

**The Chattanooga Chapter
of the
Barbershop Harmony Society
(SPEBSQSA)**

Presents

SALUTE TO AMERICA



Featuring

**The Choo Choo Chorus
Chapter Quartets: Four Grand,
Rock City 4, Scenic City Sound**

Saturday May 9, 2009 7:30 PM
C.C. Bond Humanities Auditorium
Chattanooga State Technical Community College
Chattanooga, TN

President's Welcome

Welcome to the Choo Choo Chorus production of "Salute to America", the annual show of the Chattanooga chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

It seems that every thing we hear in the news these days is about how bad things are. Financial crisis, war, political and business scandals, it is true that we have problems but when have we not had problems? Every nation does. The thing that has set this nation apart in the past is not that we never had problems but how we dealt with our problems. People from all parts of the world have come together here and united to meet every challenge. When courage has been needed, we have had courage. When technology has been needed we have excelled. We are still a young nation by some standards but we have accomplished more in this relatively short time than any nation in history. We would do well to remember there are still a lot of good things about this country and we still have a lot to be thankful for and to be proud of.

We should remember and give thanks for the heroes of our past and learn from the events that have shaped our nation. Will future generations know and appreciate our history? One way, and we think the best way, to make this happen is to keep these memories alive through songs. Songs written by people who were there, songs that were loved by the people who made our history, these songs can put us in touch with the past in a way nothing else can.

We thank you for coming and hope you will feel you are a part of this celebration of our heritage by reliving our great nation's history through songs in "Salute to America".

Lebron Brock, President
Choo Choo Chorus

From The Director

Welcome to this year's show, Salute to America. Originally written to help celebrate our nation's bicentennial in 1976, this show is still one of my favorites and we manage to do it about once a decade. There are a lot of notes and words to be learned for this show, and the chorus and quartets have really stepped up this year - I hope you enjoy it as much as we enjoy putting the show on.

As usual, I have a lot of people to thank - you'll see their names elsewhere in the program. Every man on stage tonight (or woman behind the scenes) has worked hard to give you a great night of entertainment and I can't thank them enough by myself; please be enthusiastic in your appreciation.

Thanks for being here tonight - it is through your continued support, and that of our patrons and advertisers here in the program, that we have been able to keep barbershop alive in the Chattanooga area for almost 50 years!

Enjoy the show.

Paul Blazek, Musical Director

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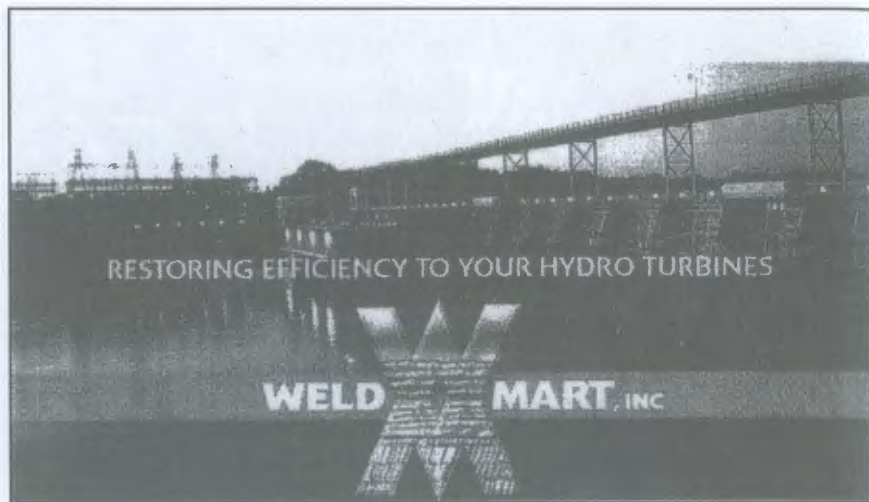
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What is Barbershop Music?

On Saturday night, April 11, 1938, twenty-five men gathered at a hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the invitation of two of them to sing in barbershop quartets. As more and more singers appeared in the next few months, Owen C. Cash and Rupert T. Hall founded the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., abbreviated at SPEBSQSA, a playful poke at the government agencies whose initials and regulations still plague us.

The style of "barbershop", now written as one word, began around 1900. It is not really four-part harmony but, rather, three parts harmonizing to a known melody, unaccompanied by instruments. The lead sings the melody and is joined by the bass, the lowest part, and the tenor, who sings consistently above the lead. The baritone, ranging above and below the melody, puts in the last note. There is usually one harmonizing chord on each melody note, although sometimes one or more voices add more notes. Often musical rules of time, expression, and word theme are sacrificed to create variety and pleasurable tension in order to delay the reaching of the expected chords.

With headquarters now in Nashville, the "Society," as Barbershoppers refer to it, has grown into a pastime for almost 30,000 men in the U.S. and Canada, as well as for affiliated groups in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, and other countries. A few hundred choruses and over 2,000 quartets perform regularly in and near their communities and often compete against each other, beginning at the District level and then at the International level.

Recently the Society has changed it's name to the Barbershop Harmony Society.

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Tom Hagler

A Note From the Chairmen

Good evening friends!

Tonight we invite you to be our guest on a fantastic voyage!

A voyage that began as a small band of ships landed and set sail into the wonderful dream that is the American experience. As with culture in every place creatures live, there are melodies that tell stories of the pride and prejudice, revelry and anguish, love and hate that is the struggle of founding a new world.

