

Quartets

The legal name for the Barbershop Harmony Society is still *The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop **Quartet** Singing in America, Incorporated (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.)*. Indeed, it is our “quartets” and the men who sing in them that are the backbone of the Society.

The following pages contain available information, names, and photos for those quartets that were registered at some point during 2013. A total of 20 new registered quartets are shown in **bold** type.

1/2 Ton Pickup

2#2Bb

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LAUGH OUT LOUD

Let's Sing!

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Still Standing

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The Skinny

Three Sharps and a Flat

Tucker Street

Turn of the Century

Village Green

Vintage Four

WHAMMY!

You Kids Get Off My Lawn!

Zero Hour

1/2 Ton Pickup

Lexington County, SC; Savannah, GA;
Sunrise, FL, Terre Haute, IN



2012 District Quartet Champion

Will Rodriguez (T), Jeremy Conover (L), Dan Walz (Bs), Andy Miller (Br)

In September of 2011, **four** friends found that they were going to be in the same place, at the same time...Florence, SC for the Carolina District Convention. Preferring to participate over just sitting and watching, they contacted a 4th, formed a quartet, and met in Florence to put together four songs...only to come in second by only 1 point! Quickly developing a reputation for a big sound and entertaining delivery, **1/2-Ton Pickup** is excited to sing for you this evening and is looking forward to meeting you at your next chapter show. The quartet can be reached at (912) 596-8123 or at bowbarbershopper@hotmail.com.

Will Rodriguez, (Tenor): Residing in Miami, FL, Will is an active barbershopper and leader with the International Youth Chorus Champions, **HD**, and is an International Collegiate Silver Medalist with **Spanglish**. Will is working on his General Contractor and Insurance License in the State of Florida.

Jeremy Conover, (Lead): Jeremy is a BHS Certified Singing Judge and has been the Music Director for 13th Colony Sound since 2009. Jeremy began his barbershopping career in 1997 with **The Banks of the Wabash Chorus** in Terre Haute, IN. Jeremy has 4 District Quartet Championships (2002, 2006 and 2010, 2012) and is a founding member and the Architect behind Innovative Sound of the 2012 International 3rd Place Medalist Chorus, **The Kentucky Vocal Union**. www.kyvocalunion.org.

Andy Miller, (Baritone): Andy hails from Terre Haute, IN where he began singing barbershop with his college roommate, Jeremy in **The Banks of the Wabash Chorus**. Andy's also know for entertaining Cardinal District Quartets in the entertaining quartet **BigTime!** On top of all that, Andy sings Lead and sports an International Medal with **The Kentucky Vocal Union**. www.kyvocalunion.org.

2#2Bb

Edenton



Jeff Knox (L), John Caveney (T), Ronnie Rountree (Br), Gil Burroughs (Bs)

The current 2#2Bb has been together since 2006, however two of its members, Ronnie Rountree and Gil Burroughs, have been singing together in quartets since 1994 under five different names and four different casts. 2#2Bb made its first appearance in competition at the 2013 Fall District Convention. Jeff, who happens to be Gil's son-in-law, joined the group as lead in 2003 and is the only native Edentonian in the quartet. John came on board in 2006 as tenor and hails from Long Island, NY. Ronnie, like Gil, was born in North Carolina and both have lived in Edenton for four to five decades but that doesn't qualify one as being a native Edentonian in Historic Edenton. Gil is the only one with barbershop experience prior to joining the group having sung with the Winston-Salem chapter while a student at Wake Forest College in the mid 50's, the Rocket City chapter in Huntsville AL during the late 50's, and the Arlingtones in Arlington, VA during the 60's. Both Ronnie and Gil are founding members of the Edenton chapter, Gil being the founding director as well.

Acappella Fellas

Hickory, Frank Thorne



Arden Hintzmann (T), Dennis Kimbleton (L), Bob Johns, (Bs), Don Lang (Br)

Acappella Fellas barbershop quartet has been entertaining Hickory area audiences since 1994. There have been several personnel changes, however they were with men dedicated to continuing the reputation of excellent family oriented entertainment.

Dennis Kimbleton joined the “Fellas” in 1998 singing Baritone. He switched to Lead a few years later. Dennis is an emergency physician and lives in Granite Falls.

Don Lang has been singing Baritone with the “Fellas” since 2003. He also directs the Carolina Moonlighters and has an extensive record of service to the Barbershop Harmony Society as contest judge and District Officer. Don is a retired consultant and makes his home in Hickory.

Arden Hintzmann sings Tenor. He joined the Acappella Fellas in 2007. Prior to moving from Florida, he sang with Just Four Tonight Quartet of West Palm Beach, Florida. Arden is a retired auditor and loan administrator and moved to Hickory in 2004.

Bob Johns is our bass. Bob began barbershop in Arkansas (of all places). He is an original member of Antics, a member of the Carolina Moonlighters and sings with three Harmony Brigade organizations (North Carolina, Great Lakes and Atlantic). Other credits include a background in choral singing, major roles in musical productions (most recently in the Green Room’s “Music Man production”). Bob retired from the steel industry and currently lives in Granite Falls.

They enjoy performing for Barbershop Shows, community events and various family affairs.

Aimless

Sunrise, FL; Frank Throne, NC



Israel Keefer (T), Travis Murray (L), Amos Velez (Bs), Alex Rubin (Br)

Aire

Asheville



2012 Carolinas District Novice Quartet Champion

Kevin Kehres (Br), Wayne Rumble (L), Kier Klepzig (Bs), Justin Slack (T)

Where there's air, there's life. Where there's Aire, there's harmony.

