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Monthly newsletter of the Voices of the South Chorus.

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JUNE 2015

VOICESOFTHE SOUTH.COM

Welcome to e-Voices!

This is the inaugural issue of the monthly newsletter of the **Voices of the South**. We are the performing chorus of the **Central Alabama Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society**. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit performing arts organization. You received this newsletter because you fall into one of the following categories: you are a friend of one of our members; or you're a fan; or you have attended one of our performances; or you have some connection to barbershop singing. We hope you enjoy reading this. If you know someone who would also enjoy reading about **Voices**, please email (Darrell's email here) us and give us a valid email address. We will be glad to send them a copy.

Spring 2015 has been a busy time for the **Voices of the South**. We competed in the **Dixie District Contest** in March. We placed third overall, and earned the "**Most Improved Chorus**" award. In addition, we have been singing every month at local retail outlets in the Birmingham area to raise awareness of barbershop singing, in general, and **Voices of the South**, in particular. We have performed at **Brookwood Mall**, the **Riverchase Galleria**, and **Bass Pro Shops**. Our **Calendar of Events** details our upcoming performances. Come out and say hello to us. We will continue to sing at a retail outlet near you for the rest of the summer.



Hatton in 3rd year as director

Voices of the South has become a much-improved chorus since Kenny Ray Hatton took over as director.

Ken relocated to Birmingham in early 2013. Besides directing Voices he writes musical arrangements and works as a loading-dock-application expert for Warehouse Equipment and Supply Co., Inc. He says, "This is not a one-man job." He feels blessed to have the support of three principal associate directors, **Ed Wharton**, **Frank Holmes** and **Rick Ramsey**, all having served as a front-line music director in their own right.

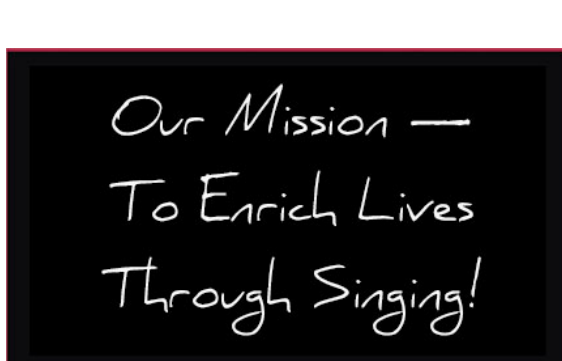
But before coming to Birmingham Ken had a long and storied career in barbershop and musical theater. He is best known as lead of the International Champion **Bluegrass Student Union**. The quartet headlined more than 400 Barbershop Harmony Society chapter-shows during its long career, and is one of only six quartets ever inducted into the Society's Hall of Fame. Kenny also enjoyed success with semi-finalist quartets **The Sensations** and **The Exchange**, and switched to baritone to earn quarter-finalist rank with **The Daddy-Ohs!** Kenny has served as guest clinician for Harmony Explosion camps for high school students from coast to coast. He has also served on the faculties of adult schools in several of the Society's 17 districts. Kenny served as director of the **American Barbershop Chorus** and as faculty leader for Global Music Exchange during four performance/teaching tours of the People's Republic of China, and has toured Australia and New Zealand as a quartet- and chorus-coach.

Kenny collaborated weekly with hit songwriter Chilton Price for eight years and simultaneously studied arranging under mentor, Walter Latzko. A list of Kenny's published works can be found at www.BMI.com.

Kenny worked for several years as a professional singer with the Don Krekel Orchestra in Louisville and with the QE2 Big Band on the Queen Elizabeth II ocean-liner, earning the highest passenger-evaluation in the ship's 40-year history.

Ken served as Associate Director under Jim Miller for a dozen years, helping the International Champion Louisville Thoroughbred Chorus to win four gold medals. Later, Kenny led the Thoroughbreds as front line Director to two sixth-place finishes and one fifth-place bronze medal finish. He relocated to Birmingham in 2013 just as "Voices of the South" was conducting a search for a new Music Director.

Recordings by "Bluegrass Student Union," "Thoroughbred Chorus" and "Kenny Ray Hatton" can be found on iTunes and at <http://www.cdbaby.com>.



