

VOLUME 54, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2023

THE Sunburst



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

District Champs!



Orange Blossom Chorus

SUNSHINEDISTRICT.ORG

President's Message

Bruce Checca
Sunshine District President
president@sunshinedistrict.org

How has YOUR year been so far?

Hopefully, things are going a lot better for you in 2023 than they have in the past few years!

The District is starting to recover from the effects of Covid. We've held two conventions, have crowned some new Champions, and have been able to re-unite with old friends in the 'life-style' we love so much! Unfortunately, some of our members have yet to return for various reasons... whether it be health, financial or something else... and we miss them!

Maybe all it takes is for YOU to reach out to somebody you haven't seen in a while with a "Hey, how are you? I've missed you at rehearsal!" Think about it for a minute... is there anybody that you miss talking to every week? How about the person you used to spend some time with at the 'afterglow' over a beer or a bite to eat?

NOW is a good time to reach out!

While you may not realize it, there is a lot going on 'behind the scenes' at both the District and Society levels, and your District Board is working – on YOUR behalf – to make things better ... but we need your help! Does your Chapter need help with something? Could the District possibly help? You never know until you ask! We have a lot of talent here in Sunshine, both from an Administrative and Musical standpoint, and every one of them is willing to help...if asked!

The District website has a list of all the people you might need to contact! It's not just there so we can see our names in print! Make use of it!

Here's to us being able to greet each other in person real soon!

Bruce C.



Mass Sing in the Atrium
at the Spring 2023 Convention



Photography by William McCombie

Congratulations!

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR 2019 & 2022



2019 CHUCK STEINER III

*Tampa Chapter & Current Sunshine
District Immediate Past President*

2022 PAUL AGNEW

*Frank Thorne & Sunshine District VP
of Contest & Judging*

*Tony DeRosa, 2017 BOTY
recipient, presents 2022
BOTY award to Paul Agnew*



*Matthew Boutwell, Tony
DeRosa (BOTY 2017),
Chuck Steiner III (BOTY
2019), Paul Agnew (BOTY
2022), Dave Kannberg
(BOTY 2014),
Dan Brinkmann (BOTY
2004), and Sean Stork
(BOTY 2016)*



*Tony DeRosa (BOTY 2017) presents
2019 BOTY award to Chuck Steiner III
with Sean Stork (BOTY 2016),
Dave Kannberg (BOTY 2014),
Dan Brinkmann (BOTY 2004), and
Paul Agnew looking on*

No award presented for 2020 & 2021 due to Covid.

Spring Convention Moments in Pictures



Bruce Checca, SUN District President



*Friday night Master of Ceremonies:
Jack Klotzbach*



*David Mills,
SUN Exec. Vice President*



Marty Monson, BHS CEO



SPRING CONVENTION PANEL OF JUDGES:
Panel Chair ADM: Linda Muise
Administrative Judge: Mike Thompson
Music: Tom Gentry and Steve Tramack
Performance: Steve Curulla and David McEachern
Singing: Rik Johnson and John Ward



Photography by William McCombie

*Full Contest Results
Click Here*



Cruise Control

Orlando, FL; Tampa, FL

TR, Lee Markham
LD, Tanner Perdue
BR, Brandon Hall
BS, Ben Anderson

Achilles and the Three Heels

Sarasota, FL; Traverse City, MI;
Venice, FL

TR, Hank Zielin
LD, Jeffry Olesen
BR, Joe Rocklein
BS, Neil Nugent



Right on Q

Tampa, FL; Frank Thorne

TR, Paul Carter
LD, Tim Perenich
BR, David Mills
BS, Bryan Hevel

Right on Q won the Sunshine District Senior Quartet competition with a total score of 869 or 72.4%



Photography by William McCombie



[Full Contest Results](#)
[Click Here](#)

4 Guys No Fries Sarasota, FL

TR, Bill Colleran
LD, Robbie Jette
BR, Kevin Downs
BS, Ken Rear



Three and a Half Men Tampa, FL; Frank Thorne

TR, Joseph DeRosa
LD, Josh Szolomayer
BR, Tony DeRosa
BS, Chris Keough



Three and a Half Men win the right to represent Sunshine District in the International Quartet Competition in Louisville, KY, July 2-9, 2023. The quartet took the honors in the International Quartet Preliminary contest in Sunshine District with a score of 2075 or an average of 86.5%.

