

River City Gazette

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All The News That's Fit To Ring!

Wednesday, July 1st—2015 Daily Bulletin

The 77th Annual Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention

Barbershop Harmony Society Brings 5,000 Fanatical Singers to Pittsburgh

By Brian Lynch

If the Barbershop Harmony Society has its way, there won't be a street corner that isn't ringing with harmony this week summer, when its annual convention comes to Pittsburgh, June 28-July 5, 2015. Events throughout downtown will provide ample opportunity for everyone to sing along and share some of the harmony.

The range of music is extensive, from Tin Pan Alley classics to Broadway, Motown, and contemporary hits. The performers reflect that range of personalities, too, from quartet contenders **Main Street**, a traditional straw hats and spats quartet from Orlando, to past college champs **Lemon Squeezy** from Sweden, with a slick modern vibe and smoking hot jazzy repertoire. But the biggest game to watch is an epic rematch between three-time champs **Ambassadors of Harmony** of St. Charles, Missouri, and two-time winner **Westminster Chorus** from the Los Angeles area. The last time these groups faced each other, they battled to a tie, with Westminster awarded the championship on a tie-breaker score.

The battles began in earnest last evening at the **Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest**.

The "World Series of Barbershop Harmony" kicks off with the **International Quar-**

tet Contest quarterfinals on Wednesday, July 1, 10:00 am at CONSOL. The 52 best quartets in the world will be winnowed down to 20 for the **semifinals on Thursday, July 2**, with the top ten proceeding to the **championship round on Saturday, July 4**.

The two best shows of the week also take place on Thursday. The **World Harmony Jamboree**, 4:15pm - 6:30pm, at the Westin Hotel, features champion choruses and quartets of men and women from all the assembled barbershop organizations. Tickets at the door.

The premier event is the **Association of International Champions (AIC) Show**, 7:30pm - 10pm at CONSOL. Nothing but gold here --all performers have won the top prize.

On Friday, choral groups numbering from 20 to more than 150 singers take center stage in the **International Chorus Contest**, beginning at 10 am. Perfect harmony is the norm; stunning visual displays and deeply moving, heartfelt emotion the aim in these presentations. In addition to the battle of rivals, potential spoilers **Alexandria Harmonizers** of Virginia, **Sound of the Rockies** from Denver, and Nashville's **Music City Chorus** are all in contention for medals.

In addition to the formal events, numerous casual singing opportunities all over town.

- Look for "SING STATION"

signs spread throughout Downtown Pittsburgh all week long, where you'll find quartets performing and getting friends and strangers to ring a barbershop chord with them in the most unlikely of places.

- **Market Square, Thursday, July 2**, 11:30-1:30 pm, free performances by seniors champs Saturday Evening Post, Vintage Mix (young singers - quadruplets! Adorable!), and Pittsburgh's own **The Originals**.
- **Regatta Main Stage at Point State Park**, Saturday, July 4, noon-1:30 pm, many quartets and audience sing-along.
- **"Mega-Sing" Audience Sing Along**, Saturday, July 4, 3:00pm at the Clemente Bridge.

The Barbershop Harmony Society convention will be one of Pittsburgh's largest events in 2015, drawing more than 5,000 guests from around the world, spending an estimated \$10-\$12 million.



Schedule of Events Wednesday

Harmony U Classes

- ◆ 9am -5:30pm WESTIN
- Harmonize by Ear (everyday)**
- ◆ 9am—Midnight WESTIN
- Quartet Quarterfinals Session #1**
- ◆ 10am-3pm CONSOL
- Quartet Quarterfinals Session #2**
- ◆ 4:30pm—9:30pm CONSOL
- Harmony Brigade Room**
- ◆ 10pm—1am WESTIN
- Dixieland Band**
- ◆ 10pm—11pm WESTIN

Schedule of Events Thursday

Harmony Fellows Breakfast

- ◆ 8am-10:30am CONSOL
- Musical Island Boys Meet & Greet**
- ◆ 9:30am—10am WESTIN
- Master Class—Vocal Majority**
- ◆ 9am-10am MARRIOTT
- Quartet Semi-Finals**
- ◆ 11 am-3:30pm
- World Harmony Jamboree**
- ◆ 4:15pm—6:30pm WESTIN
- AIC Show—Champs Night Out**
- ◆ 7:30pm -10pm CONSOL

PITTSBURGH ENTERTAINMENT CORNER

By Ron Brooks

Frukost Serveras Nu!

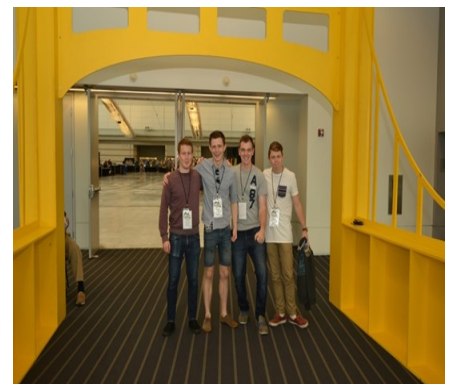
For those of you who aren't Swedish, "*Breakfast is now being served!*"

Epiphany Catholic Church, located literally next door to the Consol and very near the Marriott, Cambria Suites and Doubletree is now offering breakfast from 7:30-9:30AM daily.

