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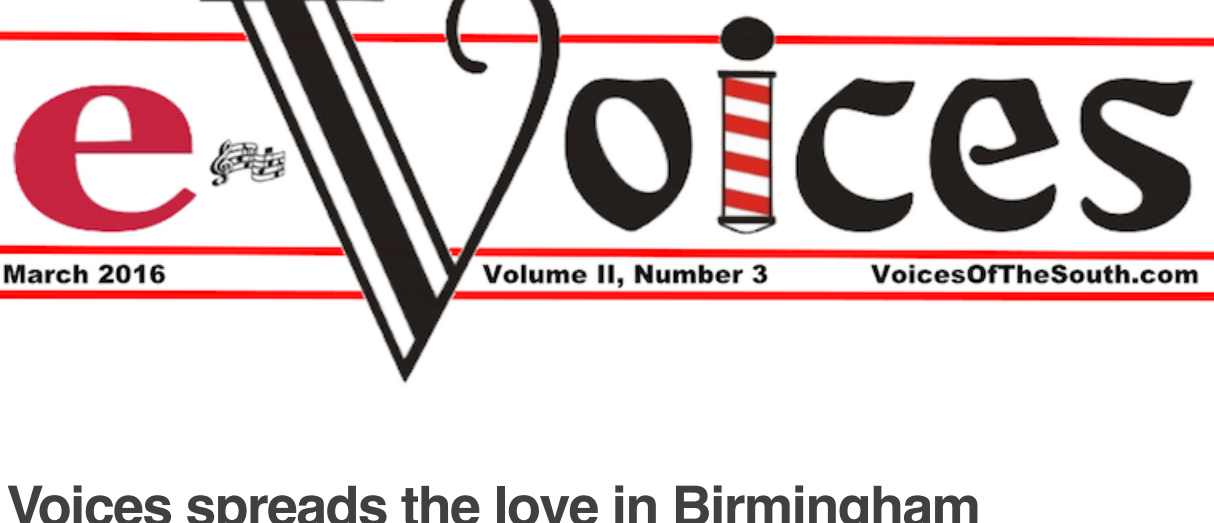
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Monthly newsletter of the Voices of the South chorus

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Voices spreads the love in Birmingham

Love was in the air on Valentine's Day weekend.

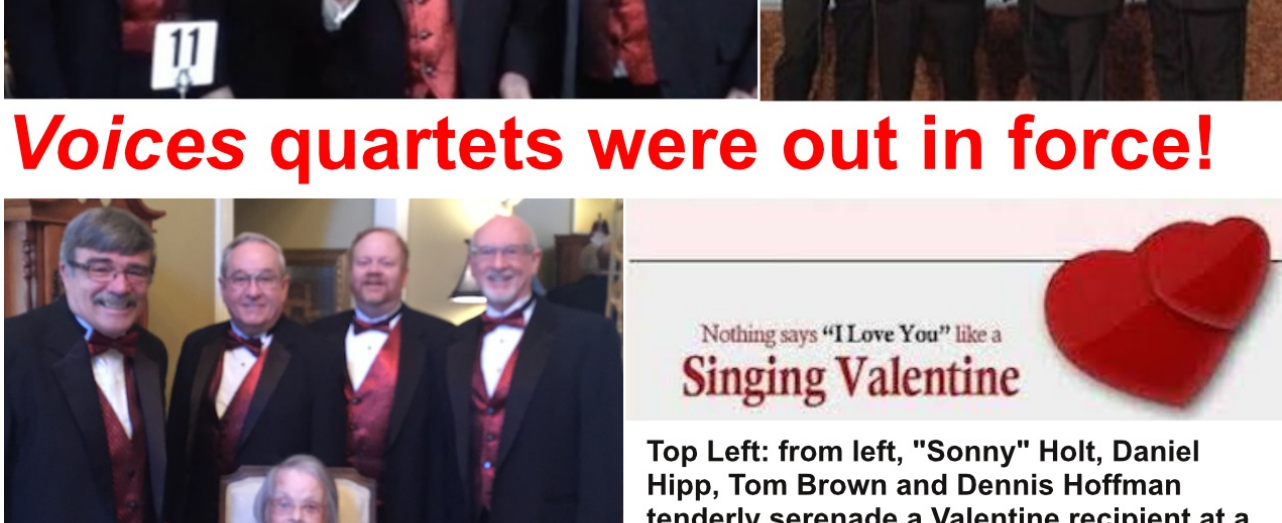
So were the sounds of barbershop harmony as six quartets delivered nearly 50 singing valentines to recipients in the Birmingham area.

