



Dixie Town Crier

Dixie's monthly chapter newsletter
dedicated to the original town crier,
Chuck Witherspoon



March 2022 Volume 14, Issue 1



cityScape quartet, with Allen Reynolds – Tenor, Howard McAdory – Lead, Paul Gilman – Baritone and Jay Hawkins – Bass, are your **2022 International Senior Quartet Silver Medalists**. Representing the Music City, Louisville Thoroughbreds and Cincinnati Southern Gateway Choruses.

cityScape was formed in 2019 with Allen(T), Howard(L), Jay(Br) and Tony Clifton(Bs) all members of the Music City Chorus. Jay being a dual member with The Louisville Thoroughbreds. They are the 2019 Cardinal District Quartet Champions as well as the 2020 International Senior 5th Place Bronze Medalists. However, due to health issues our original bass Tony made the difficult decision to step down from the quartet in the fall of 2021. He wished for **cityScape** to continue and is our most enthusiastic supporter.

In stepped two time International Gold Medalist Paul Gilman on Baritone and Jay moved to bass. With five rehearsals (two were coaching sessions – thanks Adam Scott and Gene Spilker) **cityScape** made the trek to Pasadena, California for the Midwinter convention and sang "Always" and "I'm Gonna Live Till I Die" to score 1409 points or a 78.3% to become Silver Medalists.

cityScape wishes to thank the Music City Chorus and the Dixie, Cardinal and Johnny Appleseed Districts for their leadership and support of the quartet and look forward to performing on shows in the not-too-distant future. Check them out on Facebook or contact one of the 5 members of the quartet... Allen, Howard, Paul, Jay or Tony.



2022 Spring Contest

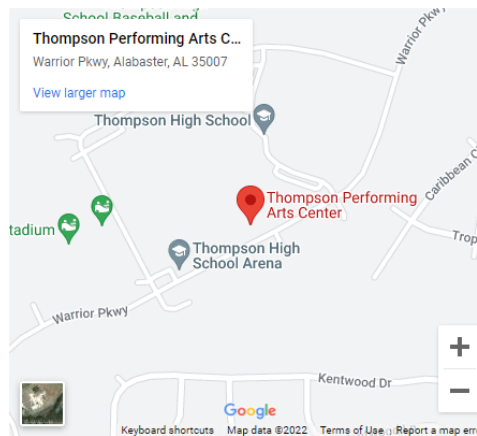
March 25th-26th - Alabaster, AL
dixiedistrict.org

All attendees will be required to purchase a convention registration for \$50.00, with a \$10.00 late fee if registered after March 11th. However, the deadline for contestant entries will be midnight Friday, March 4, 2022. Late attempts to enter the contest should be directed to Jim Sams.

*****IMPORTANT***** We will have an international quartet prelim (2 rounds) which includes registered male, female, and mixed quartets for the first time in the district, and we will award a Dixie District Chorus Championship. The most improved chorus award based on chorus scores from the previous year's spring contest will begin again in Spring 2023. You have six weeks to enter the contests of your choice.

If you are not a BHS member or a registered quartet or chorus who wants to perform 2 songs with the potential of a score and/or evaluation, please contact me directly by phone (preferred) and/or email to confirm your interest. The online contest entry format is for BHS members only, and will not work for you.

We would still like to provide the opportunity for you to sing and possibly receive an evaluation, if desired. Please contact Jim Sams if you are interested in just performing but are not a society member or a registered quartet. We will also offer a score-only session invitational for all choruses/quartets (senior, male, mixed, or female) who do not wish to compete who would like to receive your personal score sheet.



House Of Delegates Meeting

Please make sure your chapter delegate gets the information attached to this email and is discussed with your chapter to make sure your delegate knows the wishes of your chapter. This is being sent to several leaders in your chapter to make sure it is received by your chapter.

Since the HOD Meeting will be virtual we are asking the delegate from each chapter email secretary@dixiedistrict.org the chapter name and the delegate's name representing each chapter. Also, remember if a member of the board is a member of your chapter the board member cannot be your chapter delegate. They already are a voting member of the HOD by fact they are a board member.



