



Main Street

Qualified For International Quartet Contest



Signature

Qualified For International Quartet Contest



Dave Kannberg
Sunshine District
2014 BOTY



The Institute

Qualified For Collegiate Quartet Contest



Equinox

2015 District Sr. Quartet Champions



Jacksonville Big O
2015 District Chorus Champions

District Spring Convention



Throwback, Qualified out of District
Qualified For International Quartet Contest



Sunshine District President
Nick Schwob





Nick Schwob
President

President's Message

This year is moving too fast (then again, maybe it's just my age). We've helped the Society have a successful Midwinter in New Orleans and already we're past the Spring Convention. I want to thank the Harbor City Harmonizers for Hosting this event and from the comments that I received back from our Events Team, you did a fantastic job. I also send out a special thank you to the newest members of the Convention Team, Chuck Steiner and Bruce Checca, for making things run smoothly, and on time. Great job guys!! Glad to have you with us!!

Congratulations also go out to Main Street, Throwback and Signature quartets representing Sunshine District in Pittsburgh. Jacksonville Big O won District Champs. Our top college quartet

was The Institute. Congratulations to all!! Great contests.

Next on my agenda is off to International in Pittsburgh for my usual round of meetings, etc. On the plus side, I will be able to see both the Heralds of Harmony and THX as they are representing Sunshine in the Chorus Contests. In looking at the line-up this year, it's going to be one heck of a chorus contest. You really should try and make it if you possibly can.

There are a number of items being discussed by the District Presidents as we speak and I will bring you UTD as we go along if the item will affect us in any way, either at the District or the Chapter level. LDJ is right around the corner and from what I have seen, it looks to be a great weekend. Try and make it if you can, always a great time. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.....

Nick

- 4 District Business
- 5 2014 District BOTY
- 6 Chapter Happenings
- 7 Dick Sturgeon
- 8 District Chorus Finals
- 9 District Chorus Finals cont'd
- 10 District Quartet Finals
- 11 District Quartet Finals cont'd
- 12 Chapter Happenings
- 13 Storytellers
- 14 Harmony Explosion
- 15 Contest & Judging
- 16 YIH Program
- 18 Spring Contest Pictures

**DON'T
MISS OUT ON
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO ADVERTISE
IN THE
SUNBURST !**

**PROMOTE
YOUR CHAPTER
SHOWS
AND/OR
QUARTETS.**

**Next Sunburst
Deadline
Aug. 15, 2015**

HELP! HELP! IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR ANNUAL FILING REQUIREMENTS.

And so it begins--AGAIN—the constant struggle to remind all of us what needs to be done to maintain the legitimacy of the chapter. The filing for nonprofit corporation status, the filing of the tax report for last year, ensuring the paperwork for solicitation is done, the completion of the financial review for last year.....Help Me Please.

As of this writing we have done pretty well as far as meeting the Federal, State and Society requirements for annual filing. Here is what I found:

State Incorporations:

This should have been done by May 1, and only one chapter remains delinquent in filing this document. But here is the kicker: Even if your chapter has completed the State registration and paid the money for the incorporations, that fact still needs to be documented with the Society in the eBiz section of the chapter. There are **SIX** chapters that still need to complete this Society requirement.

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes:

Another annual housekeeping function regards filing your taxes. Again, this applies to all chapter leaders and especially Treasurers, but chapter Secretaries can help by reminding the Treasurers. The 990s for fiscal year 2014 should have been filed by May 15, 2015. Like above, we've been pretty good. From what I have been able to ascertain, **ONLY TWO** chapters have not filed.

Solicitation:

In Florida, all not-for-profit entities that collect donations from the public are required to register. This helps the State to regulate and prove the legal status of the entity. So far, **FOUR** chapter's registration/licenses have expired, **THREE** have lost their registrations because of nonpayment, and **FOUR** are getting close to their expiration date.

Dan Brinkmann
Secretary



Listing Chapter Officers:

Terrific job here guys on listing all your chapter officers and leaders. Did you know if you have someone filling a job that is not on the list, you might be able to get that job title added if you ask? If you are in that situation, let me know and I will help you.

Financial Review:

This is the area where we are most lacking and it should not be because it is easy to do. Chapter Treasurers need to take a look at the Treasurer's manual and see what needs to be done. There is even a suggested form that can be used. This is not an audit but the form or report needs to be sent to Headquarters and the date of the review needs to be annotated in eBiz.

