



Dixie Town Crier

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

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September 30, 2009

Garden City Chorus from North Augusta, SC by Harry Kline

Matching our every expectation, "Spotlight on Harmony" was a tremendous show. Created and hosted by the **Garden City Chorus**. Without a doubt, it was the best value of the 10-day Westobou Festival and will probably rank as the best presentation in our 46-year history.

"Spotlight On Harmony" combined the talents of the GCC and Harmony River Chorus (SAI). We obtained a grant from the Porter-Fleming Foundation which allowed us to invite award-winning and internationally renowned choruses and quartets. **Atlanta Vocal Project** (BHS), Song of Atlanta Show Chorus (SAI), Last Minute (SAI) and Men in Black (BHS) were our featured performers. If this was not enough, all performers (150 of them) came together for a stunning finale to perform two 8-part songs, expertly arranged by **Clay Hine**. Clay and his wife, Becki, jointly conducted "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better" for a rollicking and harmonious finale. Ending the show with "In Harmony" brought the audience to their feet for a standing ovation.

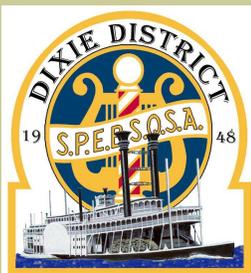
This was also a family affair for the Hines. **Thom Hine** acted as emcee for the show and in addition to Clay and Becki directing the two guest choruses, their daughter, Melody, sang with SOA. Thom also lent his mellifluous bass voice to AVP. There was even another Hine in the mix, with even young Camden, who acted as our "dressing room guard."

There were two shows, a matinee and an evening performance, and all participants sat down to a catered buffet between shows with a Midglow after the dinner. Although the shows weren't sellouts, what the audiences lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm; they were very responsive and gave many standing ovations. Comments made during intermissions and after the shows were glowing.

After the last chord rang out and the curtains closed on the evening performance, there was a lot of polecat and tag singing backstage. As usual, even after an exhausting day of performing two shows, we just can't stop singing. All agreed it was an event that will live in our hearts and minds, as was sung in "The Whiffenpoof Song," "...while life and voice shall last."



Massed choruses, Garden City Chorus, Harmony River Chorus, Atlanta Vocal Project and Song of Atlanta Show Chorus prepare to sing the 8-part finales, "Anything You Can Do, I Can do Better" and "In Harmony"



Main Street Harmonizers from Lexington County, SC by Randy Miller

**“Main Street
Harmonizers
announce new
director and
assistant
director”**

Lexington County's **Main Street Harmonizers** have a NEW musical director. After nearly 40 years of directing, **Randy Miller** has turned over the arm-waving to **Chris Breeland**, with assistance from **Ian Galvin**. Chris brings with him a world of knowledge and great enthusiasm. Ian provides knowledge of the craft and the two combine to create a vision of good barbershop singing for this community. Chris will have his first challenge as he directs the Main Street Harmonizers largest chorus they ever staged in Chattanooga. The entire music team welcomed these two and the chorus applauded them after they were directed by them the first night. Aside from that, the music team now has a complete staff, with 4 assistant directors and 4 section leaders, all under the guidance of Chris and Ian. It's a great day in Lexington County.

What a thrill for me as the "retiring director" to be able to turn over this chorus to such talented and YOUNG musical leaders. Chris currently sings Baritone in **Sound Center** quartet, a foursome Joe Connelly coached when here in August, who remarked, "these guys will be going places." Chris also sang in a quartet in his early years called **Sound Affects**. The Bass in that quartet was **Drew McMillan**. Ian Galvin, a dual-voice personality, Tenor and Lead, sings with Sound Center at Lead and also sings with the **Atlanta Vocal Project**.

Their plates are loaded already as right after this convention, they have to prepare the chorus for three Christmas shows and two more coaching sessions from top notch coaches. This is going to be fun. I encourage every chapter to go get some YOUNG talent to lead their music program. You won't regret it. The young bring in young and the (ah-hem) older guys get their "youthful" juices flowing again, just to keep up. Welcome aboard Chris and Ian.

Dixie Association of Quartet Champions by Brad Hine

**“Show of
Champions
show and
DAQC
Afterglow show
combine for
one big event”**

Last fall the Dixie District celebrated its 60th anniversary since becoming a district; quite an incredible feat. The **Dixie Association of Quartet Champions (DAQC)** held the very first of many more annual afterglow shows to celebrate the event. It was a tremendous success involving 11 Dixie Quartet Champs and the 56-man DAQC Chorus, with over 250 in the audience.

This year the Dixie District is combining our annual "Show of Champions," normally held at the Tivoli Theater immediately after the Quartet Finals, with the "Dixie Association of Quartet Champions Afterglow Show." It will take place on the Tivoli Theater stage immediately following the Saturday night Quartet Finals.

We have a great line-up of quartets as well as some important milestones to celebrate. We are bringing back the 1984 Dixie District Quartet Champs, **The Bowery Street Boys**, to celebrate their 25th anniversary. Also performing, and celebrating their 10th anniversary of winning the GOLD in Anaheim, CA, will be **FRED**.

