



# Dixie Town Crier

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



July 7, 2015      Volume 7, Issue 7

## *A Mighty Wind Is Top Dixie Quartet*

## Music City Chorus Earns International Medal

After a 67-year wait, Nashville's **Music City Chorus** is now an international medalist! **MCC** posted its highest score ever, 89.7, to place fifth at the Pittsburgh International Cho-

rus Contest. The bronze medal was the first to be earned by a Dixie District Chorus since **Big Chicken Chorus** won a third place bronze medal in 1999.

Music City's set included the "Some Enchanted Evening" arrangement it premiered at the Spring Dixie District contest, and a parody arrangement of "That's Entertainment." The comedy number earned a rousing standing ovation from the arena crowd.

**A Mighty Wind** again finished in the quartet top ten, posting an overall score of 88.4 with three crowd-pleasing sets. They were the highest scoring Dixie District quartet.

*Photos courtesy of Lorin May, Barbershop Harmony Society.*



# REPRESENTING THE DIXIE DISTRICT



**A MIGHTY WIND— 88.4**



**MC4—78.3**

# REPRESENTING THE DIXIE DISTRICT



**BOARDWALK—77.0**



**PRELUDE—76.7**

## REPRESENTING THE DIXIE DISTRICT



REDZONE—76.3



'ROUND MIDNIGHT—85.3

## REPRESENTING THE DIXIE DISTRICT



LOOP 10—72.4  
College Quartet Contest



*Quartet Photos  
Courtesy  
of Lorin May,  
Barbershop Harmony  
Society*

# REPRESENTING THE DIXIE DISTRICT



**MUSIC CITY CHORUS, NASHVILLE CHAPTER  
FIFTH PLACE BRONZE MEDAL—89.7**



# REPRESENTING THE DIXIE DISTRICT



*Chorus Photos  
Courtesy  
of Lorin May,  
Barbershop  
Harmony  
Society*

## Frank Holmes Reporting

# Central Alabama Hosts Directors' Workshop

On Saturday, May 16, the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society held a Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive (CDWI) in Birmingham, AL. Hosted by the **Central Alabama Chapter**, chorus director trainers Raisha Quinn from Grand Junction, Colorado and John Devine from Houston, Texas spent the day intensely working with five chorus directors to strengthen their directing skills. The morning was spent in interviews and discussions with the directors. In the afternoon, the directors were able to work with a live chorus to practice their directing skills and to be coached by the trainers. They were videoed and had the chance to view their recordings with the trainers after their session.

**Voices of the South** was tasked with providing the demonstration chorus. In an ecumenical effort, members from the **Central Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Athens, and Huntsville, AL Chapters** along with participants from the **Peachtree City, GA and Houston, TX Chapters** made up the demonstration chorus. Four and one-half hours of top-quality, high-energy singing and fellowship were enjoyed by everyone **and** the directors learned some techniques that will help their choruses improve.



## Guest Column

# Why Do We Sing?

By Michael Brunson  
Stone Mountain Chorus

As barbershoppers, we are often asked why we do what we do. Kurt Vonnegut puts it best, I think:  
*"The arts are not a way to make a living. They are a very human way of making life more bearable. Practicing an art, no matter how well or badly, is a way to make your soul grow, for heaven's sake. Sing in the shower. Dance to the radio. Tell stories. Write a poem to a friend, even a lousy poem. Do it as well as you possibly can. You will get an enormous reward. You will have created something."*

We don't sing barbershop to make money. We do it because it's how we make the world a better place. We have sung for thousands, and we've sung for handfuls. Many who listen will come away having learned nothing of themselves, and just enjoy the music. There are those precious few, though, that a song, or even a phrase, caused them to learn something about themselves. It's because of these people especially that we take pride in our craft.

We don't just sing songs. These pieces were created by talented individuals, for sure, but we have the opportunity to give the songs life; we take them and create music. We evoke emotions, instilling feelings of happiness, sadness, joy, sorrow, pain, love, and laughter. We give people the chance to reminisce, to let them take this music and apply it to their own lives. We practice hard in order to make it look so easy. We work with each other, not against, and we cooperate in such a way that is so rare to find in everyday life. We communicate without speaking. We can even tell when a member isn't himself, without needing to ask.

The next time someone asks you why you sing barbershop, instead of saying all this, just smile and ask him to come to your rehearsal. Provide him the opportunity to find out what barbershop singing is all about. I've found that in my career so far as a singer, it's an experience that is difficult to explain, and must be witnessed firsthand to really be understood.

