Have you heard? We’re going to Vegas, baby!

We had to wait an extra week beyond the original schedule, due to a weather-delayed Sunshine District convention, but Circle City Sound has received (and accepted!) its official BHS invitation to participate in the 2017 International chorus contest in Las Vegas in July. We will take the stage with 26 other BHS choruses and 3 affiliate choruses. Our most recent scores have us seeded 21st, but we have big plans to improve that position through CCS University, private vocal instruction and some of the best coaches in the Society.

It’s going to be exciting!

A big THANK YOU to our Harmony Foundation Donors

At the Cardinal District fall convention’s House of Delegates meeting, Harmony Foundation representative J.J. Hawkins presented Donor Choice checks to the chapters and the district. These funds are distributed semi-annually to fulfill the requests by Harmony Foundation donors to send up to 30% of their donated funds back to their chapter and/or district. The chapters in this district received a total of $6,063, and the district’s HX program received $1,511. Our chapter’s Donor Choice check was for $2,799.

We thank all our donors for their generous contributions to support our chapter through Donor Choice in the period from January through June 2016:

- Tom Bradley
- Steve and Becky Cline
- Jim and Barb DeBusman
- Dave Fouts
- Randy Freeman
- Paul Gabriel
- Gary and Linda Garitson
- Phil Griggs
- George Houk
- Duane Henry and Micci Richardson
- Scott and Christy Hutchison
- Bob Kendall
- Vic Kendall
- Steve and Pat King
- Larry Klein
- Skipp and Nancy Kropp
- Brad and Ann McAlexander
- Steve and Cindy McCullough
- Steve and Vicki McPherson
- John McQuistion
- Greg and Jane Roembke
- Jim Sauder
- Pat Stevens
- Jerry and Pam Troxel
- John and Elaine Weiss
- David Zimmerman
Connect
by Steve Erdosy, VP Membership and Chapter Development

Why do you like one of our songs but not another?

Why do you cry (we won’t judge) during a movie?

Why do you love barbershop music?

Perhaps you connect with it in some way, shape or form!

Do you connect with it by reliving a memory?

Do you connect with it by being inspired by it?

Do you connect with it by imagining that the song/movie describes what you are looking for?

Do you believe that our hobby is all about making connections? I do! We connect with the music, the chords, the ring. However, I believe the greatest of all the connections are the people. Think about when you were in school, college, your jobs—what do you remember? It’s always the people. People help us create memories! What is even more beautiful is that as we are creating connections and memories with each other, we are also creating connections and memories for our fans as we perform. They will remember the beautiful music we made, the fun we had, the fun they had, the time they cried, the time they laughed.

This is a great time to be in CCS—we’re singing great, getting ready for a guest night, ramping up for two spectacular Christmas shows and looking forward to Vegas!

I look forward to deepening and sharing our connections!

Election of Officers

The election of officers for the Greater Indianapolis Chapter was held at chapter meeting on Monday, October 10. The following will be your officers for 2017.

President—Kyle Kitzmiller
VP Music & Performance—Scott Bradford
VP Chapter Development—Steve Erdosy
VP PR & Marketing—Craig Johnson
VP Program—Ryan Smith
Immediate Past President—Greg Roembke
Treasurer—Jerry Troxel
Secretary—Frank Bynum
Member at Large—Josh Hamilton
Member at Large—Steve King
Member at Large—Kevin Cline
Five Years Ago (2011)

This month’s article deals with more news about the 2011 Fall District Contest. Due to limited space, not all details were reported last month. CCS member Ben Geesa competed with his quartet, Three Longs and a Short, and qualified for the Midwinter seniors’ quartet competition in Tucson, Arizona to be held in January, 2012. Saturday morning during the chorus contest, Circle City Sound, though taking a year off, was the mic-tester chorus with their Kansas City set. As reported in last month’s newsletter, Kentucky Vocal Union won first place while the Summit City Chorus from Fort Wayne garnered second place. The CCS annual Holiday Show called “What The Dickens” was held on November, 27, 2011, at the Ransburg Auditorium on the campus of the University of Indianapolis. (Notes taken from The Beat, Vol. 42, Issue 11, Nov. 2011, Jerry Troxel, editor).

Ten Years Ago (2006)

Over 100 quartet men from 13 states participated in the 2006 Indiana Harmony Brigade which was held on Nov. 10-11, 2006, in Indianapolis. Most of these men had recently performed at the 2006 International Convention in Indianapolis as the mic-tester chorus. The quartets competed Friday and Saturday nights, and a chorus of the entire Brigade performed at a public show Saturday night at Crispus Attucks Middle School in Indy.

