The 2018 - 2019

Gentlemen Songsters

a male a cappella chorus in Royal Oak



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Welcome All!

. . . to the Detroit-Oakland Chapter's 79th annual show,

A CAPPELLA BROADWAY.

Ours is the longest running annual show in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

This evening the Gentlemen Songsters will take you on a trip down Broadway. You will hear many songs you will recognize and, perhaps, a few you will not. Most will be performed by the chorus and the chorus ensemble, as well as the Songsters' own four performing quartets.

Then you will hear from two incredibly talented quartets for your enjoyment. The first is a Sweet Adelines Quartet, SUREFIRE. SUREFIRE competed at the Sweet Adelines international convention in Las Vegas in 2015 and will compete this October in St. Louis, Missouri.

The next is CATEGORY 4. CATEGORY 4 represented the Dixie District this past July at the Barbershop Harmony Society's international convention in Orlando, Florida, finishing in 7th place overall.

The Gentlemen Songsters rehearse on Monday nights at 7:30 right here in the Royal Oak Middle School, in the choir room downstairs. We invite any and all of you to come down any Monday night, meet us and sing with us with no obligation except to have a great time and leave with a smile on your face!

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter is a proud member of the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce and the Inter-Club Service Council, and we will make ourselves available to perform for your group or organization at any time. You may contact Roger Boyer at 248-302-6631.

So, pack your musical bags, join us for a walk along the Great White Way, relax, and enjoy the show!

Keith M. Opal, President Detroit-Oakland Chapter Barbershop Harmony Society

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Our enforcement of the copyright law protects you and us, but most importantly it protects the copyright owners who have made our performance possible. Your cooperation and support are appreciated.

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Steve SutherlandAssistant Directors:
Jim Kunz

teve Sutherland

Jim Kunz

Dave Montera

John Paul

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Lynne Peirce

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SECRETARYCraig Roney	VPCHAPTER DEVELOPMENTJohn Marsh
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BOARD MEMBER Doug Joppie	VPMARKETING & PRRoger Boyer
BOARD MEMBER Geoff d'Allemand	IMMED.PAST PRESTerry Webner
BOARD MEMBER Peter Brandt	·

Our Mission Statement

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is dedicated to bringing friends and members together for the fun and enjoyment of barbershop harmony; developing our vocal talents and capabilities; reaching out in service to the community; and consistently improving our performance capabilities so that, each time we sing together, we perform at the best level we possibly can.

^{*}Performing in chorus

THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS



Check out our web site --- http://detroitoakland.org/ **DETROIT-OAKLAND CHAPTER - Pioneer District** 2018 Spring Competition

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What and Who is DOC?

The Gentlemen Songsters Chorus is a part of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, an international *a cappella* singing organization headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter (DOC) was organized in 1939 and began producing annual barbershop concerts in 1940. Based in Royal Oak, our current 45-man membership meets at 7:30 pm every Monday night at Royal Oak Middle School, 709 N Washington Avenue in Royal Oak. With our several quartets and chorus, we are active in the community, presenting barbershop harmony entertainment throughout the year at varied community events and venues while performing various community services in conjunction with other local service organizations.

DOC's annual show features two state and nationally recognized guest quartets, our chorus and chapter quartets. The proceeds from the show are the primary source of financial support for our organization, its activities and charities. Portions are used as scholarships to deserving high school students to attend music/harmony camps in Michigan and to support youth choruses competing in BHS sponsored events.

The Gentlemen Songsters chorus competes twice a year at the district level. In the spring we compete for district chorus championships and in the fall for the right to represent the Pioneer district on the international stage.

Quartets are the foundation of the Society and all members are encouraged to participate in quartet activity. DOC has several registered and active quartets, providing entertainment for a variety of functions across Metro Detroit.

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What puts all that joy into barbershop?

Whenever four Barbershoppers meet, spontaneous harmony bursts out almost immediately. Nothing can stop it. That urge to sing, to make music together, drives a worldwide culture of men and women.

Why?

