



Dixie Town Crier

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



May 1, 2012

Volume 4, Issue 2

Four shows feature top chorus, quartet talent

The Atlanta Vocal Project, Chattanooga Chapter, Stone Mountain Chorus, and Cleveland Chapter all have announced top barbershop shows approaching in the next few weeks, giving Dixie District barbershoppers and four-part harmony fans the chance to see world-class quartets and choruses in action. Information of each of these shows is contained in this edition of the Dixie Town Crier.

Ron Magnuson reporting

Big Chicken Chorus names Grevstad as new director

The Big Chicken Chorus in Marietta, Georgia has named Carlos Lars Johann Grevstad as its new

director as of April 1, 2012.

Lars comes to his new assignment, his first as a director of a BHS chorus, with an impressive resume of music education and performance.

Lars has been a member of the Atlanta Metro Chapter, Atlanta Vocal Project since 2003 and has served as Assistant Director since January 2005. While with the Atlanta Vocal Project, he has performed with the 2005, 2008, and 2011 Dixie District Chorus Champions. Among his achievements as a member of the Next Wave quartet are 1st Place Dixie District Amateur Quartet in 2008 and 2nd Place Dixie District Quartet in 2010. Lars also served as Assistant Director of the Stone Mountain Chorus from January through December 2004.

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.

Lars got an early start in directing and teaching vocal technique while an undergraduate in college when he directed the Singing Hills Barbershop Chorus from 1995-1997. As a Graduate Teaching Assistant, Lars was actively involved in a variety of teaching and performance areas including teaching a Music Theory class, directing several campus choral groups, giving voice lessons to undergraduate music students, and serving as Choral Librarian for the Music Department.

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Steve Wixson reporting

Photo by Tanya Fleury

Choo Choo Chorus sings at naturalization ceremonies

On April 11, 2012, the 74th birthday of the Barbershop Harmony Society, twelve members

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New director named

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 and is currently a middle school chorus and music appreciation teacher in Austell.



He gives private lessons in vocal technique and piano with emphasis on how to apply the technique to create music and artistry in song.

Energy, enthusiasm, talent, love of music, and a track record of success in performing and directing barber-shop style music are characteristics and skills that Lars brings

to his new role as Director of the Big Chicken Chorus. The Marietta Chapter is very happy that he has accepted this position, and looks forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship as they strive for growth, improvement, fellowship and fun!

of the Choo Choo Chorus and director Paul Blazek were part of the 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM Naturalization Ceremonies at the US District Court in Chattanooga presided over by Chief Judge Curtis Collier.

A color guard from a local high school Junior ROTC presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by the Choo Choo Chorus singing an uplifting rendition of the National Anthem. After the ceremony, Judge Collier told the chorus that he watched the audience during the song and could see it moved many in the courtroom.

After the Oath of Allegiance was administered, Judge Collier gave some stirring remarks to the new citizens.

In between the ceremonies, the group had lunch at the Cherry Street Diner and went back to the court house where they sang songs before the second ceremony.

The chorus assembled at 10 AM to rehearse, performed for about three minutes total and left 4 hours later. Yet they say, "We will be surprised if any of us miss the next ceremony. The ceremony and talking to the new citizens (from at least 27 different countries) kinda chokes you up making it very rewarding for everyone."

It was a great way to celebrate the "birthday of barber-shop."



50th
Anniversary

Five Decades of
Harmony
Service
Fellowship
Fun



The Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus
Fifty Years - 1962 - 2012

The Really Big 50th Show
'FIFTY YEAR PARADE OF HARMONY'

Saturday, June 9th, 7:30 PM

Girls Preparatory School Fine Arts Auditorium

For more information go to - choochoorus.org

We'd love to have your quartet or chorus attend the Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend!!!

By Jim DeBusman, Music & Performance Vice President

The Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend is happening July 20-21, 2012 at the University of Huntsville-Alabama and are we excited about it. We really want every member, quartet and chapter that wants to become a better singer, performer and musician to come. You also will have the opportunity to sing tags and woodshed with fellow Dixie District friends throughout the district you may have never met before.

We're adding a chorus directing course which will offer:

- Music selection and why
 - The many ways to teach the music
 - Where to find those teaching materials
 - Types of music technology available
- How to utilize and develop your assistant directors

Note: This course will take the place of the now scheduled Directing 101 course.

The coaching experience at the Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend is one that only a fraction of our Dixie District members ever experience. It brings four men or a chorus together from all walks of life who share a common interest in the love of barbershop harmony. However, this experience reaches far beyond the realm of one's personal satisfaction. Your quartet and/or chorus improvement will be something you'll never forget. If you are in a quartet and your chorus comes to be coached as well, we will schedule your quartet in such a way that you will be able to be coached with your chorus and quartet without conflict.