"What a unique and delightful way for us to show our appreciation to our customers," said Laney DeJonge, co-owner of Rojo Cantina on Highland Avenue.

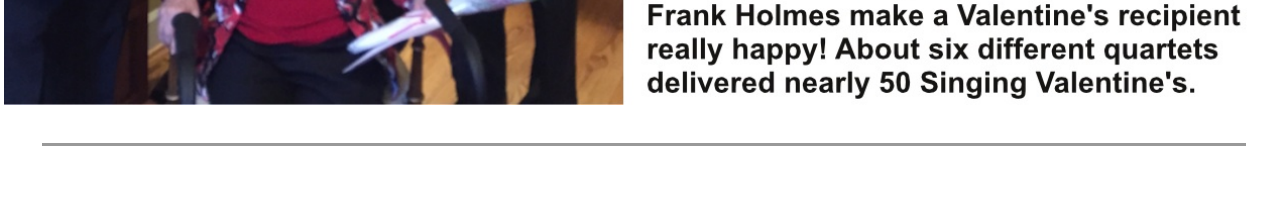
"The people loved it. We hope to get **Voices of the South** back for our restaurant's birthday celebration in July." **Voices** quartets delivered several Valentines to customers who had dinner at Rojo.

Debbie Medenica, who had one of the quartets deliver a singing Valentine to her husband, said, "You guys are awesome! The video we made got over 200 likes on Facebook within about 24 hours! My husband was so surprised and incredibly pleased! The whole thing was a grand success!"

Voices member **Tom Brown** put the whole thing in perspective. "Speaking as a performer, when a quartet surprises someone with a love song sent by their special someone, the looks on their faces says it all. It just doesn't get any better than that for us. Looking forward to doing this again next year!"

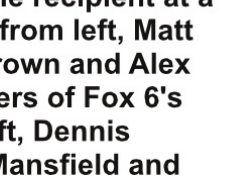


Voices quartets were out in force!



Nothing says "I Love You" like a

Singing Valentine



Top Left: from left, "Sonny" Holt, Daniel Hipp, Tom Brown and Dennis Hoffman tenderly serenade a Valentine recipient at a local restaurant. Top Right: from left, Matt Powell, Ed Wharton, Tom Brown and Alex Garrison croon for the viewers of Fox 6's morning show. Left: from left, Dennis Jones, Karl Turner, Darrell Mansfield and Frank Holmes make a Valentine's recipient really happy! About six different quartets delivered nearly 50 Singing Valentine's.

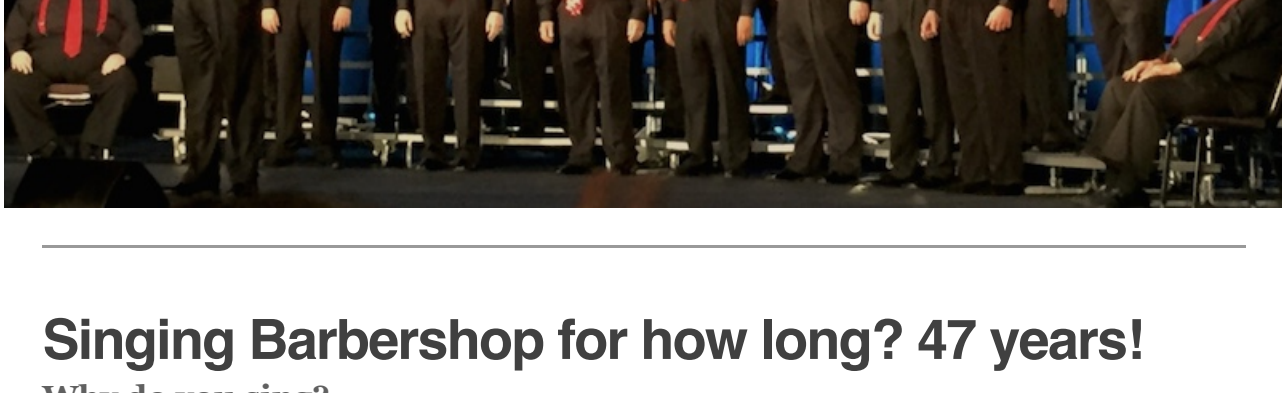
Need an entertainer?

