

# Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions

October 18, 2025

Dear Champs,

This year's **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was held in a new location, **Cape May Courthouse, NJ**, on October 3-5 and marked our 27<sup>th</sup> year as an association. As usual, the **MADAQC Chorus** performance on the **Saturday Night Show of Champions** was a highlight of an already great weekend of barbershop harmony. Attending the convention were **35** quartet champs representing **31** foursomes spanning **5** decades ... from **Alexandria's Ragtime Band** (1985) to **Secret Best Friends** (2025).

Starting at the end of the weekend, our 79<sup>th</sup> district champions are:

## GQ

### 2026 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

Amanda Sandroni (T), Katie Gillis (L), Ali Hauger (Br), and Samantha Tramack (Bs)  
Hershey, PA and Alexandria, VA

Coming off their 5<sup>th</sup> Place medalist performances at the Denver BHS International Contest, **GQ** was spectacular in Cape May singing **"Slap That Bass"**, **"It's All Coming Back to Me Now"**, **"Coffee"**, and **"Ambiance Tribute"** to earn the **highest score in M-AD quartet contest history** ... a whopping 3,298 (91.6%). They are our first all-women's champion and were unquestionably the audience's favorite.



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

Throughout late Friday afternoon, the lobby was filled with the sounds of people meeting and greeting, checking in, and tag-singing. The MADAQC display table attracted many folks who were interested in viewing the slide show of champs from 1945-2025. The auditorium was busy with the stage crew led by **Ken Rub** and the sound, lighting, and video crew led by **Mike Kelly**.

### Quartet Contest Semi-Finals



The **Friday Quartet Semifinals** started at 4:30 with presenter **Sally Galloway**, District VP-Central Division. The Judging Panel was **Evan Boegehold**, **Clay Hine**, and **Melody Hine** in Musicality; **Cy Wood**, **Brian O'Dell**, and **Robert Ross** in Presentation; and **James Estes**, **Adrian Leontovich**, and **Ben Shively** in Singing. The PC was **Bari Courts** and the ADM was **Ben Porter**. **Rafi Hasib** is the District VP of Contests.

Our **2025 M-AD Quartet Champions, Secret Best Friends (Kevin Juliana, James Isley, James Pennington, and Will Daniel Simmons)**, served as the mic-testers, setting the tone and a high bar for the entire weekend.

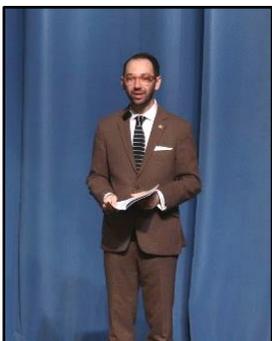


**InstaGramps (Rick Taylor, Jay Butterfield, Robbie Seay, and Steve White)** were the mic-coolers and later named the

**2026 M-AD Seniors Quartet Champions** having received the highest score from the 3 division contests this past spring. They will represent the district at the Mid-Winter Convention in Pasadena, CA this coming January.

There were initially 24 quartet competitors, but several scratches brought it down to 19. It was great to see 8 past champs on the boards in quartets ... **Anthony Colosimo** and **Andrew Havens** in **Better Together**, **Jeff Glemboski** in **Retro**, **Gabrial Spector** in **Age of Flight**, and all 4 champs in **InstaGramps**.

### Chorus Contest



The Chorus contest started bright and early at 9:00 am. **James Pennington (Secret Best Friends)**, served as the presenter. The mic-tester chorus was **Parkside Harmony**. There were 16 choruses competing this year, 6 of which were directed by MADAQC members: **Vince Sandroni** (Parkside Harmony), **Tony Colosimo** (Alexandria Harmonizers), **Will Downey** (East Coast Sound), **Rich Gray, Jr.** (The Pine Barons), **Mike Wallen** (The Virginians), and **Joe Servidio, Jr.** (The Dapper Dans of Harmony). The mic-cooler chorus was **The Gold Dynamic**.



While we waited for the contest results the **Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor (HoH)** members lined up on the stage for the induction ceremony for the district’s highest and more prestigious award. HoH Selection Committee Chair, **Richard Lewellen**, read the criteria for consideration and then introduced the three presenters, **Jay Butterfield**, **Steve White**, and **Christian Hunter**, who summarized the contributions by the 2025 recipients, **Steve Kirsch**, **Rick Serpico**, and **Roxanne Powell** (now joining her husband Dick in the Hall). Each received extended standing ovations from the audience.