THE WEB SITE

Have you checked out the district web site lately? Roger Smeds, our web master has done some really marvelous things to make this a more delightful, interesting and informative tool to pass on information to all of us. Go ahead and browse through it and if you have some suggestions to improve the site, I'm sure he would be happy to listen to them. Just let him know.

BOARD AND HOD MINUTES

Speaking of the web site, did you know the minutes from the Board of Directors and the House of Delegates meetings are posted on the web site? I would strongly suggest you take a look at the minutes to get an idea of how hard the board has been working to make the Sunshine District the best in the Society. In the minutes, you will see lists of action items that the board members are working on and if you have an opinion regarding one of the items, let the point of contact know.



Dave Kannberg is presented the 2014 District BOTY award by Tony Fortune, 2013 winner.

First, let me congratulate these three men standing onstage, for it is a great honor to be nominated for this prestigious award; Bob Johnston, Dave Kannberg and Tony DeRosa,

It seems impossible that this person has not been awarded the BOTY award before. Perhaps because he is not one to push himself to the front of the line to gain attention. However, he is one of the hardest working persons I know and one of those most dedicated to our hobby.

What did he accomplish last year? Simply the things that he has continued to do for the years previous to help keep this District running and solvent. As stated, he is the behind the scenes guy who anticipates what needs to be done and gets it done. He continued to serve as District Treasurer; managing all the district finances while looking for ways to improve income and reduce expenses. He once again assisted in various ways at the Midwinter Convention. He was the facilitator, once again, for

the Chapter Treasurer's Course at the District Leadership Training.

At the Society level, he was a contest administrator for 15 years, retiring in 2008, during which time he served in that role in three International panels. He then assumed the position of District Vice President of Contest and Judging from 2003 to 2010. In 2010 he stepped into the role of Sunshine District Treasurer. While he was in the throes of rebuilding the financial reporting system, he was asked and agreed to also serve once again as the District VP for Contest and Judging when the incumbent became ill. He has spent five years teaching the intricacies of Chapter Treasurer requirements to members of the district at our Leadership Training Course.

And as I said before, he was part of the cadre of Sunshine District Volunteers who traveled to New Orleans to perform various tasks to ensure the success of the Midwinter Convention there.

David is the epitome of the silent, invisible, dedicated Barbershopper. His strengths lie in his personal persuasiveness, leadership and superior managerial abilities. David is also an ardent supporter of community activities and allied barbershop organizations. In his home city, he is the treasurer of the non-profit Wellington High School Band Boosters. When confronted with a problem or difficult situation, he responds with a smile on his face, "Don't worry, I'll take care of it". And he does.

We recognize David Kannberg and honor him with District Barbershopper Of The Year award for 2014.

Tony Fortune

NEXT SUNBURST DEADLINE
AUGUST 15, 2015

HERALD'S PLANS TO STEEL PITTSBURGH

By Steve Matheson
Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony

*Press to director – lean back flare hands up to head level – jazz hands on “wild” – press to director – face – stroke outside pointer 4 times – flare hands up on “oh” –
Again – Again – Again..*

Back around 1989, the Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony began a quest to win the Sunshine District Championship for the first time since their beginning 70 years ago.

The chorus hired a director from central Florida, Joe DeRosa, to help the chorus achieve that goal and asked him to do it in 3 years. The chorus did it in two years and went on to compete at the international level in New Orleans in 1992. After taking the chorus to one more international contest in Calgary, after 5 years Joe stepped down and his son, Tony, took over and led the chorus to 9 additional district championships and competitions from Pittsburgh to Nashville. Seven additional district medals and international contests came under different musical leadership resulting in a total of 18 international contests in 23 years for the Heralds who will again compete for the 19th time in Pittsburgh this July. The Heralds will be joined by the Jacksonville Big “O” in a combined chorus.

The road to competition in Pittsburgh has many speed bumps and curves. The pressure is on in the forms of early weekly rehearsals, flight arranging, room reservations, riser transporting to the Steel City and a thousand other details along the way. New members are fast learning the songs and choreo to be ready on stage. Veteran members are gearing up and relearning what it takes to have a goal to be at the top. Joint rehearsals between the Tampa and Jacksonville members are being held to make sure everyone is on the same page and at a top performance level.

