

The Town and Country Chorus

NOTES ♪ NEWS and VIEWS for April 13, 2021

Hey gang, guess what? We were singing last week at a T&C rehearsal! And did it ever feel good to do so.

Fourteen guys (and three spouses) congregated at the Hillsdale Assembly of God Church to sing together for just the second time in thirteen months. The sound was good, even after that amount of time away. Yep, we definitely needed to dig out the music on several songs, and mental notes were made to find those forgotten learning tracks from long ago. But to once again harmonize and sing many of those pieces front to back – wow.

Interspersed among the ten songs were generous amounts of time devoted to catching up with each other and the events in our lives. We also shared memories and reminisced about several gentlemen we'll not be able to sing with again on the face of this earth. Our chorus will particularly miss Mike Slamka, Jack Slamka, Doran McTaggart, and fellow Town & Country Chorus members Rick Hess and Harold Baker, who all passed on during this hiatus that COVID has forced us to take. Their memories will always be with us.

A successful evening, I dare say and at its end it was agreed to sing again next week, so we will! I guarantee there were more smiles leaving than when coming.

For next week and on into the foreseeable future we'll stick with our same ground rules. Mask up, social distance, and help wipe down and sanitize tables and chairs after rehearsal. Above all – each one in attendance must feel comfortable being there. We would love to see all of our members joining in song but in no way, shape, or form do we want you assembling in this group if you have any health concerns.

As far as music to rehearse, well, we began last week with some Polecats and that worked very well. Then we moved into the memorial set we're working on. Those songs are: ***I Believe, I'll Fly Away, Wonderful World, How Great Thou Art, Mary, Did You Know, and You'll Never Walk Alone.***

Bring those pieces of music for sure and maybe latch onto the 2020 Spring Show tunes we were working on way back when and bring those too. I seriously doubt we will have trouble thinking of songs to fill out the evening.

The Town and Country Chorus has many members that contribute regularly to Harmony Foundation International. In giving to HFI, one has an option, or a choice, to divert a percentage of their gifts back to their home chapter. We have several in our group that have elected to do just that.

Due to the generosity of Bob & Rosemary Dininny, Curt & Jean Evans, Jerry Fuller, Dave Guldin, Jimbo & Kathy Hartman, Terry & Carolyn Marr, Roger McCaskey, Gary & Bonnie Meyer, and Don & Staci Slamka, \$423 has been gifted to the Town and Country Chorus. A big thank you goes out to each of you for including the chorus in your giving plans!

Bonus! Don played a very special **Power Play** song for us last week. Please make it a point to give it a listen. If I've done it correctly this is a YouTube link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dtq3wGyJoWM>

Gentlemen, it is exciting to be able to sing again and I pray that the virus situation will allow us to continue rehearsals. See you Tuesday!

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As always please check the chorus Facebook page for chorus updates as well as links to goings on in the barbershop world. The District and Society's websites carry a lot of news and information also.

Take a few minutes of your day and check in with each other, stay connected as best you can. Stay in touch. Somehow, someway, **Keep the Whole World Singing!**

Take care and stay healthy,

Gary

Log into these websites to keep informed as to what's happening in the Pioneer District, the Barbershop Harmony Society, and the Harmony Foundation.

www.townandcountrychorus.com

www.pioneerdistrict.org

www.barbershop.org

www.harmonyfoundation.org

Make The Music That Makes The Difference

<u>Calendar for 2021</u>

APRIL

11 Sun: National Barbershop Quartet Day. Commemorates April 11, 1938 when 26 men together with Rupert Hall and O.C. Cash met for a songfest and it became the official start to the barbershop world we know today.

13 Tue: Chorus rehearsal at Hillsdale Assembly of God Church, 7:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. or before. Please wear masks and bring your music, especially your Gospel songs.

23-24, Fri-Sat: The in-person Spring Convention has been **CANCELED**. However, details are coming out now for the **2021 Pioneer District Spring Un"Conventional" al Virtual Event**. Go online to the district's website, <https://www.pioneerdistrict.org/events/unconventional-spring-convention> to see what's going on and the times the events will be taking place. **The Troub** will also be carrying details of the weekend.

JUNE

12-Sat: Rick Hess Memorial Service, 11:00 a.m. @ Wesley United Methodist Church in Bryan, Ohio. More details to follow.

Jun 28-July 4, Mon-Sun: The in-person 2021 International Convention in Cleveland, Ohio has been CANCELED. Stay tuned as the BHS analyzes options and possible next steps.

JULY

Jul 17-Aug 7, Sat-Sat: 2021 Virtual Harmony University.

AUGUST

27-29, Fri-Sun: Great Lakes Harmony Brigade (rescheduled from June 4-6), Okemos Conference Center, Okemos, MI has been **CANCELLED** and rescheduled for June 3-5, 2022.

OCTOBER

15-17, Fri-Sun: Fall Convention, Battle Creek, the Radisson and W.K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Calendar for 2022

JUNE

3-5, Fri-Sun: Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos, MI.

“Seek, develop, use and enhance the skills and talents of each member to such an extent that progress seems limitless.”

