

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 37 – 2013 Anything Goes

Alexandria Harmonizers, Third Place Chorus, Bronze Medal
75th Annual International Convention and Contests, BHS, Toronto, Canada, June
30-July 7, 2013



Music Director **Joe Cerutti, Jr.** Associate Director **Anthony Colosimo**
Chapter President **Alan Wile** Choreographer **Carlos Barillo**
110 men awarded Third Place Bronze Medals, singing:
“All The Things You Are,” **Steve Delahanty**, Arranger, and
“Anything Goes,” **Kevin Keller**, Arranger

The Harmonizer summarized this singular contest achievement: “Some said dark horse for International champion. They weren’t blowing smoke. **Alexandria** (MAD) gets massive ovation on both songs. They’ve always been the best dancing chapter, but that was spectacular. That made ‘Step In Time’ look like a waltz. They’re back to ‘elite’ level -- the ‘we’re next’ tier -- that’s probably better than what they were doing back when they were gold medalists. [The set scored higher than all but one of their past four gold medals.]”

The cover of the July/August 2013 edition of *The Harmonizer* featured a Phil Ashford photograph of the Harmonizers in Toronto happily forming a “75” for the Society’s Diamond Anniversary. **Scipio Garling** contributed the cover story – “Principles Behind A Renaissance” – as introduced by *The Harmonizer*: “It had seemed as if the Alexandria Harmonizers’ best days were behind them. Wrong! Their path back to peak strength was grounded in principles that many types and sizes of chapters can apply.”

Over the last five years under the direction of **Joe Cerutti**, the Harmonizers experienced a rebirth that not only catapulted the chorus back into the medals at International contest, but swelled our chorus numbers, and earned high-profile gigs, and international exposure. The Society “No Borders” youth concerts grew out of our charity concert for Japanese tsunami relief at Carnegie Hall. We took the risk of “sitting out” two chorus contest cycles to take international trips (China 2012, Normandy 2014).

We brought barbershop to a larger audience with our “collegiate-style” a cappella group, **TBD**, and our annual “A Ca Challenge” contest. We connected further with the broader choral community through membership in Chorus America and the A Cappella Society of America (CASA). We adopted the practice of separate “open auditions” for membership nights. We broadened our audience appeal by adding the variety of “non-standard” songs into our repertoire. Our reputation as a well-rounded choral arts group won us gigs such as the Jefferson Awards for Public Service ceremonies, the Supreme Court Historical Society Dinners, and the White House holiday receptions.

Harmonious Tagline:

It’s impossible to know exactly what lies in store for the Harmonizers, but with our emphasis on giving, taking risks, looking outward, and acting as a true arts group, it’s a sure bet it will be a brighter, more varied, and more interesting future than even we can imagine.