



~ The 76th Annual Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention ~
 2014 DAILY BULLETIN

...all the stuff that's fit to read!

DESERT NEWS



POST CONVENTION 2014



It was a **GRAND** night for choruses! Here are your **2014 Chorus Winners!**
 There were 1, 959 chorus members who crossed the stage!

1st Place - The Vocal Majority
 (158 men) 2903 points 96.8%



3rd Place - Great Northern Union
 (96 men) 2836 points 94.5%



5th Place - Zero8
 (50 men) 2784 points 92.4%



2nd Place - Masters of Harmony
 (117 men) 2854 points 95.1%
Ragtime Joe played an old piano



4th Place - Sound of the Rockies
 (113 men) 2784 points 92.8%



6th Place - Kentucky Vocal Union
 (38 men) 2765 points 92.2%



Photos courtesy of
 Chris Wethered
 Chrisew6@Q.com

It's the Music! Viva Las Vegas!

By Ford Fuller
 2015 Pittsburgh Bulletin Co-Manager

"This was by far the best competition I've seen in my 38 Years in the Society!"

So said one of the Chorus Competition judges, after scoring the 31 choruses which competed in the 2014 Las Vegas International Convention.

...Continued on Page 2

**QUARTET
 WINNERS ON
 PAGE 5**

- 7th Place - Music City Chorus (DIX), Nashville, TN**
- 8th Place - The Alliance (JAD), Greater Central Ohio**
- 9th Place - Central Standard (CSD), Metro Kansas City, MO**
- 10th Place - VocalFX (NZABS), Wellington, New Zealand**

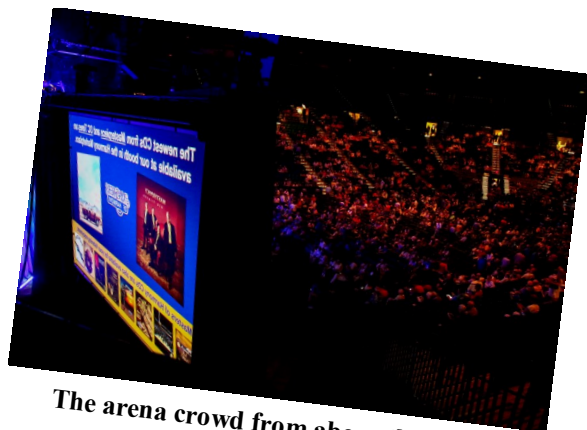
Random Photos from the 2014 BHS Convention in Las Vegas, NV
June 30 - July 6



Judges and chorus contestants.



The Grand Garden Center was full for the second half of the Chorus Contest.



The arena crowd from above the stage



More fun at the AIC Show



ELVIS (?) at the AIC Show

....Continued from Page 1

One after the other, chorus after chorus seemed to outdo one another with presentation creativity and music that ranged from the highest ringing chords, to the softest, pin-dropping lows—and everything in between!

And so it went for the entire convention, starting with Tuesday's Harmony Foundation International Collegiate Quartet Contest, won by The Academy (SUN) who bested 26 other quartets for the gold. Many Barbershoppers were impressed with the superb level of performance of all the collegians.

If you missed Las Vegas, you missed a fabulous International Convention! Among the many highlights were:

- Youth in Harmony** activities like the Tag Room and Youth Chorus that seemed never-ending;
- Outstanding **Harmony University** classes neatly sandwiched in between the various competitions;
- The Larry Ajer Party**—with a packed house and an endless procession of contesting quartets and choruses—that supports the Larry Ajer Scholarship Fund for Harmony University;
- The Wednesday night **Dixieland Band** of Barbershoppers jazz session—now a convention tradition—that played to an overflow crowd at the Rouge Lounge;
- The **Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE)** annual meeting, during which a new “Storytelling Project” that is in the works was announced;
- The **Good News! Gospel Sing** during which CEO Marty Monson made an exciting announcement that the Society has a plan that will insure that the program will continue as a viable part of the “It's the Music” Library;
- 2013 International Chorus Champ **Toronto Northern Lights' Master Class**;
- The **World Harmony Jamboree** with a full house, featuring Barbershop groups from all over the world, in support of Barbershop Harmony;
- One of the most awesome **Association of International Champions (AIC) Shows** you will ever see, hands down!;
- Saturday morning's **Sing with the Champs** sold out weeks ago, with each of the 30 singers paired with an International Gold Medal Quartet, proceeds from which benefit the AIC Endowment Fund at Harmony Foundation which is used to provide Youth Outreach grants;
- The well-attended Mega Sing on the Brooklyn Bridge;

....Continued on Page 3



ABOUT THOSE EIGHT STRANGE "LETTERS"!

