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**The Really Big 50th Show**

**'FIFTY YEAR PARADE OF HARMONY'**

**Special Guest: TNS, International Top Ten Quartet**

**Saturday, June 9th, 2012 at 7:30 PM**

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**THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS  
OF THE CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER  
(FORMERLY THE ROCK CITY CHAPTER)**

**of**

**the**

**BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY**

**(FORMERLY S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.)**

**presents**

**its**

**50th ANNIVERSARY SHOW**

**“FIFTY YEAR PARADE OF HARMONY”**

**GPS Fine Arts Auditorium**

**Chattanooga, Tennessee**

**June 9, 2012**

**7:30 PM**

## CHORUS PHOTOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS



The London Trip



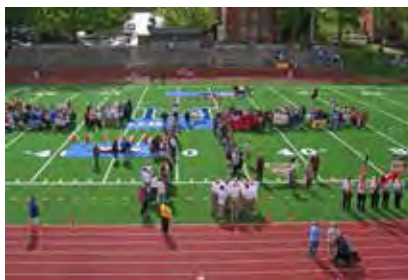
Pops in the Park with Symphony



Scout Flag Day



Memorial and Veterans Day



Special Olympics Track & Field



Special Olympics Bowling



Nursing Homes



Community Christmas Chorus

## **A CHORD-IAL WELCOME FROM 50 YEARS AGO**

The Chattanooga Rock City Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. welcomes you to its Charter Night "Parade of Harmony." Less than six months old as an organized group, tonight we are recognized by SPEBSQSA International headquarters for over 26,000 United States and Canada members of this singing society.

Although young in age, the Rock City Chapter of SPEBSQSA is old in service ... having made several score public appearances in the Chattanooga area for various civic, church and cultural affairs.

Your presence here tonight gives us a chance to 'show off' again. Every member is a local citizen, probably a neighbor of yours, who likes to sing . . . and can't always do so at home. None of the performers here tonight are professional -- in that they derive no financial benefit individually from this "Parade." Our only reward comes from you . . . your applause!

## **A CHORD-IAL WELCOME FROM 50 YEARS LATER**

The Chattanooga Choo Choo Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society welcomes you to its 50th Anniversary Show "Fifty Year Parade of Harmony." Tonight we celebrate 50 years of harmony in an international organization with chapters around the world.

Now 50 years old, we continue the traditions started those many years ago with Harmony, Service, Fellowship, and Fun, and we still sing for civic, church, and cultural affairs. Our special venues include Scout Flag Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Special Olympics Track and Field and Bowling Competitions, Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens, nursing and retirement centers and more.

Your presence here tonight gives us a chance to again 'show off' the talents of your fellow Chattanoogans as we help to 'Keep The Whole World Singing.' *Lebron Brock, President*



*Supporting the Choo Choo Chorus, Then & Now.*



Cover art from the 1962  
chorus program



atop Lookout Mountain  
near Chattanooga.

## THE CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF SPEBSQSA

Barbershop harmony came to Chattanooga Tennessee with a police escort on a cold day, January 27, 1962. The caravan was met by 75 Chattanoogaans, including the Mayor and 20 former barbershoppers, all singing "You're As Welcome As The Flowers In May". By the end of the day, nearly 150 barbershoppers and guests enjoyed activities designed to establish a chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America in the only major city in Tennessee without one.

The Knoxville-Smokeyland and Atlanta-Peachtree Choruses, plus Quartets from Knoxville, Atlanta, Birmingham, and Huntsville, all attended the organizational meeting that day in the Read House Continental Room. The groundwork for the Chattanooga chapter, to be known as the Rock City chapter, had begun in late 1961 by the host chapter, the Dixie District Chorus Champion, Smokeyland Chorus, in Knoxville. Chattanoogaans involved with this effort included Ernest Jordan, Ray Beebee, and Dick Clem, all of whom in particular were very much responsible for the meeting's success. Ernest Jordan later became the first President, Ray Beebee the Program Vice President, and Dick Clem the first Music Director.

