



Barbershopping in the Carolinas 1948-2010

District Champions and International Contest Competitors

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Barbershop Harmony Society
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Summary of “Champions”

This mini-history of *Barbershopping in the Carolinas 1948-2010* identifies and celebrates the quartets and choruses from the North and South Carolina chapters that were Dixie District Champions or represented the Dixie District at International Contests of the Society of the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing, Inc. (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.), now called the Barbershop Harmony Society, from 1948 until the Carolinas District was established in July 2010. The Carolinas District considers all of these quartets and choruses “Champions”.

The first “Carolinas” chapters of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. were Asheville, NC (chartered June 10, 1948), Canton, NC (chartered December 30, 1948), and Winston-Salem, NC (chartered January 24, 1949). It did not take long for a Carolinas quartet to become the Dixie District Quartet Champion and to compete at an International Quartet Contest: The *Vagabonds* from Winston-Salem, NC competed at the 1950 Contest in Omaha, Nebraska and were the 1952 District Quartet Champion. Over the 63 years from 1948 to 2010:

- Twelve Carolinas quartets were the Dixie District Quartet Champion
- Seventeen Carolinas quartets competed at 33 International Contests

The first official International Chorus Contest was held at the 1954 International Convention in Washington, DC. The *Tobacco Belt Chorus* from the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter competed. Over the next 57 years:

- Eight Carolinas choruses won a total of 17 Dixie District Chorus Championships
- Four Carolinas choruses competed at 11 International Contests

Of special note is that the 1980s was the Carolina’s decade for winning Dixie District competitions. Carolina choruses won ten straight Dixie District Championships 1979-1988 and represented the Dixie District at the International Contests 1980-1989 including a Fifth Place Medal by *General Assembly* from the Research Triangle Park, NC Chapter in 1986. Carolinas quartets won three Dixie District Championships and four quartets represented the Dixie District at the International Contest seven of the ten years.

The International Senior Quartet Contests started in 1986. Over the 12-year period 1997-2010:

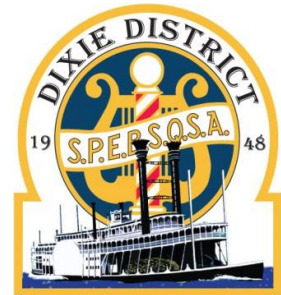
- Eight Carolinas seniors quartets were Dixie District Seniors Quartet Champion
- Five Carolinas seniors quartets competed at 10 International Senior Quartet Contests

The first Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest was held at the 1992 International Convention in New Orleans, LA. Over the next 17 years Carolinas Collegiate quartets had an impressive record:

- Five Carolinas quartets were Dixie District Collegiate Quartet Champions
- Nine Carolinas quartets competed at 13 International Collegiate Quartet Contests

Of special note is the contribution of Appalachian State University. Quartets from “App State” competed in 11 International Collegiate Contests. An impressive accomplishment, the more so, considering that it included three Collegiate Quartet Medalists: *Low Down Sound*, Silver Medalist in 2000 and Third Place Medalist in 2001, and *King Street Blues*, Fifth Place Medalists in 2002.

The remainder of this history is a chronological presentation of all Carolinas quartets and choruses that were Dixie District Champions and/or represented the Dixie District at International Contests follows.



Vagabonds

Winston-Salem, NC

1950 International Contest

Omaha, NE – 37th Place

1951 International Contest

Toledo, OH – 15th Place

1952 International Contest

Kansas City, MO – 14th Place

1952 Dixie District Quartet Champion

The *Vagabonds*, two sets of brothers, sang on the first Winston Salem Chapter show in September 1949. They placed second a few months later at the 1950 Regional Preliminary Contest and when the winners had to drop out they competed at the 1950 International Contest placing 37th. They qualified for the next two International Contests making the finals (top 15 quartets) both years. They won the 1952 Dixie District Quartet Championship in October 1952. They qualified for the 1953 International Contest in Detroit but did not compete because the bass moved to Florida.



Vagabonds

Jap Cromer (Bs), Bob Bennett (Br),
Pete Cromer (L), Jack Bennett (T)

The Society held the first official International Chorus Contest in 1954 in Washington, DC. Two choruses represented the Dixie District: The *St. Petersburg Chorus* had won the first Regional Preliminary Contest (held in May 1954) and the *Tobacco Belt Chorus* from the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter was also invited to sing. They were directed by Archer Livengood and finished 22nd with 24 men on stage. It would not be until 1980 that another Carolinas chorus, *General Assembly* from the Research Triangle Park, NC Chapter, competed at an International Chorus Contest.



Tobacco Belt Chorus • Winston-Salem, NC • Archer Livengood, Director

Southern Aristocrats

Greensboro, NC

The ***Southern Aristocrats*** organized in July 1957 and qualified at their first Preliminary Quartet Contest in spring 1958. Over the next ten years, with a few changes in members, the quartet represented the Dixie District at eight International Contests and was the 1963 Dixie District Quartet Champion.



