



Dixie Town Crier

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



April 1, 2015

Volume 7, Issue 4

Great Weekend in Huntsville, Alabama

Music City Chorus Wins Dixie District Crown; A Mighty Wind, MC4, Loop 10 Qualify for International Quartet Contests in Pittsburgh



Music City Chorus, District Chorus Champs



A Mighty Wind



LOOP 10



MC4

2015 Dixie District Chorus Contest Results

1. Music City Chorus (Nashville, TN)
2. Crimson Pride Chorus (Tuscaloosa, AL)
3. Voices of the South (Central Alabama)
4. The Appalachian Express (North East Tennessee)
5. Stone Mountain Chorus (Greater Atlanta, GA)
6. The Big Chicken Chorus (Marietta, GA)
7. Smokyland Sound (Greater Knoxville, TN)
8. Choo Choo Chorus (Chattanooga, TN)
9. Memphis Men of Harmony (Memphis, TN)
10. Southern Splendor Chorus (Athens, AL)

Nashville, TN is the Dixie District Chorus Champion. Central Alabama is the Dixie District Most Improved Chorus.

2015 Dixie District International Quartet Preliminaries

1. A Mighty Wind (Qualified for International)
2. MC4 (Qualified for International)
3. High Gravity
4. CREW Tones
5. Steel City Four
6. Sagacity
7. The Fine and Dandies
8. Solid Racket Boosters

The Crush sang out of district and Qualified for International.

2015 College Quartet International Preliminaries

1. Loop 10 (Qualified for International College Quartet Contest)
2. Out of the Blue



Out of the Blue



The Crush (Out of District)



Steel City Four



The Fine and Dandies



High Gravity



Sagacity



CREW Tones



Debut (Evaluation Only)



Phat Chords (Mic Testers)



Solid Racket Boosters

All Dixie District Contest Photos Are Courtesy of Tony Nichols

Music City Chorus 2015 Dixie District Chorus Champions



**2014 Dixie District
Barbershopper of the Year**

DAVID BELDEN

Nashville Chapter

Youth In Harmony

Jim Moore, VP

Date set for Harmony Explosion Camp

Put this date on your calendar: July 16 – 19, 2015, Harmony Explosion Camp, University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

Harmony University Music Educator Scholarship Nominations

If you know of a music educator that would like to attend Harmony University on a full Dixie District scholarship, you may submit that teacher's nomination before April 1, to Jim Moore, 3385 Breton Court NE, Atlanta, GA 30319. Include a resume and a letter indicating interest in attending.



Did you know there is NO CHARGE to run your chapter's show flyer in the Dixie Town Crier?

COMING THIS SPRING!

Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive (CDWI)

This one-day event is open to chorus directors and assistants*. Here is your chance to sharpen your directing skills under the tutelage of some of the very best chorus director coaches in the Society.

In this one-day workshop:

Learn through one-on-one coaching in front of a live chorus.

Grow through immediate video review and trainer feedback.

Be Empowered to effect positive change in yourself and in the chorus.

CDWI is limited to 5 directors so secure your spot early.

Date: May 16, 2015

Place: Birmingham, AL

Cost: \$150 (a great chapter investment in its director)

For further information contact: John Buttler: jbuttler@my.athens.edu or
Frank Holmes: fholmes@devsollc.com

*Front line directors will be given preference.



**HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD
THE SEQUEL!**

Saturday, April 18, 2015
7:30 pm

Central High Auditorium
905 15th St., Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Special Guest Quartet:

STORM FRONT

2010 International Champions

Tickets: \$15 Adults \$10 Student/Senior

For More Information Call (205) 345-5805



“ Professor Trivia ”

And The Memphis Men of Harmony Chorus Present

"HARMONY & TRIVIA"

Saturday, May 9th, 7:30 pm

**St. Benedict At Auburndale High School,
8250 Varnavas, Cordova, TN 38016**

Guest Quartet



QuickSilver Quartet



Red Zone
Germantown, TN



Instant Message Quartet

Enjoy a
fun-filled
night of
barbershop
harmony and
test your trivia
knowledge
too!