**QUARTET
DRAW
DIXIE DISTRICT
SPRING CONTEST**

MARCH 25 - 26, 2022 - ALABASTER, AL

1 POLE POSITION	9 HALF A TON O'FUN
2 ROCK CITY 4	10 HIGH GRAVITY
3 Q'D UP!	11 WILDFIRE
4 SILVER RING	12 TONY AND THE HONCHOS
5 DEEP WATER	13 SHOWPIECE
6 EIGHT FEET WIDE	14 MEANWHILE
7 FOUR BASS HIT	15 PROFESSIONAL NONSENSE
8 HAPPY MEAL	16 B-LIST
17 OFFBEATELS	

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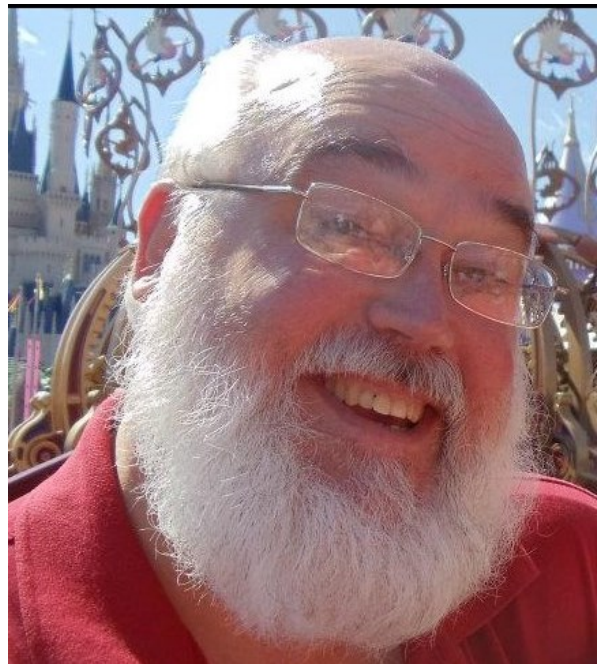
Notes from the President

Barbershoppers and friends,

Only two weeks until our first District Convention and Contest in two-and-a-half years! Whoo-Hoo! There will be singing and dancing and singing and tagging and singing and hugging (while staying safe) and more singing! We have quartets, we have choruses (chori for you Latin nerds), and we have a place and time to compete. What more could you ask for?

I'm so looking forward to seeing all of you in Alabaster! Be sure to stop me and say hello. Can you tell I'm excited?

On another note (seventh? minor third?) is our House of Delegates meeting Sunday night March 20 at 8:30 PM Eastern time. We will be meeting by Zoom and all chapters should have already received information about what will be discussed. Please be sure that YOUR chapter is represented - some very important matters will be discussed. One of them is the recommendation from the District Name Task Force - spoiler alert: they are recommending that a change be made and they have a rationale to back up the recommendation.



Either at the HOD or Convention or both - I'm ecstatic at the chance to see YOU soon.

Chordially,
Paul Blazek
Proud Dixie District President




**Is looking for
a new Director!**



**Greater Atlanta Chapter Chorus needs a full time
Director to carry on the decades-long tradition of
performance, community engagement and fellowship!**

Send inquiries to info@stonemountainchorus.org
Website www.stonemountainchorus.org

Stone Mountain Chorus

As Barbershop Singers, we lament the fact that the hobby we love remains one of the best-kept secrets in the music world. We know there are countless individuals out there who would love to sing with others, but who don't think of Barbershop a cappella singing as an accessible and fulfilling activity. Of course we can promote our choruses through performances and guest nights, but the Covid 19 pandemic has severely limited those activities.

In general, there are two ways to grow our chapters -- invite friends to join us and hope they can become singers, or invite singers to join us and hope they become friends. The latter approach means we have to find people who like to sing and expose them to the wonderful world of a cappella harmony.

Several years ago, Stone Mountain Chorus came up with a way to bring our special art to the public in a relaxed, fun setting: The outdoor festival. As with many choruses, we had a long history of performing on stage at such events. As we did that, we looked out over a colorful patchwork of tents and signs hawking the wares of various arts and crafts and food vendors, and it occurred to us: Instead of looking out over the vendors interacting with festival-goers on an individual basis, why not be one of them? Why not be a "vendor" and rent a booth for the day, selling not face-painting or candle-making, but harmony!



Chorus members Bill Rigdon and Leo Gilsdorf man the Stone Mountain Chorus Booth at the Johns Creek International Festival

In Atlanta, we chose a relatively new outdoor festival in the neighborhood where we rehearse, the Johns Creek International Festival. This event promotes food, crafts and music from around the world, and of course we staked our claim as representing Americana. We set up the supplied tent with a large banner along with several posters and framed photographs of Stone Mountain Chorus engaged in various activities. We staffed the booth with chorus members, trying to have all four parts covered for most of the day. That way, we could sing informally in quartets or small groups to entertain people who gathered around. Between songs our members engaged with onlookers, and offered them the opportunity to sing a “tag” with us. In preparation, we had members learn a few simple tags. We chose tags where the lead or bass part is just a few notes (for example, “Sleepy Time Down South” for lead, “Please Don’t Leave Me” for bass). We determined the best fit for the guest singer, and had them sing with three chorus members, letting them experience the thrill of singing four part harmony in a Barbershop Quartet!

