

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

*Center for the ARTS*

A NIGHT OF ACAPPELLA HARMONY

**doowop**  
**EXPLOSION**



**SAT. FEBRUARY 20 AT 7 PM**  
**POLLAK THEATRE**

**Pamela & Charlie Horner's**

# **Classic Urban Harmony LLC**



**Multimedia Presentations**

**Museum Exhibits**

**Lectures**

**Researched Articles**

**Doo Wop Group Bookings**

**Concert Producing & Emceeing**

**Radio Appearances**

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**Album Liner Notes**

**Live Doo Wop Acappella  
One Sunday night a Month at  
Roxy & Dukes Roadhouse  
745 Bound Brook Rd, Dunellen NJ**

- **March 13**
- **April 3**
- **May 22**
- **July 10**

For details on all our activities plus articles, photos, videos and the latest news on doo wop, acappella, r&b, gospel and soul group harmony visit our website.

## **[www.ClassicUrbanHarmony.net](http://www.ClassicUrbanHarmony.net)**

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# A NIGHT OF ACCAPPELLA HARMONY

# doo wop

## EXPLOSION

Acappella singing (without instrumentation) is as old as the human language and maybe older. Rhythm & Blues and Doo Wop acappella singing evolved from old African American spirituals but really took root on the street corners of urban America. In 1948, a young Baltimore group, Sonny Til and the Orioles, revolutionized American popular music with the first true R&B vocal group recording, "It's Too Soon To Know". In cities across the country, thousands of vocal quartets and quintets sprang up, imitating the Orioles. It was their music that evolved into the doo wop singing in the next decade.

Doo wop singing reached its heyday in the 1950's. Inner city kids hung out on the street corners. They often didn't have access to musical instruments or music lessons. But they could blend their voices together in harmony. Though street corner doo wop singing began as an African American art form, by the late 1950's it was enjoyed by teenagers of all races.

Most doo wop groups started out singing acappella on the corners, under bridges, in stairwells (for natural echo). Usually, the first time they had a band backing them up was when they were asked to make records. Record labels thought instruments would make the songs more accepted. Although the doo wop singing in its purist form is acappella.

In the early 1960's, there was a movement to record doo wop music acappella. Some old practice tapes had surfaced by groups like the Nutmegs that were acappella and local labels released them, as is. This started a cottage industry of recorded acappella doo wop that continues today. New Jersey, along with New York City and Philadelphia became the prime area for doo wop acappella. While rhythm & blues harmony continued to evolve into soul music and then hip hop, organization's like Ronnie I.'s United in Group Harmony Association preserved the tradition of 1950's doo wop singing here in New Jersey. Tonight's concert is co-produced and co-emceed by Charlie Horner, whose long running radio show had a similar impact in Philadelphia.

Monmouth University's Center for the Arts is proud to celebrate the legacy of doo wop singing with this historic, all-acappella concert, featuring some of the area's premier vocal groups. We know you'll enjoy this Doo Wop Explosion - A Night of Acappella Harmony.

## ON TONIGHT'S DOO WOP EXPLOSION



**LARRY CHANCE** is best known as the lead singer and founding member of the internationally known doo wop group, the Earls. Larry, along with the Earls, recorded such classics as “Remember Then,” “I Believe,” “Lookin’ For My Baby,” “Never,” “Eyes” and many more. Larry was born in South Philadelphia in a neighborhood noted for its show business roots, spawning

such talent as Frankie Avalon, Fabian, Chubby Checker, Danny & the Juniors among others. In 1955, when his family moved to the Bronx, Larry discovered that vocal groups were to be found on almost every corner. In 1957, Larry and his friends formed the doo wop group that would evolve into the Earls. Larry’s been performing ever since, as lead singer with the Earls and as the comedic character voices featured for ten years on the Imus In The Morning radio program. Larry is known throughout the industry, not only as a talented singer but as a complete entertainer. Tonight, Larry returns to his roots, as he sings a whole set of Earls songs, acappella, backed by the talented group, Re-MemberThen . It promises to be like his early days on the streets of the Bronx.



