

NEWS from



Holland Windmill Chorus
The Holland MI Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



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TULIP TIME'S "BARBERSHOP ON PARADE" TO SHOWCASE TOP LOCAL QUARTETS

APRIL 17, 2009 -- A lively musical sampler of eight top local men's and women's barbershop quartets will highlight the Tulip Time Festival's "Barbershop On Parade", presented by Holland Windmill Chorus on Saturday, May 9, 7:30pm at Christ Memorial Auditorium, 595 Graafschap Rd. in Holland.

A Festival tradition since the 1960s, this year's show features our area's "favorite sons", Genuine Blend -- a Holland quartet that won the Barbershop Harmony Society's Pioneer District (Michigan/Ontario) championship in 1994, represented the District in the 1995-96 international competitions, and has since entertained at barbershop shows throughout the Midwest. The group's baritone, Kirk Wood, has been the director of Holland Windmill Chorus since 2005.

Sharing the 90-minute program along with songs by the full Chorus are seven of our area's leading barbershop quartets, both male and female. Men's quartets include Holland's own "NRB (No Rehearsal Band)", "Havin' A Blast", "Generations of Harmony", "Breaktime", and from Grand Rapids, "Showtime". From West-Michigan's Sweet Adelines, a worldwide organization of women singers committed to barbershop harmony, the show also highlights "Agapé" and "Mood Swing".

NRB, a group that entertains with both instrumental and a capella stylings, started in the late 1980s and has since appeared professionally in a variety of restaurants, bars, clubs and concert venues statewide. The group performs regularly at Holland's Boatwerks Restaurant, has produced three CDs and is compiling its fourth. NRB's eclectic repertoire ranges across 1950s doo-wop, classic rock, modern country as well as barbershop.

Havin' A Blast, formed four years ago, has sung for several years at opening day games for the Holland Blast basketball, the West Michigan Whitecaps baseball and Grand Rapids Owls hockey teams, and has entertained aboard the Mackinaw City Vespers cruise as well as last year's Meijer Gardens Christmas Gala.

Generations of Harmony, now in its sixth year, has competed at the District level and performed a variety of barbershop classics for both Holland Windmill Chorus concerts and private parties.

Breaktime, considered best of the newer quartets to develop recently within Holland Windmill Chorus, has performed primarily in recent HWC concerts and for various local church organizations.

Showtime comprises four veteran Grand Rapids barbershoppers who joined forces early in 2007 and later that year won the Pioneer District's coveted Bush League trophy, then went on to the District Finals in 2008 and emerged as one of Michigan's international Seniors Quartet competitors early this year.

Agape' combines members of the Battle Creek and Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines choruses. Just a few months after its formation in 2007, this quartet entered its first Sweet Adelines regional competition and soared to ranking within the top ten quartets. Its repertoire blends secular and spiritual music.

Mood Swing, four local a cappella enthusiasts who have "sung together forever", taps into an extensive menu of old-time, swing, religious and patriotic songs, doo-wop, popular music and Broadway numbers, all done in the barbershop style. In addition to many appearances in West Shore Sweet Adelines Barbershop Shows, they've sung for church groups, private parties, retirement homes, senior centers and similar venues in Holland, Muskegon, and Grand Haven.

Holland Windmill Chorus, our area's chapter of the international Barbershop Harmony Society, is a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization with membership open to all men who enjoy singing four-part harmony. Founded in 1945, HWC performs barbershop concerts at Christmastime, during Holland's Tulip Time Festival and for a variety of other public and private events throughout the year. In the Society's regional competition at Battle Creek last fall, the group won that event's "most improved chorus" award.

Tickets for Tulip Time's "Barbershop On Parade" are available at \$16 individually or at special group rates from the Tulip Time Office, 238 South River Ave. in Holland, or online at www.tuliptime.com, or by phone at (616) 396-4221 or toll-free (800) 822-2770.

For more information about the Chorus, contact chapter president Jay Bylsma by phone at 616.399.5721 or e-mail jbylsma@jbylsma.com.

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Caption for attached photo (see jpeg HWCinPerformance):

Holland Windmill Chorus, under Director Kirk Wood, brings Barbershop On Parade to the Tulip Time Festival.

