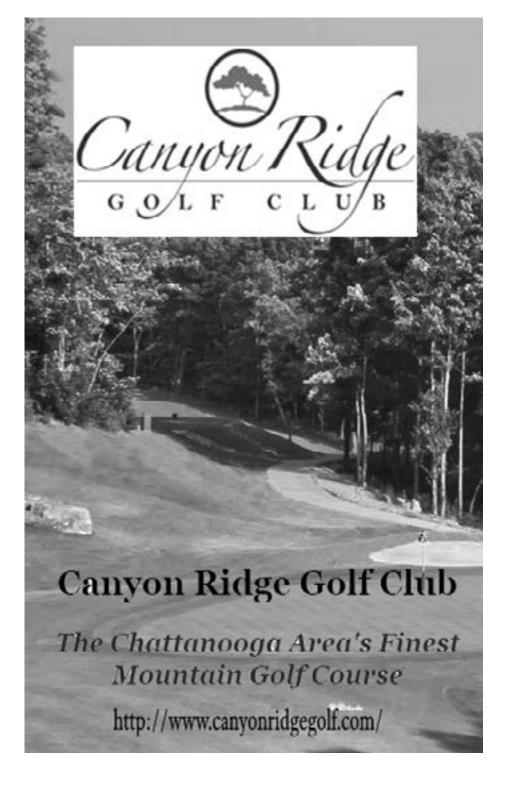
# THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS Presents All Seriousness Aside Forget Your Cares With a Night Of Barbershop Harmony Special Guest: A Mighty Wind Quartet International Bronze Medalist

# **Program** Saturday, August 27, 2016 GPS Fine Arts Auditorium



#### WELCOME

Welcome to the Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus Annual Spring Show (usually done in August).

With all that is going on in the world and in our own country, I thought that leaving the 'seriousness aside' for a while would be just the thing. We're not even going to be seriously funny, at least not on purpose. The aim for tonight is lightheartedness, songs that you may (or may not) know, songs that you may (or may not) want to sing along with, and songs that, while not seriously funny, will at least bring a smile or a chuckle, or relax you enough to fall asleep.

The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) was founded in 1938 on the precept of lack of seriousness. An invitation was sent out to 14 gentlemen who were asked to come and bring a guest and sing, and was signed by Rupert Hall, Royal keeper of the Minor Keys and O. C. Cash, Third Assistant Temporary Vice Chairman. The men met regularly, and the name chosen was the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA). Mr. Cash was reputed to have said that this would show up Mr. (Franklin) Roosevelt and his 3-initial programs.

In that same vein: Gentlemen, if you think you would like to join us to sing, we have a great opportunity beginning the first Monday night in October to rehearse with us for our Christmas show. We meet at the All Saints Academy, 310 E. 8th St. at 7:00. But, all seriousness aside, you don't have to wait until then. We love having guests most anytime.

Chuck Wilson, Show Chairman and Associate Director of the Choo Choo Chorus (age 64)

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#### ABOUT THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS

Fifty-four 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.



#### **CHORUS MEMBERS**

Tom Keegan	Rich Ptacin	Chet Tschetter
JW Kirk	David Rack	Steve Vipond
Dan Kopf	Neal Robinson	Clarence Wall
Benny Malone	Marcellus Scott	Wendell Whitmire
J. J. McShan	Bill Slack	Chuck Wilson
Brandon Middlebrooks	Wilbur Strickland	Steve Wixson

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 36 members.

Of ten different musical directors beginning with Dick Clem, our current director, Paul Blazek, has been director for the longest time (29 years). Thirty-two chapter quartets have competed for Dixie District honors over the years and one quartet, the Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys, 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.

#### SHOW COMMITTEE

Chairman	Chuck Wilson
Ad Sales	Gene Huelman
Ticket Sales	Jack Cook & Dave Rack
Program, Set Design	Steve Wixson
Treasurer and Risers	Wendell Whitmire
Publicity	Chet Tschetter
Script	Steve Grubb and Bill Slack
Stage Manager	Brandon Middlebrooks
Music VP	Chuck Wilson
Afterglow	Steve Vipond
Emcee	Steve Grubb

#### Chattanooguys

Wally Edmondson, Dave Fleury, Marcellus Scott and Beau Christian

Rock City 4 Fred Jesse, Bill Slack, Wilbur Strickland and Benny Malone

Birchwood Common Fred Jesse, Charlie Holder, Pete Jones and Chuck Wilson

8th Street Irregulars Dan Bullock, Steve Vipond, Dave Rack and Rich Ptacin

#### **OUR CHORUS DIRECTOR - PAUL BLAZEK**

Paul Blazek celebrates 29 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 grandchildren Maddie and Caleb. Matt and sonin-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 that same year. He also competed with Nashville at '77 Philadelphia International and '78 Cincinnati International, and rejoined the Music City Chorus to compete at the International level six times since 2010 and achieve Fifth Place International Bronze Medalist status.

