

# Bay Country Chorus

Meeting Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
at the Historical Society Of Talbot County Auditorium  
17 South Washington Street, 2nd Floor  
Easton, Maryland

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America

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## FROM THE PODIUM

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For all of the members who were present at our chapter meeting and rehearsal on Tuesday night, Feb. 26, this will not be news to you but for those not present and who have not heard of the latest in the saga of Joan and Tom Ewald and moving, this will be new!

Yes, it is that time of year again! Not that it is a yearly occasion, but it sometimes seems that way. Last year, we were definitely moving to Albuquerque, NM. Well, this year, it is moving to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina! Some of you may have guessed when I related that on our trip to HHI and Florida in January, we never left Hilton Head, that we were up to something not good. Well, I guess the latter statement depends on your point of view. We made the decision that Hilton Head Island is the place that we wish to call home for the future.

To give all of you a little background about our connection to Hilton Head Island, my quartet sang there on three different occasions from 1977 to 1989 and an at least an additional 5 or 6 occasions, Joan and I had visited there with old and dear friends, Hank and Kitty Calhoun, whom we have known since our days with the Bryn Mawr, Pa. chapter, Hank having been the founder and first director of Bryn Mawr, with me being the second director of that chapter. Hank and Kitty moved to Hilton Head in the mid 70's and he founded the chapter there and was it's first director which position he filled for many years. Hank had always tried to get us to move there, and in fact, Joan and I, over the years, tried to move there a couple of times, going so far as to put in contracts on homes. Each time, for various reasons, those efforts failed. This time, we feel that the timing is right and it will take!! We both love the place, the climate and the people. Also, it looks like I will be the director of the chorus!

So, our plan is to put the house on the market very soon. We will probably start to interview realtors within the next two weeks. We have been busy getting everything shipshape to present the house. Then it is all up to a higher power as to if, and when, all this takes place.

My leaving the Bay Country Chorus is a bittersweet affair. I have thoroughly enjoyed my years (is it really three years?) with you. You have been so very responsive to my teaching and through your hard work have shown much improvement. I have said as much to you, that our Bay Country Chorus will never sing badly, even on our bad days. That is a tribute to your hard work and dedication, for which I thank you.

I have told Carson Andrew that I am committed to being with

you for the concert at the Avalon Theatre on April 7th. And who knows, depending on the sale of our house, I may be here through the Atlantic Division contest in May. We can only wait and see about the latter. Joan and I are going back to Hilton Head, leaving here on Thursday, March 7th so I will miss the meeting of March 12th. We will continue with our preparation for the April 7th concert and with preparation for the 2003 Annual Show.

I will be involved with the Search Committee in seeking a replacement and will do everything that I can to ensure that you have a director deserving of the dedication and effort put forth by the Bay Country Chorus.

Tom

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## SEARCH COMMITTEE

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Following the March Board of Director's Meeting, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Search Committee met for the first time. Cliff Ely was appointed Chairman with Bill Hosker, Dave Milhollan, Tom Ewald and Carson Andrew members of the committee.

The committee will be meeting each week to bring all up to date on our search. Already we have a list from the Mid-Atlantic District, a list of 185 directors and assistant directors in our district. This list was narrowed down to 21. The reason being, a candidate should live no more than 80 miles from Easton. A letter is being drafted and sent to possible candidates, as well as other music teachers on the Eastern Shore. Another letter being drafted is to be sent to those outside the 80 mile zone, who might be interested in moving to the Easton area.

A strategy plan was formed and all members of the committee are prepared to proceed at utmost speed. Chapter members will be kept up to date on the progress.

This is the time to show our strength by attending our weekly meetings, and being at our many outside performances. We have gone through this process before and have held together. The Easton Chapter is a strong chapter and has many things going for it. Let us all make this transition once again by being true barbershoppers.

Sincerely, Cliff Ely, Chairman



## February In Review

What a busy month February has been. Congratulations to our singing members for all the hours and traveling they have done in a short period of time.

Starting with the **Singing Valentine Program**, February 12-13-14, ten members presented 62 Valentines in three days. Special thanks go to **Bill Fuller, Andre & Cynthia** for making this the most successful Valentine venture.

Following two days later, February 16, the chorus performed a concert at **Church Hill Theatre** with twenty-two singers on the risers. The first of our Concert Series was received with great enthusiasm and response from the audience. We were told that we would be asked to return.

Monday, February 18, twelve members of the chorus sang at a **Flag Dedication Ceremony** at the William Hill Manor. Presenting "God Bless America" and "The Star Spangled Banner" to a large group of retired people who were thrilled with our singing.

