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Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir



SHOP TITMUS
PRIME



WITH THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS



7:00 P.M. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

'SHOPTIMUS PRIME

2015 International Collegiate silver medalists and 2012 Ontario District champion, **'Shoptimus Prime** is a barbershop quartet formed by four young guys originally from around southwestern Ontario and Buffalo, NY. The group's rich, blended harmonies and natural exuberance both on and off the stage have entertained audiences throughout the provinces, across the continent, and around the world.



Whether performing for show audiences, competing at the international level, belting it at the top of their lungs on a local street corner, or entertaining YOU at your next function, 'Shoptimus Prime is transforming the face of barbershop harmony.

Michael Black (Lead) Michael comes from Fergus, Ontario, and has been a Society member since 2009. He first sang with the Guelph City Ambassadors and then with the Capitol City Chorus while a student at the University of Ottawa. A two-time winner of the Ontario District quartet contest (one of them with 'Shoptimus Prime), he also has won a gold and four bronzes with the Toronto Northern Lights chorus. When not barbershopping, Michael likes to listen to podcasts, solve crosswords, dabble in web design, and not play sports—although he once placed 5th at the Bassmaster CastingKids National Semifinals. He is a fan of Nutella.

Michael La Scala (Tenor) Michael joined BHS at the ripe old age of 10 in his hometown of Tonawanda, New York. Since then he has sung in several quartets (including district champion and international quarterfinalist Mainstream) and choruses (winning a gold medal with the Toronto Northern Lights in 2013). Michael holds a Master's degree in Health and Human Performance. Today you can find him teaching Health and Physical Education at the King Center Charter School in Buffalo. In his spare time Michael enjoys ballin', board games, and b-writing music. He thinks Nutella is good stuff.

Joel La Scala (Baritone) Joel grew up listening to his brother screech tenor notes at all hours of the day. Around age 12 he began attending barbershop meetings but only once a month—coincidentally, his local chapter's pizza night. That was enough to get him hooked; eventually he sang with several award-winning quartets, and he too won gold and bronze with the Toronto Northern Lights chorus. Joel is the not-Michael Black; he captained his championship high school basketball team, making it rain on a regular basis. Booyah. Joel and his dog Holstein live in San Diego, California, where he enjoys coaching local quartets and thinks Nutella is unnecessary.

Tom Mifflin (Bass) Tom discovered barbershopping in his hometown of Merlin, Ontario. There, in the 11th grade, he decided it would be funny to form a quartet to sing a barbershop version of the history of the Bubonic Plague, called "The Barbonic Rag." Tom joined BHS in 2009 while studying acting at York University in Toronto. He, too, won gold and bronze with Toronto Northern Lights. When he's not singing barbershop or working, Tom can be found performing around Toronto, playing piano and guitar and inventing nicknames for the other quartet members. Currently he lives in Toronto with his wife, Steph. In 2002, Tom's soybeans placed 6th at the Ontario Royal Winter Fair. Tom doesn't really like Nutella.



FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR

The Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir is the country's premier sportsman's quartet. Their brand of Up North humor has allowed them to "worm" their way into

audiences' hearts all across the USA and Canada. Weaving homespun humor and electrifying vocal harmonies into a winning entertainment experience, it's no surprise that after just one show with the Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir . . . you're hooked! So if you like to hunt and fish . . . or if you just like to make fun of those who do . . . you'll love this show!

Kurtis Busman (Lead) Kurtis resides in Brainerd, MN and is living the dream. Kurtis is a facilities director with a healthcare system and every day his old fishin' boat and Johnson motor are tied up at the dock and waiting for him to jump in and go troll or jig for a stringer full of walleye! Entertaining with 4MFTC is just frosting on the cake. (Loves frosting!)

Tracy Ulrich (Baritone) Tracy lives and does sales work for radio in Petoskey and throughout northern Michigan. Tracy is very involved in local theater both as a director and an actor and brings his honed craft with him every time he hits the stage with "the Choir."

