



BRIDGE TOWN SOUND
www.bridgetownsound.org

**Portland Metro Chapter
Men's Barbershop Chorus**
Seven-Time Evergreen Division IV Champions

SOUND - Bites

October 2016

Evergreen District Convention

Draw for Quartets and Choruses

Choruses

1. Bellingham WA - Mt. Baker Toppers
2. Fairbanks AK - Great Land Sounds
3. Nanaimo BC - Tidesmen
4. Bellevue WA - NW Sound
5. Olympia WA - Puget Sounders
6. Boise ID - Chordsmen
7. Greater Vancouver BC - Gentlemen of Fortune
8. Calgary Foothills AB - West. Hospitality Singers
9. Eugene OR - Cascade Chorus
10. Seattle WA - Seachordsmen
11. Kitsap County WA - Chordsmen
12. Pacific Northwest - Voices Inc.
13. Southwest BC - Squares Chorus
14. Portland Metro OR - Bridge Town Sound
15. EVG Seniors Chorus - Ever Green Seniors

Quartets

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Contraband | 16. IPA |
| 2. Tanana Flats | 17. Mosquito Fleet |
| 3. JAM'N | 18. Guardians of the Harmony |
| 4. Marksmen | 19. Momma's Boys |
| 5. The Icehouse Gang | 20. RipChord |
| 6. Square One | 21. Flipside |
| 7. The Bons Vivants | 22. Harmony Knights |
| 8. Without A Paddle | 23. One Man Short |
| 9. On The Rocks | |
| 10. Fouray | |
| 11. The Executives | |
| 12. Blue Skies | |
| 13. Time After Time | |
| 14. Chords on Delivery | |
| 15. Blue Yonder | |



What is there to do at the District Barbershop Convention besides the contests?

By Bud Roberts

Lots! You won't believe it! The dates we are talking about are October 13-16, 2016. This is not your Father's District Convention! And everything is open to the public.

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2016 Portland Metro Officers

President

David Dennison
denali@earthlink.net

Musical Director

John Burri
burritone@comcast.net

Executive Vice President

Dick Handley
dickh@mycomspan.com

VP Chapter Development

Larry Perkins
btsbarista@gmail.com

VP Music & Performance

Aaron Weller
aaron@kithlink.com

VP Program & Fellowship

Carlos Aguayo
caquayo@gmail.com

VP Marketing & Public Relations

Duncan Gilman
duncangilman@gmail.com

Immediate Past-President

Bud Roberts
wilton.roberts@gmail.com

Member-at-Large (marketing)

Jeff Welsh
jeffw@insource1.com

Member-at-Large (chapter dev.)

Dave Gracey
dsgracey@hotmail.com

Member-at-Large (music)

Eric Zimmerman
titanium.spine@hotmail.com

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

Volunteer Positions

Buddy Fund-Paul Graves / Bob King
Chorus Manager-Todd Dignan
Music Librarian-Rick Schultz
Uniforms-Paul Graves



Convention (continued)

Yes, there's a barbershop singing event with choruses and quartets from all over the northwest competing. All the events and the Convention are open to the public. But there is so much more. Don't miss this opportunity to make a real adventure of the weekend. None of these events conflict with the contests, and all are open to the public.

Mount St. Helens volcano

Columbia River Gorge waterfalls

Columbia River Gorge waterfalls & Mt Hood loop

Vancouver beer bike tour

Wine tour / tasting in Oregon countryside

Five-Hour Winery Tour in the Willamette Valley Countryside

Magenta Improv theater

Pearson Field Airport (open house)

Grant House historical presentation & lunch (optional shuttle)

Click to download a regional [wine map](#) or [brew map](#) or a [downtown brew map](#) (walkable from Hilton)

Time's awastin' for booking hotel rooms. The Hilton (HQ hotel and Convention venue) is now fully booked. But there are rooms at [the other 5 Hotels](#) in our convention group. For choruses and for quartets, if you want to all be in the same hotel, book now!

Have your Convention tickets yet? Get them [here](#).

Portland Metro Chapter

Purpose

The purpose of this chapter shall be to perpetuate the old American institution, the barbershop quartet, and to promote and encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship among its members; to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation; to initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects; and to promote public appreciation of barbershop harmony.

The chapter activities shall be conducted without personal gain for its individual members and any profits or other inurements to the chapter shall be used in promoting the purposes of the Society, district or chapter.

Mission Statement

Portland Metro Chapter is a dynamic and innovative men's singing fraternity dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in a cappella close harmony through performance, outreach, and education in the barbershop harmony style.

