



Dixie Town Crier

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

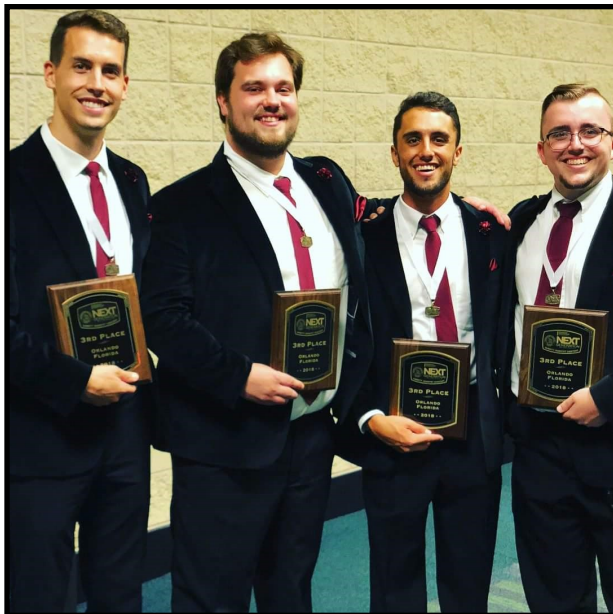


August, 2018 Volume 10, Issue 7

Dixie District Representatives Among the Best at the 2018 International Contests



2018 FIFTH PLACE CHORUS: Music City Chorus

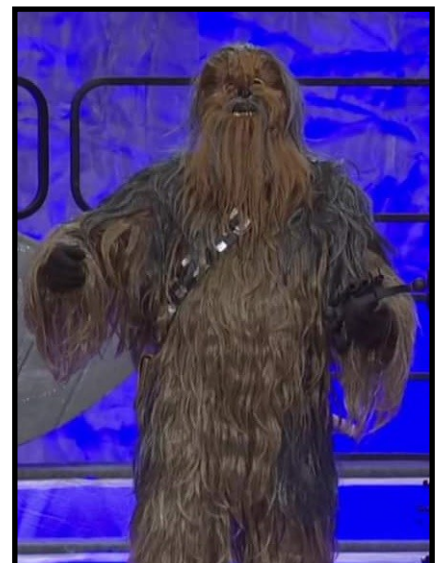
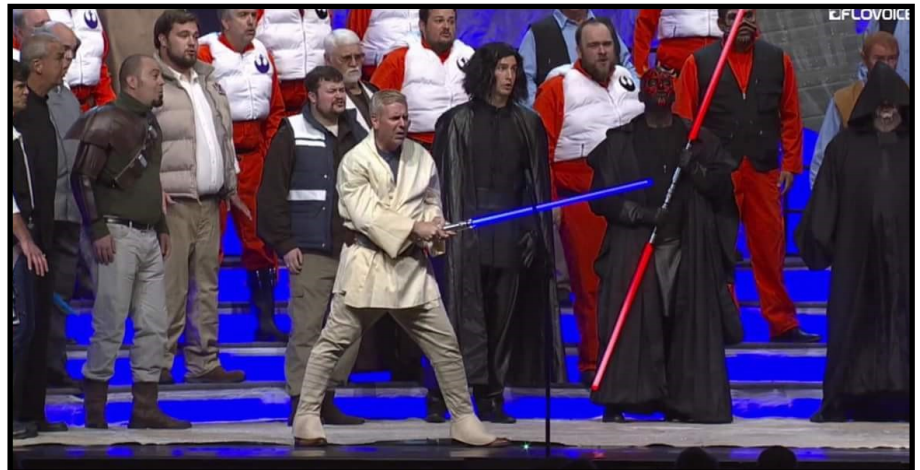