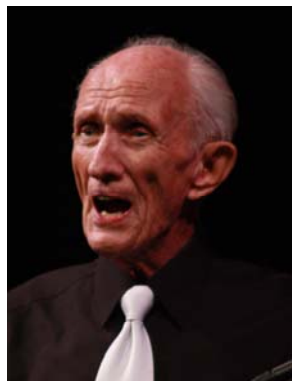
The first paragraph describes the opening choreo moves on the new uptune “Eyes Medley”. Everyone in the chorus knows that will set the tone for the judges down front and every week is a practice in discipline to get it right every time. It will be preceded by a new ballad “From the First Hello”. Face, face, face sells a song and some guys have to really work at that. It involves many reps and focus to make it happen without having to think about it. Our top musical leadership, Tony DeRosa, and our top choreo designer, George Gipp of Jacksonville are two of the best at their craft and are putting everything into making sure the Herald's performance excels on stage July 4.

The Heralds of Harmony are proud to again be representing the Sunshine District in international competition and are enthusiastically pumped about doing our very best. Most of all, we all plan to have a great time in Pittsburgh.



Heralds of Harmony, Director - Tony DeRosa 2015 International Chorus Contest Representative

CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA CHAPTER HONORS "MR. BARBERSHOP"



Richard L. Sturgeon
Barbershopper,
1925-2015

The world of barbershop harmony singing lost a treasure on March 8, 2015, when Dick Sturgeon, 89, passed away.

For 22 years, his high tenor voice had enriched the Cape Chorale barbershop organization. For this reason, and in honor of his 62 year membership in the national Barbershop Harmony Society, the Cape Chorale members dedicated their performance at the statewide barbershop convention to his memory.

The annual convention, held in Orlando on April 11, featured a competitive runoff of choruses and quartets in the state--something Sturgeon relished. This year, the singers from the Cape Coral/Ft. Myers area finished with a two position improvement over last year while competing with perennial powerhouse groups from Miami and Jacksonville among others.

In his earlier years in Indiana, Dick Sturgeon had sung with The Hartsmen, the Speed Capitol Chorus and later the Circle City Sound. Retiring to Ft. Myers Beach in 1987, he co-directed the Naples Neapolitans.

Sturgeon became a charter member of the Cape Coral chapter upon its inception in 1993. He sang with many quartets through the years, the last being The SunSations of the Cape Chorale.

He and his wife Alice were married 50 years. She shares his love of music, having sung with the Sweet Adelines for thirty years before retiring. In 1987, she joined the Ft. Myers City of Palms chorus and subsequently became a charter member of today's Spirit of the Gulf. She also sang with the Indianapolis Symphony Chorus and the Southwest Florida Symphony.

Early this year, failing health ended Sturgeon's long singing career. Last month, many members of the

a cappella singing community attended his memorial service and sang several numbers in his honor. Hope Hospice Chaplain Rankin McGougan said, "I had never seen a memorial service where all attendees broke out in four part harmony to honor the deceased." The memorial bulletin read, "It is a rare opportunity to be entertained at a memorial service by the deceased. All prerecorded music heard today is as performed by Richard Sturgeon. Harmonizing was his passion and he would want his life to be celebrated with song."

Said Dave Barton, director of the Cape Chorale for 14 years before retiring last year, "Dick, or 'The Fish' as he was affectionately known to his fellow singers, could sing and listen. He lent a critical ear and voice to ensure all four harmony sections sang in tune. Dick was faithful. If he missed a rehearsal or chorus job, he was either away or ill. He was a first-class member of the Cape Chorale."



**Sturgeon (left) hams it up in granny outfit
with the SunSations quartet**

Mike Joynt of Naples observed: "I am sure Dick is organizing a quartet in heaven right now."

Dick Sturgeon was a jack of all trades. He served in the Army Air Corps, then received an MA in education. He taught industrial arts for 34 years, was a barber, an insurance and real estate agent, a masseur at a Miami hotel, and worked on the Grand Coulee dam.

His love of travel took him to all 50 states. He fished in Alaska and Canada. He attended his first auto race in 1937 and became an avid fan, serving as a USAC official timer for the Indy 500 race for decades.