Thus began 50 years of barbershop music in Chattanooga. But the best day was to follow when the SPEBSQSA International organization informed the Rock City chapter that its charter was granted on May 17, 1962. Celebration followed with a Charter Presentation and Chapter Show planned for July 14, 1962, at the Chattanooga City High auditorium. The above choruses and Quartets returned for an evening of singing, and presentation of the Rock City charter by the Dixie District President Dr. Thomas Prince, Jr. of Knoxville.

The next 50 years kept the Chorus busy. A name change to the Mountain City Chorus in 1974, and the Choo Choo Chorus in 1982, did not dampen the desire to contribute to the community. There were annual shows, sing-outs at many local organizations and charitable events, programs for the elderly, Special Olympics, performances of

These folks also bought an ad in the 1962 Program



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## **(Continued)**

the National Anthem at the National Cemetery services and sporting events, religious performances at local churches, and Christmas shows with the proceeds contributed to local charities.

The Chorus has performed Christmas shows since 1990. This year marks 10 years sponsoring the Chattanooga Community Christmas Chorus which brings men from the surrounding area to sing Christmas music in the barbershop style. These shows have benefited local charities as the Ronald McDonald House, Signal Centers/United Cerebral Palsy, and Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center.

Barbershop music has always been associated with Quartets, and the Chattanooga chapter is no exception. It has a long list of Quartets that have registered with the SPEBSQSA, now commonly known as the Barbershop Harmony Society. These and numerous other Quartets have been formed to just sing, perform, have fun, and contribute to the preservation, advancement, and enjoyment of barbershop harmony in the Chattanooga area.

The last 50 years is just the beginning. Barbershop harmony is here to stay in Chattanooga.

Fred Jesse, Chapter Secretary and Historian

## **THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY VIDEO**

A video has been placed on our website that shows the history of the chapter. Go to [choochoochorus.org](http://choochoochorus.org) and click on the History Link.

## **WHAT HAPPENED IN 1962**

John Kennedy was President  
John Glenn was the first man to orbit the Earth  
Sam Walton opened his first Walmart store  
Gasoline cost 28 cents a gallon

The top three folks also bought an ad in the 1962 Program

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This ad reprinted from the 1962 Program

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City of Chattanooga  
Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

- Whereas:** The Chattanooga Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc (Barbershop Harmony Society) was officially chartered on May 17, 1962 and is celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of barbershop harmony in Chattanooga, and
- Whereas:** The Chapter performs beneficial community service to our city by providing barbershop harmony to celebrate holidays and special events, both at public events such as Memorial and Veterans Day celebrations and the Grand Re-Opening of our City Hall, as well as private events such as concerts at nursing homes and retirement centers, and
- Whereas:** Annually, the Chapter also raises and donates thousands of dollars to charitable organizations, benefitting numerous wonderful causes such as Special Olympics, the Walter E. Boehm Birth Defects Center, Ronald McDonald House, and others, and
- Whereas:** The Chapter and its performing unit (Choo Choo Chorus) provide an avenue for men of good character to enjoy the American tradition of barbershop harmony on a weekly basis and expands its ranks by inviting all male singers to join its annual Community Christmas Chorus

## Now Therefore,

I, Ron Littlefield, Mayor of the City of Chattanooga, do hereby proclaim June 9, 2012 as

## Choo Choo Chorus Day

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Chattanooga to be affixed this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012



  
Ron Littlefield, Mayor

These folks also bought an ad in the 1962 Program

# Providing Logistic Services Since 1950.



The image is a black and white aerial photograph of a large industrial complex. In the foreground, there is a large, multi-story building with a flat roof and many windows. To the right of this building is a large parking lot filled with numerous cars. In the background, there is a smaller building with a sign that reads "CHEROKEE WAREHOUSE" and "OFFICE". A vintage car is parked in front of this building. To the right of the car, there are railroad tracks and a train car. The sky is cloudy.

