

Bay Country Breeze

The Bay Country Chorus Meets 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

Thanks For The Memories Tom



Reflecting back to the three and a half years that Tom Ewald has been connected with the Easton Chapter, I have to begin with the time the District had trained personal to evaluate a chapters sing-out or performance. Tom was selected to evaluate our chorus at a performance in Oxford, Md. for F.I.S.H. a non-profit organization to help others in the community.

Tom sat in the balcony, checking the many items to judge on prewritten on pages of information. Following the performance, as usual the chorus went to the Latitude 38 a short distance away for dinner. Tom was our guest and enjoyed our company and dinner. I heard the next day that Tom was no longer directing a chorus and as we were looking for a director, I called Tom to see if he was interested. To make a long story short, he agreed to meet with the Search Committee and was offered the directorship and he accepted.

From the first time he had the chorus in a group, he related his comments he had made at Oxford. They were to the point and rightly so. We had a lot to learn about a lot of things. Vowel singing, mouth shapes, breathing, etc. The time devoted to these exercises made a so-so group of singers recognize the talents of a great teacher. The music selected was not easy, songs such as "An American Trilogy", "Lords Prayer", "Lost In The Stars", "Once Upon A Time" and others as such made the chorus feel confident and could perform well anywhere. There can be no doubt that Tom's time with us made the Bay Country Chorus what it is today, a well respected group that is being asked to perform all over the Eastern Shore. I am sure what he has taught us will remain with us and will be carried on.

Tom will always be present with us when we sing those favorites he taught us. Tom has left many chapters the same as he has with us, a true Barbershopper of the highest, teacher, director, gentleman and friend. Thank God we had the pleasure of knowing him and singing under his leadership.

Clifford Ely, Editor

BOWIE VISIT

Tuesday, April 16, 30 members of the **Bowie Chapter** paid a visit to our chapter. This was the first visit by another chapter across the bay. **President Andrew** welcomed all, and presented the program for the night.

The Easton Chapter took the risers first and welcomed the Bowie Chapter with the "Hello Song", followed by three songs led by **Tom Ewald**. The Bowie singers under the direction of **Michael Kelly** then took to the risers and presented a few songs, all of which were done in great style and sound.

Quartets were then asked to come forward. First was a pick up quartet headed by **Andre Marechal**. This was made up of two friends of Andre's from Bowie and our own **Tim Herbert**. Sorry I did not get the names of those from Bowie. The next quartet was "**Four On The Shore**" which entertained all with a fine mixture of songs. "**Unforgettable**" was next and presented three songs. Their sound and stage presence are getting better with each performance. From the **Bowie Chapter** came "**Cliché**". Singing in harmony and soft tones, they held the audience in awe. During their performance, **Bob Wachter** talked about **Tom Ewald** and his past days when both were Judges and how much **Tom** had done for the **Society**.

Once again **Easton** took the risers for a few songs, then **Bowie** entertained, and last the choruses from both chapters sang "**God Bless America**" with **Michael Kelly** directing. "**The Lords Prayer**" directed by **Tom Ewald** concluded the evening of song.

President Andrew called **Tom Ewald** front and presented him with a bouquet of flowers for his wife **Joan** and framed piece of music "**Moments To Remember**" with the signatures of the Easton Chapter members. **Tom** thanked all who came from **Bowie** for being present, for he was once the Director of the Bowie Chorus. He also thanked the **Easton Chapter** for all they have done.

Together there were 50 members present, plus some of their wives. Refreshments were served, many greeting others, seeing old friends and making new friends. Tag and quartet singing could be heard. A great night to honor **Tom Ewald** for what he has done for both chapters.



JUNE EASTON NAMED BAY COUNTRY CHORUS DIRECTOR



Saturday April 13, 2002 ,The Board of Directors voted unanimously to hire June Easton, Past Associate Director as full time Director. Mr. Tom Ewald who ends three years plus directing the chorus has given notice that he and his wife Joan will be moving to Hilton Head, S.C.

June Easton participated in musical and drama productions throughout High School, College and in Community Theatre. She was a member of Sweet Adelines from 1970 through 1987 directing choruses in Ohio and Pennsylvania. June is educated in the technique of singing barbershop harmony and in the vocal production technique of Joseph J. Klein through the Sweet Adeline Organization. She attended Fred Waring's phonetic choral singing at Penn State University. She relocated to Alexandria Virginia from State College, Pennsylvania in 1990 and was a member of the Alexandria Singers for two years. She and her husband retired to Queenstown, Maryland last year. June says she was happy to come out of barbershop retirement to work under Tom Ewald as Associate Director.