Aire, a quartet culled from the ranks of Asheville's Land of the Sky Chorus, blends four unique voices in the distinctive style of barbershop harmony.

Lead Wayne Rumble is a baby barbershopper, having been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for just over two years. However, he's an experienced church soloist, as well as the dedicated father of two young girls.

Tenor Justin Slack is a veteran of community theater where he has performed and served as musical director in several musicals -- most recently "The Putnam County Spelling Bee" at the Hart Theater in Waynesville, NC.

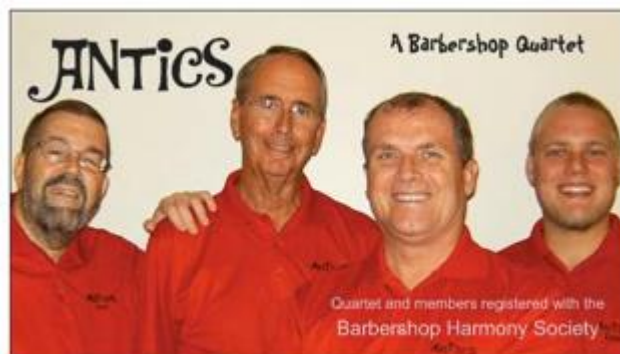
Bass Kier Klepzig works for the US Forest Service by day, and with his wife Lisa is a master chocolatier by night. Kier also plays guitar and sings for his church.

Baritone Kevin Kehres is the grizzled veteran of the group, having performed as far away as St. Petersburg, Russia with Manhattan's Big Apple Chorus, and as a member of the popular Manhattan-based quartet Yes Indeed.

Aire has already gained a reputation as the hardest-working quartet in western North Carolina. It has sung for tips at a local farmer's market, on street corners just for giggles, and at hotels, restaurants and just about everywhere else four guys can break loose in song without being arrested.

Antics

Hickory, Frank Thorne



Don Lang (Br), Robert Johns (Bs) Ed Walk (L), Isaac Stewart (T)

Don Lang is our baritone extraordinaire. has been in barbershop “forever.” His major credits include former barbershop and choral director, barbershop music arranger, and former President the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Don has sung tenor and baritone in several quartets. He retired from the computer industry and currently lives in Hickory. A member of the Carolina Moonlighters, Don also sings in another quartet, Acappella Fellas.

Bob Johns is our bass. Bob began barbershop in Arkansas (of all places). He is an original member of Antics, a member of the Carolina Moonlighters and sings with three Harmony Brigade organizations (North Carolina, Great Lakes and Atlantic). Other credits include a background in choral singing, major roles in musical productions (most recently in the Green Room’s “Music Man production). Bob retired from the steel industry and currently lives in Granite Falls.

Ed Walk is our lead (he gets to sing the melody most of the time....). Ed’s barbershop career started in high school and after a fairly long layoff from barbershop he resumed this great hobby with the RTP chorus in Raleigh. Ed also sings with the Carolina Moonlighters and Charlotte’s Gold Standard Chorus. You may have seen Ed as a quartet member in “The Music Man” along with Bob. Ed is an IT manager working in Charlotte but living in Newton.

Isaac Stewart is “new” to barbershop as “Antics” is his first barbershop quartet. He is our tenor and what a great addition he is. The ability to sing those high notes is indeed a gift. He is an accomplished wind and string instrument musician, has an extensive background in choral singing and even had a brief encounter with opera. Isaac is an educator teaching science at Alexander Central. He lives in Conover.

Bar None

Charlotte, Winston-Salem

Bar None Quartet

Simply the Best - Bar None!



Jeffrey Meekins (T), Walter Miles (L), Ted Leinbach (Bs), Steve Shoaf (Br)

BAR NONE Barbershop Quartet has enjoyed a reputation for providing great entertainment throughout the Carolinas for more than a decade! They are a sure crowd pleaser with an extensive repertoire. The quartet members can boast of a combined total of over 80 years of a cappella Barbershop quartet, chorus and musical experience. The quartet tailors its performance for just about any type of gathering - banquets, weddings, church groups, corporate events, private parties - you name it!

Jeffrey Meekins (tenor) hails from Charlotte, North Carolina, and is an expert in supply chain operations. Jeffrey is very low maintenance because he can subsist on twigs, berries and a few raisins. As a tenor, Jeffrey can hit those notes that can crack cubic zirconia (he's frugal, you see).

Wally Miles (lead) lives in Mooresville, North Carolina, the barbershop capital of the universe (or at least the Bar None universe) and is a sales rep by profession. What does Wally sell... uh, what would you like to buy? Wally's vocal range is astounding, and his velvety voice has been known to melt women away -- we're talking from solid to liquid in less than 4 minutes.

Ted Leinbach (bass) lives in Winston-Salem and works as an exciting accountant during the day. Isn't "exciting accountant" an oxymoron? Ted is the "manners" of Bar None -- no other member of the quartet really has any to speak of. His smooth bass voice is the foundation of the quartet.

Steve Shoaf (baritone) also lives in Mooresville, North Carolina and is a marketing guru for IBM. Steve is a very accomplished musician playing keyboard and singing in several bands. In Bar None though, Steve sings the Rodney Dangerfield of barbershop quartet parts--baritones never get any respect.

Bay Street Boys

Savannah Arts Academy,
Savannah College of Art & Design,
Georgia Southern University



Colin Harrison (Bs), Adam Afifi (Br), Drew Whitlow (L), David Hopkins (T)

Beach Music

Wilmington



Richard Millard (T), Louis Leiner (Bs), Andre Brillaud (L), Kent Atkins (Br)

Beach Music barbershop quartet was established in 1999 and has been a registered quartet for over 10 years. They are very active in the Wilmington, NC area being members of The Cape Fear Chordsmen and sing for various groups over 40 times a year during that period. They have been in the movies and have appeared many times on TV and on the radio in addition to their regular private gigs. Beach Music has appeared a number of times in the Harmonizer as an active and unusual quartet. They have been named as “the” barbershop quartet in residence on the battleship North Carolina, among other awards.

