



Dixie Town Crier

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

Chuck Witherspoon

January 3, 2017

Volume 9, Issue 2



EXTRA! EXTRA!

**BREAKING
NEWS**

[Jim Sams, VP Contest & Judging, Notes Many Changes in Store](#)

It Is Time to Plan for Spring Contests

Gentlemen & Lady songsters,

The time is upon us once again to gather for the **2017 Dixie International Quartet Prelims and Chorus Convention**. This convention will be held **March 17-19, 2017** in **Huntsville, Alabama**. The headquarters hotel is the **Embassy Suites Huntsville, 700 Monroe St. SW, Huntsville, AL 35801 (256-539-7373)**. This convention/contest will all be held under one roof in this immense hotel connected to our contest site, the **Von Braun Center**. Check out the Society website in the **eBiz section** under **Contest Entry** to fill out your chorus or quartet **CJ-20 contest entry form**.

We will have an **International Quartet Prelim (2 rounds)**, a **Youth Quartet Contest**, a **Mixed Harmony Quartet Contest (1 Round; I will send out entry forms to any mixed harmony quartet upon request, a **District Chorus Championship**, and a **Most Improved Chorus award** based on chorus scores from last spring. We will also offer a **Score for Evaluations Only** session for those choruses/quartets **who do not wish to compete** but would like to receive your **personal score sheet** and a **60-minute coaching or 30-minute evaluation session**. We just need **YOU** there to participate! There will be something for everyone!**

PLEASE NOTE: We will crown a Youth Quartet Champion but their scores will not count toward the International Youth Quartet Contest entry. Each Youth Quartet will be given a coaching evaluation and a video of their performance to be sent into the SCJC for judging and a potential invitation to the International contest. Districts are no longer involved in choosing their youth representatives to International.

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As promised, the **Evaluations/Coaching sessions** following the Chorus Final and the Quartet Final will be **YOUR CHOICE**. Depending on the number of quartets who enter, we may not be able to set up choice evaluations/coaching, but please send in your choices regardless. I will do my best to meet all of your requests. **YOU MUST ENTER YOUR CHOICE OF EVALUATION OR COACHING** in the **Comment section** of the **CJ-20** IF you want to have a choice. Otherwise I will schedule you for a 20min per judge, 3 judge session, automatically. Please look at these and make your choice in advance of filling out your entry form. Then make sure you have **indicated in the comment section of the CJ-20** what your desires are for evaluation or coaching.

PLEASE REMEMBER, EVALUATION JUDGE CHOICES ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED AS LONG AS THE JUDGES LAST! EARLY ENTRY IS BEST!

No Evaluation or Coaching

Evaluation Only-3 judges 15min each

Coaching-3 judges 20min each

Coaching-2 judges (SNG/PRS) 30min each

Coaching-2 judges (SNG/MUS) 30min each

Coaching-2 judges (MUS/PRS) 30min each

Your choice of judges (based on 1st come/ 1st served) for options 3-6 (indicate in comment section on CJ-20)

Other option if not listed above (Indicate in comment section on CJ-20)

Here are the judges who are on the Official Panel: MUS- Rasmus Krigstrom & Alex Morris; PRE Ev Nau & Jake Pirner; SNG-Matt Gifford & Steve Scott. I can assure you that each of these men are well-trained, experienced, and are ready and willing to work with each of you to help improve your performances regardless of your current level.

If you have any trouble filling out the **CJ-20** for your chorus or quartet, **PLEASE contact me ASAP** and allow me to walk you through the process. I didn't cut and paste that lengthy process into this email because it is so bulky and I'm not sure most of you even read it. If you need it, I will be more than happy to send you a copy for you to work through it. **Again, I am available to help you fill out your CJ-20's if needed.**

The cut off for CJ-20 entries for this convention is midnight February 24th which NOW gives you a full EIGHT weeks to get your entries filled out. That is 3 weeks from the start of the convention weekend. Please let me hear from you **SOON** as to what your plans are for this convention. I would like to know what your intentions are as early as possible so that I may contact you to discuss the possibilities with you.

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Each of you is important to the well-being and future of our Dixie District, and we want you to have a grand experience at this **2017 Dixie Spring Convention**. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the very best that **DIXIE DISTRICT** has to offer!

ALL y'all come now, ya hear??!!

Jim Sams

VP Contest & Judging-Dixie

Contest Administrator

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Mixed Harmony Quartetting Is Alive In Dixie!