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## CHOO CHOO CHAPTER OFFICERS

President .....	Lebron Brock
Vice President, Membership.....	Wally Edmondson
Vice President, Music.....	Wilbur Strickland
Vice President, Program.....	David White
Secretary.....	Fred Jesse
Treasurer.....	Gary Fisher
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Board Member.....	David Fleury
Board Member.....	Johnny Jackson
Board Member.....	Pat Crowe
Director.....	Paul Blazek
Associate Director.....	Chuck Wilson

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## Tom Keegan



Celebrating 49 Years of Barbershop Harmony

Congratulations From the Choo Choo Chorus



Chuck,  
For All You Do

Thanks

The Choo  
Choo Chorus



## Scenic City Chorus

2012 Mid-Size Champions of Region 23  
Join us as We Celebrate 50 Years of Harmony



October 6, 2012

Roland Hayes Concert Hall

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

1:30pm and 7pm

Tickets available at [sceniccitychorus.com](http://sceniccitychorus.com)

PROUD TO SHARE OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR WITH CHOO CHOO CHORUS! BEST OF LUCK, FELLAS!!



## OUR CHORUS DIRECTOR - PAUL BLAZEK



In the Chapter's 50th year, Paul Blazek celebrates 25 years as our Director. Paul was born in Chicago, Illinois. He moved to Nashville in 1965 and then to Chattanooga in 1977. He and his wife Lindy have four children, Mary Kathryn, Melissa, Megan, and Matt, and granddaughter Maddie. Matt and son-in-law David Grass have sung with the chorus at various times.

Paul joined the Nashville chapter in 1976 and sang in his first barbershop contest at the Cow Palace in San Francisco International in '76. He also competed with Nashville at '77 Philadelphia International and '78 Cincinnati International, and has recently rejoined the Music City Chorus at International in Philadelphia '10 and Kansas City '11.

He has been a member of several quartets: Round Mound of Sound (Nashville), Backstage, Stage II, and Four Guys (Chattanooga.) Paul attended Harmony College many times, attended the first Director's College in 1990, and many Society-sponsored schools over the years. He was Director of Tullahoma, TN chapter in 1984-85, assistant director of the Chattanooga chapter in 1985-86, and director of the Chattanooga chapter since 1987. He is currently on the Dixie District Board of Directors as VP, Financial Development and is a judge candidate in the Music Category. In his spare time, Paul is database administrator for TowXchange, Inc.

## ASSOCIATE CHORUS DIRECTOR - CHUCK WILSON

Chuck Wilson, a native Tennessean, moved to Chattanooga in 1968. He sang in choruses and quartets, and joined our chapter some 20 years later. He was the baritone for Classic Harmony Quartet. He attended Director's School and is a certified BHS Director.



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BOB CORKER  
TENNESSEE



June 9, 2012

Dear Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus,

Congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and show! It is an honor to join your family, friends and the community in recognizing this significant milestone.

Your commitment to giving back to our community by raising money for local charities sets an example for us all. It is citizens like you who make Chattanooga one of the best mid-sized cities in America. Thank you for all you do.

It is an honor to serve you in the United States Senate. Best wishes for many more years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "B. Corker", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bob Corker  
United States Senator

Congratulations  
to the  
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Choo Choo Chorus  
for  
50 YEARS  
of Harmony!

From your friends in Cleveland!



## SPECIAL GUEST - THE 'TNS' QUARTET



TNS brings an exciting approach to barbershop quartet music. This foursome took the Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society by storm and was crowned the 2008 quartet champions in early October.

In 2010, TNS posted the highest score at the Dixie District International Prelims and went on to capture 10th place in the world at the International Barbershop Quartet Finals in Philadelphia. TNS also captured the 2010 “Dealer’s Choice Award” that is given to the highest scoring new quartet at the International convention.

In 2011, TNS improved on their world ranking by capturing 8th place at the International Quartet Contest in Kansas City, MO.

All of TNS is active with Nashville’s Music City Chorus.