Of course, it starts with the music itself. Barbershop singing is easy to start, with its core style being relatively simple melodies, sung in four-part harmony, without instruments. Its heritage traces back to African American communities in the South, where singers would improvise harmonies to popular songs and hymns -- much like the instrumental improvisation of jazz, its cousin.

That desire to make music for yourself, just for fun, not for stage, is what makes so many people think of themselves as "only in the shower" singers. Unfortunately, many people are self-conscious about singing, because they compare themselves to professionals.

The Barbershop Harmony Society wants to change that. We believe every person's voice is beautiful and distinctive. We know that singing together builds an instant bridge between hearts. Again and again, we see that blending our voices erases divisions of age, race, gender, political opinion or spiritual belief.

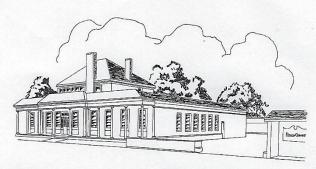
It's easy to start. A few fellow singers can help anyone hear themselves singing their part in a big, ringing barbershop chord in a just a few minutes. The feeling is electric, and instant -- you won't believe your own ears.

The Barbershop Harmony Society exists so that all people can unleash their own voices. Some people like to sing in public performances, others in the comfort of a small group of friends. Some sing in quartets, others in choruses. There are men's groups, women's groups, mixed harmony groups -- all combinations of voices and desire are represented.

Through barbershop, the Society helps people collaborate to create art. We help people pour out emotion for others, and for themselves. We serve communities and support music education. And we have an awful lot of fun as we do it.

Our Strategic Vision of **Everyone in Harmony** extends the barbershop family worldwide. It is a family that we choose for ourselves. A family that accepts all, embraces all, includes all... because just like a great chord, the whole is so much greater than the sum of its parts.

There's room for your family in our family, too. To learn more about barbershop singing, and to unleash your own voice, visit www.barbershop.org



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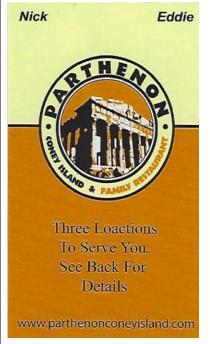
Definition of Barbershop Harmony

Barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied vocal music characterized by consonant fourpart chords for every melody note in a predominantly homophonic (the same word sounds at the same time) texture. The melody is consistently sung by the lead (second tenor), with the tenor (first tenor) harmonizing above the melody, the bass singing the lowest harmonizing notes, and the baritone completing the chord. Occasional brief passages may be sung by fewer than four voice parts.

Barbershop music features songs with understandable lyrics and easily singable melodies, whose tones clearly define a tonal center and imply major and minor chords and barbershop (dominant and secondary dominant) seventh chords that often resolve around the circle of fifths, while also making use of other resolutions. Barbershop music also features a balanced and symmetrical form, and a standard meter. The basic song and its harmonization are embellished by the arranger to provide appropriate support of the song's theme and to close the song effectively.

Barbershop singers adjust pitches to achieve perfectly tuned chords (instead of tempered tuning like the piano) in just intonation while remaining true to the established tonal center. Artistic singing in the barbershop style exhibits a fullness or expansion of sound, precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Ideally, these elements are natural, not manufactured, and free from apparent effort.

The performance of barbershop music uses appropriate musical and visual methods to convey the theme of the song and provide the audience with an emotionally satisfying and entertaining experience. Barbershop singers traditionally do not hold sheet music. The musical and visual delivery is from the heart, believable, and sensitive to the song and its arrangement throughout. The most stylistic performance artistically melds together the musical and visual aspects to create and sustain the illusions suggested by the music.



Barbershop can be performed in quartets as well as choirs, and can be found all over the world in male, female, and mixed ensembles.





