



Carolinas District
Barbershop Harmony Society

Carolinas District

2014 History

It was another good year for the Carolinas District full of many activities. The two big stories of the year were the addition of another new chapter from **Fayetteville, NC** and a new approach to the District Conventions and Contests. The Spring Convention now features all contests to select representatives to International Contests and to select District Champions (except the District Quartet Champion who is crowned in the Fall). The Fall Festival debuted November 7-9 in Charleston, SC with a new and exciting format. Paul Martin, the Director of Festivals, describes it this way:

We could see the potential for a whole new experience: one that would focus on a destination location that would have attractions for the whole family and with coaching and performance opportunities that would encourage chorus participation. We would change up the contest to be just one set to reduce contest time and allow more free time. We added a third song solely for entertainment to make for a more enjoyable evening. We provided individual coaching time for choruses and quartets. And finally, we capped it all off with a banquet dinner and show.

The history includes the following sections: The Year In Review, 2014 Spring Convention, 2014 Fall Festival, Chapters, Quartets, Leadership, and Awards.

The Year In Review

North Carolina Harmony Brigade 22nd Rally

The 125-man North Carolina Harmony Brigade (NCHB) gathered January 17-20, 2014 in Pinehurst, NC for its 22nd Rally. As usual the weekend of extreme quartetting included a random draw quartet contest on Friday night and a Saturday night show with the Brigade chorus and featured quartets *Zero Hour* and *BLacKJack*. This year's Rally included two very special events. First was the recognition of first recipients of the *Chuck Greene NCHB Memorial Youth Scholarships* as reported on the Barbershop Harmony Society website:



The dream of Society motivational speaker, Chuck Greene, to provide dynamic opportunities to young, ambitious singers became a reality this January at the 22nd North Carolina Harmony Brigade, an organization he helped to create. Through the generosity of NCHB members and supporters, eight motivated, talented young men received the first "Chuck Greene NCHB Memorial Youth Scholarships" ever awarded. More importantly, the eight scholarship recipients (whose ages ranged from 18 to 28) enjoyed a weekend of nearly nonstop quartet singing in countless quartets they were spontaneously a part of, formed out of the other 120+ experienced quartet singers in attendance.



Left: Larry Kellog presents the Proclamation establishing the Chuck Greene NCHB Memorial Youth Scholarship to Bev Greene. Right: (L-R) Justin Mauney, Anthony Notaro, Chris Kirkland, Matt Gorman, Justin Donegan, Tyler Carpenter, Stephen Barrie, Jeffrey Arians.

The second special event recognized the impact of eXtreme quartetting across the barbershop landscape. The first Rally of the NCHB, the vision of Charlie Rose, was held in 1993. Since then eight additional Harmony Brigades have formed across the Society. Special guests of NCHB for their 22nd Rally were several founders of the other Harmony Brigades: Indiana (2003 Indianapolis, IN), Atlantic (2006 Wilmington, DE), Great Lakes (2010 Okemos, MI), Harmony University (2010 Belmont University), High Sierra (2011 Reno, NV), New England (2012 Boston MA), Northern Pines (2013 Plymouth, MN), and Lone Star (2013 Houston, TX).

The founders of all nine eXtreme Quartetting Brigades at the 22nd NCHB Rally. Duane Henry (Indiana HB), Larry Triplett (Harmony University HB), Steve Zorn (Northern Pines HB), Ted Blank (New England HB). John Loucks (Lone Star HB), Lee Daum (New England HB), Neil Seigal (Atlantic HB), Charlie Ross (Atlantic HB), Charles Rose (NCHB).



BLackJack represented the Carolinas District in the Seniors Quartet Contest at the Midwinter Convention and Contests in Long Beach, CA January 31st and placed 14th.



The Spring Convention

The Spring Convention was held March 21-22 in Winston Salem, NC. With the new contest format, four International Representatives were chosen and four District Champions were crowned.

Int'l Quartet Reps – *Zero Hour*

Int'l Senior Quartet Reps – *Harmony Grits*

Senior Quartet Champion – *The Hardly Boys*

Collegiate Champions and Int'l Reps –
Riverside Ringers

Novice Quartet Champion –

Hazardous Moving Parts

Int'l Chorus Rep – *Carolina Vocal Express*

Chorus Champion – *Triad Harmony Chorus*



Zero Hour

Int'l Quartet Reps for 2014 Contest



Harmony Grits

Int'l Seniors Quartet Reps for 2015 Contest



The Hardly Boys

2014 District Seniors Quartet Champion



Riverside Ringers

2014 District Collegiate Quartet Champion
Int'l Quartet Reps for 2014 Contest



Hazardous Moving Parts

2014 District Novice Champion



Triad Harmony Chorus – Winston-Salem, NC
2014 District Chorus Champion



Carolina Vocal Express – Greater Gaston, NC
International Chorus Representative for 2015 Contest

A Brief History of the Carolina Vocal Express

By Ben Mills and Matt Gorman

The *Carolina Vocal Express* (CVE) has officially existed since the beginning of 2014. The idea for CVE started with a conversation between Ben Mills and Matt Gorman after the International competition in Toronto in the summer of 2013. Ben and Matt were discussing a way to increase the quality and over-all level of participation from the Carolinas District at the International level. The idea to form an inter-chapter joint chorus was born in late 2013 and the first official organizational meeting occurred during the Fall District competition in Myrtle Beach in 2013. The leadership committee, which consisted of Larry Reinhart, Larry Triplett, Steve Tremper, Wally Miles, Jim King, Matt Gorman and Ben Mills hashed out a vision for CVE and made plans to invite different members from many chapters across the district.