Neil Nugent (Bass) Neil hails from Beulah, Michigan and has been enjoying retirement for several years after making his living as an Ace Hardware owner with his wife, Linda. Now splitting his time between God's country and Florida, yes we are a little biased, he continues to bring his own special flair to the quartet. Often heard to say "What else do we know? Let's sing another one!", Neil is a true ambassador for barbershop!

Mark Wilson (Tenor) Mark operates an all-in-one family store in Sumner, Michigan putting his contagious smile in front of his customers all day long. Mark has been singing barbershop since his early years and has been a member of several very successful quartets. It is a treat to sing with him and share the double joy of harmony and laughter.

You Graduated When???

On a Wonderful Day Like Today	Directed by Steve Sutherland
Buddies Medley	" " Jim Kunz
Everybody Loves a Lover	" " Jim Kunz
King of the Road	" " Dave Montera
My Girl	" " Jim Kunz
You Make Me Feel So Young	Chapter <i>Ensemble</i>
They All Laughed	Directed by Dave Montera
Graduation Day	Night Shift <i>Quartet</i>
There Used to be a Ballpark	Directed by Steve Sutherland
Good Old A Cappella.....	Coda Honor <i>Quartet</i>
That Old Quartet of Mine	Directed by Steve Sutherland
After You've Gone	" " Steve Sutherland
I'd Give a Million Tomorrows.....	Evenin' Gentlemen <i>Quartet</i>
Fortune in Dreams.....	Directed by Steve Sutherland
You've Got a Friend in Me.....	" " Jim Kunz

FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR

'SHOPTIMUS PRIME

May I Never Love Again	Directed by Steve Sutherland
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INTRODUCTIONS & RECOGNITIONS FINALE

Special thanks to our Principal at Harmony High, Mr. Tom Force
PLEASE NOTE: There is no intermission!



THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS

A CHORUS IN ROYAL OAK



A CAPPELLA SINGING IN
THE BARBERSHOP STYLE!