From the President's Den

By David Dennison



I'm loving the push we are making for quality singing! Musical Director **John Burri** has been working on our accuracy and tonality, and the sectionals we did during the September 20th chapter meeting seemed to help us a lot. The bass section started sectionals early, so we had more time to work, starting from basics like vowel matching. Confirmation of the success of **Jeff Buckles'** work to improve our unit sound came when sectionals concluded with the beginning of the all-chorus rehearsal. At that point **Darwin Scheel** (who acted as director on September 20th) said "The bass section is awesome!"

It seems that whenever I read about successful choruses or watch YouTube videos about top performing choruses, they put a lot of the credit for their success on working on the basics.

Barbershopper of the Month for August 2016:

Our Barbershopper of the Month for August 2016 is **Jeff Buckles**. Jeff has been a big contributor to the chorus and especially the bass section, but in August he really stood out. At our (paid!) chorus performance at CherryWood Village Retirement Community on August 19th, Jeff played key roles. There were extra shoes to fill since Director John Burri was unable to attend the event. Jeff was one of the rotating masters of ceremony, and helped with the flow and personality of the event.



On top of helping with our CherryWood "Director-less" performance and chorus direction, Jeff really went the extra mile and learned the bass part for the songs the Bridge Town Sound quartet "Chordcraft" was going to sing. Then Jeff performed admirably as the bass stand-in (with **Tim McDonough**, **Duncan Gilman**, and **Aaron Weller**), contributing a key part to our performance at CherryWood. Without Chordcraft, we would have had a hard time filling our paid-for performance time of one hour, and Jeff filled in the missing piece. Note that our BTS quartet selection went from three to none suddenly with the departures of **Paul Olguin** and **Mark Heather-shaw**.

Jeff has also been periodically teaching the chorus techniques during warm-ups and at other times to improve basic skills and consistency within the chorus. One of Jeff's passions is learning about the best ways to learn music accurately and quickly. He has been great about sharing that knowledge with the chorus. Jeff also has used specific exercises to improve the bass section, to very good effect. Great job, Jeff!

Executive VP Vacancy Filled:

The BTS board of directors has appointed **Dick Handley** to fill the rest of the unfilled Executive Vice President term (through December 2016) until the elected replacement for Mark Heathershaw (who resigned on August 2, 2016) takes office. Not coincidentally, the elected Executive VP replacement is also Dick Handley, who will then (continue to) hold the office throughout 2017, at which time that office comes up for election for a two-year term.

2016 Annual Meeting and 2016 Board of Directors:

As a non-profit organization operating in Oregon, we are required to hold an annual meeting. One of the primary reasons to hold this meeting is to elect board members for the organization. On September 13th during our chapter meeting (rehearsal), we held the annual meeting for the Portland Metro Chapter, and elected board directors into the positions with terms beginning at the start of 2017. We also elected one additional officer as a replacement in the Executive VP position.

The Board of Directors for 2017 are listed below (the just-elected directors are listed **in bold**):

President: David Dennison
(continuing for second year of two-year term)
Immediate Past President: Bud Roberts
(continuing for second year of two-year term)

Executive VP: Dick Handley
(filling second year of two-year term)

Treasurer: Paul Lewis
(re-elected for new two-year term)

Secretary: Paul Graves
(re-elected for new two-year term)

Program and Fellowship VP: Carlos Aguayo
(re-elected for new two-year term)

Marketing & Public Relations VP: Duncan Gilman
(re-elected for new two-year term)

Chapter Development VP: Larry Perkins
(continuing for second year of two-year term)

Music & Performance VP: Aaron Weller
(continuing for second year of two-year term)

Member-at-Large (Music): Eric Zimmerman
(elected after appointment, to one-year term)

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From the President's Den (continued)

Member-at-Large (Chapter Development): Dave Gracey

(re-elected to one-year term)

Member-at-Large (Marketing & Public Relations): Jeff Welsh

(re-elected to one-year term)

Thank you to all of the board members for your commitment and service.

Barbershopper of the Year Vote Coming Up:

It's not too early to start thinking about who you think deserves the highest award delivered by our chapter, the Barbershopper of the Year. The candidate needs to be active in the chapter, and have been active for the entire year. The award winner also cannot have been a recipient of the Barbershopper of the Year for our chapter previously. A list of previous winners and/or eligible candidates will be circulated at a later date.

Something she'll remember for a long time...



By Jeff Welsh

Hometown Harmony was out early the morning of Saturday, September 17, at 9 AM. Duncan sent us a request for a song or two to honor the last day of a special server at Elmer's on NE Sandy at 101st. Our host was a regular customer of "Shannon's" and wanted to send her off to nursing school with a special tribute.

Shannon was totally surprised at these four guys who started singing "Coney Island Baby" to her when she asked for our orders. We got a tear... (a good one). Our host remained anonymous. We got hugs on the way out and Shannon got a special memory and a NICE tip.