Southern Aristocrats

Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T),
Mac Campbell (Bs), Jack Elkins (Br)

1962 International Contest

Kansas City, MO – 28th Place



Southern Aristocrats

Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T),
Don Moore (Bs), Jack Elkins (Br)

1963 Dixie District Quartet Champion



Southern Aristocrats

Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T),
Jack Elkins (Br), Jim Henderson (Bs)

1958 International Contest

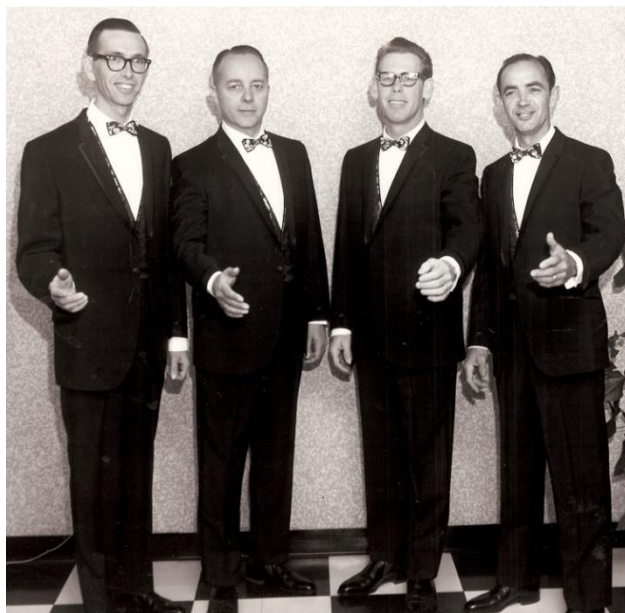
Columbus, OH – 37th Place

1959 International Contest

Chicago, IL – 37th Place

1960 International Contest

Dallas, TX – 29th Place



Southern Aristocrats

Al Connell (T), Baxter Westmoreland (L),
Gil "Red" Sechrest (Br), Don Moore (Bs)

1964 International Contest

San Antonio, TX – 32nd Place

1965 International Contest

Boston, MA – 37th Place

1966 International Contest

Chicago, IL – 20th Place

1967 International Contest

Los Angeles, CA – 25th Place

Dixie Colonels

High-Point-Thomasville, NC

1960 Dixie District Quartet Champion

1961 International Contest

Pittsburgh, PA – 33th Place

The *Dixie Colonels* were formed in May 1957 and by November of that year they had placed high in Dixie District competition. They were runner-ups in the 1958, 1959, and 1960 International Quartet Preliminary Contests. “The Colonels” won the 1960 Dixie District Quartet Championship in the fall 1960. They finally qualified for the 1961 International in Pittsburgh, PA placing 33rd. At this point they were a really good show quartet but decided that competition was not their thing.



Dixie Colonels

Glad Lawson (L), Dave Livengood (Br),
Gil “Red” Sechrest (T), Jerry Livengood (Bs)

Early District Chorus Champions

Although the Dixie District had been holding an International Preliminary Chorus Contest at the fall conventions since 1954, it wasn’t until 1963 a District Chorus Champion Contest was added to the spring convention. Four of the first seven Dixie District Chorus Champions were from the Carolinas.

The *Greensboro Chorus* from Greensboro, NC won the 1964-65 Dixie District Chorus Championship¹. The Greensboro Chapter was chartered in January 1951. The chorus was directed by Baxter Westmoreland who was the lead of *Southern Aristocrats*.



1964-65 Dixie District Chorus Champion

Greensboro Chorus • Greensboro, NC • Directed by Baxter Westmoreland

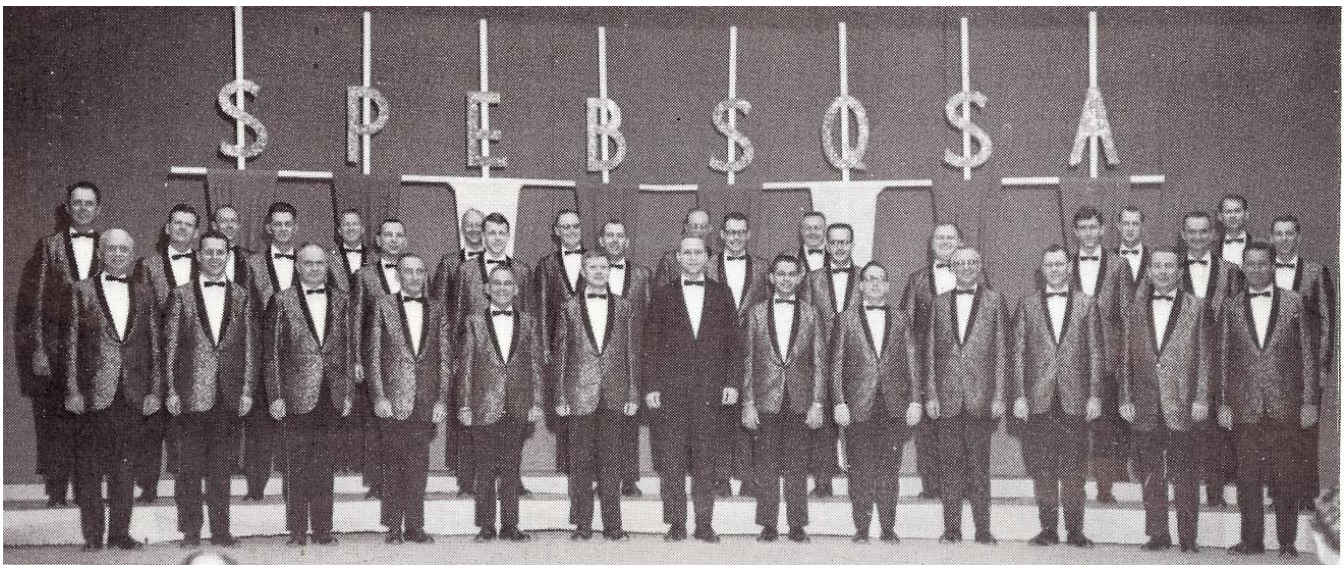
¹ *The Rebel Rouser*, May-Jun 1964, reported that Greensboro, NC won the District Chorus Contest at the 1964 spring convention. Originally Greensboro was designated the 1964-65 Chorus Champion; however, by 1984 the official records of the Dixie District designated Greensboro as the 1965 District Chorus Champion. This same date anomaly also applies to the Marion, NC (1966), Raleigh, NC (1967), Spartanburg, SC (1970), and Raleigh, NC (1975) champions.

