

April 2, 2015
REPORT TO HOD Spring 2015
VP - MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

This report will cover the period November 2014 to now.

SENIORS TOP GUN COACHING

Three SR. Quartets from the district qualified to participate in the 2015 Mid Winter contest in New Orleans - Nostalgia Express, Basses Unlimited and On Q! . Again this year it was not possible to find a day when all quartets were available for a Top Gun School. As an alternative, we chose to use the budget allocated to this school and offer it to the quartets to pay for coaching. Most of them were able to benefit from this support.

We congratulate all three of our quartets on their performance in the Senior Quartet Contest. They represented us well.

ANTHEMS AND THEME SONGS AT ONT CONVENTIONS

The Fall HOD decided that we would sing the following songs at our District conventions:

O Canada
The Star Spangled Banner
We Sing That They Shall Speak
Keep The Whole World Singing
Teach The Children To Sing

The District agreed to put the charts and the tracks for these songs on the District website in a password protected area. We have the charts and tracks for all but Teach The Children.

It turns out that:

Keep The Whole World Singing is in the BHS, Free and Easy library.

Teach The Children To Sing - Joe Liles has given us blanket permission to use this song. However, the current published version is not really appropriate for group sing-alongs. Joe is in the throes of creating a shorter, more up tempo version for convention singing. As soon as it is ready we will have it (and then have to get learning tracks made).

O Canada, Star Spangled Banner, and We Sing That They SS are copyrighted by the BHS.

All chapters were surveyed as to which of these songs they were already using. As a result of the data collected, we only need licenses for about 250 copies of each song. I have initiated the process of making these legal on our website. In the mean time, they are available in a password protected area of the District Website.

ONTARIO QUARTETTING EVENT 2015

OQE 2015 will be held at the great Harmony Ranch on Saturday August 8. The Simcoe chapter has very graciously accepted the challenge of serving as 'The Host Chapter' to do a lot of the management work. Thank You!!

Many thanks also to Bruce Herdman, Mike Black and the Simcoe team led by Ross Gowan for all your work sorting out a bunch of details.

As part of these preparations the management group invested a LOT of time in thinking through the operations. I am delighted that we now have a very detailed Operations Manual for OQE. Many thanks to Hayley Sziklasi, Cathy Gillespie, and Ross Gowan (Simcoe) for their invaluable input.

Registration is available on the District website. As soon as you register you will get a password so that you can download the charts and the learning tracks immediately. (You can also get a traditional CD and booklet.)

About 40 men have already registered - 80 is our maximum. So get signed up so that you ensure your spot.

Please encourage your men to participate in this fun and unique experience.

LARRY DALE COACHING AWARD

The selection committee has identified a very deserving candidate. The 2015 Larry Dale Coaching Award winner will be announced at the Spring convention by last year's winner Steve Armstrong..

By the way - I would love to get any material, memories, photos, etc. that you might have about Larry. It is time we had a bio on the website.

Yours Bass-ically

Ken Fisher

VP - M&P

ONTARIO QUARTET EVENT 2015



Following a series of most successful OQE experiences, the Ontario District is proud to announce another full day of quartetting. This event is for “wannabe’s to experienced competitive singers.

Here’s a chance to learn some great songs and sing your own part - all by yourself - with 3 others. You might even find the voices for your next quartet. If you’re already in a quartet, this is a perfect opportunity to add 9 new arrangements to your repertoire!

MUSIC

The music for OQE 2015 consists of 9 great singable arrangements that include:

<i>After You’ve Gone</i>	<i>Mona Lisa</i>	<i>Only You</i>
<i>Dream a Little Dream of Me</i>	<i>Muskrat Ramble</i>	<i>Hey, Good Lookin’</i>
<i>I Don’t Mind Being All Alone</i>	<i>Where Everybody Knows Your Name</i>	
<i>I Wanna Be Around</i>		

A **new feature in 2015** is a ninth ‘wildcard’ song. “*I Wanna Be Around*,” arranged by Jay Giallombardo, an arrangement that is more difficult than the rest. It can be chosen by any competing quartet instead of the song they were given in the draw.

WHEN Saturday, August 8, 2015

WHERE **Harmony Ranch**, Baldwin, Ontario.

Harmony Ranch is 80 km north of Toronto on Hwy 48 just south of Sutton.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee of **\$85.00** includes:

- 9 great arrangements and learning tracks that can be downloaded
- a registration package on the day of the event
- coffee at registration and water throughout the day
- lunch and dinner
- coaching by members of AOC and other experienced quartet men
- quartet competition and show after dinner
- singing with the fabulous OQE chorus during the day, at the evening show, and at the fall convention in Belleville.
- a special OQE shirt with logo for 1st time registrants.

Those who got a new black shirt in 2012 or 2013 are asked to wear it again.

Replacement or additional OQE shirts can be purchased for \$30.00.

For an additional \$10 you can purchase a music booklet and audio CD of the learning tracks that will be mailed to you.

Each of the 8 songs will be assigned to an experienced director who will have an opportunity in rehearsal during the day to raise the song to a higher performance level.

HOW MANY

The event works best if we have an even number of voices in each of the four parts. Twenty quartets for a total of 80 men would be ideal.

TO REGISTER

The OQE 2015 registration form can be filled in online at the Ontario District website – www.ontariodistrict.com

Harmony Ranch has a wide range of facilities, so you can plan to make this **a family event**. After you register you will be contacted to enquire about ordering lunch and dinner for family members.

STAYING OVER

Campsites are available at Harmony Ranch. Hotels, motels, inns and B&Bs are available close by.

MOST IMPORTANT

If you decide to participate in OQE 2015, it means that you understand and accept the responsibility of learning the notes and words for your part for the 8 songs. This event will NOT be fun for you and will NOT be fun for any of the other Barbershoppers you sing with - unless you know the notes and words of the songs.

Everyone is encouraged to find Barbershoppers close by who are also working on the 9 songs to experience singing your part with others as part of your preparation.

MORE INFORMATION Contact:

Ken Fisher, OQE Coordinator, at [\(519\) 823-1977](tel:5198231977) or kfisher@uoguelph.ca

Noel DeWinter, OQE Registrar, at (519) 583-0905 or ngjdw@hotmail.com

OQE 2015 is an Ontario District event with the Simcoe chapter serving as a host chapter.