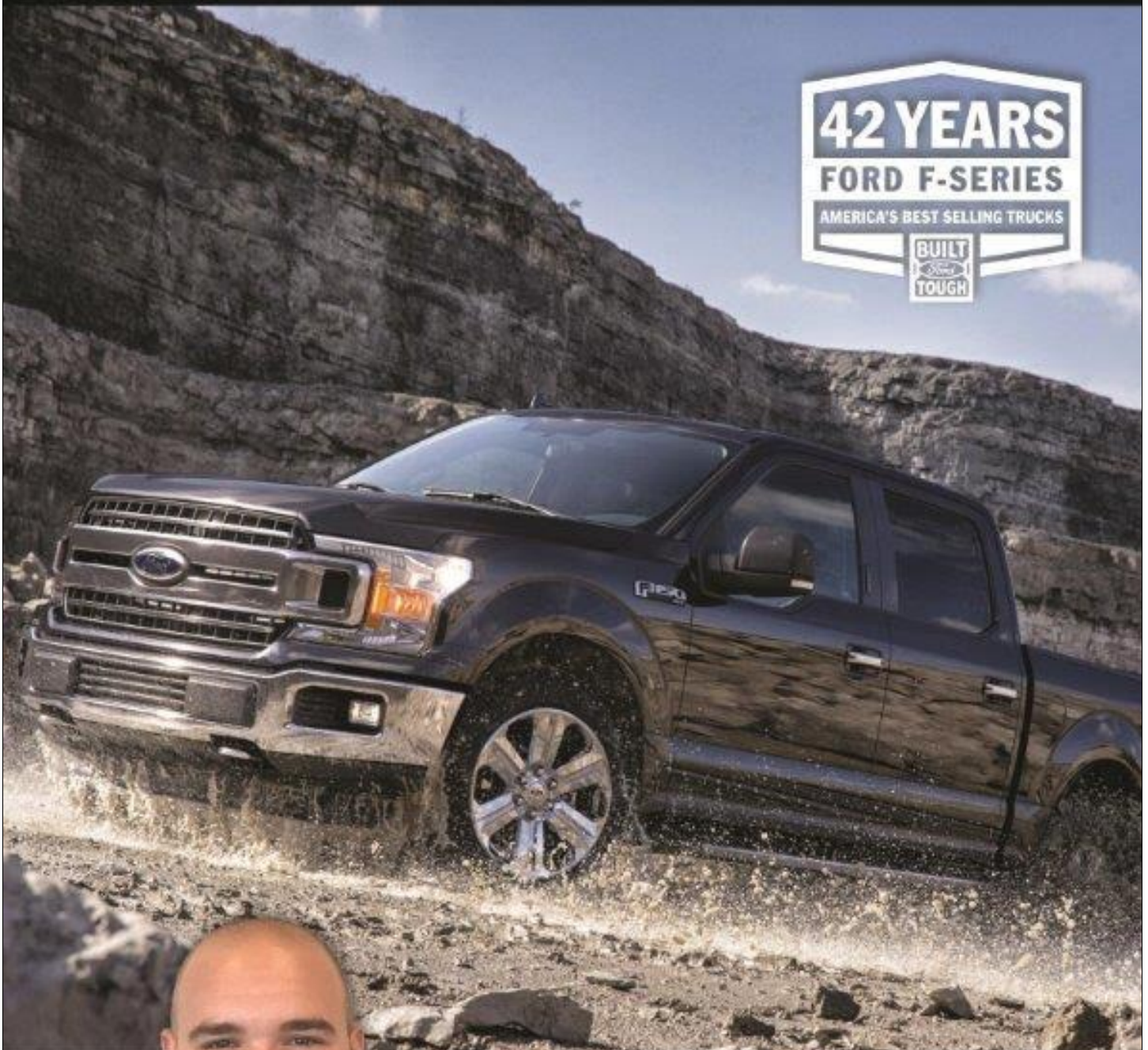
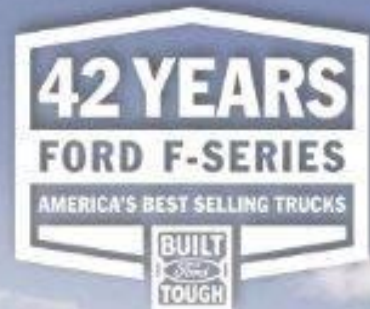


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From the President . . .

Allow me to introduce to you the Gentlemen Songsters chorus of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter (DOC) of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Society is an amateur *a cappella* singing organization that has been around since 1938. Founded as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, today it is known affectionately by its members as “S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.” (pronounced “speb-skwa”). SPEBSQSA, now doing business as The Barbershop Harmony Society, is an international organization that currently boasts 25,000-plus members. As such, we are the largest amateur singing organization in the world.

DOC has its own proud history. One of the earliest chapters in SPEBSQSA, we were founded in 1939 as the Detroit #1 chapter. We put on our first annual show in 1940, and have staged an annual show every year since then. Ours is acknowledged to be the longest consecutively running annual show in the Society—now 80 years, 80 shows...and counting.

The Songsters meet at 7:30 every Monday night in the choir room downstairs at the Royal Oak Middle School in downtown Royal Oak. We are always looking for more singers. If you are a trained musician we’d love to have you. If you have no training to speak of and all you think you can do is carry a tune, we’d still love to have you. Come any Monday night and be our guest, no reservation needed. It’s free, it carries no obligation, and it’s guaranteed to have you humming a favorite tune as you leave for the evening.

Besides our annual show, the Songsters perform at various venues and events around Southeast Michigan throughout the year. We are especially busy at Christmas time; some singers join us only for that season and we are glad to have them. We also sing at competitions every spring and fall, held at our twice-annual Pioneer district conventions at singing venues around the state of Michigan.

We also get involved in service projects in and around Royal Oak. In addition, we send young singers, via financial scholarship, to harmony/music camps around the state and we support youth choruses competing in BHS-sponsored events.