He has been a member of several quartets: Round Mound of Sound (Nashville), Backstage, Stage II, Four Guys, and Honchos (Chattanooga). Paul has 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 Board Member at Large and Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee. In his spare time, Paul is database administrator for TXI Systems, 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 22 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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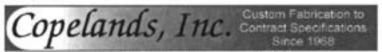


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## THE CHOO CHOO CHORUS PRESENTS

### All Seriousness Aside

#### PROGRAM

Tonight's program will consist of performances by the Choo Choo Chorus, local quartets 8th Street Irregulars, Birchwood Common, Chattanooguys, and Rock City 4, and our Special Guest, International Bronze Medalist Quartet A Mighty Wind. Songs may (or may not) include the following:

> **Bohemian Rhapsody** Chattanooga Choo Choo Hello, Mary Lou I Want A Girl I Never See Maggie Alone Java Jive Keep The Whole World Singing La Donna e mobile from Rigoletto Play A Simple Melody Quodlibet Remember Dad on Mother's Day Side by Side Sittin' On Top of the World Star-Spangled Banner Ten Feet Off The Ground The Last Time I Saw Henry Thus Spoke Zarathustra Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie When I'm Sixty-Four When It's Darkness on the Delta Zip-A-Dee Doo Dah

### Guest Quartet - A Mighty Wind



A Mighty Wind is committed to taking a truly American century old musical art form and entertaining their audiences with a mighty sound and whimsical flair! Our music is selected strictly with entertainment value in mind. We have a range of songs in our repertoire, including good ol' barbershop tunes, hits from the 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s, a song by Garrison Keiler, songs from movies, folk songs, We guarantee to take your breath away!

Members of the quartet are: Clay Hine - Baritone, Drew McMillan - Bass, Tim Brooks - Lead, and Tim Reynolds - Tenor (Continued on next page) Tim Reynolds - Tim is new to the Tenor part and new to AMW. He was a successful Lead for many years, earning four District Championships and five International Bronze Medals while singing with six different quartets in seven states—proving one thing: He can't get along with anyone! With AMW, he's excited to be lending his unique style and voice, floating like a breeze on all the high notes. When he's not working at his successful women's hat shop, he likes to rebuild classic muscle cars. He's restoring a 1973 Ford Pinto.

Tim Brooks -Tim's talent for Lead singing was uncovered at an early age. His mother had him singing the melody in a trio with his older sisters at Lutheran churches all across the great plains of North Dakota. Tim only objected when he was forced to wear pigtails and poodle skirts as these outfits didn't bring out the highlights of his curly red hair. As the Lead for AMW, he brings a long history of success, having won four District Championships and six International Bronze Medals. He is known for spending long hours trying to find those places in their music where he can truly shine and the others are made to look bad. As a result, he's in an ongoing "Diva Rehab" program and spends his spare time making no-drip candles.

Clay Hine - Clay has also been a barbershoper since his early teens, singing with his dad and brother in Michigan and Illinois. He moved to Georgia after college and began quartet singing in earnest. Along the way, he has won three District Championships and seven International Medals, including a Silver and the coveted first-place Gold with the very popular quartet FRED. As part of AMW, Clay navigates the Baritone part just like wind through the buildings of downtown Chicago: unpredictable and unpleasant. He does most of their vocal arrangements and provides much-needed comic relief during their extended rehearsals. Clay works as an underwear model and spends his spare time arranging music for Tibetan throat singers.

Drew McMillan - Drew began singing barbershop at an early age. Despite his youth, he had a very developed low Bass voice, which allowed him to pay his way through high school and college by performing Tennessee Ernie Ford songs at local Karaoke bars. Through his barbershop career, Drew has earned three District Championships and six International Bronze Medals. He continues this strong-winded tradition in AMW, urging them to feature a Bass solo in all songs. At a minimum, he insists that they begin every song with some type of Bass pickup. Drew works full-time as a voice-over artist for local public television stations with an emphasis on animal documentaries. He also enjoys playing "whack-a-mole" at his local family pizza parlor.



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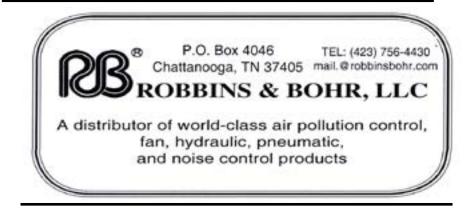


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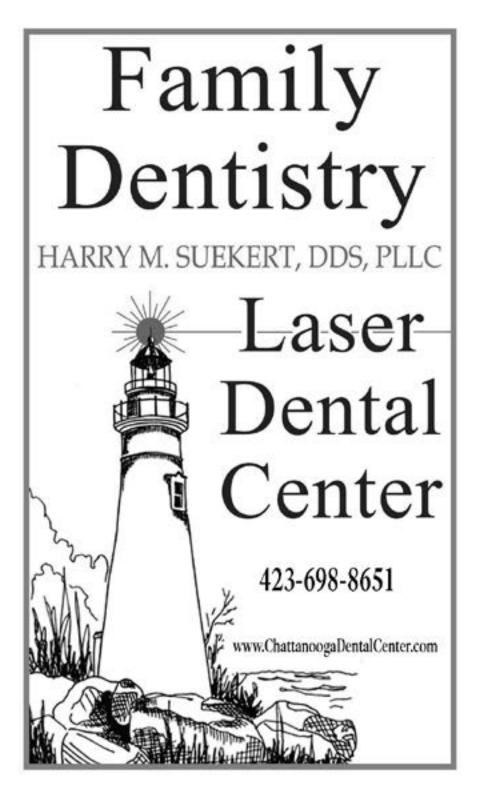
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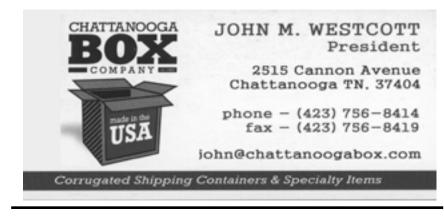


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