



Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus

TV SHOWS SPARK RESURGANCE OF LOCAL MEN'S CHORUS

Submitted by the Oceanaires

TIME magazine calls it “The original *Glee* for guys.” Inspired by *Glee*, *The Sing Off* and *American Idol*, younger singers are adding their voices to the unique *a cappella* sound of old-time Barbershop harmony. Here in Ocean County our *Oceanaires* feel the same joy of singing to entertain audiences and to compete.

Last May the *Oceanaires* competed in the Atlantic Division chorus contest and qualified to advance to the next level! They will represent Ocean County in the Mid-Atlantic District chorus contest of the Barbershop Harmony Society on October 1st in Lancaster, PA. Their director, Mr. Pookie (Neil) Dingle, has invigorated the group during his first year as chorus director. “We are having fun and learning how to put ‘heart’ into our singing at the same time” says Victor, one of the new members who joined the excitement last August. Harry, another new member, called his first contest experience “life changing.”

Pookie brings his mastery of the barbershop style and native musicianship to entertain both the chorus and the audience. Recently he directed the Tri-Star chorus to a national championship in the Youth in Harmony program of the Society. His quartet *Mayhem* recently won first place in the Southern Division quartet contest.

The *Oceanaires* were chartered in 1957 as the Ocean County Chapter, one of over 800 chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society: a non-profit, fraternal and educational organization. The performing chorus has been serving Ocean County through song for over 50 years! Present active singing members come from all walks of life, faiths and political persuasions. Performances are strictly family entertainment, which is becoming scarce in today’s environment. The singing is four-part, a cappella (unaccompanied by musical instrument) Barbershop-style harmony. Songs invoke memories of mom, apple pie, the girl next door, God and Country, show tunes, pop and spirituals as well.

The chorus provides music education for its members, performs more than a dozen times each year for civic and community based groups, and will gladly

Continued on page 15



perform, at no charge, for local worthwhile non-profit charitable endeavors if schedules can be coordinated. A highlight of the chorus' 2011 is its annual public show, "An Evening Among the Stars", on October 15th at the Toms River Intermediate School East.

The **Barbershop Harmony Society** promotes and preserves barbershop music as an art form. Currently just under 30,000 men in the United States and worldwide are members of this organization whose focus is on a cappella music. The international headquarters is in Nashville, Tennessee. (www.barbershop.org).

A parallel women's group, Sweet Adelines International was founded in 1945.



Liberty Oak Chorus

In addition to the popular singing sounds of our Ocean County *Oceanaires*, a featured performer for this year's annual show on October 15th will be the award-winning **Liberty Oak Chorus** from Freehold, NJ. This exhilarating women's chorus, under the dynamic direction of Katie Blackwood, just earned a second place score at the Greater New York chorus competition of the *Sweet Adelines International*. This wonderful evening of a cappella singing by these two captivating choruses will offer a variety of songs that include both show tunes and old time favorite patriotic and spiritual classics sung in that great American barbershop singing style. Of course the show will include quartets from both groups, including **Mayhem** and **Match 4**. Katie says "Mark the date on your calendars and be prepared to hold onto your seats while you have a great time at the show."

Come see the Oceanaires in Concert

Open Rehearsal Preparing for District Contest	Toms River Library Washington Street	Monday September 19th 7pm to 8:30pm (free)
Annual Show Oceanaires Chorus and quartets with the Liberty Oak Chorus	Toms River Intermediate School East Hooper Avenue	Saturday October 15th 7pm to 9pm <u>Tickets</u> <u>\$20.00 at the door</u> In advance: \$15.00 \$12.00 seniors (60+)

Contact us... phone: (732) 503-8611
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