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“A ‘really big show’ is coming to Augusta this fall”

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Garden City Chorus from Augusta, GA by Harry Kline

A "really big show" is coming to Augusta this fall. The Westobou Festival (Westobou is the Native American name for the Savannah River, which flows past Augusta) is held annually in the third week of September. **Garden City Chorus** participates every year by manning one of the numerous booths on the downtown commons where passers-by are encouraged to sing a tag with three chorus members. We have gathered in many new members, and use the list of participants for mailers on upcoming chorus events.

This year there will be a booth, but we will also be participating in a bigger way by performing "Spotlight on Harmony" at the Maxwell Performing Arts Theater on the campus of Augusta State University. The show will take place on the final weekend of Westobou. There will be a matinee and an evening show at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively on Saturday, September 26th.

"Spotlight on Harmony" will feature four choruses, two award-winning quartets and a combined chorus for a 2-song, 8-part finale. **Atlanta Vocal Project** and **Garden City Chorus** will represent the Barbershop Harmony Society faction while Song of Atlanta Show Chorus and Harmony River Chorus will represent the Sweet Adelines International. The quartets will be **Men In Black** and Last Minute.

We would really like to see a large number of BHS and SAI members in the audience. This show truly warrants a special trip to Augusta to see and hear the music of these fine groups. Tickets are available through the theater box office by calling (706) 737-4100. Other events at the Westobou Festival can be found at <http://www.westoboufestival.com>.

Heart of Georgia Chorus from Macon, GA by Don Schall

The **Heart of Georgia Chorus (Macon Chapter)** enjoyed entertaining the seniors banquet at the Forest Hills United Methodist Church in Macon, GA on July 14th. The crowd was about 80 or so and both the entertainers and the entertainees had a great time. The chorus tried out a new routine on one of our songs and it was well received. I have been told by our contact at the church that we will be asked back in the near future.

Our chorus recently joined the local Chamber of Commerce. I do not know if every chorus would realize the same benefits as ours has, but that investment has returned two fold already in two months with paid bookings for the chorus and our quartets. And we are becoming the talk of the town in a very good way. It should lead to growth in membership as well. I heartily recommend that all choruses consider Chamber of Commerce membership for their group.



“Fully Invested Quartet...sang the Nation Anthems of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States”

Fully Invested Quartet from Savannah, GA by Joe Ryan

The Savannah Scottish Games was held at the Bethesda Home for Boys on May 9, 2009. The **Fully Invested Quartet** from the **Savannah Chapter** sang the Nation Anthems of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States during the Welcoming Ceremony. Members of the quartet are Gene Cannon, bari; Joe Ryan, lead; Art Marble, bass; and Bob Proctor, tenor. Joe Ryan is the Master of Ceremonies at the Scottish Games. **Fully Invested** has performed the anthems at the games for three years. Several years ago, the **Savannah Chorus**, the **13th Colony Sound**, performed the anthems two years in a row.



In addition to Joe's Scottish heritage, he is also a past president of the Irish Heritage Society, a member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, the Coastal Scottish Heritage Society, and he is a charter member of the **Savannah Barbershop Chapter**.

Atlanta Vocal Project from Atlanta, GA by Dennis Brannon

The **Atlanta Metro Chapter** sends a great big "AVP thank you" to the Dixie District barbershoppers for the financial assistance provided through the District's international competitors' fund. It is a great honor to represent the District on the International Competition stage along with **Nashville Chapter's Music City Chorus**. (In case you are planning on checking out either the audio or video webcasts, you may want to know that Music City sings early on in the first chorus segment; AVP sings mid-way through the evening segment.)

Clay Hine and our Music Team have been hard at work in providing **AVP** with two awesome charts as well as some outstanding musical leadership. It has been great to see so many of you over the past several months when you have visited our chapter meetings and have witnessed first hand our preparation process. On any given Thursday night, we expend a fair amount of energy in polishing our repertoire and improving the contest set.

Again, your support is much appreciated. Maybe we'll see some of you in Anaheim, but for sure at DLHW's Saturday evening show on July 18th.

Photo taken by Lorin May.



“AVP thank you”

Gold Standard Chorus from Charlotte, NC by David Cauble

Gold Standard Chorus performs as prelude to the Charlotte Symphony's Pops in the Park "Celebrate American" performance at Symphony Park (SouthPark) on July 3, 2009. With blankets, chairs, and picnic basket-toting folks as far as the eye could see, the chorus sang to an audience of approximately 10,000.

