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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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MAY 22, 2025

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BARBERSHOP NEWS

Any plans this weekend?

The **UN-Convention** is THIS WEEKEND! You can still hop in your car and join your barbershop family in Nashville, TN. There are sure to be **tons of laughs** with relaxed fun, awesome games (you might even win a prize) AND Clever Girl, First Take, and Michigan Jake can't wait to amaze! But wait- there's more: Check out the order of appearance below and watch these quartets compete for a spot on the International stage in Denver.

HANG WITH US

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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION • DENVER

The AIC presents Remembering Time!

Featuring a remarkable eleven active International Quartet Champions! Plus 25th Anniversary Champs: Platinum and 50th Anniversary Champs: Happiness Emporium.

The most champions ever assembled for a single show!

And in honor of their 75th Anniversary, a tribute to our Most Famous Champion – the original quartet from Broadway's *The Music Man* – **The Buffalo Bills.**

See it in Person – Friday July 4th 7:30pm at the Buell Theater in Denver - or Catch the Live Stream anywhere worldwide!

Go to **AICGOLD.COM** for tickets and Live Stream access. Don't miss this once in a generation Spectacular!

GET TICKETS

Rep your chorus!

Did you know that BHS offers exclusive Chorus Competitor Tees, with competing chorus names on the back?!?!? Well- did you also know that these shirts are **only available ONLINE (not onsite)**, and will be shipped directly to your house BEFORE the convention so you can wear your shirt with pride as you travel to Denver? Order soon to allow for shipping time!

ORDER YOUR TEE

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The Apple Boys Are Headed to Off-Broadway!

"The most truly original new piece I've seen in ages." That's how theater critic Neal Zoren of Princeton *Community News* describes *The Apple Boys,* the barbershop-infused musical delight currently bringing down the house at **Bucks County Playhouse.** In a glowing new review, the show is praised for its "fantastically tight" harmonies and "a cappella pyrotechnics" — all delivered with signature barbershop flair. ***Read the full review here.***

Now, this joyful celebration of friendship, resilience, and ringing chords is preparing for its Off-Broadway debut in Spring 2026 — and you can help make it happen.

Want to support the show as more than just a fan?

Through WeFunder, individuals can invest directly in the commercial production — no backstage pass required. This is a rare opportunity to back a new musical that puts barbershop center stage, celebrates the power of harmony, and might just change the future of our art form like *The Music Man* did over 65 years ago.

LEARN MORE

Bring Your Voice to the BHS Team

Looking for a meaningful role where you can make a difference every day? The Barbershop Harmony Society is hiring a full-time **Customer Care Coordinator** - a front-line role supporting our members, chapters, and singing communities across the Society.

We'd love to welcome you to **Harmony Hall in Nashville**, but don't let distance hold you back. We're open to applicants from anywhere - and we're eager to find the right fit.

Don't hesitate to apply: while applications are open through **June 15**, we may fill the role sooner if we find our match.

LEARN MORE

Showcase yourself!

Do you have a product that you know barbershoppers love? Maybe you would like to congratulate a group or say "thank you"? BHS has several advertising options, but the **JUNE 1st deadline** is quickly approaching!

Email marketing@barbershop.org to reserve your ad or booth space!

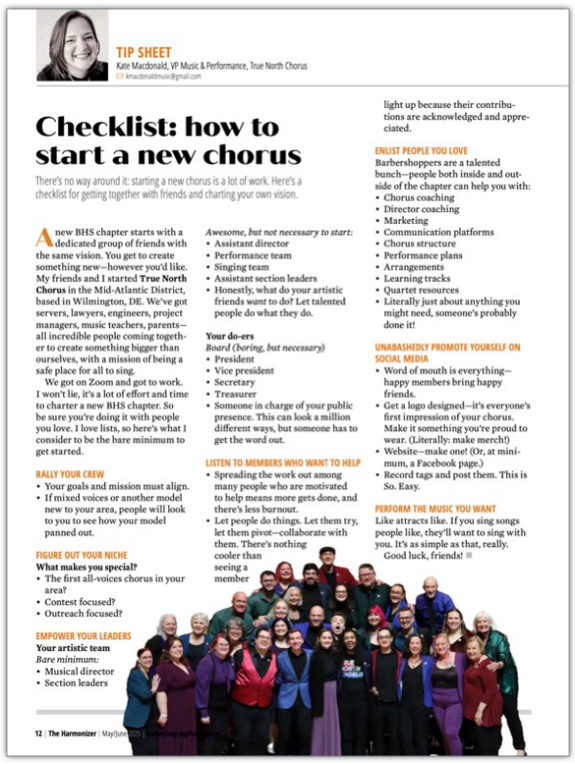
Try New Skills in a Live Quartet Sandbox
Working on your barbershop chops at HU? The **HU Brigade** lets you *put those skills to the test*—in real time, with real quartets. This immersive program is designed for experienced singers attending Harmony University solo who want to rehearse, perform, and grow alongside equally dedicated voices. You'll sing six high-level songs, swap quartet combinations, and compete for a chance to shine on the **Friday night show**.

