



Vol. 16, No. 2 (#182) June 1, 2016



Hermine Mazzara at the August, 2015 BCC picnic

Pete Mazzara's wife, Hermine, died Friday, May 20, at the age of 72. Her funeral service was Wednesday, May 25 at St. John Armenian Church, the golden-domed church on Northwestern Highway that all of us have passed but few been inside. For the most of us who have never experienced an Armenian service, it was beautiful and

inspirational. Many joined the family and friends and the officiating Very Reverend Father Jebejian at the graveside in Woodlawn Cemetery, then returned to the church for the luncheon where the chorus members, 27, were joined by Pete (to the applause of those present) to sing "Abide With Me," "Precious Lord," "Saints," and "Irish Parting Prayer," under Freddie's direction. Their three children, Christy, Peter, and Michael, spoke movingly at the luncheon of the quiet firmness and generous spirit that their mother displayed.

We learned much about Hermine. St John Church was cofounded by her grandmother Kohar, and it was Hermine's childhood church. At the age of 15 she sailed on the Queen Mary to Europe to study dance in France and England. She was an accomplished ballerina and soloed in the Detroit City Ballet Company. She married her high school sweetheart in 1965; they celebrated their 50th anniversary last November. Her ancestors had survived the Armenian Genocide, and Hermine was able to tour the motherland Armenia in 2001 and the birthplace of her father in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The funeral was organized by the Simon Javizian Funeral Home. Simon actually married Pete and Hermine and buried both of Hermine's parents, and now he led the memorial to Hermine.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance <http://www.mioca.org/donate>



“Great job yesterday! BCC did a fantastic job; it was such a great tribute to Hermine.

Many thanks,
Michael Mazzara”

Around the Patch

Kyle Snook’s visit

Kyle Snook visited the chorus from Harmony Foundation in Nashville on May 10. He told a light, personal story about how HF helped him, and then urged participation at the “Ambassadors of Song” or “President’s Council” levels from attendees. Word is that he about reached his goal of six new contributors. Kyle was an instrumentalist until his good fortune of having Gary Lewis as a Cleveland high school vocal instructor. Gary was in PLATINUM and MAX Q. Kyle is in MC FOUR, which achieved a score of 79.3 % at Dixie District Prelims. See him in Nashville this July.

Thanks to Eric and Zach for hosting Kyle.



“For All We Know” by May 10th octet
(With Doug Weaver and Kyle Snook)

Bob Wallace's mother passed away on Monday, May 2nd. She had been under hospice care for the last few weeks.

7th Annual Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

Jeff Doig, Chuck Murray, and Ray Sturdy attended this year’s GLHB.

Fred McFadyen emceed the Flint chapter show, Saturday, May 21, 2016

Change Mike Doyle’s email address to mikedoyle1001@gmail.com

Gene Downie is putting the finishing touches on **the 2016 Directory**. Let Gene know if there are any changes in your address, phone or email.

Greg Moss and Zach Schroeder sang in the **Jackson Chorale’s concert** on May 14 at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Rochester, MI
“Dr. Jackson always challenges the Chorale by selecting a wide variety of eras and genres of pieces.”

Commerce Twp Church looking for Barbershoppers

Doc David Stone is in the Commerce Twp United Methodist Church choir. (Sometimes the male membership is low enough that Director Jan Brachel calls her group “Doc and the Pussycats.”) A special men-only ensemble of about a dozen men will sing at the Father’s Day services, June 19, and Jan, an experienced barbershopper, would sure love more men for this special event. The songs to be sung are Tim McGraw’s “Humble and Kind” -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awzNHuGqoMc> -, “Lead the Way” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeZyjp7WzE> -, and “The Family Prayer Song” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_wJtQFYddc

Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:15 for 45’ or so.

Harmony Explosion Scholarships

The Executive Board has authorized ten \$100 scholarships to students attending Harmony Explosion in Mt Pleasant, July 21-23. Tentatively, two will go to Rochester Adams students and eight to Milford High School. Maryanne Lambrecht has both a men's and women's quartet raring to attend.

