

The Year In Review - 2016

The International Midwinter Convention and Contests was held January 26-31 in Reno, NV. Two quartets, *Final Countdown* and *Harmony Grits* represented the Carolinas District in the Seniors Quartet Contest. They placed 17th and 18th, respectively, and their scores were 1/10th of point apart.



Final Countdown



Harmony Grits

North Carolina Harmony Brigade 24th Rally

The 130-man North Carolina Harmony Brigade met in Pinehurst, NC on January 15-16 for its 24th Annual Rally. The Saturday night show featured *WHAMMY!*, the Carolinas District 2014 Champions, and the North Carolina Harmony Brigade Quaretters Chorus (pictured below).



The  North Carolina Harmony Brigade  Spectacular!

Featuring the Carolinas District 2014 Champions *WHAMMY!* and the fabulous North Carolina Harmony Brigade Quaretters' Chorus 

 **Sat. Jan. 16, 2016**
at 7:30 pm
Sandhills Community College



Spring Convention

The Spring Convention was held March 17-19 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Four District Champions were crowned and District Representatives to four International Contests were chosen.

Int'l Quartet Reps – *Zero Hour* and *Let's Sing!*

Int'l Senior Quartet Reps – *Harmony Grits* and *Final Countdown*

Sr Quartet Champion – *Hazardous Moving Parts*

Youth Quartet Champions and Int'l Reps – *No Strings Attached*

Novice Quartet Champion – *No String Attached*

Int'l Chorus Rep – *Carolina Vocal Express*

Chorus Champion – *Gold Standard Chorus*



Zero Hour

Int'l Quartet Reps for 2016 Contest



Let's Sing!

Int'l Quartet Reps for 2016 Contest



Harmony Grits

Int'l Seniors Quartet Reps for 2017 Contest



Final Countdown

Int'l Seniors Quartet Reps for 2017 Contest



Hazardous Moving Parts

Seniors Quartet Champion



No Strings Attached

Youth Quartet Champion, Novice Quartet Champion
Int'l Youth Quartet Reps for 2016 Contest



Gold Standard Chorus – Charlotte, NC – Larry Lane Directing
2016 District Chorus Champion



Carolina Vocal Express – Rocky Mount, NC – Dale Comer Directing
International Chorus Representative for 2017 Contest

Youth in Harmony Events

There were two chapter-sponsored Youth in Harmony events during the year. The first was a full-day Youth Harmony Explosion camp sponsored by The Charlotte Chapter in conjunction with their Annual Show. The Charlotte Harmony Explosion was an a cappella experience for teens from high school freshmen to graduating seniors. Campers (below right) learned three songs in 4-part a cappella harmony, under the coaching of *Instant Classic* the 2015 International Champion quartet. The campers also performed on the Charlotte Annual Show that evening.

The other event was sponsored by the New Bern Chapter and consisted of a morning activity on a school day that was attended by around 100 students from three high schools. The students (below left) learned tags and sang them in quartets and larger groups in front of the entire group. The session was led by Dr. Bill Adams and *Harmony Grits* was the demonstration quartet.



Featuring Other Styles of A Cappella

Although not a new concept, the Barbershop Harmony Society is encouraging chapters to reach out to the community and feature a cappella groups singing other style of music on their shows. Asheville's "a cappella fest" featured *FortissiMamas*, from *UNC Asheville*, *AH-Cappella* from Asheville High School, and *ShBoom*.

Central Carolinas' *Bull City A Cappella Slam III* featured *Vox Virorum*, *Durham Academy XIV Hours* and from NC Central University the *Concert Chorale* and *Vocal Jazz Ensemble*



International Convention

Representing the Carolinas District at the International Contest in Nashville, TN July 3-10, 2016 were:



Zero Hour placing 25th in the Quartet Contest

Let's Sing! placing 38th in the Quartet Contest

No Strings Attached placing 2nd among Junior Varsity Quartets in the Youth Quartet Contest

Carolina Vocal Express placing 16th in the Chorus Contest



Zero Hour



Let's Sing!



No Strings Attached



Carolina Vocal Express – Rocky Mount, NC – Dale Comer Directing

International Contest photos by Lorin May, Barbershop Harmony Society

There are two additional items to report about the International Convention.

Mark Stock, Carolinas District Vice President for Music & performance, was on the International judging panel in the Singing Category for the Quartet and Chorus contests.

Although not representing the Carolinas District, one of our members of the Lexington County, SC Chapter, Dan Walz, was the bass of *Signature*, the Fourth Place Bronze Medalist Quartet. In fact Dan Walz along Will Rodriguez were members of *1/2 Ton Pickup*, the Carolinas District 2012 Quartet Champion.



Signature

Representing the Sunshine District
Will Rodriguez (T), Daniel Cochran, (L)
Dan Walz (Bs), Matt Clancy (br)
Miami, FL; Sebring, FL; Lexington County, SC;
Sunrise, FL

Fall Festival

The Fall Festival was held November 10-12 in Asheville, NC. Asheville is yet another great destination city in the Carolinas offering a wide variety of tour opportunities during the weekend. Other activities in addition to the District Quartet Contest included the Harmony Platoon, a variety of classes, and coaching sessions,



Ten quartets took to the contest stage for an exciting contest. *The Oneders* were crowned the 2016 District Quartet Champion. Based on votes from the audience *The Oneders* also took the honors as the Audience Favorite.

This Fall Festival also included three additional activities.

The first new activity was the *Collegiate Challenge* which featured four men's college a capella ensembles participating in an event similar to the Youth Chorus Festival held at the International Convention. The Groups included *Southern Gentlemen* from Georgia Southern University, *TIGEROAR* from Clemson University, *Noblemen* from Methodist University, and *Hawkapella* from Catawba Valley Community College.



The Oneders
2016 District Quartet Champion
Audience Favorite

The Southern Gentlemen took top honors at the *Collegiate Challenge*.

The second new activity was part of a new International Seniors Chorus Festival sponsored by the Barbershop Harmony Society. The *Carolina Statesmen*, a seniors chorus with members from chapters across the District, sang for score and qualified for the Senior Chorus Festival to be held at the 2017 International Mid-Winter Convention in San Antonio, TX.



Southern Gentlemen
Southern Georgia University



Carolina Statesmen – Mark Stock & Larry Triplett, Directors

Third, and perhaps the most important in the long term, was the introduction of the Carolinas District Youth in Harmony Program. Dr. Bill Adams, Vice President – Youth in Harmony, presented a program that will be a much broader, more encompassing program than most, if not all, of the current programs in the Society. The details of the program are included in a special section of this history.

