

# *Let's Sing!*

Research Triangle Park,  
Greensboro, Winston-Salem



## **2010 District Quartet Champion**

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

First formed as a Dixie District quartet in February of 2007 with original tenor Carl Stock (Greensboro), the quartet finished in the top five in their first two years of Dixie District competition, including a third place finish in October 2008. Steve replaced Carl at tenor in November 2008, and together they recommitted themselves to improving in both singing and performance. The hard work paid off in the Spring of 2009, when the quartet qualified to represent Dixie at the International Quartet Contest in Anaheim, California! Spurred on by that amazing experience, in October 2009 they were thrilled beyond belief to claim the top prize in Chattanooga, Tennessee, winning the 2009 Dixie District Quartet Championship in a great contest!

In 2010 the quartet qualified once again (and for the last time) to represent Dixie at the International Quartet contest in Philadelphia, PA. In July 2010 the Dixie District officially split with North and South Carolina, forming the new Carolinas District. Because the members of the quartet were all members of the new District, this change made them eligible to compete again for a whole new District Championship, and in October 2010 they were honored and humbled to win the first ever Carolinas District Quartet Championship in Myrtle Beach, SC. What a ride it's been!

In March 2011 they were once again honored to win the first ever Carolinas District International Quartet Prelims contest, and traveled to Kansas City, Missouri in July to represent the new District for the first time on the International Quartet Contest stage. They moved up the rankings to finish 33rd out of the top 50 quartets in the world. There's nothing like the thrill of being on the same stage with the Society's greatest performers!

## **2012 Activity**

The year 2012 was a year of weddings and performances for the quartet, and due to financial and time constraints, the quartet decided to sit out competition for the year. At the end of March, Joe's son David was married near Winston-Salem, and a few weeks later in April, Greg's daughter Lindsay was married at Holden Beach. Then again in early August, the quartet celebrated Joe's daughter Jill's wedding up in Chicago! So the quartet was busy traveling and singing, and the Dads were quickly going broke paying for it all, but it was such a privilege to be part of these wonderful family celebrations.

The quartet continued to perform, however, headlining the Myrtle Beach chapter show and singing at the Winston-Salem annual dinner and installation of officers in January, performing on the Winston-Salem chapter show in May, as well as the Greensboro chapter show in September and headlining the Pinehurst chapter show in November. Another highlight of the year was being invited to the Atlantic Harmony Brigade weekend to serve as judges for the contests and to perform on their show Saturday night. What a blast that weekend was! They also appeared at a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration, and performed in several holiday shows in December. All in all, a very full and fun year for Let's Sing!

## **2013 Activity**

The year 2013 began with high hopes and a renewed commitment to returning to the International contest stage, but life just gets in the way sometimes. Greg learned that his company was shutting down at the end of 2013, and he was faced with job change issues as well as working on the downsizing of his company as equipment and materials were being shipped off to Mexico. Due to this preoccupation, Greg decided he couldn't focus all his energies on preparing for contest, and the quartet agreed to sit out of competition yet another year. The guys continued to meet, however, and worked on new songs with valuable coaching help from Robert Cox.

A highlight of the year was participating in the newly formed Brunswick County Chapter open house in May, where the quartet was featured on a wonderful evening of singing and fun for over 300 people supporting this new chapter in Shallotte, NC. The quartet also headlined the Jacksonville, NC chapter show in June, and had a number of additional performances at retirement homes, assisted living centers, and churches, some these in support of Triad Harmony Express (Winston-Salem) and their show schedule. Another highlight was performing in September for a dinner group at the renowned Reynolda House in Winston-Salem.

The quartet had a very busy Fall season, brushing off some of the contest rusts by singing for score and evaluation at the Carolinas District Fall convention, and then were thrilled to travel up to Indianapolis to serve as the guest performers on the Indiana Harmony Brigade show! Several paid performances followed during the November and December holiday season, including a stroll-around at Cameron Village in Raleigh, the Winston-Salem chorus annual show, and a special benefit show with the ladies of Downtown Sound to support the local Food Bank program through First Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

As the year drew to a close, Greg was offered a 6-month contract with his company to travel to Mexico and help train the new company employees down there, and he accepted. With several performance commitments already on the 2014 calendar, the quartet enlisted the help of coach Robert Cox to fill in on bass, but also decided to once again forego competition in the Spring. What a year of transition and fun!

## 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 with bass Greg Zinke in *The CrackerJacks* (1991), and has sung tenor in many other Dixie quartets over the years. Steve is a certified Contest Administrator in the BHS judging program, and has served as the Carolinas District as Vice President for Contest and Judging.

Mark and his wife, Lisa, both North Carolina natives, live in Old Salem in an historic home that they have lovingly restored. Mark has been a member of the BHS since 1984, and lends his voice and talent to Triad Harmony Express, the chorus of the Winston-Salem chapter, singing lead. Mark is a past Chapter President as well. He sang with the 2001 Dixie District Champion Quartet, *Crescendo*, and the 2004 International Quarter-Finalist Quartet, *Genesis*.

Joe has been a member of the Society since 1974, singing multiple parts in several quartets along the way, including tenor with the 1983 Dixie District Champion and two-time International Quartet Quarter-Finalist, *Blue Ribbon Edition*. From 2004-2005 Joe sang with then 16 year-old son David in *Sweet Mother of Harmony*. Joe is active in the Winston-Salem chapter and he and his wife, Juli, live in Lewisville, NC.

Greg is originally from New Jersey and has been singing harmony for over 30 years. Greg and his wife, Kim, live in Greensboro, where Greg has directed the Greensboro Tarheel Chorus since 1999. He has competed at the international level with four different foursomes, placing in the Top 20 semi-finals in 1987 with the Mid-Atlantic District Champions, *Northeast Extension*, and in 1991 with Steve in *The CrackerJacks* in the Dixie District. He and Mark sang together in several quartets in recent years, including International Quarter-Finalist *Genesis*.

# *Links*

## Pinehurst



Juan Ross (T), Ron Sickenberger (L), Bob Tweed (Bs), Larry Harter (Br)

The Links quartet was formed fourteen years ago from members of the Golf Capital Chorus of Pinehurst, NC. The GCC is made up of about fifty members who perform regularly in the Sandhills region of NC. The chorus donates about \$20,000 annually to local charities. The Links quartet has been since its formation the most active and requested quartet in the region, and contributes all its revenues to the chorus for charitable distribution.