The Barbershop Harmony Society announced that its new home would be in Nashville, Tennessee. They purchased an existing building in a prime downtown location in Nashville. The new address would be 110 Seventh Avenue North and would have 36,000 square feet. The anticipated move would be in late summer 2007.

Several current CCS members competed in quartets and choruses in the 2006 fall district quartet contest. Brad McAlexander was the bass in The Edge; Theodore Hicks, Kohl Kitzmiller, and Kyle Kitzmiller competed with Hoosier Daddy; Phil Griggs and Bob Whitacre competed with Sycamore Road; Carl Sipe competed with the first place Senior Quartet, River City Rhythm; Sonny Griffith competed with Quick Draw; and Ben Geesa competed with Moody Lights. In the chorus contest, Dwight Nash sang with Summit City Chorus; Bob Kendall performed with Banks of the Wabash; and Lew Gillespie competed with Magic City Music Men. (Material taken from In-Ky Notes, Vol. 55. No. 4, Nov-Dec, 2006, Warren Donaldson, editor)
Proud, Honored and Humble
by Greg Roembke, Chapter President

By now, I am sure everyone has heard that we have been invited to participate in the 2017 International Chorus competition in Las Vegas. After all of the districts completed their contests and the scores were compiled, Circle City Sound qualified as a wild card entry. This will mark the 13th time we’ve walked across the stage at International since 1975.

We should be Proud of this opportunity since it represents our work and efforts with CCS University. We can have all the discussions about the scores, the judges, the other choruses and even the weather, if you’d like. The bottom line is that our performance put us in a position to join the other 29 choruses that will be part of our hobby’s biggest event.

Some of you, like me, have spent time looking at our current scores, our past scores, and other choruses’ scores and playing the “what if” game. And while it’s fun to speculate on where we would rank if we had the score from four years ago, it is what it is. At the end of the day, all we can do is our best and then wait for eight guys who got in for free and sit up front as judges to tell us what they think. We all use the same system and we need to be Proud of our most recent score because it’s taking us back to International.

We should be Honored that we are going to be part of such a great event, and that we get to represent the small but mighty Cardinal District. We have been fortunate over the years to make those 12 trips to International, and the district has supported us in so many ways. If you are a fairly new member of our chapter, it seems that we make this trip on a regular basis. This will be our fifth time since 2010 that we’ve stood onstage as the announcement “Representing the Cardinal District, Circle City Sound” is made to an always enthusiastic audience.

I would also point out that when our brothers walked off the stage at the 1993 International, none of them would have believed that it would take 17 long years before they would be able to do it again. It’s not that they didn’t want to or didn’t try. It goes to show how competitive our hobby is and that the margin of error is so very small.

It is true that we are a large chapter in our district, and have a lot of things going our way. To understand just how big an Honor this really is, just ask one of those guys who waited those 17 years.

And we should be Humbled that next July we get to be part of something that many in our hobby will never have the opportunity to do. 185 choruses took part in the competition this year to be one of those 30 that will get to sing in Las Vegas. And one of the most wonderful parts of our hobby? Many of them will be there, cheering us and the others on.

In the Cardinal District alone, there are men who sing their whole lives and have never come close to being able to do even once what we have done 12 times. I truly believe that when we walk on that stage next year, we will be there to represent each and every one of them.

When you sing at the level we currently do and have access to the resources that we have, it is easy to become fixated on our scores and the medals. And there is nothing wrong at all with that, since it is a component of our journey to excellence.

I would ask, however, that we keep things in perspective at all times. Sing for the joy of performing, invite the audience along as we tell our story, and strive to do the very best that each one of us can.

And also please remember to be Proud, Honored and Humble.
A look at the new Performance category
from Scott Bradford, VP-elect Music and Performance

Tenets of the new Performance category, which has replaced the Presentation category, effective with the fall 2016 contest cycle:

- Emotional authenticity
- Natural and believable delivery
- Vulnerability
- Powerful storytelling
- Honor the music
- Honor the audience

The Art of Performance

- Communication—experiences, memories, imagination
- The performer’s GIFT to the audience
- Goal—to create a high level of entertainment through personality, abilities, creative skills

Descriptors

- Barbershop style
- Creativity
- Artistry and Expressiveness
- Visual and vocal coordination

- Execution—believable delivery, impact, emotional buy-in
- From the heart—effective mood creation, performer’s visual involvement, vocal expressiveness

- Techniques

- Crafting and presenting a story: appropriateness, timing, precision, naturalness, believability
- Performing from the heart
- Being vulnerable during the performance

- Scoring

- A Level (81-100)
  - Upper range = truly exceptional performance
  - Mid-range = exhibit unyielding excellence
  - Lower range = feeling of excellence
- B Level (61-80)
  - The difference between A & B level performance depends on subtlety and artistry.