From Joe McDonald

www.mountaintownsingers.org is a great source for camp information. The home page has buttons for "Information", "Registration" and "Poster".

Charlie Perry has spent time working with the Maryanne Lambrecht's **Milford Men** this month. They're barbershopping on "Keep the Whole World Singing," "Saints," and "Coney Island Baby."

From Director Tom:

Men and Friends of the BCC,

A big "shout out" to Mike Frye for filling in very well for myself and Freddie.

I am still finding it helpful to be seated in our square as I can continue to listen to everyone. I am finding it very beneficial and i hope you are as well.

We need to continue to remind ourselves of the following...

- *Correct notes, rhythms and words*
- *Tall, round and spacious vowels (feel the space between your back teeth)*
- *Deeply felt breath with rib expansion (back and front)*
- *Smooth connected style of singing (legato - so that the chords can sound)*
- *Listening to our individual sound, the quartet around us sound, the sectional sound and the chorus sound*
- *We need to sacrifice a bit of our sound to the benefit of the chorus sound.*

From VP Roger Holm:

GENTLEMEN: It was a privilege and an honor for 27 of us to be present at Hermine Mazzara's funeral yesterday, and to present a singing tribute to her and her family at the luncheon following! It was especially moving to have Pete join us in the singing! May God bless you Pete and your wonderful family as you grieve the loss of Hermine after 50 wonderful years!

It was great to welcome Dave McDonald and Pete Peters as our guests last week. Both Dave and Pete also sing at DOC!

Speaking of D.O.C., our hats are off to them for the outstanding Jug Nite event they hosted Friday night! There must have been at least 100 from five surrounding chapters (five choruses sang - but more chapters could have been present). Four chapter quartets also sang, including the "head liners" DETROIT SOUND MACHINE, who were just great! AND - we were also entertained by a Sweet Adelines quartet called (I think) FOXFIRE, who were delightful! Sorry more Big Chiefs weren't there! Thank you D.O.C.!!

Quartets

4UR PLEASURE is looking forward to Quartet Boot Camp on the June 18th.

LIMITED FRYDITON

LIMITED EDITION with Mike Frye at Tenor sang for 40 minutes at Brookdale Novi Thursday, May 19, to 67 residents as part of their 2016 Broadway-themed program.

The number of Broadway songs was rather limited, but the audience didn't mind. The large room necessitated a roaming performance rather than the scripted travelogue that the quartet had prepared, and which they at least had the chance to practice, in front of Kathy Doig. (Spoiler alert: it involved a cross-country trip to Manhattan - via Coney Island - taking four local lonely persons along, to lift their spirits with music.)

One Irish resident particularly loved the inclusion of “My Wild Irish Rose” and “Irish Parting Prayer.”

Chapter 2016 Performances thru May:

41 gigs to 2,877 people (plus TV audiences)

MEMBERSHIP: (at 51)

Renewals: Bob Wallace (25)

Due in May: Neil Braun, Bill Dabbs, Tom Jackson, Doc Mann, Pete Mazzara, Fred McFadyen, John Northey, Charlie Perry

Overdue: Walt Bachmann, Mike Keith, Zach Schroeder

June Birthdays: Bob Legato (13th), Fred Pioch (18th), Bruce Brede (22nd)

Medical:

Bob Marshall has returned to rehearsals.

Eileen Marshall (shoulder surgery) and Bill Auquier (hip replacement) are rehabbing at Lourdes.

Zaven Melkonian is still affected by his L 3-5 surgery last year which has caused some scoliosis.

Mike Keith’s ear and voice issues are limiting his singing with the chorus but he still appreciates the socialization.

District

The Big Chief Chorus was well-represented at D.O.C. Jug and Guest Night.



(Furnished by Bob Wallace)

D.O.C. All-Chapters Picnic

Gentlemen, D.O.C. is holding its annual picnic on June 13, Monday, 5:00 PM at the Sylvan Lake Community Center, 2456 Pontiac DR, Sylvan Lake MI 48320. Food and refreshments will be provided. Spouses, family and friends are welcome. If you can, bring a dish to pass, not mandatory, we always have a great time, singing and socializing, I would like to have a headcount by June 8. Come join us one and all.

