



Dixie Town Crier

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



June 1, 2012

Volume 4, Issue 3

Come To Huntsville For DLHW 2012!

Bob Davenport, VP of Marketing/PR

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As you make your summer plans, it's not too late to sign up for this year's **Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend** on July 20-22 in Huntsville, AL at the University of Alabama-Huntsville! You don't want to miss the great classes, coaching, late-night tag singing, camaraderie, etc. The Saturday night show will be held at Columbia High School in Huntsville and will feature **A Mighty Wind, TNS, Prestige**, and the **Harmony Explosion Chorus!** Quartets and choruses (15 or more singers) can receive coaching from some of the finest coaches in the Society. Classes offered include Vocal Production, Care of the Senior Voice, Marketing Your Chapter, etc.

You can register online for DLHW at the District website – www.dixiedistrict.org. If you have questions about DLHW, please contact Jim DeBusman, District VP of Music and Performance, at vp-music@dixiedistrict.org. The District Marketplace will also sell CDs, pitch pipes, District logo merchandise, and other popular items that you cannot do without!

UAH is a great facility with comfortable lodging, good food, and close proximity to classes! You can discover more information about UAH at www.uah.edu. We'll see you in Huntsville in July after a great International Convention in Portland!



*Hope to see you in
Portland to support all of our
Dixie District competitors in
the Chorus, College Quartet,
and Quartet contests!!*

Nashville Barbershoppers help build Habitat for Humanity house



HARMONY IN THE COMMUNITY—Several members of the **Barbershop Harmony Society** headquarters staff organized a Habitat for Humanity house build in Nashville on May 19. The headquarters staff was assisted by a number of members of the **Music City Chorus** (including all four members of the **7th and Broadway** quartet) and various wives and family members in this volunteer effort.



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 - choochoochorus.org

Submitted by Craig Brown

Youth in Harmony Explosion in the Germantown area! (Caution, it can happen to you too!)

Youth in Harmony has become a household name in the Barbershop Harmony Society. In what has been nothing short of amazing, the Youth in Harmony program has grown and continues to attract young men to our society, ensuring that the youth of today carry the torch of barbershopping on into the future. Let's face it; we are not getting any younger, and if we are singing simply for our own pleasure, not passing this gift on to younger men, we are destined for mediocrity.

YIH programs and chapters across the world are seeing success with it. At 39 years old, I like to think that I am still young and that I connect with the youth of today. Notice I said, "I like to think." Reality has taught me differently. I think we all can agree that one major hurdle many chapters face is a culture gap between the youth of today and the average barbershopper, who just happens to be between 45-65 years old. If you disagree, just ask any business owner/manager if there is any difference culturally between their older employees and the younger ones. Ask with caution, because you are probably going to open up a can of worms. The youth culture of today, known as the millennium generation, is an entire topic in and of itself. I highly encourage anyone wanting to be involved in Youth in Harmony to do some research and have a working knowledge of today's youth before you commit to working with them.

For quite some time, I have had the desire to get a youth chorus up and running in the Memphis area. RSVP Chorus and its board agreed that we needed to support YIH and find a way to break into this culture. Having read numerous 'how to's' and studying other successful YIH programs, I had a good idea of 'what', but the questions of 'who' and 'how' were a bit tougher. That was until I made one Facebook post on my church youth group page. In that post, I simply told them who I was (most of them knew of me) and that I was looking to start a 'young men's acapella group.'

Now I know the BHS is not a religious or politically centered organization, but I will say that if you want to find kids who sing, it is important to know a little bit about the various religions in your area. I attend the Church of Christ, and many of you are aware that Churches of Christ DO NOT use instrumental music in worship. What does this mean? It's simple. These kids have been raised singing 4-part acapella music since they were babies. That is all they know, and they are pretty good at it, too! (At any point, a light may come on and you too may begin to see the potential I saw.) In less than a week's time, that one post on Facebook generated responses from 9 young men who expressed interest. Within 7 days, a meeting was organized following a church service, and these 9 young men showed up, and learned their first tag within 15 minutes (When I Leave the World Behind). This video was uploaded and can be viewed on the Dixie District's Facebook page, which just so happens to be at www.facebook.com/dixiedistrictbhs. During that meeting, I explained the vision we had for them, and they listened intently.