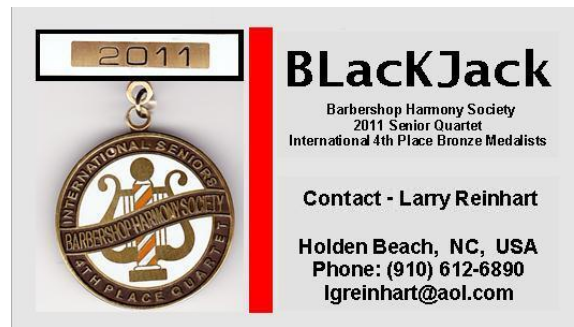
The initial members who are now retired were: David Parker, singing Bass. David had retired from Beach Music in 2007 and was the CEO of the Hatteras Yatch Company. Dr. Thomas Head, singing Baritone. Tom is a prominent retired dentist in the Wilmington, NC area and retired from Beach Music in 2009. Both David and Tom retired due to changes of family responsibilities

The present members are:

- Richard Millard, singing Tenor. Richard is the active owner and president of a computer technology organization and is one of the two original members of the quartet.
- Louis Leiner, singing Bass. Lou is a retiree employee of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW) having extensive experience in Engineering and has been singing Bass since 2007.
- Kent Atkins, singing Baritone. He was Director of pharmacy at Hadley Medical Center in Hays, Kansas and staff pharmacist in a major hospital in Topeka, Kansas".
- Dr. Andre Brillaud, singing Lead. Andre is a retired research oncologist who is the other original member and is retired from Bristol Myers Pharmaceutical Co.

BLacKJack

Wilmington



2011 International Fourth Place Medalist

Duane Henry (Br), Larry Reinhart (L),
Bryson Ley (Bs), Kirk Binning (T)



2011 District Seniors Champion

Larry Reinhart (L), Jim Benson (Br),
Bryson Ley (Bs), Kirk Binning (T)

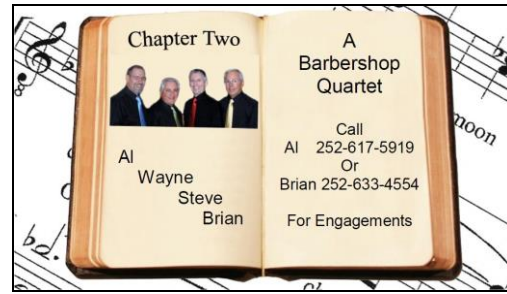
BLacKJack consists of Kirk Binning, from Surf City - Tenor; Larry Reinhart, from Holden Beach - Lead; Jim Benson, from Wilmington - Baritone; and Bryson Ley, also from Wilmington, Bass. Kirk is retired from the navy. The other three all work in Wilmington. Larry is a healthcare executive. Jim is a partner with an engineering firm, and Bryson is Physician and partner with a major medical practice.

The four current members made up the BLacKJack configuration when they won the Carolina District Senior Quartet title in Oct. 2011. BLacKJack won the Senior International Quartet 4th place medal in January 2011, with Duane Henry from Indianapolis on Baritone. Uniquely, BLacKJack also owns a Sr. Quartet District title from the Dixie District. They won in 2009 with Jim Nappier on baritone.

Our four members of BLacKJack are active with the "Cape Fear Chordsmen" - the Wilmington NC Barbershop chapter.

Chapter Two

New Bern



Brian Giersch (Br), Steve Robb (Bs), Wayne Massetti (L), Al Brylowe (T)

The Tenor (Al Brylowe) and Bari (Brian Giersch) has been singing together in quartets for eleven years. Wayne Massetti joined the quartet six years ago when a major configuration occurred. It was his suggestion, that with new quartet members, we were ‘turning a new page’...ergo “Chapter Two”. Steve Robb, our Bass, is the newest member. In this configuration, Chapter Two has been entertaining New Bern audiences for three years.

We only competed in this configuration one time...at the first District Competition in Myrtle Beach... (*Aint' Misbehavin', What a Wonderful World*). We have missed the subsequent competitions as they fall on the same day our ‘still employed’ Bass has annual inventory for an internationally recognized company.

Al Brylowe – Tenor: hails from Connecticut, retired from a power company, active in his church, has grandchildren in Pittsburgh, current President of our Chapter.

Wayne Massetti – Lead: hails from Pennsylvania, semi retired, but still works part time as a pharmacist, volunteers his professional skills at MERCI clinic, active fisherman and gourmet cook, has grandchildren in North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.

Brian Giersch – Bari: hails from Maryland, very active in his community and our chapter; enjoys sailboat racing & cruising, constantly landscaping, has grandchildren in Penna.

Steve Robb – Bass: hails from Kentucky, alumnus of NC State!!, employed as an engineer at Moen in New Bern, VERY active in the New Bern thespian community and loves karaoke, volleyball, and tennis.

Chord On Blue

Central Carolina,
Research Triangle Park, NC



George Cherny (T), Warren Fuson (Bs), Lonnie Spurlin (L), Larry Triplett (Br)

Chord on Blue (George Cherny – T, Lonnie Spurlin – L, Larry Triplett – b & Warren Fuson – B) was formed in February 2012 with the expressed purpose of competing in the Spring convention, then going on to compete as Seniors in the Fall competition. With only six weeks from formation to competing in the spring, we were pleased and encouraged with our results and looked forward to intense work on our quality and much improved scores in the Fall.

