

Your 2017 Chorus Champions Reporting



As outgoing champions, the Great Western Chorus would like to wish all the choruses 'good luck' for the contest tomorrow. We've had a great year and we want to give you a taste of one of the highlights from it.

Saturday 17th February 2018 was a very special night for us. We hosted a night of 'firsts' for an expectant audience hoping to experience something different from barbershop in the UK.

Our special guests were Signature quartet, performing on their first ever show outside the USA. The four powerhouse voices of Will, Daniel, Matt and Dan have been together since 2013. An unforgettable performance at international in Las Vegas last year earned them the silver medal.

They certainly didn't disappoint with their rousing, 'Somebody to Love', the immense 'A Change is Gonna Come', and the hauntingly beautiful 'Dance With My Father'.

Their powerful soul sound delighted us for the whole

second half, ending with the encore 'Lift Up My Head'. We hope they bring their unique combination of barbershop soul and witty repartee back very soon - by the end there certainly wasn't a dry eye in the house!

We were also stoked to be joined by two other quartets for the evening. Fortuity the 2011 LABBS gold medalists and the 2013 Sweet Adelines Region 31 champions, and competed on the international stage in America for four consecutive years from 2013. The stunning Sarah, Sophie, Gemma and Veryan treated us to a set ending with 'Yes Sir, That's My Baby'.

And then Trailblazers, the 2015 British youth quartet winners, having formed the same year, went on to compete in international in the 2016 youth quartet contest in Nashville. They have the Spanish international quartet title under their belts too. The talented Alex, Ali, Nick and Simon, having tantalised us with their entrance, sung up

a storm and ended by serving up some 'Frim Fram Sauce'.

Our chorus had some fun too of course! We brought out the big guns with Chess's Anthem and the rousing 'Great Day'. And we literally brought big guns out with our canon in Hooked on the Classics and a slightly smaller gun with our new high drama version of Copacabana (who shot whom?). No prizes for guessing who was Lola!

It was our first time staging one of our big shows in the historic Victoria rooms in Bristol. First opening its doors in May 1842, and served as the most important and lively cultural centre in the West of England. Although not there in 1842, it was here that some of our founder members, such as Terry Barton, thrilled to their first barbershop performance and The Great Western Chorus was born shortly afterwards.

Such a large show doesn't put itself together, and many people helped make it a resounding

success, but special thanks must go to Paul Hargest, Brian Fox, and Alex Sanctuary.

And if after all this you wish you'd bought a ticket, never fear. Join one of over 2,500 people who have watched it online via our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/greatwesternchorus>).

For the first time, we streamed the whole performance live with over 900 people tuning in across 17 countries. With half that audience under the age of 35, we hope this helps to assure the future of British barbershop singing in the UK.

Look out for our February 2019 show - special guest performers are being finalised hope to see you there!

Have an awesome SING 2018 convention and we'll see you in the bar.

Paul Richmond

Communications Manager
The Great Western Chorus
of Bristol



Harmony Store at Convention

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Larger print keys sticker for easier use: **£1.00**

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