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 want to talk to you!

Please click hear and leave us a message. [VoicesOfTheSouth.com](#).



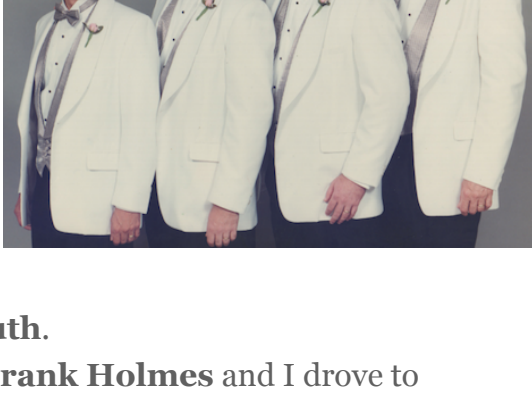
Singing Barbershop for how long? 47 years!

Why do you sing?

I sing for the pleasure of the sound. I sing for the enjoyment of sharing that pleasure with my friends. And I sing for the unrivaled joy it brings to us singers and our listeners.

Why sing Barbershop?

Friendships — It would be impossible to name all the friends I've made in 47 years of membership in a single barbershop chapter. The best I can do is to mention a few of them who are gone or who have been with me through most of those years. **Joe Barnard, Neil Bruce** and **Dick Scholl** sadly are gone. **Frank and John Buttler; Frank Holmes; Ed Wharton;** and my godson, **Dennis Hoffman**, are still active. But still, I would be remiss if I didn't mention every one of my current brethren in **Voices of the South**. But the **e-Voices** editors won't let me do that. So consider this a toast to every current member of **Voices of the South**.



On a Barbershop Society-wide note, in 1975 **Frank Holmes** and I drove to Louisville, Ky., to attend the **Louisville Thoroughbred's** Christmas show. The incomparable **Jim Miller** and his quartet, the **Citations**, met us at the door. Yes, all four of them — **Jim Netherton, Ken Buckner** and **Bill Myers**. They would not let us out of their sight for the remainder of the evening. Two of the dearest friendships of my life with Miller and Buckner blossomed from that meeting.

Emotional Experience — Less than a year into my newfound hobby, at my first **Barbershop School**, I had my first "experience." After having learned the Navy Hymn with a large group of nearly 200, we closed the school after lunch with that song. I was sitting next to my chapter buddy **Fred Braswell**. A few lines into the hymn I no longer heard the pristine tenor notes. I turned to see huge tears flowing from the eyes of my friend. Needless to say I joined him and could not sing another note.

Relationships With Awesome People — Awesome No. 1 would be **Jim Miller**. **Dr. Greg Lyne** would be a close No. 2. This man with perfect pitch has been an unbelievable bright spot in my barbershop life. Another unique relationship with the International Champion Quartet, **Vocal Spectrum**, is No. 3. Love those guys and they seem to tolerate me!

Who are you?

I am **Dr. Franklin Luther "Sonny" Holt**. I was born on Dec. 15, 1934, in Atlanta. I lived in Birmingham from the age of 6 months until I was 9 years old. I lived in Selma, Ala., through college. I went to Dental School in Birmingham, spent two years in the Air Force. And I've lived in Birmingham ever since. You can email me at Jsh05@charter.net.



I married **Emily Yow** in 1959. Emily died in 2001. **Janet Baird Hughes** and I were married in 2005. That's when I was presented with three step children and six grandchildren. I never dreamed how much joy each of them would bring me.

I was a Clinical Instructor at the University of Alabama School of Dentistry from 1963 until 1988 when I retired. I was also a notable competitive golfer. The **e-Voices** editors know "Sonny" is too modest to report it,

but he was the State of Alabama Amateur Golf Champion in 1955.



Got experience?

I sang in glee clubs and church choirs from the age of 10 in Selma. I was always a Baritone. I changed to Bass after 10 years of singing Barbershop. I joined the **Birmingham Eastwood** barbershop chapter in 1969. We broke from the original chapter in 1990 to form the **Birmingham Metro** chapter. It merged with the **Tuscaloosa** chapter to form **Voices Of The South** around 2009.

An anecdote ...

For several reasons our second place finish in the **2013 Dixie District Spring Competition** was a surprising finish that few of us expected. Reason 1, it was our first contest under the leadership of **Ken Hatton**. Reason 2, our preparation was suspect. Reason 3, I had no idea we could finish that high. We were absolutely ecstatic! I believe it was the most exciting chorus experience I've ever had.