George Burkett VP Programs D.O.C. 248-330-5342,

gburkett57@gmail.com

Heart of the Hills Players is looking for quartet singers for their August 18-21 performances of *Irene, A Nostalgic Musical Comedy*. Auditions will take place at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, also known as the Big Red Barn, 47326 Dequindre, just north of Auburn Road in Shelby Township on Wednesday, June 8, & Thursday, June 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Daytime (!) rehearsals at the Big Red Barn on Mondays, Wednesday & Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Tom Blackstone has assumed the role of Bulletin Editor at Rochester Guardians of Harmony and published his first issue this May.

Harmony Mercenary 2016 Kick Off

On the west side of the state is a group called Harmony Mercenaries. Their 2016 Kick Off will be held at the Okemos Conference Center June 18, at 6:00, immediately following Boot Camp and the Quartet Factory, with a concert to follow at 8:00

Director and Founding Member Jamie Carey writes:

“What is Harmony Mercenaries?”

The concept of Harmony Mercenaries is simple. All chapters within your region agree to learn six songs that are easy to learn, have a learning track and are easily recognized by NON-barbershoppers. For example, some of the songs from last year that will stay in this year’s repertoire are “Breaking Up is Hard to Do,” “Hello Mary Lou,” “Can You Feel The Love Tonight” and “The Cup Song” from *Pitch Perfect*. Many songs are fun to sing – “First Hello Last Goodbye,” “Darkness on the

Delta,” etc.. but do not fit our criteria of popular to the general public. There are also great songs like “Happy Together” that are way too demanding for most chapters due to the extent of the range and complication of the harmony parts. We want songs that will not eat up your precious chapter time, but give you fun songs to sing through at each meeting.

“The Benefits of Harmony Mercenaries.

Let’s say your chapter has a chance to sing at a weekend sing out. But when it come closer to the event you see that you only have one baritone and both your tenors are out of town – NOW WHAT DO YOU DO? Call Harmony Mercenaries! Because each chapter knows 6-8 of the same songs through Harmony Mercenaries, you can send out an email blast to each chapter and request help.

... a few examples ... Kalamazoo ... Muskegon ... Holland Chapter ... chapter visitations.

“A new South East region will be forming including chapters from Saginaw/Flint/and the Detroit Area. If your chapter is somehow not involved, you can act as an independent and attend events and chapter visitations. Instead of learning your music at a chapter meeting, you would simply use the learning tracks.

International

All information for the International Convention in Nashville is at: <http://www.barbershop.org/nashville/>

Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest order of appearance announced for Nashville. Frontier sings 10th out of 28, on Tuesday, July 5.

From *The Tennessean*, May 20

Move over, CMA Music Fest. Another sound will be taking over Music City this summer: barbershop.

That's right, barbershop quartets and vocal groups will invade Nashville for a full week as the Barbershop Harmony

Society's 2016 International Convention comes to town July 3-10.

The Barbershop Harmony Society made Nashville its headquarters in 2007.

CROSSROADS Quartet Named NAFME’s 2016 Stand for Music Award Winner for Promoting the Value of Lifelong Music Learning

“CROSSROADS, the Barbershop Harmony Society’s 2009 International Champion Quartet, is widely hailed as worldwide ambassadors to music educators, with landmark performances at national conferences in collaboration with Grammy-award winners THE FAIRFIELD FOUR that explore the common roots of gospel and barbershop harmony in African-American music.

“The quartet’s broad range of performance, research, and collaboration, led to them being named the prestigious Stand for Music award winner for 2016 by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME).

“CROSSROADS Quartet represents the best in vocal music,” said NAFME Assistant Executive Director Chris Woodside. “But beyond, that CROSSROADS has advocated for the benefits of lifelong singing, which go far beyond the classroom. These phenomenal singers have taken a stand for including quality music education as a part of every student’s well-rounded education.”



CROSSROADS at NAFME’s 2015 National In-Service Conference

If you haven't listened recently to their spine-tingling 2009 performance of "Lucky Old Sun," do not pass go, and go immediately to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7mGjSZpdpk>

BHS Member Satisfaction Survey.

