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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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AUGUST 7, 2025

BARBERSHOP NEWS

2026 AND BEYOND

Qualifying scores updated

The Barbershop Harmony Society has raised the target qualification score for its International Quartet and Chorus Contests to **81**.

These qualifying scores will take effect for entering the BHS **2026** International **Quartet** Contest in St. Louis, and for the BHS **2027** International **Chorus** Contest in Minneapolis.

Minimum qualifying scores remain in place (76 for quartets, 74 for choruses), and all BHS Districts and Alliances will continue to have representation, provided they meet this minimum threshold.

Additionally, a new “sing-in” quartet qualifying event will be introduced at the **2026** International Convention in St. Louis. Quartets scoring at least 78 may compete in a special wild card round to earn a spot on the International stage.

[SEE FULL DETAILS](#)

See what you missed at HU 2025!



The tags, the laughs, the brains stuffed with barbershop wisdom — another fantastic week of the very best! [See highlights.](#)

FREE WEBINAR FOR EDUCATORS

Barbershop Repertoire for Choirs that Work

Thursday, August 14 • 7:00 pm Central
Speaker: Adam Scott

Discover accessible, engaging barbershop arrangements ideal for middle and high school choirs. This free seminar offers practical tools, repertoire suggestions, and teaching strategies to incorporate barbershop harmony into your program, enhancing musicality, student engagement, and vocal development.

[LEARN MORE](#)

HARMONIZER HIGHLIGHT

A new chapter show model

A new chapter show model

Somerset Hills Harmony netted \$14,000 for a concert in which hundreds of attendees saw their tickets paid for by area businesses

THE TAKEAWAY
The key elements of this show model are:

- Engage the teachers early with recognizable songs.
- The ticketholder and the purchaser can be different people.
- Sell ticket sponsorships. Ads are the byproduct.
- Involve the whole chapter.
- Get high-quality guest acts.
- The chorus immersion and jamboree experience create camaraderie and energy.
- This can be replicated by virtually any chapter, with or without the grant.

drew 150, about 500 short of a full auditorium.

The first task was to design an unforgettable musical experience that would appeal to non-Barbershoppers. This meant top-shelf guests, so we contracted multi-International Medalist Parkside Harmony as the guest choruses. Then we submitted a grant application to AHC/HBT for a paid model quartet. Fourteen months before the show, we learned that the grant had been awarded, and 2008 champion OC Time would be the featured quartet. There still needed to be a way to

entice hundreds more people to pay money to sit in the seats, unless... what if there was a way to find a bunch of people who would come to a concert and a bunch of other people to pay? We decided that the answer was to combine the chapter show with an educational event. We didn't want a youth explosion camp where kids sing together in a festival chorus. We set our sights on a choral immersion experience as follows:

- Embed students in the adult choruses to experience big ringing chords.
- Engage school choir directors to teach the songs in advance.
- Pick recognizable songs that appeal to all ages.
- Engage the adult choruses to provide a morning workshop to link students and adults.
- Invite younger students and their

Don Staffin is VP/Artistic Director of Somerset Hills Harmony and a Board Member of the Hershey, PA Chapter (Parkside Harmony) Parkside Melody donstaffin@gmail.com

Somerset Hills Harmony netted \$14,000 for a concert in which hundreds of attendees saw their tickets paid for by area businesses. [Find out how](#) in the latest Harmonizer, in mailboxes now and [always online](#).

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

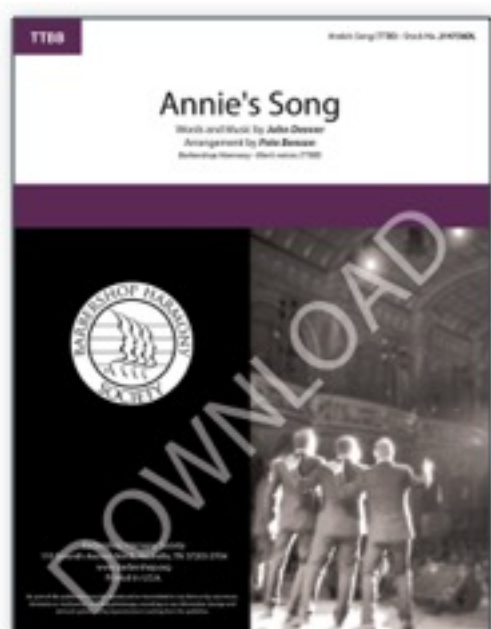
Annie's Song

arr. Pete Benson

It's hard to overstate how popular John Denver was during his 1970s peak, topping the charts in pop, country and adult contemporary genres. His television specials and movie appearances cemented his clean-cut, wholesome reputation—sometimes eclipsing his musical craftsmanship.

“Annie's Song,” a #1 hit in 1974, has a lovely melody, heartfelt lyrics, and was heard at just about every wedding reception for the next twenty years. Watch faces light up with fond recognition at the opening lyric, “You fill up my senses....”

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FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Cruise Control • Route 66/Take The 'A' Train
2025 Varsity Quartet Finals • Denver

Get First Look to watch new content as it's released!

For just \$7.99 per month, you can unlock [First Look](#), a YouTube subscription option from the Barbershop Harmony Society.

This week, we're continuing the [Next Generation Barbershop Varsity Quartet Finals](#) from the 2025 International Contests at Denver. First Look subscribers can see these great performances a month ahead of the general public releases — anytime, on any device.

[LEARN MORE](#)

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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