Allow me to once again share a few comments from ensembles from the past:

... We wanted to reach the next level. What a great choice it was to come to the Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend as a quartet. We saw and felt the change happen in just one short weekend.

... We came with the desire to improve our overall performance as a chorus. We succeeded beyond our wildest expectations!

... The coaches were very much unified in reinforcing each other's concepts. Great, Great Weekend!!

All you need to do is visit www.dixiedistrict.org and register on line. However, if you do have any questions, please contact Russell Bell, our Dixie District Secretary at secretary@dixiedistrict.org or 770-439-8249 and leave a message. See you there!

Atlanta Vocal Project
presents
One Fun Afternoon

Why? Because we found FRED!!
Saturday, May 12, 2012 at 4:00PM



A Mighty Wind

2011 International 4th Place Quartet

Zamboni Brothers

2010 International Semi-Finalists

Lighthouse

2010 Dixie District Champions

To the Fore

2011 Dixie District Top 5 Quartet

and the
Atlanta Vocal Project

2011 9th Place International Chorus



**JOHNS CREEK HIGH
SCHOOL**

**5575 State Bridge Rd
Johns Creek, GA**

*Complete show and ticket information at
www.atlantavocalproject.com*



Show is over, but things don't slow down for Music City Chorus

After two very successful performances of their spring show, the Nashville chapter has turned its focus toward Portland.

The Music City Chorus has a retreat planned for the first weekend in May. Guest coaches include Mark Hale and Patrick Claypool. The chorus is working hard in hopes of doing the Dixie District proud.

The number of international bound quartets with a Nashville connection continues to grow. Sean Devine's new quartet, Throwback, won the right to appear when they scored an 85.2 competing in the Sunshine District. Wayne Grimmer's quartet, Round Midnight, scored an 83.7 in the Mid-Atlantic District contest. They joined the all-Nashville based TNS (84.4) and Contingency Plan (77.9) who qualified at the Dixie District contest.

Speaking of TNS, the quartet sang on the MCC show on Saturday, April 21, then headed to Sweden the next day. They were the featured quartet at the SNOBS convention.

The Nashville Chapter is pleased to welcome back Wayne Jackson. Wayne just finished a year-long stint as a contractor working in support of U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

David Belden reporting



The Barbershop Harmony Society turned 74 in April and Nashville's Freeman Groat has been there almost from the beginning. Freeman (pictured on the right) was recently presented his new membership card showing 67 years of BHS membership!

THIS IS MY COUNTRY

Featuring the Stone Mountain Chorus



Directed by
Dylan Oxford

2000 and 2010
Dixie District
Champions

with special guests

A Mighty Wind

2011 International
Quartet Bronze Medalists



Saturday, June 2 ★ 3:00 pm

Mountain Park United Methodist Church Sanctuary
1405 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain

Special advanced ticket price \$10

For Senior Adults (60+), Groups (12+), Full Time Students

All other tickets \$12 advanced ▪ \$15 at the door

Order tickets online at www.stonemountainchorus.org
or call Stone Mountain Chorus Information Line – 770-978-8053

Accepted Payment Methods

Advance Purchase: Visa, Mastercard, Discover, Cash, Check

At the door: Cash or Check ONLY

THE SOUND OF TENNESSEE CHORUS CLEVELAND CHAPTER

PRESENTS

Vocal Spectrum
2006 International Barbershop Quartet Champions

featuring
The Suntones
1961 International Barbershop Quartet Champions

Four Voices
2002 International Barbershop Quartet Champions

The Vigilantes
2011 International Silver Medalist Collegiate Quartet

Final performance!!

Balcony \$15 | Main Floor \$21 | Orchestra \$27
Students FREE with valid ID

WESTERN OMELETTE with extra HAM!