The **Easton Chapter** is a chapter that comes together when faced with many challenges. Though we are a "small" chapter, we stand tall in our communities because of our dedication to "Keep America Singing".

## QUARTET CORNER



**Unforgettable** participated in the Rahway, New Jersey Novice Quartet Contest on Saturday February 23rd. They were one of 18 quartets that competed. The songs we chose were "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" and "Sweet Adeline". The term "novice" is some what of a misnomer because the entry requirements state that no more than two members may have competed on the District stage. It may be more appropriately named an International Prelim warmup. There was a double panel of judges and a great audience full of enthusiasm and support. You just can't beat a barbershop audience. The review session afterward was well

done and we received plenty of good advice. So how did we finish? Eleventh out of eighteen. Not bad for our first time out .... and we'll be back!

Our first performance outside of Chapter events and Valentines will be at the Kent County High School in Chestertown at 3:00 on March 17th. The Rotary Club is putting on the show as a fund raiser to generate scholarship funds.

This quartetting stuff is just way too much fun!

Dave Milhollan, bass

## VALENTINE PERFORMANCES

February 12,13 & 14 members of our chorus went out and sang more Valentine Greeting then ever before.

Thanks to **Bill Fuller**, PR V.P. he had all the avenues covered. Local TV, live radio, newspaper and flyers. This kind of advertising paid off. 44 paid Valentines were delivered in Talbot, Queen Anne's and Dorchester Counties.

Thanks also to **Andre and Cynthia Marechal** for their hours of work receiving phone calls and making arrangements, times etc. for our singers.

We were short of Bari's, but our Director came down and filled in. Andre sang both Tenor and Bari in two different quartets.

Those singing in quartets were, John Crampton, Carson Andrew, Dave Milhollan, Bill Hosker, Andre Marechal, Jack Swing, Jim Butler, Tom Ewald, Tim Herbert and Claude Maechling.

A great job done by a group of dedicated Barbershoppers. For more information on the Valentine's program, see Andre's Valentine's Data.

## Singing Valentines 2002 Statistics

Number sung to women	22
Number sung to men	13
Number sung to a group	8
Number sung for free	17

Total sung 60

Number given to women from women	1
Number given to woman from man	19
Number given to man from woman	13
Number given to group from man	4
Number given to group from woman	1
Number given to group from group	3
Number given towoman from group	2

Number sung on February 12th	1
Number sung on February 13th	23
Number sung on February 14th	36

**Number exposed to Barbershop 853**

## VISIT BY BOWIE CHAPTER

The Bowie Chapter wishes to visit our chapter April 16. This visit has come about for two reasons. A chance for a get together for our two chapters, we expect to visit Bowie in exchange in the near future. Also, because Tom is about to depart for South Carolina, many of his friends are in the Bowie Chapter and would like to wish him a happy goodbye.

Tuesday, April 16 we will have both chapters and quartets perform and join choruses in song like we did in Milford. This should be a great evening of making new friends of barbershopping. There will be refreshments. Please wear "B Uniform" with sweaters.

## CHORUSMANAGER

### Church Hill Theatre

The chapter's first performance of the year was held at the Church Hill Theatre February 16, 8 p.m. The theatre is very old and is being restored for many different kinds of entertainment. At one time it was a movie theatre, for in the basement there are many relic's of movie cameras, lights etc. The management is little by little making progress in restoration. As we know the Avalon Theater in Easton was once in the same condition and now after much work and money, look what happened. Let's hope the Church Hill Theatre has the same outcome. For those who wish to contribute time, talent or money call 410-758-1331.

The chorus under the direction of Tom Ewald presented a concert in 5 parts, chorus, quartet, chorus, quartet, and chorus. This worked out great. With no intermission the music flowed smoothly. Starting out with our "Hello" song we sang four others before "Unforgettable", with John Crampton, Carson Andrew, Dave Milhollan and Bill Hosker took center stage for 15 minutes. Through coaching and determination they are sounding better all the time. Another set of songs by the chorus, then it was time for "Four On The Shore" with Jack Swing, John Farrell, Ed Zimmerman and Ken Davis. The sound these men make, gets the audience's full attention. The final chorus number, as always, is "God Bless America" which we do so well and the audience appreciated it.

The Chorus thanks our two make-up ladies who made us look so young and good looking. Carole Merkle and Carolyn Farrell. Thank you so much.

The evening was well received by the audience and as we left the stage, they gathered around us and congratulated us on our performance. Refreshments were served and talking with people we found out that a few had never heard barbershop music before and said they were looking forward to hearing us again. We may have a few come to hear us at our meetings. Tom Ewald did another superb job of emceeing with his introductions of several songs. Great job, guys.