**Steve Kirsch**



**Rick Serpico (absent)**

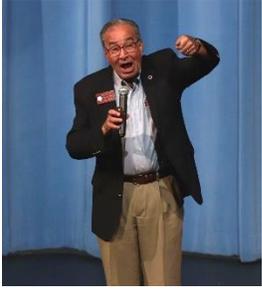


**Roxanne Powell**

Twenty-six (26) individual quartet champs have now been inducted into the **M-AD Hall of Honor** since it was established in 1986, 8 have been inducted into the **BHS Hall of Fame**, 1 has earned the **BHS Lifetime Achievement Award in Arranging**, 1 has earned the **Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award**, and 1 was awarded the **Dave LaBar Emcee Award**. **Fun Fact:** the late great **Freddie King** had 4 of these!



As usual there were several friendly updates by HFI representative **Rick Taylor** about activities and opportunities with our BHS fundraising partners, **Harmony Foundation International**, and some impromptu sing-alongs lead by **Jay Butterfield** and **Bill Colosimo**.





Our district leadership, **President Steve Skolnick** and **Executive Vice President Mike Fasano**, always had important things to say throughout the weekend. Then came the announcement for what was a very close chorus contest with the top 3 separate by just 19 points (1%-ile). All the top 5 choruses will represent the M-AD at the 2026 International Chorus Competition in St. Louis, MO next July.



## 2026 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions ... **PARKSIDE HARMONY**



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

Under the co-direction of **Sean Devine** and **Vince Sandroni**, they staged 41 men, scored 1,598 points (88.8%), and sang *“If I Can Dream”* and *“Old Friends.”*



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Gotham (Hells’ Kitchen, NY)

Under the direction of **Anna Chelak**, they staged 51 people, scored 1,588 (88.2%), and sang *“New York, New York/Another Hundred People”* and *“What’Il I Do.”*



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – The Alexandria Harmonizers (Alexandria, VA)**

Under the direction of **Tony Colosimo**, they staged 49 men, scored 1,579 (87.7%), and sang *“But the World Goes ‘Round”* and *“Come Follow the Band.”*



**4<sup>th</sup> Place – The True North Chorus (Greater Delaware, DE)**

Under the direction of **Julian LeFlore**, they staged 35 people, scored of 1,511 (83.9%), and sang *“It’s Party Time”* and *“Not While I’m Around/No One is Alone.”*



**5<sup>th</sup> Place – Metro Voices (Alexandria, VA)**

Under the direction of **Samantha Tramack**, they staged 25 women, scored of 1,475 (81.9%), and sang *“How Far I’ll Go”* and *“World, Here I Am Medley.”*

## Late Saturday Afternoon

Following the chorus contest there was a **Q&A session** with new **BHS CEO Robert Rund** (also a district champ with **Doubletake**), a **Tags for a Cause** fundraising event for **Youth in Harmony** hosted by **Secret Best Friends**, a **Harmony Platoon** room hosted and judged by **Shop Class 2.0** quartet, and **Middle Township Panther Parent Booster Club** manned a food concessional stand just outside on a patio area.



## Quartet Finals and the Show of Champions



**Robert** also emceed the **Quartet Finals** and the **Show of Champions** which featured our new chorus champions, **Parkside Harmony** as well as **Parkside Melody**, and our **2024 M-AD Quartet Champs, Smoke Ring**.

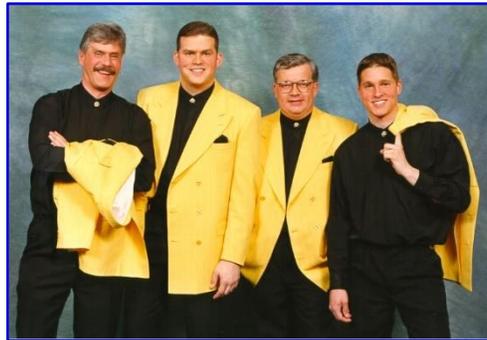


Our outgoing **2025 M-AD Quartet Champs, Secret Best Friends**, sang their swansong set. They sounded great and the audience expressed their appreciation with cheers and applause, especially for an **Easternaires** tribute song.

The **MADAQC Chorus** met at the intermission. We were well prepared, and our director **Rick Taylor** needed only a single run through because we sounded great. As we took the stage, **Robert** commented on the many quartet champions attending the convention and read the names of the 31 foursomes they represented. The audience gave each their due applause. He also recognized 3 quartet anniversaries and the members attending this weekend (**Richard Lewellen, Bob Ramsey & Rich Gray, and Steve White**).