The quartet includes: Juan Russ, tenor; Ron Sickenberger, lead; Bob Tweed, bass; and Larry Harter, baritone. Following is a brief background summary of each quartet member.

Juan Russ, tenor. Juan is a graduate of UNC Wilmington, NC, where he majored in art. He has been employed as a supervisor with McPeake Hotels for twenty-two years. His musical experience includes being a member of the Moore County Choral Society, soloist and member of his large church choir, tenor section leader of the GCC, and active participant in local musical theater performances. While being the youngest member of the quartet, he is the longest standing member of the chorus and one of the three original members of the quartet.

Ron Sickenberger, lead. Ron is a graduate of Kent State University where he majored in English and radio/television broadcasting. An original member of the quartet, he has been a life-long singer in church choirs, stage productions, glee clubs ... and showers. He is a retired human relations executive and management consultant, and currently serves as the chorus lead section leader and vice president for music and performance,

Bob Tweed, bass. Bob is a graduate of Bucknell University where he majored in commerce and finance. After a long career in top-management financial positions with GE and Abbott Labs he retired to Pinehurst in 1996. He is currently very active in the community, serving on several key boards of directors. He has been an active barbershopper for forty-six years, and, while singing with the New Tradition Chorus in Illinois, his chorus won nine international awards. He is presently chorus treasurer.

Larry Harter, baritone. Larry has a BS in finance and an MBA. He is an original member of the quartet and presently serves as VP of chorus membership and as section leader of the baritone section. His business background was in the aerospace industry and, among many interesting assignments, he assisted in quality preparations for the ascent and descent stages for the trip to the moon. He also served as quality control supervisor for Lunar Modules on the Apollo program. He has sung with numerous choral groups and has held several key positions with the GCC.

# *Locked and Loaded*

## Research Triangle Park



Niel Johnson (T), Mike Myers (L), Michael Muha (Bs), Ken Bland, Sr. (Br)

Locked & Loaded began as a barbershop quartet in 2005 in Baghdad, Iraq. Tenor Niel Johnson, then a member of the Heart of America Chorus in Kansas City, MO, was serving as a military physician for the XVIIIth Airborne Corps who was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While in Iraq, Dr. Johnson started a small chorus, called the Hard Corps Chorale. This small ensemble of about 12 men, none of whom had ever sung barbershop (except for Dr. Johnson) met twice a week to sing a cappella together as a way of escaping the stress of daily duties. The group met for rehearsals in the Grand Ballroom of the infamous Al Faw Palace. This location was ideal for singing, for its 5-story-high marble ceilings provided the perfect acoustical environment for ringing chords. Ringing chords from the Hard Corps Chorale attracted new singers who joined the group, and the group had at its peak 37 members, both men and women. The group performed many times during its one-year existence at such events as Hail & Farewell Ceremonies, Holiday Observances, Retirement Ceremonies, and finally the XVIIIth Airborne Corps' Change of Command Ceremony, marking the end of the Corps' deployment to Iraq in 2006.

Several members of the Hard Corps Chorale had a particular interest in singing tags at the Al Faw Palace, outside of its usual rehearsal time. Whether motivated by the exceptional acoustics of the high marble ceilings, or the awesome blend that tags create, or both, this foursome spent many hours learning and perfecting as many tags as they could find music for. This quartet began with Niel Johnson on tenor, on Samuel Bates on lead, J.T. Klipford on baritone, and Brett Kelly on bass. The baritone was a Field Artillery officer, and suggested the quartet's name be "Locked & Loaded," which is an old Field Artillery term meaning "loaded up and ready to go." The double entendre with the "lock" and ring of the barbershop style, especially at the Al Faw Palace, solidified the name "Locked & Loaded" for this quartet. Many a late night, tags and polecat songs could be heard throughout the camp as "Locked & Loaded" sang for the sheer joy of singing and escape of the otherwise stressful environment in the desert. The quartet was frequently called upon to sing the Star Spangled Banner at virtually every ceremony at the Victory Base Complex, and was even tasked with arranging and

performing the Iraqi National Anthem at their final performance at the Change of Command in January 2006.

In 2006, the quartet members redeployed back to their home stations. Johnson transferred to Ft. Bragg, NC, and Locked & Loaded was continued with Johnson and Klipford who had also returned to the Fayetteville, NC, area. The other members returned to Colorado and California, and each joined their local SPEBSQSA chapters as brand-new barbershop singers.

In Spring 2007, Locked & Loaded competed for the first time as a registered quartet in the Dixie District. Members Niel Johnson (TENOR), Kevin Dickson (LEAD), J.T. Klipford (BARI), and Mike Muha (BASS) performed a package that presented a hobo joining up with three other well-to-do gentlemen. They performed “When There’s Love at Home” and “Heart,” and finished 15<sup>th</sup> out of 18, with an average score of 58.2.

At the District Contest in the Fall of 2007, Locked & Loaded attempted a parody of “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad” along with “A Wink and a Smile” which, unfortunately, didn’t go over as well as it was planned. New baritone Larry Schlessinger and lead Ed Walk were on hand as the quartet finished 25<sup>th</sup> out of a field of 26, with a disappointing average score of 54.1.

The next spring, Locked & Loaded showed improvement at the 2008 International Preliminaries with an average score of 59.2, which earned them 14<sup>th</sup> place out of 19 competing quartets. Lead Lee Horton and 50-year SPEBSQSA baritone Kenny Bland, Sr., brought a needed dose of experience and talent that contributed to the quartet’s improvement that spring. They sang Larry Triplett’s and Bill Raschleigh’s arrangements of “Wait ‘Til the Sun Shines, Nellie” and “Story of the Rose,” two songs the General Assembly Chorus was working on for contest that same year. In the fall of 2008, the same quartet presented the same package again, and improved even further, with an average score of 60.6 that earned them a 16<sup>th</sup> place ranking out of 22 quartets that fall.

Shortly after that contest, tenor Niel Johnson would deploy again to Iraq, and the quartet was on break for the next two years. Of note, because of the nature and location of Dr. Johnson’s assignment in Iraq this time, there was no opportunity to form a chorus or participate in quartetting.