Rick Spencer - Tenor  
Ryan Killeen - Lead  
Dusty Schleier - Baritone  
David Carden - Bass

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IT TAKES** SM



## CHOO CHOO CHORUS MEMBERS

Wally Bigbee	Tom Keegan
Paul Blazek	JW Kirk
Lebron Brock	Benny Malone
Beau Christian	Brandon Middlebrooks
Albert Clairmont	Lamar Owens
David Collao	Barry Owens
David Collins	Richard Poole
Pat Crowe	Rich Ptacin
Frank Delaney	David Rack
Cameron Druyor	Daniel Randolph
Wally Edmondson	Grady Rhoden
Erby Erwin	Marcellus Scott
Gary Fisher	Bill Slack
David Fleury	Art Southerlin
Niles Fowler	Wilbur Strickland
Brooks Gist	Hobby Thomas
Steven Grubb	Chet Tschetter
Charlie Holder	Clarence Wall
Gene Huelman	David White
Johnny Jackson	Wendell Whitmire
Fred Jesse	Chuck Wilson
John Johnston	Steve Wixson

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W. Cecil Cook  
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Kenneth Pendergrass\*  
Vernon Pirtle  
Charles W Reep  
Robert E Roark  
Paul M Starnes  
Donald Vance\*  
(\*Attended 50th Party)



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR  
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A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO

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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 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. Chattanooga is part of the Dixie District. Recently the Society has changed its name to the Barbershop Harmony Society.



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# **Rock City 4**

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## THE CHOO CHOO BELLES

The Choo Choo Belles is a ladies auxiliary whose purpose is to support and encourage the chorus. The majority of barbershop choruses have these organizations. A little history - 20 years or so ago when the Chattanooga chorus met at Brainerd Baptist Church several of the ladies began meeting there also. There were ten, fifteen, sometimes more. We drank coffee, enjoyed cookies, made Christmas sweat shirts, planned for the next show or convention (which everyone attended, wherever it was being held) and enjoyed each others company. One of our group, Evelyn Fraser, who some of us were privileged to know, suggested we give ourselves a name, order shirts with our name on it, get name tags, and compile and sell a cookbook made up of our own recipes. We sold a lot of those cookbooks and all our friends and family members got one for Christmas, birthdays, etc., whether they wanted it or not.

In the years since, the Belles have supported the chorus by being present at sing outs, attending the conventions (sitting together so we would make more noise), working in the conventions that have been held in Chattanooga (about 10 or so in recent years). The areas that the ladies work during the conventions are registration of singers and guests, hosting the Ladies Hospitality for our district visitors, rotation of choruses from line-up to the venue, backstage during all sessions, selling and taking tickets, ushering during the competition, etc. We have prepared food for guest nights and family gatherings, and for the singers at show time. The ladies began the process of the having gold vests made for the singers to wear, and some other uniform pieces. The Belles have donated most of the money that was remaining in their account to the Walter Boehm organization over the past several Christmas shows.

Interest in the group has somewhat decreased as time has gone on. Those who have continued to work for the chorus would like for some of the other ladies to volunteer to take over some of the areas of responsibility. All of the ladies will graciously help out when called on to do what needs to be done; but will certainly appreciate some new ideas.

## PROGRAM

### “FIFTY YEAR PARADE OF HARMONY”

Musical Prelude (Four Voices International Quartet Winner)

Master of Ceremonies.....Jed Mescon

National Anthem, Verses One and Four (Choo Choo Chorus)

#### The 1960's Decade

Hello Mary Lou (Choo Choo Chorus)

Java Jive (Four Grand Quartet)

Old Bones (Scenic City Quartet)

#### The 1970's Decade

Minstrel Montage (Choo Choo Chorus, Rock City 4 Quartet  
Bernard Peek, soloist)

Lida Rose (Rock City 4 Quartet - Linda Toups, soloist)

#### The 1980's Decade

Chattanooga Choo Choo (Choo Choo Chorus)

Simple Melody (Choo Choo Chorus)

Please Mr. Columbus (Four Grand Quartet)

#### The 1990's Decade

Shenandoah (Choo Choo Chorus)

Radio (Scenic City Quartet)