Mr. David Milhollan will take over as Associate Director. David has been a member of the Barbershop Society for eleven years and a Charter Member of the Easton Chapter.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR

I'm delighted to be a Director again, and most importantly with the "Bay Country Chorus." My thanks to the selection Committee and the Board of Directors. This is a new venture for both, a female Director for you and a male Chorus for me. New challenges always bring new experiences upon which we can build. I'm pleased with the skills and techniques you've shown. With David Milhollan as your new Associate Director, an impressive Board of Directors and "you," we have a great team in place to capitalize on this strong foundation. Let this team spirit lead us through our goals of recruitment, competition, show and everything in between as we move forward with a "dynamic, enthusiastic and professional Bay Country Chorus."

.....June

THANKS

It takes many people to make a party a success, Tuesday, April 16 proved it. Thanks to the following the evening was a complete success. Carson Andrew for chairing and emceeing the program, our wives who provided the delicious cookies and brownies. Cynthia Marechal, Josephine Fuller, Peggy Hosker, Carole Merkle, Joyce Mueller, June Easton and Trinetta Ely. Bob Marsh for handling the bar, Claude Maechling for soda and water, Jim Butler

and Jim Blakely for picking up the beer and all who helped set up the auditorium and cleaned up afterward. A great group who made this event a success. Thank you.

MEETING NIGHTS

To prevent any misunderstandings in the future our chapter policy regarding who is welcome at our Tuesday meetings is this.

The weekly Chapter Meeting of the Easton Maryland Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. should be attended by all Chapter Members as often as possible.

Members are encouraged to bring friends, guests, or anyone they feel may be interested in attending.

Relatives of chapter members are encouraged to attend any Tuesday with or without the chapter member

Board Meetings are scheduled for the first Saturday of each month and start at 9 a.m. Location is Historic Society Auditorium, second floor.

MEMBERS SHOULD CHECK WITH THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT OR CHORUS DIRECTOR PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO INSURE THERE HAS NOT BEEN A CHANGE IN DATE OR LOCATION.

If you have other questions do not hesitate our President Carson Andrew

MEMBERSHIP

Obviously, as I am sure you are all aware that we are in direct competition with other entities when it comes to recruiting new members to our chorus. There are so many organizations and so many interests that draw and pull everyone in this direction and that. There are so many things today that demand our interest and attention. This being said and understood should create in us an even more "Determined Resolve" to pay more attention to the needs of our chorus. The major need right now is definitely more members.

This week I attended the funeral of a former member of our chorus, Arthur Cheetham. He had not been active within the past 3 or 4 years due to his declining health, but while active, was a good and steady members as well as a first class gentleman. While at the viewing, prior to the funeral I met a man who was Past Grand Knight of the local Council of the Knights of Columbus. During our conversation I let him know, I too was a member of the Bay Country Chorus. He remarked that he had been contacted, presumably by Art, about joining the barbershoppers a while back and after some deliberation decided not to, due the fact the Knights meet on Tuesday night-the same night our meetings take place. Although our conversation did not materialize in procuring a new member, it just goes to show that recruiting and opportunities for recruiting occur at any time and under varied circumstances.

Everyone we meet is a potential member until qualified otherwise. Let us keep this in mind as we pursue our daily routines and endeavors, and while we are at it-

"Let Us Keep The Whole World Singing"

Joe Mueller, Membership VP

FROM THE BOARD

The April Board Meeting was held Saturday April 13, 9 a.m.
Those attending: Andrew, Milhollan, Maechling, Mueller, Hosker, Ely, Fuller and Johnstone. Invited guests, June Easton and Andre Marechal
Approved of the minutes of March meeting.
Approved of the Treasurer's Report
It was moved that a copy of the minutes of the past 12 months be put in a binder and placed on a table in the back of the room for all to look at.
A committee formed to draft a new set of policies for all members, both new and old, to conform to.
The Chapters Mission Statement to be revised.
June Easton was hired to be the Director of the chorus.
Dave Milhollan hired to be Associate Director.
Tag singing to be promoted after regular meetings, all interested please stay.
Atlantic Division Convention discussed, moved we register to compete.
Music Committee to meet with June Easton as soon as possible.
Next Board Meeting, May 4, 9 a.m. Place to be announced.
Meeting adjourned 12:10 p.m.

Appreciation Ceremony April 8

The Talbot County Council honored the many men and women of the Volunteer Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services who through tireless dedication, risk their lives for that of their fellow man and woman. This ceremony took place at the Avalon Theatre with many officials representing the Talbot County. The Blake-Blackstone Post No. 77 Color Guard presented the colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and The Star Spangled Banner sung by The Bay Country Chorus led by Tom Ewald, Director. The chorus was warmly applauded for its rendition of our National Anthem. Other entertainment on the program were the Easton High School Chamber Singers with William R. Thomas directing. The well know Bird Dog Wheeler was recognized and presented a fine program. A full house was in attendance to pay tribute to these men and women who do so much for our communities. Presentation of Awards were made to Stations No.20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90.