**NEXTGEN VARSITY QUARTET
3rd PLACE
Wildfire**



**2018 QUARTET CONTEST 7th PLACE:
Category 4**

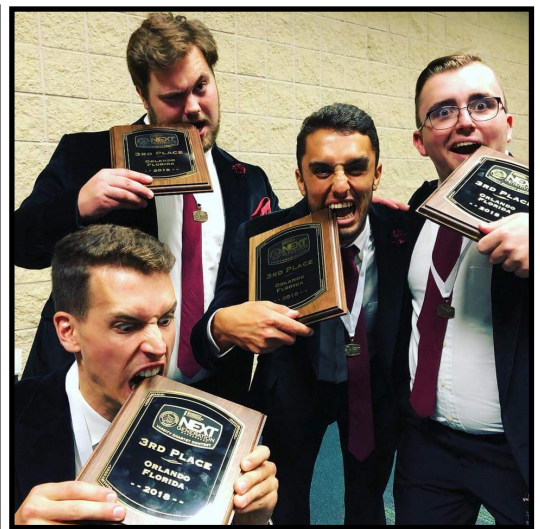
Music City's "Star Wars" Set Wows the International Crowd!



CATEGORY 4 Again Among the Best in the World!



Medal-Winning Fun with WILDFIRE!



Are You 55+ ?
There Is Still Time to Join
DIXIE DISTRICT
SENIOR CHORUS!

**The chorus will compete in the
Dixie District Fall Contest to earn
a spot in the Sr. Chorus Contest
at the 2019 Midwinter
Convention in Nashville.**

**For More Information and Details
Contact:**

Jimmy Tompkins,
VP Music & Performance
dixieseniorchorus@gmail.com

Dixie District Fall Convention

International Chorus Preliminaries • Dixie Quartet Championship
Youth Quartet Contest • House of Delegates

Contest Venue

Oxford Performing Arts Center

100 Choccolocco St. • Oxford, AL 36203



**HOTEL &
CONVENTION
REGISTRATION
INFORMATION
to be posted soon
at:**

www.dixiedistrict.org

**Is YOUR Chorus or Quartet
Missing
from the Dixie Town Crier?**

**Chapter, Chorus, and
Quartet activities,
including photos, show
posters, news and
information should be
submitted to:**

david.belden@comcast.net



2018 Dixie District HARMONY EXPLOSION CAMP HIGHLIGHTS

Clinicians: Clay Hine & Becki Hine
Teaching Quartets: ClassRing & Rooftop Records
VP Youth in Harmony: Lee Franks



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From Jim Sams, VP Dixie Contest and Judging

Increasing Demands for Mixed Barbershop Harmony Opportunities

Dear Fellow Dixie District Barbershoppers,

As many of you remember, two years ago the Dixie District widened its opportunities to draw more barbershoppers AND non-barbershoppers to our biennial District conventions by introducing mixed harmony quartets into our contest system. This was, and still is, a Dixie District-run program and will continue to be. The goal was to reach out and bring in our own barbershoppers and chapters who have not been actively involved in our Dixie Conventions. Lately this effort has started to catch on and new opportunities have just recently arisen.

I began holding these Mixed Quartet contests during the Spring convention season because our numbers of competing quartets had dropped off. A primary reason this happens is that it is during this convention that we hold the annual International Quartet Prelims and no other awards. Thus, there have been openings for the mixed quartets to compete on Friday nights during the Quartet Semi-Finals. Even though I have contacted all chapters in Dixie, all Harmony Inc. chapters, and all SAI chapters that I could reach (very difficult to get messages to many of these chapters due to Security blocks) we have had a number of mixed quartetting inquiries but only THREE who have actually performed for the district. The first, in 2016, was a Military Mixed Quartet headed up by a past Dixie barbershopper. The crowd loved this group! The second was a quartet comprised of two SAI members (at least one is a BHS Associate member, Melody Hine, who is also training to become a Certified SCJC MUS Judge) and two Dixie barbershoppers. This quartet won the 2017 Mixed Quartet title and wowed the crowd once again. Last year we had family mixed quartet put together by a grandfather, two daughters, and a grandson, and they won the 2018 Mixed Quartet title. I am still beating the bushes to find more mixed quartets!

