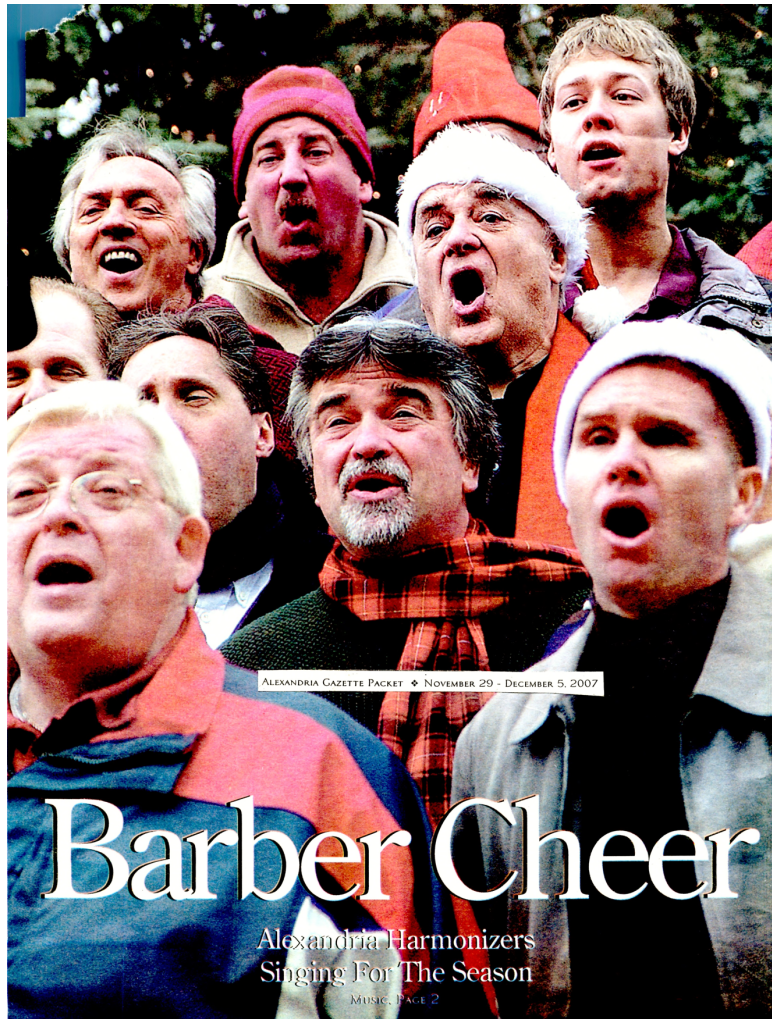


Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 35 – Youthful Cheer 2007

The Alexandria Chapter has consistently encouraged the lifetime enjoyment of choral music, especially among youth. Ever since the “burning of the greens” in the 1950s, the Harmonizers have been bringing Christmas songs to area audiences through city recreation department concerts and caroling at hospitals, senior centers, and on the streets of Alexandria.



The Chapter sponsored the Holiday Song Festival (1995-2003) that melded different musical genres and audience cultures through barbershop, Broadway, ballerinas, bells, and bagpipes. State Senator Patsy Ticer was our perennial MC at T. C. Williams High School where the program included presentation of the Chapter’s “Award of Harmony” to a deserving citizen. Festival artists joining the

Harmonizers included **Gospel Truth, Opera Americana, Alexandria Singers, Alexandria Pipes and Drums, Peace Ringers, Twirl Factory, Potomac Harmony SAI, DC Boys Choir, Vocal Express, and Los Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble.**

In 2004, the Chapter began an annual holiday show tradition with “Harmony Holidays” at Bishop Ireton High School featuring a light hearted script with elves and toy soldiers. The Harmonizers were joined by guest artists including **Gentlemen of the College** and **Colonial Singers**. In 2005 the Chapter produced a holiday CD recording, “Comfort and Joy.” Beginning in 2007, we presented our Holiday Dinner Theater at the First Baptist Church of Alexandria – “the elves are back, and this time they’re serving dinner!” A humorous play, songs of the season, photos with Santa Claus, and a silent auction completed this popular three-performance event (2007-2014). Guest artists joining the Harmonizers included **Vienna Falls SAI, Thomas Jefferson High School, Woodbridge Dance Academy, American Boychoir, Jamey Turner** (glass harp), and **Greg Pappas** (speed painter). Beginning with the Schlesinger Center Concert Hall (2015), we returned to the concert-style holiday show format with guest artists such as **Reen Family Singers, Vintage Mix, Virginia Bronze, and Pratt Street Power.**

Education and support of Youth in Harmony originated in the Chapter with coaching and high school scholarship awards followed by district youth outreach and adjudication events. The Society youth harmony program began with a collegiate quartet contest cycle and added both male and female choruses competing for ratings at the international level. The Harmonizers sponsored the **Capital Force** youth chorus under **Anthony Colosimo** (2011) and provided direct support to the Society’s “No Borders” youth concert at NYC’s Carnegie Hall. Since spring 2008, the Harmonizers’ Youth Harmony Festival has taught hundreds of students the joy of four-part harmony and the art of a cappella performances through a full day of fun and musical fellowship. The Chapter expanded its youth outreach with education workshops in area schools. The Society provides youth harmony information to educators through national choral organizations as part of its Outreach Program under **Joe Cerutti**, Director.

Historical Tagline:

“The highest duty of the writer, the composer, the artist is to remain true to himself and let the chips fall where they may.” ***President John F. Kennedy***