The Marion, NC Chapter has chartered in June 1959. Four years and nine months later, the *Marion Barbershop Chorus*, under the direction of Robert Gourley, won the 1965-66 Dixie District Chorus Championship.



1965-66 Dixie District Chorus Champion
Marion Barbershop Chorus • Marion, NC • Directed by Robert Gourley

The Raleigh, NC Chapter was chartered December 1961 with 26 members. Over the next few years the chapter grew under the musical leadership of Paul Conway to the point in 1967 that the chapter had over 80 members and for several years was the largest chapter in the Dixie District. First known as the *Raleigh Chapter Chorus*, they were called the *Capital Harmonaires* when they won the 1966-1967 Dixie District Chorus Championship, only four years and four months after chartering. By 1970 they were known as the *Sir Walter Chorus*.



1966-1967 Dixie District Chorus Champion
Capital Harmonaires • Raleigh, NC • Directed by Paul B. Conway

Kappa-Tones

Raleigh, NC

In the 1960s the North Carolina State Men's Glee club included a barbershop quartet. *The Rebel Rouser*, March-April 1963, reported that "Raleigh Director, Paul Conway, has a new quartet in the fold—they're the ***Capi-Tones*** featuring Walt Richardson, tenor; Al McConnell, lead; Jack Ritterscamp, bari; and Rudy Partin, bass." Indeed, this was the NC State quartet and they joined the Raleigh Chapter and registered in 1963. In 1964 they changed their name to the ***Kappa-Tones*** and with new lead, Mac McCrary, and bari, Richard Austin, were on the fast track. They competed at the fall 1964 contest in Chattanooga, TN (the first quartet to compete from the Raleigh chapter), performed on the Columbia, SC Parade of Quartets in March 1965 (their first parade) and on the Raleigh Parade of Quartets in May 1965. The ***Kappa-Tones*** won the 1965 Dixie District Quartet Championship at the Fall Convention in Mobile, AL taking the honors over 14 quartets. Their average age was 21 and they were still students at NC State. As reported in *The Rebel Rouser*, June-July 1965, "With Rudy's arranging, these lads combine a modern trend with solid old favorites into a distinctive new style."

With a new configuration of the quartet (Rudy Partin moved to bari and Bill Bernhard took over bass), the ***Kappa-Tones*** qualified for the 1970 International Contest placing 17th and the 1972 International Contest placing 25th.



Kappa Tones

Walter Richardson (T), Mac McCrary (L),
Rudy Partin (Bs), Richard Austin (Br)

1965 Dixie District Quartet Champion



Kappa-Tones

Walter Richardson (T), Mac McCrary (L),
Bill Bernhard (Bs), Rudy Partin (Br)

1970 International Contest

Atlantic City, NJ – 17th Place

1972 International Contest

Atlanta, GA – 25th Place

The Spartanburg, SC Chapter was chartered with 42 members in October 1965. In the spring of 1969 they won the Dixie District Chorus Championship. The record from chartering to becoming chorus champions was now three years and four months. Their director, Warren Bowen, also happened to be the Dixie District President 1969-1970.



1969-1970 Dixie District Chorus Champion
Palmetto Statesmen • Spartanburg, SC • Directed by Warren Bowen

Early Time Five ‘N’ Dime
 Greensboro, NC; Raleigh, NC

In 1973 the *Early Time Five ‘N’ Dime*, got serious about competing. The quartet went to Harmony College that summer and then spent several months of intensive rehearsals and performing weekly at the Carowinds Theme Park. All this performing was excellent preparation for the 1973 fall quartet contest where they set several “firsts” when they were crowned the 1973 Dixie District Champion—the first time the quartet had competed, the first time that any member of the quartet had competed, and the first time a Dixie quartet had ever won the championship on its first try.



Early Time Five ‘N’ Dime
 Carl Ballard (T), Bill Fletcher (L),
 Chuck Greene (Bs), Art Collier (Br)

1973 Dixie District Quartet Champion

Ben Denlap took over as lead and they won their second contest, the 1974 spring prelims, to qualify for their third contest, the 1974 International in Kansas City, MO, where they placed 43rd. That has to be a record for only three contests.



Early Time Five ‘N’ Dime
 Carl Ballard (T), Ben Dunlap (L),
 Chuck Greene (Bs), Art Collier (Br)

1974 International Contest
 Kansas City, MO – 43rd Place

The 1974 Spring Convention in Charlotte, NC was a successful one for the Raleigh, NC Chapter. Not only did the *Early Five 'N' Dime* win the right to represent the Dixie District at the 1974 International Contest in Kansas City, MO but the *Sir Walter Chorus* won its second Dixie District Chorus Championship with 46 men on stage. At the time Raleigh was still the largest chapter in the Carolinas and second largest in the Dixie District.



1974-1975 Dixie District Chorus Champion
Sir Walter Chorus • Raleigh, NC, • Directed by Paul B. Conway

Main Street U. S. A.
 Research Triangle Park, NC

1975 Dixie District Champion

1976 International Contest
 San Francisco, CA – 37th

This foursome combined more than fifty years of barbershop experience in presenting an exciting new sound. Lead singer, Walt Richardson and baritone Rudy Partin, were former *Kappa-Tones*. Tenor, Harold Nantz, cut his barbershop teeth with the *Chord of Arms*, and Maitland Brann shared his unique bass with the *Virदानaires*. All four were members of the Research Triangle Park Chapter which was chartered in August 1975. At their first contest in Raleigh, NC in October 1975 *Main Street U.S.A.* won the Dixie District Championship. In March 1976 they won the right to represent the Dixie District in the 1976 International Contest held in San Francisco, CA where they placed 37th.



