

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHLAND BARBERSHOP CHORUS PRESENTS 51st ANNUAL SHOW:

“Vintage Vinyl”

Featuring hit songs from 1957 – 1967: Vinyl Recording’s Golden Era

The **NORTHLAND BARBERSHOP CHORUS** of the Sault, Ontario Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is proud to announce its **51st Annual Show** will be presented **Sat. April 11th, 2015** starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Kiwanis Community Theatre Centre.

BACKGROUND: Vinyl Records

Among the favourite kinds of songs sung by the Northland Chorus are those of the late 50’s and early 60’s. Not only are songs from this era particularly fun to sing, they seem to connect in a personal way with our audiences – even those whose members include people too young to remember vinyl records. Thanks to You-Tube and I-Tunes, music from just about any era is now readily accessible to people of all ages.

The songs being featured on tonight’s show were first popular during the height of the vinyl recording era, the decade from 1957-1967, long before the more modern formats of 8-track tapes, cassettes, compact discs and mp3 digital files were ever dreamt of. They came on 45 RPM singles, or 33 1/3 “LP’s” - long-play records. Even with their tendency to warp, get scratched and skip, and produce all manner of extraneous clicks and pops, many audiophiles nevertheless consider the sound produced on vinyl records to be superior to any other. As a result, vinyl is making a comeback, with many bands today releasing their latest efforts on it. Good turntables are once again in demand.

SHOW DETAILS

The 40+ man chorus will present songs in traditional four-part barbershop harmony within an original one-act play written by chorus director **Bob Shami**. Inspiration and ideas were contributed by our friends **Harry Houston** and **Sue Barber**, as well as by chorus member **Ted McKinney**. The setting is the home of “Rhonda” (**TERRI MILLER**) and “Ritchie” (**CHAS CALAM**), a couple of high-school sweethearts who married in 1967. They’ve been married 48 years. In that time, Ritchie has turned into something of a lovable but grumpy curmudgeon. With a disposition that might remind you of Clint Eastwood in “Gran Torino”, Ritchie pines for the good old days, to the dismay of his loving but sometimes exasperated wife.

Through the magic of radio and the power of great songs made famous by Buddy Holly, Everly Brothers, Beatles, Beach Boys, Temptations and more, Ritchie is transported back to 1964 when he and Rhonda first met, to discover, like Scrooge, the things that are really important in life. His spirit guide to the 50’s/60’s is radio DJ “Mel Knight”, (Chorus member and real-life DJ **MARK SAN ANGELO**) as host of “The Night Shift” on radio station K-O-R-D.

FEATURED MUSICAL PERFORMERS

- **NORTHLAND BARBERSHOP CHORUS:** Now in their 54th year. Bob Shami – Music Director
<http://www.northlandchorus.com>
- **HEADLINE QUARTET – A MIGHTY WIND:** World Class Barbershop Quartet from Atlanta, GA. This famously funny foursome also sings a cappella at the highest possible level, having won medals at several consecutive International Barbershop Quartet Competitions. <http://amightywindquartet.com/#>

All Tickets: General Admission – **\$25.00* CDN Funds**, available at:

- Theatre Centre Box Office* (Station Mall) Hess Jewellers (Churchill Plaza)
- Any member of the Northland Chorus Soo Theatre/STARS (534 Ashmun St. Soo, Mich.)
- Tickets may also be available at the door. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Curtain is 7:30 p.m.

* A \$3.00 per ticket service charge is added by the Station Mall Box Office to all tickets they sell. Box Office price is \$25.00 + \$3.00 = \$28.00 total.

As always, a major portion of the proceeds will go to support local speech therapy programs at the Speech-Language Pathology Unit of the Sault Area Hospital. More than \$75,000 has been donated by the Northland Chorus to this cause since 1995 in keeping with their motto:

“We Sing ... That They Shall Speak.”

Northland Chorus - General Information

Barbershop singing had its beginnings in American barbershops of the 1890's through 1920's. Barbershops served as “tonorial parlours”: places where men gathered to share news, camaraderie and a song or two.



At left, the logo of the Barbershop Harmony Society, an umbrella international organization which serves 30,000+ members in 800+ chapters across North America. It granted the Sault Chapter its charter in 1961.

At right, the logo of the Sault Ste Marie Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It represents an iconic barbershop singer whose International Bridge/handlebar moustache is symbolic of our membership coming from both sides of the border. The red, white and blue colours represent the colours of the flags of both nations. The four bars in the hat represent the 4-part harmony that is the hallmark of the barbershop style, and recall the stripes of a traditional barber pole. The “oh” vowel being sung is the first sound in each country's national anthem.

Northland Chorus – Sault Ste Marie’s 2010 Medal of Merit Winner



The City of Sault Ste Marie awarded the Northland Barbershop Chorus the 2010 Medal of Merit, the city’s most prestigious honour, in recognition of community service given over 5 decades.

The award is given to nominees for “outstanding achievement in a chosen area which has resulted in making a valuable contribution to the community”. The award was officially presented to all then-currently active chorus members by Mayor Debbie Amoroso at a civic ceremony and dinner held May 7, 2011.



For Ticket Information

In Canada, Doug Iles at (705)-942-3075

In US, Bernie Arbic at (906)-635-1057

Northland Barbershop Chorus 51st Annual Show, April 11th, 2015

“Vintage Vinyl”

Bob Shami: Music Director and Publicity Chairman

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