In Spring 2012, Locked & Loaded re-formed and competed for the first time in the new Carolinas District. Original member Niel Johnson teamed up at the last minute with Mike Muha and Kenny Bland, and lead Mike Myers, to compete at the contest, which was held in Fayetteville, NC, home of Ft. Bragg. Unfortunately, because of several schedule conflicts, the foursome never was able to get together to rehearse prior to the contest. As a result, they chose four chorus songs and took their chances at putting it all together as a quartet with just a few run-throughs in the warm-up pattern. To their disappointment, one of their songs, “I Feel a Song Coming On” was penalized for being non-contestable, although their other song, “You’re All the World to Me” was performed very nicely. Their average score of 56.1 landed them in last place of 9 quartets, but they were able to sing as the mic-testers on Saturday night, where they performed “Everybody Loves Somebody” and “It’s Only a Paper Moon.”

Locked & Loaded continues to get together from time to time, mostly just for fun. Future competition is always possible, depending on who is available to fill the voice parts and how well prepared the group can be prior to contest.

# *Milestone*

Asheville



Rook Wetsel (Br), Randy Johnson (L), Dan Gregg (Bs), Bob Huff (T)



# *Mountain Vocal Project*

## Asheville



James McMahon (T), Fred Maney (Bs), James Monday (L), Russell Brickhouse (T)

Mountain Vocal Project—A barbershop quartet that formed in Asheville in 2010; they are together as a direct result of their fabulous North Carolina Harmony Brigade experience!

James McMahon (Br) got hooked on barbershop back in high school, and has been singing close harmony a cappella ever since. He moved to Asheville in 2006 for the beautiful mountains and friendly smiles and still appreciates them every day. In addition to his full-time job as a heavyweight wrestler, James also works in atmospheric science and has written a self-help book with his wife. Two of the three preceding statements are true - any guesses?

Fred Maney (Bs) has enjoyed singing harmony since childhood, first with his 6 siblings and later with his wife and children. He has been associated with the Land of the Sky Barbershop Chorus for 3 years. His fondest barbershop moment was in 2002 when his daughters, Karen and Alyssa, won the 2002 Rising Star (Sweet Adelines) quartet competition. In his spare time, Fred enjoys biking and fishing.

James Monday (L) moved to the mountains from Florida with his family in 2006. He discovered barbershopping in 1999 and have been an active member ever since. James was a previous member of the Sunshine Chordsmen of Ft. Lauderdale. He is currently an employee of Haywood Co. schools and enjoys outdoor activities, amateur astronomy, and photography.

Russell Brickhouse (T) has been singing everything from the Messiah to college a cappella all his life and has loved every moment of it. He has been living in the Asheville area since 1993 and moved to Weaverville in 1995. Last year Russell decided to come along to a practice for the Land of the Sky Barbershop Chorus and has been hooked ever since. Russell enjoys playing disc golf and going for bike rides with friends in his spare time.



# *Never Home 4*

## Research Triangle Park



Andre Lesperance (T), Dick Smith (L), Warren Fuson (Bs), John Zweighaft (Br)

The Never Home 4 is a “seasoned” Barbershop Quartet with collectively over 135 years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society, the largest male singing organization in the world.

The Quartet has twice entered and won the vocal ensemble Gold Medal in the NC Senior games and has represented the Barbershop Society's Dixie District at International Senior Competitions several times. The Quartet is available for daytime, evening and weekend performances; they've provided entertainment at banquets, variety shows, expos, club meetings, conventions and private parties in Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida and extensively through North Carolina. They also manage to keep busy representing their local Chapter at High School and grade school performances throughout the school year.

They have a mix of Barbershop "oldies", Broadway show tunes, patriotic and spiritual songs in their repertoire and their enthusiasm for this American art form has captivated their audiences over past 15 years.

The quartet was started by Bob Dickson (bass), Archie Steen (baritone), Dick Smith (lead) and Bill McFadden (tenor). Credit Bob Dickson with the schools. Only Dick Smith remains of the original quartet members. Newer members in order of replacement are Andre Lesperance (tenor), John Zweighaft (baritone) and Warren Fuson (bass). With the retirement of Bob Dickson from the quartet and introduction of our new bass, Warren Fuson 2011 was a rebuilding period. The quartet was pleased resume performing starting with their chapter's holiday show, December 9, 2011. They are all members of the Research Triangle Park Chapter (The General Assembly, a barbershop chorus).

# *One Accord*

Spartanburg

*One Accord*



Butch King (Br), Steve Skinner (Bs), Chris Hale (L), David Satterwhite (T)

One Accord consists of four Southern Baptist ministers of music led by international silver medalist Chris Hale. One Accord began singing barbershop music together in 2010 and placed third in their first contest in the Carolinas District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. While Chris has been singing barbershop since he was a youth, the others have only a few years of combined barbershop experience – making them some of the newest kids on the block. Conversely, these men boast over 100 years combined ministerial experience. The quartet originally formed to sing accapella religious songs and now enjoys sharing their music in the barbershop style.

**Butch King** (Baritone) is the Minister of Music at Boiling Springs First Baptist Church. He is married to Jeanette and has a daughter, Anna, and a son, Austin. Butch likes to play golf and spend time with his family. He is currently working on his Masters of Music at Liberty University. Butch was the last to join the quartet and thus got stuck with the notes nobody else wanted.

**Steve Skinner** (Bass) holds a Masters of Music from Indiana University. He has sung many genres of music, but most notable are his roles in major operas. Steve is the Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Spartanburg where you can see him each Sunday morning on The Encouraging Word. Steve and his wife Gay enjoy traveling and spending time with their three children.

**Chris Hale** (Lead) began singing barbershop at 16 years of age with the Mammoth Cave Cavemen in Cave City, Kentucky. He now resides in Spartanburg, South Carolina with his wife, Laura. Four children keep him busy but in his spare time enjoys playing a round of golf, or at least playing at it. Chris is the Minister of Music at Poplar Springs Baptist Church and is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Masters degree in Church Music.

**David Satterwhite** (Tenor) is Minister of Music at Roebuck Baptist Church where he has served for many years. He holds a vocal performance degree and a Masters of Music in choral conducting from the University of South Florida as well as a doctorate in worship studies from the Institute for Worship Studies. He is married to his lovely wife Sandy and enjoys lifting weights, golf and singing.

# *Partners In Rhyme*

Spartanburg



Seth Phillips (T), Robert Lee (L), T.J. Sulzen (Bs), Roy Bishop, Jr.