Main Street U.S.A.
 Harold Nantz (T), Walter Richardson (L),
 Rudy Partin (Br), Maitland Brann (Bs)

Male Order Music Company

From the beginning the *Male Order Music Company* was truly a long distance quartet made up of four singers from multiple cities in two states. It all started with a chance woodshedding event in San Francisco during the International Convention in July 1976. The four were John Whalen, a tenor from Memphis, TN, Daryle Teague, a lead from Nashville, TN, Art Collier, a bari from Nashville, TN, and Chuck Greene, a bass from Asheville, NC. After a couple serious singing sessions in Nashville later that summer they registered as a quartet and placed second in the Dixie District Quartet competition in Nashville, TN in October 1976. They qualified in the spring to represent the Dixie District at the 1977 International Contest in Philadelphia, PA where they placed 31st.



Male Order Music Company

John W. Whalen (T), Daryle Teague (L),
Chuck Greene (Bs), Art Collier (Br)

Asheville, NC; Memphis TN; Nashville, TN

1977 International Contest
Philadelphia, PA – 31st Place



Male Order Music Company

Harold Nantz (T), Daryle Teague (L),
Chuck Greene (Bs), Art Collier (Br)

Research Triangle Park, NC;
Asheville, NC; Nashville, TN

1977 Dixie District Champion

1978 International Contest
Cincinnati, OH – 15th Place

1979 International Contest
Minneapolis, MN – 15th Place

Prior to the 1977 fall contest, Harold Nantz from the Research Triangle Park, NC Chapter joined the quartet as the new tenor. He sang the tenor with the 1975 Dixie District Champion, *Main Street U.S.A.* The quartet went on to qualify for the next two International Contests making the semi-finals both years. They placed 15th in both the 1978 International Contest in Cincinnati, OH and the 1979 International Contest in Minneapolis, MN.

The Eighties - The Carolinas Decade

The 1980s was the Carolinas decade for winning Dixie District Championships and representing the Dixie District at International competitions. Carolina choruses won ten straight Dixie District Championships 1979-1988 and represented the Dixie District at the International Chorus Contests 1980-1989. Carolinas quartets won three Dixie District Championships and four quartets represented the Dixie District at the International Quartet Contest seven of the ten years.

Leading the charge for the choruses was **General Assembly** from the Research Triangle Park, NC Chapter. The chapter was chartered in October 1975 with Rudy Partin as its musical director. They went on to win an impressive seven chorus championships and seven trips to International Contests (1980-82, 1984-86, and 1989) all of which were top ten finishes including a Fifth Place Bronze Medal in 1986. *The Harmonizer*, January-February 2004, described the chorus' impact this way:

Back in the 1980s, before the **Louisville Times** or **Toronto Northern Lights**, a small chorus was succeeding at the international level. The **Research Triangle Park** chorus from North Carolina stunned the barbershop world with a breathtaking series of performances at international always with fewer than 40 singers. In Salt Lake City in 1986, they took down a fifth-place medal with just 33 men, to the enthusiastic acclaim of the crowd.

General Assembly performed with a great freedom and exuberance while using a deeply resonant vocal production to produce a sound startlingly different from the exclusively "pingy" sound in vogue at the time. Under the direction of Rudy Partin, an extraordinarily talented iconoclast if ever there was one, they were the first "little chorus that could" in the modern era. And although their identify morphed after Rudy's departure, their convincing demonstration that quality did not have to stem from quantity paved the way for the current international chorus landscape, where more is not necessarily better.

Rounding out the Dixie District Chorus Champions and International Competitors during the 1980s were:

- **The Auctioneers** from the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter directed by Jim Gay – 1982 Dixie District Champion and 1983 International competitor.
- **Carolina Chord Company** from the Charlotte, NC Chapter directed by Larry Lane – Dixie District Champion in 1986 and 1987 and International competitor in 1987 and 1988.

The three Carolinas District Quartet Champions and International Competitors represented a mini-youth movement. The first quartet was originally known as the **Carpetchaggers**. Mark Connell (T), Brian Gray (L), Ben Atkinson (Br), and Bruce Atkinson (Bs) were all from the Greensboro, NC Chapter. Within two years of forming they qualified for the 1980 International Contest in Salt Lake City placing 44th. They changed their name to **Vocal Impressions** and won the 1980 Dixie District Champion that fall. Mark Connell was the youngest of the group. Brian Gray would become the Greensboro Musical Director for many years. The Atkinson brothers had been singing together for a long time--they are twins born seven minutes apart.



Carpetchaggers / Vocal Impressions

Mark Connell (T) (bottom), Brian Gray (L),
Bruce Atkinson (Bs), Ben Atkinson (Br)

Next up for the quartets was *Blue Ribbon Edition*, a young quartet from the Winston Salem, NC Chapter. Joe, Jon, Brett, & Mike started singing together at a Christmas party in 1979 and liked the sound and blend. In the fall of 1981 they rode the bus along with *The Auctioneers* to the Dixie District Convention in Chattanooga, TN but had not registered and did not intend to compete. When they got off the bus they decided to compete and were allowed to enter the contest. When all the scores were tallied they had placed 4th overall.

In the spring of 1982, “BRE” decided to compete in the International prelims about four weeks before the contest. The guys thought they sang pretty well at the prelims in Raleigh, NC. The judges said they were second place and had qualified for the International Contest in Pittsburgh, PA. Between prelims and the International Contest they worked really hard, performed on a few chapter shows, and received some coaching. They placed 43rd in Pittsburgh. They again qualified for the 1983 International Contest in Seattle, WA. They were more comfortable on the International Contest stage this time around and placed 32nd. All four quartet men also performed with *The Auctioneers* who placed 9th in the Chorus Contest. That fall they went to the Dixie District Convention in Savannah, GA and won the 1983 Dixie District Quartet Championship.