Merle Banek, Cape Chorale PR comm.
239-303-5087 or cell 239-292-0585

District Chorus Finals



1. Jacksonville, District Chorus Champions and most Improved Chorus

Tony DeRosa, Director



2. Sunrise

Alex Rubin, Director



3. Sarasota

Bryon Poore & Duane Fenn, Directors



4. Winter Haven

Mike Smith & Don Dennis, Directors



5. Naples/Fort Myers *Jim Schubert & Greg Shuss, Directors*



6. Gainesville *Dave Jacobs, Director*



7. Cape Coral *Doug Fenn, Director*



8. Central Florida *Scott Werner, Director*



9. Orlando *Matthew Boutwell, Director*

District Quartet Finals



Main Street Tr, Roger Ross Ld, Tony DeRosa
Br, Michael McGee Bs, Myron Whittlesy



Signature Tr, Will Rodriguez Ld, Daniel Cochran
Br, Matt Clancy Bs, Dan Walz



Change Up Tr, Patrick Kilbane Ld, Byron Poore
Br, Jared Becker Bs, Duane Fenn



Clean Cut Tr, Thor Young Ld, Andrew Borts
Br, Matt Nelson Bs, Tom Bronson



Kickstart Tr, Nicholas Folkes Ld, Christian Espinoza
Br, Christopher Kline Bs, Jonathan Meadows



Sound Track Tr, Jason Ward Ld, Abe Oleksnianski
Br, O J de la Osa Bs, Andrew Lujan



Living Fossils Tr, Ted Blank Ld, Ed Herring
Br, Joe Kane Bs, Don Schreiber



Dewey, Singum and Howe Tr, Jeffrey Paul
Ld, Lance Lubin Br, Paul McGraw Bs, Kurt Popp

District Quartet Finals (cont'd)



Wee Small Hours Tr, Aaron Elswick Ld, Roger Smeds
Br, Shannon Elswick Bs, Patrick Elswick



The 4 Sharps Tr, Joesph Pleifer Ld, Rich Casanzio
Br, Donald Barnes Bs, Jim Castarien



The Institute Tr, Giancarlo Otalora Ld, Eddie Mejia
Br, Kevin Mendez Bs, Craig Johnson



Equinox Tr, Ralph Brown Ld, Frank Bovino Jr
Br, Wm Patrick Bauer Bs, Ed McKenzie



Nole Town Sound Tr, Robert Manners Ld, Peter Strouss
Br, Jonathan Riviers Bs, Joshua Nieves



Flying By Paint Tr, Michael Palmisano
Ld, Nicholas Devereaux Br, Brandon Pack Bs, Elvis Le



5TH Avenue Tr, David Eastlake Ld, F Graham Poehler
Br Richard Klym Bs, William Countie

Thanks To:
Convention Photographer
Betsy Groner, Best Bets Photo

Action Photographer
Cindy Partlow

Daytona Beach Metro's 2015 Show



Several months ago the Surfside Chorus of Daytona Beach, a small chorus of less than 20 men, decided to mount a show that was to be a "Salute to Harmony." Realizing that we could not go it alone, we followed the lead of the Ocala Chapter where they invited singers from around the District to join them on the risers. We invited members from chapters within 100 miles of Daytona Beach to help us put on a quality show. We chose mainly Pole Cat songs, along with a couple of familiar numbers and asked singers to arrive at noon for a rehearsal, when curtain time was to be 3:00 pm.

We produced flyers and posters and spread these around the community. We had an excellent article and advertisement in the local newspaper, which incidentally produced a number of walk-ups. We hired two great district quartets to fill the second half and then sat back and waited to see what would happen!

Show date approached with much trepidation. We had no idea how many singers would show up, nor how the rehearsal would go. How to fill the risers, where there was no true stage or curtain, was another problem. At noon on Saturday, April 25, singers from the Ocala, Hernando County, Citrus County Chapters, the Orange Blossom Chorus and the Big O Chorus started walking through the door. We were overwhelmed by the response and the

willingness to help from our brothers in song.

At 3:00 pm, seventy-seven singers walked down the aisles and through the doors and onto the risers. What a sound they made! We had guest appearances from "Seasoned Citizens," our own "3 Nice Guys," and a wonderful comedy routine from the Sweet Adeline quartet "Firecrackers." The second half was filled by two great performances from "Orlando Exchange" and "Weekend Edition." The audience was given a quality show that no small chorus alone could have provided.