The Sound of Tennessee Chorus
2003 District Chorus Champions

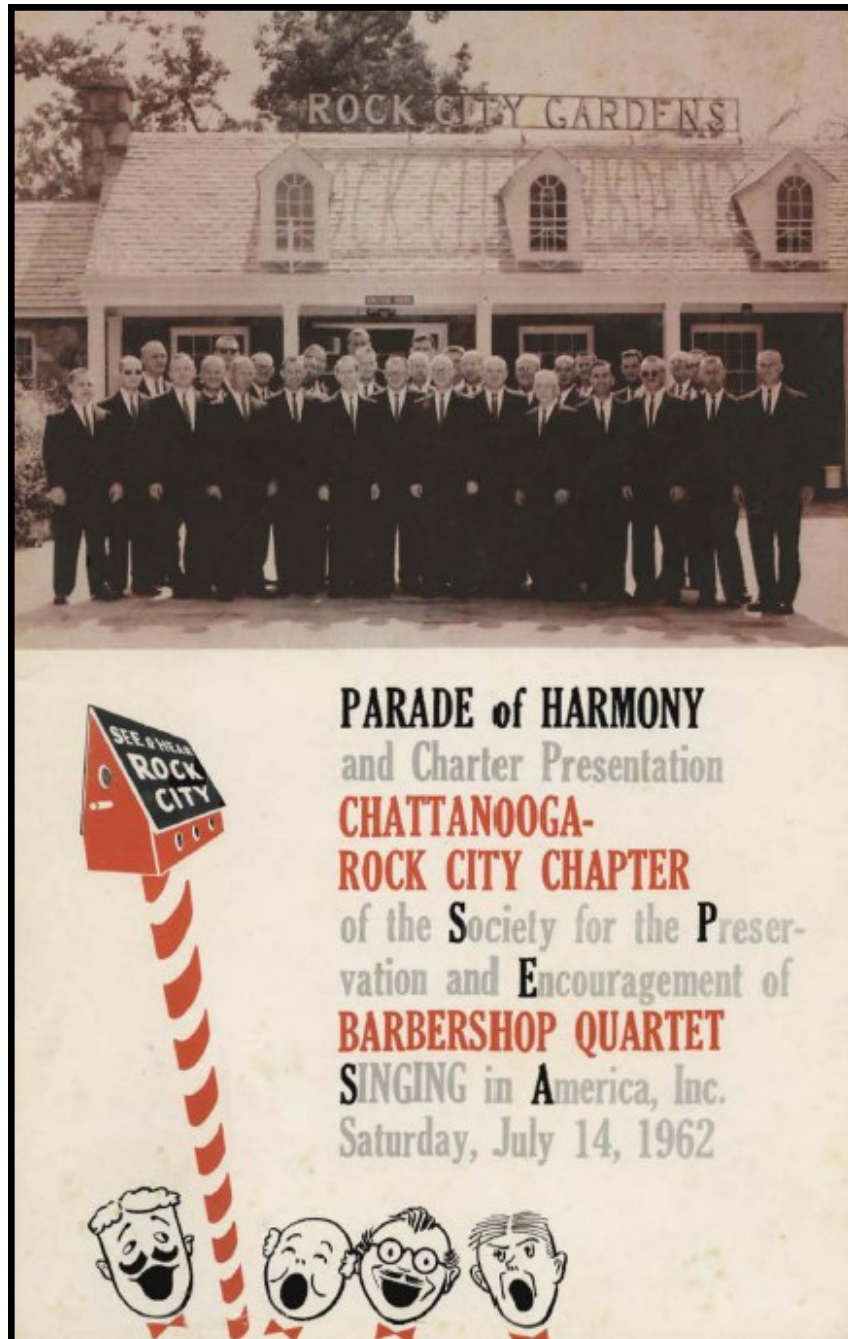
Saturday, May 19, 7:00 p.m. Lee University Conn Center

Complete show and ticket information online at

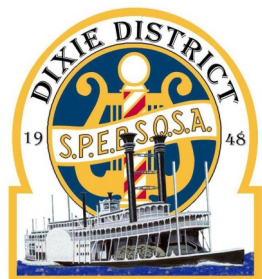
www.soundoftn.org

Chattanooga Chapter to celebrate 50 years!

When the Chattanooga Chapter put on its annual show on June 9 (see page 3) they will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the chapter. Pictured below is the program cover of the chapter's Charter Presentation program from 1962. Congratulations on 50 wonderful years of Barbershop Harmony!!



Congratulations!



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

Larry Deters, President

Bob Davenport, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Belden, Editor

Deadline for chapters and quartets to submit articles and photographs for the next issue is **MAY 25, 2012**. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

7th & Broadway (Nashville Chapter) sang for the 8th graders and their "little buddies" (2nd graders) at Holy Rosary Academy on Friday, March 30th. They talked to the students about the barbershop style and did a little demonstration of all the voice parts and how they work together, as well as talking about what each member does for a living and how it all relates to leadership. Even their warm-up time turned into a mini-performance for a 6th grade music class.



**THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER,
CHORUS, AND QUARTET NEWS
FOR THE JUNE 1 ISSUE**

IS MAY 25!

**SEND YOUR NEWS TO
DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET**