Midnight Express was another young quartet to have quick success. All four had extensive quartet experience and were members of the Charlotte, NC Chapter. They entered the 1983 fall competition with five weeks’ practice having prepared two songs. When the men made the finals, they spent a frantic Saturday learning more music and finished a respectable third. In the spring they qualified for the 1984 International Contest in St. Louis, MO placing 33rd. The quartet went on to compete at the 1985 International Contest in Minneapolis, MN placing 40th; were the 1985 Dixie District Quartet Champion; and competed at the 1987 International Contest in Hartford, CT placing 22nd. All four quartet men were active singers with the *Carolina Chord Company*.

David Lorenz directed the Charlotte, NC Chapter in 1983. Larry Lane took over as chorus director in 1985 and directed the *Carolina Chord Company* to Dixie District Championships in 1986 and 1987 and at International competitions in 1987 and 1988.

The pages that follow are a year-by-year review of the Carolinas choruses and quartets at International Contests during the 1980s.



Blue Ribbon Edition

Joe Doub (T), Brett Prior (Bs),
Jon Vickers (L), Mike Sotiriou (Br)



Midnight Express

Larry Lane (T), Dave Lorenz (L),
Sandy Blackwelder Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)

**1980 International Contest
Salt lake City, UT**

General Assembly

Research Triangle Park, NC

1979 Dixie District Chorus Champion

6th Place with 37 men on stage

Carpetbaggers

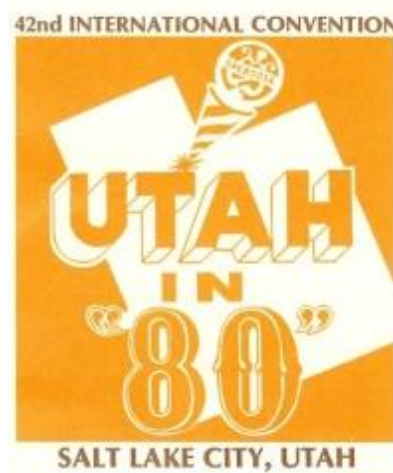
Greensboro, NC

44th Place

Vocal Impressions

Greensboro, NC

1980 Dixie District Chorus Champion



Carpetbaggers / Vocal Impressions

Mark Connell (T), Brian Gray (L),
Bruce Atkinson (Bs), Ben Atkinson (Br)



General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director

**1981 International Contest
Detroit, MI**

General Assembly

Research Triangle Park, NC

1980 Dixie District Chorus Champion

7th Place with 37 men on stage



General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director

**1982 International Contest
Pittsburgh, PA**

General Assembly

Research Triangle Park, NC

1981 Dixie District Chorus Champion
9th Place with 41 men on stage

Blue Ribbon Edition

Winston-Salem, NC
43rd Place



Blue Ribbon Edition

Joe Doub (T), Jon Vickers (L),
Brett Pryor (Bs), Mike Sotiriou (Br)



General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director

**1983 International Contest
Seattle, WA**

The Auctioneers

Winston-Salem, NC

1982 Dixie District Chorus Champion
9th Place with 74 men on stage

Blue Ribbon Edition

Winston-Salem, NC

1983 Dixie District Quartet Champion
32nd Place



Blue Ribbon Edition

Brett Pryor (Bs), Jon Vickers (L),
Joe Doub (T), Mike Sotiriou (Br)



The Auctioneers • Winston-Salem, NC • Jim Gay, Director

**1984 International Contest
St. Louis, MO**

General Assembly

Research Triangle Park, NC

1983 Dixie District Chorus Champion
6th Place with 46 men on stage

Midnight Express

Charlotte, NC
33rd Place



Midnight Express

Larry Lane (T), David Lorenz (L)
Sandy Blackwelder (Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)



