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AUGUST 21, 2025

New CEO assumes duties at Harmony Hall



Robert Rund, a career nonprofit leader and 50-year Barbershopper, this week officially took on the role of Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Joined by BHS President Kevin Keller, Robert started the week by meeting the headquarters staff in Nashville, where he has recently relocated. The new head of the staff expressed admiration for the professionalism and resilience of the group, along with the devotion and commitment of the volunteer

leadership throughout the Society's chapters, districts and Society Board. "In the months ahead, we'll be focusing on a thorough review of our operations, ensuring strategic alignment, identifying development needs, and advancing both immediate and long-term growth initiatives," said Rund. "At the heart of it all is the deep sense of belonging that defines us as Barbershoppers -a treasure I believe the whole world deserves to experience."

LIVESTREAM THIS WEEKEND

Japan Barbershop Convention blossoms into



The emerging barbershop community in Japan steps forward this weekend for its second major convention, and you can listen in to the action from around the world!

Following last year's **landmark inaugural event**, the 2025 **Japan** Barbershop Convention has slated six choruses and sixteen quartets to appear on the contest stage. Two groups, The Lockers chorus and the <u>Vagabonds</u> quartet, subsequently were welcomed to tremendous ovations at the BHS International Convention in Denver.

Listen live!

All times Japan Standard Time. Note: Yokohama, Japan is UTC +14 hours, so check dates and times carefully when purchasing.

Quartet Semifinals Saturday, August 23

12:00 - 17:00 JST **Chorus Finals**

Saturday, August 23 18:00 - 21:00 JST

Quartet Finals

Sunday, August 24 12:00 - 17:00 JST

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HARMONIZER HIGHLIGHT



"Squeak" Tilton has been going full steam ever since joining the Society in 1948, with the same energy and enthusiasm at age 94 that he brought at age 17. Meet our oldest currently active singer*, in the July/August Harmonizer, online now at **barbershop.org/harmonizer**.

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.

* Note to sticklers (i.e. 79.17% of Livewire readers), to the best indications of our records:

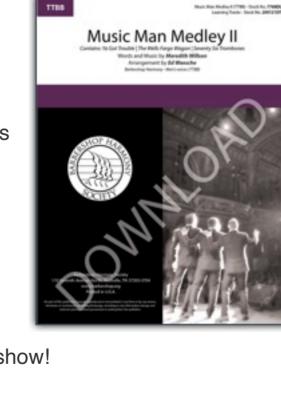
- Squeak is the longest serving member currently active in a chapter and quartet.
- Elmer Fairbanks is our longest serving living member at 79 years of service, although not currently in a registered chapter or quartet. Last we heard, he was still actively singing in his nursing home.
- Additionally, our oldest active member appears to be Frank Marazano, 102 years old, currently a registered member of Harmony United in the Greater Detroit Chapter.
- So Squeak is specifically the longest serving BHS member who is actively in a quartet and chorus, and is our 58th oldest member.

Let us all doff our ole skimmer hats to these pillars of barbershop longevity!

SONG OF THE WEEK

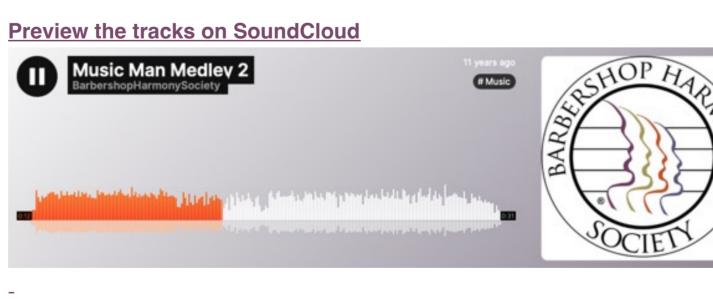
Music Man Medley II arr. Ed Waesche

In the second half of the last century, the gateway to barbershop for most Americans was Meredith Willson's famous Broadway musical. Arranging GOAT contender (fight me!) Ed Waesche's 3-song medley hits the nonquartet favorites: "Ya Got Trouble," "The Wells Fargo Wagon," and "Seventy-Six Trombones." Add in quartet faves "Sincere," "Lida Rose," or "Till There Was You" and you have a fantastic show!



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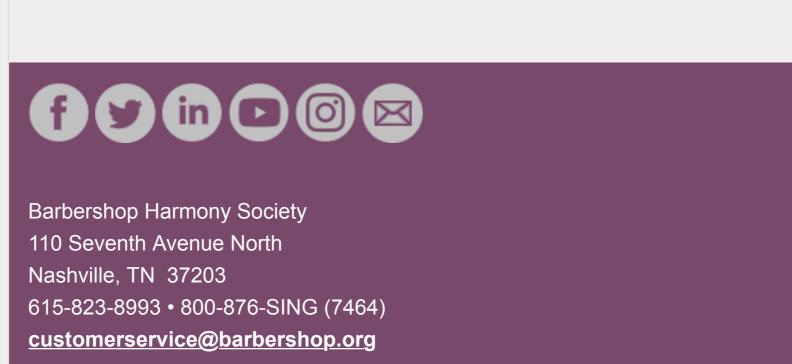
2025 International Chorus Contest · Denver Get First Look to watch new content as it's

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