Thank you to the new BTS baritone section leader Aaron Weller. He stepped in on short notice to help us out when HH lead man Todd Dignan couldn't make the gig. Aaron went above and beyond by learning a whole new song in about 24 hours so we could have an encore number if needed. Turns out our first song was just right for the occasion. Thanks Aaron.



Six Steps to Arranging Barbershop Music

By Harry Buerer

This article is the first in a six-part series on barbershop arranging. The idea of arranging a song in barbershop style is intimidating for many people. I would like to present a way that anybody can do it in six "easy" steps. Each step by itself is pretty straightforward, and can be done by most singers, even those without a musical background. More experienced arrangers will combine steps, but this is a good plan for starting out.

The first step is to select a song. Along with that, you want to find sheet music for the song. Virtually any song can be arranged in "barbershop" style, but some songs lend themselves to it better than others. A good song should have a lyric that you resonate with, a story that you want to tell. An appealing melody and strong harmonic progressions are a plus. If a melody jumps around a lot, it may be difficult to sing. Songs in major keys will exhibit the barbershop "ring" better than songs in minor keys.

There are benefits to choosing a song in the public domain (written before 1923). You won't have to worry about getting permission to arrange or perform it. Once you select a song, you can usually Google it to find the sheet music. Universities often have collections of old sheet music. My favorite online source is <http://levysheetmusic.mse.jhu.edu>. You can search by title, topic, year, etc.

Some people are intimidated by dealing with chords. For them, I would suggest selecting a song with only two chords in it, the I chord and the V7 chord. Some songs like this include: Mary Had a Little Lamb, Skip To My Lou, London Bridge, Down In The Valley, The Itsy Bitsy Spider, Clementine, A Tisket A Tasket, He's Got The Whole World In His Hands, Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree, How Much Is that Doggie In The Window, Buffalo Gals, and Deep In The Heart Of Texas. I will be demonstrating the steps with The Itsy Bitsy Spider. I challenge you to select a song, and then to come along for the ride as we arrange it together.

BTS Donations wanted

By Paul Lewis, BTS Treasurer

Hello Bridge Town Sound members,

This is just a reminder that, while our chapter finances are tight, we are asking for active members to donate \$5 per week, if they are able. We are requesting this in lieu of other traditional fundraising efforts (bake sales?). These donations help the chapter pay for expenses like rent, music, and director salary.

(This is separate from any 50/50 raffle tickets you may buy, which benefit yourself — if you win — and the "Ron Uphoff Memorial Fund" for members needing financial help with dues, contest travel or uniforms.)

So far this year, six members have donated a total of \$725, plus a large in-kind donation (expense reimbursement declined by member). In previous years we had much higher participation rates: \$1,733 last year, \$3,816 in 2014; \$3,649 in 2013; \$5,686 in 2012.

To donate, please use the envelopes and donation box that sits on the welcome table during the chapter meeting. If you prefer, you can also pay monthly/quarterly/annually, and, of course, if you want to donate more, that's very welcome!

All donors will receive a written receipt at the end of year that the IRS may require in order for you to get a tax deduction.

Also note that many employers offer matching donations to non-profits, so check with your company's HR department.

2016 Evergreen District Convention ads

By Duncan Gilman

Now is the time to sell (and purchase for yourself) ads in the 2016 District Convention program. Since we're hosting the convention, program ads are an easy way to bring in additional revenue to offset other event expenses.

We have an online portal for buying ads. The URL is <http://www.bridgetownsound.org/2016-evg-district-convention/advertising>. Also, see me for hard copy forms you can take to businesses, or feel free to email me (dgilman@bridgetownsound.org) the necessary information. Program ad pricing is incredibly affordable, considering these ads will be seen by 700 convention goers.

1/8 page - \$40 (business card)

1/4 page - \$75

1/2 page - \$100

3/4 page - \$125

Full page - \$150

Inside front cover - \$175

Inside back cover - \$175

Back cover - \$200

And for only \$10, you can have your name or business listed (35 characters) as a sponsor.

These ads should be an easy sell.

- 1) It's great exposure for local businesses.
- 2) We are a not-for-profit organization, so certain forms of funding can be tax deductible (check with a tax professional).
- 3) It's a fun way to cheer on a family member or your favorite quartet.
- 4) You're supporting local performing arts.

Coming Attractions



Oct. 13-16	EVG District Convention		Vancouver WA
Dec. 3	Red Hat performance	Aft.	Portland
Dec. 3	BTS Holiday Show	Eve.	Holladay Pk COG
Dec. 4	The Grotto	9pm	Portland
Dec. 10	Alpenrose Dairy performance	2pm	Portland