General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director

**1985 International Contest
Minneapolis, MN**

General Assembly

Research Triangle Park, NC

1984 Dixie District Chorus Champion

6th Place with 59 men on stage

Midnight Express

Charlotte, NC

1985 Dixie District Quartet Champion

40th Place

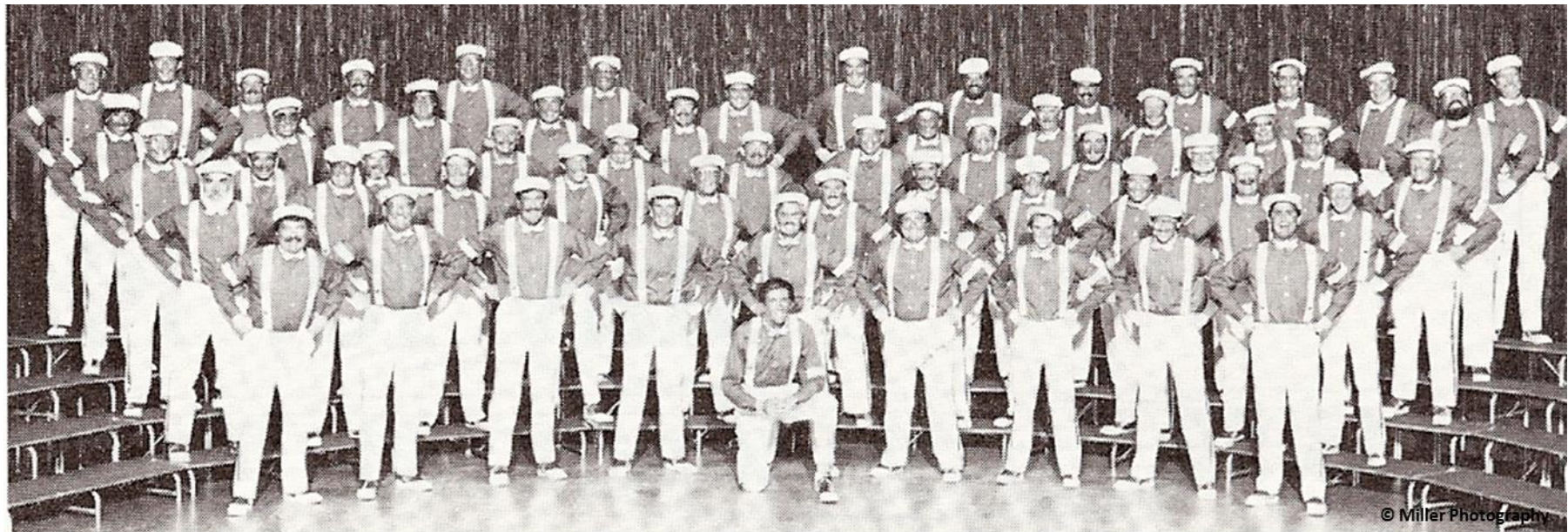


TWIN CITIES, MINNESOTA AREA



Midnight Express

Larry Lane (T), David Lorenz (L),
Sandy Blackwelder (Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)



General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director

**1986 International Contest
Salt Lake City, UT**

General Assembly

Research Triangle Park, NC

1985 Dixie District Chorus Champion

5th Place Bronze Medal

with 51 men on stage

Match Point

Asheville, NC

45th Place



Match Point

Bob Eubanks (Br), Chuck Greene (Bs),
Scott Hughes (L), Ed Scruggs (T)



Fifth Place Bronze Medalist

General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director

**1987 International Contest
Hartford, CT**

Carolina Chord Company

Charlotte, NC

**1986 Dixie District Chorus Champion
11th Place with 62 men on stage**

Midnight Express

Charlotte, NC
22nd Place



Midnight Express

Larry Lane (T), David Lorenz (L),
Sandy Blackwelder (Bs), Jeff Osborne (Br)



Carolina Chord Company • Charlotte, NC • Larry Lane, Director

1988 International Contest San Antonio, TX



Carolina Chord Company • Charlotte, NC • Larry Lane, Director
1987 Dixie District Chorus Champion • 16th Place with 58 men on stage

1989 International Contest Kansas City, MO



General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Rudy Partin, Director
1988 Dixie District Chorus Champions • 11th Place with 51 men on stage

**1991 International Contest
Louisville, KY**

Crackerjacks

Research Triangle Park, NC; Frank Thorne
19th Place



Crackerjacks

Chris Slacke (Br), Greg Zinke (Bs),
Larry Reinhart (L), Steve Tremper (T)

Four experienced quartet men, two of which had recently moved from “up north,” got together around January 1991 and formed the *Crackerjacks* to compete in the spring prelims contest in Knoxville, TN. When the results were announced, Dixie had qualified a record **five** quartets that year, including FRED...but the Crackerjacks had outscored everyone, and they were ecstatic! At the 1991 International Contest their first set went really well and they were shocked (but excited) to learn they made the top 20 their first time out, finishing 19th.

**1992 International Contest
New Orleans, LA**

New Attitude

Charlotte, NC
51st Place



New Attitude

Larry Lane (L), Ted Leinbach (Bs),
Steve Stricker (T), David Lorenz (Br)

International Collegiate Quartet Contest

The first MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest was held at the 1992 International Convention in New Orleans, LA. Fourteen college quartets from across The Society competed including the *Blue Ridge Blenders* from Appalachian State University, located in Boone, NC. Medals were awarded for 1st through 5th place and all other quartets were tied for 6th Place. The *Blue Ridge Blenders* placed 6th.



Carolinas collegiate quartets would represent the Dixie District at 13 of the first 17 International Collegiate Quartet Contests. Eight quartets from Appalachian State University went on to compete in 11 International Collegiate Contests—an impressive accomplishment, the more so considering that it included three Collegiate Quartet Medalists. Songs sung in the barbershop style were a part of the Appalachian State University Men's Glee Club repertoire and for several years the last stop on their Spring Break Tour was to be the mic testers at the Dixie District Spring Chorus Contest.

1992 International Contest New Orleans, LA

Blue Ridge Blenders
Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet – 6th Place



Blue Ridge Blenders
Joe Buckner (T), Robert Harrison (L),
Brian Lang (Bs), Greg Johnson (Br)

1993 International Contest Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Limestone Tonez
Limestone College, SC
Collegiate Quartet – Unknown Place



Limestone Tonez
Donnie Brown (T), Jonathon Moss (L),
Tony Warren (Br), Joe Jones (Bs)

**1993 International Contest
Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

Senior Style

NC School of Science and Mathematics
Durham, NC
Collegiate Quartet – Mic Tester

Brian Liebnow, the lead, was not able to attend the convention so the quartet recruited a substitute for the mic test—Joe Connelly, two-time Gold Medalist.



Senior Style

Jody Cummings (T), Joe Connelly (L),
Chris McCrone (Bs), Robby Rose (Br)

**1995 International Contest
Miami, FL**

Flapjacks

University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Collegiate Quartet – Unknown Place



Flapjacks

Tim Huck (T), Kevin Lindley (L),
Eric Lindley (Br), Danny Manning (Bs)

**1996 International Contest
Salt Lake City, UT**

What's Yer Pleasure?

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet – 10th Place



What's Yer Pleasure?