# *Pulling 60*

Greensboro, Winston-Salem



Mark Thompson (Br), Glenn Ogden (Bs), Jim King (L), Fred Conrad (T)

Pulling 60 was formed to sing in the fall of 2013 Seniors Quartet competition. When selecting a quartet name, Jim's wife Gayle, said that because none of quartet was pushing 40 years old and since we were all over 60 years old that Pulling 60 would be more appropriate. All dedicated members of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Fred Conrad (tenor), Jim King (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.

Jim has been a barbershopper for 30 years and has always sung lead. Jim sings with Triad Harmony Express in Winston-Salem and has sung with various registered quartets over the years. Jim married his high school sweetheart, Gayle, 43 years ago. Jim spent seven years in the Army Artillery then Jim worked 30 years for ENERGIZER Battery Company before retiring in April, 2013. Jim loves to play golf.

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.

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 previously 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.

# *Quartet X*

## Charlotte



David Dell (T), Stephen Curulla (L), Jefferson Sims (Br), Will Saunders (Bs)

Quartet X is your classic "hey-let's-put-together-a-quartet-for-the-contest" foursome. The genesis was a conversation (mostly in jest) between Steve Curulla and Jeff Sims at the Charlotte chorus dinner during the 2012 convention in Myrtle Beach. In the summer of 2013 when Steve's current quartet, InVoice, decided they were not going to compete in the fall, Steve called Jeff to see if 1) he remembered the conversation, and 2) was he interested in following through on the idea. Jeff didn't but he was. They recruited new member Will Saunders to sing bass, and reached out to former Charlotte member Dave Dell to come out of retirement and sing tenor. The guys' individual schedules rarely lined up so that all four could get together at the same time, but through creative thinking and a lot of duo and trio work, they selected and learned four songs. They settled on the name "Quartet X" because as Steve says "we're a mystery - even to ourselves." Their goal to sing well enough to at least be the mic testers for Saturday night. They were thrilled when they exceeded their expectations and finished eighth in the content.

# *Ringtones*

Research Triangle Park,  
Central Carolina



Paul Martin (T), Joe Simpson (Bs), Steve Tarantino (L), Paul LaRusso (Br)

Ringtones formed in 2011 for the challenge of competing in the fall contest as a Novice quartet. Paul Martin and Paul LaRusso were members of RTP chorus; Steve Tarantino and Joe Simpson were dual RTP / Central Carolina chorus members.



# *Shrimp 'n Grits*

Mount Pleasant, Charleston,  
Wilmington



Richard Harris (T), Steve Cowart (L), Shawn Wisenrant (Bs), Mikey Mancuso (Br)

**Shrimp 'n Grits** became an official, registered quartet of the Barbershop Harmony Society in February, 2013. They were a **Top 10 Finalist** quartet at the Carolinas District Convention in October of 2013. All quartet members also sing with the **Palmetto Vocal Project**, a championship barbershop chorus located in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

**Richard Harris (Tenor)** is a long-time barbershopper and has been a resident of Summerville, SC for many years. He is a dual member of both PVP and the Charleston Barbershop Chorus. He serves as the Treasurer of PVP.

**Steve Cowart (Lead)** is a resident of Mt. Pleasant. Steve sang in show choirs and choruses in college, and currently sings in his local church choir in addition to singing with PVP. He is relatively new to the barbershop style, but has fallen in love with the harmony and fits right in.

**Shawn Whisenant (Bass)** comes to Charleston from the West Coast where he sang with the International Chorus Champions, Masters of Harmony. He is the Program Vice President of PVP and resides in Summerville, SC.

**Mikey Mancuso (Baritone)** relocated to Mt. Pleasant, SC from Columbus, Ohio, where he performed for many years with the Singing Buckeyes Chorus, and also International Top 10 chorus, The Alliance. Mikey is a founding member, the first President of PVP and is currently the Immediate Past President of the chapter.

**Want to keep up with Shrimp 'n Grits? "Like" us on Facebook**  
**Shrimp 'n Grits is available and may be contacted for bookings at: (805) 433-3385**

# *Sound Center*

Lexington County, SC; Cleveland, TN;  
Sunrise, FL; Frank Thorne



Dan Walz (Bs), Jorge Diaz (T), Jordan Guyton (L), O.J. de la Osa, (Br)

Sound Center quartet is a quartet based out of 4 different states (Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee). They bring their own unique take on the barbershop style in hopes for a memorable performance each time.

Jorge Diaz, 26, sings tenor. He boast many year singing barbershop, attributing his love of barbershop to Gene Cokerft (who helped introduce Jorge to barbershop at a young age). Jorge studied at the well known music magnet program at South Miami High. Other groups he has sung with include Uprising quartet, T.H.X Chorus and the H.D. Chorus. When Jorge is not singing, he is busy securing our freedom as a member of the United States Navy.

Jordan Guyton, 17, sings lead. We lovingly refer to him as the last Guyton, LOL. Jordan is the youngest of 6 brothers and is one of 5 that are currently active in singing. He comes from a very musical family. His two oldest brothers won college and International gold with Four Voices. Jordan has some big shoes to fill as this is his first quartet, but is already showing a voice that far surpasses his age. His musical experience includes singing with the Sounds of Tennessee chapter, the Cleveland Scream Machine Youth Chorus, and the Young Americans Youth Choir. Upon graduating high school, he will be starting at Lee University and be a part of the prestigious Voices of Lee.

Dan Walz, 26, sings bass. Some people can really make an impression when they walk in a room. Dan lets his singing do that for him. He has a big, booming bass voice that literally fills the room anywhere he sings. He has been singing since he was 17 but didn't discover barbershop until a few years later. He was introduced into this wonderful hobby by Randy Miller. Dan is also the only original member of Sound Center. His singing credits include singing with the original Sound Center quartet, H.D. Chorus and the T.H.X. Chorus. When Dan isn't singing, he is busy helping serve the public at the meat and seafood department at Publix.

O.J. de la Osa, 27, sings baritone. The crazy one of the quartet as he actually chose to start singing baritone from the start of his barbershop life, LOL. He has been singing since 2003, beginning with his high school chorus and eventually getting his first exposure to barbershop competition in 2004. He adds to Dan's already huge sound, and helps maintain the large sound the quartet has grown to love. O.J. has sung in several quartets and choruses including Tucker Street, Next Level, Miller Drive, Off the Hook, H.D. Chorus, T.H.X. Chorus, the Singing Miamians, and finally now Sound Center. When O.J. is not singing, he makes a living helping troubleshoot iOS devices at Apple.