We have found this to be a fun experience for chorus members and festival patrons alike, and a great way to promote the chorus and attract potential members. For other choruses who would like to attempt this approach, it takes a little creativity to explain on the festival application how your chorus plans to use the supplied booth or tent. Be sure to have sign-up sheets for people to give their contact information for follow-up. Also, it helps to have brochures, business cards, or other information about your group for individuals to take with them.

Let’s bring our harmony outside and let people experience for themselves the joy of Barbershop singing!

Robert Siegel

Big Chicken Chorus Seeks New Director

MEET THE CHORUS

The Big Chicken Chorus was formed in 1986, as the Marietta Georgia Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a Georgia 501(C)(3) Corporation. We are a male chorus that sings four-part a cappella harmony in the style of the close harmony sung by Barbershop Quartets. Our Mission:

. . . to preserve and encourage the singing of barbershop harmony in a professional and congenial atmosphere so as to enrich the quality of life in our community, engage our audiences, provide musical education and performance opportunities to the youth of our community, and provide musical challenge and reward to our singers.

In support of this Mission, the Chapter has adopted an enthusiastic program that includes music education, participation in Society competitions, youth outreach, and service to community. Our community service efforts have included performing the National Anthem at local sports venues, singing at the lighting of the Christmas Tree at The Battery (Home of the Braves), and participating in an annual salute to our nation's military veterans held at the Strand Theatre, to name but a few.

In addition, the chorus has taken great pleasure in presenting its annual Singing Valentines program each February 14, our annual Spring Show, and our Christmas Shows in Marietta, the second weekend of December. Our youth outreach effort has been focused on an annual "Real Men Sing" program that brings together hundreds of middle and high school students for a day long clinic and an evening concert.

Our performances feature inspirational songs, patriotic songs, and a variety of songs from yesteryear but our repertoire is expanding to include more recent compositions including, for example, selections from the Toy Story movie soundtrack.

A word about our chorus name. The "Big Chicken" refers to an iconic sign at a Marietta KFC store that for decades has been used as a landmark for residents and visitors to Marietta, such as: "Take a left just after you pass the Big Chicken." As our name might suggest, we are serious about having fun and providing an element of laughter and joviality in our performances.



REHEARSAL VENUE AND TIMING As with most arts organizations over the past two years, the pandemic significantly adversely impacted our ability to hold indoor rehearsals and in person performances; with the exception of a successful Christmas performance in late 2021. The Big Chicken Chorus is pleased that, effective February 14, 2022, we have returned to our weekly in-person rehearsals at our regular time of 7:00 p.m. each Monday at the Towne Lake Baptist Church, 950 Shiloh Road in Kennesaw.

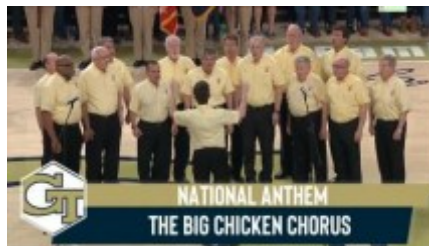
VISION The Chapter is rightly proud of its decades long history of performance, education, and community service but we will not rest on this legacy. Our Vision is to maintain and expand the enjoyment of high-quality barbershop harmony singing in our communities. Enjoyment refers both to our audiences and to our members. The future of our Chapter demands that we identify and recruit the "next generation" of barber shoppers.

Contact Rob Rhodes, President * phone – 404-435-8195 * email – sustainerr@yahoo.com

(continued from Page 6)

DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS The ideal candidate will demonstrate the following qualifications:

- Formal academic training in music theory/choral directing/vocal performance or similar pertinent specialties preferably including masters level degree in a music discipline.
- Prior overall experience in choral directing preferably including specific experience in the barbershop style or other four part harmony a capella singing.
- Commitment to availability for weekly rehearsals as well as preparation for and leadership at multiple performances/contests.
- Demonstrated capacity to implement a program of continuous improvement designed to allow each member of the chorus and the chorus collectively to achieve excellence while maintaining an atmosphere of camaraderie and conviviality.