The DAQC portion of the show will feature...

- The DAQC Chorus
- **The Nashville Singers** ('08 Champs)
- **Lunch Break** ('07 Champs)
- **FRED** ('91 Champs)
- The Bowery Street Boys ('84 Champs)
- **Stacked Deck** ('76 Champions)
- The NEW 2009 INT'L DIX Chorus Representatives
- The NEW 2009 Quartet Champs

Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Chapter Support and Leadership Training Report by Randy Miller, VP-CSLT

**“...the best
selfless act we
can do as
barber-
shoppers”**

Ever thought to yourself, "Hey, I'd like to give back what was given to me?" Well, maybe not exactly that sophomoric, but to be able to provide assistance to your District and the Society, is something we all should be interested in doing. Well there is a way you can and it is easily done.

We need men to join the Chapter Support Representatives (CSR) team. This is a Chapter Servicing arm of the Society and the folks we need are those who can help chapters with a variety of things, from music to administrative areas. We provide your training, then you provide the help to chapters in need. It is that simple. If we can all pitch in, the district will grow through our accomplishments. The satisfaction you get from seeing chapters grow because you were there for them is the best selfless act we can do as barbershoppers.

Want to find out more? Call me toll free at 1-800-434-9658, or write me. My email address is rm4parttoo@bellsouth.net. Contact me, even if you just want to hear more about this program.

Heart of Georgia from Macon, GA by Bob Smith



For the month of September, **The Heart of Georgia** (Macon Chapter B-058) sang for a local retirement community and presented a check to a local charity (a portion of Singing Valentines). We also sang during the annual charity concert.

**“Chapter,
quartet and
membership”**

Our newest quartet, "**Macon Harmony**," was busy with gigs for the local Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Forestry Commission's statewide retirees meeting.



We also had a successful guest night. We are now working on Christmas music.

Music City Chorus from Nashville, TN by David Belden

The words, "... from Nashville, Tennessee," may sound like a broken record at the Dixie District fall convention in Chattanooga. No matter which competition session you attend, you will likely hear those words over and over again.

In Friday night's quartet semi-finals those words will come early and often. Kicking off the evening will be the mike testers, "**The Nashville Singers**," 2008 Dixie District champions. Singing eighth will be the **Nashville Chapter's** novice quartet, "**Standard Deviation**." They will be followed on stage by Nashville's senior quartet competitor "**Blinkered**." Singing in position number eleven will be "**That's Life**" making their competitive debut. Later in the evening you'll hear Nashville's **Bob Davenport** as a member of "**HONCHOS**." Before the evening is over the Nashville Chapter will send out "**Second Fiddle**" and "**The Real McCoy**," both making their initial contest appearance.

**"Seven quartets
from one
chapter"**

After cheering on all of their chapter compatriots on Friday night, the members of the **Music City Chorus** will have to wait the full length of the chorus contest before hearing the words, "... from Nashville, Tennessee." The Music City Chorus will sing in the fifteenth and final spot, eager to be back on stage before the Dixie District crowd.

If all goes well, there could be several of the "... from Nashville, Tennessee" introductions made during Saturday night's quartet finals.

The evening will be capped by the Dixie District Show of Champions and "Dixie Association of Quartet Champions Afterglow Show." Already penciled in are another performance from "The Nashville Singers" and a set by "**Lunch Break**," the 2007 Dixie District champions.

The Music City Chorus and its stable of quartets prepared for the Chattanooga contest with a district sendoff show in mid-September before an enthusiastic audience at the Del Webb community in Mount Juliet.



Two weeks after the contest, the Music City Chorus will be the featured guests on "Encore," the TuneTown Show Chorus show which kicks off an exciting week of barbershop in Nashville. The city will host the Sweet Adelines International Convention. The Music City is proud to send along best wishes to our two sister choruses, TuneTown Show Chorus and Metro Nashville Chorus, both of which will be singing on the international stage in their home town in October.

Tickets are now on sale for "We Need a Little Christmas," the December 12 Music City Chorus holiday show. The Metro Nashville Chorus, 2008 SAI Mid-Size Chorus Champions, will be the guest performers. For information call 615-469-4555.

Dixie District Calendar of Events by Don Lang

*** 2009 ***

10/2-4 DIX Fall Convention, Chattanooga, TN

*** 2010 ***

1/16 COTS / Leadership Academy, Woodstock, GA

1/23 COTS / Leadership Academy, Lexington, SC

1/26-31 BHS Mid-Winter Convention, Tampa, FL

3/12-14 DIX Spring Convention, Greenville, SC

6/27 - 7/4 BHS International Convention, Philadelphia, PA

TBA Harmony Explosion Camp

TBA DIX Mini-Hep School

8/1-8 Harmony University - Quartet College, Director's College, MWSU, St. Joseph, MO

10/1-2 DIX Fall Convention, Knoxville, TN

"Events"