Ben Edwards (T), Josh Day (L),
Rob Carrington (Br), Jeremy Remley (Bs)

International Seniors Quartet Contest

The first International Seniors Quartet Contest was held in 1986. In previous years all International quartet and choruses contests were held at the International Convention held in July. International Mid-Winter Conventions are held in January and included administrative activities but also featured Friday and Saturday Night shows with the quartet medalists from the previous International Contest.

The Society decided to add a Seniors Quartet Contest at the Midwinter Convention and the inaugural contest was held in Tucson, AZ, January 25, 1986. To qualify for the Seniors Quartet Contest each quartet member had to be at least 55 years old and the quartet member ages must total 240 years or more by the date of the next International Seniors Quartet Contest. And of course that meant that each district had to hold Seniors Quartet Contests and select District Seniors Quartet Champions.

It took several years for the Carolinas to get in the groove for seniors quartet competition, but once they did they had an impressive record. Over the 12-year period starting in 1997 the Carolinas produced eight Dixie District Seniors Champions and eleven International Seniors Quartet qualifiers.

Never Home Four

Research Triangle Park, NC

1997 Mid-Winter International Contest
Sacramento, CA – Seniors Quartet – 15th Place

1997 Dixie District Seniors Quartet Champion

1998 Mid-Winter International Contest
Tampa, FL – Seniors Quartet – 15th Place

1999 Mid-Winter International Contest
Biloxi, MS – Seniors Quartet – 21st Place



Never Home Four

Bill McFadden (T), Dick Smith (L),
Bob Dickson (Bs), Archie Sheen (Br)

Four guys from the Research Triangle Park, NC Chapter started singing together in a Singing Valentines quartet in 1995. They registered as the *Never Home Four* and went on to set an impressive standard for Carolinas seniors quartets with the 1997 District Seniors Quartet Championship and competing in three International Contests.

1997 International Contest Indianapolis, IN

Chorder Boys

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet – Unknown Place



Chorder Boys

Scott Liner (T), Nathan Mountjoy (L),
Rob Beers (Br), Eric Kesler (Bs)

**1998 International Contest
Atlanta, GA**

Road Show

Asheville, NC; Knox County Metro, TN
29th Place



Road Show

Bob Eubanks (Br), Mike Tipton (L),
Chuck Greene (Bs), Jack Donaldson (T)

**1998 International Contest
Atlanta, GA**

General Assembly

Research Triangle Park, NC - Mic Testers



General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Chris Slacke, Director

**1999 International Contest
Anaheim, CA**

4 Point 0

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet – 6th Place



4 Point 0

Barak Cline (Br), Jonathan Maness (Bs),
Rob Jordan (L), Trevor Way (T)

Chord Street Station

Winston-Salem, NC

2000 Dixie District Seniors Champion



Chord Street Station

Joe Mountjoy (T), Al Braye (L),
Bill Rehrendt (Bs), Dick Franklin (Br)

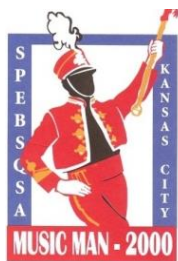
**2000 International Contest
Kansas City, Mo**

Low Down Sound

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet

Second Place Silver Medalist

2000 Dixie District Collegiate Champion



Low Down Sound

Josh Day (T), Jonathon Maness (Bs),
Rob Jordan (L), Jason Remley (Br)

**2001 International Contest
Nashville, TN**

Low Down Sound

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet

Third Place Bronze Medalist



Low Down Sound

Josh Day (T), Rob Jordan (L),
Jonathon Maness (Bs), Jason Remley (Br)

Crescendo

Winston-Salem, NC

2001 Dixie District Quartet Champion



Crescendo

Matt Troy (T), Mark Chandler (L),
Tom Parker (Bs), Jim Nappier (Br)

Joint Venture

Research Triangle Park, NC

John Adams and Mike Myers transferred into the Research Triangle Park, NC Chapter in August 1999. They had known each other from previous quartet activities on shows in the eastern seaboard area. John had won a Seniors Quartet Gold Medal as the tenor of ***Reminisce*** in 1995. They joined with Dick Dee and Gene Martin during the summer of 2000 to form ***Joint Venture*** and went on to win the 2001 Dixie District Seniors Championship and compete at the 2002 International Contest. Alan Durick (baritone of ***Reminisce***) joined the quartet and they competed at the 2003 and 2004 International Seniors Quartet Contests.



Joint Venture

John Adams (T), Mike Myers (L),
Gene Martin (Bs), Dick Dee (Br)

2001 Dixie District Seniors Quartet Champion

2002 Mid-Winter International Contest
Riverside, CA – Seniors Quartet 20th place



Joint Venture

John Adams (T), Mike Myers (L),
Gene Martin (Bs), Alan Durick (Br)

2003 Mid-Winter International Contest
Albuquerque, NM – Seniors Quartet 20th place

2004 Mid-Winter International Contest
Biloxi, MS – Seniors Quartet 17th place



2001 Dixie District Chorus Champion

General Assembly • Research Triangle Park, NC • Robert Cox, Director

**2002 International Contest
Portland, OR**

Overture

Greater Knoxville, TN; Asheville, NC
17th Place



Overture

Jack Donaldson (T), Tom Crook (L),
Bob Eubanks (Bs), Mike Tipton (Br)

**2002 International Contest
Portland, OR**

King Street Blues

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet
Fifth Place Bronze Medalist