FULL OCTAVE Sarasota, FL

TR, Bill Colleran
LD, Scott Rowe
BR, Bruce Prince
BS, Hank Stromenger



Photography by Melissa Klotzbach

Full Contest Results
[Click Here](#)



Better Days Ahead

Martin - St Lucie, FL; Palm Beach County, FL; Smith Mountain Lake, VA; Sunrise, FL

TR, Don Miller, II
LD, Kurt Harrup
BR, Mike Tarlton
BS, Chuck Martin

4 for 4 Fort Walton Beach, FL; Tampa, FL

TR, Dave Roberts
LD, Nick Firth
BR, Luc-Dogg Lord
BS, Jeff Buehler



Geezaires

Miami, FL; Palm Beach County, FL; Sunrise, FL; Frank Thorne

TR, Andy Plotkin
LD, Jim Gammon
BR, Randy Harner
BS, Don Knieriem



Photography by William McCombie





Emerald Coast Chorus
Fort Walton Beach, FL

Director: Jeff Buehler



Chorus of the Keys
Sarasota, FL

Director: Drew Kirkman



Barbergators
Gainesville, FL

Director: Mark Slamka



Hernando Harmonizers
Hernando County, FL

Director: Bob McFadden



Orange Blossom Chorus
Orlando, FL

Directors: Matthew Boutwell and
Sean Christopher Stork

Orange Blossom Chorus won the Sunshine District Chorus Championship as well as the Sunshine District Most Improved Chorus Award. The Chorus took top honors with a score of 853 or a 71.1% average.



Orlando Harmony
Winter Park, FL

Director: Marshall Webb



Harbor City Harmonizers
Mixed Harmony
Melbourne, FL

Director: Melanie Barton-Gauss

Pat Haley Reaches 77 Years of Service as a SPEBSQSA/BHS Member

by Michael Testa, Lead Section Leader, Heart of Florida Chorus

On May 18, 2023, *Heart of Florida Barbershop Chorus* member Pat Haley was recognized for reaching 77 years of service as a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

SPEBSQSA was founded in 1938, and Pat joined the Society eight years later, in 1946. Through all the changes, ups, and downs he experienced during all those years, Pat has been a dedicated barbershopper who inspires us all.

In recognition for his devotion to our Society and Chapter, our Board of Directors renamed our Chorus' Barbershopper of the Year Award to the 'Pat Haley Barbershopper of the Year Award.' It will be our honor to recognize Pat in this way forever forward.



Message from Education VP

Jack Klotzbach

Sunshine District VP of Education

cdd@sunshinedistrict.org

Hello Sunshine District. As we move into the second half of 2023, we must continue to find ways to improve our performances, which will lead to new members, larger audiences, and community involvement. In order to assist your chapter in a small way, I have arranged for three director workshops so far and working a setting up three more. The workshops last 6 to 8 hours and includes coaching and practice directing, and a director collaboration session. The cost is \$75. Please have your President, Secretary or Director contact me for more information. Workshops are open to all chapter directors and assistant directors, or whoever is waving their arms in front of the chorus. Here is the information on the first three:

1. Fort Walton Beach Chapter hosting July 29th at the Shalimar United Methodist Church, 1 Old Ferry Rd, Shalimar. Coaches: Larry and Debbie Dodge.

2. Orlando Chapter hosting August 12th at St. John Lutheran Church, 1600 S. Orlando Ave, Winter Park. Coach: Debbie Cleveland.

3. Gainesville Chapter hosting August 19th at Grace Presbyterian Church, 3146 NW 13th Street, Gainesville. Coaches: Larry and Debbie Dodge.

I am working on setting one in Tampa, one down in Miami area and one over near Fort Myers. Hopefully we will have these arranged for no later than the end of September. The information will be promulgated via the group email and through the District website.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for January 5-7, 2024, for LEADAC and quartet coaching at the Rosen Hotel, Orlando. If you have any questions, please email me at jackklotzbach@gmail.com



LOUISVILLE 2023 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION QUALIFIERS

by Brandon Hall, Social Media Manager and Quartet Development Chair

Representing the Sunshine District – Throwback, Wildfire, Three and a Half Men, and Suite Life!

Throwback is comprised of brothers **Alex** and **Dan Rubin** (Top 10 Finalist – **Rounders**), **Sean Devine** (Lead of 2008 International Champions – **OC Times**), and **Michael Skutt** (Next Gen Gold Medalist – **The Academy**).

