



Dixie Town Crier

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



December 1, 2015

Volume 7, Issue 12



The sounds of Christmas sung in barbershop style will echo throughout the Dixie District during the month of December. Information about each of the shows listed below can be found on the individual chorus websites. All chorus websites can be reached via the district website at www.dixiedistrict.org.

- **MUSIC CITY CHORUS** presents "A White Elephant Christmas" on December 5 at 2 pm and 7 pm at Father Ryan High School Theater in Nashville, Tennessee.
- **SOUND OF TENNESSEE** presents its Annual Show on December 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the theater on the campus of Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, Tennessee.
- **VOICES OF THE SOUTH** presents "Harmony Through the Year" on December 12 at 7 pm at the Spain Park High School Theatre in Hoover, Alabama.
- **RSVP CHORUS** presents "Harmony for the Holidays" on December 12 at 7 pm at Evangelical Christian School Chapel in Cordova, Tennessee.
- **CHOO CHOO CHORUS** presents "Christmas Memories" on December 12 at 7 pm at the GPS Fine Arts Auditorium in Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- **BIG CHICKEN CHORUS** presents "Have Yourself a Merry-etta Christmas!" on December 12 at 7:30 pm and on December 13 at 3 pm at the Marietta Performing Arts Center on the Marietta High School campus in Marietta, Georgia.
- **ATLANTA VOCAL PROJECT** presents "The Sounds of Christmas" on December 19 at 4 pm at Johns Creek High School in Johns Creek, Georgia.

Dixie District Leaders Attend Society Leadership Forum

Submitted by Stan Peppenhorst, Dixie Marketing & PR Vice President



The Barbershop Harmony Society's *Healthy Chapters: Take Action. Get Results.* Leadership Forum was held November 13-15, 2015, at the Sheraton Music City Hotel in Nashville. More than eighty delegates from the 17 districts of the Society gathered to learn, share, and discuss leadership principles and chorus director/musical leadership, membership and outreach, and event priorities.

Representatives from the Dixie District included the newly-elected 2016 officers. Pictured above, as they develop the District's 2016 Scorecard, are President Charlie Davenport, Frank Holmes (representing Chorus Director Development VP Roger Beale), Marketing & Public Relations VP James Donaldson, Membership Development VP Stan Peppenhorst, and Executive VP and current Secretary Russell Bell.



Memphis Men of Harmony Contributes to Piano Fund for High School Choral Department

By Stan Peppenhorst, MMOH Marketing & PR VP



The **Memphis Men of Harmony** as a chorus, individual members, and **QuickSilver** quartet recently donated over a thousand dollars to the Choral Department of Center Hill High School. The high school is near Memphis in Olive Branch, Mississippi, and is part of the DeSoto County School System.

Catherine Feazell, the school's Choral Director and Music Theory Teacher, foresees purchasing a grand piano for the department early next year. Mrs. Feazell is also President-Elect of the Mississippi ACDA, a division of the American Choral Directors Association.

The idea of raising funds for a grand piano was the idea of a student who noticed, while in other schools, that each of the other schools had a piano. A "GoFundMe" account was started by the student which led to a school fundraiser.

Pictured with Mrs. Feazell are **QuickSilver** members Jim McLane, Eric Shultz, Jim Warner, and Jim Sams.





129 & Counting had the distinct honor of presenting the National Anthem for the Veterans Day Parade on the Square in Marietta (GA). Lead singer, Shelby Robert, was the announcer for the parade. Thanks to Neil Hutcheson, who filled in for baritone Bob Snelling, a veteran, who had to work that day. (Photos submitted by Rosalind Robert)



On November 4, **129 & Counting** performed as luncheon entertainment for the Tomodachi Club, an organization of Japanese-American women who gather monthly to celebrate their common heritage. Mrs. Keiko Butler, wife of **Big Chicken Chorus** member John Butler, was the quartet's hostess. In the course of a 45-minute set, they sang a wide variety of genres, from patriotic, to doo-wop, to swing, to traditional barbershop. The guest artist was Mrs. Yukari Sunaga, wife of the Japanese Consul General (also a jazz singer) who sang "It's a Wonderful World" in Japanese, followed by **129 & Counting** performing it in English. What a thrill! All in all, it was a fun time for the quartet, and the audience gave every evidence that they enjoyed it too. (Photos submitted by Rosalind Roberts)





featuring
the men of



DeltaCappella

A photograph of a men's chorus performing, overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The text 'HARMONY FOR THE HOLIDAYS' is superimposed on the image.

HARMONY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SATURDAY DEC. 12 AT 7PM
EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL THEATRE
7600 MACON ROAD, CORDOVA, TN

FOR TICKET INFO: RSVPCHORUS.COM

Music City
CHORUS
PRESENTS

A WHITE ELEPHANT CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SHOW



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
**MUSIC CITY BRONZE
HANDBELL CHOIR**

SATURDAY, DEC 5th, 2PM & 7PM

Live at Father Ryan High School

700 Norwood Dr, Nashville, TN 37203

For additional information and tickets, visit
www.MusicCityChorus.org or call (615) 200-6193

Real Men Sing 2015

By Frank Hrach, Big Chicken Chorus

The **2015 Real Men Sing** event was conducted by the **Marietta, GA Chapter** of the Barbershop Harmony Society on Saturday, September 12 at the Marietta Performing Arts Center, with 70 young men and 8 Music Educators from area schools in attendance.

Sponsors of this event included the Georgia Council for the Arts, Harmony Foundation International, the Association of International Champions, United Arts



of Cobb, Cobb Electric Membership Corporation, Steve and Ellie Rosen, and the Allison Artistic Fund.