The Key to Artistic Success = Full Audience Engagement!

The Eight Steps to “YES!”
a framework for change

Which step are you on today?
How well are you progressing?
Around the District and the Society

District Senior Chorus. The district is forming a Senior Chorus, which will perform for scoring at the Fall 2017 convention. Other districts are doing the same, with the top scoring choruses being invited to a Senior Chorus Festival at Midwinter Convention in 2018. This opportunity is available for any members age 55 or greater. For questions, contact Jim Boatright at brick63jim@gmail.com.

The Rooftops (with former CCS members Bryan Hughes and Chris Gregory and current CCS member Josh Hughes) were featured in the October 20 edition of the BHS weekly email, “LiveWire.” The email said “Part of the great pleasure of attending an International convention is hearing fresh new music. Gone are the days of hearing nothing but the same charts of recent champs. Top quartets today are forging their own identities with new material suited to their specific sounds and styles.” They then provided a link to the quartet’s International performance of “Too Young for the Blues,” which is also linked here.

News of our members

Congratulations to CCS member David Bjork (pictured above, second from right) and his quartet, The Hemidemisemiquaver 4. They were crowned district quartet champions at the Pioneer District fall convention, held October 15, with a score of 76.4. Their baritone (on the left) may look familiar to you—that is Don Slamka, the tenor of the 2003 International Quartet Champions, Power Play.

Pictured below is one of our newest (and youngest!) members making his public debut in a quartet. Four longtime quartetters, Phil Griggs, Joe Schmidt, Duane Henry and Kurt Vogel, had arranged a gig at a local senior adult center. At the last minute, Kurt had to cancel. Rather than cancel the gig altogether, Joey Schmidt (Joe’s son) stepped in to sing tenor, and from all reports, did a great job! (Actually, Joey made his very first appearance this summer in a BTP campout tag quartet, the self-named BullSchmidt.)
As we enter the Thanksgiving season, everyone takes stock of their blessings. There is a long list for most of us. The list usually includes many items and probably excludes some things we just take for granted. One thing that comes to mind is our CCS family.

Every week, we journey to rehearsals and meetings for Circle City Sound. We spend hours practicing our parts and doing administrative activities to keep the chapter functioning. Those activities sometimes fall into the category of “just things we do.” I would imagine that there are times when we sit back and say to ourselves that we are really glad to have found this hobby (my wife keeps reminding me that it is, in fact, a hobby). There are probably other activities or maybe people in our lives that fall into the overlooked category when we count our blessings. Does that ring close to home? I know it does for me.

Should we be thankful for this experience and the friends we have made along the way? The answer is, of course, YES. But why? First of all, we should be thankful for the person or situation that first brought us to barbershop harmony. We have been asked at times to state how we were first brought in to this family, and the stories all vary. That is the moment when our lives changed forever. We then were allowed to actually express emotion and to share that emotion with our audiences. We were also allowed another path to develop lifelong friendships. Those sound like a really strong basis for thankfulness.

Now let’s look at the present time. First of all, we should be thankful for the leaders of Circle City Sound who keep the ship afloat and pointed in the right direction. They spend endless hours taking the pressure off all of us so that we can truly enjoy our hobby. It is like a duck that is floating serenely across the water while its feet are working like crazy. Our leaders work like crazy behind the scenes so that we all can glide smoothly through our hobby.

How many of us have had a bad day then come to chorus to be rejuvenated? It has been said that you cannot stay mad and sing. Our hobby relieves the pressure and gets our minds off the things that weigh us down. Music is the medicine. But it is not just the music. When we walk through those doors each Monday night, we see the smiling faces of our barbershop family. We can share stories, tell jokes, and have an outlet for what is bugging us and just relax. For that release we should all be thankful.

How about our Music Team?! We have one of the best and most qualified Music Teams in the entire Society. Whether it is basic music theory, advanced concepts, vocal production, or emotional communication, we are blessed with people who show us the way to make the most of our talents. We should always be grateful for their talents and their desire to help us improve.

Then there is the sharing aspect. We get to share our adventure with many audiences. We can take them away from their problems and bring a smile to their faces or a tear to their eyes. How many people get to help other people the way we do? Part of that sharing aspect is sharing the news. How many people have you sold tickets to who are new to our experience? Also, how many of those people have been forever changed? How many are grateful for being exposed to our art form? It is almost a responsibility to expose our music to as many people as we can, to help make the world a better place.