Our Society’s anthem is “Keep the Whole World Singing” and DOC, in the words of that song, “carries its part.” It’s great to be a barbershopper!

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

Copyright Notice

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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.

DETROIT-OAKLAND/GROSSE POINTE CHAPTER

Ted Barbret*
 Earl Berry
 Sterling Berry
 Roger Boyer
 George Burkett*
 Pete Burns
 Don Chamberlain*
 Tom Conner
 David Czupinski*
 Geoff d'Allemand*
 Joe DeSantis*
 Gordon Dubrul
 Pete Eppinga
 Jonathon Esbri*
 Mike Guigar*
 Kevin Hayes
 Herb Hebner*
 Bob Hoge
 Art Hope*
 Carl Jones*
 Doug Joppie*

Euel Kinsey*
 Bob Kramb*
 Mike Kramb*
 Jim Kunz*
 Frank Lozzi
 Frank Maranzano*
 Tom Marciano*
 John Marsh
 Bob Marshall
 Gerry Milkie*
 Dave Montera*
 John Northey Jr.
 Keith Opal*
 Theodore Pappas
 Steve Pauling*
 Pete Peters*
 Jay Peterson*
 Chris Psotka
 Joe Queen
 Bob Rock
 Craig Roney*
 Matt Scherer

Mike Schulte*
 Tony Schulte*
 Matt Seely*
 Lysle Smith*
 Jeff Spires*
 Cliff Stevens*
 Ray Sturdy*
 Mike Sullivan*
 Steve Sutherland*
 Malcolm Travis*
 Tom Uicker*
 Rick Vuylsteke*
 John Wade
 Bob Wallace
 William Wasilina
 Terry Webner
 Doug Wheeler*
 Tony Williams*
 Aaron Wilson
 Kevin Wolf*
 Randy Wright*
 Thad Zaremba*

**Performing in chorus*

Music Director:
 Steve Sutherland

Assistant Directors:
 Jim Kunz
 Dave Montera

Coaches:
 Sue Spires
 Lynne Peirce
 Sally Burns

2019 (merged) CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Keith Opal
SECRETARYCraig Roney
TREASURER.....Mike Schulte
BOARD MEMBERDoug Joppie
BOARD MEMBERGeoff d'Allemand
BOARD MEMBERJohn Marsh

VP--MUSIC & PERFORM.....Jim Kunz
VP--CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT...Joe Queen
VP--PROGRAMGeorge Burkett
BOARD MEMBER (Chorus Manager) Kevin Wolf
BOARD MEMBER.....Dave Czupinski
IMMED.PAST PRES......Terry Webner

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.

THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS



**DETROIT-OAKLAND CHAPTER - Pioneer District
2019 Spring Competition**

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RANDY BOODEN
MANAGER

What Puts All That Joy Into Barbershop?

Whenever four barbershoppers meet, spontaneous harmony breaks out almost immediately. Nothing can stop it. That urge to sing, to make music together, drives a worldwide culture of men and women in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

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. It came from the desire to make music for themselves, just for fun, not for stage.

Unfortunately today, this very same desire makes too many people think of themselves as “only in the shower” singers. They are self-conscious about singing, perhaps because they compare themselves to professionals whom they constantly see and hear in today’s electronic mass media.

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 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 talent levels.

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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The Pontiac-Waterford BIG CHIEF CHORUS is part of a local chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Our mission is fun, fellowship and good singing. We enjoy singing and performing throughout the community, competing at our spring district convention and presenting an annual show in November. We meet every Tuesday from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm at Canterbury On The Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road in Waterford. Check us out at www.bigchiefchorus.org. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact Jon Knapp at 248-766-0999 or Eric Domke at 248-674-2323. Give us a call and come sing with us.