# *Southern Piners*

Research Triangle Park,  
Pinehurst, Frank Thorne



Dave Williams (Bs), Niel Johnson (T), Jake Jacobson (Br), Wayne Clay (L)

Southern Piners formed as an informal pick-up quartet in 2010, primarily focused on learning North Carolina Harmony Brigade (NCHB) music together. Dr. Dave Williams (bass) and Wayne Clay (lead) had sung together for over 30 years in various quartets and choruses, and this quartetting experience through the NCHB was their prime enjoyment of the hobby, enthusiastically participating year after year at the annual NCHB Rally in Pinehurst, NC. Over the years, as their leads and tenors left, they remained a steadfast duet and sought able replacements wherever they could. Eventually they found Dr. Niel Johnson (tenor) from Fort Bragg, NC, who was also looking for a local quartet to share this hobby with. Borrowing baritones from the Golf Capitol Chorus in Pinehurst provided the necessary fourth to ring chords true in Southern Pines, NC, just as they had enjoyed so many years ago. Baritone Jake Jacobson, from Fayetteville, NC, moved to the area in search of a local quartet, and in 2012, the foursome of Johnson, Clay, Jacobson, and Williams expanded beyond just the NCHB repertoire and started working on songs to compete with in contest. In September 2013, the quartet officially registered as the "Southern Piners," and competed in its first NSC District competition together. From a solid repertoire of about eight great barbershop charts, the Southern Piners selected their favorites to present at contest-- "Tie Me to your Apron Strings Again" and "Sweet Mae." The quartet's first competition together earned a respectable score just under 60, and was notable in that they were, for at least a brief but proud time, first place in the competition, as they were first quartet to compete in the Fall Contest of 2013 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Hours of continued, up-close performances in afterglow rooms capped a weekend that was seen as very positive and fulfilling to this new quartet from Southern Pines.

# *Station One*

Wilmington, NC



Robbie Benson (T), Bob Appleton (L), Jim Mallett (Bs), and Jim Benson (Br)

# *Still Standing*

Charlotte, Greater Gaston



Al Sundling (T), Dick Kruse (Bs), Jim Eddings (Br), Chuck Villier (L)

Lead – Chuck Villier, originally from Kentucky. Quarteting about 43 years, a SPEBSQSA member for over 34 years. STILL STANDING qualified for the SR. International competition in Colorado.

Tenor – Al Sundling, originally from MA. SPEBSQSA member for over 38 years, competed at the SR International as part of STILL STANDING

Bari – Jim Eddings, a NC native, a Sweet Ads director for 5 years, barbershopping for over 26 years and SPEBSQSA member for over 21 years. Quarteting now for over 12 years. Is also a director for North Carolina Harmony Brigade.

Dick Kruse - Bass. Singing BBS and quarteting since 1980, where he quarteted and competed with the GNU... Great Northern Union, multi time International medal winning Chorus. Moved to Charlotte from St. Paul MN in 1994 and joined the Gold Standard Chorus.



# *Supersonic*

## Asheville



Justin Slack (T), Kier Klepzig (Bs), Miles Rice, (L), Kevin Kehres (Br)

**Supersonic** formed just a few months ago, but is already hard at work on an eclectic show and contest package sure to please audiences, judges, and passers-by. Here's the line-up:

**Justin Slack (Tenor)** has been barbershopping since 2006, performing with the Land of the Sky Chorus and the Gainesville Barbergators. He has been in over 15 theatrical productions and has served as musical director in 9 musical productions. Justin has been involved with all types of choral music in various genre's including madrigal choirs, chamber choirs, show choirs and vocal jazz ensembles. When not performing, directing or singing Justin can be found drinking coffee and watching sci-fi and adventure films.

**Miles Rice (Lead)** somehow ended up with this group of crazies and couldn't be more happy about it. When not singing SUPERSONICally, you can find Miles on the film set or on a stage somewhere performing, pursuing a career as an actor. Singing has been on the back burner for about a year for Miles and singing with these great guys and singers has sparked his passion and love for music once again.

**Kevin Kehres (Baritone)** is a 35-year veteran of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Kevin has logged thousands of miles in planes, trains, and automobiles to perform for audiences as far away as St. Petersburg, Russia, and Calgary, Canada, without ever once setting fire to a rental car. He also serves as the musical director of the Land of the Sky Chorus in Asheville, NC.

**Kier Klepzig (Bass)** is a research scientist and avid concertgoer. With two PhD's Kier is something of a modern day renaissance man. When Kier is not singing with Supersonic or the Land of the Sky Chorus you may find him playing guitar, bass, ukulele, or Words with Friends. He has also written two books and built a log cabin. Kier attends numerous theatrical productions when he is not performing on-stage or serving as stage manager.



# *Synchronize*

Research Triangle Park,  
Central Carolina



Mathew Gorman (T), Bob Cluett (Bs), Lee Horton, Craig Ferri (Br)

# *The Chord Street Boys*

## Spartanburg



John Connors (Bs), Dave Boyd (Br), Tom Sumerel (T), Jim Fannin (L)

The Chord Street Boys is a registered barbershop quartet formed by four members of the Spartanburg Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The quartet sings on the Chapter's performances, annual show, Singing Valentines, at parties and private functions, and for many area church groups. In September 2012, the "Boys" were contacted by a sergeant in Afghanistan who had been deployed shortly after he married in 2011. He wanted his bride serenaded on their anniversary. After contacting the manager at her place of employment we sang a few love songs and gave her a long stem rose. Local television WSPA featured our presentation on their evening news. Of course we could not accept any fee for this.

The four have been together over six years and each of them is a long time barbershopper.

John Connors sings bass and is a retired Senior VP with Amica Mutual Insurance Companies. His first experience with Barbershop Harmony came in 1972 when he joined the Narragansett Bay Chorus in Providence, RI. At times, his barbershopping was interrupted by Company relocations which took him to places where there were no chapters to join. When he retired to the Upstate in 2004, he was delighted to be able to sing with the Palmetto Statesmen.

Dave Boyd sings baritone and is a semi-retired community pharmacist with CVS/Pharmacy. He began his barbershop singing with the Presidents of Harmony 35 years ago in Washington, Pennsylvania. He has sung in church choirs since high school, and sang with the University of Pittsburgh Men's Glee Club while in college.