This is for the benefit of the exploding number of young gentlemen rapidly populating the Society roster.

Our hobby's original name, **SPEBSQSA**, *The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.* was intended as a lampoon on President Roosevelt's many New Deal "alphabet agencies." Because of the name's length and the difficult-to-pronounce acronym, Society staff and members now refer to SPEBSQSA as *The Society*. For decades, SPEBSQSA was the organization's official moniker, while the **Barbershop Harmony Society** was the officially recognized/sanctioned alternate.

Members were urged to use the alternate name, because it was felt the official name was an inside-joke that didn't resonate outside the Society. In mid-2004, faced with declining membership, the Society adopted a marketing plan using "Barbershop Harmony Society" consistently and retaining the old name for certain legal purposes.

The old official name spelled "barber shop" as two words, while *barbershop* is generally used elsewhere.

In reference to the acronym SPEBSQSA, the Society has said "attempts to pronounce the name are discouraged". Unofficially, it is sometimes pronounced as if it were spelled "*Spebs-qwa*".

In late 2004, the Society established Barbershop Harmony Society as its new "brand name", with a logo/identity program released in 2005. Although the legal name remained SPEBSQSA, Inc., the decision was controversial, as many members felt the new name did not reflect a mission of preservation and encouragement of the style. Many members were concerned that the term "quartet" had been dropped, fearing a movement toward choral singing and downplaying quartet singing. ■ -- LL



Youthful members of **Voices of Gotham Chorus** (NYC/MAD) perform at a Harmony University session Saturday morning. (*see story below*)

As one of the Society's "leading incubators of both new Barbershop style music, and of young musical artists who will shape the continuing evolution of excellence of the Barbershop tradition", **Voices of Gotham** (New York City –MAD) was a featured **Harmony University** presenter at the Las Vegas Convention.

Director Larry Bomback described VofG's strategy for success in growing a new chapter that includes men of all ages—high school and college students, professional actors and musicians and men of all walks of life—who "simply enjoy raising their voices in song."

In six short years, VoG has grown from 12 men to nearly 90, achieving International stage levels of performance with their 15th Place finish in the just concluded International Chorus Competition. For more information on joining Voices of Gotham, or learning more about their strategy for success, visit voicesofgotham.org or contact Larry Bombeck at LBombeck@culturaldata.org. ■



.... *Continued from Page 2*

More Harmony University Classes featuring more stories from successful chapters, a master class with Masterpiece Quartet, directors roundtable, coaching under glass, and the Comedy Quartet Class, featuring Storm Front, $\frac{3}{4}$ of FRED, ably moderated by Lunch Break's Shane Scott;

The **Saturday Night Spectacular** showcasing newly-crowned 2014 International Collegiate Quartet Champion, The Academy, and 2014 International Chorus Champion Vocal Majority in a special song directed by Jim Clancey, along with 1980 International Quartet Champion, The Boston Common, and other featured performers and surprise Barbershop guests;

A terrific **Webcast** team and production crew led by hosts Debbie Cleveland, Justin Oxley and Todd Reavis who reported on all the competition events for worldwide viewing via the Internet;

A constant stream of **twitter-tagged** photos organized and monitored by Becca Grimmer, the Society's social media and communications specialist;

And, the phenomenal **International Quartet Finals** that included Lunch Break quartet's final-final swan song and the crowning of Musical Island Boys as 2014 International Quartet champions!

Yes, the 2014 Las Vegas International Convention was all about the music! And no one was busier than Society CEO Marty Monson—whose distinctive laugh was heard throughout all corners of the MGM Grand complex—promoting our music!

As Marty says, "Of course, it's the music! It's the reason we are here!"

It is all about the music, and together, making the music that's making the difference!

Viva Las Vegas!

LAS VEGAS MID-DAY HAPPENING!