This quartet has been in the medals since 2015, having placed 5th, 5th, 4th 3rd, 2nd, and then 3rd in Charlotte last Summer. Currently, this perennial medalist quartet is seeded 2nd with a 91.1% average behind **Midtown**, 91.8%, who took home the silver medal last year.



Wildfire is the 2019 Next Gen Varsity Quartet Champion and is comprised of Stephen Goldman, Harrison Cooke, Andrew Lujan (Next Gen Gold – **The Academy**), and Kevin Mendez III (who is one of only four 2-time Next Gen Gold Medists, **Wildfire** and **The Academy**)

Last year was their first year in the Open Contest and they were ranked 17th in the world with a score of 81.78%. Going into this year's competition, they are seeded 14th with a prelims score of 82.6% – which is just 1% away from being in the top 10 (**InVoice** from the Evergreen District is currently seeded 10th with 83.6%).

Three and a Half Men is comprised of Tony DeRosa (4x Gold Medalist – **Keepsake**, **Platinum**, **Max Q**, and **Main Street**), Josh Szolomayer (Top 10 Finalist – **The Crush**), Joseph DeRosa (Next Gen 4th Place Medalist – **On The Wire**), and Chris Keough (Bass of **Resolve** – nationally renowned jazz quartet).



These four singers competed for their second time together at the Sunshine District Prelims competition in March and scored a phenomenal 86.5% – seeding them in 6th place going into Louisville, tied with **The Newfangled Four** from the Far Western District; both quartets are just 0.4% (11 points) behind 5th place. If this quartet gets a medal, this would be the first open international medal for Chris, Josh, and Joseph.



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Suite Life is a collegiate quartet comprised of Lex Goity, Cody Mathewson, Tripp Carter, and Zach Gould hailing from Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. Aside from their video submission to qualify for the Next Gen Varsity contest, Louisville will mark the very first competition for all four members of the quartet individually. **Suite Life** is currently seeded 10th going into the competition with a 72.3%, tied with **Average Intelligence**. This group has been working with Tony DeRosa and Daniel Cochran (Lead of **Signature**, 2019 Champs) both of which the quartet attributes any and all success.



The Sunshine District sends its love and best wishes to you Dan, Sean, Alex, Michael, Joseph, Josh, Tony, Chris, Andrew, Stephen, Kevin, Harrison, Lex, Cody, Tripp, and Zach!



The Heralds of Harmony & Atlanta Vocal Project in Louisville

Tony DeRosa and Clay Hine team up again to go for the gold in Louisville this summer. The group is competing as the *Heralds of Harmony* and are currently seeded 10th in the world.

Last year this combined chorus went on to place 7th with an 89.20% score and has been in the Top 10 every year since 2015. If they earn a medal, it'd be the first one in the history of the Chorus!



2023 International Quartet Contest Order of Apperance #BHSLouisville

by Brandon Hall, Social Media Manager and Quartet Developement Chair

🇺🇸🌞 We have THREE Sunshine District quartets competing in Louisville!
See when they sing so you can cheer them on! 🌞🇺🇸

Quartet Quarterfinals Session #1

Tuesday, July 4th – 10 a.m. ET:

01. Sweet & Sour (NED)
- 02. Throwback (SUN)** 🌞🇺🇸
03. Harmonium (CSD)
04. Praxis (MAD)
05. Fleet Street (CSD)
06. Tempest (SWD)
07. Harmonic Thunder (JAD)
08. The Essentials (FWD)
09. 5th Melody (BHNZ)
10. Daily Special (NED)
11. Limelight (BABS)
12. Studio Talk (SWD)
13. Midtown (MAD)
14. Showpiece (SWD)
15. Five Star (PIO)
- 16. Wildfire (SUN)** 🌞🇺🇸
17. MixTape (JAD)
18. Pratt Street Power (MAD)
19. Runway (SWD)
20. Coulee Classic (LOL)
21. cityScape (CAR)

Quartet Quarterfinals Session #2

Tuesday, July 4th – 5 p.m. ET:

22. TopGun (SNOBS)
23. Artistic License (FWD)
24. Union Station (CSD)
25. Center Ring (ILL)
26. BoomTown (CSD)
27. Hot Ticket (LABBS)
28. Gimme Four (MAD)
29. Soundtrack (NSC)
30. Detour (ONT)
31. The Newfangled Four (FWD)
32. Mischief (RMD)
33. Panda Ring (SWD)
34. Lemon Squeezy (SNOBS)
35. Legacy (MAD)
36. Rule #1 (MAD)
37. InVoice (EVG)
38. Greenlight (NED)
39. Lady Barbalade (IABS)
40. First Class (CSD)
41. Secret Best Friends (MAD)
42. Mom's Favorite (JAD)

