

NEWS from



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



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HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS' MAY 4 TULIP TIME SHOW HAILS BARBERSHOP SOCIETY'S 75th ANNIVERSARY

APRIL 15, 2013 -- Good-time barbershop singing will resound through tunes ranging from contemporary to nostalgic in "Celebrate Harmony", commemorating the Barbershop Harmony Society's Diamond (75th) Anniversary, kicking off this year's Tulip Time Festival on Saturday, May 4 at 7pm in Holland's Knickerbocker Theatre, 86 East Eighth Street. Presented by Holland Windmill Chorus, the show is sponsored by Christman Company.

Continuing a Festival tradition since the 1960s, this year's 90-minute production recalls in song and narrative how a chance 1938 meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma grew into an international organization of barbershop singers, and rekindled a uniquely American musical artform that gained wide popularity through vaudeville, Broadway, radio and television shows.

Helping to recognize the anniversary, a proclamation recently signed by Holland Mayor Kurt D. Dykstra officially dedicates the week leading up to May 4 as "Barbershop Harmony Week", noting a special connection to Holland through local industrialist and WWI aviation hero Willis A. Diekema, son of 1895 Holland Mayor Gerrit John Diekema. A consummate barbershopper, he founded Holland Windmill Chorus in 1945, composed or arranged more than 200 songs for the Society, and was inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame in 2010.

When signing the proclamation, Mayor Dykstra noted his personal connection to barbershopping as the nephew of Bob Dykstra, whose quartet rose to become semi-finalists in Harmony Society International Competition years ago.

The barbershop show's commemorative segment brings to the Tulip Time stage a powerful Diamond Anniversary MegaChorus, bolstering our Holland Windmill Chorus with men from various nearby Harmony Society chapters including Great Lakes Chorus (Grand Rapids), Capitol City Chordsmen (Lansing), Midstatesmen Chorus (Gratiot County), Shoreline Chorus (Muskegon), Cereal City Chorus (Battle Creek), and Livingston Lamplighters (Livingston County).

After the MegaChorus anniversary celebration comes a "parade of guest quartets", including "The Extension Chords", a senior quartet still celebrating their own initial triumph winning the Pioneer District (Michigan) Championship together in 1952.

Two guest quartets performing in Holland for the first time bring female as well as male barbershoppers to the stage, with "Live It Up!" and "The Whole Notes". The former, a Sweet Adelines quartet gaining notice for its humor as well as ringing chords, combines four women from the Shoreline Sound Chorus in Royal Oak and Water Wonderland Chorus in Okemos; the latter brings four men out of Gratiot County's Midstatesmen Chorus contingent. Both foursomes are readying themselves for upcoming Harmony Society competitions.

Highlighting and completing the show is Pioneer District's 2012 Champion Quartet "Majestyx", a new combination of four men from Grand Rapids' Great Lakes Chorus who combine a total 75 years of quartet experience, having separately participated in nine District Championships and multiple appearances in International Competition.

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, a capella harmony. HWC performs barbershop concerts during Holland's Tulip Time Festival, offers singing Valentines and entertains at a variety of other public and private events throughout the year. For information about the Chorus, contact Art Lane at (269) 857-2781

Tickets for Tulip Time's "Celebrate Harmony" are available in advance at \$18 individually or special group rates from the Tulip Time office, 74 West 8th Street in Holland, online at www.tuliptime.com, or by phone at (616) 396-4221 or toll-free (800) 822-2770.

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg "MegaChorus3")

Caption: "Diamond Anniversary MegaChorus", shown performing March 9 in Lansing's Wharton Center, brings high-octane barbershop harmony to Tulip Time May 4, celebrating the Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th Anniversary.