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CHAPTER QUARTETS



Evenin' Gentlemen John Paul Bass: Joe DeSantis Bari: Lead: Keith Opal Peter Brandt Tenor:



Night Shift

Tenor: Jim Kunz Lead: Jay Peterson Bass: Herb Hebner Bari: Steve Sutherland

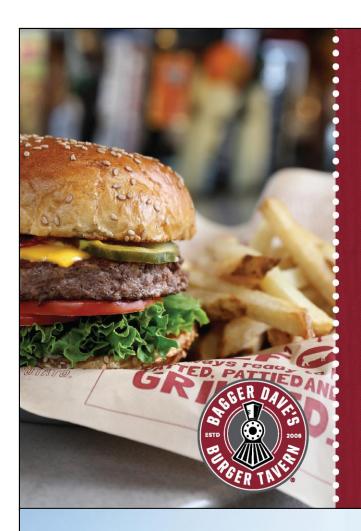


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with

The Gentlemen Songsters Chorus



Category 4

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@ 6:00 PM

SUREFIRE



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GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS



CATEGORY 4

Forming in January of 2017, this quartet features over 80 years of combined barbershop experience. In their first international competition, they were fortunate enough to breeze right in the Top 10. They consistently blow away audiences with

their unique sound, music and performance style.

Tim (Walter) Reynolds - Tenor: Tim is new to the Tenor part, after being a successful Lead for many years. Along the way, he's earned four District Championships and five International Bronze Medals while singing with six different quartets in seven states—proving one thing; He can't get along with anyone! With Category 4, he's excited to be lending his unique style and voice, floating like a breeze on all the high notes. When he's not working at his successful women's hat shop, he likes to rebuild classic muscle cars. He's currently restoring a 1973 Ford Pinto.

Tim (Zephyr) Brooks – Lead: Tim's talent for Lead singing was uncovered at an early age. His mother had him singing the melody in a trio with his older sisters at Lutheran churches all across the great plains of North Dakota. Tim only objected when he was forced to wear pigtails and poodle skirts as these outfits didn't bring out the highlights of his curly red hair. As the Lead for Category 4, he brings a long history of success, having won four District Championships and seven International Bronze Medals. He is known for spending long hours trying to find those places in their music where he can truly shine and the others are made to look bad. As a result, he's in an ongoing "Diva Rehab" program and spends his spare time making no-drip candles.

Kirk (Nor'Easter) Young – Bass: Kirk began singing barbershop at an early age in his home state of Maine. Despite his youth, he had a very developed low Bass voice, which allowed him to pay his way through high school and college by performing Tennessee Ernie Ford songs at local Karaoke bars. Through his barbershop career, Kirk has earned three District Championships and competed at International many times. As the Bass of Category 4, he continues this strong-winded tradition, urging the quartet to feature a Bass solo in all songs. At a minimum, he insists that they begin every song with some type of Bass pickup. When not fulfilling his minor duties at a major award manufacturer, he works part-time as a voice-over artist for local public television stations with an emphasis on animal documentaries. He also enjoys playing "whack-a-mole" at family pizza parlors.

Clay (Cold Front) Hine – Baritone: Clay has also been a Barbershopper since his early teens, singing with his dad and brother in Michigan and Illinois. He moved to Georgia after college and began quartet singing in earnest. Along the way, he has won three District Championships and eight International Medals, including a Silver and the coveted first-place Gold with the very popular quartet FRED. As part of Category 4, Clay navigates the Baritone part just like wind through the buildings of downtown Chicago: unpredictable and unpleasant. He does most of their vocal arrangements and provides much-need comic relief during their extended rehearsals. Clay works as an underwear model and spends his spare time arranging music for Tibetan throat singers.



SUREFIRE

Surefire Quartet formed in April of 2013 and quickly decided that five hundred miles of travel was a walk in the park for four quartet-savvy women who really, *REALLY* wanted to sing together. Surefire has had many wonderful experiences in its 3 years together but the most

memorable was becoming the Region 17 quartet champion in May of 2015. As a highlight of its championship year Surefire earned the opportunity to represent Region 17 in Sweet Adelines International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Lead Sara Clevenge joined Sweet Adelines at the age of 14 and soon became the youngest quartet medalist in the history of Region 2 (Michigan/southern Ontario) singing with mom Lynne in Fandangle quartet. Sara is a respected musical leader in the Voices in Harmony Chorus in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Sara is a graduate of fine arts from the University of Tampa, Florida, and is directing manager at Blue River Financial Group, recently relocated to their Pittsburgh office.