The Barbershop Harmony Society has embarked on a project "to plot the course of the Society for as far out on the horizon as we can imagine. In order to think about the future, we need to understand how we're doing in the present."

"To that end, you may receive a request in the email, to complete a BHS Member Satisfaction Survey. This survey will cover several areas of your barbershop experience, including membership benefits, member satisfaction, the current state of the Society, and some questions to help us classify and gain a better picture of who you are and how you participate. It will take about 12-15 minutes to complete. You can take it on your computer, tablet or smartphone. The survey closes on June 20."

Tom Blue wrote, "I think it would be very beneficial to the society if as many of us as possible took the survey. I found it valuable and not time consuming at all five minutes max."

Singing Buckeyes Show

RINGMASTERS and FOREFRONT will both be on the Singing Buckeyes Harmony Camp Show, July 16, 7 pm, in Upper Arlington High School, in Columbus, Ohio. That could mean two gold-medalists on the same show, depending on Nashville. Might be worth the four hour drive.

Meet Austin Suthers

Austin Suthers is our new 23-year-old Lead whose Lead has impressed us greatly since he arrived three months ago.

Austin was born in Dearborn and graduated from John F Kennedy High School in Taylor, MI. At school he enjoyed singing in the choir.

And he was on the bowling team in his junior and senior years. (His best score was a 275 - which he hit twice!)



After graduation (2011), he attended Oakland Community College for a few years. Last September he began working at Freedom Work Opportunities Inc in Milford. The work with developmentally disabled adults, to prepare them to find a job.

He joined the Huron Valley Community Chorus in 2012, where he sings Tenor and where he met Charlie Perry, who brought him to the Big Chief Chorus.

Austin lives in Milford with his mother and grandparents. His mother is a website designer.

What's Up, John Northey?



John has been in barbershop going on 28 years. He has sung in quartets, and at D.O.C., though he's a non-singing member there now.

Second to barbershop is his love of cars. His '98 Trans Am has won so many awards, he's starting to return some of the trophies. Final show of the season last year, he won the Judge's Award Best of Show down in Clawson. He shows that car all over southern Michigan.

He also owns a 1929 Model A pickup truck that is being refurbished.

John's and Sandy's second great grandchild will be born in November in Madison Heights.

On their acre in Troy, John's green thumb takes care of twenty trees (dogwood, spruce, pear, crabapple, and cherry), 34 rosebushes and the rhododendrons he just planted in front of the house.

Last week was medical week for them: Sandy had serious blood blockage to her legs repaired, and John had a skin cancer removed from his forehead.

Media

AcaVille ("Leave the instruments at the door!")



Here's an online radio station that plays contemporary a cappella music 24/7. Just click on acaville.com

Of course most of it seems to be of the melody/percussive style. But Mark Holdeman has initiated a specifically barbershop show on this internet station. "ShopTalk is a two hour program featuring top barbershop groups from around the world." Listen to it every Thursday 7 pm and rebroadcast Saturdays at 3 am and 3 pm.

In the first ten minutes of listening this week, I heard ACOUSTIX and RINGMASTERS and CROSSROADS.

You can also listen on your portables.

BBS Learning Tracks from Amazon

Surprisingly, the same learning tracks are much cheaper (though less extensive) from Amazon than they are from the BHS. For example, from BHS, the set of five tracks (T,L,Br,Bs,Full Mix) for "Titanium" (arr. Deke Sharon and David Wright, tracks by Tim Waurick) is \$12 after the 25% member discount. From Amazon, each track is \$1.29, and all five are \$5.99. <http://tinyurl.com/j3zoi2e>

It's reported that they are also available on iTunes.

SINGING, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE

How to be a Great Bass (from Bill Meyers, bass of REVIVAL, 1998 International Champions)

The bass singer delivers the essence and character of the barbershop sound. I just love to sing along with recordings featuring good, quality bass singers and from there develop my own style of singing bass. Guys like Jim Henry, Don Barnick, and Rick Staab.