**Stone Mountain Chorus** would also like to congratulate all of the choruses and quartets who competed in Pittsburgh! We want to give a special shout out to the chorus which represented Dixie this year, **Music City Chorus**, and our four competing quartets: **A Mighty Wind, MC4, RedZone, Prelude, and Boardwalk!** You made us proud!

Keep The Whole World Singing!

David Belden Reporting

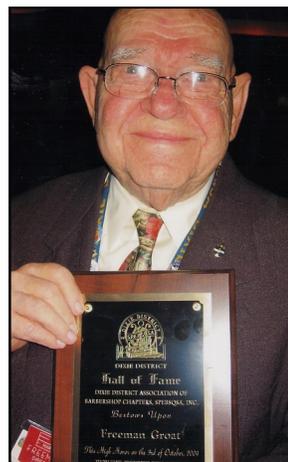
# Nashville Chapter Honors Freeman Groat on 70 Years of Barbershop Harmony

A special celebration was held on Tuesday, June 16, as the Nashville Chapter honored Director Emeritus Freeman Groat as he received his 70-year membership card in the Barbershop Harmony Society. BHS CEO Marty Monson was on hand to read a special proclamation honoring Freeman, and Music City Chorus members presented Freeman with several gifts of appreciation.

Longtime Music City Chorus member Mel Joesten organized the event. Mel interviewed Freeman and prepared a special tribute that appeared in the Music City Chorus HUZZAH chapter newsletter. Among the accomplishments that were noted regarding Freeman:

- **Joined the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1945**
- **Became the first Director and Charter Member of the Fort Dodge, IA Chapter at age 15**
- **Member of an estimated 12 barbershop quartets, the most notable one being the Four Flushers quartet while stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS**
- **Director of 7 choruses**
- **Became first Lifetime Member of Barbershop Harmony Society in 1967**
- **Director of Music City Chorus for three International Conventions, placing 10th in San Francisco in 1976, 8th in Philadelphia in 1977, and 14th in Cincinnati in 1978**
- **Director Emeritus, Music City Chorus**
- **Started Volunteering at BHS Headquarters in Fall 2007**
- **Inducted into Dixie District Hall of Fame in 2009**
- **Became 70-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society in June 2015**

The Nashville Chapter considers Freeman Groat one of barbershop's greatest treasures! Congratulations, Freeman, on 70 years of barbershop harmony!



# 70 YEARS OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY FOR FREEMAN!



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



Macon Harmony



Harmonic Balance



MC4

Additional guests

## Confederate Harmony Brigade

### SATURDAY, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.hogchorus.org) or call (478) 345-SING (7464)

# 2016 North Carolina Harmony Brigade Chuck Greene Youth Scholarships



## Attention Male Singers Ages 18-28

Full Scholarships are NOW AVAILABLE for qualified male *a cappella* singers ages 18-28 to attend the North Carolina Harmony Brigade and its "eXtreme Quartetting" rally in Pinehurst, NC on January 15-17, 2016.

You'll enjoy an expense-paid weekend of wall-to-wall singing in dozens of quartet combinations with over 100 well-prepared and experienced quartet singers, while being treated to the first-class lodging and cuisine, found only in the Carolina Inn and Resort.

Interested in knowing more? Click on  
[NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com)  
to receive a prospectus that details all the weekend's inclusions!

# 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.



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

**STONE MOUNTAIN CHORUS PROUDLY SUPPORTS ...**

## **Find Your Voice With Atlanta Harmony Celebration!**

**Harmony, Inc.  
Area 6  
2015 Champions!**



**2014  
International  
Top 10 Chorus!**

Ladies, do you want to sing, but haven't found your voice?  
Perhaps you have found it, but need a place to use it?

Gentlemen, do the ladies in your life show an interest in harmony, but just don't know where to start?

Join AHC! every Thursday this July for fellowship and harmony!

We will be learning the song "Cups" from the hit movie,  
*Pitch Perfect*

We will have workshops and vocal classes to help you along your journey in barbershop!

Visit [atlantaharmonycelebration.org](http://atlantaharmonycelebration.org) for more information!





## THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

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David Belden, Editor

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

[david.belden@comcast.net](mailto:david.belden@comcast.net)

# 2015 Dixie District Calendar

## Harmony Explosion Camp

July 16-19

University of Tennessee Chattanooga

## Fall Contest

October 23-25

Dunwoody, Georgia

## THE LAST WORD

*"Well, I didn't think it would take this long!"*

... Gerald Adams, charter member of the Nashville Chapter, after receiving his bronze medal as a member of the Music City Chorus. Jerry has been singing with the chorus for 67 years and this is his first international medal.