Bass Lynne Peirce directs the award-winning Voices in Harmony Chorus in Ypsilanti, Michigan. A Sweet Adeline since 1985, she sang bass in the 1991 and 1993 Region 2 championship quartet Accolade and has delighted audiences for over a decade with comedy quartet Novelty Shop. Lynne retired in 2012 from her role in organizational development from the University of Michigan Health System and lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan with husband and best friend Tom.

Baritone *Lisa Beckett* earned her first blue ribbon singing lead in *Sigh-tations* in 1983. A Sweet Adeline since 1976, Lisa has been a musical leader in several choruses and is a popular coach. She currently sings with the *Greater Harmony Chorus* in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She was the gold-medal baritone with *BLAK Velvet*, Region 17 2006, 2008 and 2010 championship quartet. Lisa works in logistics at Nord-Lock, Superbolt Inc. and lives in Monaca, Pennsylvania.

Tenor *Dawn Seigneur* is the musical director of the *River Raisin Chorus* in Monroe, Michigan. She is a charter member of *Pride of Toledo Chorus* and has performed with them eight times at Sweet Adelines International chorus competitions. Dawn sang tenor in *In Voice*, 2008 and 2009 quartet champions. Dawn works as a physical therapist in Toledo, Ohio. In her hometown of Delta, Ohio, she is a Yoga and Tai Chi Instructor at Sukha Yoga (sukhayoga.weebly.com).

Surefire reflects a remarkable journey of experiences and miles well-traveled. We know you will find the unique and exciting blend of voices, hearts and spirits an unforgettable combination!

A Cappella Broadway

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Heart	" " Jim Kunz
Get Me to the Church On Time	" Steve Sutherland
Once Upon a Time	Coda Honor <i>Quartet</i>
Consider Yourself	Directed by John Paul
Cabaret	" Steve Sutherland
Let's Do It!	Evenin' Gentlemen Quartet
I Got Rhythm	Night Shift <i>Quartet</i>
Almost Like Being in Love	Chapter <i>Ensemble</i>
Lida Rose	Today's Special Quartet
with Brittany Woodcock singing co	unterpoint
Aquarius	Directed by Steve Sutherland
What I Did for Love	
Do You Hear the People Sing?	" Steve Sutherland
Can You Feel the Love Tonight?	" Dave Montera
Give My Regards to Broadway	" Steve Sutherland

SUREFIRE

CATEGORY 4

Make 'Em LaughDirected by Steve Sutherland

INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITIONS FINALE

PLEASE NOTE: There is no intermission!

Everyone Can Sing!

by Jack Peters

If you can speak, you can sing — maybe not as you'd like or think you should, but you can make a tone and that is a start. Maybe you, like a billion or so others, have said, "I can't sing" or heard from loved ones, "please, don't sing!" However, singing is a very natural thing we can do from our very first cry. Everyone is entitled to its proven pleasures, as most were born with the ability to utter sounds for a reason. It could even be more important than talking itself, with talking a by-product of why we utter sounds. **Singing is simply a form of melodious talking with some learnable refinements along the way.** This article is intended to give us all hope and guidance to one of the easiest ways to find enjoyment during our lifetime. For most of us it will be "finding happiness singing with others".

People sing together; from children's choirs, theater arts, religious gatherings to the coal mines deep in the earth. It's the "together" thing that makes it easy, enjoyable, and beneficial. Many studies and articles have been published about the health benefits of singing. People feel good when producing live music, memories are stimulated, learning improves at all ages, and friendships are built. Stress is relieved, attitudes improve, altruistic needs are served, and most people love to hear the results when music is created with human voices. Pushing fresh air in and out of one's body is refreshing, cleansing, necessary as water, and singing helps that happen instinctively. What researchers are beginning to discover is that singing is like an infusion of the perfect tranquilizer, the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirits.