David J. Montera
Principal



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***Congratulations to
Detroit-Oakland
on their 80th
Parade of Harmony
from
Randy & Margaret***



**Here's wishing our DOC brothers in Harmony
a Superb and Successful Show**

Guardians OF Harmony

Everyone in Harmony

In June, 2018 the leadership of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) announced its new vision for the organization. “Everyone in Harmony” (EiH) was a broad expansion of the Society’s efforts over past years to include more people in our wonderful hobby. As explained in the Society’s Annual Report for 2018, “In times of conflict and exclusion, barbershop inspires us to blend, to cooperate, to create beauty, and to love each other.” EiH is the product of that inspiration.

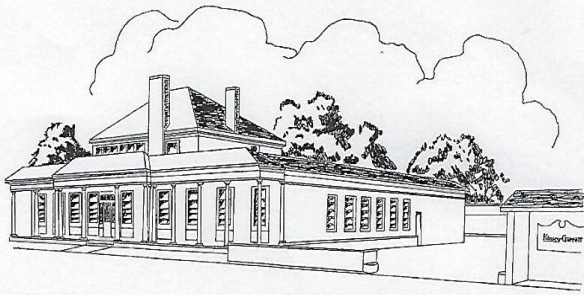
The Annual Report went on to say, “In 2018, Everyone in Harmony hit full stride as we opened our doors to all. We worked hard to bring the barbershop experience to more communities than ever before, and to show that singing belongs to everyone.”

The general impact of the announcement was to open the doors to everyone (read, “women”) to become full members of BHS. Women had in fact already been playing a part in BHS, in non-singing roles, for many years. For example, we had already expanded our membership categories to include an Associate Member category, which has included women; we had expanded participation of women in our performance ranks as active, front-line chorus Directors (several women Directors have brought their choruses to the International contest stage); we had expanded our ranks of Certified Judges to include women; and we had provided opportunities for Chapters and Districts to include women on their Boards of Directors. But since the announcement of Everyone in Harmony, women have been eligible to become full members of the Society, blending their voices to ring chords with the men as they stand side-by-side in both choruses and quartets.

As our local District (the Pioneer District) enters into the experience of EiH, we are also embracing the new opportunities EiH will provide. We will be holding additional, new contests at our Fall Convention in October to award District Quartet Champion status to quartets that are comprised of all women, as well as mixed quartets that are comprised of men and women members. In the 2020 Spring Convention we will initiate Chorus Contests that will also name District Champion choruses comprised entirely of women and choruses of mixed gender voices.

And just as with women, BHS had earlier embarked on a campaign to be more inclusive of people of color. The Society had for many years included men of color, but there were never as many as there should have been. In July, 2017 at our Convention in Las Vegas, we recognized that historically the Society had not been as open to men of color as we could, or should, have been. The result in 2017 was the Grand Central Red Caps initiative. The Grand Central Redcaps provides grant funding for initiatives that are inclusive of people of color, and make our brand more appealing to, and welcoming of, people of color.

We look forward to new experiences and an expansion of our overall barbershop hobby. We hope all of our constituents—singers and consumers of *a cappella* music in the barbershop style—will continue to enjoy all that it offers. Come out and sing with us some time!



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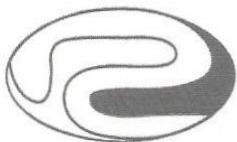


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A Barbershopper . . .

(I.e., one who actively sings barbershop-style music) is more than an *a cappella* singer. At all levels of the Barbershop Harmony Society, our members are dedicated to supporting their communities through charitable activity as well as song. Because the Barbershop Harmony Society is an international society, chapter members in Sweden, England, Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Spain, Norway and South Africa each find ways to benefit their local communities.

Here in the U.S. (and parts of Canada), annual and semi-annual conventions provide BHS's 17 districts with a vehicle to give back to their communities through service projects. The Pioneer District, of which the Detroit-Oakland Chapter (DOC) is a part, offers its members opportunities to "give back" during its semi-annual conventions.

Each convention's sponsoring chapter selects a community service charity in the district. The needs of that charity are identified and Pioneer members donate both materiel and funding to meet those needs. The sponsoring chapter then maintains its connection to, and support of, the charity.