A couple of years before the 2016 introduction of Mixed quartteting in Dixie, Barry Towner (ONT District) and friends began building the **MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association)** to become the North American Mixed Harmony Representative and world voice for mixed quartetting. And now they are avidly promoting Mixed Quartets and Mixed Chorus competitions around the Society and even for the World Mixed Harmony competitions held in Germany biennially (and may potentially will become an annual event.) (Please Google **Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association** to read all about this select group of Society leaders and the work they are accomplishing for Mixed Quartet and Chorus groups all over!) To date, the Dixie District is a member of this MBHA. **Each** mixed quartet and chorus who competes for the right to have their scores sent to MBHA to determine potential world competitor invitations **MUST register annually with MBHA** in order to earn that right. However, Dixie District has reserved the right for ANY mixed group to compete for the **DIXIE DISTRICT MIXED QUARTET /CHORUS CHAMIONSHIP** which will be held every SPRING (and potentially mixed quartets only in the spring and mixed choruses only in the fall! This is new for DIXIE! More info will be forthcoming!) As I have looked over the last eight years or so, we tend to have more choruses and fewer quartets at the Spring conventions. The exact opposite is true at the Fall conventions. So it makes some sense that we might split the contests rather than having both just at the Spring contests.

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Mixed Barbershop Harmony Opportunities ... continued

Just recently, I received a phone call from our VP of Chorus Director Development, and chorus director, Roger Beale, who was so very excited about his “new” chorus. The Peachtree City GA Chapter (the Cart Path Chorus) had been struggling since its inception to garner a performing/competing chorus from its community. There were contest seasons where there were not enough men available to put a chorus of 12 on stage. Dixie District tried on a couple of occasions to bring a chorus and quartets from this chapter for performing and/or coaching experiences. But even this was not quite enough to help them grow numerically. Roger shared that he had NINE ladies from their community (former voice students of Roger’s but non-SAI and non-HI members) to share the risers as guests at their regular meetings. At the time, Roger said he only had NINE men who were regularly singing with the group. They have been AMAZED at the quality of sound coming from this mixed chorus. Roger said they have been performing in their community with rave reviews! He also said that there was a possibility that there would be TWO more females visiting the group as well! I can only imagine where they stand numerically now! Roger was interested in the Mixed Quartet program we had started and wondered if Mixed Choruses were a possibility. So I have asked Roger to bring his new Mixed Chorus to Oxford, Alabama in September to our Dixie Fall Convention to perform for Score/Evaluation Only and receive some coaching from our Judging panel as well. I am excited about the possibilities arising for other smaller choruses to see this performance and judge for yourself if this might be an answer to consider for your chapter!

My primary reason for this article is to educate our membership and to offer ANY potential mixed quartet or mixed chorus the opportunity and an outlet for performance and competition, **if you are so inclined**, to become a more viable asset to your communities, and to welcome you to our Dixie Convention weekends. The **current** rules that still apply to **any** quartet or chorus competitor is that all **MALE** members must have paid up dues and a convention pass. But **female** members do **not** have to be BHS members to compete in these groups. However, they still have to purchase a weekend convention pass. If any mixed chorus or quartet wants to become members of **MBHA** in order to be considered for a chance at the World Mixed Barbershop Harmony contests, they will have to acquire their memberships **from MBHA** prior to our district contests along with a weekend convention pass, and ALL BHS Member dues will still have to be up to date. The highest scoring mixed quartet or chorus, regardless of whether they are an MBHA member or not, will be crowned the annual Dixie District Mixed Quartet/Chorus Champion. MBHA member scores will automatically be sent to **MBHA** for consideration for the “world” championships.

I truly hope that **ALL chapters** will consider becoming involved in **promoting MIXED QUARTETS & CHORUSES** in your chapters and/or communities. This may influence more **MEN** to attend your chapters to enjoy good barbershop harmony. I am in **NO WAY** encouraging or attempting to propagate any chapter to go against their own policies about female memberships. BHS **and** Non BHS females are still welcome to form these mixed groups and compete in Dixie. Outside of that, each chapter must determine and follow their **OWN** chapter goals and long range planning policies. It is my duty as your Dixie VP of Contest and Judging to provide as many musical outlets for our barbershop family of chapters as humanly possible. As far as I am concerned, I leave the politics of Society leaders alone and I am here to enjoy barbershop friends and family and to ring chords in quartets and choruses alike. Please let me know if I can assist your quartets, choruses, mixed choruses and mixed quartets in ANY way! That is what I do best! Keep those chords ringing and have FUN all the while!

Harmony first!