**Four Aces (20<sup>th</sup>)**



**Runaway Sound (25<sup>th</sup>)**



**The Bay Rum Runners (30<sup>th</sup>)**

As the top 10 quartets huddled backstage anxiously waiting for the possibility that their names would be called among the top 5 finishers, **Rafi Hasib** announced the contest results. The quartets came onstage to receive their pins and accept well deserved applause.



**The Balance ... 5<sup>th</sup> Place, 2,744, 76.2%, Greater Delaware, DE  
Dylan Wallach, Jonah Levinson, Tommy Hunter, and Michael Weaver**



**B-Side ... 4<sup>th</sup> Place, 2,777, 77.1%, Hell's Kitchen, NY and Manhattan, NY  
Brett Watanabe, Nick Roberto, Chris Granger, and Braden Lynk**



**Beltway ... 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, 2,824, 78.4%, Alexandria, VA  
Rob Santine, Suranjan Sen, Josh Myers, and Ryan Mextorf**



**Better Together ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 3,063, 85.1%, Alexandria, VA  
Elizabeth Colosimo, Heather Havens, Anthony Colosimo, and Andrew Havens**

The other quartets placing in the top 10 were **Retro** (6<sup>th</sup>), **Way She Goes** (7<sup>th</sup>), **One Stop Shop** (8<sup>th</sup>), **Brunch Buddies** (9<sup>th</sup>), and **Rampage** (10<sup>th</sup>). **Fantastic 4** was originally ranked in the top 10 from round 1 but unfortunately had a substitute lead singer in the finals and were by rule disqualified, but it was fun to see **Jason Lee** step in with a day's notice and sing great. **Shop Class 2.0** were the mic-testers.

**GQ** was then crowned our **2026 M-AD Quartet Champions** and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, district champions plaques, and 1<sup>st</sup> place lapel pins.



**Rick Taylor** then directed the **MADAQC Chorus** in singing our traditional song of celebration and congratulations, *"This is the Moment"* (arranged by **Freddie King**), as **GQ** stood hugging and all smiles.



**Robert Rund** then led the entire M-AD audience in *"Keep the Whole World Singing"* ... bringing to close yet another fantastic barbershop convention.

### **Quartet Champions Reception**

Immediately following, we all moved to a private area where **Tom & Donna Halley** had set up the **Quartet Champion's Reception**. **Steve White** officially welcomed **GQ** into our association of champions, District President **Steve Skolnick** made some thoughtful comments of congratulations, and **Jay Butterfield** led a poignant toast.



**Secret Best Friends** expressed their sincere congratulations and continued the tradition of offering a legacy gift, this time a Maryland-based theme – a silver crab cracking hammer. GQ then treated everyone to another song and **Mike Kelly** took official photos.



**GQ** – You have earned the admiration and respect of your fellow Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions for this enduring achievement. Well done!

**Trivia:** The **Sandroni's (Amanda and Vince)** have become the first husband and wife to win the M-AD Quartet Championship in separate quartets, **GQ** and **Pratt Street Power**. Other champions quartet family members have included **Kevin and Freddie King; Bill and Tony Colosimo; Rich, Dick, and Jeff Gray; and Scott and Bob "Diz" Disney**.



## Additional Congratulation to Champions

The M-AD was highly successful this past summer in the Denver BHS international Contest. Congratulations to the 27 individual MADAQC singers who competed in various foursomes including 6 full district champions quartets (now including GQ):

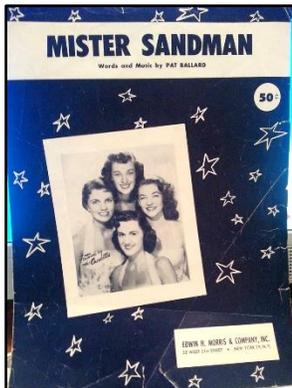
**Gimme Four** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Medalists  
**First Take** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Medalists  
**GQ** – 5<sup>th</sup> Place Medalists  
**Secret Best Friends** – 7<sup>th</sup> Place Finalists  
**Smoke Ring** – 10<sup>th</sup> Place Finalists  
**Pratt Street Power** – 11<sup>th</sup> Place Semifinalists  
**Legacy** – Quarterfinalists  
**Western Addition** – Quarterfinalists (representing FWD)