- The capacity to collaborate with Chorus leadership to identify and recruit the next generation of barber shoppers.
- A podium presence that evokes respect and attentiveness while still approaching the position as a collaborative “servant leader.”
- The ability to attract and retain more men who can share the enjoyment of singing as a hobby.
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DIRECTOR BENEFITS

- The Director will be paid a competitive salary to be negotiated during the selection process. □ The Director will be reimbursed for reasonable professional expenses such as uniform costs, membership dues, travel expenses to contests, continuing musical education, and similar costs.
- The Director will benefit from a strong and active Board, Music and Performance Committee, Membership Committee, and the availability of members who can serve as assistant directors.
- The Director will benefit from association with other musical educators and performers across the U.S. and throughout the World as a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society.
- The Director will also have opportunities to perform, as so inclined, as a soloist, quartet member or as part of other ensembles known to us as VLQ’s (Very Large Quartets).



Contact Rob Rhodes, President * phone – 404-435-8195 * email – sustainerr@yahoo.com

20. Sunshine Is Bidding The Day Goodbye

Voices of the South celebrates Sonny Holt's 50 years of service

By Jim Weldon and Karl Turner
Voices of the South

It was a wonderful night of celebration and singing for **Sonny Holt's** 50 years of membership in the **Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA)**.

Barbershoppers from central Alabama and Tennessee flocked to Sonny's home to celebrate the presentation of a 50-year pin and a newly minted plaque.

We serenaded Sonny and his wife **Janet**. Penny Weldon was our photographer. Sonny is a long-time member of *Voices of the South*. *Voices* member, **Karl Turner**, aptly describes Sonny's night in Leeds, Ala., on January 3, 2022.

I thought we were setting out to do something nice for a dear-old Barbershop friend.

We thought some of us would take a few minutes to present a pin and a plaque to our own **Sonny Holt**. But it turned out to be more — much, much more.

Barbershoppers from all over Central Alabama, Tennessee and wherever Barbershoppers live arrived at Sonny's or that cold night.

Shortly after 7 p.m. on Monday, January 3, our cars and trucks flooded the street around Sonny's home. We filled the garage and spilled out into the driveway. Remember, this is Covid-19



time. We presented Sonny with his 50-year pin that *Voices* had received from BHS just as Covid 19 shut our world down.

In February Sonny will have been a member of SPEBSQSA, Inc. for 52 years. He has promoted barbershop with his time, talent, encouragement, finances and brotherhood; and he has touched the lives of thousands of singers.

To say there was a bunch of hand-shaking and hugging going on would be an understatement. The comradery and love filled up Sonny's garage that night. Sonny sang with us as we serenaded him and his wife Janet. We sang *Down Mobile*, *Heart of My Heart* and *Down Our Way*.

There was magic in the air. Time and distances disappeared. We were brothers in song and joy. We prayed over our senior brother. Then we rattled the walls with *Keep the Whole World Singing* and the many shouts of "It's great to be a Barbershopper!" followed by a resounding "Oh Yeah!"

The freezing chill of the night was banished by the warm glow of respect and love that took over that garage.

It was a special night — a very special night. We love you Sonny. May the Lord hold you in the palm of His hand for all your days and all of eternity.

Amen and Amen.



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

An electronic publication of the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society
Paul Blazek, President
Mike Brunson, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

Sun, Mar 20 2022	Spring House of Delegates - Virtual 7:30pm CST
Fri, Mar 25 2022 to Sat, Mar 26 2022	Dixie District Spring Convention 2022 Performing Arts Center at Thompson High School
Sun, Jul 3 2022 to Sun, Jul 10 2022	International 2022 - Charlotte, NC
Sun, Sep 18 2022	House of Delegates Fall - Virtual 7:30pm CST
Fri, Sep 23 2022 to Sun, Sep 25 2022	Dixie District Fall Conventions 2022 - Oxford Performing Arts Center (Big Chicken Chorus, Choo Choo Chorus, Heart of Georgia, Rocket City Chorus, North Georgia Barbershop Singers, Stone Mountain Chorus)

CHORUS
DIXIE DISTRICT
SPRING CONTEST

MARCH 25 - 26, 2022 - ALABASTER, AL

- 1 SMOKYLAND SOUND
- 2 STONE MOUNTAIN CHORUS
- 3 SOUND OF TENNESSEE
- 4 APPALACHIAN EXPRESS
- 5 CHOO CHOO CHORUS
- 6 VOICES OF THE SOUTH
- 7 MUSIC CITY CHORUS

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