Finally, the opportunity has arrived for our community mixed quartets to have another outlet to ply their craft! A few years ago, the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) challenged our districts to begin inviting mixed quartets to participate in our district contest quartet sessions. The guidelines and rules were left up to the Districts. Only 2 of the 17 districts in the BHS have accepted this challenge and have held several contests. Now Dixie District is ready to jump in and begin looking for mixed quartets in our geographical area who might be interested in coming to our Spring Convention the weekend of March 17-19, 2017 to participate with us!

The competition will be held on Friday evening March 17, 2017 in Huntsville, AL at the Von Braun Center and will be limited to 6 quartets on a first come/first served basis. The headquarters hotel will be the Embassy Suites which is attached to the contest facility. As you can see, we have plenty of time to find active mixed quartets or to encourage some who have always wanted to try mixed quartetting to prepare for this appearance! Here are the guidelines:

- Quartets must be composed of one, two, or three members of one gender (M/F) and at least one member of the opposite gender, e.g., MMMF, MMFF, or MFFF.
- Any vocal configuration (T, L, Br, Bs) is acceptable.
- This event is open to ALL singers regardless of BHS, SAI, and /or HI affiliation.
- Each quartet must purchase an 4 all-events tickets (\$47.00 early bird rate and \$10.00 late fee two weeks before contest) to the Dixie District Convention in order to compete in the contest.
- Quartets are not expected to be registered with the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS).
- Each contestant is expected to perform two songs.
- All songs performed in the contest must be contestable and arranged in the barbershop style according to BHS rules and MUS/PER/SNG category descriptions.

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- The following is the link to the Contest & Judging Handbook should you need it. <http://www.barbershop.org/files/documents/contestandjudging/C&J%20Handbook.pdf>
- All contestants are required to observe copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs and arrangements.
- Other than a pitch pipe (manual or electronic) used for brief pitch taking prior to the beginning of a song, no musical instruments or instrumental accompaniment is permitted.
- All competing mixed quartets will have the opportunity to participate in evaluation/coaching with the judging panel following the contest session.
- Quartet members may compete in only one mixed quartet at this event.
- Male BHS members may also compete in District Quartet competition as well.
- Championship plaques will be presented to the winning quartet.
- For those interested, the top scores will be shared with one or our affiliates, BinG (Barbershop in Germany) for a possible invitation to sing in the International Mixed Barbershop Quartet Championship held every two years in March in Munich, Germany. The next Barbershop Musik Festival will be held in March 2018.

Mixed barbershop opens exciting new opportunities and perspectives to barbershop as a modern, living style of music. It will help promote barbershop even more and makes it even more interesting, especially to young singers. So I am asking all of you who receive this invitation to come to our Dixie Convention next spring and to look within your membership and your communities in search of mixed quartets who might be interested in attending or participating in our quartet contest. My contact information will be given below. Please share this information with ALL of your chapter members and anyone who can share this with other singing groups in your community. IF you need any other information, please contact me and I will be more than happy to talk with you about this opportunity.

I look forward to an exciting weekend in Huntsville next spring as we introduce mixed quartetting to our district membership and audiences. I hope each of you will plan on coming and bringing others with you to enjoy a great barbershopping weekend of harmony! Mark your calendars NOW!

Harmoniously,

Jim Sams

VP Contest & Judging (DRCJ)-Dixie District

Society Contest Administrator

CA Board of Review

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THE DIXIE TOWN CRIER

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

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

david.belden@comcast.net

COME TO THE 2017 DIXIE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

What: 2017 Leadership Academy (Chapter Officer Training)

When: Saturday, Jan 28th, 2016 9AM - 4PM

Where: Covenant Presbyterian Church, 819 Hwy 314 N. Fayetteville, Ga. 30214

Hotel: Holiday Inn Express, Fayetteville, Ga. [770-461-5600](tel:770-461-5600) Negotiated room rate \$99/night. 2 man rooms (\$49.50/man). Includes free breakfast. Tell them you're with the "Dixie District Leadership Academy". All attendees staying at the hotel must pay for your own room and arrange for your own roommate.

Cost: ONLY \$20 per man to cover facility and faculty. Pay at the door. **Does NOT include food.** Chow provided separately, or you can eat on your own.

Classes: Each class is taught twice for your convenience. AM class is 9-Noon, PM class is 1-4. You can attend one class twice or attend another class of your choice to broaden your knowledge or if you're time constrained, just go to the one class you need.

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CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

CHAPTER DIRECTOR SEMINAR

PLEASE RSVP ASAP to pwezul@gmail.com AND TELL ME WHICH CLASS YOU DESIRE!