



Dixie Town Crier

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

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 28, 2011

Heart of Georgia Chorus from Macon, GA by Bob Smith

Singing at churches, a blood drive and Valentine's Day – it's been a great time for barber-shopping in middle Georgia!

Our chorus participates with the yearly scheduled blood drive at the church where we practice. The latest blood drive, in memory of one of the church's long-time members, produced 100 pints of blood. We'll soon be scheduling SL2011 at the local mall.

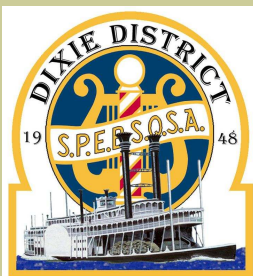
Singing Valentines 2011 was a success. After media coverage from two television stations, a radio station (twice) and appearing on the early morning news, we were recognized everywhere we went. **Macon Harmony Quartet** was featured during the early morning show on WMAZ (quartet shown here with TV personalities Stephanie Susskind and Sonya Stevens). My cell phone started ringing on the way home and didn't stop all weekend.



I want to share a wonderful Singing Valentines experience. The husband of a school principal hired us for a Singing Valentine. As soon as the school buses departed, there was an announcement for all teachers (60 total) to meet in the library for a staff meeting. As the teachers arrived, they could tell that someone was going to receive an Singing Valentines. When the principal arrived, she was met by her husband with a card and a kiss. Teachers jokingly pleaded for him to make her cry, but he said he couldn't. I raised my hand and said "We Can" and at that time we began with the sweetheart pair.

From left to right: Stephanie Susskind (news anchor), Dave Reiff (tenor), Larry Roland (lead), Don Schall (bass), Bob Smith (baritone) and Sonya Stevens (meteorologist).

About halfway through "Let Me Call You Sweetheart", she was reaching for tissues and the teachers started applauding. This Singing Valentines was being covered by the local TV station and appeared on the 6 PM news segment. We have plenty more stories, but will stop here and let others share theirs.





Music City Chorus from Nashville, TN by David Belden

February was a good month for the Nashville Chapter. Not only did the chapter spread joy (and raise a little money) with its Singing Valentines promotion, but the event also brought the chapter a wealth of media exposure.

Thanks to Marketing Vice-President **Bob Sparrow's** effort, the Music City Chorus and a number of its quartets made appearances on three different local television stations and did a live radio broadcast from the Country Music Hall of Fame. The exposure brought in extra valentine orders and put barbershop harmony in front of tens of thousands of people!

The Kent State University Men's Chorus from Ohio will make a concert appearance in Nashville on March 18, and the Nashville Chapter is pleased to not only share the stage with the young singers, but play host to them as well.

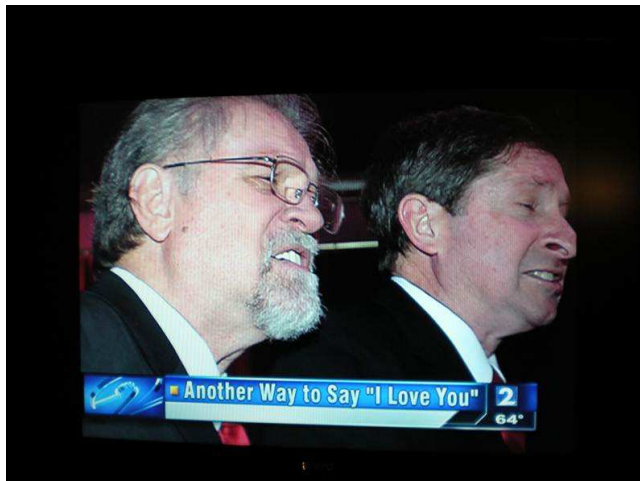
The KSU chorus has a strong barbershop connection as they are directed by **Dr. Ben Ayling** ... international gold medalist bass with **The Ritz**.

"Media Blitz!"

Jim DeBusman is coordinating the event on behalf of our chapter.

The highlight of the visit will be an evening of music being called **Acappella Harmony Showcase**. The event will be held at Christ Church at 7:00 p.m. The impressive lineup will also include two international level Sweet Adelines choruses, **Tune Town Show Chorus** and the **Metro Nashville Chorus**.

In addition to supporting the Kent State Men's Chorus on their tour, this would be the perfect way to share our wonderful hobby with your friends and family. There is no charge for the showcase (a free will offering will be taken to help the KSU men defray expenses).



High Country Harmonizers from Blairsville, GA by Gary Harper

Valentines Day 2011

**“Four quartets
of fun”**

Whew!! Our group of quartets was exclaiming this word at the end of Valentine's Day. Could it be they had delivered more the 50 Singing Valentines? Of the 50 Singing Valentines delivered, 30 were paid; we charged \$40 for two songs a rose and a box of chocolates. Our other deal for \$50 was the same as above but this one included two tickets to our annual show in September 2011.

Some people do not want to give away freebies. We found the publicity you get can sometimes be worth the effort. One of our quartets sang for our local paper. Their photographer took their picture and called me to get the quartet members' names, the date of our next show and how many Singing Valentines we delivered.

We know that the amount of money you clear is not always a good indicator of a successful Singing Valentine's program. With donations and show tickets sold we cleared an amount that any chapter would be proud of.



No-name Quartet sing in Murphy, NC
Left-to-right: Danny Stiles (tenor), Bill Patterson (lead), Andy Monger (bass), and Walt Kerr (bari).



Foothill Connection sing at Dr. Mills in Blue Ridge, GA
Left-to-right: Hal Levine (bass), Carl Hubbell (bari), Wayne Roshaven (lead), and Bill Kolb (tenor).



Harmony GRITS sing at United Community Bank in Blue Ridge, GA
Left-to-right: Lloyd Dunham (bass), Jerry Hobbs (bari), Don Smith (tenor), and Hal Calloway (lead).



Foot Notes sing at Dr. Roof in Blue Ridge, GA
Left-to-right: Mark Johnston (bass), Chuck Lucas (bari), Earl Key (lead), and Bill Jenning (tenor).