Alas, our Lead, took a contract position out of town in late spring and we were unable to rehearse for 12 weeks. He then developed back problems which kept us from rehearsing more than once every 3-4 weeks. Our resulting scores in the Fall contest reflected this. Our lead eventually needed surgery to correct his back and we decided to not continue due our difficulties finding time to rehearse with our busy schedules.

CLASS

Greensboro



John Long (Br), Carl Stock (T)-seated, Doug Susong (L), Joe Carrigan (Bs)

CLASS formed in the Summer of 2011. Our name is composed of the first letters of our last names: Joe Carrigan, John Long, And Carl Strock, Doug Susong. Joe, John, and Carl have sung together with another quartet, so when Doug came to the Chorus a few short years ago, the wheels started spinning.

We have competed in the last two Fall District Contests. Our improvement in just one year is encouraging, as were the judges' comments. At this rate, Top Ten is in our near future.

Currently, we are involved solely with the Chorus, singing on the Annual Show and at sing outs. We are now in the position to accept gigs and begin performing on our own, gaining experience and petty cash.

Collage

Spartanburg



David Lybrand (Bs), Billy Oates (Br), Ken Maes (L), Martin Hill (T)

Collage became a registered quartet in 1996. The original members were Ted Pociecha (BS), Grant Libramento (BR), Martin Hill (TR) and myself Ken Maes (L). Over the years we have changed our bass and baritone. When the Carolinas District was created Rich Lee was our baritone and David Lybrand was singing bass. Today David Lybrand is our bass and Billy Oates is our baritone. Martin Hill is still tenor and Ken Maes the lead.

Martin Hill - 19 year member of BHS, a member of Collage for 17 years and lives in Duncan, SC.

David Lybrand - 14 year member of BHS, a member of Collage for 4 years and lives in Spartanburg, SC.

Billy Oates - 4 year member of BHS, a member of Collage for 4 year and lives in Easley, SC.

Ken Maes - 27 year member of BHS, a member of Collage for 17 years and lives in Simpsonville, SC.

Crystal Clear Harmony

Jacksonville



Johnny Thompson (Bs), Ricky Gause (Br), Sandy Sandridge (L), Merwin Mashburn (T)

Our quartet started about 10 years ago with all but one of our present members. Our bass Kenny Pittman passed away about 5 or 6 years ago, so we asked Johnny Thompson to be our new bass. We sing gospel as well as the old songs at nursing homes, churches or where ever we may be asked to sing. Merwin is our tenor and the oldest member at 81 years of age Johnny is our youngest at 45 years. Ricky is our baritone and I'm the lead. We've all been singing most of our lives, hope to sing till we die.

Doppler Effect

Research Triangle Park



Craig Ferri (Br), Bob Cluett (Bs), Lee Horton (L), Paul Martin (T)

Get Blown Away with Doppler Effect!

No, it really doesn't have anything to do with radar, or the weather. But they will blow you away.

Doppler Effect is an acapella quartet whose specialty is a chord-ringing barbershop style. The technique amplifies the sound naturally so the whole is more than the sum of the parts. The results are truly amazing.

Those parts are Bob Cluett (bass), Craig Ferri (lead, baritone), Lee Horton (lead, baritone) and Paul Martin (tenor). The first three guys live in Wake Forest, Paul in North Raleigh. They all have real 'day jobs', but get together once or twice a week to rehearse or perform. They all are members of the General Assembly Chorus and also participate in various gospel and choir groups.

They appear in shows, charity events, competitions and private performances. For example, they enchanted their Raleigh audience with their renditions of "Mary Did You Know" and "Silver Bells" at Meymandi Concert Hall on the General Assembly holiday show and delighted both children and adults at the Chapel Hill Ronald McDonald House as a Valentine treat. You might also see them at Rex Hospital entertaining patients or hear them on WKNC 88.1 FM.

Easy Livin'

Winston-Salem, Greensboro



Fred Conrad (T), David Williams (L), Glenn Ogden (Bs), Mark Thompson (Br)

With over 70 years of Barbershop singing experience between them, the members of Easy Livin' love the special close harmonies of this style of a cappella singing. All dedicated members of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Fred Conrad (tenor), Dave Williams (lead), Mark Thompson (baritone) and Glenn Ogden (bass) sing with the Triad Harmony Express chorus in Winston Salem. Glenn also sings with the Greensboro Tarheel Chorus.

The formation of Easy Livin' was really no different than that of most barbershop quartets. In 2007 Mark Thompson and Larry "Hap" Goudy, singing together with the Triad Harmony Express, started talking about forming a quartet. Recruiting Kent Daughtry and Fred Conrad to complete the foursome they were soon busy entertaining audiences throughout the Triad. They put their own special "brand mark" on quarteting by creating the "Wee-Men" quartet where the audience sees singers that are only two foot tall with the help of a special stage set they designed and four additional men hidden behind a curtain. They were an instant comedy hit with audiences at chorus shows and at the 2011 spring district convention.

In 2009 David and Glenn joined Mark and Fred and Easy Livin' started competing winning the inaugural Carolinas District Novice Quartet Championship. Coming from a wide variety of professional backgrounds and living in Winston-Salem, Clemmons and Summerfield, they've enjoyed singing in church choirs, community choruses and even a professional band most of their lives and look forward to many more years of singing together in this quartet.