From Jim Same, VP Dixie Contest & Judging

Chorus/Quartet Information for Fall Contest

Gentlemen songsters,

The time is upon us once again to gather for the **Fall 2018 Dixie International Chorus Prelims and Quartet Convention**. This convention will be held **September 28-30, 2018** in **Oxford, Alabama**. The headquarters hotel will be at **The Courtyard by Marriott** located at **289 Colonial Dr., Oxford, AL 36203; (256) 831-7995**. The contest venue is the **Oxford Performing Arts Center (OPAC), 100 Choccolocco Street**, which is about **seven minutes** from the hotel. **Deadline** for contestant entries is **midnight, Friday September 7, 2018!**

IMPORTANT NOTE! We will continue to enter contestants via the Barberscore program just as we did in the spring. BE SURE that you have ONLY those men in your chapter who are "officially" signed up to enter your quartet or chorus for contest! If you have questions or need help, contact me ASAP. The Barberscore program will be opened up as soon as I send out the letter. **You will also receive an email notifying you that the Dixie District Convention & Contests is officially open for contest entry.**

*****NEW RULE:** Enter ALL of your songs in your Song Title list that you plan to sing. If you are waiting for a new arrangement, enter it into the Song List anyway and then if you don't have it cleared before contest, just don't sing it. But it is worse IF you sing a song that is NOT in your Song Title entry list. IF you fail to enter a song by contest time that you plan to sing, it cannot be entered late OR after the contest. **AND, for those of you who are not aware, a quartet cannot sing a song TWICE at any point in your quartet contest sessions! If a quartet song is sung by quartet members in a chorus contest, the song is legal to be sung once in quartet competition during the weekend....just sayin'!! A word to the wise!!....**

For CHORUSES, we will have an **International Chorus Prelim, Most Improved Chorus, and Plateau Awards** presented.

And for the first time ever, Dixie is putting together a **Dixie District Senior Chorus** that will be competing **In Oxford for the right to sing on the international stage in Nashville next January on the Grand Ole Opry stage**. Songs have been chosen, and rehearsals are planned in **Chattanooga**. **Jimmy Tompkins, VP Music & Performance**, notes that **more than 70 singers** have signed for the **Dixie Senior Chorus**, but there will be room on the risers for more. If you are **55+** and would like to sing, please contact Jimmy at dixieseniorchorus@gmail.com for complete information.

For QUARTETS, we will have a **District Quartet Championship (2 round)**, a **Seniors Quartet Champion**, a **Super Seniors Quartet Champion**, a **Seniors Quartet Prelim**, a **Novice Champion**, and a **Super Novice Champion** awarded. We will also have the **first ever Mixed Chorus** performing for **Score for Evaluation Only** as our guest! They hail from the **Peachtree City, GA Chapter**.

We will also offer a **Score for Evaluation ONLY** session for those choruses/quartets **who do not wish to compete** but would like to receive your **personal score sheet and evaluation session**. We just need **YOU** there to participate! **PLEASE** get your quartets registered and **dues paid up**, your choruses entered and **all competitors paid up**, and have **CONVENTION REGISTRATIONS FOR ALL COMPETITORS!**

As promised, the **Evaluations/Coaching sessions** following the **Chorus Finals** and the **Quartet Finals** on Saturday will be **YOUR CHOICE of length, category, or judges by name is on a 1st come/1st served basis per the list below!** Depending on the number of quartets who enter, we **may not** be able to set up choice evaluations/coaching for the **Quartet Semifinals** on **Friday evening**, but please send in your choices regardless. I will do my best to meet all of your requests. **YOU MUST ENTER YOUR CHOICE OF EVALUATION OR COACHING on your Barberscore entry in the NOTES section IF** you want to have a choice. Otherwise, I will schedule you for a **20min per judge, 3 judges per session**, automatically. Please

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Chorus/Quartet Contest Information continued

look at these choices below and make your choice in advance of filling out your Barberscore entry form. Then make sure you have **indicated your choice(s) on the Barberscore entry** what your desires for evaluation and/or coaching are. **If you are confused or can't find the area on the Barberscore entry, call me, text me, or email me at your earliest convenience and I will hold your spot!**

Here is the list along with the judging panel that will be on tap for our contest:

1. No Evaluation or Coaching
 2. Evaluation Only-3 judges 15min each
 3. Coaching-3 judges 20min each-All 3 Categories or Judges by name
 4. Coaching-2 judges (SNG/PER) 30min each- Category only or judge by name
 5. Coaching-2 judges (SNG/MUS) 30min each- Category only or judge by name
- Coaching-2 judges (MUS/PER) 30min each- Category only or judge by name