There was nothing but praise from the audience as the mix of chorus, quartet and comedy bits went smoothly, helped by our retiring Director Gene O'Dell. The concept of a small chorus, asking for help to mount a show, has again proven to have merit. The camaraderie between the singers that attended was terrific and all seemed to enjoy the experience. The Surfside Chorus heartily thanks all those who attended and gave of their time and experience to make this show a great success. We hope this idea continues to gather momentum throughout the Sunshine District and we stand ready to assist others as they so eagerly helped us. The Sunshine District is truly united in song.

Bob Stump and Tony Fortune
Show Co-Chairmen



Steve Jacobsen
Member At Large

Greetings to everyone in Sunshine District. I'm the new guy on the board this year, and one of the assignments I've been given is to collect stories about what's going on in your chapter to forward on to Nashville, possibly for inclusion in the Livewire email blasts we all get, or even the Harmonizer. You've been seeing some stories from around the society in the Harmonizer already under the Storytellers headline. That's what this is all about.

The idea is this. We all know what the larger, more visible chapters are doing. They're carrying the banner of barbershop harmony literally all over the world in a big way. It's great that's happening, and that they often get really good press. But there are literally hundreds, if not thousands of great things our small and medium sized chapters do that are beneficial for our communities, good for our image, helpful things large and small that make a difference. Those stories often go untold, and that's the thrust of the Storytellers program. We want to get those stories out there. It's great to know what other chapters are doing. Who knows what can happen when an idea in one place gets picked up

and acted upon in another place with even greater impact? If our stories do not get shared, we'll likely not know the answer to that.

I'll be contacting each chapter in Sunshine between now and the end of this year, to speak with your chapter's go-to guy and find out what's going on down your way. It's a very simple interview process. The result of the interview will be reported to Nashville, where a team of writers will spruce it up for sharing. This reminds us of the old TV show, "The Naked City", as they concluded each episode with the narration "There are eight million stories in the Naked City, and this has been one of them." You've got a special story, and we want to know what it is. I have developed a schedule of contacts, but you don't have to wait for me to call you. If you have a story you want to tell and you know it just can't wait, please feel free to call me at (850) 556-7041 or email me at swjacobsen@comcast.net at your convenience. I'm ready to listen any time you're ready to talk.

Oh, and did I say chapters? I certainly meant to say chapters *and quartets*. Don't be shy!

**Harmoniously,
Steve Jacobsen
Board Member at Large**

POSITION AVAILABILITY

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sarasota Chorus of the Keys

"A Barbershop Chapter that attracts and retains quality singers,

while providing a platform for each to improve in a fun and supportive environment."

The Sarasota Chorus of the Keys is accepting applications for the position of Music Director.

This individual must display the talent and ability to work with an exceptional Chorus Leadership Team to carry out the Chorus mission; to continue its measurable improvement in singing quality and performance. The Chorus has been on this path for over two years, and has made great progress in this area. The quality of its singing and performance has been measured by a dramatic improvement in Sunshine District Competition scores and annual audience surveys.

The individual must have directing experience or education, a love of Barbershop singing, great communication skills, and demonstrate an understanding of the Chorus goals; as well as an idea of how to assist the Chorus Leadership Team to achieve these goals.

A GENEROUS COMPENSATION PACKAGE IS BEING OFFERED

Interested individuals should contact Patrick Kilbane, Search Committee Chair, by email patrick.t.kilbane@ms.com to request an Application or to learn more.



For the past 16 years, the Sunshine District of the Barbershop Harmony Society has sponsored a Summer Music Camp for Florida high school students and their Music Educators. Due to the great success of the past 2 years, we are continuing with the co-ed camp concept. This Camp, called Harmony Explosion, is entirely FREE (except for a small non-refundable registration fee of \$50.00 for the students). There is nothing to buy and there is nothing to join. This is not just another Camp. The students will experience the very best of every aspect of Barbershop singing!

