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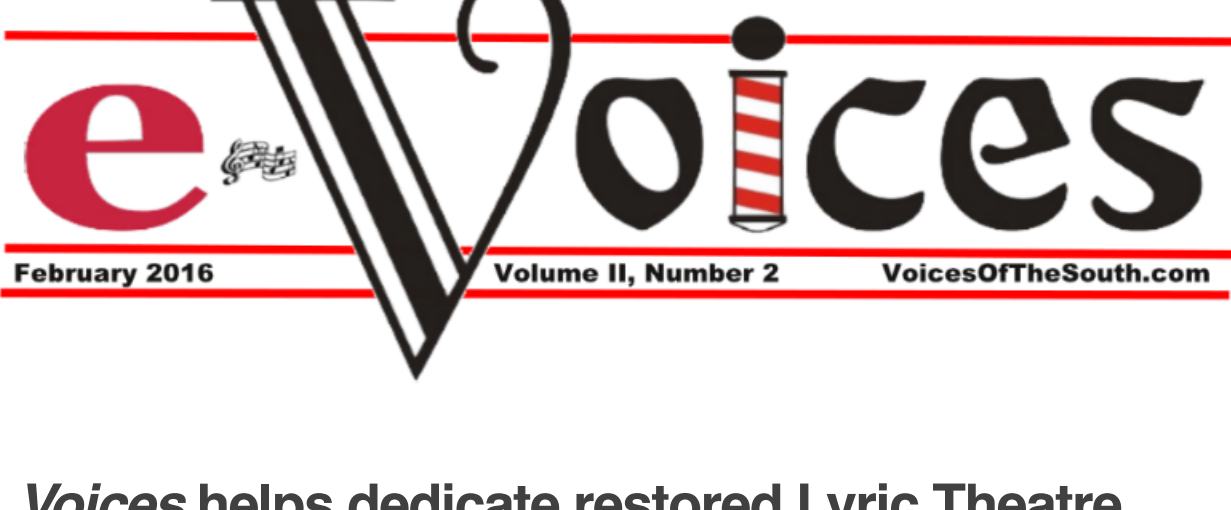
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Monthly newsletter of the Voices of the South chorus

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Voices helps dedicate restored Lyric Theatre

Voices of the South became the first act in 65 years to perform on the stage of the newly renovated **Lyric Theatre** as they took the stage for the theatre's Dedication Ceremony on January 9 in Birmingham.

Donors, laborers and Birmingham Landmarks board and staff gathered with city officials and other visitors in the theatre for the dedication ceremony that included a preview of what is to come when the doors officially open. Everything old is new again.

"What an honor to be singing with **Voices** at the Invite-Only Dedication Show," says Tony Ivey, a **Voices** bass. "The talent that has crossed this stage in the past is mind-blowing and we will be the first performers in more than six decades. History is being made here."

The **Lyric**, which was built in 1914, was originally a vaudeville theatre and hosted such performers as Al Jolson, the Marx Brothers, Mae West, Buster Keaton, and Will Rogers. It was converted into a movie theater in 1954 and was closed in the mid-1980s. It remained shuttered until its purchase by Birmingham Landmarks, the non-profit group that also restored the **Alabama Theatre**. Birmingham Landmarks raised \$11.2 million to renovate the theatre. Restoration work began in 2014.

Voices of the South is honored and humbled to have been a part of the dedication ceremony.

The chorus would like to express appreciation to Brant Beene, executive director of Birmingham Landmarks; Keith Cromwell, executive director of Red Mountain Theatre Co.; Tom Crosby, veteran Birmingham development director, formerly of the Birmingham Business Alliance; and all the donors and workers who made such a magnificent place beautiful again.

To learn more about the Lyric Theatre restoration, click [LightUpTheLyric.com](#).



Looking for a unique Valentine's gift?

We've got just the thing for you!

You can have a quartet from the **Voices of the South** surprise your special someone with a *singing valentine*.

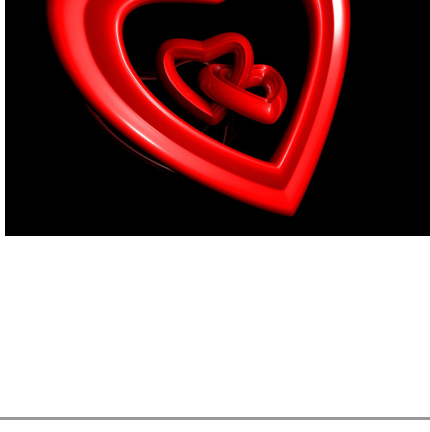
Visit our website at [www.voicesofthesouth.com](#) or

call 205-252-SING (7464) for more information.

For the base price of \$50 you get a Valentine's card, a long-stemmed red rose, and the sweetest love song you've ever heard. And the quartet is decked out in tuxedos.

Not only that, you get a lifetime memory that's priceless!

Call us — 252-SING (7464).



'Want to sing in unique venues? Be a Barbershopper'

Why do you sing?

I sing to elevate the endorphin levels in my brain. Not really! On one side I sing to serve God and to entertain people. I love to watch people enjoying themselves because of the music I am making. On another side I enjoy being part of the sound that's created, particularly when a unique chord sounds. I also love the personal challenge of finding new and improved ways to produce sound vocally.

Why sing barbershop?

Early on in barbershop singing, it was performing music with a unique sound that



got me. Later on barbershop came to mean fellowship, but with music as the common thread connecting everyone who sang it. It is that thread that allows us to overcome the many differences that ordinarily drive groups apart.