Tom Sumerel sings tenor and is a retired mathematics teacher from Boiling Springs High School. He has been a member of the Palmetto Statesmen Chorus for nine years. He also sings in his church choir and sang tenor in a barbershop quartet with the Wofford College Glee Club.

Jim Fannin sings lead and is a retired engineer from Michelin. Jim began singing barbershop as a charter member of the Honeycomb Chordsmen in Medina, OH in the early 80s. He has sung in church choirs and quartets since his teens.

# *The Hardly Boys*

Research Triangle Park,  
Central Carolina,  
Frank Thorne



John Adams (T), Larry Triplett (L), John Dendy (Bs), Steve Mark (Br)

For sure, this is a quartet that's hardly boys. Matter of fact, it's a foursome of seniors with almost 150 years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society that formed the quartet in August of 2013. Thing is they are all transplants into the central North Carolina area (North-South Carolina District) from elsewhere and all sang in other BHS Districts. Hence, the name seems quite fitting given the composition of the group and the backgrounds and individual histories of the men.

John Dendy, Bass: is retired and has a history in the aircraft industry; a CEO with a large helicopter firm among other things. He is a graduate of Auburn University specializing in engineering and has 10 years in the BHS starting in the Southwest District in the Arlington, Texas Chapter, then on to the Fort Worth Chapter. He did some quartetting there and eventually upon moving to central North Carolina joined up with the RTP Chapter in the NSC District. Currently, John is a member of the Frank Thorne Chapter.

Steve Mark, Baritone: is retired with a work history in the computer field, mainly in customer technical support. Steve is a graduate of UCLA with a math degree and altogether has some 32 years in the BHS. He's been in several chapters starting in Raleigh and including South Bend, IN, Salt Lake City and Marietta in the Atlanta area. This led to his being in a number of quartets. Steve came back into the Carolina Triangle region from the Dixie District. He is now a member of the Heart of Carolina Chorus, Durham Chapter.

Larry Triplett, Lead: is the only one of the quartet still active in the world of work. He has his own business in printing and promotional marketing. Larry is also a graduate from UCLA where he pursued his love of music which still occupies a large interest in his life, both vocally and instrumentally (on the trombone). And we all know of his barbershop harmony arrangements talent. By the way, in his spare time he also directs and plays in a 17 piece big band orchestra. Larry is a 45 year BHS member where he got started in the Far Western District but came into the Raleigh-Durham area from Mobile, AL, in the Dixie District, where he was that chapter's director. He is a member and Associate Director of the RTP Chapter and a leader in the multi district Harmony Brigade effort.

John Adams, Tenor: is a retired federal employee. His career centered around urban and regional planning. After graduating from the University of Iowa with a geography degree he spent all of his working years in public service capacities. John joined the BHS in the Illinois District, is a 56 year member and spent 35 of those years in the Mid-Atlantic District with the Alexandria Harmonizers Chorus before retiring in central Carolina. While there he had the good fortune to be in several top notch quartets including one that won the Seniors International Quartet Contest. He describes it as "being with the right men at the right time with the right coaching". He is now with the RTP Chapter.

# *The Skinny*

Research Triangle Park,  
Spartanburg, Atlanta Metro, GA



## **2013 District Collegiate Champion**

Seth Phillips (T), Ralph Jean-Louis (Bs), Nathan Meisser (L), Chris Kirkland (Br)

# *Three Sharps and a Flat*

## Charleston



Richard Daehler-Wilking (T), Mike Wolford (L), Doc Priore (Bs), Phil Russell (Br)

### Richard Daehler-Wilking

I was born and raised in New Orleans. I became a Barbershopper (Lead) in Eugene OR in 1976. I sang Lead/Bass with Chicago # 1 1997-1980 and woodshedded with Chicago News the year before they won International in 1981. Joined Flowertown Chorus (Lead/Tenor) in Summerville, SC in 1981 and sang Lead in a registered quartet with Mike Stehlik, Bill Rubertus, and Sam McGinty. I sat out several years, then joined Charleston Barbershop Chorus in 2000; and became assistant director. Now I'm the Tenor and the "Flat" in 3 Sharps and A Flat" and loving it!

### Phil Russell

I come from a singing family living back in the mountains of Tennessee. As a child I sang "Jesus Loves Me" at the hospital and I sang in a children's choir, a youth choir and then an adult choir at the church. During high school, I sang in our Glee Club and was elected president in my senior year. I have spent quite a few years as minister of music at the Wando Woods Baptist church and have just retired in 2012. I have always liked Barbershop music and for a long while have wanted to go to a Barbershop convention. That dream came true when I attended our first Carolina District Convention. Now I sing with the Charleston Barbershop Chorus and for over a year I sing baritone in the quartet, "3 Sharps and a Flat" with three men who I appreciate very much. "It's great to be a Barbershopper!"



Mike Wolford

I started singing barbershop music in 1974 while in the military and stationed in Guam. The chorus was the Coral Islanders. I was transferred to Germany and had to give it up. After leaving the military, I married and began raising a family. My work kept me traveling a great amount of the time and it was quite a few years before I joined a barbershop chorus again. I sang with the Bull Run Troubadours in Manassas, Virginia for a small number of years and then took new employment in Charleston, SC. Once settled there I joined the Charleston Barbershop Chorus and have been with them for over two years. I began singing with a newly formed quartet, “3 Sharps and a Flat” about a year ago. I sing both Lead and Tenor parts with the chorus and Lead in the quartet. My pleasure with the quartet is in community service, in singing to folks in retirement homes and in promoting barbershop singing.

Doc Priore

I can't remember when there wasn't music in my life. My mother was a fine pianist and talented voice teacher. Several of my close relatives were accomplished instrumental musicians. I started singing lessons in my early teens. I sang in my college glee club and in a quartet for several years while in college. But it all came to a halt when I went to medical school and then served an internship and residency training. In fact, singing didn't come back into my life for a considerable number of years because of my very active medical practice. But finally I joined the Three Rivers Chorus in Pittsburgh, PA and I was hooked on the barbershop style for life. I sang in the bass section for almost ten years. However, once more, I stopped until I retired from medical practice and moved to Charleston, SC. My wife really brought me back to barbershop. As a surprise she planned a birthday party for me and in the middle of the celebration there was a ring at the front door. I answered and there stood a barbershop quartet. Wow! I sang a few songs with them and soon thereafter I joined their chorus-The Charleston Barbershop Chorus. I've been a barbershopper for almost 19 years and in “3 Sharps and a Flat” –singing bass-for almost a year. We enjoy singing with each other very much and we never pass up opportunities to sing in various venues in this wonderful city of ours. Keep America Singing!