### William Hill Manor

Monday, February 18, 4 p.m., twelve members of the chorus were invited to sing at the William Hill Manor for a Flag Dedication Ceremony. Being a chilly day and many sitting waiting for the proceedings to begin, we were asked to sing a song, so we sang a tune which would warm them up, "Hello Mary Lou".

The Prayer-Blessing of the Flag was given by Reverend Bill Trumbore. "God Bless America" was then sung followed the raising of the flag and gun salute by the Blake-Blackstone Squadron 77. The singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" by the chorus and closing remarks by Donna Taylor and David Hill ended the ceremony. We were invited to refreshments inside and sang two more songs. Another warm reception was given to the twelve singers. These being, Bill Fuller, Tom Nash, Joe Mueller, Dave Milhollan, Carson Andrew, Bill Hosker, Claude Maechling, Bill Hosker, Cliff Ely, Bob Shockley, Jim Butler, and John Crampton.

## MEMBERSHIP - "HABIT CONCEPT"

Everyone, I am sure, will agree that habits are as much apart as our being as any other aspect of our lives. We develop habits at an early age and expound and expand on them each and every day of our lives. Our character grows in excellence and achievement and in the Arts we all so appreciate and enjoy.

Actually our entire training as singers depends on our development of "**Good Habits**" - habits such as like mouth shapes to produce like tones and sounds-shapes to produce proper vowels and techniques to refrain from neglecting our consonants. Theoretically speaking, breath control, coupled with the ability to carry a tune and follow the Director's Interpretation of the selection coupled with the above "Good Habits" equals a "Grand Barbershop Sound".

The concept of Beautiful Barbershop Harmony is to be able to create the ultimate in musical expression. We call it "Barbershop Harmony" whereby we do not hear the tenor, the lead, the baritone or the bass as such in single and separate voices, but instead, one single ever expending tone.

One day my then 12 year old granddaughter heard our chorus in concert and told me after the show that she heard me singing- she never heard my voice as we were performing. I thanked her and responded with "thank, no thanks". I told her that if she could hear my voice stand out, I was not doing my job as a barbershop singer.

All the above training is done by repetition and more repetition. In other words we are developing "**Positive Habits**". How well we hone and cultivate these habits determine the quality of music we produce.

The same is true of all "**Good Habits**". Let us all join in and use the above information to hone and cultivate the "**Habit of Recruiting**" new members.

The positive work and effort we put forth is in vain if we neglect the habit of replenishing our talent.

Attrition will take it's toll. Let us resolve to not let this happen. Only then can we accomplish our mission to "**Keep The Whole World Singing**".

Joe Mueller, Membership V.P.



## Board Of Directors

President	Carson Andrew	822-1745
Past President	Bill Hosker	476-5722
Membership	Joe Mueller	673-7647
Music	Dave Milhollan	822-7407
Public Relations	Bill Fuller	745-2514
Chorus Manager	Cliff Ely	770-8262
Secretary	Tim Herbert	745-3847
Treasurer	Dave Milhollan	822-7407
Members at Large	Claude Maechling	822-2535
	Bill Johnstone	943-3320

## Calendar

March 8-9	Mid-Atlantic Quartet Prelims
April 7	Concert, Avalon Theatre, 2 PM
April 13	Ocean View Chapter Show
April 13	Salisbury Chapter Show
April 16	Bowie Chapter visiting Easton
April 25	Performance William Hill Manor dinner, 5:30
May 17-18	Atlantic Division Competition, Wilmington, DE
June 6	Performance Maritime Museum, St. Michaels
June 13-15	Harmony College, Salisbury, MD
June 19	Performance, Oxford F.I.S.H., 6 PM, dinner at Latitude 38 afterward
July tba	Performance, Music In The Park, Easton
October 4-5	Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention, Wildwood, NJ
December 3	Annual Awards Dinner & Christmas Party



### Appointed Positions:

Librarians	Bill Johnstone
	Jim Butler
Fellowship	Bob Marsh
Program / Timekeeper	Bill Hosker
Greeter	Kent Merkle
50/50	Bob Marsh
Riser Chairman	Claude Maechling
News Editor	Cliff Ely
Historian	Cliff Ely

### Section leaders:

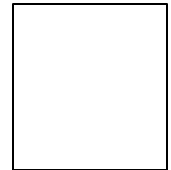
Lead - Tom Ewald / Carson Andrew
Tenor - Andre Marechal
Bass - Dave Milhollan
Baritone - Ed Zimmerman



## Society Vision Statement

The Society is to be an ever-growing fraternity of barbershop-style singers, leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities.

**Bay Country Chorus**  
**Cliff Ely, Editor**  
**P. O. Box 2249**  
**Easton, MD 21601**



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