

## **LBCC HISTORY**

The Lemon Bay Chord Company is a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, an international association founded in 1938 and dedicated to preserving barbershop harmony. Lemon Bay chorus was chartered in 1993, largely through the efforts of Blair Walker, its first director. It began with five men who met in the back of a local music store and in February of 1995 they put 22 men on stage for their first show. Sarah Rideout Slight, who has a doctorate in music and extensive experience in barbershop, became the director in 1996 when Blair Walker retired. Our current director is Chris Owens, band director at Heron Creek Middle School in North Port and an avid barbershopper.

Current chapter membership is over 50. Since about half our members are seasonal, summer attendance is reduced to about half of that. At any one time, we usually have around four chapter quartets who have their own performance schedules, and who participate in our shows.

Lemon Bay Chord Company is distinguished by its history of charitable giving. We have donated over \$50,000 in scholarships to high school students and have given thousands of toys, which are contributed by our Christmas show audiences, to local children.

Our major performances are the Christmas show in December and the Annual Show in February. Also in February is our very successful Singing Valentines program. For a nominal fee, local residents may schedule a quartet to sing several special songs to a loved one and present them with a Valentine Card and a rose. All fees from this program are dedicated to our high school scholarship program. The chorus provides many free performances at assisted living facilities, hospitals, and charity functions, and in the summer months, we volunteer to sing at local churches. The chorus is also available to provide entertainment for a fee at mobile home parks, gated communities, and other such venues.

All men, young and old, are welcome to join our chorus. We are a group of men who enjoy singing, especially barbershop harmony. Most of our members are not music majors or gifted soloists -- just men who really love to sing, can carry a tune, and want to share the fellowship of other singers. We meet 6:30 PM every Thursday at Christ Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 701 Indiana Ave. (State Road 776), Englewood, FL 34223.

Lemon Bay Chord Company is dedicated to helping our community and to upholding our Society's motto -- **KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING.**