Quartet Quarterfinals Session #3

Wednesday, July 5th – 10 a.m. ET:

43. IN HOUSE (LABBS)
44. Argonauts (EVG)
45. HusAar (SNOBS)
46. Madhattan (MAD)
47. First Take (MAD)
48. Entourage (DIX)
49. The Core (JAD)
50. Capitol Ring (FWD)
51. Clementones (SNOBS)
52. The Kelly Brothers (EVG)
53. Rare Blend (JAD)
- 54. Three and a Half Men (SUN)** 🌞🇺🇸
55. Spitfire (CSD)
56. Maple Reserve (ONT)
57. Trailblazers (BABS)
58. The Collective (BHA)
59. Trademark (JAD)
60. Summer Street (NED)

YOUR 2023 DISTRICT CHORUS CHAMPIONS

Representing the Orlando Chapter, under the direction of Matthew Boutwell and Sean C. Stork - The Orange Blossom Chorus!

This March, *Orange Blossom Chorus (OBC)* took the District Championship for the first time since 1992. In addition to the chorus's first win in 31 years, this marks the first win as director for Matthew Boutwell, who made his history by being in a relatively small group of folks who've won SUN's quartet AND chorus championships as a director (2019 Quartet Champs - **Bourbon Brothers Quartet**). This win also marks the first directing win for BOTY recipient Sean C. Stork who has recently taken over as full-time director of *OBC*.

Additionally, the Chorus made history by being the first mixed chorus to win the overall Sunshine District Chorus Championship! In previous district competitions, mixed and treble-voiced choruses competed in separate categories.

A huge congrats to Matthew, Sean, and all of *OBC*!



VP of Communication & IT

Sounds like there was a great Spring Convention! Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to the fact that I was out of the State on that weekend. Quartets and Choruses competed and many tags were sung in the hallways, I'm sure!

I wanted to make you aware that **Brandon Hall** has agreed to sign on to the District Communications team and will be helping with all aspects of our Social Media efforts. Brandon is young and enthusiastic and whether or not you realize it, many of our recent postings on Social Media are coming from him. Welcome to the team Brandon!

If you have photos or videos taken at the convention, please be sure to forward them to our Social Media team **Melissa Klotzbach** and or **Brandon Hall**.

Roger Smeds

Sunshine District VP for Communication & IT
communications@sunshinedistrict.org

Congratulations to our new International Quartet Representatives **Throwback, Wildfire and Three and a Half Men**. **Throwback** and **Wildfire** qualified out of district due to time conflicts. In the Chorus competition, congratulations go to the Orlando Chapter - *Orange Blossom Chorus* who are our 2023 Chorus Champions! Congratulations also go to our District Senior Quartet Champions **Right On Q** well done guys!

Thanks to all of you who did your Amazon shopping and specified the District as your chosen charity. I has been a help to the District. Amazon has chosen to end the program, but it did provide the District with some additional funds we would not have otherwise had.



Rock Around the Clock

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TO THE MUSIC OF THE 1950'S!

\$25 AT
THE DOOR!

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THE HARMONY EXPLOSION
CHORUS
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

JUNE 17, 2023 | 6:30 PM

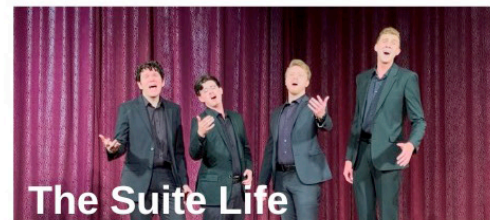
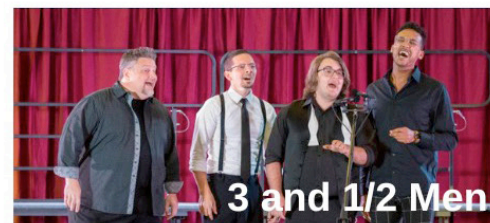
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Chapter Happenings

Tallahassee Chapter Capital Chordsmen

by Kenneth Schroeder

The Capital Chordsmen Announce 'Barbershopper of the Year' for 2022

The *Capital Chordsmen* Barbershop Harmony Chorus selected **Jerry Parr**, a bass singer in the Chorus and the **4 Oysters in Search of a Pearl** quartet, as Barbershopper of the Year 2022. The decision was a unanimous decision by the selection committee. The award was presented at the Annual Installation of Officers and Holiday Celebration recently.

