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Westminster singers take top prize

The young chorus was named best at international competition in Denver

By SAM MILLER
The Orange County Register

DENVER – The city of Westminster packed a powerful wallop at this year's International Barbershop Harmony Society convention in Denver over the weekend.

The youthful barbershop quartet "OC Times" from Westminster, which says on its website that members are "inspired by artists like Michael Buble, Sinatra and Elvis," took second place Saturday night among 49 quartets in the annual competition that began July 4th, with members tenor Shawn York, lead Sean Devine, baritone Pat Claypool, and bass Cory Hunt.

They were bested by Max Q, whose members hail from Dallas, Toledo, Ohio, and Tampa, Fla. Third place was Storm Front from Denver.

On Friday, a Westminster group took home the top prize for the chorus competition, narrowly edging a group from Missouri.

The Westminster Chorus, whose 63 members are mostly in their teens or early 20s, were the youngest four-part harmony chorus ever to compete in the competition when they took second-place last year.

Now, they're the youngest to win it.

The group's score – comprising music, personality and singing – tied the Ambassadors of Harmony, a chorus out of St. Charles, Mo. But the Westminster Chorus easily outscored the Ambassadors on the singing score, which was the first tiebreaker.

On the group's MySpace page, messages of good luck turned to messages of "You guys so rocked tonight!" to exclamatory congratulations.

To learn more: <http://www.octimesquartet.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/westminsterchorus>

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