The vision for CVE has always been to provide a supplementary outlet for those guys interested in singing in a high-level competitive chorus that are willing to do the individual work needed to compete at the very highest level with very few rehearsals. The goal continues to be to help everyone involved



with CVE to grow in both experience and musicianship so that they can in turn bring those experiences back to their home chapters and thus improve the quality of barbershop singing at every local chapter in the Carolinas District.

One of the early challenges for CVE was to find a chapter to sponsor us and allow us to sing under their charter. A similar chorus, *Rocky Mount Chorus*, had competed in the Dixie District around 10 years ago. Charlie Rose assisted us with guidance and direction and ultimately, we worked out an agreement with the **Greater Gaston Chapter** to use their charter in order to sign up our members under the new chorus name, *Carolina Vocal Express*!

Ben Mills has led as the musical director of CVE since the beginning. Larry Triplett is our assistant director. Matt Gorman is the chorus manager. Other members have since been added to the leadership team: Steve Curulla (treasurer) & Rex Partlow (membership). CVE is now around 120 members strong!

Once we got everything organized to become an official chorus, we planned 3 rehearsals leading up to the Spring International Prelim Contest in Winston-Salem in March of 2014. We brought in legendary coach and barbershopper, George Gipp, for one of our final rehearsals and for the weekend of contest. George really helped us develop and all the guys really love George! BOOM!!!

We were fortunate enough to win that contest in Winston-Salem and qualify for International in 2015 with a score of 80.5%, which is the highest score for any Carolinas district chorus heading into the International competition. CVE will compete at the International competition in Pittsburgh on July 3rd, 2015.

We also look forward to competing again this Spring in Charlotte and hopefully continuing to improve and represent the Carolinas District with pride.

Supercharge your Chapter Sessions

Several *Supercharging Your Chapter* sessions were held across the District during the year. Pictured below is the session held May 24th in Cary, NC.



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Representing the Carolinas District at the International Contest in Las Vegas, NE were:

Zero Hour placing 41st in the Quartet Contest

Riverside Ringers placing 24th in the Collegiate Quartet Contest

Palmetto Vocal Project placing 29th in the Chorus Contest



Zero Hour



Riverside Ringers



Palmetto Vocal Project – Mount Pleasant, SC – Derek Street, Directing

Asheville's *Land of the Sky Chorus* at Harmony University

A new feature this year at Harmony University was the *Chorus College*. The *Land of the Sky Chorus* was one of four choruses from across the Society to take advantage of this opportunity for an “in-depth, focused, intensive week of expert coaching and guidance in areas of performance, singing, artistry, and chapter leadership”.



The *Land of the Sky Chorus* performing on a show at Harmony University.

Another New Chapter - *Cross Creek Chordsmen* (Fayetteville, NC)

The *Cross Creek Chordsmen* have accomplished so much during the year to include becoming a licensed chapter in March 2014 and then receiving their Charter from the Society on August 11, 2014. They have grown to 27 members and focused on improving their singing and being prepared to sing Polecats with Society members at District events. They consistently have 14-18 members who attend chapter meetings and always welcome visitors to their chapter activities.

But their story begins in the Fall of 2013 when Jim Berube Jr. and Jim Berube Sr. contacted the District about reviving the chapter in Fayetteville. (The Fayetteville *Highlanders Chorus* chartered in 1969 and was active until 1981.) An organization meeting was hosted on October 16th by Warren Fuson, District VP of Chapter Development, and Bill Clegg, Founder of the Brunswick County chapter. Attending the meeting were the Berube clan (Jim Berube Jr., James Berube Sr., Jim Berube III and his wife and son), Niel Johnson (member of RTP) with his two children, Bill Pope (member of RTP), Kevin Nolan, Jake Jacobson (Frank Thorne), Lynn Williams John Dendy (member of RTP), and CPT John and Allison Greene with their two children. The *Southern Piners* (Niel Johnson (T), Wayne Clay (L), Jake Jacobson, (Br), David Williams (Bs) performed several songs at the meeting.

The first Chapter meeting was held the following Thursday night, 24 Oct 2013. Fortuitously, the *Fayette-Tones* quartet of Society members living in the Fayetteville area (Neil Johnson (T), Bill Pope (L), Jake Jacobson (Br), Richard Osenbach (Bs)) was already active since late August 2013. The *Fayette-Tones* Quartet and the Berube's and approximately 12 other men attended the meeting.

During the year the chorus engaged two main directors. Niel Johnson directed until his transfer to Chicago in July. Since then, Dan Cohn, stepped up as Director and although he was new to the Barbershop experience, he has guided the chorus to better singing and consistency in vocal production. Steve Harmon, a veteran barbershopper is in the role of Assistant Director.



The **Cross Creek Chordsmen** performing at the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens.

The chapter has already made an impact on the Fayetteville Community. The chorus made its public debut in July when it performed the National Anthem at the Fayetteville Swamp Dogs (Minor League Baseball team) and also sang *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* at the 7th inning stretch. The chorus was interviewed by the Fayetteville Observer local newspaper and the chorus made the front page of the November 17th, 2014 issue of the paper. The article included photos and a two minute video was featured in the online version of the newspaper. In December the chorus performed several times at the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens “Lights in the Garden” Tour.

The Fall Festival

The inaugural Fall Festival was held in November 7-9 in Charleston, SC. The new format was a tremendous success.

WHAMMY! was crowned the new District Quartet Champion and **Supersonic** was voted Most Entertaining Quartet by the audience. The banquet and Saturday Night Showcase was held on the USS Yorktown Aircraft Carrier.



WHAMMY!
2014 District Quartet Champion



Supersonic
Most Entertaining Quartet