



BRIDGE TOWN SOUND

www.bridgetownsound.org

Portland Metro Chapter Men's Barbershop Chorus

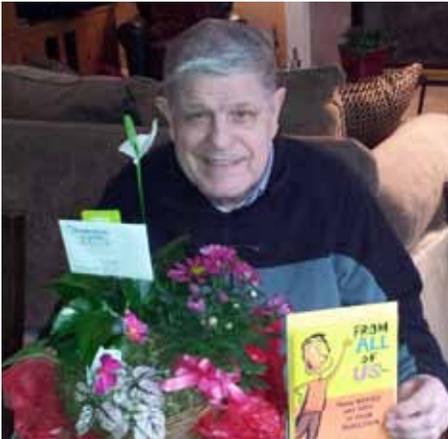
Six-Time Evergreen Division IV Champions

SOUND - Bites

July 15, 2013

2013 International Convention was a memorable event

By Bob Brock



The Toronto convention was fabulous — expensive but nevertheless outstanding — my last judging assignment after 42 years as a certified judge in this wonderful hobby. Joe Liles and I are tied with the most seniority in the judging program, and he retired along with me at the same time. Tears flowed freely as my fellow judges gave me a standing ovation at our annual judges meeting for all categories at our Saturday annual meeting at every International. Wow, what a quartet contest, with Musical Island Boys from New Zealand taking second place their third year in a row, with Masterpiece from Southern California taking gold from them.

And what a chorus contest, with only two points separating first and second place, with Toronto Northern Lights (TNL) edging out New Westminster from Southern California. One of the Presentation judges gave TNL a score of 100 on their second song. If he had given them a 98, which would still have been the highest presentation score, New Westminster would

have won the contest because they would have been tied, and the Singing category first breaks a tie, which New Westminster won. But New Westminster will not be competing in Las Vegas next summer because something in their charter says they will not compete in the same International as the Masters of Harmony, who will be eligible to compete again this fall to qualify for Vegas. Both choruses now have the same director in Justin Miller, a certified music judge now living in the Los Angeles area.

As most of you are aware, I am in the middle of chemotherapy treatments for colon cancer. I generally have chemo treatments every other Monday, but my doctor gave me an extra week between sessions just prior to the Toronto convention, so I felt pretty good in Toronto.

Good luck to you guys in Boise.

(Something Inside) So Strong

(Something Inside) So Strong is one of Bridge Town Sound's repertoire songs. Here is the song's history.

It is a 1987 single written and recorded by British singer-songwriter Labi Siffre. The song was the biggest success of Siffre's career, and peaked at number four in the United Kingdom.

The song was inspired by a TV documentary on Apartheid in South Africa seen by Siffre in 1985 in which a white soldier was filmed shooting at black children. Siffre originally intended to give the song to another artist to sing, but was convinced to release it himself.

The song has remained enduringly popular and is an example of the political and sociological thread running through much of Siffre's lyrics and poetry. It won the Ivor Novello Award for "Best Song Musically and Lyrically," and has been used in Amnesty International campaigns, a television advertisement, and Alice Walker's film against female genital mutilation.

—Wikipedia

2013 Portland Metro Officers

President
Steve Wright
swrightcgi@hotmail.com

Musical Director
John Burri
burritone@comcast.net

Past President
Doug Watson
thenansim@comcast.net

VP Music & Performance
Larry Perkins
bts10r@comcast.net

VP Program & Fellowship
Dick Handley
dickh@oregonfcu.com

VP Chapter Development
Kyle Blomgren
kpbloomgren@gmail.com

VP Marketing & Public Relations
Rick Barrier
rickbarrier@gmail.com

Member-at-Large (marketing)
Hayden Price
hprice@rflgroup.net

Member-at-Large (chapter dev.)
Jeff Welsh
jeffw@insource1.com

Member-at-Large (music)
Brian Levy
blevy009@comcast.net

Secretary
Paul Graves
gravesjnp@gmail.com

Treasurer
Paul Lewis
plewispx@gmail.com

Sound-Bites Editor
Roberta Miller
roseofharmony1@gmail.com

We meet every Tuesday from 7–9:30 pm
at Holladay Park Church of God,
2120 NE Tillamook, Portland
Please join us!

Bridge Town Sound is affiliated with the
Barbershop Harmony Society



Meeting Script – Tuesday, July 15

Good post-International rehearsal.
Kudos to **Carlos Aguayo** for (1) being selected as June Barbershopper of the Month, and (2) singing with his other chorus, the Duke City Sound, to a 19th place performance in Toronto.

Looks like another taker from the May guest night — **Aaron Weller** was with us again, and word has it that a first audition was in the works.

Two other special guests — former members **Bob Rawson** and **David Wilkerson** — made their way to Tillamook Street and added to our sound. Later in the evening **Sam Vigil** joined us for a little while, and even tried to help get a winner in the 50-50 drawing, but alas to no avail.

Speaking of avail, it's nearly.....

7:00 and time to avail yourself of your spot on the risers so **John Burri** has his full 25 minutes to help us fine-tune our instruments.

7:25 - Chapter Development VP **Kyle Blomgren** keeps us looking forward to the interesting array of guests he comes up with. Who's on tap this week?

7:30 - *Home On The Range*

7:40 - *Jezebel* - Don't worry, baritones ... you got this.

7:50 - More choreo for *Don't Put A Tax On My Barbershop Chords*

8:15 - *God Bless The USA*

8:30 - Business, announcements and break

8:50 - **Norm Lawson** has an update on someone from our past in his Two-Minute segment.