# *Tucker Street*

Research Triangle Park



Chris Kirkland (Br), Chris Mueller (L), Jason Patrick (T), Chuck Rich (Bs)

***Tucker Street*** is a fun and friendly bunch, active on the local barbershop harmony scene since 2005. They are one of the General Assembly Chorus's "star" quartets, featured on many chapter shows and other public appearances, and moving steadily up the competition ladder around the southeast. They currently are ranked among the top five barbershop quartets in North and South Carolina, as members of the Society's new Carolinas District.

Long-standing members Jason Patrick (Tenor), Chris Mueller (Lead), and Chuck Rich (bass) are all members of the General Assembly Chorus, and are now joined by the newest member of the quartet, Chris Kirkland (baritone). Together they are developing their own brand of four - part men's a cappella harmony. All avid fans and participants in the North Carolina Harmony Brigade "extreme quartetting" experience, they continue to increase their repertoire of fun songs and perfect their unique sound and vocal blend.

***Tucker Street*** enjoys all aspects of singing and entertaining, and continues to push beyond the boundaries of traditional barbershop harmony, exploring the entire spectrum of a cappella singing, to provide their audiences with the highest caliber of entertainment .

# *Turn of the Century*

## Seneca



Bob Ely (Br), Wally Storm (Bs), Warren Alm (L),  
Dean Manning (T)



Dean Manning (Br), Irv Winik (Bs), Bob Ely (L), Jay Bobo (T)

The Turn of the Century Quartet originated about 18 years ago, shortly after the formation of the Golden Corner Chorus in Seneca, SC. Over the next several years the quartet experienced a number of membership changes. In 1998, Bob Ely joined the group, replacing its founder, Bob Bowers. For the next 12 years, this quartet remained together; Wally Storm, bass, Bob Ely, Bari, Warren Alm, lead and Dean Manning, tenor. It became well known for its wide repertoire and humorous delivery, appearing in many venues in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. The “Turns” also participated in two Dixie District quartet competitions in Knoxville and Chattanooga. Over the past two years, the quartet lost two of its members due to the passing of Warren Alm and the relocation of Wally Storm. It is moving on, however, with two new faces, Jay Bobo and Irv Winik.

# Village Green

Winston-Salem,  
Research Triangle Park,  
Rocky Mount

*Where Gracious Harmony resides...*



Contact:  
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Ted Leinbach - Tenor  
Charlie Rose - Lead  
Jim Nappier - Bari  
Jon Vickers - Bass



**2010 District Seniors Champion**

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

*VILLAGE GREEN*, a Senior Barbershop Quartet, formed in the spring of 2007 with original tenor, Alan Kousen. Competing in the Dixie District in the fall of 2007, we won the seniors title and the right to advance to International in San Antonio, TX where, in January of 2008, we placed 11th.

When in the spring of 2008, Alan faced some health problems, Ted Leinbach was recruited to fill the tenor slot as we prepared for competition in the fall of 2008. There we again won rights to advance to the 2009 International in Pasadena, CA where we placed 7th!

A conflict forced us to pass on the 2009 contest but we competed in the inaugural 2010 Carolinas District contest where we won the NSC Seniors District Championship and advanced to International in Las Vegas, NV in January of 2011 where we placed 21st. Competing in the Carolina District in the fall of 2011 we again won rights to the 2012 International in Tucson, AZ where we placed 19<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more.....

**Tenor: Ted Leinbach** - (CPA in Winston-Salem) A seasoned barbershopper, Ted has a long record singing Bass but was challenged to reach for the Tenor with *VG* and has earned his stripes in the roll. He continues to grace the Bass part with the very well established *Bar None Quartet* and the NC Harmony Brigade. With deep roots in the Charlotte chapter, Ted is now president of the Winston-Salem Chapter (*Triad Harmony Express*).

**Lead: Charlie Rose** - (CPA in Rocky Mount) Charlie is legendary in the Society having distinguished himself in major rolls from his Rocky Mt. chapter up through both Dixie and NCS Districts and at the International level.

As 1993 founder and Commander of the North Carolina Harmony Brigade, he launched a movement that continues to grow as Brigades go international and approach the double digits. Charlie's sweet and clear lead make him a total joy to sing with. He is the proud father of fellow barbershopper son, Robbie.

**Bari: Jim Nappier** - (Insurance Exec. in Clayton) Jim sang with *Kudzu Krooners* and 2001 Dixie Champs, *Crescendo*. He has many years history in Dixie Board positions and is the current Awards Chairman for NSC. Jim is the agenda leader of the quartet, keeping us all in line and on track. He is an active Charter Member of the NC Harmony Brigade.

**Bass: Jon Vickers** - (Engineer in Winston-Salem) Singing Bari in his first quartet, the 1960 *Teen Tones*, Jon has also sung multiple parts. In 1983 Dixie Champs, *Blue Ribbon Edition*, he sang Lead and competed twice at International. Another venture as Lead with *Voiceterous* led to a move to Bass, singing in both *Sound Counsel* and *Village Green*. Jon serves on the Board of the Winston-Salem chapter. A Charter Member, he is on the Board of the NC and Atlantic Harmony Brigades. He's also proud that grandson Nik (14) is in his third year singing with the Red Bank, NJ chapter.

# *Vintage Four*

Savannah, Hilton Head Island,  
Mt. Pleasant, Research Triangle Park,  
Cleveland, OH, Frank Thorne



Bill Andrusic (Br), Brian Franck (Bs), Gary Barker (L), Duke Andrus (T)

Vintage Four Quartet is a group with over 150 years experience singing barbershop. That is why we are “Vintage” like a fine wine, but not old.

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, Gary Barker has been a barbershopper since 1984. He was a member of the 1991 Northeast District Champion Quartet, The Reunion and has competed with them on the International stage. He was a member of the Meridian-Silver City Chapter in Connecticut and is now a member of the Frank Thorne Chapter.

William, “Bill” Andrusic, the Baritone, has been a member since 1988 singing with the Bowie Knights of Harmony in Maryland. He joined the Research Triangle Park General Assembly Chorus in 1997 and has sung on the International stage with them 3 times. He has also sung in numerous chapter quartets through the years. He is a member of the Sun City Chorus and Mt Pleasant Chorus.