Chapters in the Pioneer District typically identify and support one or more charitable organizations serving their communities. The Sault Saint Marie chapter has been recognized at the international (BHS) level as THE leader in community service. Over the last 14 years the "Soo" chapter has raised and donated over \$101,000 in support of the Speech – Language Pathology unit of the Sault Area Hospital in Sault Ste Marie, Ontario.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter maintains connections to Southeast Michigan communities in a variety of ways. In 2018 the Gentlemen Songsters launched a relationship with the Methodist Children's Home Society in Redford, MI. Selected as Pioneer's spring 2018 Service Project, the Methodist Children's Home is home to 60+ boys who are survivors of abuse and neglect.

To honor our community's veterans, each year DOC members participate in an effort to identify and clean veteran's grave markers in preparation for placing flags prior to Memorial Day.

Since singing is our thing, we sing Christmas carols to patients in three area hospitals. We also sing at Veteran's day remembrances services and senior citizens' gatherings.

The main focus of the Barbershop Harmony Society itself is to provide musical enrichment to the world through its Harmony Foundation. However the staff at Harmony Hall, the Society's headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee had occasion to offer its own, purely local, hands-on service.

When the city of Nashville flooded several years ago, everyone at Harmony Hall spent a long day working to help clear debris in the affected areas of city. Then the staff learned that a senior citizens' facility had lost the centerpiece of its entertainment program, a piano, in the catastrophe. The staff rallied participants of the BHS-sponsored 2015 Leadership Academy to fund a new one.

As our hobby continues to evolve, we continue to look for new ways to bring harmony to our communities through song and service.



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Tony & Terri (TnT)

CHAPTER QUARTETS



Night Shift

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

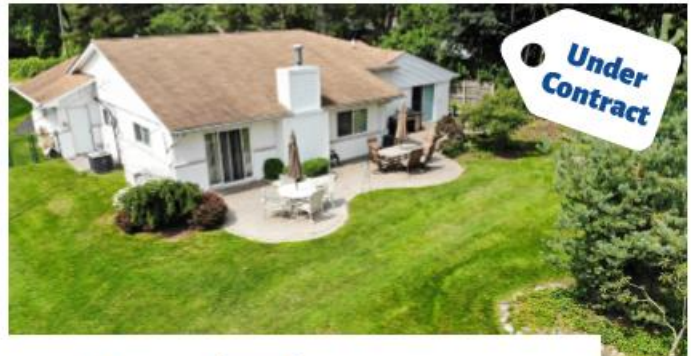
Evenin' Gentlemen

Bari: Joe DeSantis
Bass: John Paul
Lead: Keith Opal
Tenor: Paul Keiser



Coda Honor

Bari: Ray Sturdy
Lead: Aaron Wilson
Tenor: Euel Kinsey
Bass: Dave Montera



The McCarty Team

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Everyone Can Sing!

by Jack Peters

If you can speak, you can sing. Maybe you have thought, “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. **Singing is simply a form of melodious talking with some learnable refinements along the way.** This article is intended to give you hope and guidance to one of the easiest ways to find enjoyment in your life. It will be, for you as for most of us, “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, stimulating memories, improving learning and building friendships. Producing music relieves stress, improves attitudes, and serves altruistic needs; and most people love to hear the results when human voices create music. Pushing fresh air in and out of one’s body is refreshing, cleansing, and necessary as water; 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 unique as snowflakes. We often believe singing requires perfect pitch, the range of a songbird, or the ability to read music; none of that 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, if you can utter a sound by raising and lowering the tone at will, you can sing.

The question is whether or not 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 it doesn’t, try again but this time 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’ve probably developed your ear to hear where the note played should be. That is a big plus when singing.