### **CHOICE**

One of the area’s premier vocal groups, Choice has a long history of singing acappella. Choice just celebrated their 35th anniversary as professional singers. They call themselves the “Bad Boys of Acappella” but in reality are one of the hardest working groups on the acappella circuit. Hailing from Jersey City, NJ, Choice can sing r&b, doo wop, gospel and soul with equal proficiency. Group members pride themselves as students of r&b vocal harmony and emulate the great groups of the past like the Larks, Five Keys, Spaniels and Flamingos. Long associated with the United in Group Harmony Association, Choice has sung at places such as the Nassau Coliseum, Continental Airlines Arena and Radio City Music hall. A recent Choice YouTube video went viral, drawing more than six million views.



**DE'SEAN DOOLEY** is the grandson of r&b group harmony pioneer, Sonny Til. Sonny Til, led the Orioles, who helped start this music in 1948. Last year, De'Sean played the part of his grandfather as leading male performer in the award winning musical, "Soul Harmony: The Story of Deborah Chessler, Sonny Til & the Orioles". (The Portland, OR, production may be headed to the East Coast sometime in 2017.) Tonight you'll see De'Sean Dooley sing

two Orioles songs acappella, backed by Quiet Storm, who were Bobby Thomas' last Orioles group before his passing. As De'Sean is out of the country and could not be with us live tonight, you'll see him by way of a giant screen video.



### **FRANKIE & THE FASHIONS**

The current configuration of Frankie & the Fashions has been together for six years but the origins of this fine Philadelphia vocal group go back to the 1960's. Lead, Frank Lafaro, used to drop by Charlie Horner's radio show in the 1980's with the latest Frankie & the Fashions singles and Charlie

would be the first to play them on the air. Frankie & the Fashions have a really tight sound. Upon hearing them sing live, Larry Chance once commented, "Even their vibrato is in sync!" The group has recorded several CD's and their current one contains their popular signature song, "What Do I Have To Do," which they'll be singing tonight. You are sure to enjoy the Fashions' "Philly street corner sound".



### **QUIET STORM**

Formed in Philadelphia in 2007, this phenomenal vocal group has taken doo wop acappella world "by storm". They've become favorites at the annual Philly Doo Wop Festival and blew away the competition in 2010 at Don K Reed's acappella showdown outside the IZOD Center. The win gave Quiet Storm the

opportunity to open the second half of the Nader Doo Wop Spectacular.

Since then Quiet Storm has built their reputation as one of the area's most dynamic vocal groups. Though Quiet Storm's history as a group spans only the past nine years, individually each member has been singing harmony with other vocal groups for most of their lives. Each sings leads well as background harmony. They sing r&b, doo wop, soul, and gospel harmony. Although the groups can sing with a band, their acappella concerts really display their exquisite vocal harmony. Tonight, Quiet Storm will perform live as well as back De'Sean Dooley on giant screen video, singing Orioles songs.



### **RE-MEMBERTHEN**

Formed just a few years ago, Re-MemberThen is emerging as one of New Jersey's doo wop acappella group rising stars. Individually, the group's members have been singing all their lives, though with different groups. As Re-MemberThen, they came into their own at the 2011 Philadelphia Doo Wop Festival where they sang to a huge

outdoor crowd at Penn's Landing. Since then, the group has appeared on WMTR-FM's Alan David Stein's "Doo Wop Drive" radio show and recorded original jingles for the program. Re-MemberThen has become a favorite opening act for Larry Chance & the Earls and Larry even added his voice as a "guest" on their recent CD. The Piscataway-based group's repertoire includes numerous doo wop favorites all sung in splendid harmony. Re-MemberThen has twice won Don K Reed's acappella showdown outside the IZOD Center (2012 & 2014). As winners, the group got to open the Nader Doo Wop Spectacular. Tonight you'll be hearing Re-MemberThen acappella blend twice: once opening the concert and again backing Larry Chance as the closing act.



### **THE TEE-TONES**

Inspired by the legends of classic rhythm & blues and the street corner doo wop group harmonies that gave birth to rock n' roll, the Tee-Tones are bringing back that incredible sound we all grew up on. They formed on the street corners of Brooklyn and tunnels of the NYC subway system.

The Tee-Tones, formerly known as The Tunnel Tones, represent a long tradition of great r&b acappella soul singing groups that gave birth to doo wop, rhythm & blues, rock & roll, classic soul and Motown. The Tee-Tones have performed many gala events in the tri-state area including private events hosted by Paul McCartney and Motown founder Berry Gordy. They've appeared on Good Morning American, Cosmopolitan Magazine and ABC World News Tonight, and made recordings for ad agencies and TV commercials. This popular group sings with passion and style.