Who are you?

My name is **Darrell Mansfield**. I was born in Huntsville on June 16, 1967. I graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After working several years

as a mechanical engineer, I opted to make a small change in my career. For the past 15 years I have worked as a network engineer for **FIS** (formerly **SunGard**). I live in Pelham and have a 6-year-old Terrier-Vizsla mix named **Maddie**. You may email me at [penguin99@charter.net](#).

Got experience?

I sang in the children's choir at church as a youngster. Later I learned the trumpet and played in my schools' bands from middle school through high school. During college I began singing as part of a college group at **Saint Mark United Methodist Church**,

which transitioned to singing in the adult choir in 1989. In 1995 I began singing with the **Birmingham Concert Chorale** (now **Alabama Symphony Chorus**). I have sung in many languages, including Latin, German, French, Italian, Hebrew, Russian and of course English.

I began singing Barbershop in 1999 with **Birmingham Metro** (**Harmony Express**). A few years later the chapter merged with the Tuscaloosa chapter and



became **Central Alabama** (**Voices of the South**). When traveling I like to visit other chapters as a guest. It's fun to see how various chapters work. It's certainly good to meet other barbershop singers.

I have a flexible vocal range. In Barbershop I tend to sing Tenor (the high part) as there is much demand for the part. However in more classical/traditional singing I have sung Tenor I, Tenor II and Bass I. Since I'm a barbershop Tenor, I can often be heard singing Alto and even some Soprano ranges during church choir rehearsals. I do this for fun. It's a personal challenge.

An anecdote ...

In my Barbershop journey I have had the opportunity to sing in some very nice venues.

Voices of the South recently performed in the newly renovated **Lyric Theatre** in

downtown Birmingham. In fact the chorus was the first official act to perform there in 65

years. Our performance preceded the grand opening. It was at the dedication of the

theatre, which was attended by many dignitaries including the Mayor and Birmingham City Council.

The **Lyric** is special. We performed without sound enhancement and were able to be heard throughout the hall. The acoustics are very good. Considering that this theatre was built before up-to-date sound technologies were commonplace.

The Lyric performance started me thinking of places I have performed. **Voices** performed at the **Alabama Theater** several times. Other historic theatres we have performed at include the **Bama Theater** in Tuscaloosa, **Tivoli Theatre** in

Chattanooga and **Tennessee Theatre** in Knoxville.

Among the most unique venues **Voices** performed at are the **Convention Center** in Gatlinburg, Tenn., and the **Bass Pro Shop** in Leeds. One quartet I was in

performed on the contest stage at the **Gold Strike Casino** in Tunica, Miss., and on the street in Gadsden, Ala.

Want to have some interesting experiences and sing in special places, become a **Barbershopper**!

Need entertainment for your event?

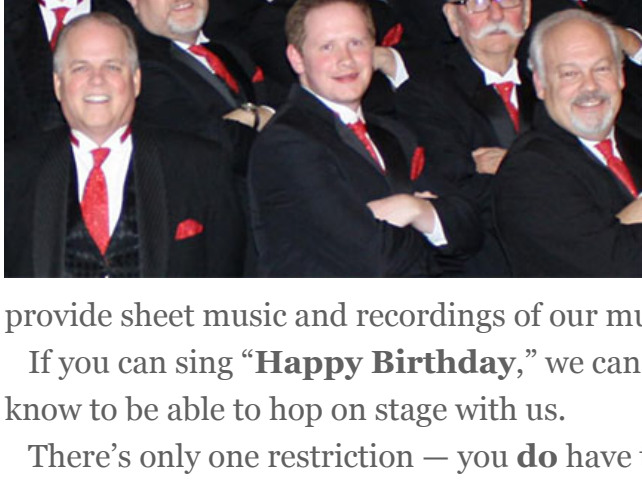
Voices of the South is ready.

We don't care if your event is a corporate dinner, a fundraiser, or just singing the national anthem, we want to provide your entertainment.

We are about two-dozen men who sing **Barbershop**. We would love to talk to you!

Please click the link and leave us a message at [VoicesOfTheSouth.com](#).

Do you sing?



Come by on any Monday night and sing with us.

You don't have to be an accomplished singer.

Most of the **Voices of The South** chorus don't read music.

Instead, we use "learning tracks" to learn our parts. We

provide sheet music and recordings of our music that are part-predominate.

If you can sing "**Happy Birthday**," we can teach you everything you need to know to be able to hop on stage with us.

There's only one restriction — you **do** have to be a male. Sorry ladies.

We rehearse from **7 to 9:30 p.m.** on **Mondays** in the **Fellowship Hall of Saint Mark United Methodist Church**, 2901 Columbiana Road, Vestavia Hills, Ala., 35216.

You can also call us at **205-252-SING (7464)** or Visit us at [VoicesOfTheSouth.com](#).

Calendar

Tuesday, Feb. 2 through 14 — Order your Singing Valentine online. Just give us your zip code. Click [VoicesQuartetsSing](#).

Monday, Feb. 8 — Chorus Rehearsal *



Thursday, Feb. 11 through 14 — We are singing to your

Valentine: You can still order at

[VoicesOfTheSouthValentines](#) or call 205-252-SING (7464).

Monday, Feb. 15 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, Feb. 22 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, Feb. 29 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, March 7 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Upcoming

March 18, 19 and 20 — Dixie District Spring Convention and Competition, Performing Arts Center, Oxford, Ala.

* 7 to 9:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Saint Mark United Methodist Church.