The evening closed with God Bless America by **Bird Dog Wheeler** and closing remarks by Levin F. Harrison IV, President Talbot County Council.

First Sunday Concert Series

Sunday, April 7th at 2 p.m. saw the Bay Country Chorus start its Sunday Concert Series. Held at the Avalon Theatre under the direction of Tom Ewald, the chorus presented 17 songs in its repertoire. With a dinner show setting, the audience was receptive to our four part singing.

The Concert set in four parts, first four songs followed by the chapters quartet "Unforgettable", singing five songs. They were well received as well as they might be for they are improving with each performance. Another four songs, then a 15 minute inter-

mission. Five songs to open the second half, then our Guest Quartet from Salisbury, MD. "**Dockers**" entertained with their usual comedy and great singing. We thank the "**Dockers**" for their participation. Ending the Concert with four favorites, "Danny Boy", "Ain't Misbehavin'", "The Lords Prayer" and "God Bless America" our first Concert Series concluded.

It goes without saying, that **Tom Ewald** will be missed, for this was his last public concert he would direct the Bay Country Chorus. He will be moving to Hilton Head, S.C. and will continue directing with the Hilton Head Lighthouse Chorus.

Four On The Shore Goes To College

Remember the four Easton High School Kids we sponsored to go to Harmony College East, last year? Three of them are continuing their education this year at Chesapeake Community College. The fourth, Damon Effington, is in his senior year in high school and starring in every play, talent show, and musical production in Talbot County. The other three, Tim Leeson, Shawn Smith, and Joey Timms are studying and working their Freshman year at Chesapeake. Joey is doing some landscaping work in my neighborhood and stopped by to see when we rehearse. We had a good chat and he started showing up at our rehearsals.

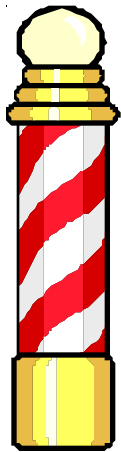
He mentioned that in his music class, he started talking to his classmates and instructor about barbershop harmony, Harmony College East, and how much fun it was. Everyone seemed interested in hearing more about it. I mentioned that we could stop in on his class some evening, if it was okay with his instructor. He was flabbergasted. He called me the next day and said his instructor would love it for his class, so we set it up. Joey must have called three times that week to make sure we could come. I also mentioned to him that maybe we could sing a tag with him and get him an "A +" grade.

At the appointed time we found his building and were warming up in the cafeteria, when Joey showed up, looking for us. We practiced a tag with him that he said he was singing all day long, in anticipation of doing it with us. We went up to his classroom, met his instructor and fellow students, and then we started to sing. We sang and talked with the class in a Q & A period and the instructor seemed fascinated. Then we said, "You can teach anybody Barbershop Harmony". We then "volunteered" Joey to join us and sing the baritone part on a tag. He came up and I pretended to quickly teach everyone their respective parts. They were great and the class loved it. Joey was about to "bust his buttons", performing for his peers.

The next week, Joey showed up at our rehearsal (after class) and he had Shawn Smith with him. We worked hard and the last fifteen minutes we invited the boys to sing with us. The grins never left their faces the rest of the evening. Shawn is doing some solo work at functions around town. We hope to interest them in coming to chorus rehearsals after they get their first year of school under their belts. Tim, however, is in love with a young lady and tearing him away for rehearsals will be a challenge. H-m-m-m ?!?!?

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



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 - Carson Andrew
Tenor - Andre Marechal
Bass - Dave Milhollan
Baritone - Ed Zimmerman

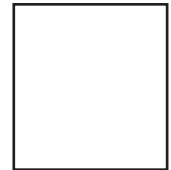
Calendar

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	VLQ Performance William Hill Manor dinner, 5 PM
May 17-18	Atlantic Division Competition, Wilmington, DE
June 13-15	Harmony College, Salisbury, MD
June 19	Performance, Oxford F.I.S.H., 6 PM, dinner at Latitude 38 afterward
July 13	Performance, Music In The Park, Easton
August 2	Performance, Historic Society Garden Party
October 4-5	Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention, Wildwood, NJ
November 22	Performance Denton 7 PM
December 3	Annual Awards Dinner & Christmas Party

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



Disclaimer: All articles herein, unless carrying a by-line, are written by the Publisher and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the membership, chapter society or the Publisher