Fred was introduced to barbershop music when only 13 by his neighbor, John Dawson, who was responsible for forming the Winston-Salem chapter called the Auctioneers. Dawson got his son Tom, Fred, Jon Vickers and another friend together to form a quartet called "The Teen Tones". Fred has been singing since and has been a member of the chorus and several quartets since 1973. Retired from

RJR Research, Fred currently sings with the Winston-Salem chorus in addition to the Easy Livin' and Sound Counsel quartets.

David grew up loving four part harmony listening to his mother sing barbershop for over 26 years. Showing up at his first chorus rehearsal in 2009 not even knowing what part he should sing, now at the age of, well, let's just say a lot younger than the other three, he's learned to blend his wonderful lead voice into the 4 part harmony we all enjoy so much. Having managed restaurants on the west coast and now working with Valspar Coatings Corp., David currently sings with the Winston-Salem chorus and Easy Livin' quartet.

Mark has been singing most of his adult life as a soloist and member of church choirs. Watching his wife having so much fun singing barbershop he decided to give it a try joining the society in 2004. He has sung in two senior quartets, Midnight Mix and Carolina Sundown, and currently sings with the Winston-Salem chorus and is a founding member of Easy Livin' quartet. Mark is a real estate broker specializing in property management.

Glenn started singing barbershop in Fostoria, OH while in high school in the mid 60's and joined the society in 1981 as a founding member of the "Flint River Ramblers" Chorus in Albany, GA. He eventually became their chorus director and sang in "Yesterday's News" quartet for 13 years before moving to Summerfield, NC. Retired after 30 years as an engineer with Procter & Gamble, Glenn currently sings in the Greensboro and Winston-Salem choruses and Easy Livin' quartet.

Four Closure

Savannah



Bob Proctor (T), Robert Hodges (L), John Bennett (Bs), Bob Kearns (Br)

Reflecting current economic realities, the Savannah Chapter Quartet "Four Closure" formed in 2012. Its inaugural performance was singing Johnny Mercer's very first composition performed in public - Out of Breath.

The members, left to right:

Tenor Bob Proctor also holds down similar duties in the Savannah Chapter Quartet Fully Invested and capably performs Tenor, Baritone, and Bass voice parts in any Chorus song.

Lead Robert Hodges is known as the Rudolph Valentino of the Savannah Chapter and converted to the barbershop style after decades of crooning at most of Savannah's entertainment venues.

Bass John Bennett is a 21 year Chapter Member who spends most of his time either driving a CSX locomotive or cooking the Coastal Empire's finest barbeque sauce, Notch 8.

Baritone Bob Kearns spent most of his musical life holding a guitar or a piano-bar microphone, and has written 5 Savannah Chapter Shows.

Four Knights Standing

Savannah, Hilton Head Island



2013 District Novice Quartet Champion

Duke Andrus (T), Richard La Spisa (Bs), Wayne Vanderslice (L), Charles Brown (Br)

Four Knights Standing is a quartet formed primarily to sing on Hilton Head Chapter shows. We decided to take a shot at contest to get some feedback from the judges and were fortunate enough to win the Novice Division Award.

Bill “Duke” Andrus, our Tenor, has 51 years and his barbershop tenure has carried him from California to the Low Country, having spent most of his years on the west coast. He has sung in numerous quartets and has more than 20 years as a chorus director. He currently sings with Savannah, Hilton Head and Sun City choruses.

Our lead is Wayne Vanderslice, currently the director of the Hilton Head Lighthouse Chorus and has been since 2008. He has been singing barbershop for the past 11 years. His past quartets include Calibogue Sound and Sunshine Boys.

Baritone, Charlie Brown began singing barbershop in 1966 with the Jackson MS Chapter and over the years has sung with the Memphis Cotton Boll chorus and Hilton Head Lighthouse Chorus. He now has a total of 25 years of barbershop singing, although not continuous. In those years he has also sung Lead and Bass. He has been with Hilton Head since 2004.

Bass, Rick LaSpisa, started in 1976 with the Friends of Harmony in Amherst NY. His Father sang lead and brother sang Bari. This chapter merged with East Aurora NY and became the East Aurora Friends of Harmony and sang with them 16 years including on the International stage. He moved to South Carolina in 2003 and joined the Hilton Head chapter. He has been a chapter VP and President. He also sang with the Sun City Chorus for 3 years.

Four-Tune Hunters

Savannah, GA



Tom Macek (T), Mike McLearn (L), Art Marble (Bs), and Milt Johnson (Br)

Fully Invested

Savannah, GA



Gene Cannon (Br), Joe Ryan (L), Art Marble (Bs), Bob Proctor (T)

Harmony Brewing

Charlotte, NC



Ben Mills (T), Larry Lane (L), Wally Miles (Bs), Mark Rodda (Br)

Harmony Brewing was formed in July of 2012. We competed in our first Carolinas District contest in October 2012 and came in 3rd place out of 17 quartets. Our 3rd place finish made us realize that we wanted to continue to improve and look for more opportunities to sing! We love to perform and are hard at work perfecting our contest and show packages. Our goal is to be the best we can be in regards to singing and entertaining.

This quartet is made up of over 50 years of Barbershop Quartet experience! We have all been members of the Barbershop Harmony Society for many years and have been in many quartets and choruses along the way.

Ben Mills – Tenor. Ben grew up singing barbershop music in his crib. Ben has sung with various quartets and choruses over the years. He is a member of the Gold Standard Chorus in Charlotte, NC. Ben enjoys spending time with his LARGE family and his AMAZING wife, Sasha. When not spending most of his time on barbershop music, Ben sometimes works a REAL job as a banker.

