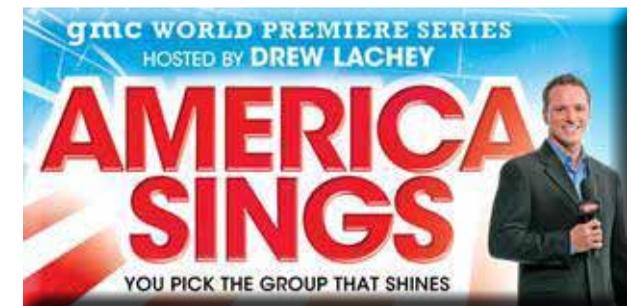
## Lansdale chapter picnic is ... a festival of song

The Lansdale Chapter held their 2011 picnic in the picnic grove located behind the fire house in Sellersville, Pa. June 21.

Hot dogs, medium to charred, with chili or sauerkraut, beer and sodas were ready at 6 p.m. and the formal program, featuring some 15 choruses and 20 quartets from the BHS, SAI, and HI began at 7 p.m.

Due to the large number of participating groups, each group was limited to singing only one song. This worked out extremely well and the final performance was completed by 9:45 p.m., leaving everyone time to get home by midnight.

— from *Notes from the Old Chord Quaker, Philadelphia*



## 'America Sings' finalists to be announced Aug 8

The voting in the contest-show "America Sings" was completed Wednesday August 3, and 15 finalists will be notified on August 8. There will not be a show on August 10, and the winner will be announced in the finale August 17. Check Twitter on August 8 and LiveWire on August 11 to see who's in the final episode!

Congratulations to all of our barbershop groups who were chosen to participate, and we hope to see them on the August 17 show!

## Atlantic Harmony Brigade holds 6th Annual Show



The Atlantic Harmony Brigade (AHB) will hold their 6th rally the weekend of August 19-21, 2011 near Wilmington Delaware.

The AHB rally is an invitational weekend event of non-stop high-level quartetting and quartet partner switching.

The AHB produces a public show Saturday, Aug 20 as part of the weekend. The 6th annual show will feature a onetime appearance of the quartet, Good Times, : Tenor – Tim Waurick (Gold medal with Vocal Spectrum-2006); Lead – Sean Devine (Gold medal with O.C. Times-2008); Bass - Jack Pinto (Gold medal with Old School-2011); Bari – Dan Deisroth (Sweet Adeline Director).

The show will also feature the 115 man AHB chorus of elite quartet men and several other quartets.

This is a one of a kind show you don't want to miss!

Tickets are available at the door.

Where: Concord High School, 2501 Ebright Rd., Wilmington, DE

When: August 20, 2011, at 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$15 (Students & Seniors \$12)

[www.AtlanticHarmonyBrigade.com](http://www.AtlanticHarmonyBrigade.com)

[AHBPrez@gmail.com](mailto:AHBPrez@gmail.com)

## So... What's a Plateau?

The Mid-Atlantic Division defines performance based "plateaus" to enable intermediate level choruses to establish meaningful goals and milestones at the Division level.

There are four performance pla-

teaus, based on an average of the previous two years' Division scores:

70% or higher = AAAA

60 – 69.9% = AAA

55 – 59.9% = AA

below 55% = A



## BBS radio moves to the web

'Sunday Nights with Vinny,' playing the best of barbershop and a cappella music, has returned. It can now be found on the internet on Midnight Cafe Radio, ([www.midnightcaferadio.net](http://www.midnightcaferadio.net)) every Sunday at 7 p.m.

Vinnie, an officer with the New York City Police Department for 21 years, is also a member of the Big Apple Chorus. From 2004-08 he hosted the show on the old Harmony Network, WVRM, Montclair, N.J.

Tune in this Sunday, and every Sunday for your barbershop fix.

*Rich Taylor from the Rahway Valley Chapter and Vinnie Haynes from the Manhattan Chapter chat on the air and play the best of barbershop. The show has returned after a three year hiatus to a new venue.*



Mid-Atlantic District

### District Contest

Sept. 30 — Oct. 1, 2011

**Can't make it to Lancaster?** Or just want to see your favorite quartets again? Watch the District Fall Contest on webcast. We'll have web hosts to comment on the contestants and accompany you through the webcast. You'll be able to watch it LIVE or On-Demand!

Included in the webcast is a Live Order of Appearance, which automatically updates so you'll always know who's on stage at any given time, and a chat session link so you can converse about that last contestant and compare armchair scores!

To watch the webcast, simply purchase your subscription through the Clear Sky Webcasting site. Pricing is based upon how much of the contest you want to watch.