****** NOTE: Your choice of judges (based on 1st come/ 1st served) for options 3-6 (indicate on your entry or email, call, or text me)******

Here are the judges who are on the Official Panel: MUS- Joe Cerutti (MAD) & Kirk Young (NED); PER-Mike Lietke (SWD) & Chad Wulf (JAD); SNG-Alan Gordon (FWD) & Gary Wulf (JAD). I can assure you that each of these men is well-trained, experienced, and is ready and willing to work with each of you to help improve your performances regardless of what level you are.

Again, if you have ANY questions, need any help, or just want to chat, please feel free to call me ANY time. I am available to help you if needed. But remember, only qualified representatives so noted by Barberscore can OFFICIALLY enter your chorus or quartet! I cannot do it for you...Barberscore rules forbid it!

The cut off for Barberscore entries for this convention is midnight Friday September 7th. That is **3 weeks from the start of the convention weekend**. Please let me hear from you **SOON** as to what your plans are for this convention.

I will be sending out weekly reminders as to our progress and to help light fires under some of you who like to procrastinate. **EACH of you** is important to the well-being and future of our Dixie District. And we want you to have a grand experience at this **2018 Dixie Fall Convention**. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the very best that DIXIE DISTRICT has to offer!

ALL y'all come now, ya hear??!!

Harmoniously,

Jim Sams
DRCJ-Dixie District
Contest Administrator
CA BOR
jimsamsca@bellsouth.net
(901) 488-3128

Big Chicken Chorus Offers “Real Men Sing 2018”

The **Big Chicken Chorus** will present its annual “Real Men Sing” at the Marietta Performing Arts Center, 1171 Whitlock Avenue in Marietta on the campus of Marietta High School on Saturday, September 8th beginning at 1 PM.

The “Real Men Sing” program is a gateway to generating an interest in vocal music for young men in grades 6 through 12. This program has been executed with great success and praise from area music educators. The Big Chicken Chorus, along with the support of area music educators, Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) clinicians, and BHS teaching quartets, has executed a one day choral music festival for young men since 2014, which provides the impetus for them to recognize the enjoyment music can bring. To date we have served 525 area students with this program.

This event is intended for all-comers; no audition or selection process is involved, and current involvement in a school choir is not a requirement. Two choruses are formed: one for young men in middle school and a second for young men in high school. The music involved is taken from age-appropriate standard choral repertoire and will include music arranged in the 4-part a cappella harmony style as sung by Barbershop Quartets, to be sung along with the **Big Chicken Chorus** and the Teaching Quartets.

The education, music scores, a free dinner and a custom designed T-shirt are provided to the participants in return for a registration fee of \$5 per participant. No student will be excluded for financial reasons.

The Clinicians for our 2018 program are Adam Scott and Lars Grevstad.

Adam Scott owns a private music studio in northern Utah. He holds a M.M. in choral conducting from Oklahoma State University and a B.A. in music composition from Utah State University. He previously worked as music educator and editor of music publications for the Barbershop Harmony Society. He has collaborated with composers and arrangers including Dr. Kirby Shaw and Deke Sharon. Adam has sung every part in many different ensembles, and currently sings bass with the “Switch” quartet.

Adam has written and/or arranged over five hundred pieces of music, including over a hundred barbershop arrangements for quartets and choruses. His classical music is sung at many High Schools and colleges in North America. He is published by MusicSpoke, Music House Publications, and his own private studio. Adam lives in Pleasant Grove, UT with his wife Bethany and four boys.

Lars Grevstad has been the Choral Director at Marietta High School since 2013 and has served as the Musical Director of the Big Chicken Chorus since 2012. Lars possesses a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, a Bachelor of Music in Music Business, and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting, all from Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. He did additional graduate level music studies at the University of Colorado.

After moving to Georgia, Lars put his stellar record in music education to work. He has taught music at the middle school and high school level. Lars also provides private lessons in vocal technique and piano with emphasis on how to apply the technique to create music and artistry in song.

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Real Men Sing ... continued

The clinicians will be assisted by a Teaching Quartet – **Frontier**, whose members hail from Frontier, Michigan.