Bill's ten tips for better bass singing:

- Sing every note with a quality sound
- Sing with full face vowels
- Sing every day
- Vertical "Ahh" on the inside of every vowel
- Every five seconds, energize
- Get a coach
- Step into the picture the lyric creates
- Sing on top of the air
- Resonant, warm spin in the sound
- Always be working on a new song

Bill Myers teaches "How to Be A Great Bass" at Harmony College.

Here is a new, voice-specific discussion list for Bass singers:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BBSBasses/>

Note: There has been no new activity in the site since 2013, but some of the old postings may be helpful to basses.

FOUR FRESHMEN

From John Bober, Bass RGoH

Hello Music Lovers, FYI, the FOUR FRESHMEN will be appearing once again at the Dirty Dog Jazz Café in Grosse Pointe Farms. They will be doing two shows a night (6:00 & 8:30 pm) for four nights, July 20, 21, 22, & 23. If you are not familiar with them, the Freshmen are a vocal / instrumental quartet who date back to the 1950's. There have been many personal changes since then, but their unique sound has remained unchanged.

They have one-of-a-kind unique sound with terrific tight harmony. My favorite of theirs is "It's A Blue World." I would encourage anyone who can to attend their show.

-- Doug Pearson
Patch Chords

"Blue World" on the internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iggWvFgp3KE>

Jim Styer

It's hard to pick a favorite. Everything they do is fantastic, but "Day By Day" comes to mind. Also "Candy" from their *Four Freshmen and Five Trombones* album, "John Bober

"Angel Eyes," Roy Gurney

Letters

Please let me begin by saying "Thank You" for such a terrific evening! It was a pleasure to be back "home" in Michigan and see some old friends as well as make some new ones.

I am also grateful for the time you gave me to share about Harmony Foundation, and to talk a bit more about the successes that our donors are making possible through our Society's Educational and Outreach programs.

I have included a link to a very funny, yet special video below; please feel free to forward on to anyone who you think might enjoy it! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1Psr5Cm7ag&index=4&list=PLJ1aInVMvPGOr2CTnCoDTTo2-DDJ4d0TOW>

Many thanks for your consideration, and thanks again for a wonderful rehearsal... I'm hoping our paths cross again soon!!

In Harmony,
Kyle Snook, Donor Care Center Associate
Harmony Foundation International, Inc.

Errata

John,

The song FOREFRONT performed at Midwinter is titled "Lost," which is a non-contestable piece that was arranged by the ever so talented Soren Wohlers. It's not the song FRONTIER performed at contest which is titled "In Her Eyes," from *The Secret Garden*, which was arranged by an upcoming arranger Bryan Zeigler.

Zach

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30' - 45' earlier)

2016

May 31, T, 7:00	Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Jun 3, F, 7:00	Milford High School Center Stage - Cabaret
Jun 7, T, 7:00	Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC, H.S. Guest Night
Jun 10	Send Off Show - Windsor Windsor map
Jun 13, M, 5:00	D.O.C. picnic, Sylvan Lk Comm. Ctr.
Jun 18 Quartet Boot Camp & Quartet Factory - Okemos	
Jun 21, T, 5:30 bus	Frankenmuth, Dead Creek Picnic
Jun 25, Sa, 3:00	Waterford Historical Soc., Log Cabin Days
Jul 3-10	International, Nashville
Jul 21-23	Harmony Explosion, CMU
Jul 24-31	Harmony University, Belmont University
Aug 19,20	Bush League, Gaylord
Oct 14—16	Fall Dist. Conv., in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA
Nov 5, 7:00	72nd Annual Pontiac-Waterford Show

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye

President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)

Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)

VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)

VP: Marketing & PR: Open

Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)

Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)

Members at Large - Eric Domke, Fred Pioch, Zach Schroeder, Ray Sturdy

Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Cowlshaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlshaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
Murray, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw, (248-891-4498)

Endgame

Grand Rapids Judges' Evaluations - A Reminder

- Must know the words and notes; then you'll sing lighter, more confident, more in tune.
- Tuning: in the vicinity is not good enough
- Lots of sectionals and then duetting
- Freely produced resonant sound, by space and height
- Decide on the message of a song at the same time you start learning it; then buy into it, emotionally