We're busy in June

Monday, June 1 — Chorus Rehearsal

Monday, June 8 — Chorus Rehearsal

Monday, June 15 — Chorus Rehearsal

Friday, June 19 — Performance

7 to 9:30 p.m., Brookwood Village Shopping Center, Homewood

Monday, June 22 — Chorus Rehearsal

Friday, June 26 — Performance

"Come Celebrate America" - 7 to 9 p.m.,

Saint Aloysius Catholic Church, 751 Academy Drive, Bessemer

Monday, June 29 — Chorus Rehearsal

Upcoming...

October 23-24 — Dixie District Fall Convention and Competition - Atlanta, GA

December 12 — Voices of the South Annual Show - Birmingham, TBA



Do you like to sing?

We would love to have you come by on any Monday night and check us out. You don't have to be an accomplished singer to sing with us. Most of our members don't even read music. Instead, we use "learning tracks" to become proficient in our parts. We provide sheet music and recordings of our music that are part predominate.

That helps a lot when you need to learn our music.

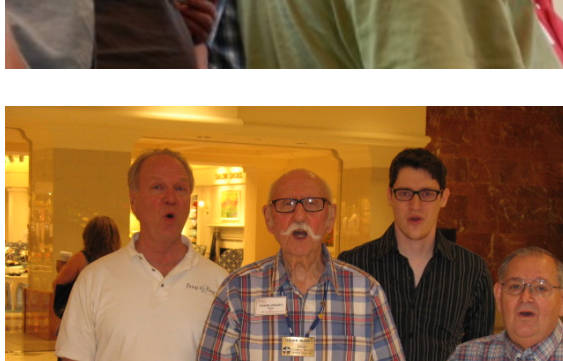
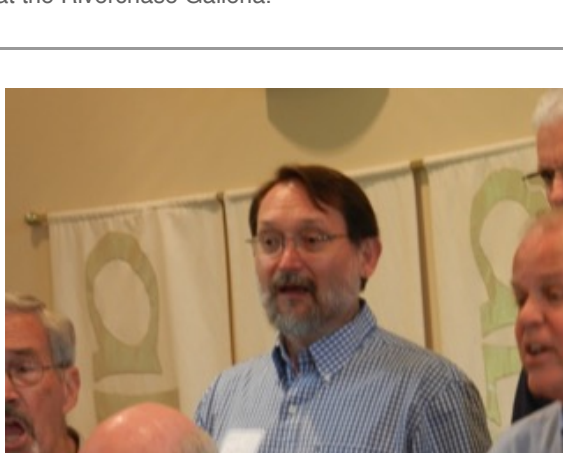
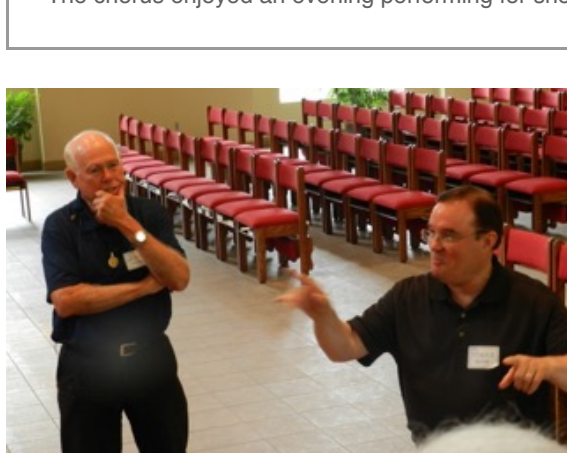
If you can sing "Happy Birthday" we can teach you the rest you need to know. We would really love to have you sing with **Voices of the South**. There's only one restriction — you **do** have to be a male. Sorry ladies.

Come visit us. We rehearse from 7 to 9:30 p.m. each Monday in the Fellowship Hall of Saint Mark United Methodist Church at 2901 Columbiana Road in Vestavia Hills, AL 35216.

Pictorial journal of our activities in May.

Along with other Barbershoppers from Alabama, we provided a chorus for directors who are working on their skills.

The chorus enjoyed an evening performing for shoppers at the Riverchase Galleria.



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Our mailing address is:

2901 Columbiana Road

Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

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