Larry Lane – Lead. Larry is a retired High School Band Director and Elementary School General Music Teacher. He has also served as a Minister of Music, played trumpet in the orchestras for numerous Broadway touring shows, The Ringling Brothers’ Circus, the Charlotte Philharmonic Orchestra, the PTL Club Orchestra, CPCC Summer Theater Orchestra and the US Air Jazz Band. As an active vocal musician and conductor he sang in and directed the eight voice acapella jazz group IMPROMPTU, served as Assistant Director and Director of the Main Stage Chorus of the Charlotte Choral Society, directed the men’s Barbershop Chorus The Carolina Chord Company, and has also

served as guest conductor, clinician and arranger for many choral organizations. Larry is currently the Musical Director for The Gold Standard Chorus, an acapella men's chorus here in Charlotte, NC. He is married to his wonderful wife Robin and they have two daughters, Austin and Amanda. They also have four beautiful granddaughters named Abigail, Emma, Isabella and Olivia.

Mark Rodda – Baritone. Mark is a third generation quartet man who sang his first barbershop song at the ripe old age of two. He is currently the Associate Director for the Gold Standard Chorus. Over the years, he has played piano, trombone, baritone, drums, and percussion. In his spare time, he sells residential real estate and enjoys sampling quality beers from around the globe with his adorable wife Marcia.

Wally Miles – Bass. Wally has been a barbershopper for almost 30 years. Wally has been singing with the Gold Standard Chorus and with the long-running quartet, Bar None. Wally has been singing lead until his time with Harmony Brewing and now covers the bass line. Wally also sings with his church and volunteers his time with youth choruses and the North Carolina Harmony Brigade.

Harmony Grits

Research Triangle Park,
Charlotte, Winston-Salem



2013 District Seniors Quartet Champion

Steve Tremper (T), Ted Leinbach (Bs),
Jim Nappier (Br), Terry Parrish (L)



2013 Fall Convention

Steve Tremper (T), Ted Leinbach (Bs),
Jim Nappier (Br), Wally Miles (L)

Quartets are formed for a variety of reasons. Long time quartet man Jim Nappier thought it would be a kick to pull together a quartet with former RTP member Terry Parrish and a few other ne'er-do-wells, and go for a medal in the Seniors Quartet competition. He coaxed Terry out of retirement and plied the others with beer and promises of future glory, and in early 2013 the new quartet, Harmony Grits was formed. They originally planned to just focus on the Fall 2013 International Seniors Quartet Prelims contest and the chance to qualify for the Mid-Winter convention in January 2014, but they were able to pull together a couple of songs in short order, and with only a few rehearsals under their belts, decided to sign up for the Spring District Seniors Quartet contest as well to see where they stood. They won that contest, and were delighted to be crowned Senior Quartet champs!

The quartet continued to work on new music, and even enjoyed a weekend of singing and sun at Indian Beach, NC in May. However, as they say, "all quartets are temporary," and unfortunately a few months later Terry decided to step out of the quartet. They managed to bring in Wally Miles to sing lead a short time later, and together they enjoyed a mountain retreat weekend at Ted's family's home in Roaring Gap, NC and sang in church that Sunday morning. What a treat for all! The new foursome continued to prepare for the Fall contest weekend, but had to change plans because, at age 53, Wally wasn't yet old enough to sing in a Senior Quartet! So Harmony Grits reverted to a "regular" quartet and competed in the Fall anyway, finishing sixth overall.

With Jim's original goal of singing at the Seniors International contest still unfulfilled, the quartet is continuing to sing together and is working toward the Spring 2014 contest, where qualification for the

2015 International Senior Quartet contest has been moved from the Fall to the Spring. Fortunately, Wally will turn 55 by November 2014, just in time to be eligible should the quartet earn the right to represent the District. Fingers crossed!

BIO Information:

Steve joined the Barbershop Harmony Society in Vermont in 1981, singing Lead, until IBM moved him to North Carolina in 1987. Since then he served as President of both the Research Triangle Park and Central Carolina (Durham) chapters, competed on the International stage with the *General Assembly Chorus*, placed in the International top 20 in *The CrackerJacks* (1991), and has sung tenor in many other Dixie quartets over the years, including several years with Jim Nappier in *Kudzu Krooners*. Steve is a charter member of the NC Harmony Brigade, a certified Contest Administrator in the BHS judging program since 2004, and has served the Carolinas District as Vice President for Contest and Judging.

Wally has been a barbershopper for almost 30 years. Wally sings with the Gold Standard Chorus in Charlotte and holds down the lead part with the long-running quartet, *Bar None*. Wally sang bass with the newly formed quartet, *Harmony Brewing* for a season, before stepping in at lead with *Harmony Grits*. Wally also sings with his church and volunteers his time with youth choruses and the North Carolina Harmony Brigade.

Ted is a seasoned barbershopper, and has a long record singing bass in choruses and quartets, but was challenged to reach for the tenor with *Village Green*, and has earned his stripes in that role. He continues to grace the bass line with the very well established *Bar None* quartet and with the NC Harmony Brigade. With deep roots in the Charlotte chapter, Ted has also served as president of the Winston-Salem Chapter (*Triad Harmony Express*), and is recently (and happily) retired from his CPA career.

Jim sang with Steve in *Kudzu Krooners* and also was part of the 2001 Dixie District Quartet Champion, *Crescendo*. He has many years of history serving in Dixie District Board positions and served the Carolinas District as its first Awards Chairman. Jim is an active Charter Member of the NC Harmony Brigade, and when not barbershopping or enjoying Wolfpack football and basketball, continues his career as an Insurance Executive in Clayton, NC.

Hemisphere



Mount Pleasant, Frank Thorne,
Perth, Australia



Robert Rund (Br), Tony Carlini (Bs); Derek Street (L), Alex Morris (T).