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That same week, RSVP Chorus had a gig on a Friday night. I invited all the young men out to see the show. Not realizing the power of my next statement, I told them to *invite their friends*. Friday evening arrived, and while we were warming up, I noticed the chorus losing focus, as members began staring outside a large window that faced the front doors. Looking to see what everyone else was gawking at, I turned to see a mob of teenagers walking in to see us sing. The chorus instantly refocused and realized the importance of this performance. The show was a moving musical experience, and we were spot on!

In attendance were 35 young kids, 27 of which were young men. Immediately following the show, we greeted our audience and let the auditorium clear. Once cleared, RSVP was joined on the risers by these 27 young men, and our chorus went from 20 that night, to 47. We taught the guys a couple more tags, and the excitement beaming from these kids was contagious. Our members were tuned in to these kids, focused on hearing what these kids had to say and doing their very best to share their love of singing with them. It was 'EPIC,' to say the least. (Thanks to Adam Scott for that word.)

The following week, the small group of 9 that started at Bartlett Woods Church of Christ added 6 more to its ranks, and in a one hour session 15 kids sight read all the way thru the classic song, "Kentucky Babe." During that meeting, one of the kids asked...."Mr. Craig, we were talking...and were wondering if there is an arrangement of *Swing Down Chariot* we can sing?" Gathering myself, I responded with a huge smile on my face. "Why we just so happen to have this arrangement that I think you guys will love," and the whole room erupted with cheers! Among the group of kids were 4 visitors, all of whom attend different schools and other churches. What I have learned in the short two weeks of this group's existence is that the all the ideas I was pondering over 'how to start' a YIH chorus were pointless. What worked?

1. I selected a target rich environment.
2. I reached out to them.
3. I provided some guidance and a vision.

That's it. Aside from these steps, we have sat back and watched these young men build what they say will be a 50 man chorus. Can they do it?? If the past two weeks is any indication of what they are capable of, I would not bet against them.

In my barbershopping life, I have experienced many highs. Watching these young men work like a *stepped-on ant mound* has to rank up near the top. And what did that?

Ringin a chord is what! Of course, I like to have my cake and eat it, too. I have known my 17 year old son could sing since he was little, but he has always resisted my desire that he sing with me. Last night he walked into the room and asked for music. I was speechless, but I handed him three copies of music and said, "Stand here son. I think you will like the baritone part."

Honoring our veterans through song



The **Legacy II** quartet (Nashville Chapter), in conjunction with the Colonel Hardy Murfree Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented “A Musical Salute” for residents of the Tennessee State Veterans Home on May 18. The quartet sang a medley of patriotic and old-time favorite songs. Tootsie Roll candy packs with “Thank You Veteran” cards were distributed to all residents, along with postcards of a WW I welcome home poster, showing the long-term association of this candy with the military service. Each resident received a flag to serve as a visual reminder of Memorial Day celebrations, when we honor those who have served and sacrificed in the past and in present times. Mr. Ed Harries, executive director of the Tennessee State Veterans Homes, delivered a proclamation on behalf of Governor Bill Haslam, and Mayor Tommy Bragg presented his proclamation from the City of Murfreesboro for the special occasion. Pictured, from the left, are Paul Aspy, Bud Chumley, Tom Kilpatrick, and Rod Beukenkamp. **(Submitted by the quartet)**



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

Submitted by Ron Magnuson

Big Chicken Chorus – Three Performances in Nine Days

The Big Chicken Chorus, under new director Lars Grevstad, had a very busy May with three performances in nine days. The chorus performs in various venues throughout Marietta and nearby communities to entertain and to support a variety of charitable and civic activities.

On Thursday evening, May 10, the chorus performed at the third annual Hearts for Heroes event at The Strand Theater in Marietta, Lars' first time to direct a performance by the chorus since becoming director on April 1, 2012. This was the second time the chorus has participated in the Hearts for Heroes program. For the past three years, the Marietta Museum of History has partnered with the local non-profit, Operation Stars & Stripes Inc., as well as community and business leaders, to produce the event to celebrate, honor and remember those who have served their country. This event, a major fundraiser for the museum, featured keynote speaker, Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrad, the state's new deputy adjutant general. Proceeds benefited the Marietta Museum of History and Aviation Wing.