Mr. Parr is an active member of the chorus, and serves as VP for Membership. He is exceptionally active, working to recruit new members and recall members who became inactive during the COVID pandemic. He printed recruiting cards for members to use as an introduction to individuals they meet in everyday activities. He is developing a program to introduce our music style to music departments in area schools.

He coordinated several performances in the community for quartets, and worked with the VP for Events to increase our presence over a multi-county area.

Jerry is also been active in quartet and chorus performance styles, by suggesting choreography, adding key changes, and original or alternate tags that brighten up otherwise mundane music. He exhibits a keen sense of performance comedy, bringing the **4 Oysters in Search of a Pearl** quartet to a significantly higher level of artistic style.

The Capital Chordsmen Deliver Singing Valentines to Tallahassee Area

Barbershop quartets from the *Capital Chordsmen* once again delivered personal Valentine serenades to waiting sweethearts. The serenades were delivered as a complete surprise, at homes, places of work, while dining at a restaurant, and at a private party to sweethearts, mothers, grandmothers, daughters, fathers, wives, boyfriends and husbands (yes, we sing to the guys as well!)



The personal serenade included two love songs and a short special message song, a long-stem red carnation, a box of chocolates, and a memory photo. Of course, all music was in classic, 4-part barbershop style harmony.

The *Capital Chordsmen* held their annual summer Barbershop Harmony Show on June 10 at the TCC Turner Auditorium. There were two performances: 2pm & 7pm.



"Help Wanted - Director Search" was a light-hearted look at the difficulties the Chordsmen had finding and hiring a new director in the thick of the COVID crisis, featuring classic barbershop harmony songs from the chorus, and the quartets. Songs

(continued on next page)

Chapter Happenings

included “Coney Island Baby,” “Four Leaf Clover,” “Over the Rainbow,” “Mood Indigo,” “Old Cape Cod,” and many, many others.

Our featured guest quartet was the award winning **4 for 4** from our sister chorus (the Emerald Coast Chapter) in Fort Walton Beach. They offer a rich harmony in a classic barbershop harmony style, coupled with a wide range of music and light-hearted banter.

The Chordsmen were proud to present four quartets for entertainment. Some individuals participate in multiple quartets, but each has its own character, sound, and style. Classic quartets and a mixed quartet for your enjoyment. Pick your favorite.

Capital Chordsman Member in Germany

Capital Chordsmen member Kenneth Schroeder visited family in Germany in early May. While there, he continued his love of barbershop harmony. In addition to practicing his own music, he did an outreach. Once in Germany, he looked up the closest barbershop chorus on “BinG” (Barbershop in Germany) at <https://www.barbershop.de/>. He found the closest chorus was in Duesseldorf, *DuessHarmonie*. After making contact, he drove to their weekly meetings and sang with them. The chorus sings traditional songs in English. If you decide to add this to your vacation, you won’t be lost.

The chorus sings traditional barbershop charts in English. They were working on “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” and “West Virginia”. It turned out that on the weekend of May 18–20, BinG held their annual National Barbershop Harmony Contest. The chorus hadn’t participated in any contest for several years due in part to membership loss and the draconian

COVID restrictions. They had lost their music director three years prior and found themselves in a drastic rebuilding mode. With new members, a new director, they attended the contest and sang for grading only.

Ken attended the Champions Show in the Konzerthaus Dortmund on May 20. The show was delivered to a packed house in the renowned hall. It was as if that facility was built for barbershop harmony. Their guest quartet was **Throwback**, joined with current Sweet Adeline champions, **Ladies Quartet**. Chorus winners and quartet winners all performed, including a guest ladies chorus from Belgium. The show was followed by an enthusiastic afterglow.

What a delightful experience. The enthusiasm for barbershop harmony is global, even if you have to make an effort to link up. It’s an effort well worth doing.



Gainesville Chapter

Singing Valentines Return to Gainesville

The *Barbergators Chorus* once again delivered Singing Valentines to loved ones on Valentine’s Day, Tuesday, February 14th, throughout the Gainesville, FL area.

(continued on next page)

Chapter Happenings

We sent tuxedoed barbershop quartets out delivering love songs all day long presenting two songs, a rose, and a personalized Valentine's card with each delivery.

