

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 9 - 1963 Fifth Chorus Uniform

Mid-Atlantic District (M-AD) Convention and Contests, Atlantic City, N.J., September 1963. Music Director **Oz Newgard** (1962-70). 40 men in white tux coats and plaid shawl collars. Awarded 12th place, singing “When I Go Back to the Shack Where the Black-Eyed Susans Grow” and “Good Night Sweetheart.”

From 1961 to 1970, the Alexandria Chapter grew in membership but was further away than ever from winning a M-AD chorus contest. Over the years, however, the chapter has grown an administrative juggernaut that approaches its perennially busy schedule with a bureaucratic and efficient organization that would put the Pentagon to shame. The chapter has been recognized for general all-around excellence as a leader of all the Society’s 800-plus chapters. The Harmonizers’ coveted record of chorus and quartet honors, highlighted by four International Chorus Championships, reflects innovation, creativity, and musical excellence of the highest order.

Membership gains put the chapter in the Century Club in 1966 and by 1989 the chapter had begun to maintain a 200-plus membership. Recognized for outstanding performance in chapter activity and membership, Alexandria received the Society’s International Achievement Award as its Champion Chapter in 1977, 1978, 1979, 1986, 1988, and 1989. The chapter received additional awards for membership and retention in 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1999, 2000, and 2012.

The Harmonizers can boast a total of 26 M-AD Chorus Championships; 19 International Chorus medals including four Gold medals in 1986, 1989, 1995, and 1998; and 20 M-AD Quartet Championships. **Reminisce** was the 1995 International Seniors Quartet Champion and Roadtrip was the 2007 International Collegiate Quartet Champion.

Historical Tagline: For several years in the late 1950s, the chapter Board of Directors was required to contain four at-large members representing the Tenor, Lead, Baritone, and Bass voice parts. *Harmony by decree?*

