

# Fall Festival

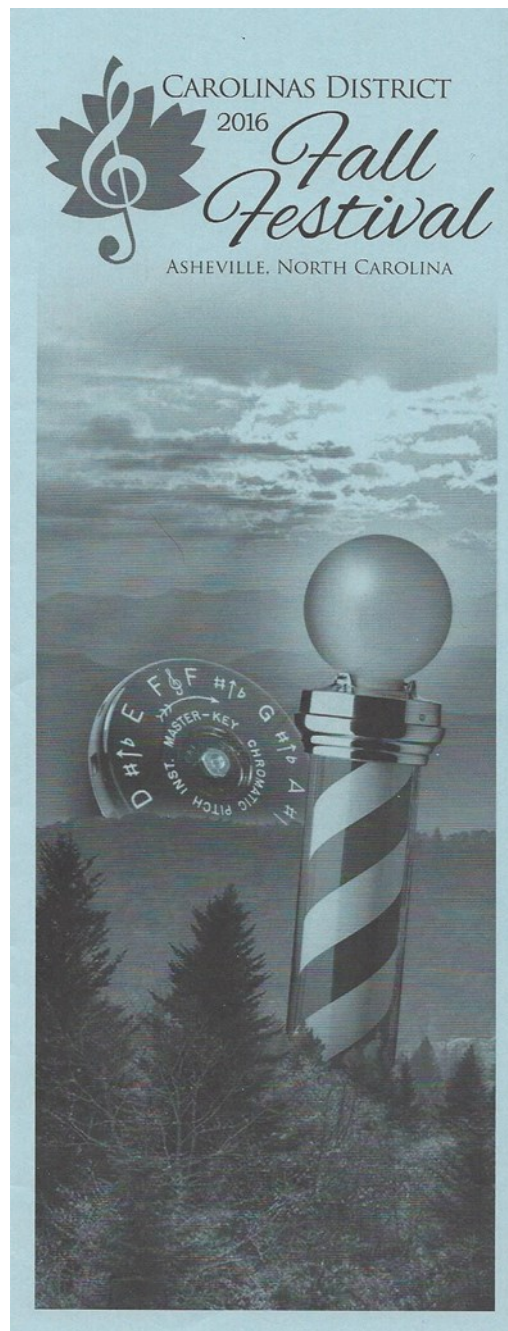
The Fall Festival was held November 10-13 in Asheville, NC. Asheville is yet another great destination city in the Carolinas offering a wide variety of tour opportunities during the weekend.

“We were blessed with Fall color, great weather, and the sights, sounds and flavors of Asheville. Our dinners and accommodations at the Crowne Plaza Resort were superb. But what makes the Festivals so special is our time together to enjoy our craft and each others company” - Paul Martin, Board Member At Large and Festival Director

In addition to the District Quartet Contest, Harmony Platoon, and a variety of classes and coaching, the 2017 Fall Festival featured the *Collegiate Challenge* with four men’s college acapella ensembles participated in an event similar to the Youth Chorus Festival held at the International Convention.

Ten quartets took to the contest stage for an exciting contest. A new quartet, *The Oneders*, were crowned the District Quartet Champions. Once again this year, each quartet sang a third song, not necessarily contestable but to add entertainment value. Based on votes from the audience *The Oneders* also took the honors as the audience favorite.

Also a first... the *Carolina Statesmen*, a seniors chorus with members from across the District, sang for score and qualified for the Senior Chorus Festival to be held at the 2017 International Mid-Winter Convention.



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***The Oneders***  
**2016 District Quartet Champion**  
**Audience Favorite**

# District Quartet Contest

## Competing Quartets



***The Oneders***  
**2016 District Champion**  
**Audience Favorite**  
 David Brooks (Br), Larry Lane (Bs),  
 Ben Mills (L), David Mills (T)  
 Charlotte, NC; Tampa, FL



***Midtown***  
 Scott Feldmann (T), Dan Winer (L),  
 Dave Minnich (Bs), Fern Sicilia (Br)  
 Central Carolina, NC; Frank Thorne



***One Accord***  
 David Satterwhite (T), Christopher Hale (L),  
 Steve Skinner (Bs), Edgar Horton (Br)  
 Spartanburg, SC; Frank Thorne



***Harmony Grits***  
 Steve Tremper (T), Wally Miles (L),  
 Jim Nappier (Br), Ted Leinbach (Bs)  
 Research Triangle Park, Charlotte, NC



***Final Countdown***  
 Steve Curulla (T), Chuck Villier (L),  
 Dale Comer (Bs), Mark Rodda (Br)  
 Charlotte, NC



***Infinity***

Kevin Gillett (T), Thomas Nawrocki (Bs),  
Lewis Law, Jr. (L), Mikey Mancuso (Br)  
Charleston, Mount Pleasant, SC



