

NEWS from



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



12330 James St Suite C40 / PO Box 1403, Holland, MI 49422

Media Information Contacts:

Jay Bylsma
616.399.5721
jbylsma@jbylsma.com

John Peters
269.857.2967
jpubrel@aol.com

"HOLLAND SINGS!" OPENS TULIP TIME FESTIVAL WITH BARBERSHOP QUARTET COMPETITION

APRIL 16, 2010 -- Good-time barbershop harmony will abound as diverse quartets compete to win audience "judges" approval to return for an encore performance in "Holland Sings!", presented by Holland Windmill Chorus on opening day of this year's Tulip Time Festival Saturday, May 1, 7pm, at Christ Memorial Auditorium, 595 Graafschap Rd. in Holland.

Continuing a Festival tradition since the 1960s, this year's 90-minute show features West Michigan quartets "The Shades of Grey", "NRB (No-Rehearsal Band)", "Fountain Street Four", "Go 4 It", "Break Time" and "2 by 2", along with songs by the full Chorus under Director Kirk Wood. The show is sponsored this year by United Federal Credit Union.

"The Shades of Grey", formed in 1999 from members of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Grand Rapids Chapter and Great Lakes Chorus, won that year's Pioneer District (Michigan/Ontario) Senior Quartet Championship and represented our District in the Society's international competition. They have entertained audiences on Mississippi River cruises aboard the paddlewheel riverboat Mark Twain and in shows ranging from West Michigan to Florida.

"NRB", a Holland group that entertains with both instrumental and a cappella stylings, started in the late 1980s and has since appeared professionally in a variety of restaurants, bars, clubs and concert venues statewide. Their eclectic repertoire ranges across 1950s doo-wop, classic rock, modern country as well as barbershop.

"Fountain Street Four", formed in 2008, brings youth as well as talent to the stage as "Collegiate Contest" contenders in this spring's Pioneer District competition, fresh from capturing 2nd-place honors in the District's Novice Competition last fall. They were a featured guest quartet at the recent Sweet Adelines (female barbershop) show in Grand Rapids, and are members of both the Great Lakes Chorus and the Motor City Singers, a chorus comprising quartets from around the Pioneer District.

"Go 4 It", with members from Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, began in 2006 and has twice placed among the top three contenders in Pioneer District contests. The group has sung primarily in local area barbershop concerts and private parties.

"Break Time", 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.

"2 by 2" was recently formed as the first inter-family quartet to combine two members of Holland Windmill Chorus and their wives, one of whom sings with Holland Chorale and it's "Class Act" women's ensemble, and one of whom sings barbershop with Sweet Adelines.

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 District competition in 2008, the group won that event's "most improved chorus" award.

Chorus Director Kirk Wood graduated cum laude from Western Michigan University with a degree in K-12 vocal music education. A long-time barbershopper, Wood sings with 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.

Tickets for Tulip Time's "Holland Sings!" 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 or its Tulip Time Show, call 616.394.0364 or e-mail chapter president Jay Bylsma at jbylsma@jbylsma.com.

#

Caption for attached photo (see jpeg HWC-Tulip Time):

Holland Windmill Chorus opens Tulip Time with "Holland Sings!" on May 1

