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Monthly newsletter of the Voices of the South Chorus.

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Welcome to e-Voices!

This is the first 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 it. If you know someone who would also enjoy reading about **Voices**, please visit voicesofthesouth.com click Contact 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 **Voices**. We competed in our **Dixie District Contest** in March where we placed third overall and earned the "Most Improved Chorus" award. We have been singing every month at local retail outlets in the Birmingham area to raise awareness of barbershop singing and Voices of the South. We have performed at **Brookwood Mall**, the **Riverchase Galleria**, and **Bass Pro Shops**.

Our **Calendar** details our upcoming performances. Come out and say hello. 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** became the 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.

"This is not a one-man job." He says he's 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.

But before coming to Birmingham Ken had a 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. He 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!**

Ken 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.

He collaborated with hit songwriter **Chilton Price** for eight years while studying arranging under mentor, **Walter Latzko**. A list of Kenny's published works can be found at www.BMI.com.

Ken 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>.



Voices wants to sing for you

Voices of the South is ready to perform at your next function.

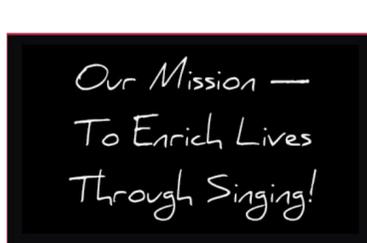
Whether the event is a corporate dinner, a fundraiser for your organization, or just singing the national anthem at your event we would love to talk to you about how we can help! Contact us at www.voicesofthesouth.com.

Voices of the South Quartet in Commercial



A quartet consisting of members of the Voices of the South recently filmed a commercial for Academy Dodge/Chrysler/Jeep. The quartet, formed by members Matt Harris, Tom Brown, Ed Wharton, and Sonny Holt, recorded the commercial's tag line for the automobile dealership in June. The commercial is currently airing. Be on the lookout for our guys as they pursue their 15 seconds of fame. Kudos to the guys for representing our group so well.

Performing at the Riverchase Galleria!



Calendar

Friday, July 10 — Performance: 7 to 9:30 p.m.,

Riverchase Galleria Shopping Center, Hoover

Monday, July 13 — Rehearsal*

Monday, July 20 — Rehearsal*

Monday, July 27 — Rehearsal*

Friday, July 10 — Performance: 7 to 9:30 p.m., Riverchase Galleria Shopping Center, Hoover

Monday, Aug. 3 — Rehearsal *

*Saint Mark United Methodist Church 7-9:30pm

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?

Please come by on any Monday night and check us out.

You don't have to be an accomplished singer. 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 makes it easier to learn the 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.

We rehearse from 7 to 9:30 p.m. each Mondays in the Fellowship Hall of Saint Mark United Methodist Church, 2901 Columbiana Road, Vestavia Hills 35216. You can also call us at 205-252-SING (7464).

Central Alabama holds Directors' Workshop

Voices of the South hosted a **Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive** May 16 in Birmingham.

Chorus director trainers **Raisha Quinn** from Grand Junction, Col. and **John Devine** from Houston, Texas, spent all day Saturday intensely working with five separate directors to strengthen their directing skills. The **Dixie District of the Barbershop Harmony Society** put on the event. The morning was spent in interviews and discussions with the directors. In the afternoon, the directors worked with a live chorus to practice their directing skills while being coached by the two trainers. Each director was videoed and had the chance to view their recording with the trainers after following their session.

Voices was tasked with providing the demonstration chorus. In an ecumenical effort, members of Voices; and the Tuscaloosa, Athens, and Huntsville Barbershop chapters; and participants from the Peachtree City, Ga., and Houston, Texas, chapters made up the demonstration chorus. Every one enjoyed the 4½ hours of top quality, high-energy singing and fellowship. The five directors learned some techniques that will help their home choruses improve.

Thanks to **Sweet Adeline Lynette Pope** for handing the video recording and to all others who helped make the CDWI a success.





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