Barbershop harmony is largely thought of as four men only, each singing his own part. But by far the largest form of participation in the Barbershop Harmony Society is a chorus of singers harmonizing in four parts with several voices singing each part. Women sing barbershop too, in [Sweet Adelines International](#) and [Harmony Incorporated](#), and the [Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association](#), 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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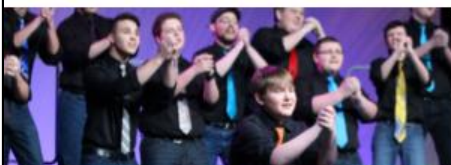
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Harmony Foundation International is a professional fundraising organization focused on connecting philanthropic people to charitable giving options that enrich lives through singing. We fulfill our mission by partnering with companies like the Barbershop 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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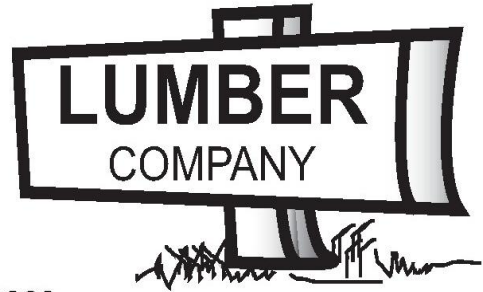
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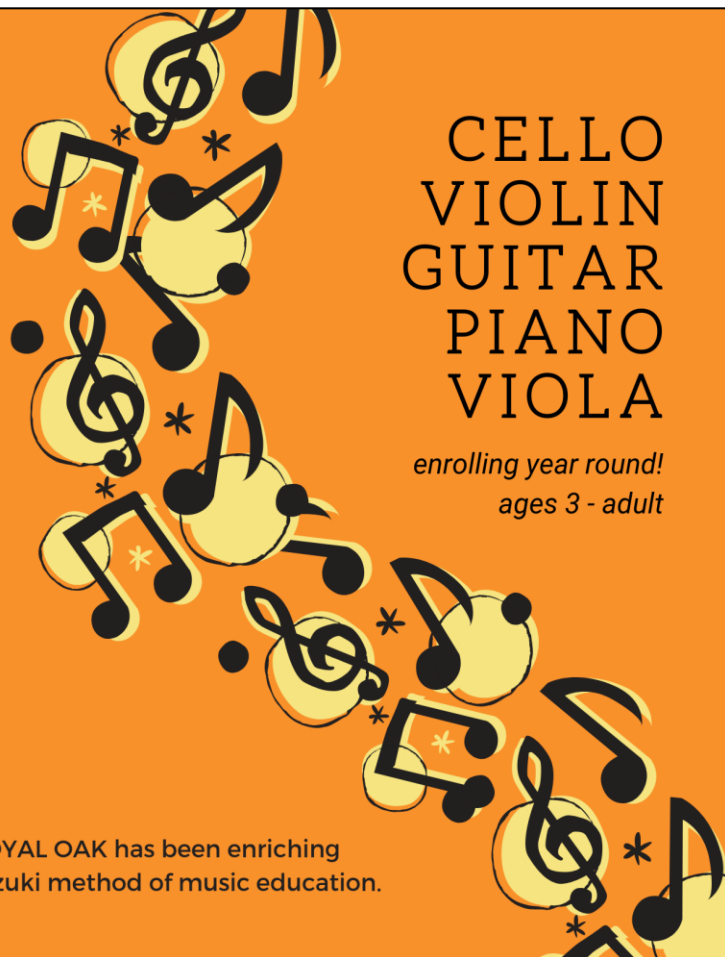
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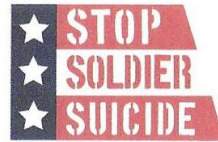
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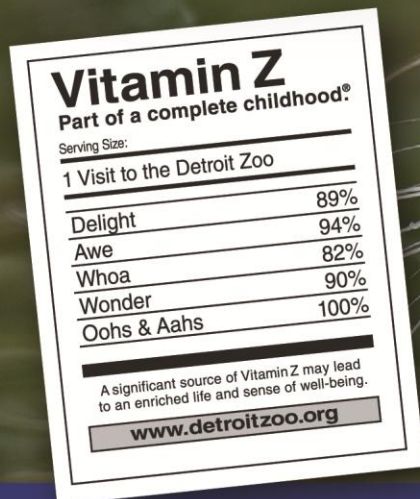
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