***Hazardous Moving Parts***

Tom Martyn (Br), Larry Reinhart (Bs),  
Jim Benson (T), Bob Lucas (L)  
Wilmington, NC



***Sound Counsel***

Nate Pendley (L), Jon Vickers (Bs),  
Fred Conrad (T), Gerry Davis (Br)  
Winston-Salem, NC



***Acappella Fellas***

Dennis Kimbleton (Br), Robert Johns (Bs),  
Lee De Armond (L), Don Lang (T)  
Hickory, NC



***The Hardly Boys***

John Adams (T), Larry Triplett (L),  
Chuck Rich (Bs), Steve Mark (Br)  
Alexandria, VA; Central Carolina, Research Triangle Park, NC



***Supersonic  
Mic Testers***

Justin Slack (T), James Monday (T),  
Kier Klepzig (Bs), Ken Kehres (Br)  
Asheville, NC

Many convention attendees took advantage of an exciting line-up of activities in and around Asheville. Thursday featured a tour of the famous Biltmore Estates. Asheville is known for its craft beer industry so Friday's tour included a "Brews Cruise" in addition to the Arts District and the iconic Drum Circle. The LaZoom City Tour and Barbershop in the Park were available on Saturday.

Saturday was a day full of activities coaching sessions for quartets and choruses provided by the members of the judging panel (Jeremiah Pope, Mike Louque, and Jeremy Conover), District coaches (Robert Cox, Mark Stock) and three guest judges for the new Performance Category (Mark Kettner, Gary Plaag, and Barry Towner). A total of 15 quartets, eight choruses, and two collegiate groups received coaching during the day.



Top-to-Bottom: Fayetteville with Jeremiah Pope, Southern Gentlemen with Gary Plaag (not shown) and Hawkapella with Mark Kettner

Top-to-Bottom: Hilton Head Island with Mark Kettner, Wilmington with Jeremy Conover, and Charlotte with Mike Louque (not shown)

# Collegiate Challenge



Above  
**Southern Gentlemen**  
Georgia Southern University  
Colin Harrison Directing



Left  
**TIGEROAR**  
Clemson University  
Trey Lockett Directing



Above  
**Noblemen**  
Methodist University  
Dr. Michael Martin Directing  
**Audience Favorite**



Left  
**Hawkapella**  
Catawba Valley Community College  
Caroline Simyon Directing



# Carolinas innovate with college chorus contest

**B**oth chapters and colleges took a while to warm up to this new idea, but by the time the Carolinas District's November "Collegiate Challenge" barbershop contest was over, everyone considered it a great success.

The Carolinas District had not had effective youth outreach since becoming a district, and Bob Johns, Bob Clark and Denny Evans wanted to fix that. They saw little outreach to college choruses taking place at the Society level, and saw this as opportunity to connect with an underserved community. Key elements included:

- The "Collegiate Challenge" was part of the district's Fall Festival, ensuring that an audience, judges, and venue were already in place—no additional costs.
- Choruses qualified with in-district judges and via video.
- The district tracked down all known post-secondary music programs in the district and pitched the program extensively to chapters, who were asked to contact their local colleges.
- The district launched a dedicated fund-raising effort and obtained a Society Innovation Grant.
- A "help team" provided assistance to chapters that felt uncomfortable approaching colleges.



Georgia Southern University, contest winner

- BHS point men for each college chorus coordinated the onsite elements.

**How did it turn out?**

Participant numbers were lower than hoped, mostly because many chapters contacted colleges too late in the year, many who missed expect to be involved next year.

Otherwise, the event was a huge success for the district, participating choruses, and the audience. For example:

- Participants described "magic moments," and the Clemson men confessed that their initial mixed feelings had changed to high enthusiasm. They asked for information on how to participate in the Society's upcoming Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest.
- Collegiate directors asked how to attend Harmony U, and how to start a barbershop youth camp.
- At least two chapters intend to have the ensemble nearest them participate on a chapter show.
- One chapter intends to incorporate a nearby school and host a benefit concert for its music program.
- One judge/coach commented that this program might be appropriate for his district.

It might work for your district as well!

— adapted from a report by Bob Johns, [omarconsulting@msn.com](mailto:omarconsulting@msn.com)

Preprinted from *The Harmonizer* January/February 2017



**Carolina Statesmen**  
**International Representative 2017 Seniors Chorus Festival**  
 Larry Triplett Directing

# Saturday Night Showcase

Saturday was a full night. After a dinner and the *Collegiate Challenge* the evening concluded with the Saturday Night Showcase.

(All photos © Ken Thomas)





Gold Standard Chorus



Tirad Harmony Chorus



General Assembly



Land 'O Sky Chorus



Land of the Sky Chorus