The Camp is a three day musical experience for teachers and students. The dates for the 2015 Camp are June 11th -13th. The venue will be the Florida Institute of Technology, 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, Florida. The students will sing music in the barbershop style taught by amazing

Arne Helbig
V. P. Youth in
Harmony



clinicians **Tony DeRosa** and **Debbie Cleveland** with awesome demonstration quartets **Max Q** and **Windsor**. It's a great way for students to gain part independence, develop ear-training skills, sing in concert with their peers and have a lot of fun! The Florida Barbershop, Sweet Adeline, Inc and Harmony, Inc chapters, quartets, and individuals make every effort to provide full scholarships (at \$225 each), which will cover dorm rooms, meals, music and rehearsal halls for the Students and Music Educators. This camp also receives financial support from Harmony Foundation International, which is the charitable arm of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The HX Camp staff is preparing an awesome event but your financial help is greatly needed. Please find it in your hearts to contribute to the future of barbershopping by sending a contribution to Arne Helbig, Camp Director, 4610 Grainary Ave., Tampa, FL 33624. Gifts are welcomed from individuals, quartets, choruses and businesses. Checks should be made payable to the **Sunshine District**. Donations can also be made on our HX Camp website, <http://sunshinehx.org/>. You'll want to plan to attend the incredible Saturday night show at 7:00 pm, June 13, 2015. It's the best \$20.00 you'll ever spend.

Thanks for your help!



Nole Town Sound



Flying By Paint



Steve Janes
V. P. Contest
& Judging

Well, another successful Spring Convention has passed and we are beginning to do the cleanup work and prepare for a Fall Convention. Our thanks to the 15 Quartets and 9 Choruses that entertained us during the weekend. You have seen the results of their hard work already posted on the web site.

The most important part of the Chorus results, Jacksonville, Sarasota, Winter Haven and Cape Coral all received most improved awards for moving up a letter grade during competition. Special congratulations to all these choruses! And congratulations to Main Street, Signature and Throwback who will be representing the Sunshine District at International this summer.

If you missed this Spring Convention, don't miss the Fall Convention on October 9-11, 2015. This is early, so maybe you can get the snowbirds to stay later and make it as a chorus or quartet! And don't forget the Labor Day Jamboree. The guest list is great . . .

Congratulations to Paul Agnew, James Kastler and Alex Rubin as they continue their training as candidate judges. Only two more Convention cycles until school in the summer of 2016!

Some of our quartets continue to miss the cutoff date for registering for the contest which is separate from the Convention registration. All quartets MUST

Contest & Judging

register with BHS through the "members only" web site PRIOR to the cutoff date. The cutoff date for the Fall Contests, within the Convention, is September 11th at midnight. Registration should be available by the middle of July and I will make an announcement via the Sunshinenet when it is available. Don't delay, as soon as it is available, get registered. We had numerous problems with this Spring's registration and I don't want to have to keep anyone from entertaining our audiences!

Some Districts are already experimenting with a mixed quartet competition with the regularly scheduled competitions and we are looking to establish this in the Fall as part of our convention. So if you are singing in a mixed quartet, let Sean Stork know you are interested. In addition, International is considering a Seniors Chorus competition to be held at Midwinter with the Seniors Quartet Competition. In anticipation of this, the Sunshine District is considering a Seniors Chorus Competition to be held at the Fall Convention. Get your thinking caps on for ways you can make this happen with either your chapter or by combining members from local chapters. It should be a lot of fun and may eventually lead to an invitation to the Midwinter Convention.

And finally, we are faced with a conflict in dates this Fall. Our Convention weekend is the same weekend as SAI International. This leads to conflicts for some of our Directors and members so we need all your participation to make up for the shortfall. If you were ever thinking of attending a Sunshine Convention, make it this Fall!! We need you!

Have a great summer and keep singing!

Keep your personal information, home address, email address, telephone (home & cell) up to date in the Society database. Check with your chapter secretary if help is required. Do not send any personal changes to the district staff or the Sunburst editor.

Melbourne Chapter Youth in Harmony Program

We began 2014 by making progress with the public schools. Getting the attention of the head of music educators was a key factor in what was to be in store for us in 2015. Her name is **Cindy Johnson** and it turns out that she was a music educator that attended some of the first YIH Festivals in our county, making her very familiar with barbershop harmony.

In August, 2014, we formed a YIH Committee which combined the public schools with the private schools. During our first meeting, we learned that there are some 5,000 registered and another 3,000 unregistered home schooled students. This is a huge number of students that do not receive performing arts education, a great target audience.

The first order of business was to have a YIH workshop early in 2015 for all high school students. The goal for this workshop was to attract students to register for the Harmony Explosion Summer Camp in June, 2015, held at FIT in Melbourne. Brevard County attendance in this camp was almost non-existent.