The Memphis Men of Harmony Chorus



All Seats Reserved - \$15.00

(Tickets Also Available at the Box Office Prior to the Performance)

FOR TICKET ORDERS AND INFORMATION
www.MemphisMenOfHarmony.com Or Call 901-466-6516

Nashville Chapter Shows Are April 25

The Melodores, Winners of NBC's "The Sing-off," to Appear on Music City Chorus Spring Show

The Music City Chorus Spring Show, "The Show of Champions" will include two very special guest performances by The Melodores, winners of the most recent season of "The Sing-off" on NBC. The members of Melodores are all stu-



dents at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"The Show of Champions" is an appropriate title as the Music City Chorus recently won the 2015 Dixie District Chorus Championships. Also appearing will be MC4, the current Dixie District Quartet Champions, and TNS, a former Dixie District Quartet Champion and two-time international quartet finalist. Additional Nashville Chapter quartets will also sing on the show.

The Saturday, April 25 show will include a 2 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. evening performance. Tickets are priced at \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors citizens, and \$10 for students. Tickets are available online at www.musiccitychorus.org or by calling 615-200-6193. The shows will be presented at the John Paul II High School Performing Arts Center in Hendersonville, TN.

FACES IN THE CROWD: A pair of Nashville Chapter members were spotted on network television recently. Ethan Walsh (pictured left) has been an extra on several episodes of "Nashville," while Dalton Hughes (right) was seen in the audience of "The Price Is Right."



THE **Music City CHORUS** PRESENTS SHOW OF CHAMPIONS

FEATURING



MELODORES
A CAPPELLA
THE SING OFF CHAMPIONS!



AND THE
MUSIC CITY CHORUS
DIXIE DISTRICT CHORUS CHAMPIONS

**John Paul II High School
Performing Arts Center**
Hendersonville, TN

Saturday, April 25th, 2015 at 2PM & 7PM

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors, and \$10 for students

For tickets, visit www.MusicCityChorus.org or call 615-200-6193

Reflections on a Singing Valentine

By Fred Kanel

False Alarm Quartet, Lake Lanier, GA Chapter

Last year **False Alarm** made arrangements by email with Adam, who lives in Chicago, to present a Singing Valentine to his girlfriend MaKenzie who lives with her parents in Roswell, Georgia. It was a joyful event, and her parents glowed with pleasure as she listened to Adam's loving message. This year Adam arranged for us to sing for her again, but this year was different – Adam was flying in to be present for the event.

We arrived at the house on a crisp Saturday afternoon, and it was a pleasure to finally meet Adam - an earnest, friendly, and cheerful young man of perhaps 20 who never stopped smiling and was clearly sublimely happy to be there with MaKenzie as we delivered his special Valentines message.

MaKenzie is a year or two younger and seemed deeply moved by the moment. As we sang, she held Adam in her arms and lowered her head onto his chest and closed her eyes. We didn't exist. Only the reality of Adam's presence did. The whole engagement reminded me of something but I couldn't put my finger on what it was. Her face against Adam's shirt, the large and beautifully furnished house, our decreased significance in her eyes this year? What was it? Only the next morning did it come to me – a passage in *The Great Gatsby*.

Gatsby has made a success of his life and has bought a Long Island mansion just to be near his former love, Daisy, now married to another man. He has sat through many nights by the water, staring across the bay at the end of Daisy's dock, where a green light burns – his only connection to her. Now, finally she has come to him, and he shows her his house and his possessions. She cries to see and touch the expensive shirts in his wardrobe. She presses her face into them because they belong to him, saying "I've never seen such – such beautiful shirts before!" Then they go outside, where

... it began to rain again, so we stood in a row looking at the corrugated surface of the Sound. "If it wasn't for the mist we could see your home across the bay," said Gatsby. "You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock."

Daisy put her arm through his abruptly, but he seemed absorbed in what he had just said. Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one.

A year ago **False Alarm** had been the bridge to Adam. He was so far away, and the words sung by a quartet there in her house were all she could have of him. Now we no longer served that function. He was there, his love enveloped her, and that was everything. We were just a green light on a dock.

What a special Valentine's Day it was for us to be a part of this moving moment in the lives of these two young people.

Tagging After Midnight

By Andrew Doetsch
Lake Lanier, GA Chapter



On March 13-15, 2015, I attended the Spring Dixie District Convention in Huntsville, AL. At around 8:30 Friday night, after the Quartet Semi-finals in the Von Braun Center were over, some of us guys hung around and started singing tags. Josh Honrud joined us and we soon found out that he is from the state of Washington. He is doing a barbershop chapter tour where he travels with his little camper trailer cross country visiting with various barbershop choruses along the way. He has already been down the Pacific Coast, traveled across the lower part of the United States, and is now heading east.