Enjoy these images of the mass barbershop MegaSing on the Las Vegas Strip atop the Brooklyn Bridge at the NEW YORK/NEW YORK Hotel/Casino

Considering the heat (about 108 degrees), this event was attended by a little over 500 enthusiastic barbershoppers.

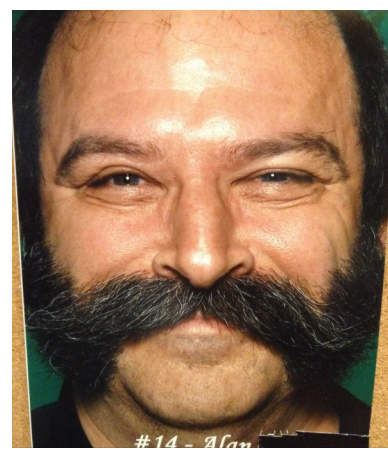


2014 'Stache Contest Winner

With 133 votes, the winner of this year's mustache contest is Alan Josephson. Out of almost 20 people who entered the contest, Alan and his 'stache came out on top!

Alan is a member of the Vocal Majority chorus and he donated his portion of the winnings to the Harmony Foundation.

Total proceeds from this event contributed to the Harmony Foundation was \$260.00.



Our 2014 Quartet Winners

2014 International Quartet Champion
Musical Island Boys (NZABS) 8058 Points 89.5%



Silver Medalist Quartet
Forefront (CAR) 8021 Points 89.1%



3rd Place Bronze Medalist Quartet
Main Street (SUN) 8015 Points 89.1%



4th Place Bronze Medalist Quartet
A Mighty Wind (DIX) 7976 Points 88.6%



5th Place Bronze Medalist Quartet
Lemon Squeezy (SNOBS) 7918 Points 88.0%

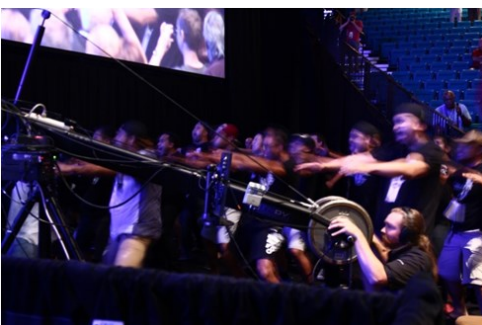


Collegiate Quartet Champion
The Academy (SUN) 1456 Points 80.9%



Musical Island Boys named 2014 International Champion Quartet.

As soon as MIB was announced as our 2014 Champion Quartet, the arena was filled with a thundering sound. It was caused by around 100 New Zealanders running down the metal steps, from the concourse level, to the arena floor. Once there, they honored the MIB with a choreographed traditional Maori greeting.





TO: Our Brothers in Harmony Across the Seas...

We want to thank all of the Affiliate Organizations of barbershop singers around the world for all you do to promote the love of the barbershop style of singing. Your contributions to our hobby is greatly appreciated. The consistent winners and high ranking of choruses and quartets from all walks of life, no matter where they live or what language they speak is testament to your success in furthering barbershop harmony to everyone we can reach.

The logos above are the ten Affiliates and they are worthy of mention and appreciation. If your travels bring you to Las Vegas (or anywhere else in the 17 districts of the Barbershop Harmony Society), we hope you will make a point of visiting one of our chapter meetings.

It's been a pleasure to share our Convention Daily Bulletins with you and hope that it will become a regular service in future conventions.

Fred Green
Marketing & Public Relations
Silver Statesmen Chorus
Las Vegas, NV

Logos left to right:

- British Association of Barbershop Singers (2014 is their 40th year anniversary...Congratulations!!)
- New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers
- Irish Association of Barbershop Singers
- Barbershop in Germany
- Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers
- Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers
- Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers
- Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers
- Barbershop Harmony Australia
- Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers

Harmony Foundation International Exceeds Goal

There were many fund raising activities during convention week, both by and for the Harmony Foundation. After tallying all the proceeds, the Foundation raised \$285,000, which exceeded their goal of \$250,000.

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to this worthy organization.

Thanks for being with us this year. It's been a great week of barbershop and brotherhood.

We hope to see all of you next year for the 2015 BHS Convention in Pittsburgh.