### **THE VIC DONNA GROUP**

Vic Donna began singing group harmony as a youngster in Brooklyn back in 1956. Billed as a teen idol, Vic recorded his first sides backed by the New Jersey doo wop group, the Parakeets.

Over the years Vic has been backed

on record by other noted groups such as the Fi-Tones, Cadillacs, Sharps, Compliments, and Angels. In 2010, Vic assembled some of the area's most talented singers to form the Vic Donna Group. The Vic Donna Group soon became known for their tight intricate harmonies of obscure R&B and Doo Wop songs and original music. But they can equally excel at better known doo wop songs. Over the past few years the group has had a few personnel changes but has retained the high standards we've come to expect from them.



### **PAMELA & CHARLIE HORNER** (Emcees)

Tonight's concert producers and emcees, Pamela and Charlie Horner, reside in Somerset, New Jersey, where they're both active in preserving the legacy of the vocal harmony groups. They

formed Classic Urban Harmony LLC in 2008 and give multimedia presentation on the history of doo wop music, curate museum displays, research and write articles, book acappella groups, produce and emcee concerts, consult on documentaries and make

AN EPIC TALE OF ADVENTURE, SHIPWRECK AND ROMANCE

# PERICLES



WRITTEN BY **WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

ORIGINAL MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **RINDE ECKERT**

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radio guest appearances. Last year the Horners assembled a huge exhibit of African American music photos and memorabilia that was displayed here at the Pollak Gallery and elsewhere.

Pamela Horner was born in Massachusetts and raised in Rhode Island. Pam holds an MS Degree in Education with more than 25 years experience as an educator and administrator in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island. Pam's been a fan of r&b and doo wop vocal groups for many years. She's a skilled researcher in the fields of r&b, early r&r and doo wop vocal harmony. In addition to being the company's CFO, Pam's experience in developing educational courses and programs and in organizing and presenting workshops make her an indispensable part Classic Urban Harmony LLC. Her artistic flair can be seen in the designs of Classic Urban Harmony exhibits. Pam is also a freelance writer and concert reviewer in the field of group harmony.

Charlie Horner is recognized worldwide as an expert in rhythm & blues vocal harmony. He was born and raised in Philadelphia and holds a PhD in chemistry. Charlie's been totally immersed in doo wop and related music fields since he began collecting records at the age of 11. That collection has now grown to over 50,000 records. Starting in 1970, Charlie hosted a popular weekly radio program in Philadelphia on the history of r&b vocal groups that spanned 25 years. He's interviewed hundreds of singers and reunited countless groups from the fifties who'd thought their fame was long passed. Charlie's produced and emceed numerous acappella stage shows and is largely credited for a resurgence in doo wop music in the Philadelphia area that began in the late 1970's and continues today. He's written liner notes for over fifty albums and published dozens of articles in magazines such as Echoes of the Past, Goldmine, Bim Bam Boom, Record Exchanger, Harmony Tymes and Yesterdays Memories. Charlie's served on the board of directors of the United In Group Harmony Association's Hall of Fame and was president and co-founder of the Mills Brothers Society. He was awarded the Philadelphia Group Harmony Association's only Lifetime Achievement Award and also received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the first ever Philadelphia Doo Wop Festival. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum in Cleveland has called Charlie, "one of the foremost authorities on early rhythm & blues and vocal group music".

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### WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

This season we are conducting research on the impact of our arts programming. Please help us by filling out a short survey and you will be entered to win a GOLDEN TICKET that allows you 2 FREE admissions to any of our CENTER FOR THE ARTS events in the 2016-17 season!! Please go to this link to complete the survey:

<http://bit.ly/MonmouthPAS-Music15-16>

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Discover Jersey Arts is a cosponsored project of the ArtPride New Jersey Foundation and New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Photography (top to bottom): New Jersey Ballet, photo by VAM Productions; "One Day More" The Company of the New 25th Anniversary of Les Misérables at Paper Mill Playhouse, photo by Deen van Meer; "Picturing America" gallery at the Newark Museum; Symphony in C, photo by Kevin Monko.

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APR. 10 | 3 PM

**MARTIN HAYES & DENNIS  
CAHILL WITH SWITCHBACK**



APR. 22 | 8 PM

**JIMMY LAFAVE &  
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