## Lost Members

Sadly, over the past year we have lost 3 quartet champs. We remember the following men with fondness and will miss their spirit and voices:

**Bob “Diz” Disney** (Br/L) – **Union Jacks** (1970), **B&O Connection** (1978), **Arcade** (1992), **HoH Member**  
**Hal Kraft** (T) – **Keystone Congregation** (1980)  
**Bob Parry** (Br) – **Out of Towners** (1960)

## Special Tribute



**Marjorie Needham Latzko** (wife of famed barbershop arranger **Walter Latzko**) passed away two months ago at the age of 96. She was a very special lady and friend to our district for many years. Margie was the last living member of one of the most famous female quartets in American pop music history, the **Chordettes**, whose songs **“Mr. Sandman”** and **“Lollipop”** were top 10 Billboard Chart hits and sold over 1M copies each. The district published a special tribute in the convention program crafted by **Bill Colosimo**. The **Alexandria Harmonizers/Metro Voices** dedicated their Fall Show final song, **“The Parting Glass,”** to Margie’s memory and the video was shown at her memorial service on October 4.

## Appreciation and Thanks

Throughout the year, numerous MADAQC members actively held leadership and management roles in the M-AD and throughout the BHS. For their service, we are all highly appreciative.

- **Larry Bomback** — Society Board Member, HoH Member
- **Steve Kirsch** — Immediate Past M-AD President, HoH Member
- **Joe Servidio, Jr.** – DVP Northern Division, YIH/Student Activities Team, Chorus Director

- **Jeff Glemboski** — DVP Chorus Director Development
- **Alex Corson** – M-AD Board Member at Large
- **Bill Colosimo** — Leadership Development Committee Chair, HCE Committee, HoH Member
- **Rick Taylor** — MADAQC Chorus Director, Harmony Foundation International Representative, HoH Member
- **Richard Lewellen** — Hall of Honor Chair, Chorus Director, HoH Member
- **David Ammirata** — YIH/Student Activities Team
- **Will Downey** — YIH/Student Activities Team, Chorus Director
- **Paul Franek** — YIH/Student Activities Team
- **Mike Kelly** – Chief Information Officer, District Communications, Photographer/Videographer, Marketing & PR Team, Webmaster, Advanced Technology, Team, and HCE Committee, HoH Member
- **Kevin King** – Chorus Director
- **Joe Hunter** – Certified Presentation Judge, HoH Member
- **James Pennington** – Certified Performance Judge
- **Anthony Colosimo** – Certified Singing Judge, Chorus Director, HoH Member
- **Jay Butterfield** – Certified Singing Judge, HoH Member
- **John Ward** – Certified Singing Judge
- **Mike Wallen** – DELASUSQUEHUDMAC President, Chorus Director, HoH Member
- **Steve White** — MADAQC Wrangler, HoH Member

Special thanks to **Mike Kelly** and his team for most of the photos in this recap. And my personal gratitude to the **Rick Taylor, Tom & Donna Halley, Steve Skolnick, Tracy Hunter, Ken Rub, Jamie Patricia, and Rafi Hasib.**

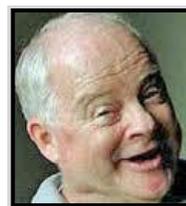
That wraps it up for this year. My sincere apologies if I have left anyone out of this recap, made any errors (likely), or missed highlighting something or someone important. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon, especially at the Pasadena Mid-Winter Convention, the St. Louis BHS International Convention, and at the M-AD Fall 2026 Convention. Please stay healthy, happy, and keep singing.

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

*Steve White*



... always remembering our dear Freddie



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

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

41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
64	2009	<i>Old School</i> <i>(2011 International Quartet Champions)</i>
65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>
67	2012	<i>M-AD Hatters</i>
68	2013	<i>Frank the Dog</i>
69	2014	<i>Mayhem</i>
70	2015	<i>Last Men Standing</i>
71	2016	<i>Route 1</i>
72	2017	<i>Da Capo</i>
73	2018	<i>Gimme Four</i>
74	2019	<i>Midtown</i> <i>(2023 International Quartet Champions)</i>
75	2020	<i>Pratt Street Power</i>
76	2023	<i>First Take</i>
77	2024	<i>Smoke Ring</i>
78	2025	<i>Secret Best Friends</i>
79	2026	<i>GQ</i>

Note: **Represented in Cape May this year.**

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

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

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

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