So take a singer in Australia, one in New York and two in South Carolina, and what do you get? We have no idea, but join us on this crazy ride. Alex and Derek met at Harmony University and tagged so much they decided they must find another duo. Bob and Tony sang together in a district championship quartet from Mid-Atlantic....20 years ago! Derek and Bob direct Palmetto Vocal Project together...so the only barrier is the map. With a little help from our friends we can overcome that! In fact, we met for the first time in March of 2013...just one week before prelims, where we competed in the Dixie District, representing the Carolinas District.

ALEX MORRIS, TENOR.

Alex is a graduate of the University of Western Australia having completed a Bachelor of Music majoring in Composition in 2009. He first took an interest in music when he began learning the violin aged 6 in Western Australia. Alex immersed himself in all things musical including choirs and other vocal ensembles, bands and orchestra..., as well as playing major rolls in both dramatic and musical productions throughout his school years. One such vocal ensemble led to a relationship with Vocal Evolution Men's Barbershop Chorus which he would later join.

Alex progressed through the ranks of Vocal Evolution from singer, to section leader, to Assistant Music Director and eventually to Music Director in 2008. Alex took Vocal Evolution to consecutive Gold Medals at AAMBS (Association of Men's Barbershop Singers) National Chorus Contests in Hobart in 2009 and Brisbane in 2011. He also led Vocal Evolution to the highest score ever achieved by an Australian chorus, at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Chorus Contest in Kansas City in 2011. An accomplished quartet singer, Alex sang with Nexus who entertained and impressed audiences for over 6 years across Australia.

In 2012 Alex, no stranger to travel, decided to make the move to Melbourne after spending the first 24 years of his life at home in Perth. He was recently appointed the Music Category Specialist of the Australasian Guild of Barbershop Judges. Upon arriving in Melbourne, Alex has eagerly taken on the role of Musical Director for the Geelong Harmony Chorus as well as an exciting role as Musical Director for the fledgling Southern Lights Chorus that hopes to create an outlet for young male singers across Melbourne.

Professionally, Alex has a wide variety of experience in arts administration after working for the West Australian Youth Music Association, the Australian Youth Choir, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and more recently as the Orchestra Manager for Orchestra Victoria.

An accomplished arranger and composer of music, he has regularly been engaged to write for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the West Australian Youth Orchestra and for a variety of vocal ensembles and quartets around the country.

So, what does Alex do when he isn't immersed in something musical? Well, there is not a lot of time left to share around but he does love an ice cold beer, something delicious to eat and the company of his motley bunch of mates.

DEREK STREET, LEAD

Derek has been singing his entire life. He started playing the piano at age 5. He also joined his adult church choir while in elementary school. During his high school chorus days, Derek became the first singer at his school to make the North Carolina All-State Chorus, and he also attended the NC Governor's School for music. Derek went to Western Carolina University and majored in vocal music. He has performed in musicals, operas, concert choirs, early music ensembles, and jazz groups. After college, Derek became a music teacher and a church choir director. He has directed choirs of all sizes and ages. While teaching high school, his chorus won the South Carolina state choral championship six years in a row, and his junior high school choirs won three years in a row during his six years at the school. The past three years, Derek has been teaching elementary music in Charleston, SC.

Derek has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 7 years, and is responsible for bringing 23 new members into the organization. He is the music director for the Palmetto Vocal Project. Palmetto Vocal Project, a little over a year old, won the Carolinas District championship and served as the Carolinas district representative at International in Toronto (2013), will do so again in Las Vegas (2014).

TONY CARLINI, BASS

Tony's barbershop journey started sometime in 1974. Back then he was a telecom installer who grew up loving close vocal harmonies, and singing in a band that played hits from the 50's and 60's. While searching through the stacks in a small record shop on Fordham Road in the Bronx, he ran across the last record behind a tab labeled "Barbershop". The record was titled Golden Barbershop Ballads, put out by Decca Records (...in Simulated Stereo). Not exactly what you would expect to find, directly behind Grand Funk Railroad.

The artwork on the album pictured four mustachioed gentlemen wearing skimmers and striped jackets. Notes on the back cover referenced S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. twice, as well as titles for other "great barbershop albums", which of course were nowhere to be found. He played this record for years, nearly wearing out the grooves listening to the Rascals sing Little Pal. It never crossed his mind that this society, the one with the alphabet-soup name, still existed.

Soon the passion for barbershop harmony became intoxicating, forcing him to approach his band-mates about trying to sing Little Pal. As expected he was laughed out of that rehearsal. But time marched on and (yes...) his band eventually disbanded.

So in 1983, realizing that his life had a musical hole in it, his wife (Terri) spots a barbershop chorus' guest-night notice in the local paper. Just a 30 minute drive to their rehearsal hall, which isn't bad considering that before relocating, the same chorus rehearsed (for five years) just three blocks from his house. One tag with the guest quartet (The Cleftomaniacs) and he was sold. The rest, is years of barbershop bliss.

Recently life came full circle at the 2012 Carolina District Convention. He visits the AHSOW hospitality room. While wood-shedding with three gentlemen, someone suggests they try singing Little Pal. As expected, the passion that overtook him back in the early 1970's, returns. He can't help but ramble on about finding that Golden Barbershop Ballad album, and how he wore out the grooves playing the Rascals' Little Pal. The story flows trippingly from the tongue, but he realizes that everyone is laughing, (and all in the wrong places). Then he finally takes a closer look at the medal hanging from the neck of the guy to his left. It's silver! And on the lapel?? The name badge says....Don Dobson??? TenorRASCALS.

Oh, and Tony sang bass in the Mid-Atlantic District Champion and multi-International qualifying quartet, Doubletake.