See [www.clearskywebcasting.com](http://www.clearskywebcasting.com) for rates.

Looking for a place to stay while in Lancaster for the Fall District Convention? Here is a link EXCLUSIVELY for the use of Mid-Atlantic District barbershoppers

and fans. Go to [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome\\_ei\\_new&eventID=3376324](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=3376324) to find options and make selections.



## JOE DELLA BADIA

By Tom Cameron & Jack McDermott, Red Bank Area Chapter

Joe Della Badia passed away on June 11 in Meriden, N.H. at the age of 76. He was Musical Director of the Chorus of the Atlantic from 1967 to 1970 following a stint as Assistant Director of the Raritan Bay Chorus. He also directed the Iselin and Westfield Choruses (now Rahway Valley) and the Jersey Hills Sweet Adelines. He directed many of his own arrangements in shows and contests including two popular songs he wrote, Isabella and "Someday This Will All Be Broadway", which are still being sung.

He belonged to many quartets including the Beech-Comers, Town Criers, Perfect Alibi, Random Sample, and Park Avenue. He organized and sang tenor in a comedy quartet The Next Quartet From Iselin New Jersey Chapter whose name drove the contest judges nuts when announced by the MC. The Town Criers were first place in the Teaneck Open and the Jersey Shore Area Quartet contests and fifth place in the Mid-Atlantic District contest in 1965. Other quartet members included Corky Prout (Town Criers and Perfect Alibi), Don Skrocki and Joe McCoy (Ocean County Chapter- Random Sample), Tom Cameron (Town Criers and Random Sample). Joe also sang in Park Avenue where he sang baritone with Jim Landry (Lead), followed by Park Ave #2 where Jim Batykefer sang Lead... in both versions Jack McDermott sang bass



*The Town Criers. Clockwise from top left: Tom Cameron, Corky Prout, Joe Della Badia and Ted Clemens.*

**Memorable Occasions** – Town Criers appearing on the Freeport, Long Island annual show with the International champion Buffalo Bills (of "Music Man" show fame), and singing on a float in the Boardwalk parade in President Johnson's campaign in Atlantic City in 1965.

**Other Occasions** - Joe was attacked by a skunk in his back yard following an evening gig by the Town Criers quartet. From that time on, the christened

quartet uniform was nicknamed the "Skunk Suit".

Joe was multi-talented. Our chorus is singing his re-arrangement of "For All We Know", now in our present repertoire. In his civilian life he was a champion swimming coach, social studies teacher, high school principal, and school superintendent. His humor and personality will be greatly missed, and we were pleased to be his friends and fellow quartet members. 🎵

## TOM STERLING – A GIANT AMONG US



At the District contest in October 1968, Tom Sterling appeared in his first registered quartet at the district contest and won the prestigious Lou Metcalf award as the District Novice Quartet champion. Known as The Voyagers, the quartet included Tenor-Jiggs Beatty, Lead-Ben Lander, Bari- Ed Zimmerman, and, of course, Bass-Tom Sterling.

Over the next 40-some years Tom was in a number of well-known quartets including Broadway and Sound Revival, winning two District Championships. He also appeared in twelve International contests, finishing in the top ten with Sound Revival one time. In later years, he sang with "Livin' Large" until he had to give up the commute from Salisbury, MD to North Jersey for rehearsals to care for the love of his life, Nancy, who was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Most recently, Tom won a division championship in "Four in a Row", composed of Tenor-Ron Allen, Lead-Joe Pollio, Bari-Gene Jackson, and Bass-Tom Sterling. They were members of different quartets that had won the District contest four years in a row!

Over the years, Tom directed a number of choruses. At one time or another he led Cherry Hill, Manhattan, Salisbury, Milford, Easton, MD, Queen Anne's County, MD, and one or two choruses in New Jersey that long-time friend Ed Zimmerman could not remember. He also directed the Sweet Adeline Ocean/Bay Chorus in Salisbury. After over 50 years of coaching men and women's choruses and quartets, he helped form his final quartet, New Q, and rehearsed at his home so they could all be there with Nancy. Joining Tom in his last quartet were Tenor-Stephan Pavlos, Lead-Ken Davis, and Bari-Ed Zimmerman. Less than 2 weeks after being coached at HCE this June Tom was gone.

There will be a memorial service for Tom on Saturday, August 20 at 1:00 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, 112 High St., Salisbury, MD. After the service, an afterglow reception will be held at Holloway Hall on the campus of Salisbury University, 1101 Camden Avenue. Quartets are welcome to sing at the reception. Parking at the church and on campus will be limited. Please carpool in town when possible and, if lodging is needed, make reservations early. The university has a special event that weekend.