The chorus opened the program by singing the National Anthem. They then sang the patriotic medley including "This Is My Country" and "This Land is Your Land," and in a tribute to the service members and veterans, the "Armed Forces Medley." Other guest performers included the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company, the Kennesaw State University Swing Dancers, and country music singer, Corey Crowder.

With just a little time to catch their collective breath, on Saturday evening, May 12, the chorus performed at The Falany Performing Arts Center at Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia. The chorus has been performing annually since 2006 as a part of the Reinhardt University Arts Center's Georgia Artist Series, drawing crowds from the surrounding communities. The chorus presented a show that drew from its repertoire to provide a variety of barbershop songs that included up tunes, ballads, and patriotic and sacred music. Two premier Big Chicken Chorus quartets, 129 and Counting and Martha's Finest, energized the crowd with a number of their favorite barbershop tunes. A new quartet from within the chorus also entertained a responsive and enthusiastic audience.

To cap the busy schedule of performances in May, the chorus performed in Cartersville, Georgia at the Grand Theater on Saturday evening, May 19. The show was sponsored by the Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter in Cartersville and some of the proceeds for this show went to support the shelter which, since 1996, has been providing men, women, and families with temporary shelter and physical, emotional, and spiritual support. The staff and volunteers assist the guests with developing and prioritizing goals for their return to the community as productive members.

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The show in Cartersville, with some minor changes, was similar to the show at Reinhardt University, with Martha's Finest performing admirably with two substitutes for quartet members unable to be present. A real treat for the chorus and for the audience was the addition to the program of the Atlanta Harmony Celebration!, a women's chorus affiliated with Harmony Inc., the international women's acapella barbershop organization. The chorus recently qualified to perform at the Harmony Inc. 2012 International Convention and Contest in Orlando in November.

Following the show, Jessica Mitcham, Executive Director of the shelter stated, "The Good Neighbor Homeless Shelter is so thankful for the Big Chicken Barbershop Chorus and their willingness to come perform a benefit concert in Cartersville. The event was a great way to get the word out about the Shelter, raise important money to support our work, and offer the community the chance to get to hear this group perform."

The Big Chicken enjoys its opportunity to support activities in the community and to have fun while presenting its brand of barbershop music to appreciative audiences.



Martha's Finest, l-r, Tim Tarpley (baritone), Rufus Massey (bass), Danny Price (lead), Tony Boyd (tenor).



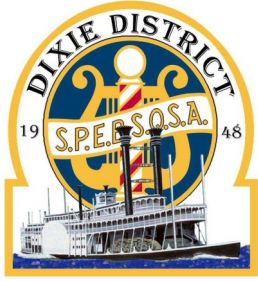
Big Chicken Chorus at Hearts for Heroes, The Strand Theater in Marietta.



129 and Counting performing at the Grand Theater in Cartersville. From the left, Ray Taylor (bass), Bob Snelling (baritone), Shelby Robert (lead), Bill Schreiner (tenor).



Big Chicken Chorus performing at the Grand Theater in Cartersville.



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

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

david.belden@comcast.net

DIXIE DISTRICT HALL OF FAME

The purpose of the Dixie District Hall of Fame is to give recognition to those men who have made exceptional, long-standing, unselfish, dedicated and devoted contributions to the Dixie District, their chapter(s) and the Society. Nomination of persons (or quartets) for induction into the Hall of Fame shall be made by any member of the District and shall be made in writing to the District Historian between April 1 and June 30 of any year. The nominator shall provide a legible detailed description of the nominee's qualifications.

Nominations should be mailed to :
Jerry Adams, Dixie District Historian
4826 Briarwood Drive
Nashville, TN 37211

The District Historian shall then send to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee all nominations and supporting documentation. The Committee's action each year shall be completed by August 15, and any inductions into the Hall of Fame that year occur at the District's Fall Convention.

This notice is submitted for your general information. Any questions may be directed to the committee chairman.

**THE DEADLINE FOR CHAPTER, CHORUS,
AND QUARTET NEWS FOR THE JULY 1 ISSUE
IS JUNE 25!
SEND YOUR NEWS TO
DAVID.BELDEN@COMCAST.NET**