Sometimes recipients blush, sometimes they shed tears, but they all get a memory that lasts forever.

"I've sung in living rooms, restaurants, offices, and even to a mechanic at Firestone," said Dave Jacobs, president of the Chorus. "But probably my favorite gig was to a teacher in front of the entire 5th Grade in the cafeteria. That was a memorable one!"

The quartets love delivering in public spaces to see not only the reaction of the recipient but also of his/or her coworkers. Crowds gather. Coworkers are always jealous of the recipient. People will say, "Hey, can you do one for my spouse or girlfriend, too?"

The Chorus has been delivering these unique gifts for over 15 years; but they had to put the program on pause for the past two years.

"Delivering Singing Valentines is one of our favorite gigs. It's probably the most fun we have on any day of the year. Health concerns shut us down in 2021 and 2022. So, we were definitely excited to be back serenading again this year!" said Tucker.



Venice Gondoliers Show Chorus

by Director Lee Frayer

On Sunday March 12 the *Venice Gondoliers Show Chorus* took on a project of helping a local church by putting on a free performance to help them in their endeavors to pay off the church mortgage.

Other than a couple of small sing-outs, this was our first big event after getting back from the problems of covid. It was a wonderful shot in the arm to build the chorus members confidence. The 40-minute performance was a total success that added \$ 1,300 to the church mortgage funds.

AN EXPERIENCE! NEW SINGING

The City of Venice, FL, sponsored a Half Marathon and 5-K run and the *Venice Gondoliers* chorus was asked to sing the national anthem for the start of the run. Unlike our usual beautiful warm Florida weather, it was only near 60 degrees, still dark at 6 a.m. and a heavy chill wind coming off the Gulf Of Mexico. Now to this bunch of warm blooded senior Floridians, it was down right chilly.

Surprisingly, shivering and chilled, we still pulled off a solid performance in front of some 500 runners, handed out a bunch of chorus flyers and had a great time doing it. We received lots and lots of thanks and compliments on our singing.

Next up is singing the anthem again for a Atlantic Braves baseball game at their Florida training camp. We are crossing our fingers for a nice warm sunny afternoon for this performance.

So now it's upward and forward to building a new chorus concentrating on new members and a lot more local performances.

(continued on next page)

Chapter Happenings

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

by Director Lee Frayer

It's 1:30 p.m. and we pull into the parking lot where we are to sing at 2 p.m. for one of our favorite groups — a senior care center. Stepping out of the car we hear this terrible racket of roofers stapling shingles on the area of the building where I know we're were expected to be singing. We no sooner step into the building when we see four fire trucks rush in and fire fighters running in all directions. Then the fire alarms turned on and blasted our ear drums for a solid 30 minutes. They decided to do a mock fire drill without giving any advanced notice. My chorus members were all disturbed and the seniors in the audience were more than unhappy. And I, the director, was frying my brain trying to figure just how we were going to survive this mess. Then, as fast as it started, the roofers got mad and left. The fire department turned off the alarms and were out of there in a flash and there I was. The pitch pipe blower blew the pitch and with in seconds the audience were smiling.

We didn't know for sure but as luck prevailed, THE SHOW DID GO ON.



Dixie District Cruise featuring the quartet FRED. Space is limited. Carnival Liberty, sailing September 25, 2023, from Cape Canaveral. Click for more info or email Mark Tuttle | m.tuttle@dreamvacations.com



Naples – Ft. Myers Chapter Paradise Coastmen Chorus

by Gray Poehler, VP Marketing

Naples Chapter sings for Salvation

Each year in early December, the Naples/Fort Myers Chapter sends out small ensembles to local restaurants to sing and raise money to benefit the local Salvation Army Holiday Fund. This past holiday season we raised \$10,000 for this worthy cause that helps feed and provide gifts for underprivileged families in the areas we serve. This is an ongoing project that dates back to 2010 and has collectively raised over \$90,000. Pictured here from left to right are chapter President, Bill Hutchins, Salvation Army Captain Bridges, and our "Rookie of the year" member, Joey Bonello.



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Chapter Happenings

Sarasota Chorus of the Keys

Sarasota Chorus of the Keys Awards College Scholarships to Local High School Seniors

Sarasota Chorus of the Keys recently awarded Sheridan E. Brown Memorial Scholarships for 2023 to two high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding musical achievement. Chorus President Ken Rear announced that the college scholarships, totaling \$4000, have been awarded to Cole Laudenslager of Pine View School and Nathan Molineaux of Sarasota Military Academy.



