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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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AUGUST 22, 2024

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BARBERSHOP NEWS

Midwinter 2025 registration opens today

- Get the best seats on opening day!
- Housing open for best lodging options

Cleveland contest videos begin public releases this week

The broad public releases of performances from the 2024 International Contests begin this week on the Barbershop Harmony Society YouTube Channel. With 10-15 videos dropping every day, there will be plenty of opportunity to relish performers from the Next Generation Varsity Contest, the International Quartet Contest, and the International Chorus Contest. Be sure to share your faves widely!

Here's a sneak peek from the first batch!

The Ladies · A Thousand Things
2024 International Quartet Quarterfinals · Cleveland

Target scores published for 2025-2026

The Barbershop Harmony Society and its Contest & Judging Committee have **set the minimum and qualifying scores** for international events taking place in 2025 and 2026:

- **The minimum scores for the 2025 Midwinter Convention in San Antonio, TX (January 28- February 2) are unchanged and remain at 61%.**

The **2025 International Convention in Denver** (June 29-July 06) has the following minimum and qualifying scores:

- The Society previously announced the automatic qualifying score of 80% for the **2025 BHS International Chorus contest.** The minimum score will remain at 74%.
- The automatic qualification score for the **International Quartet Contest** will remain at 78%. The minimum score has been raised to 76%.

The **2026 Midwinter Convention** in Pasadena, CA (January 13-16) has the following minimum scores:

- The **International Seniors Chorus Contest** minimum score has been raised to 63%
- The **International Seniors Quartet Contest** minimum score has been raised to 63%.

The **2026 International Convention** in St. Louis, MO (June 28-July 5) has the following minimum and qualifying scores for choruses:

- The **International Chorus Contest** automatic qualification score will remain at 80%. The minimum score will remain at 74%.
- The **International Quartet Contest** automatic qualification score will be announced in the summer of 2025.

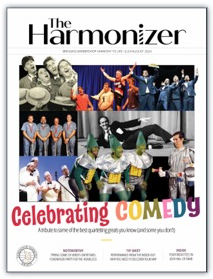
Due to the increase in qualifiers, the Society Contest & Judging Committee anticipates increasing the automatic qualifying scores in the future.

CALENDAR

There's a lot of great barbershop coming this Fall! Catch up on the **BHS Events Calendar**, with links to events across the Society.

HARMONIZER HIGHLIGHT

A tribute to quartet comedy



There's a reason that 75% of the most popular barbershop videos online are quartet comedy videos–it's what the public wants! From **The New Tradition** to **The Newfangled Four,** from **The Mid States Four** to **Metropolis,** the **July/August 2024 *Harmonizer*** celebrates some of the greatest all-time yuksters.

See it all— 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**.

VOLUNTEERS MATTER

Hot Barbershop Summer, powered by YOU!

Hey, did you know…

- That with 5500+ attendees, Cleveland 2024 was **the biggest BHS event** since Nashville 2016?
- That we SMASHED our projections for attendance and revenue?
- That HU/Denver was a big rebound, and another case of beating attendance projections **by more than 25%?**

Your Harmony Hall team and indispensable volunteer corps have been powered throughout the summer by a wave of energy from the thousands of Barbershoppers having fun doing what we do best: making music together, giving our gifts of time and talent.

How much time? Consider these estimates, which don't even count the volunteer hours of actual participants (performers, students, audiences):

- Cleveland volunteer hours, including convention set-up, operations, ushering, registration, contest runners, etc: **6510 hours**
- Harmony University faculty: **2200 hours instruction and prep**
- Judging Candidates School: **1500 hours**
- Society Board prep for meetings and elections: **250 hours**

You can't buy this kind of devotion, commitment, and LOVE for the barbershop community! To all who give of their knowledge, energy, and precious hours of lives — THANK YOU from the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Welcome, Judge Candidates

Speaking of selfless volunteerism ... earlier this month, the Contest & Judging Committee held its Candidates School and advanced a new cohort of talented individuals.

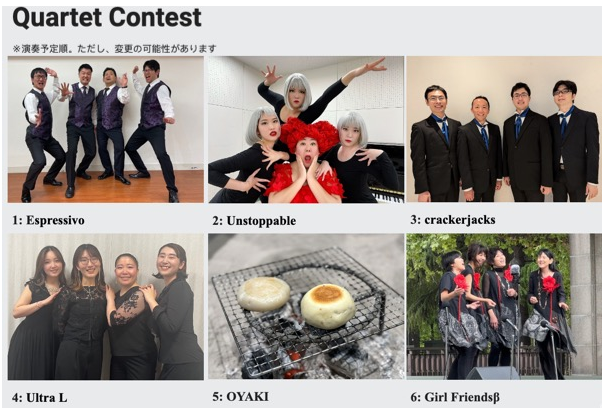
Administrative Judges		**Musicality Judges**	**Performance Judges**	**Singing Judges**
Fraser Baguma	Marcus Nielsen	Jake Bavarsky	Naud Berkhuizen	Lucas Bitzer
Michael Black	Diane Patterson	Alexander de Bruin	Dane Chevassus	Christian Diaz
Tyler Carpenter	Brett Randolph	Keegan Eich	Becki Hine	Darin Drown
Kelby Cluck	Terry Reynolds	Ben Lewin	Dan Krackhardt	Josh Gongaware
Ryan Collins	Chris Rodgers	Maggie McAlexander	Christopher Loftin	Keith Harris
Daniel Laguros	Don Shively	Matt Swann	Tom MIfflin	Brandon Rauch
Angie Morton		Matt Webber	Tim Milbrandt	Dan Rohovit
David Murphree			Josh Van Gorder	Mikael Wikström

Becoming a judge is a multi-year process, with most of the expense borne by the candidates themselves. Their reward: a volunteer job with long hours, late nights, and hardly any time to actually sing while at a barbershop convention.

Keep an eye open for these folks at conventions, online, and in practice sessions—and be sure to thank them for the hard work they are doing en route to further hard work ahead!

AUGUST 23-25

Japanese Barbershop Convention offers livestream



Barbershop singers in Japan will host an historic event next week: 18 quartets and 6 choruses will take part in a barbershop convention and contest in Yokohama. **Livestream audio is available** for this groundbreaking event. *Note: Yokohama, Japan is UTC +14 hours, so check dates and times carefully when purchasing.*

LEARN MORE

NAFME award nominations open

Music gives meaning to life, and our visible support for music in our communities should begin with the people on the front lines: the music educators who each day awaken the music within school children.

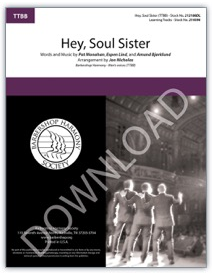
BHS has teamed with NAfME to create the Barbershop Harmony Society/NAfME Music Educator Award. The annual award has been established to honor educators who give students the opportunity to learn and participate in the joy and power that music education brings in uplifting the human spirit and fostering the well-being of society. (**Meet past honorees**.)

Read **why you should make a nomination for the BHS-NAfME Music Educator Award**, then consider making a nomination. Deadline for the 2025 Award is November 1.

LEARN MORE

Hey, Soul Sister
arr. Jon Nicholas

Irresistible pop vibes abound in this 2010 Grammy-winner. Easy to sing, it can be a nice transition in **performance** set of heavier fare, and lends itself to audiences chiming in on the chorus
voices **TTBB**
formats **PRINT** • **DOWNLOAD**
tracks **TTBB**



Preview the tracks on SoundCloud

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