Directed by **David Lorenz**, the **Gold Standard Chorus** performed a rousing rendition of the Patriotic Medley. While not in full costume, in the spirit of picnic lovers everywhere, the chorus also treated the audience to Auntie Skinner's Chicken Dinner / Buckwheat Cakes Medley during the 30 minute performance.

"the chorus sang to an audience of approximately 10,000"



Virginia Gentlemen Chorus from Salem, VA by Steve Tremper

The **Roanoke Valley, VA Chapter**, home of the **Virginia Gentlemen Chorus**, is seeking an enthusiastic male or female director for their 40-member, B-level chorus. Their existing director is returning to school to pursue her Masters Degree. The VG finished 2nd at the recent Southern Division competition, won Most Improved, and plan to participate at M-AD Fall competition in Lancaster, PA. Resumes can be sent to: Bill Clark, PO Box 1725, Roanoke, VA 24008; phone 540-721-3340; email: barbershopper1@jetbroadband.com. Check our web site @ www.vagents.org.

"Director needed"

Main Street Harmonizers from Lexington County, SC by Randy Miller

Lexington County's Main Street Harmonizers Chorus will have two very prominent coaches visiting soon. On August 15th, **Joe Connelly**, that is "Triple Gold Joe," most recently with the 2009 silver medalists **Old School** and previously with **Platinum**, **Keepsake**, and **Interstate Rivals**, will be in the house for a coaching session for chorus and quartets. Following Joe will be "Double Gold Don," **Don Barnick**, bass of **Keepsake** and tenor of **Grandma's Boys**, who will be visiting sometime in late August or early September for another coaching clinic. There's even rumors of a third coaching clinic from another gold medal quartet man later on. Hey, these guys are really wanting to better their singing so they get the best they can get to help them do that.

"Triple Gold Joe' and 'Double Gold Don'"

Main Street Harmonizers from Lexington County, SC by Tony Counts

**“Two concerts
in two days in
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doubled the flag
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Only three months after the **Main Street Harmonizer's** founding in March 2004, the chorus produced a Fourth of July Show for their rehearsal hosts, Lexington Baptist Church. Each year since that time the chorus returned to its roots to stage a patriotic show for the community on the Saturday before July Fourth. This year due to a scheduling conflict with the host church, the concert was moved to Sunday the 28th of June, freeing up the usual Saturday evening slot. Park Street Baptist Church in Columbia, SC quickly jumped in to fill in their dance card and another concert was scheduled for Saturday the 27th. Two concerts in two days in two venues doubled the flag-waving and public spirit throughout the Midlands area of South Carolina.

Song selections from the chorus included patriotic tunes such as The Star Spangled Banner, You're a Grand Old Flag, This is My country, America the Beautiful, and Battle Hymn of the Republic. Also included were inspirational songs such as Swing Low Sweet Chariot, This Little Light of Mine, Turn Your Radio On, Amazing Grace, Precious Lord, and Irish Blessing. Even a few old standards were included with My Wild Irish Rose and Heart of My Heart.

Several new members who joined up in just in the last few months were brought up to speed in time to enjoy their first concerts with the **Main Street Harmonizers**.

The presentations also included songs from several quartets from the surrounding area. **Grandstand, Front Page News,** and **Sound Central** all contributed to the wonderful sound and fun had by everyone.

A combined chorus including all of the guest quartets ended the singing with a tribute to all of the branches of the Armed Services with the Lee Greenwood hit, God Bless the U.S.A. Also included in the show was the South Carolina State Trooper's Color Guard, carrying the U.S. and state flags, marching in to start and out to close both evenings' festivities, while **John Phillips**, Dixie District Vice President of Chorus Director Development, was the Master of Ceremonies for both events and kept the concerts moving.

**“local singers
[Tradewinds
cast] in a
national SAG
Time/Warner
television
commercial
featuring 3-time
NASCAR
Champion
Jimmie
Johnson”**

Tradewinds Quartet from Clover, SC by Allen Finley

The Brock Agency, Inc., known as one of the largest professional talent agencies in North Carolina, cast local singers **Allen Finley, Adam Gossage** and **Larry Lane** in a national SAG Time/Warner television commercial featuring 3-time NASCAR Champion Jimmie Johnson. The 30-second spot is now airing on television stations across the nation.

"They wanted a real barber-shop quartet to sing in the spot," said **Allen Finley**, founder and president of Allen Finley Advertising (AFA). "I've been singing with Adam and Larry in our group **Tradewinds** for a little over a year. All of the other singers auditioning were paired up with people, but we came in as a group. It really helped us nail the audition."

Photo (left to right): Larry Lane, Jimmie Johnson, Adam Gossage, Allen Finley.