So, are we thankful? As in this article’s title, OH YEAH! We just have to think of what we have and be thankful for the journey. I am personally thankful for each one of you and what you have brought to my life. May it continue for a very long time.
Greater Indianapolis Chapter  
Board Meeting Minutes Summary  
by Tom Bradley,  
filling in for Frank Bynum, Chapter Secretary

The Board of Directors met on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, in regular session. The following is a summary of the business transacted at that meeting.

The minutes of the August 17 meeting were approved and the Treasurer’s reports for August and September were received. Treasurer Jerry Troxel reviewed new team/project level financial reports.

Status/Actions:

The entire order of 90 “Free Singing Lessons” t-shirts will come from the Marketing Projects Fund. Previously, only the shirts for active members were covered by the fund.

No-shows for the October retreat will not be expected to pay this time, because that was not communicated prior to the event. For future retreats, all who have committed by a specified date will be expected to pay.

The Awards Committee has been meeting and will be providing their recommendations to the board. The Awards Banquet is scheduled for February 18, 2017.

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<th><strong>Our Chapter Quartets</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Late Shift</strong></td>
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<td>2014 Cardinal District Quartet Champions</td>
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<tr>
<td>(L to R): Tim Martin (TE), Andrew Myer (LD), Adam Winans (BS), Bob Kendall (BR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact: Andrew Myer, (765) 532-1552</td>
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<td>Photo by Ann McAlexander</td>
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| **Instant Classic** 2015 International Quartet Champions |
| (L to R): Kohl Kitzmiller (BR), Kyle Kitzmiller (BS), Theo Hicks (LD), David Zimmerman (TE) |
| Contact: Theo Hicks, (248) 345-2396 |
| Photo by Shawn York |

| **The Rush** |
| (L to R): Sonny Griffith (BR), Larry Anthony (BS), Don Brown (LD), Steve McCullough (TE) |
| Contact: Larry Anthony, (317) 459-6239 |
| Photo by Miller Photography |
“Santa Claus Is Comin’ to Town” is a Christmas song written by John Frederick Coots and Haven Gillespie and first sung on Eddie Cantor’s radio show in November 1934. It became an instant hit, with orders for 100,000 copies of the sheet music and more than 30,000 records sold within 24 hours. The earliest known recorded version of the song was by banjoist Harry Reser and his band on October 24, 1934, featuring Tom Stacks on vocal. The song was a sheet music hit, reaching number 1. The song was also recorded on September 26, 1935, by Tommy Dorsey & His Orchestra.

The song is a traditional Christmas standard and has been covered by numerous recording artists. The 1951 version by Perry Como was the first measurable hit; Gene Autry, the country-western artist, recorded a Christmas album with this title and featuring the song in 1953; and in 1963 the Four Seasons’ version charted at number 23 on Billboard. In 1970, Rankin-Bass produced an hour-long animated television special based on the song, with Fred Astaire narrating the origin of Santa Claus. Also in 1970, Michael Jackson and The Jackson 5 delivered a chart-topping Motown arrangement, and many contemporary artists have recorded and performed various versions of the song, including a rock version by Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band.

The arrangement that we are singing was arranged by Rasmus Krigström (lead of the 2012 gold medal quartet, Ringmasters and baritone of the 2016 eighth place quartet, Stockholm Syndrome).

Chapter statistics as of November 1, 2016

Chapter members: 118
Average member age: 54
Average years of service: 18
Number of active chorus members: 71 (60%)
# Christmas Through Their Eyes

Featuring the internationally ranked a-cappella chorus
Circle City Sound

**Saturday**
**December 10, 2016**
**2:00 and 7:00 PM**

With Special Guest Performers

**Indianapolis Children’s Choir**

Adults Tickets - $15  ($20 at the Door)
Premium Seating - $20  ($25 at the Door)
Students 9 yrs. - college - $10  ($15 at the Door)
Children 8 years and under - FREE!

Doors open at 1:15 PM and 6:15 PM.
Handicap Accessible.

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**BEN DAVIS HIGH SCHOOL**
1200 N. Girls School Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46214

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**TOTAL** $36

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To Order by mail: enclose a check payable to *Circle City Sound* or fill out the credit card information on the right. Mail this order to:

George Houk - Ticket Manager
9022 Lisering Circle / Indianapolis, IN 46256
(317) 819-0324

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Orders received after Tuesday - December 6, 2016 will be held at WILL CALL.

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City ____________________________ State ________
Zip:  ____________ Phone (_________)
E-mail: _________________________
Credit Card #: __________________(
(If you are paying by check, please make them payable to “Circle City Sound”)
Exp. ______________________ CV (_______)

Signature: ______________________

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Please check those that apply:
- Wheelchair or special accommodation required
- Please send information on how I can make a tax-deductible contribution to support Circle City Sound.

If you were referred to this event through a member of Circle City Sound, please provide their name: ______________________