The Chorus with Jeffrey Olesen (Scholarship Chairman) and the two scholarship awardees: Nathan Molineaux (left of Jeffry) and Cole Laudenslager (right of Jeffry).

The Sarasota Chorus of the Keys, a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, is celebrating its 74th anniversary in 2023 and has been entertaining Suncoast area residents with four-part a cappella harmony since 1949. The Chorus has been awarding college scholarships to deserving students for more than twenty years. More information about the Chorus is available at: www.chorusofthekeys.org.

Florida Sunshine District Harmony Explosion 2023

by Roger Murphy, VP Marketing

Sarasota Chorus of the Keys is sponsoring four students from The Classical Academy of Sarasota who will attend the Harmony Explosion Summer Music Camp to be held June 15-17 on the campus of Stetson University in Deland, Florida. The students are Timmy Ditchfield, Chase King, Aaron Loomis, and Cohen Sanderson.



Chorus Director, Drew Kirkman, on the left and Ken Rear, Chorus President, on the right, with the four students.

Since 1999, the Sunshine District of the Barbershop Harmony Society has sponsored a three-day Summer Music Camp for Florida high school boys and girls. This summer's theme is "Rock Around the Clock" – A Tribute in Harmony to the Music of the 1950's and will feature special male and female guest quartets. www.chorusofthekeys.org



Sarasota Chorus of the Keys

(continued on next page)

Chapter Happenings

Emerald Coast Chorus

by David Roberts | david.a.roberts.90@gmail.com

2023 Joe Breedon Panhandle Music Festival coming September 15-17 to Camp Timpoochee near Niceville, Florida.

Registration at camp opens mid-afternoon on Friday, September 15, with dinner at 5 p.m. At 6 p.m., choruses can begin practicing in designated areas. A schedule will be set up for each participating chorus and quartet. On Saturday, breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. with combined chorus rehearsal at 8:30 a.m. The day continues with lunch at noon followed by more individual chorus and quartet practice times until 3 p.m. Then, back by popular demand, will be the Crazy Quartet contest Friday evening during the first talk session. After dinner will be the performances for each chorus, quartet and the combined choruses. Saturday culminates with a campfire afterglow at the camp, which is always great fun. Breakfast is at 8 a.m. on Sunday, then break camp at 9 a.m. (Times subject to change.)

All groups should plan at least two songs and maybe one or two back ups, and provide the song titles for a program.



Hernando Harmonizers

by Jay Gettig

NEW BARBERSHOP HARMONY CLUB

Hernando Harmonizers started a Club in a large private community called Timber Pines in Spring Hill. It is a community of 3450 homes & 6000+ retirees. We meet monthly & have had two meetings attended by current chorus members & several guests. Our associate chorus director along with President Jay Gettig (who founded the *Hernando Harmonizers* in 2001) provide the leadership to initiate the guests to the fun of four-part barbershop harmony. We will use this club as a “feeder “ club for interested folks to join the Harmonizers . Additionally, we will be able to invite the Harmonizers & select groups to provide entertainment to the entire Timber Pines Community . We think this is the first time a private club has been formed in a local community for the purpose of teaching members barbershop harmony and offering a segway into the registered chorus of the city or town.



The Future of Barbershop

By John Osborn, Membership Chairman
Palm Beach Coastmen

On February 21st, 2023, approximately 130 middle and high school students came together in Palm Beach County for a day of barbershop singing. The *Palm Beach Coastmen* provided support for the students, as did members of the **Women of Note**. Clinicians Kim Eiger-Griffin and Alex Rubin taught entire songs to the group.

The look of joy and surprise on the faces of the students when their chords came together properly was worth all the effort. This is the future of barbershop and the Coastmen were proud to be a part of it.



Alex Rubin conducts a VLQ learning *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*.



The Palm Beach Coastmen (in blue) stand on the right, with their director Scott Houchins.

Music Medics Comes to Palm Beach County

The successful **Music Medics** program, in which our singers dress in scrubs and sing to hospitalized children and others, is now an official part of the *Palm Beach Coastmen*. Our singers lighten the mood at JFK North Hospital and Quantum House facilities in West Palm Beach and will add others to their list of stops as they become available. It is a way for all of us to give back to our community and bring some uplifting harmonies into the lives of patients. Facilitators Michael Rogin and Jim Gavrilos introduced the program to the Coastmen Chorus hoping that they could interest at least a working quartet. They were

shocked, in a good way, when nearly the entire chorus volunteered.



