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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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MARCH 21, 2024

BARBERSHOP NEWS

Head Start in Harmony rings with young singers



No matter how young you were when you started barbershopping, it probably wasn't THIS young. BHS/NAME [past award winner John Wernega](#) once again staged a free 2024 Head Start in Harmony A Cappella Children's Festival in Salem County, New Jersey, which taught kids grades K-8 to sing four-part a cappella barbershop and perform a concert. [Listen to those young voices](#) and imagine their bright futures!

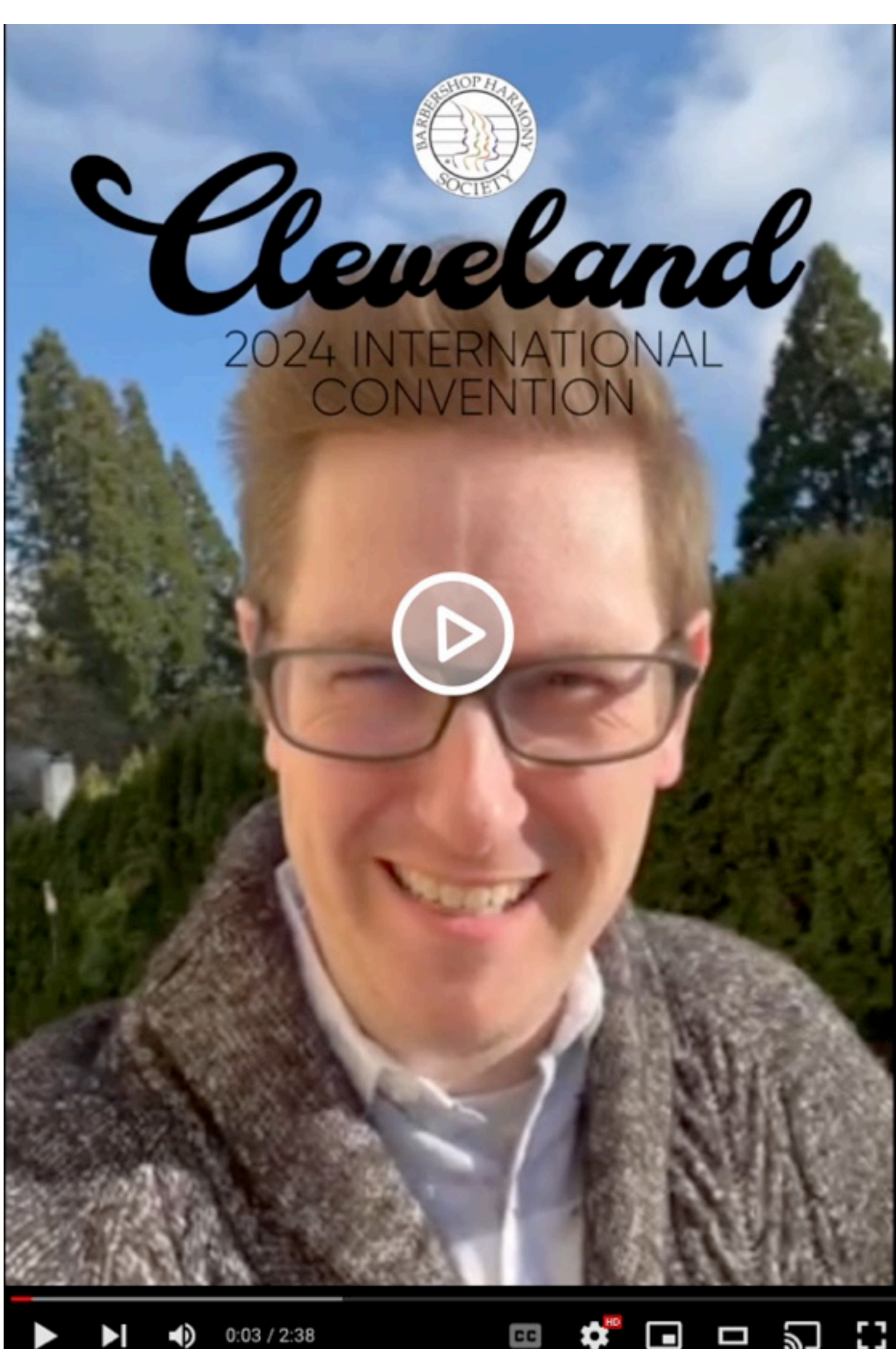
BIG STAGES • EASY ENTRY

Sing in a great chorus this summer!

