The Weekly Newsletter of the
Choo Choo Chorus

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Brandon's Quartet

May 6, 2013

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Scout Flag Day, Saturday, May 25, National Cemetery, Arrive 7:15 AM for 8 AM program, Patriotic uniform

Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, National Cemetery, 10:15 AM, Patriotic uniform

Summer Cookout, June 29

Ruby Falls, Thursday, July 4

Lakeside Harmony Weekend, July 19-20, Huntsville, This is our chapter retreat for 2013.

Ruby Falls, Saturday, July 27

Annual Show, August 17, GPS, Lunch Break is guest quartet.

Fall Contest, October 4-5, Chattanooga, we are host.

Christmas Show, Thursday, December 19, Tivoli

Christmas Party, December 15 (tentative)

Brandon's Quartet

Starting just a few weeks ago, our quartet started singing together for a competition that was soon to come. Now after the competition, we have grown to love Barbershop Harmony Music. We are all in our high school chorus and we each love to sing. Our bass, Andrew Holdaway, Baritone, Isaiah Robinson, Lead, Thirstain Daniels, and myself, Brandon Middlebrooks, the Tenor,each have a love for singing. Though we have only been singing for a few days, I feel that we are prospering and we hope to keep coming to Barbershop and be able to become better every single time.
Brandon

Online Archive

Script for Monday Meeting

7:02 Chuck leads warm up plus Polecat
7:15 Chuck - Sweet Adeline
7:30 Paul - Celebrate Harmony
7:50 Paul - Armed Forces Medley
8:05 Paul - Focus Session on Vowels
8:20 Announcements & break
8:30 Four on the Floor - DaveF-Br, John-B, Cameron-T, Gary-L
8:40 Risers - How's Every Little Thing in Dixie
8:50 Risers - When You Wish Upon a Star
9:00 Risers - God Bless America
9:10 Risers - Georgia
9:20 Risers - Memorial Day Set
9:28 Gandy Dancer Award and KTWWS

Highlights of Last Meeting

Amazing turnout last week with 35 including Rock City 4 and Brandon's quartet. SteveG gave us a good grade for riser etiquette. Rich presented us with two Ruby Falls opportunities, and we agreed to both (see Calendar.) SteveG pressed us to reserve July 19-20 for Lakeside Harmony Weekend as a chapter retreat. He also read a thank you card from Brooks for the fruit basket we sent him. Paul talked to DaveR and he and Sondra still need our thoughts and prayers. Cameron introduced the members of Brandon's quartet and we sang them a welcome. After the break, Brandon's quartet and RC4 sang for us. We worked on our repertory songs. Marcellus passed the Gandy to new member Jesse. We closed with KTWWS and the Celebrate Harmony ending. A great evening of singing.

Barbershop Term of the Week (BTOW)

This week's word is major. In Western music, you can't have much discussion of music theory without knowing something about what makes a scale, key signature, or chord major or minor. We'll talk about minor another time.

So what makes something major? Both major and minor chords and scales include the note seven half-steps above the root note, also called the perfect fifth (the Do-->Sol interval, or C-->G). The root note combined with the perfect fifth (called an open fifth) is the most consonant interval in music apart from the octave. It is very pleasant but undefined, meaning it does not sound particularly happy, sad, bright, or dark. You need to add a note between the root and fifth to create a chord with some definition. Choosing to add the note four half-steps above the root (the Do-->Mi interval, or C-->E), makes a very happy, pleasing, and familiar sound. This is the major third, completing what we call a major triad. It offers resolution and does not lead to another chord. It is the reason you feel so uncomfortable when Paul stops a song just before the last chord of a song. Chances are very good that the chord you wanted to sing and feel included a major third interval, something with resolution and finality. I don't mean to imply that only the major third offers resolution, because there are others, but it is commonly found in barbershop. Three of our four parts are singing the root, major third, and perfect fifth intervals in the majority of our music, including every time we sing a barbershop seventh chord, the defining chord of our style. If you want to sing these three notes in your head, try "Kum Ba Yah".

[Click HERE to read Wally's Words from previous newsletters. Note that this PDF was reorganized by category to make it easier to find articles.]