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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

BARBERSHOP NEWS



Midwinter Registration Open!

Registration for the BHS [2026 Midwinter Convention](#) in Pasadena, California is now open! Join us January 13-18 for the non-stop fun!



PASADENA

2026 MIDWINTER CONVENTION

Register NOW to save and get the early-bird rates! Midwinter will showcase:

- Seniors Quartet Contest
- Seniors Chorus Contest
- Junior Quartet Contest
- Junior Chorus Contest

[REGISTER NOW](#)



FROM CEO ROBERT RUND

Finding the true rewards of competition

Last week I shared some reflections on barbershop conventions. As we begin the fall district competition cycle this weekend, I've been thinking about the unique role competitions play in our barbershop journey. Having spent many years on the contest stage in both quartets and choruses, I'd like to share a few beliefs I've developed along the way.



There is **tremendous value in barbershop competitions**, and most of it happens long before you ever step on stage. The hours of rehearsal, the artistic growth, the teamwork, and the deepening bonds with fellow singers—that's where the real rewards live.

Our **Society Contest and Judging Committee** is one of our greatest assets. Beyond producing fair and consistent events, the judging system provides powerful educational feedback to help ensembles grow. Think of it as a masterclass designed specifically for your quartet or chorus.

One truth I've learned: the only contest result you can truly control is your own performance. Scores, rankings, and medals will come and go, but our calling as performers is to connect with audiences. If you can move someone in the audience—whether through joy, laughter, or goosebumps—you've already won.

My own contest experiences, like many of yours, include both thrilling victories and disappointing finishes. But the lasting lesson is this: **it's not about the numbers on the score sheet—it's about what you do with them**. Every evaluation is an opportunity to refine your craft and raise your standard of performance.

As a coach and chorus director, I was often asked why we spent so much time on just two contest songs. My answer was always simple: by diving deeply into two songs, we raise the bar for everything else we sing. That investment in detail not only strengthens our entire repertoire but also deepens our connection with every audience we face.

So as you head into this season of conventions and contests, remember to celebrate the journey and those who make it possible. If you see a competitor, a production team member, or a judge, take a moment to thank them. Each is contributing to the fabric of our shared barbershop experience.

In Harmony,
Robert Rund

P.S. Contests can feel pretty serious, but humor is often what we remember most. I'd love to hear your funniest contest memories! Send a story, photo, or video to CEO@barbershop.org.

SONG OF THE WEEK

Arranger spotlight: Mark Hale



BHS proudly publishes a huge range of music for singers in all ensembles, all voices, and from all eras. Sometimes, the sheer volume of choices can seem overwhelming. What's a music shopper to do?

Well, in addition to searching by voices, difficulty level, or season, you can also readily find the work of arrangers you love. This week, we're highlighting the work of [2025 inductee](#) to the BHS Hall of Fame, **Mark Hale**. Mark is famous as lead of 2001 quartet champs **Michigan Jake**, four chorus championships leading the **Masters of Harmony**, among other groups. See some of his [great work](#), published at shop.barbershop.org.



And while you're browsing, consider the work of these greats — some well-known oldie goldies, some recent and rising stars. Never heard of them? All the more reason to browse!

- [Steve Delehanty](#)
- [Liz Garnett](#)
- [Mark Hale](#)
- [Theo Hicks](#)
- [Kevin Keller](#)
- [Fred King](#)
- [Kohl Kitzmiller](#)
- [Joe Liles](#)
- [Patrick McAlexander](#)
- [Lou Perry](#)
- [Robert Rund](#)
- [Lloyd Steinkamp](#)
- [Dan Wessler](#)
- [Kirk Young](#)

FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Sirens of Gotham • Let You Break My Heart Again
2025 International Chorus Contest • Denver

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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