The Breakfast Buffett is \$7.99

Selection of chilled fruits and berries
Croissants & Pastries
Variety of Muffins
Assorted Cereal
Fruit Juice
Coffee

This is a joint effort to build community and raise funds for a new roof for the church.



Crossing the "Bridge to Harmony" to Convention Registration is **Blindside (BHA)**, Collegiate Quartet Contestant from Brisbane Australia, (from left) Trent Lewis, Gareth Clarke, Tim Green, and Michael Webber.



Behind The Scenes

It takes the work of many people who work behind the scenes to make a Barbershop Convention successful. Did you know there are approximately 175 volunteers for our Pittsburgh Convention? This hard-working group of men and women have devoted hours of their time because they love Barbershop singing. And it's not only about the singing..... it's the fellowship, the friendships that occur when we all gather together. Rich Stevens (Volunteer Coordinator) and Glen Schielbg (Group 5 Director) have been responsible for managing the volunteers—not an easy task—but they have done a great job. So, as you are enjoying yourself at this Convention, remember those wonderful volunteers who have helped to make it possible. And more importantly, if you see someone with a red Volunteer ribbon on, thank them for a job well done!



Arriving at 6:30am to ensure they were the first in line, Evy & Del Gwin *did it again!* They were the 1st ticketholders for Pittsburgh and now they are the 1st ticketholders for Nashville 2016!

“Anything is Possible IF You Believe”

How the ROME Chorus was born.....

Last year, Kris Eshghy had an epiphany to create a chorus to sing at the International Convention in Pittsburgh. Not an easy task. After much perseverance, he found a “Volunteer Director” (Jeff Gehm) and 100 singers representing 14 Chapters around the Pittsburgh area, as well as, some singers from Ohio and Maryland.

They would rehearse every 2 months (6 in total) to prepare for their performance at The World Harmony Jamboree. Carlos Barillo heard about ROME and suggested that they sing on the Saturday Night Spectacular with the Voices of Gotham and Harmony Platoon. What an unexpected but welcomed opportunity for these men! They will sing 3 songs on Thursday and 2 songs on Saturday, but more importantly, they are very proud to be participants at our International Convention.

Kris is proof that *anything is possible IF you believe!* Congratulations, Kris!

ROME CHORUS



Let's Sing-a-Tag

A regular feature in the **River City Gazette**, featuring “Favorite Tags of Pittsburgh-area Tag Masters.”

Today's Tag was arranged especially for the Pittsburgh 2015 International Convention by **Jeff Gehm**, VP, Chorus Development Director, Johnny Appleseed District. Find three new friends and have some fun ringing these chords! You never know, a new quartet may be in your future!

Words, Music, and
Arranged by Jeff Gehm

“BRIDGES TO HARMONY”

Tenor

Lead

1

2

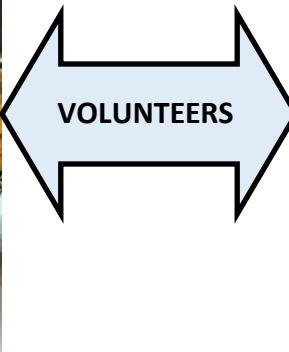
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Bar-ber-shop sing-ing is just the be - gin-ing of build-ing the brid-ges to har - mo-ny.

Bari

Bass



Harmony University Classes for Wednesday, July 1



9:00am

Transformational Leadership Westin - CrawfordSharing Strategies For Working With A Seniors Chorus Westin - Cambria EastBeginning Chords: It's What We Do Westin - Westmoreland

10:00am

Moments Of Truth Westin - PennsylvaniaChorus Directing: Solving The Most Common Problems Westin - SomersetCopyright 101 Westin - Crawford

11:00am

Delegate And Empower Your Volunteers! Westin - LawrenceThe Power Of Your Messages Westin - Crawford

12:00pm

How Many Tent Poles Should The Society Have In The Future? Westin - CrawfordTraining The Brain For Harmony Westin - Cambria East

2:00pm

The I.O.R. Process Westin - WestmorelandAdvanced Chords: It's What We Do! Westin - Crawford

3:00pm

MUS Category 101 Westin - SomersetSinging "In" The Chorus Westin - Cambria East

4:00pm

Tag Singing 201 Westin - AlleghenyPesky Passaggios!



Woodshedding 101 was a very popular HU Class led by Tom Gentry. Demonstrating some great technique for a group of young men is Don Dobson (in sport coat), tenor of *Four Rascals* quartet that earned four consecutive medals (1963-1966), finishing 2nd twice.