2016 — Calendar

March

Monday, March 7 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, March 14 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Friday, March 18 - Sunday, March 20 — **Dixie District Spring Convention and Competition**, Performing Arts Center, Oxford, Ala.

Monday, March 21 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, March 28 — Chorus Rehearsal *

Monday, April 4 — Chorus Rehearsal *

** Rehearsals from 7 to 9:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall, Saint Mark United Methodist Church*

Upcoming

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

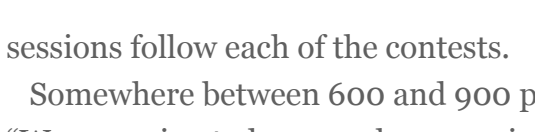
Voices to host Dixie District in Oxford, Ala.

Barbershop choruses and quartets from all over the Southeast will descend on Oxford, Ala., March 18 to compete in the **Dixie District Convention and Contest**.

Voices of the South is the host chapter for this year's event.

Voices chorus member **Tony Ivey**, Dixie District Convention chairman, says, "It's an honor to be asked to be the host chapter. **Voices** has done it three times in the past five years. It's a lot of work for our chapter, but all of our chorus members are volunteering to work at the site."

The convention runs Friday, March 18 through Sunday, March 20 at the Oxford Performing Arts Center. This is the first time the Barbershop Harmony Society's Dixie District has assembled in Oxford.



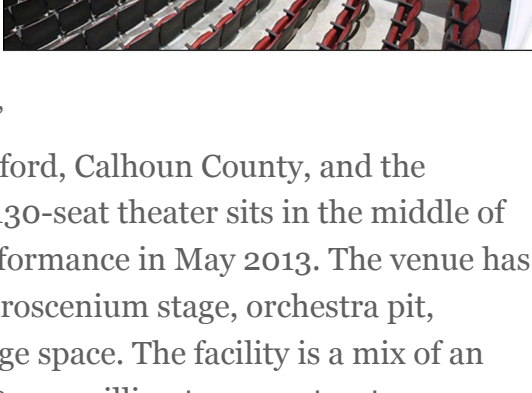
The convention features a two-round **International Quartet Preliminary Contest**, a **District Chorus Championship**, a **Youth Quartet Preliminary**, and a **Most Improved Chorus Award** based on a chorus's score from last spring. Evaluation/Coaching

sessions follow each of the contests.

Somewhere between 600 and 900 people will attend the various events, Tony says. "We are going to have 12 choruses singing in the chorus competition. Since it's the spring event we will have a large number of quartets competing also. The quartet competition kicks off on Friday evening. The choruses compete Saturday afternoon. The quartet finals are Saturday night. **Voices** will be competing Saturday afternoon in the Chorus Championship.

Tony has experience being the chairman. He shares the responsibility with Nashville native, **Jack Donaldson**, who is the Convention Registrar. Tony and Jack have known each other for a long time, in fact they often sing together in quartets. Tony chaired Dixie District conventions in Gadsden twice before. "I always get plenty of help from our chorus. **Ed Wharton**, Voices president, **Tom Brown**, Voices secretary and **Larry Jones**, Voices treasurer, have been outstanding. We were picked for our jobs because we know what to do."

Most of the work will start Friday morning. That's when we do all the set-up. There's a lot to do on Saturday, too. The Contest administrators run the contest, "we are the muscle," Tony says. **Karl Turner**, Voices past president, will be our judges' liaison. He's done it before, and he "will do a great job."



The Oxford Performing Arts Center serves Oxford, Calhoun County, and the surrounding area in northeast Alabama. The 1,130-seat theater sits in the middle of Oxford's historic downtown. It held its first performance in May 2013. The venue has state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems, a proscenium stage, orchestra pit, dressing rooms, and huge wing space and storage space. The facility is a mix of an historic school, city hall and jail. It cost nearly \$10.4 million to reconstruct.

Recent visitors

We love to have guests drop in on our Monday night rehearsals.

In January **Steve Harris** from Gardendale, Ala., and **Clark DeJonge** from Mountain Brook, Ala., stopped by and sang with us.

In February **Kyle Stringer** from Birmingham, **Bill Logan** from Hoover, Ala., **Gene Cook** from Alabaster, Ala., and **Chris Cook** from Calera, Ala. came by.

Thank you for visiting us. We hope to see you again!



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