The sponsorships provided the funding for the costs of venue rental, clinician and teaching quartet expenses, the acquisition of music and learning tracks, lunch, and a custom-designed T-shirt that was worn as a uniform by the participants during the performance at the conclusion of the event. Each participant was only required to pay a \$5 registration fee.

The event was a one-day vocal clinic conducted by Dr. William Adams, of Durham, NC and James Estes of Inver Grove Heights, MN. The clinic followed by a free concert which included all the clinic participants, the teaching quartets **Drew Grindley** and **VOX**, and the **Big Chicken Chorus**. The purpose of the event was to encourage and promote the participation of young men in the vocal music programs in their respective schools. Clinic registrants included students from 12 schools in Bartow, Cobb, Coweta, Gordon, and Paulding counties. There were also a few home-schooled young men in attendance.

The participants were separated into a Middle School Chorus and a High School Chorus. Each was instructed in two songs plus two songs performed by both choruses in conjunction with the **Big Chicken Chorus**. The Middle School Chorus performed "Crazy 'Bout Ya Baby," made popular by the **Crew Cuts** in 1954, and "Kuimba!," an African-style original work by Victor C. Johnson performed at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention. The High School Chorus performed "Weep O Mine Eyes," composed by John Bennet and currently suggested for use in NEA

Real Men Sing 2015

high school choral competitions, and “I’ve Been Workin’ On the Railroad,” a great American folk song currently being sung by members of the Barbershop Harmony Society and its affiliate organizations around the world. Both choruses along with the **Big Chicken Chorus** performed, “I Have Had Singing,” written in 1993 and premiered by the *Chanticleer’s* and “Bye Bye Blues,” a jazz standard written and published in 1930. All songs were committed to memory and performed a cappella without the use of sheet music.

Glowing reviews were received from the participants, the music educators and the audience in attendance for the 5 PM performance. Over 90% of the students indicated that they would participate in future events of this type, and the music educators were unanimously positive in their evaluations. When asked to rate nine key aspects of the event on a scale of 1 to 7, the music educators gave an overall rating of 6.67. Plans are already in progress to prepare for **Real Men Sing 2016** to be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016.





The Appalachian Express Chorus Enriches Lives at Kiwanis Meeting

The Men of Note sang at an annual Kiwanis meeting on November 18 at the Millennium Centre in Johnson City, TN. **The Men of Note** sang eight selections. Director Mark Kettner gave a brief history of the Barber-shop Harmony Society to those in attendance. (Photo submitted by Jess Helton)



The Appalachian Express Chorus Sings for Jonesborough Ceremony Honoring Local Veterans. Veterans Day in Jonesborough, TN is marked by an annual veterans tribute. This year marked Jonesborough's 32nd annual veterans tribute. The Daniel Boone High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and the Tennessee Highway Patrol Honor Guard presented the colors for a crowd of silent and saluting members which was followed by a short a cappella program by **The Appalachian Express Chorus**. (Photo submitted by Jess Helton)

Voices of the South **IN CONCERT** *Harmony Through the Year*



Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Spain Park High School Theatre
4700 Jaguar Drive, Hoover, AL 35242

TICKETS

Advance \$15 | At the Door \$20 | Student/Child \$5

To Order Tickets, call 205-252-SING (7464)
or go to www.voicesofthesouth.com

The Choo Choo Chorus

Presents

Christmas Memories

A Benefit Concert for Boehm Birth Defects Center

SPECIAL GUESTS

Scenic City Chorus
Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus



Saturday, December 12, 2015
7:00 PM

**GPS Fine Arts
Auditorium**

\$15
Children 12 and under
admitted free

THE MARIETTA CHAPTER OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

BIG CHICKEN CHORUS

Have Yourself a Merry-etta Christmas!

TWO BIG SHOWS!

Saturday, December 12, 7:30pm
 Sunday, December 13, 3:00pm

MARIETTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
 located at Marietta High School campus
 1171 Whitlock Avenue • Marietta, GA 30064

ORDER TICKETS ONLINE:
www.BigChickenChorus.org
 OR CALL: **470-349-0550**

Featuring Our very special guests...

"THE CORE"

And the Marietta High School Bel Canto Choir

"Early Bird" pricing
 VIP Seating/Parking (Saturday Evening Only)
 Group Discounts (10 or more tickets)
 Senior Discounts (55+)
 Student Discounts (6-26)
 Children (under 6 years) - FREE
 All seats \$25 at the door (day of show)



All Chapters, Choruses, and Quartets Are Encouraged to Submit Photos, Articles, and Show Flyers for Publication in the DIXIE TOWN CRIER!



NO CHARGE

Please Submit Materials to:
David Belden, Editor
david.belden@comcast.net



NO CHARGE



The Men of Note sang at the East Tennessee State University Retiree Association (ETSURA) event on October 30. **The Men of Note** is a smaller ensemble from the **Appalachian Express Chorus, Northeast Tennessee Chapter**. The smaller ensemble sings at various engagements in the Tri-City region. The event took place at the Johnson City Country Club in Johnson City, TN. **The Men of Note** were led by Director Emeritus Tony Bowman. (Photo submitted by Jess Helton)



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

Dwain Chambers, President

Stan Peppenhorst, VP of Marketing and Public Relations

David Belden, Editor

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

david.belden@comcast.net

2015 Dixie District Calendar

DIXIE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

January 16, 2016—Near Huntsville, AL

DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

March 18-20, 2016—Oxford, AL

BHS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

July 3-10, 2016—Nashville, TN

DIXIE HARMONY EXPLOSION CAMP

July 14-17, 2016

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

BHS HARMONY UNIVERSITY

July 24-31, 2016

Belmont University—Nashville, TN

DIXIE DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

October 7-9, 2016—Dunwoody, GA