One week left to apply—deadline is June 1. Don't miss this chance to go all-in on quartet singing. Apply today!

TEST YOUR SKILLS AT HU

HARMONIZER HIGHLIGHT

How to start a new chorus



TIP SHEET

Kate Macdonald, VP Music & Performance, True North Chorus

kmacdonaldmusic@gmail.com

Checklist: how to start a new chorus

There's no way around it: starting a new chorus is a lot of work. Here's a checklist for getting together with friends and charting your own vision.

A new BHS chapter starts with a dedicated group of friends with the same vision. You get to create something new—however you'd like. My friends and I started **True North Chorus** in the Mid-Atlantic District, based in Wilmington, DE. We've got servers, lawyers, engineers, project managers, music teachers, parents—all incredible people coming together to create something bigger than ourselves, with a mission of being a safe place for all to sing.

We got on Zoom and got to work. I won't lie, it's a lot of effort and time to charter a new BHS chapter. So be sure you're doing it with people you love. I love lists, so here's what I consider to be the bare minimum to get started.

RALLY YOUR CREW
- Your goals and mission must align.
- If mixed voices or another model new to your area, people will look to you to see how your model panned out.

FIGURE OUT YOUR NICHE
What makes you special?
- The first all-voices chorus in your area?
- Contest focused?
- Outreach focused?

EMPOWER YOUR LEADERS
Your artistic team
Bare minimum:
- Musical director
- Section leaders

Awesome, but not necessary to start:
- Assistant director
- Performance team
- Singing team
- Assistant section leaders
- Honestly, what do your artistic friends *want* to do? Let talented people do what they do.

Your do-ers
Board (boring, but necessary)
- President
- Vice president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Someone in charge of your public presence. This can look a million different ways, but someone has to get the word out.

LISTEN TO MEMBERS WHO WANT TO HELP
- Spreading the work out among many people who are motivated to help means more gets done, and there's less burnout.
- Let people do things. Let them try, let them pivot—collaborate with them. There's nothing cooler than seeing a member light up because their contributions are acknowledged and appreciated.

ENLIST PEOPLE YOU LOVE
Barbershoppers are a talented bunch—people both inside and outside of the chapter can help you with:
- Chorus coaching
- Director coaching
- Marketing
- Communication platforms
- Chorus structure
- Performance plans
- Arrangements
- Learning tracks
- Quartet resources
- Literally just about anything you might need, someone's probably done it!

UNABASHEDLY PROMOTE YOURSELF ON SOCIAL MEDIA
- Word of mouth is everything—happy members bring happy friends.
- Get a logo designed—it's everyone's first impression of your chorus. Make it something you're proud to wear. (Literally: make merch!)
- Website—make one! (Or, at minimum, a Facebook page.)
- Record tags and post them. This is So. Easy.

PERFORM THE MUSIC YOU WANT
Like attracts like. If you sing songs people like, they'll want to sing with you. It's as simple as that, really. Good luck, friends!

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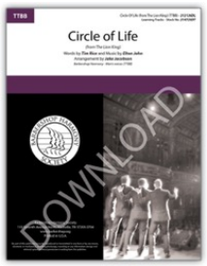
A few people, a shared vision,and a supersized serving of energy — and **this handy checklist** from Kate Macdonald, a co-founder of the Wilmington, Delaware **True North Chorus.** Divvy up the tasks and get going!

Keep growing! The entire ***Harmonizer* archive** is online in the BHS Member Center (**login required**.) Skim through decades of history, education, and memories, or **search the online index**.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Circle of Life
arr. Jake Jacobson



Majestic, sweeping, grandiose, inspiring… this thesaurus-buster of a song makes an indelible impression on audiences. A great show closer, this TTBB setting is within the abilities of many groups — but watch some of those high notes at the end!

BUY NOW! **print** • **download** • **tracks**

Preview the tracks on SoundCloud

FEATURED PERFORMANCE

All In • Why Try to Change Me Now
2025 Midwinter Thursday Night Show

Barbershop Harmony Society
110 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37203
615-823-8993 • 800-876-SING (7464)
customerservice@barbershop.org

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