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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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OCTOBER 23, 2025

BARBERSHOP NEWS

CHAPTERS SERVING COMMUNITIES

The gifts that continue giving

Keeping all the joy of music to ourselves seems terribly self-serving. That's why so many BHS chapters and quartets commit themselves to expanding the world of vocal music in all directions.



The **Southern Tier Barbershop Chorus**, Binghamton, New York, has commemorated the legacy of one of its cherished past members by establishing the Mac Sabol Memorial Scholarship for Music. Established in 2021, it annually makes two \$1,000 awards to local students who pursue education in music.

"Life happens and we respond to it in endless ways," said chapter treasurer Tom Landon. "Sometimes, our response brings unexpected joy and gratitude in ways we never imagined."

A quarter-century of impact!



Continuing a tradition dating back more than 25 years, the Sarasota Chorus of the Keys recently awarded \$6,000 in Sheridan E. Brown Memorial Scholarships for 2025 to three high school seniors who have demonstrated outstanding musical achievement and will pursue a degree that includes a music curriculum

Looking ahead to 2026 — As your chapter begins to look at its 2026 budget, how will support for local music education fit into your plans?

BEST CHOICES NOW!

Get great seats at the best rates

With the Fall district convention season concluded, now's a good time to **lock in your seats** for the **BHS 2026 International Convention** in St. Louis!

If you act now, you'll find some **pretty sweet spots in the Regular section**, or you can splurge and move up a few more rows to the Premium seats.

Either way, you'll have great views and sound for the biggest week in barbershop!



REGISTER NOW



Smoke Ring wows 2025 Harmony Sweepstakes



Where there's Smoke Ring, there's fire! The BHS International Quartet Finalist ignited the crowd as it captured both the overall championship and Audience Favorite awards in the 40th anniversary Harmony Sweepstakes competition.

Barbershop has been well represented in the Sweeps through the years, including national wins by **Metropolis** (1998), the **Perfect Gentlemen** (2002), **Hi-Fidelity** (2006), **MAXX Factor** (2009, later Sweet Adelines Queens of Harmony), and **Da Capo** (2011.)

FROM CEO ROBERT RUND

The value of barbershop tag singing

Tag singing is one of the most joyful and uniquely communal traditions in our hobby. These moments of spontaneous harmony capture the essence of barbershop: connection, creativity, and shared musical discovery.

What makes tag singing so special is its accessibility. You don't need to have a registered quartet, a costume, or even a full song...just a few voices and the willingness to try. Singers of all skill levels can join in, learn by ear, and experience the instant gratification of ringing a chord together. The simplicity of the format fosters mentorship: experienced singers teach newcomers the parts, often passing along musical wisdom that can't be learned from sheet music alone. While it's great that there are tag apps, I do love our way of building aural skills and putting down the screens.

Beyond the music, tag singing builds community. It breaks down barriers between generations, chapters, and even languages, uniting people through the universal language of harmony. Many lifelong friendships and even championship quartets have started with a late-night tag session.

In its purest form, tag singing reminds us why we sing: not just for performance, but for the thrill of blending, learning, and belonging—four voices at a time.

In Harmony,

Robert



SONG OF THE WEEK



Winter Wonderland

arr. Ed Waesche

A reliable favorite for the holiday season! Ed Waesche's classic chart is clean, straightforward barbershop, and easy to learn in a single night. It makes a great gateway song for inviting new singers to participate in a holiday concert. Offered in all voicings, with tracks from Kohl Kitzmiller and Kim Newcomb.

voices **TTBB** • **SATB** • **SSAA**

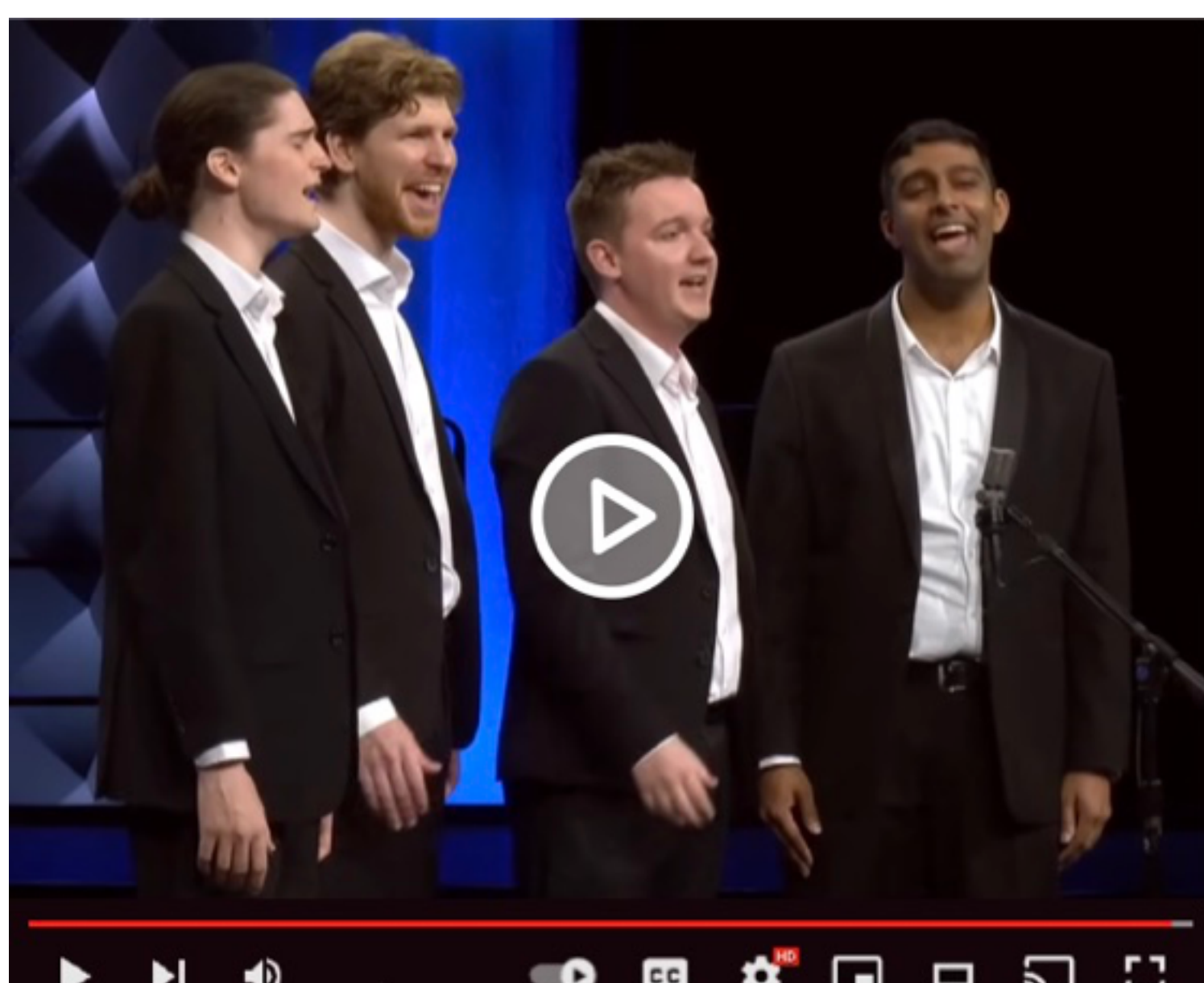
formats **PRINT** • **DOWNLOAD**

tracks **TTBB** • **SATB** • **SSAA**

[Preview the learning tracks on SoundCloud](#)



FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Plead the Fifth - When I Was Your Man
2025 Varsity Quartet Finals



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