Frontier has been singing together since March 2015, and is 2015 Pioneer District champions. The members of the quartet come from different musical backgrounds and expertise after singing with numerous other quartets through their early years in the Barbershop Harmony Society. In July 2018, **Frontier** represented the Pioneer District in Orlando, Florida where they were named 2018 International Next Generation Varsity Quartet Champions and placed 18th in the 2018 International Barbershop Quartet Contest.

The day will conclude with a FREE concert, open to the public, which will include the two choruses as well as the **Big Chicken Chorus** and **Frontier**. In 2018 we expect to attract more than 200 young men plus music educators from local middle and high schools. Our intention is to keep their focus on the joy of singing.

Terry Morrison, president of the **Marietta Chapter** of the Barbershop Harmony Society says, “**The Big Chicken Chorus** is a multi-generational, male chorus of more than 50 voices, singing a cappella, four-part harmony, in the style of a Barbershop Quartet. Our annual Real Men Sing Performance provides an opportunity for the young men in our community to experience the thrill of performing a cappella harmony as part of a large male ensemble. The clinic and performance illustrate the value to be gained by participating in choral music programs provided at area schools.”

Sponsors of this year's event include: KFC – Big Chicken location; Cobb EMC Community Fund; Northwest Atlanta Marriott; Marietta Kiwanis Art Fund; Marietta Performing Arts Center and the Big Chicken Chorus.

Young men interested in participating should enroll with the Choral Director at their respective schools. For those students who are not presently enrolled in a school choral program, registration can be made via the Big Chicken Chorus website www.BigChickenChorus.org.

A large, stylized logo for the 'Real Men Sing 2018' event. The words 'REAL MEN' are arched across the top, and 'SING 2018' is arched across the bottom. The text is in a bold, orange, sans-serif font with a slight 3D effect.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 - 1PM
MARIETTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
1171 WHITLOCK AVENUE, MARIETTA, GA 30064

REAL MEN
SING
2018

**ONE-DAY
 VOCAL CLINIC**

**YOUNG MEN
 GRADE 6-12**

REGISTRATION INFO: WWW.BIGCHICKENCHORUS.ORG

**High School
 Clinician**



Adam Scott

**Teaching
 Quartet**



FRONTIER
**2018 International
 Next Generation
 Quartet Champions**

**Middle School
 Clinician**



Lars Grevstad

Crimson Pride Chorus Honors David and Libby Williams



The **Crimson Pride Chorus** gathered at the Bright Star Restaurant last Saturday evening to enjoy some fun times, great food and a few songs. We all had a wonderful time.

However, our main purpose for the evening was to honor a chorus member and his wife who have contributed greatly to our chorus.

Without this member, we would not have some of the terrific arrangements we love to sing year after year. And without the support of his lovely wife, we would not have had the great success of our last several shows.



On Saturday evening, we recognized David and Libby Williams and presented them with our version of the Standing Ovation Award to show our appreciation for all you both do to help keep the Tuscaloosa Chapter alive, healthy, and thriving.

Libby has supported David as he has put on show after show. When show time comes, she is out front selling tickets with a big smile, and at the same time making sure David is calm and collected, as much as humanly possible, and assuring him everything is going to work out.



David has arranged over 30 songs for this chapter and has also taken the responsibility to write scripts, and direct shows, many of which have been rewarded by our audiences with, a standing ovation.

David and Libby Williams are the recipients of the first Standing Ovation Award from the **Crimson Pride Chorus**

Crimson Pride Chorus



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

An electronic publication of the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Paul Wietlisbach, President

James Donaldson, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Belden, Editor

Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is August 25. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

2018 Dixie District Calendar

July 22-29 Harmony University, Nashville, Tennessee

September 28-30 Dixie District Fall Convention/Contest,
Oxford, Alabama



Youngest Competitor Ever Wins Medal!

Young Caleb Grass was not only the youngest person on stage at the 2018 International Chorus Contest in Orlando, Grandpa Paul Blazek says Caleb is the youngest person to ever grace the stage at an international contest. Caleb was the cute Ewok in the Music City Chorus Star Wars set ... and yes, he did sing! Caleb and Grandpa Paul earned bronze medals for their performance!