Obviously, our voices are as varied and unique as snowflakes. We often believe the ability to sing means to have perfect pitch, sing like a songbird, or need to read music; none is true. We were born with two vocal cords (folds) in our necks that vibrate from the passage of air directed through them from our diaphragm. Thus, Everyone Can Sing if you can utter a sound by raising and lowering the tone at will. The question is; do you have an ear to hear where a note should be. To find out, sing Happy Birthday out loud and see if it sounds like the Happy Birthday you think it should be. If not, try again and let your mind / ear direct you to where your voice should be singing. Kind of like in sports — you visualize the shot before you make it and your mind will help direct it. If you've ever played an instrument, you probably developed your ear to hear where the note played should be and that's a big plus when singing.

The largest amateur men's singing organization in the world is the <u>Barbershop Harmony Society</u>, headquartered in Nashville, TN, with approximately 700 localized chapters in the U.S. and Canada, plus affiliated organizations across the globe. Barbershop harmony is largely thought of as a barbershop quartet with four fellas, each singing his own part. The largest form of participation in the Society, however, is the experience of many men harmonizing in four parts with several voices singing each part, which forms a barbershop chorus. Women sing barbershop too, in <u>Sweet Adelines International</u> and <u>Harmony Incorporated</u>, and the <u>Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association</u>, where men and women sing together in the barbershop style.

The above is a condensation of a full article written by the author and posted on the Guest Blog on the Barbershop Harmony Society website on May 1, 2018. www.barbershop.org/everyone-can-sing-guest-blog-by-jack-peters/









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We wish Everyone a lifetime filled with singing, community, support and camaraderie.

Harmony Foundation International is a professional fundraising organization focused on connecting philanthropic people to charitable giving options that enrich lives through singing. We fulfill our mission by partnering with companies like the Barbershop Harmony Society and funding programs that encourage and enhance singing experiences for all ages to ensure everyone has access to the life-changing power of singing as well as preserve the integrity of the art-form.

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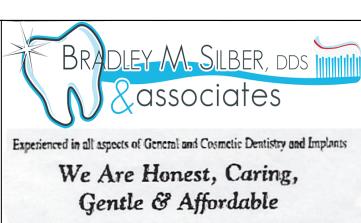
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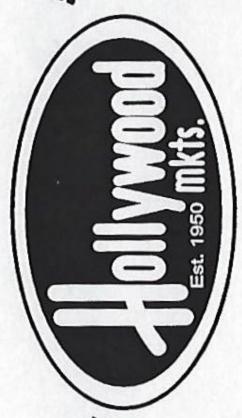
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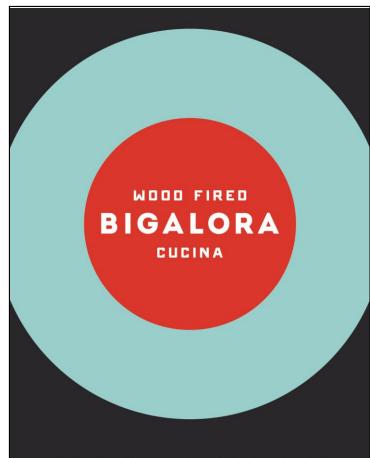
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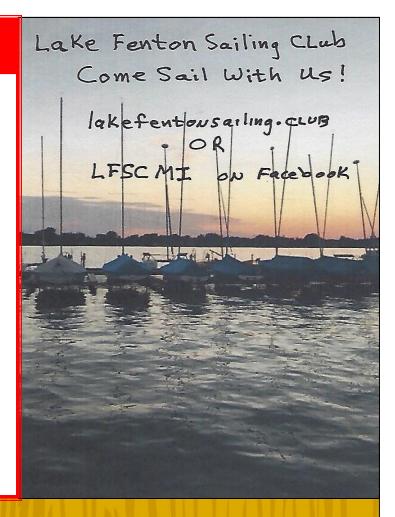
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