



Dixie Town Crier

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



June 2013

Volume 5, Issue 6

International convention begins June 30

Proud of our Dixie District Representatives!



A Mighty Wind



Lunch Break



The Real McCoy



Decades



Phase IV



Atlanta Vocal Project



RSVP

David Belden reporting

Nashville Chapter opens new Music City Center

When the city of Nashville debuted its Music City Center, the new 1.2 million square foot convention center, it celebrated in true “Music City” style. The gala grand opening included country music stars, the Nashville Orchestra, the Fisk Jubilee Singers ... and **BARBERSHOP!** In fact, the very first singers on the stage of the Grand Ballroom were **Lunch Break**, and the opening act on the Davidson Ballroom stage was the **Music City Chorus!**

The six-hundred million dollar Music City Center is the new crown jewel of downtown Nashville, covering six city blocks. It will attract visitors from throughout the world, and the Nashville Chapter, the Music City Chorus, and our chapter quartets hope to have a long and successful relationship there.





Craig Brown reporting

RSVP: Full Contact Barbershop!

Full Contact Barbershop? It was 2011, and Joe Connelly stood in front of just 17 guys in a grueling coaching session. It was getting late, the guys were tired and beginning to make mistakes, when Joe uttered these words, words that continue to have a home at RSVP Hall. "Guys, shake it out, cause this ain't no kids game, it's FULL CONTACT BARBERSHOP BABY!" He clapped his hands and said, "Mighty awesome!" The guys found the energy to finish strong that night and the phrase stuck.

So yes, come to the Germantown, TN, RSVP Chapter and you may not only hear the term used but can feel the effects of full contact barbershop, a fast paced, high energy, 3 hour vocal session that doesn't stop when practice is over. "Over 2/3rds of our chorus comes to the weekly afterglow, says Robert Strong, Co-director of RSVP. That shows us that these guys aren't just here to sing, but that they have bought into and are living the ethos that makes up our name. Relationships, Singing, Variety

and Passion. " "We have crafted our meetings to engage the singers and keep them focused, says Craig Brown, co-director. On any given night, we may cover anywhere from 5-10 songs, have two 15 minute sectionals and still find time for a short business meeting. It's fun, I like it and the pace doesn't grant time for the guys to lose focus"; and it's obviously paying off!! "We feel like we hold the title of busiest chorus in Dixie and quite possibly, the USA". Since its beginnings, the chorus has averaged over 25 gigs annually.



In the short time the chorus has been together, they have won the 2013 Dixie District Chorus Championship, and they were invited as wildcard competitors for the 2013 International Convention in Toronto, Ontario. Quite the achievement for a 24 man chorus. The chapter is also preparing to host its first chapter show on June 22nd and is hosting Dixie's own "A Mighty Wind". It's gonna be a great show for sure! We have an international wildcard chorus, an international wildcard quartet (Decades) and the current 3rd place quartet in the world, all under one

roof. Although Germantown is situated in the far west corner of the district, the chapter is within reasonable driving distance of at least 5 chapters. Make a day trip and come see us! www.rsvpchorus.com

Singing the Night Away, June 22, 7pm, Germantown Performing Arts Center. For tickets, call 901-751-7500 or go to www.gpacweb.com.

If you are not coming to Toronto and you order the webcast, we are the first chorus singing on Friday at about 10:15 am Toronto time. If you are in Toronto come by and say HI!



Germantown Performing Arts Centre

Duncan-Williams Performance Hall

Join *RSVP Chorus* and special guests, 'A Mighty Wind', for a magical night of a cappella harmony. *The guys* are stepping out for a night on the town. Meeting up on historic Beale Street, they embark on a musical journey of timeless classics that will make your heart sing! Energetic, heartfelt melodies, coupled with the unmistakable harmony that RSVP has become known for.

Join us...

June 22, 7:00pm

901-751-7500 or **www.gpacweb.com**

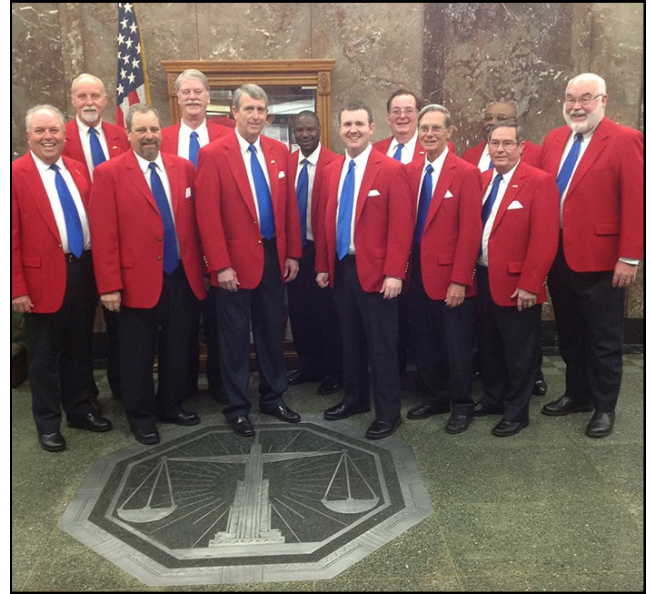
Tickets \$18-\$20-\$22, Reserved Seating

Steve Wixson reporting

Newest citizens welcomed barbershop style!