Nancy scheduled and planned this so many of the barbershop friends Tom knew and helped over five decades would have the opportunity to say farewell and celebrate his extraordinary life. 🎵



## MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU'

by Chris Papa,  
Red Bank Area Chapter

The Matinee Idles have had a wide variety of appropriate songs with which to close their many performances over the years. Their search for a new number turned up Society favorite son, Meredith Willson's May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You, a song that was a very well known sign off tune throughout the country in the 1950's.

At that time, Willson was a featured performer on NBC's 90 minute radio variety program called "The Big Show". It was lavish entertainment for the time and featured well-known guest artists, all famous personalities.

Aside from Willson, the other regular was the actress Tallulah Bankhead. The sultry voiced actress introduced, chatted and bantered with each guest and was a delightful ad libber, which contributed to the show's success.

The formula for the show's ending was repeated week after week. The orchestra started playing May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You, and Tallulah spoke, rather than sang, the first line, then she re-introduced each of the evening's guests, who then proceeded to sing their portion of the song until it was complete.

You Tube has a recording of a very typical show ending with still photos at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZC7k70HTbc> &playnext=1&list=PL12E090CB77B65

ED9.

Despite a great line up of guest stars which included Ethel Barrymore, Charles Boyer, Gary Cooper, Marlene Dietrich, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Carmen Miranda, Bob Hope, Martin and Lewis, Ginger Rogers, George Sanders, and Gloria Swanson; musical/comedy stage stars Eddie Cantor, Jimmy Durante, Judy Holliday and Gordon MacRae; opera stars Lauritz Melchior and Robert Merrill; and, jazz and popular music titans Louis Armstrong, Rosemary Clooney, Perry Como, Billy Eckstine, Ella Fitzgerald, Benny Goodman, The Ink Spots, Frankie Laine, Judy Garland, Édith Piaf, Frank Sinatra, Rudy Vallée and Sarah Vaughan, the show only lasted two years.

Part of the problem was that competitor CBS ran "The Jack Benny Show" and the "Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy Show" against "The Big Show" and Americans chose the former.

The advent of television rapidly finished off all of these three.



Tallulah Bankhead signs off "The Big Show" by reciting the first lines to Meredith Willson's May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You.

## BACK IN MY HOME TOWN

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Back in my home town.

Val Hicks, 1962

*The BucksMont Squires of Song*

A Barbershop Harmony Chorus - Under the Direction of Bob Ramsey

Presents



With the Headliner Quartet

ESCAPADE

...Special Guest Chorus - "VINTAGE HARMONY"

And... Chapter Quartets

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011, 1PM AND 7PM

New Life Christian Church, #4 Freedom Drive, Newtown, PA 18940

(Off-Street Parking & Handicap Accessible)

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All Seats General Admission

Ticket Information: 215.885.1337 (Day) - 215.657.3636 (Evening)

To Order tickets: Please mail this form with self-addressed, stamped envelope and your check payable to "Abington-Levittown Chapter" and send to:  
BOB KAUFFMANN, P.O. BOX 1247, ROSLYN, PA 19001-9247

Group Discounts Available

Name	Number of Adult Tickets at \$15 per ticket = \$
Address	Number of Senior/Student Tickets at \$12 per ticket = \$
	Total Amount Enclosed = \$
	Indicate 1PM <input type="checkbox"/> or 7PM <input type="checkbox"/>
Phone	\$12 admission for Students under age 18 (Free Admission for Children age 10 and under) \$12 admission for Seniors age 55 and older

Visit us at [bms.harmonize.com](http://bms.harmonize.com) and [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org)

Ask about our "Between Shows" Dinner at the church, 4 to 6 PM

New Show Date  
New Show Location

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Patapsco Valley Chapter presents

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This program is supported in part by the Baltimore County Executive, County Council, and Commission on Arts & Sciences.



### *September*

10 Easton, MD Chapter Show

24 Hanover, PA Chapter Show

### *October*

8 Honesdale, PA Chapter Show

15 Morris County, NJ Chapter Show

15 Ocean County, NJ Chapter Show

15 Patapsco Valley, MD Chapter Show

22 Abington-Levittown, PA

Chapter Show

22 James River, VA Chapter Show

### *November*

5 District of Columbia Chapter Show

10-12 Smith Mountain Lake, VA

Chapter Show

12 Dundalk, MD Chapter Show

### *December*

12 Bucks County, PA Chapter show

17 Cherry Hill, NJ Chapter Show

# Hometowne USA

is  
seeking

a  
director

# Is it you?



## ABOUT US:

- Hometowne USA is the performing chorus of the Montgomery County, Maryland chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Our Members sing together because we enjoy music and good company and are committed to sharing our music with our community.
- Our 18 singers are from all walks of life, range in age from their 50s to 80s and are well distributed among the 4 parts.
- We have not been entering competition the past few years, but have an active singout schedule throughout the year and usually put on an annual show.
- We meet every Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Summerville Assisted living Facility in Potomac, Md. where we have an audience of about a dozen residents.
- Our present repertoire is 20 songs plus 12 Pole cats and we are presently learning two more.
- We are looking for a new director to replace our current one who must leave us at the end of the summer.