At he previous week's chapter meeting, chapter meeting, I had taught a fun tag to our chorus, the North Georgia Barbershop Singers. On this Friday night, we soon decided to sing that same tag found in the Afterglow app called "I Met a Girl." When I announced we were going to sing that tag, Josh's eyes lit right up and Josh said, "Hey, that's the tag that I wrote!" We had a blast singing it, working it a little bit, and then singing it some more.

We continued singing tags in this two-story entrance for another hour or so including a few passerby's here and there like Jim Sams, who stuck around for a couple tags. A few minutes after he had left, the elevator doors near the stairs opened and out came a security guard. He immediately shouted, "Hey, you guys aren't supposed to be in here! This building is closed and no one is supposed to be here. The doors from the hotel are supposed to be locked. How did you get in here?" We calmly explained that we had been in there since the end of the quartet competition to which he sternly replied, "You didn't show up on the security cameras. You need to leave right away."

We quickly exited the building and went back to the 10-story hotel lobby to continue our tag singing. Given the size of the atrium entryway, the acoustics were fabulous and our melodies and harmonies echoed throughout the hotel. Bye and bye, a different hotel security guard walked up to us and kindly said that we needed to stop singing because it was resounding throughout the hotel. I didn't have the heart to tell him that in our world that was an awesome thing and what every quartet strives for. He continued on saying that he does not want to start receiving complaints from hotel guests and that we needed to pack it in for the night. He was much kinder about his request than the first security guard over in the convention center. We calmly complied and eventually called it a night. After all, it was past one o'clock in the morning. For me, this type of hanging out and singing tags is one of the biggest highlights of any barbershop convention. Keep the whole world singing (even past midnight)!

Michael Bronson reporting

Stone Mountain Chorus: March in Review and a Look Ahead

March was full of excitement for SMC! We had the opportunity to represent ourselves and perform at the Dixie District Spring Contest in Huntsville, and we had a blast. Congratulations to Nashville for a job well done and a well-deserved District Championship! We look forward to seeing what you will do in Pittsburgh. All of our members had a wonderful time in Huntsville, both during and between competitions. The afterglow on Saturday was great, and a few of us got to experience the local flavor of Huntsville. Now we get to look forward to the Fall Contest in Atlanta this October, and we will be happy to see all our friends once again!

We also want to give a special thanks to Rasmus Krigström (**Ringmasters**) for a wonderful coaching session on March 24. He gave us lots of great information, and was incredibly patient with us as we worked through our songs with him. He is also a Music Judge Candidate, and it was an absolute honor to work with him. We wish him the best in all that he does.

Now that the contest is over, our performance season is in full swing as we ramp up for our annual Spring Show. We invite all of our brothers in harmony and their families to experience "Singing Our Love," with the incredibly talented quartet **Boardwalk** as our special guests. It will be held on May 2, 2015 at 3 PM at Mountain Park UMC in Stone Mountain, GA. Please check out our website or Facebook page (You have liked our page, right?) for more information.

In other news, we want to congratulate our sisters in harmony, Atlanta Harmony Celebration!, on a successful 2014, and we wish them well on their own area competition. They will be competing in the Harmony, Inc. Area 6 Convention and Contest on April 17 and 18. They celebrated their 10th anniversary in 2014 with a first-ever Area Championship and competed in Louisville, KY for the International Contest, where they ranked top 10 for the first time in chorus history. They will be returning to Jacksonville, FL this April as defending champs, along with their four time area champion quartet, MAKE, a Top 15 International quartet. Break a lip, ladies, and Keep The Whole World Singing!



SINGING OUR LOVE

An Afternoon With The Stone Mountain Chorus
2000 and 2010 Dixie District Champions



with special guests

Boardwalk



Saturday, May 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

Heart of Georgia Barbershop Chorus Presents **A Night of Barbershop Harmony**



With special guests
Confederate Harmony Brigade

SATURDAY, September 12th, 7:00 p.m.

**Wesleyan College's Porter Auditorium
4670 Forsyth Rd, Macon, GA**

Ticket Information:

\$15 Adults, \$10 Students & Military (with valid ID)

www.hogchorus.org or call (478) 845-SING (7484)



THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

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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 April 25. Submissions should be sent to:

david.belden@comcast.net

2015 Dixie District Calendar

International Convention

June 30—July 5

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Harmony Explosion Camp

July 16-19

University of Tennessee Chattanooga

Fall Contest

October 23-25

Dunwoody, Georgia

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