BHS member surveys, anecdotes, and casual conversations often return to a similar theme: **"Make events more active — offer more ways to SING in addition to listening."**

Heard. The major events staged this summer by the Barbershop Harmony Society are loaded with opportunities for you to sing and learn from great directors, without audition or prior qualifying contest. Step onto big stages for new experiences, new friendships, and new growth as a Barbershopper.

Dream Chorus at International



Step up to the world stage! Feel the energy of a massive crowd, the excitement of singing at a high level for a champion director — Greg Clancy or Justin Miller. No audition required, no preliminary qualification event — but you're singing for an actual score, and actual official [International Chorus Contest](#) rank.

LIVE YOUR DREAM

Harmony University Choruses

Spend a week in choruses led by energetic, empathic, accomplished directors. You'll sing some great music, observe and enjoy high-quality teaching and rehearsal approaches, and perform with confidence for an eager HU audience. Choose from

- **Next Gen Chorus**, directed by Kim Newcomb
- **SSAA Chorus**, directed by Katy Dane
- **TTBB Chorus**, directed by Dan Wessler

PLUS, pick from a full and varied catalog of classes, vocal training offerings, and just plain fun hanging with Barbershoppers.

REGISTER FOR HU CHORUSES

HARMONIZER HIGHLIGHT

5 ways to live the music

5 WAYS TO LIVE THE MUSIC

1 **Recognize what makes you feel an emotion.** Knowing how to access your own fears, fears, and smiles makes it easier to do so when you're singing a song.

2 **Use your own experiences.** Find your own experiences that can relate to the story you are telling. If you're trying to conjure up an emotion for a song that you don't personally resonate with, think of a time that you felt that emotion. Don't just use your imagination; use all your senses.

3 **Embody the music.** Ask the W questions—what? what? what? where? why?—about your experience or character to determine the motivations and why they feel the way they do. Genuine emotion comes easier when you fully understand your character's given circumstances and the objective driving them, not just in the entire song, but verse to verse, line to line, and moment to moment.

4 **Use active words.** Assigning an active verb to your lyric can help you find the intention and subtext behind the words you will sing and therefore help you know how to feel. If your line is "get out," the emotion on your face will be different with the active verb (hurt) than it would be with the verb (plead).

5 **Be completely present.** Singers/performers should have the goal to not have to think about showing emotion in the moment, but to live it in it. Don't analyze how you're going to react, just let yourself react to the lyric and the music.

Cindy Hansen Ellis has for nearly 40 years helped BHS, SH, and H groups emotionally connect their music with their audiences. She is also judging for NAC, A&S, Nordonia A Cappella Festival, and more. CHansenE@sigmail.com

Some performers communicate best when they personally embody the music. Cindy Hansen Ellis offers a few [pathways for exploring](#) and sharing the heart of the song, in the March/April *Harmonizer*, in mailboxes now and [online anytime](#).

READ NOW

SERVICE • LEADERSHIP • VISION

IMAGINE THE FUTURE

2025 BHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Board seeks candidates for 2025

Nominations are now open for the election of the 2025 Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Board seeks people who might not have ever considered themselves for this role, whether from age, gender, background or previous barbershop experience. Learn more about the [2025 positions to be elected](#), [job descriptions](#), and [the timeline to apply](#).



Junior Chorus Festival Application Deadline EXTENDED!

Do you know of a music educator who is interested in a mountaintop barbershop experience for their students? Is your chapter interested in leading and championing a youth chorus?

There's still time to apply! The application deadline for the 2025 Junior Chorus Invitational in San Antonio has been **extended to April 4, 2024**.

LEARN MORE

FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Cypress Chord Club - Ma! She's Making Eyes At Me
Sunshine District • 1984

BHS ENERGIZES YOUNG SINGERS

GIVE TODAY

Your gift to the Next Generation Barbershop programs through Harmony Foundation helps BHS create unforgettable barbershop experiences for youth.



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