

VP - MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE
REPORT TO HOD October 2015

History and looking to 2016

Note: the budgets for these activities are found in the Treasurers report.

SENIORS TOP GUN COACHING

Three SR. Quartets qualified to participate in the 2015 Mid Winter contest in New Orleans - Nostalgia Express, Basses Unlimited and On Q! Since it was not possible to find a day when all quartets were available for a Top Gun School, the budget allocated to this school was offered 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.

2016

The Mid Winter Convention is later this year, so we will try again to mount a Top Gun School for the qualifying Sr qttes. Details TBA.

TOP GUN COACHING SCHOOL

In 2015, the timing of Mid -Winter and Leadership Academy precluded holding a TOP GUN school. Instead, the qualifying quartets were offered access to budgeted funds to use for coaching. In early 2016 we will try to mount a traditional Top Gun school. Details TBA.

ANTHEMS AND THEME SONGS AT ONT DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

The Fall 2014 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 Everybody To Sing

All of these songs and learning tracks are now available on the District website [Operations/District Music] . Huge thanks to Joe Liles - who donated his song to the Sing Canada Harmony project of the District.

ONTARIO QUARTETTING EVENT 2015

OQE 2015 on Saturday August 8 was a HUGE success. There were some 17 quartets and coaches. Harmony Ranch, the weather and the food were great. The singing was huge fun! We made about \$350 profit on the nearly \$7,000 budget. The Simcoe chapter team did a magnificent job of serving as 'The Host Chapter'. Thank You!!

I am thrilled to announce that the Simcoe Chapter team has agreed to serve as OQE managers again for 2016. Date TBA - but it will be in early August.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the foundational work done by Hayley Sziklasi and Cathy Gillespie. The operations manual that we created in Fall 2014 was a big help. It is also a

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significant district resource for operational process.

The OQE has always had the goal of being a major experiential learning opportunity:

- to provide a safe and fun but somewhat rigorous environment where you can grow your skills as quartet singer
- to provide the opportunity for more experienced quartetters to learn cool, new repertoire and extend their skills.

Over the last few years the single biggest complaint from the participants has been that some guys arrive either not knowing their part or are unable to sing them in quartet. We want OQE to be inclusive and to be a learning opportunity for developing quartetters. Thus the Simcoe Team and I are going to institute a slight change for 2016.

In the morning everyone sings in randomly assigned quartets as usual. However, there will be 4 sessions of 30 min each. Every man will sing all the songs with 4 different quartets. Teams of coaching faculty will coach and adjudicate and select two streams for the afternoon sessions:

- quartet stream - as usual, randomly selected quartets sing and get coached. New quartets will be selected for the evening 'contest' as usual.
- VLQ Stream - Those men who are not ready (for whatever reason) the next level of coaching will sing and be coached in VLQs in the afternoon. All VLQs will perform a randomly assigned song on the evening show.

MOTION

- that the Ontario District gratefully accepts the Simcoe Chapter's offer to serve as the 'Host Chapter' for OQE 2016.

LARRY DALE COACHING AWARD

The 2015 Larry Dale Coaching Award winner was Al Baker. Many thanks to the committee of previous winners for their work in making this selection. All District members are welcome to nominate any worthy District (includes Frank Thorne chapter) members.

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.

DO List For 2016

- mount a regional school and quartet coaching day - in Peninsula or Western
- get going on defining a "Music Mentor" program

I welcome any and all other ideas which might assist us to grow our membership, our skills, and provide an exciting, fun singing experience.

Yours Bass-ically

Ken Fisher

VP - M&P