2002 Dixie District Collegiate Champion



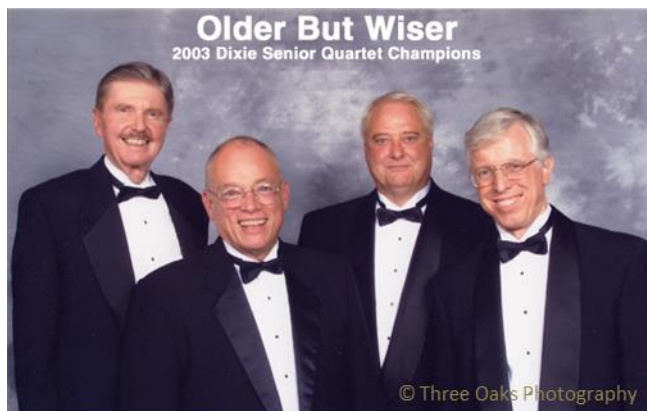
King Street Blues

Trevor Way (T), Jonathon Maness (Bs),
Rob Jordan (L), Barak Cline (Br)

Older But Wiser

Rocky Mount, NC; Research Triangle Park, NC

2003 Dixie District Seniors Champion



Older But Wiser

Charlie McCann (T), Dave Collins (Bs),
Charlie Rose (L), Larry Triplett (Br)

Out of Nowhere

East Wake High School
Wendell, NC

2005 Dixie District Collegiate Champion

Out of Nowhere

Landon Sutton (T), Gary Harwell (L),
Jon Haas (Br), Jason Wells (Bs)

**2003 International Contest
Montreal, Canada**

King Street Blues

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate – 16th place



King Street Blues

John Watson (T), Trevor Way (L),
Barak Cline (Br), Nathan Osborne (Bs)

**2004 International Contest
Louisville, KY**

Overture

Greater Knoxville, TN; Asheville, NC
15th Place



Overture

Mark Beeler (T), Tom Crook (L),
Bob Eubanks (Bs), Mike Tipton (Br)

**2004 International Contest
Louisville, KY**

Genesis

Greensboro, NC; Winston-Salem, NC;
Frank Thorne
34th Place



Genesis

Chris Slacke (Br), Mark Chandler (L),
Gregory Zinke (Bs), Mathew Troy (T)

Daytime

Spartanburg, SC

2005 Dixie District Seniors Champion

Qualified for the
2005 Mid-Winter International Contest
in Jacksonville, FL but were not able to compete



Daytime

Steve Pace (T) Ted Pociеча (L),
John Witmer (Bs), Grant Libramento (Br)

Relative Pitch

Appalachian State University, NC

2005 Dixie District Collegiate Champion



Relative Pitch

Nathan Osborne (Bs), Bryan Newland (Br),
Mathew McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L)

**2006 International Contest
Indianapolis, IN**

Relative Pitch

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet – 11th Place



Relative Pitch

Mathew McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L),
Nathan Osborne (Bs), Harrison Bumgardner (Br)



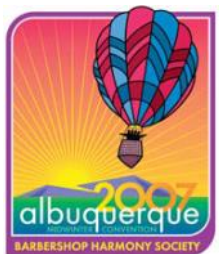
2006 Dixie District Chorus Champion

The Rocky Mount Chorus • Rocky Mount, NC • Jay Giallombardo, Director

**2007 Mid-Winter International Contest
Albuquerque, NM**

Still Standing

Charlotte, NC
Seniors Quartet – 26th Place



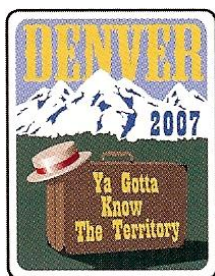
Still Standing

Alan Sundling (T), Chuck Villier (L),
Wally Cluett (Br), Dick Kruse (Bs)

**2007 International Contest
Denver, CO**

Relative Pitch

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet – 12th Place



Relative Pitch

Matt McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L),
Nathan Osborne (Bs), Harrison Bumgardner (Br)

Village Green

Rocky Mount, NC; Research Triangle Park, NC;
Winston-Salem, NC; Alexandria, VA

2007 Dixie District Seniors Champion

**2008 Mid-Winter International Contest
San Antonio, TX**
Seniors Quartet – 11th Place



Village Green

Alan Kousen (T), Charles Rose (L),
Jon Vickers (Bs), Jim Nappier (Br)

**2008 International Contest
Nashville, TN**

High Country Post

Appalachian State University, NC
Collegiate Quartet – 13th Place

2008 Dixie District Collegiate Champion



High Country Post

Matt McNeely (T), Frankie Lancaster (L),
Nathan Osborne (Bs), Harrison Bumgardner (Br)

Archives

Research Triangle Park, NC

2008 Dixie District Seniors Champion



Archives

Curtis Russell (T), Larry Triplett (L),
Gene Martin (Bs), Roy Gurney (Br)

**2009 Mid-Winter International Contest
Pasadena, CA**

Village Green

Rocky Mount, NC; Research Triangle Park, NC;
Winston-Salem, NC
Seniors Quartet – 7th Place



Village Green

Jim Nappier (Br), Charles Rose (L),
Jon Vickers (Bs), Ted Leinhart (T)

Let's Sing!

Research Triangle Park, NC; Greensboro, NC;
Winston-Salem, NC

**2009 International Contest
Anaheim, CA
42nd Place**



**2009 Dixie District
Quartet Champion**

**2010 International Contest
Philadelphia, PA
48th Place**



Let's Sing!

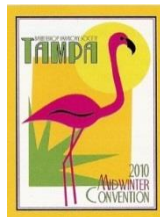
Steve Tremper (T), Mark Chandler (L),
Greg Zinke (Bs), Joe Doub (Br)

BLackJack

Wilmington and Research Triangle Park, NC

2009 Dixie District Seniors Champion

**2010 Mid-Winter International Contest
Tampa, FL
Seniors Quartet – 23rd Place**



BlackJack

Jim Nappier (Br), Bryson Ley (Bs),
Larry Reinhart (L), Kirk Benning (T)