The newest recurring gig for the **Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus** is singing the National Anthem and God Bless America for the Naturalization Ceremony for new US citizens. The swearing in ceremony is held in the US District Court located in Chattanooga, and we sit in the juror's box which means we need only a few singers since there are only twelve main seats and three alternate seats.

The ceremony is simple. We rise as the Judge enters, a Jr. ROTC color guard presents the US and state flags, we sing the National Anthem, the applicants are introduced and pledge their oath of allegiance, the Judge makes a stirring speech, we sing God Bless America, the colors are retired, and the court is adjourned. The Judge presents each new citizen with their Naturalization Certificate, posing with them and family for a photograph. More than 30 countries were represented at during the recent morning and afternoon sessions. Between sessions, we go as a group to eat lunch.



(Photograph by Cornell Mitchell.)

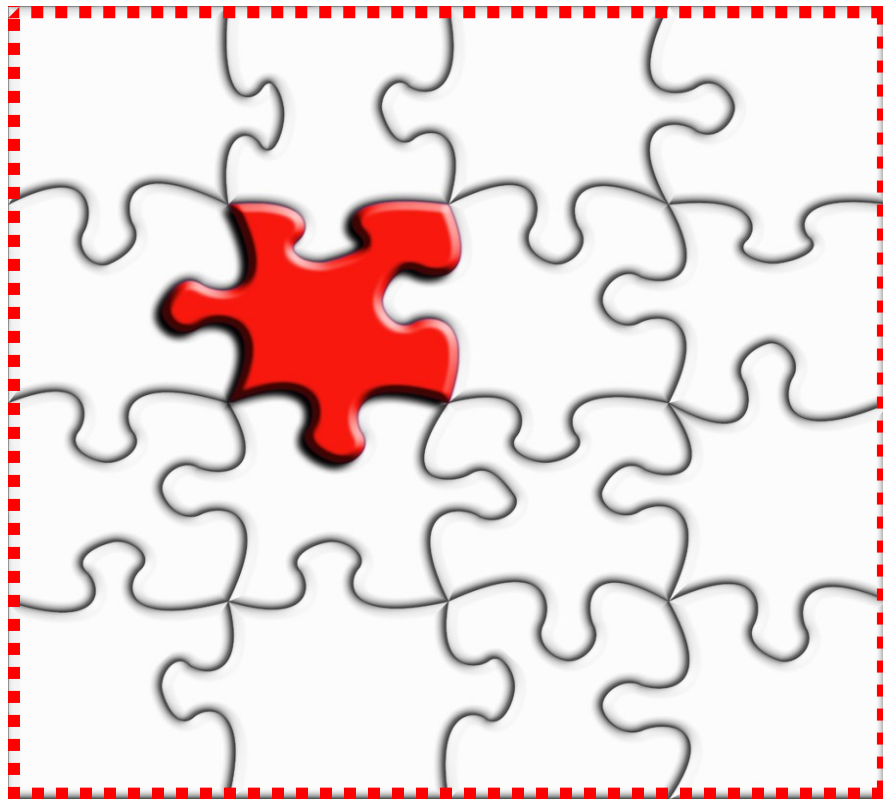
What is not so simple is the reaction of those being sworn in to our singing. After our first sing out, the Judge told us how many of the applicants wiped tears from their eyes. And many of us swelled with emotion as we sang to them about our and their new country. There are more than one of us whose eyes are moist and whose voice breaks for a measure.

After the ceremony is time to greet and welcome the new citizens. They praise and thank us for our singing. One of our members asks to see their Naturalization Certificate, and you would not believe how much they beam as they proudly display the fruits of their labors. A moving day for ALL involved.

Your chorus could do this too. Have your business manager contact your local Federal Court and join in on welcoming our new citizens. You'll be glad you did.

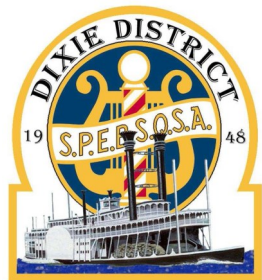


The missing piece of the Dixie Town Crier is **YOUR CHAPTER!**



Articles and pictures featuring **YOUR CHAPTER, YOUR CHORUS,**
and **YOUR QUARTETS** can appear on these pages.

Simply e-mail your submissions to
david.belden@comcast.net
by the 25th of each month!



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 **JUNE 25**. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

A Busy Summer Ahead!

Bob Davenport, VP of Marketing/PR

I hope many of you are planning to attend the International Convention in Toronto in July to help us all celebrate the 75th anniversary of our great Society! There are going to be so many unique historical displays along with the great competition that you won't want to miss it!

On top of that, Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend will give us another opportunity to get together and enjoy a great weekend of singing, education and fellowship. DLHW will take place on July 19-21 on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville. Jim DeBusman, District VP of Music/Performance and Dean of DLHW, has again organized a fabulous school with top-notch faculty, coaches, classes, etc. Also, if you have friends in the Huntsville area, invite them to the Saturday night show featuring **Lunch Break**, the **Harmony Explosion Camp Chorus**, and other great performers! Additionally, we will have a wide array of barbershop merchandise available for you to purchase during the weekend! If you haven't done so already, go ahead and register online for DLHW at www.dixiedistrict.org.

As always, I stand ready to help my Dixie District brothers in any way possible. I hope you will use this summer to propel your chapter to greater heights promotionally. I look forward to seeing many of you in Toronto, at DLHW, and at the Fall convention in Chattanooga. Have a great summer!

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