8:52 - *It's Today*

9:10 - *Accentuate The Positive*

9:30 - Performance set. *Harmony Leads The Way, I'm Beginning To See The Light, Happy Together, Something Inside So Strong*

9:45 - Nice work again tonight, and time to head for the afterglow with visions of the performance plan dancing through your thoughts. Before we go, though, give a listen to Resolutions Chief **Carlos Aguayo** and follow **Steve Wright** as he directs *Keep The Whole World Singing*.



Carlos Aguayo, June Barbershopper of the Month



Spotlight on new member...

Sound-Bites: How and when did you become acquainted with Bridge Town Sound?

Cal: I found out about BTS around the middle of last year from the website, but couldn't make it to practices due to classes. When the new year rolled around, my schedule opened up, and I was able to come and sing.

SB: What were your first impressions, and what made you want to become a member of the chapter?

Cal: My first impressions were all good. The chorus sounded good, everyone was very welcoming and friendly, and most importantly, there was a high standard set — it seems to me that this chorus is more than about just singing for fun; it's also about improving the sound. I'm a bit competitive, so that was good to see.

SB: Do you have a musical background (barbershop or other)?

Cal: I have a slight musical background; I was a band geek all through high school, and I played the clarinet, bass clarinet, and contra-bass clarinet. In my senior year I joined the a capella and show choirs at Lake Oswego High School.

SB: Can you tell us something about yourself — your background, schooling, etc.

Cal: I was born in a small suburb of Seattle, but consider myself an Oregonian through and through. I grew up and still live in Lake Oswego, and I attended

Uplands Elementary (now closed), and Lake Oswego High. I am currently working on a degree in Computer Engineering at Portland State.

SB: Would you mind sharing some personal information, such as family, job, other activities.

Cal: I'm currently working both at Big 5 Sporting Goods and a design firm called ISITE Design, doing a bit of web development. When I'm not singing or working, I'm either reading, playing softball, or rowing. When the winter rolls around, I also like to get up to the mountain and snowboard as often as possible.

SB: What strengths and qualities do you have that would be helpful to the chapter?

Cal: As far as strengths go, I think the most important ones are that I'm a quick learner, I'm excited and thrilled to be a part of such a great chorus, and I'm more than willing to take all the help I can get, since I'm a bit behind the curve as far as barbershopping goes.

SB: What would you like Bridge Town Sound to know about you?

Cal: There's not much else to know, really. I'm happy to be a member of BTS, and I'm certainly looking forward to singing long into the future. And, of course, it's great to be a barbershopper!



Cal Zabel

Coming Attractions

Aug. 27	Chorus Performance	Holladay Park Plaza
Sept. 15	Spaghetti Feed/Cabaret	Ascension Catholic Church
Sept. 21	Chorus Retreat	TBA
Oct. 18-19	Evergreen District Contest	Boise, Idaho
Dec. 7	Holiday Show	TBA
Dec. 23	Chorus Performance	The Grotto - 7pm



Norm's Two-Minute Report

By Norm Lawson

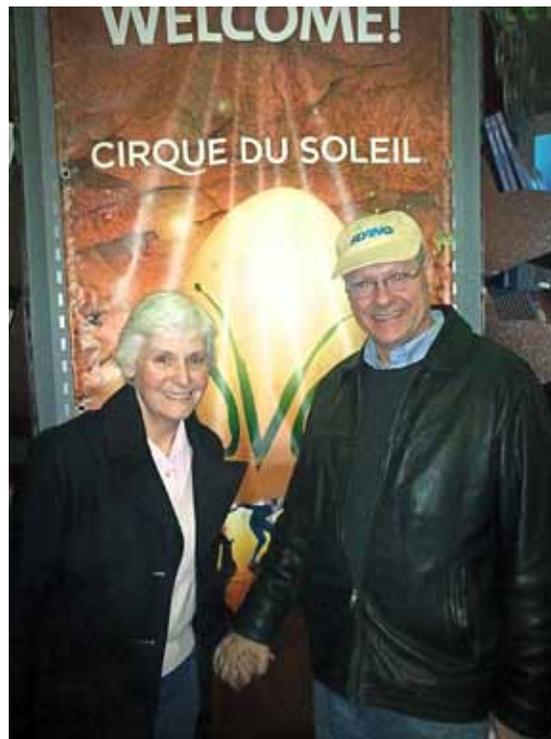
I recently called a man with both chorus and quartet experience. He was the baritone in "Top Deck" and sang with both Vocal Gentry and Bridge Town Sound. His name is **Kevin Bier**. He's well supported by his wife, Suzi. Kevin is the engineering department VP of OnOne Software in Tigard. In addition to that, He and Suzi opened a massage therapy business in Wilsonville last November called "Elements."

Kevin says he's not currently singing. The last involvement in that regard was in Power Quartetting with Harry Buerer.

Kevin said Suzi and he are just fine though they are so busy between his work and the new business. Did I say busy? In addition to work, they are grandparents to four and one-half little ones living nearby and in Virginia. He is also a pilot of a Mooney M20E airplane — he loves flying!

Kevin has gone to several of the most recent international barbershop competitions. He enjoys them so much. When he has some quiet time, he loves to read. And, as you can see by the picture, he and Suzi enjoyed the *Cirque Du Soleil* experience.

He has a few words about our upcoming visit to Boise in the fall....." I wish I could be there. I'd love to be singing with you and I'd love to be singing in a quartet."



Suzi & Kevin Bier

News from Harry

I'm glad to announce that I've completed the first half of my video course on Sight-Singing for Non-Musicians. Thirty videos ranging in length from 3 to 7 minutes are available to watch at <http://www.singTheSpots.com>. The entire course of 53 lessons will be completed by the end of summer.

If you or someone you know would like to increase their sight-singing skill, this is the way to do it.

—Harry Buerer



Jeff Welsh sent some before and after photos of the chorus trailer