Our initial task was to plan a YIH Festival in February, 2015, but we were unable to find a suitable venue that the public school students could attend. As a result, we had to cancel the program.



Harbor City Harmonizer's Director, Gretchen Lux, working with the students at Bayside High School

Our contact with Cindy Johnson was influential in the Harmonizers performing at an In-Service Day for music educators. It was called a Professional Development Gathering and was held at **Merritt Island High School** in February. There were over 30 music educators in attendance. We were given a 15 minute spot to perform at the beginning of the day. Our performance was well received and ended up in a Q & A exchange between the ME's and chorus members. It was a great session and we made a lot of friends.

Soon after this performance, we were contacted by **Mrs. Emily Mondello**, a music educator from **Bayside High School**. She asked if the Harmonizers would be interested in conducting a mini workshop for her students. Our response was "Yes, we would love such an opportunity." We began the workshop with a few words about who we are and what barbershop is. Then we sang a few songs and it was interesting to see the looks on the faces of the students. The faces grew from a what-am-I-here-for look, or can those old guys really sing, to one of surprise, smiling faces, and really into it. It was quite a transformation in a very short time. Needless to say, it was a wonderful time and we have since established a wonderful relationship with Bayside.

The very next Tuesday evening, the Harmonizers were visited by two students from Bayside and they have been with us ever since. They are **Lorenzo Torres** and **Nathan Compere**. They were able to perform in our Spring Show. There were a number of songs that they learned in a very short time. They both sing bass.

The first of the year, chorus members from SAI, District 9, **Platinum Show Chorus** were invited to participate and become part of the YIH Committee. After having to cancel the first workshop, we worked on rescheduling a YIH Festival. We focused on the private schools and the home schooled. The date we selected was May 1st and the venue was **Ascension Church Youth Center**.

Cont'd on page 17



The High School students that attended Harmony Fireworks Sing Shop 2015

Cont'd from page 16

As a precursor to Harmony Explosion, we chose Harmony Fireworks Sing Shop 2015 as the name for our workshop. Of course, we want to have Brevard County well represented this year at Harmony Explosion.

Arne Helbig, Sunshine District Youth Director, was instrumental in obtaining **Elaine Haugan** to be our clinician and **Signature** and **Attitude** to be our teaching quartets. We were able to register 28 girls, 6 boys, 5 music educators and 2 chaperones. There was one home schooled group from **North Brevard Home School Association**, groups from **Ambassador Christian Academy**, **Covenant Christian School**, and **Holy Name of Jesus**, one individual home schooled student and four students from Bayside High. All in attendance totally enjoyed the day. What a day it was!

And then came an invitation from Mrs. Mondello, Bayside High School, for the Harmonizers to sing on their Spring Show. The two songs we sang were "Just in Time" and "Do You Hear the People Sing." I must say that Mrs. Mondello has an outstanding choral program at Bayside, second to none in Brevard County. Her boys and girls performed in every sense of the word. After the show, one student from **Heritage High School** asked if we would sing the following week at their show.

The Harmonizers appeared on the Heritage High School's spring show. **Ms. Jennifer Rock** has a total of 160 choral students in her choral program.

Once again, we were very well received. The audience went wild, especially the kids. After the show, many of the students said they had already signed up for **HX** or were going to do so. It has been very encouraging with every performance the Harmonizers have made so far this year.

We have been asked to sing on the Spring Show for **Johnson Middle School**, Tuesday, May 26th One of our chorus member's son sings in the chorus. Also, the choral teacher is **Amanda Henderson**. She attended the In-Service day at Merritt Island High School in February and subsequently brought her fiancé, **Michel Avey**, to a rehearsal. Michel is now a Harmonizer.

As you can see, the Harbor City Harmonizers have started a very active youth program in Brevard County. It is only the beginning. We have a Youth in Harmony Committee that is dedicated to bringing barbershop harmony to the students. Our first Sing Shop was a success. We are already thinking about next year's Harmony Fireworks! We are planning to have a Fall Harmony Fireworks. Also, we will be looking at providing singing lessons.

Reaching out to the youth has made 2015 a very successful year for the Harmonizers. Credit must be given to **Cindy Johnson**, **Emily Mondello**, and **Gretchen Lux**. Having Gretchen as our director has been a blessing and a huge reason we are doing so well.

Dick Muir,
Melbourne YIH

Spring Contest Pictures



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