Please relax in your seat and rest while you wait for the show to start. This is not a movie. A live show gets better as you the audience are involved along with us. Remember and dream the stories that are recounted in song. Your faces and emotions fuel the stage and invigorate the performance. You, as our guest, grace us here tonight with your presence and support. We thank you for being here.

In your program please find a list of the sponsoring businesses and individuals that also generously support this program. Take a moment while the show is in intermission or waiting the start and check out who is helping to treat you to this evening of music.

The funds raised here tonight will be used to support programs that The Choo Choo Chorus carries out during the year. Some of these programs include performing for the Special Olympics opening ceremonies, Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at the national cemetery, and the staging of a Christmas show where all profit is donated to charitable organizations in town.

As you entered tonight you were greeted by our most faithful support group the Choo Choo Bells. Tonight's reception was organized by Mary Strickland. Our deepest appreciation is deserved by the ladies that work so hard and make us look so grand.

The dedicated members of the Choo Choo Chorus have prepared an exciting show for you tonight. In the program there are notations for our members volunteering their leadership talents to make it all happen. I thank you gentlemen.

I have had the humble pleasure to work as Co-Chairman with Art Southerlin to oversee the preparations for tonight's event. Art is a great manager. He completely delegated the writing of this note to me...Thanks Art!

Under the musical guidance of Director Paul Blazek and Assistant Director Chuck Wilson, The Choo Choo Chorus presents *Salute to America*.

Welcome guests to tonight's performance! WE SALUTE YOU!

Karl Dommert

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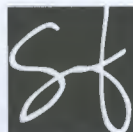
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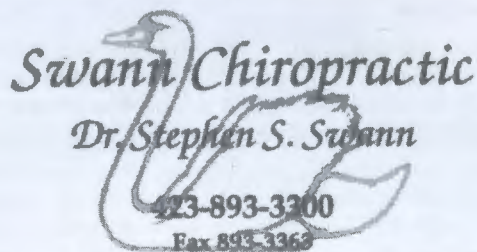
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Program..... Frank Delaney
Show TreasurerJohnny Jackson
Music Director Paul Blazek
Stage Manager Tanya Fleury
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Choo Choo Belles Mary Strickland

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About Our Chorus

Forty-seven years ago (May 17, 1962) the Chattanooga (Rock City) Chapter became a charter member of what is now the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Rock City Chorus performed their first show on July 14, 1962 at the new Chattanooga High School auditorium. The Knoxville Smokyland Chorus and Knoxville Sweet Adeline Chorus and the Atlanta Peachtree Chorus along with four quartets, including Dixie District Champions, The Dignitaries, also performed that day.

In 1975 the chorus name was changed to The Mountain City Chorus and in 1982 the name was changed finally to The Choo Choo Chorus. The Chorus has had as many as 62 members in 1963 and as few as 12 members in 1970 and currently has 43 members.

Of ten different musical directors beginning with Dick Clem, our current director, Paul Blazek, has been director for the longest time (20 years). Thirty-two chapter quartets have competed for Dixie District honors over the years but only one quartet, the Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys, has ever won a Dixie District Quartet Championship (1981).

From its inception the chorus has been busy singing in the Chattanooga area. With two contests each year, an annual show, a Christmas show and singing in the community, the men get their barbershop "fix" and provide audiences with lots of entertainment opportunities. With performances ranging from entertaining at a nursing home or retirement center to singing the National Anthem at sporting events to performing with the Chattanooga Symphony to various outdoor events, even providing strolling quartets for the Riverbend Festival, the chapter provides ample chances for men to indulge the inner "ham" while making people happy. An added benefit is health improvements as the result of singing - we've had men performing with us into their 90's!

The vision for the future is continued efforts for preservation of barbershop music, entertainment of patrons, help for service projects, and continued friendship with fellow barbershoppers.

Choo Choo Chorus



Choo Choo Chorus

Chattanooga Chapter

Barbershop Harmony Society

Paul Blazek, Director

Chuck Wilson, Associate Director

Leads

Pat Crowe
Frank Delaney
David Fleury
Tom Keegan
JW Kirk
Lamar Owens
Bill Slack
Art Southerlin
Steve Wixson

Basses

Paul Blazek
Jerry Bradwell
Lebron Brock
Lucien Claiborne
Roger Coffman
David Collins
Karl Dommert
Erby Erwin
Gary Fisher
Dave Rack
Clyde Rogers
WC Strickland
Clarence Wall

Tenors

Wally Bigbee
Walter Edmondson
Niles Fowler
Fred Jesse
David White

Baritones

Beau Christian
Brooks Gist
Johnny Jackson
Benny Malone
Chuck Wilson

Quartets

Four Grand

David White, Tenor
Art Southerlin, Lead
Johnny Jackson, Baritone
WC Strickland, Bass

Rock City 4

Fred Jesse, Tenor
Bill Slack, Lead
Benny Malone, Baritone
David Collins, Bass

Scenic City Sound

Fred Jesse, Tenor
Lamar Owens, Lead
Brooks Gist, Baritone
WC Strickland, Bass

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SALUTE TO AMERICA

Act I

America
Star-Spangled Banner
What A Country
Early American Medley
American Revolution Medley
Minstrel Montage
Civil War Medley
George M Cohan Medley
Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor
There's A Long, Long Trail Til We Meet Again
God Bless America

Intermission

Act II

Selections by Scenic City Sound

Selections by Rock City 4

Selections by Four Grand

How's Every Little Thing In Dixie
Georgia On My Mind
What A Country (reprise)