Brian Franck, our Bass, started singing barbershop in a quartet in college and has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 49 years, mostly in Ohio. He was the director of the Cleveland East Chorus for 33 years and has sung in numerous quartets. He is presently the director of the New River Harmony Chorus at Sun City Hilton Head.



# ***WHAMMY!***

Central Carolina, Elizabethtown, KY,  
Miami, FL



Mathew Gorman (T), Craig McDaniel (L), Andre Kuney (Bs), O.J. de la Osa

# *You Kids Get Off My Lawn!*

Charlotte, Research Triangle Park,  
Winston-Salem, NC



## **2012 District Seniors Champions**

Steve Tremper (T), Chuck Villier (L), John Earnhardt (Bs), Joe Doub (Br)

The idea for a new Senior Quartet in the Carolinas District started back in mid-July 2012 with a query from Bass John Earnhardt to Bari Joe Doub and Tenor Steve Tremper about possibly putting together a new foursome. Actually it started years before that, as John had been pestering Steve to "hurry up and turn 55" so we could put something together. Steve had just reached the minimum age requirement in March, and so John wasted no time in rounding up Joe and, on Steve's suggestion, John tapped fellow Charlotte chapter member Chuck Villier to lend his experienced lead voice to the foursome. By mid-August they had gathered at Joe's home in East Bend, NC, roughly halfway between Raleigh and Charlotte, and, armed with an initial list of recent NC Harmony Brigade tunes, they soon whittled the possibilities down to a handful of favorites that they could get up to speed quickly.

At that first rehearsal, in addition to picking a short list of contest songs, they kicked around a few possible quartet names and finally stumbled upon "You Kids Get Off My Lawn!" which made them all laugh; it was just silly enough to work! Now, with barely 2 months to contest, after resolving a few calendar conflicts, they settled on only about 5 rehearsals to prepare for the Fall Senior Quartet contest. But they made the best use of their time, and made the long distance commute work between them, and by the time of the Fall contest they were finally ready to give it a shot. John and Chuck had emailed recordings of our rehearsals, and had worked together duetting at their chapter meetings to put in extra work. They also got some coaching help and comments from Mark Chandler, Greg Zinke, and Mike Fitch.

In the Fall Senior Quartet contest, they squared off against two former NSC Senior quartet champs (Village Green and BLackJACK) among a field of 8 foursomes, and when the dust had settled, "You Kids Get Off My Lawn!" edged out the others by just a few points to take the first place trophy! This qualified them to represent the Carolinas District in the 2013 Mid-Winter Convention International Seniors Quartet contest in Orlando the following January. They were ranked 13th among 91 competing Senior Quartets from all 17 Districts... not a bad start! With a few more rehearsals, the quartet cleaned up a few things and traveled to Florida to do battle with 25 other top Senior Quartets from around the Society. In a very tight contest that resulted in multiple tie scores, the quartet finished in a 3-way tie for 14th place (!) and a whole bunch of happy memories to take home with them.

The formation of the quartet was "just for fun" from the beginning, and they never anticipated the rapid success they enjoyed. Steve and Joe were both still active in Let's Sing! and Chuck was still active with his quartet, "Still Standing," so they knew this senior quartet was not meant for the long haul, and in the Spring of 2013 the quartet was honored to sing once more as outgoing champs at the NSC Spring convention in Pinehurst, NC. The quartet has since retired after a quick but fun run. What a hobby



A more complete picture of the awards the quartet garnered since they formed.

# *Zero Hour*

Charlotte, Sunrise, FL,  
Frank Thorne



## **2013 District Quartet Champion**

Ben Mills (T), Larry Lane (L), Mark Rodda (Br), Scot Gregg (Bs)

Zero Hour Quartet started out as Harmony Brewing which was formed in July of 2012. The original bass singer in the group was Wally Miles and with his wonderful bass notes the quartet came in 3rd place out of 17 quartets at the 2012 Carolinas District Quartet Contest. Our 3rd place finish made us very excited about performing and we continue to improve and look for more opportunities to sing.

In June of 2013 our new bass singer, Scot Gregg, joined the group and we changed our name to Zero Hour. We love to perform and are hard at work perfecting our next contest and show packages. We have show packages of various lengths and we can liven up just about any event with our four-part a cappella harmony!

The quartet attended the Carolinas' District Quartet/Chorus Contest in Myrtle Beach, SC on October 25-26, 2013 and was crowned the 2013 District Quartet Champions. We competed against 23 other quartets and we were honored to be chosen as the District's newest Quartet Champs!

### **Tenor: Ben Mills**

Ben grew up singing 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, he sometimes works a REAL job as a Banker!

**Lead: Larry Lane**

Larry is a retired High School Band Director and Elementary School General Music Teacher with 23 years of service in Charlotte. He has also served as a Minister of Music, played trumpet in the orchestras for numerous Broadway Touring Shows, The Ringling Brother's 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 a cappella jazz ensemble IMPROMPTU, served as the 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 Music Director for The Gold Standard Chorus, an a cappella men's chorus in Charlotte, NC and The Interim Choir Director at Benton's Crossroads Baptist Church in Indian Trail, NC. He is married to his wonderful wife Robin and they have two daughters, Austin and Amanda. They also have four beautiful granddaughters Abigail, Emma, Isabella and Olivia.

**Bass: Scot Gregg**

Born and raised in Asheville, NC to a very musical family, Scot started playing the trumpet in middle school and continued all the way through college. He was selected to be a part of the Baptist All-State Youth Choir for two consecutive years and went on to earn a BA in Music from Wingate University with an emphasis in Voice. While in college Scot sang in the University and Chamber Choirs and played trumpet in the Jazz and Pep Bands. He was part of many theatrical productions including Broadway Reviews and Handel's Messiah. While in college he was invited to sing with the renowned Charlotte, NC based ensemble the Wandering Minstrels in which he continues to sing every holiday season. Scot is relatively new to singing Barbershop having joined his first quartet called Nightcap in 2006. He went on to sing with the quartets Grand Central and the 2011 Carolinas District Quartet Champs 17 Below. 17 Below went on to represent the district at the 2012 Barbershop Harmony Society's International Quartet/Chorus Contest in Portland, Oregon in 2012. He and his wife Kelly live in Denver, NC.

**Baritone: Mark Rodda**

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 of 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 beers from around the globe with his adorable wife Marcia.