The Palm Beach Coastmen Music Medics sing for patients at JFK hospital in West Palm Beach.

Miami Chapter

by Enrique Caravella, Miamians President

After the sad period we lived due to COVID-19, our **Music Medics** Program is BACK!!! and better than ever. See article below by Arne Themmen. We have **Music Medics** Quartet singing at two facilities of Broward Health, Joe DiMaggio Children Hospital, and three facilities in Jackson Memorial.

by Arne Themmen

Miami Music Medics Magic

The **Miami Music Medics** have expanded their outreach to now include Jackson Memorial children's ward, besides Holtz Children hospital they now included their Pediatric Center and their Geriatric Center. We now send quartets to six separate South Florida health facilities.

The first visit to the Jackson Pediatric Center was extremely rewarding. This center provides outpatient day care to special needs children from all over South East Florida.

Singing were Enrique Caravella, bass; Arne Themmen, lead; Ernie de La Fe, tenor; and Jim Teas, baritone.

The first room we sang in had five children under six years old who smiled and cooed to our "Disney" type songs. At the end they each came up and gave our legs a hug.



The second room had six children under ten. They were restless and moaned and cried out when we started singing "You Got a Friend in Me." The oldest boy covered his ears and began to wail. We sang on and amazingly the lyrics from our next song: "the Lion King" rang true. "There's a calm surrender to the rush of day. When the heat of the rolling world can be turned away. An enchanted moment and it sees us through. It's enough for this restless warrior, just to be with you. Can you feel the love to-night." Halfway through, everyone was smiling and humming. The oldest boy stopped yelling and just stared at us. They were all fully attentive though our next three songs and applauded when we left for the next room.

In the rest of the rooms, the children were moving with the music and applauding while the nurses and attendants marveled at their response. As we walked between rooms, we noticed the ten year old boy following us. They told us that he was completely non-verbal, but he was considered a litmus test. If he responded positively all was good.

At the last room, he came in and stood by us while we sang. At the end when we said thank you, he walked into the quartet formation and gave us a hug.

We later received a letter from the manager of volunteer services: "Wow, the **Music Medics** are incredibly appreciated by ALL of us at Jackson who had the pleasure to see and hear you. Your visits transformed the patients, families, and staff. Your gift is truly magical. Thank you for sharing, caring and making such a wonderful difference."

"Harmony makes Kings and Vagabonds believe the Very Best"



Barbergators holds benefit concert for Stop Children's Cancer

The Barbergators Chorus presented a concert to benefit "Stop Children's Cancer" on Sunday, June 11th. *The Barbergators'* "Almost Father's Day Concert" took place at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in downtown Gainesville. The concert was open to the public, and donations were accepted at the door. *The Barbergators* will donate a portion of the proceeds to Stop Children's Cancer.

"Cancer is one of the largest causes of death in children," said Dr. Bill Slayton, Chief of pediatric hematology/oncology at UF and bass singer in our Chorus. "Stop Children's Cancer raises money to fund cancer research." In fact, Stop Children's Cancer supported a year of Dr. Slayton's research when he was a fellow at UF in the 1990's. That research funding directly affects the lives of children in our community.

The concert featured *The Barbergators* Chorus and chapter quartets, including **Time of Our Lives** and **Dynamix**. ...and being "Almost Father's Day," dad jokes did happen.

The Barbergators performed a family friendly mix of traditional barbershop, gospel, and even a few show tunes from movies such as "Toy Story" and "The Wedding Singer."

The Barbergators came out of the pandemic shutdown with a new mission to make music to bring people together more often. This concert hopes to bring people together to support Stop Children's Cancer. "We came out of the pandemic wanting to use our music to help our community," said Dave Jacobs, President of the Chorus. "We've included a charitable cause in every performance since we've come back. We're really proud to support Stop Children's Cancer this time."

As the Chorus approaches its 50th anniversary, songs from its early years are being added to its repertoire. "We're getting back to arrangements from 40 and 50 years ago," said the group's Director Mark Slamka. "These are the sounds I grew up with in my father's chorus. In a lot of ways, we're paying homage to the men who started *The Barbergators*."



The Barbergators Chorus is a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The chapter is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization. The Chorus rehearses Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 3146 NW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32609. Singers and visitors are always welcome!

For more information, please contact David Jacobs, president@barbergators.com or 352-358-1131.

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