## ABOUT YOU:

- We would like a director with barbershop experience as a director or assistant director.
- The person (male or female) should be able to help us continually improve our singing skills as a chorus.
- They should be able to lead us in singouts and interact comfortably with our audience.
- They should be prepared to help our music committee choose new songs and plan our annual show.
- We do have an assistant director and another experienced director in the chorus.
- We do provide a salary and potentially cover other expenses.
- Contact Jay Reiss [Jayleroy1@yahoo.com](mailto:Jayleroy1@yahoo.com) or David Byers [Dbyers4@verizon.net](mailto:Dbyers4@verizon.net) to plan a visit.

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7PM-12AM

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Sep 30

M-AD Board Fall Meeting

Sep 30 - Oct 2

M-AD Fall District  
Convention

Oct 2

M-AD Delegates (HOD)  
Fall Meeting

Oct 27-30

BHS Board of Directors  
Fall Meeting

Oct 29

M-AD Southern  
Leadership Academy

Nov 12

M-AD Central  
Leadership Academy

Nov 12

M-AD Northern  
Leadership Academy

Nov 18-20

DELASUSQUEHUDMAC  
Annual Meeting



# Mid-Atlantic District Convention All Events Ticket Registration Form



Order Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Name/Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address (A) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Registration pick-up at the Will-Call desk  
 No C.O.D or phone reservations accepted  
 Use Block Order form for more than 10  
 Notice: Payment for the full amount of your order MUST  
 accompany this request or, if form is submitted via e-mail,  
 must be received within 5 days to validate this order

Send your request to:  
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 c/o Mr. Bob Hastings  
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 Baltimore, MD 21236-1979  
 Buy on-line: [www.mad-registrations.org](http://www.mad-registrations.org)  
 Mail info: [quartets@mad-registrations.org](mailto:quartets@mad-registrations.org)  
 Web Page: [www.MiddlAnticsDistrict.com](http://www.MiddlAnticsDistrict.com)

Type: Gen'l  1st Timer  Q-Club  4th  VIP  5th  6th  7th  8th  9th  10th  11th  12th  13th  14th  15th  16th  17th  18th  19th  20th  21st  22nd  23rd  24th  25th  26th  27th  28th  29th  30th  31st  32nd  33rd  34th  35th  36th  37th  38th  39th  40th  41st  42nd  43rd  44th  45th  46th  47th  48th  49th  50th  51st  52nd  53rd  54th  55th  56th  57th  58th  59th  60th  61st  62nd  63rd  64th  65th  66th  67th  68th  69th  70th  71st  72nd  73rd  74th  75th  76th  77th  78th  79th  80th  81st  82nd  83rd  84th  85th  86th  87th  88th  89th  90th  91st  92nd  93rd  94th  95th  96th  97th  98th  99th  100th  101st  102nd  103rd  104th  105th  106th  107th  108th  109th  110th  111st  112nd  113th  114th  115th  116th  117th  118th  119th  120th  121st  122nd  123rd  124th  125th  126th  127th  128th  129th  130th  131st  132nd  133rd  134th  135th  136th  137th  138th  139th  140th  141st  142nd  143rd  144th  145th  146th  147th  148th  149th  150th  151st  152nd  153rd  154th  155th  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1012nd  1013th  1014th  1015th  1016th  1017th  1018th  1019th  1020th  1021st  1022nd  1023rd  1024th  1025th  1026th  1027th  1028th  1029th  1030th  1031st  1032nd  1033rd  1034th  1035th  1036th  1037th  1038th  1039th  1040th  1041st  1042nd  1043rd  1044th  1045th  1046th  1047th  1048th  1049th  1050th  1051st  1052nd  1053rd  1054th  1055th  1056th  1057th  1058th  1059th  1060th  1061st  1062nd  1063rd  1064th  1065th  1066th  1067th  1068th  1069th  1070th  1071st  1072nd  1073rd  1074th  1075th  1076th  1077th  1078