Side-By-Side (Rock City 4 Quartet)

#### The 2000's Decade

When You Wish Upon A Star (Choo Choo Chorus)

Singing Valentines Re-enactment (Rock City 4)

Ten Feet Off The Ground (Choo Choo Chorus)

## INTERMISSION

TNS (Special Guest Quartet - See Page 19)

The Current Decade

Two Familiar Songs (Choo Choo Chorus and Past Members)

God Bless America (Choo Choo Chorus)

Keep The Whole World Singing (Everyone)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Four Voices (Brandon Guyton, Baritone, Jayson VanHook, Bass, Chad Guyton, Lead, Lester Rector, Tenor. From 'Four Voices' CD)

Four Grand Quartet (Johnny Jackson, Baritone, Wilbur Strickland, Bass, Art Southerlin, Lead, and David White, Tenor)

Scenic City Sound Quartet (Brooks Gist, Baritone and Soloist, Wilbur Strickland, Bass, Lamar Owens, Lead, and Fred Jesse, Tenor)

Rock City 4 Quartet (Benny Malone, Baritone, David Collins, Bass, Bill Slack, Lead, Fred Jesse, Tenor)

Show Chairman.....Wilbur Strickland  
Ticket Chairman.....Gary Fisher  
Ad Chairman.....David Fleury and Frank Delaney  
Program.....Steve Wixson  
Stage Manager.....Linda Toups  
Front of House.....Choo Choo Belles (see Page 27)  
50 Anniversary Party Chairman.....Pat Crowe

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Another 50 Years!*



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## **One More Song**

One more song, let's sing one more song  
Let memories linger on and on  
Till we meet and sing one more song.

*Joe Liles*

### **In memory of Choo Choo Chorus members in the Eternal Chorus**

Dan Baker, Kenneth Baxter, Jerry Bradwell, Donald Bruce, Forrest Bugher, Richard Burton, Richard Clem, Bill Close, Glenn Dabbs, Fred Downing, Robert Downing, Earle Fraser, Cyrus Fuller, Lloyd Gimber, Lamar Green, Carl Grotzer, Charles Hansen, William Hendrix, Norris Hickey, Paul Hickey, Gilbert Highlander, George Hobday, Samuel Jones, Sidney Kiser, Jerry Lieberum, Harold McMahan, James Mills, Thomas Mitchell, Jack Moore, Ray Moseley, James Neeley, Charles Petty, Dale Phillips, Ted Pounds, Grover Rann, Edward Rawlston, Alvin Reeves, L.W. Rhodes, Jr, Clyde Rogers, Earl Ross, W. L. Scoville, Paul Smeltzer, David Smith, Bob Smith, Lamar Smith, Dewit Sneed, Jr, Roy Songer, Pat St Charles, Jean Stephens, Jesse Stinecipher, Bernard Stone, Randall Stulce, William Switzer, J. Norman Sylar, Lee Walker, Melvil Wall, Jack Webb, Bernard Wheeler, Walter Wright and Robert Wright.

There are many lost members, and some of these are likely deceased.



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*Happy 50th Choo Choo Chorus!*

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## THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY

June 1, 2012 was a memorable day for the Choo Choo Chorus as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the signing our charter with a banquet held at the Colonnade Convention Center in Ringgold, GA. Steve Grubb was Emcee, and did a fabulous job.

David Reynolds, whom we considered as our Secretary and Historian for life, though suffering from Parkinson's, attended from Baton Rouge LA, and was received with thunderous applause.

The Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys, our 1981 Dixie District Quartet Champions, brought the house down as they rang the rafters. Also singing were Scenic City Sound and The Chattanooga guys. We had the pleasure of three Charter Members in attendance who looked and sounded like they were ready to rejoin the fun and fellowship of Barbershop Harmony.

Paul Blazek was recognized for 25 years as Director (his Plaque is on Page 14.) He led all men in singing some familiar songs. He and six former Directors together led our closing song, 'Keep The Whole World Singing.' An afterglow rounded out the evening. *Pat Crowe*

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