ROBERT RUND, BARITONE

A barbershop 'brat,' Bob grew up in Saint Louis, Missouri, playing ragtime piano and singing in barbershop choruses and quartets since the age of seven. He began composing and arranging music in his teens. His mom plays a mean piano, and his dad was a barbershopper. In the barbershop world, he has written over 40 arrangements, many of which have been performed and recorded by male and female international champion quartets and medalist choruses around the world. In addition, he has composed vocal music outside the barbershop style including SATB choral works, and was commissioned to write such a piece for the New Jersey Association of Independent School's All-State Chorus and premiered at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

Professionally, Bob leads an independent consulting firm, R2C2 , utilizing many years in organizational leadership and strategic initiatives. He has served as the President and Head of School of the American Boychoir School in Princeton, New Jersey; Arts Department Chair and Director of Cultural Events at the Peddie School and Founding Executive Director of CAPPs (Community Arts Partnership at Peddie School) in Hightstown, New Jersey. Bob has extensive experience in the international performing arts industry, serving as an artist and booking manager for the prestigious IMG Artists, and associate publisher for Musical America Worldwide.

He a Bachelors of Music degree in Music Education from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and a Master of Arts in Arts Administration from Goucher College, and a fellowship in nonprofit leadership from Stanford Graduate School.

Bob sang with Tony in Doubletake, and directs, sings with and arranges for Palmetto Vocal Project with Derek.

Infinity

Mount Pleasant, Charleston, SC
Dallas Metro, TX



Phil Wilcox (Bs), David Box (Br), Lewis Law, Jr. (L), Kevin Gillett (T)

Lead - Lewis Law: Sang with the Vocal Majority for a brief time. Directed the Harbor City Harmonizers in the Sunshine District. Moved to NSC to work for Boeing.

Bass - Phil Wilcox: Member of College Quartet Champion - Heritage Station which won in 1993. Helped found The Voices of Gotham.

Baritone- David Box: sang with The Alliance in JAD along with several other choruses and quartets. Former director of The Charleston Barbershop Chorus.

Tenor - Kevin Gillett: former member of The Fort Sumter Tag Company which competed in the Dixie District several times. Current director of The Charleston Barbershop Chorus.

All are charter members of The Palmetto Vocal Project.

InVoice

Charlotte, Frank Thorne



Steve Curulla (T), David Cauble (Bs), Curtis Kriner (L), Doug Demick (Br)

What do you get when you have a banker (Steve), a CPA (Curtis), a financial advisor (David), and an IT specialist (Doug)? Well... if they like to sing and have a cumulative 40+ years' barbershop harmony experience, you get a quartet named **InVoice!**

The quartet started with 4 members of the Gold Standard Chorus in 2008. The first group broke up in the summer of that year, but the bass and bari found two other singers to form an ad-hoc practice group for Harmony Brigade 2009. They liked the sound so much that they kept the InVoice name and competed in Spring 2009 in Winston-Salem. Later that year the quartet changed tenors. They competed twice more in the new Carolinas district, finishing 9th at Myrtle Beach in 2010. At present InVoice is focusing on local gigs, making it their aim to have one sing-out a month and increase their repertoire.

Keynote

Mount Pleasant, Lexington,
County, Frank Thorne



Travis Murray (Br), Dan Waltz (Bs), Derek Street (L), Michael Fitch

Keynote formed in the summer of 2013 and quickly developed a unique quartet sound together. This group brought 3 District Champion quartet singers (from Half Ton Pickup in 2012; and 17 Below in 2011) together with one of the Carolinas District's top Chorus Directors. Keynote was excited to place 2nd in the Fall 2013 District Quartet Competition, the last full panel 2-round competition planned for quartets at the District level in the NSC.

Travis Murray lives in High Point, NC and works as a computer programmer and project development professional. He has sung lead, tenor, and baritone in competitive quartets since 2000, and was the baritone of the 2011 Carolinas District Champion Quartet, 17 Below. Travis sang baritone for Keynote.

Dan Walz lives in Irmo, SC and works in sales throughout South Carolina. Dan was the bass of the 2012 Carolinas District Champion Quartet, Half Ton Pickup. Dan sang bass with Keynote.

Derek Street lives in Mount Pleasant, SC and works as a music educator in the public schools. Derek is one of the top Chorus Directors in the Carolinas District, providing musical leadership for the Charleston, SC Chapter's Palmetto Vocal Project (PVP). Derek sang lead with Keynote.

Mike Fitch lives in Winston-Salem, NC, where he works as an emergency physician and faculty member at the Wake Forest School of Medicine. He has been singing tenor in barbershop quartets since 1988, including with the Carolinas District Champion Quartet, 17 Below. Mike sang tenor for Keynote.

Laugh Out Loud

Lexington County



Bob Wayson (T), Aubrey Arrington (L), Regie Price (Bs), James Hinson (Br)

Although we did not do a lot of performing in 2013, LOL had a lot of fun singing together. We were building a good repertoire and were planning a Christmas Show for a group of retired school teachers in Lexington County. It was a mix of Christmas Carols and comedy pieces for which LOL was known. However, the untimely death of our tenor, Bob Wayson, put an end to LOL singing in 2013. Bob was a driving force in our quartet and was a great communicator. He kept us all on schedule with his written calendars and emails. We not only miss his voice in the quartet, we miss his wisdom and guidance.

LOL plans to continue on in 2014. We have asked tenor Cliff Brown to sing with us. Cliff comes with years of barbershop in his background. Although getting up in his years, his dad still sings barbershop in Florida. LOL delivered Singing Valentines and enjoyed each other's company and we strive to fill the great void left by Bob Wayson.