livewire

news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

BARBERSHOP NEWS

History conversation explores path to the future

Our Black History Month programming continues with the YouTube release of our second panel discussion, "**Tension & Release: Moving Forward in Harmony**.

Using barbershop's own musical language, we consider how differences in perspective are not obstacles, but opportunities for growth. Panelists reflect on how historical awareness can strengthen community bonds, how spaces of compassion and understanding can be intentionally cultivated, and where the Society can focus its efforts to make inclusion a lived experience rather than an abstract goal.

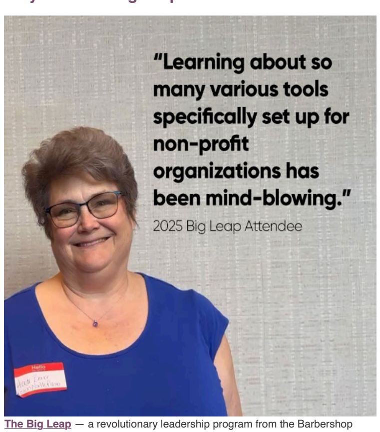
LEARN MORE & WATCH

Vintage education video racking up views

Classic '70s haircuts, vocal stylings, and famous faces like The Okie 4 and Bob Johnson have powered a short 2-minute explanation of the barbershop style to viral hit status! "That's Barbershop" is scoring millions of views and boosting our reach. Watch, like, and share!

APRIL 10–12 • SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Why take The Big Leap?

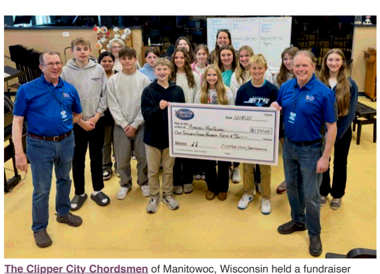


The Big Leap — a revolutionary leadership program from the Barbershop Harmony Society — is all about **fresh thinking.** It's about innovation, growth mindset, smarter use of technology, stronger community connections, and new ways to energize volunteers and revenue.

Is your chapter ready to take the leap? Thanks to the Northeastern District, you can bring your team to an event open to all chapters!

DETAILS & REGISTRATION

Chapter fundraiser nets $16K for local school music programs



The Clipper City Chordsmen of Manitowoc, Wisconsin held a fundraiser concert entitled "Teach the World to Sing" last year that raised nearly $16,000 which will be shared equally with all high school vocal music programs in Manitowoc County, Wisconsin.

It's the latest success in a program that has been building for nearly ten years, when the Chordsmen updated their mission statement to reflect a desire to do more for their community. As a part of the Mission Statement, the Chordsmen "…strive to improve the quality of life for (their) members and (their) communities through music education and family-friendly musical entertainment."

This revision inspired the members to get more involved with their local music educators by volunteering to assist as door monitors and helpers for solo and ensemble contests, attending local high school musical productions and concerts, and by offering help directly to local educators with musical charts, learning tracks, coaching of student quartets, offering scholarships for summer music programs, and inviting the choruses to participate on their annual Christmas Show.

READ FULL STORY

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE MARCH 4

Directors: you BELONG at HU — and we'll help you get there

Over and over, chapters agree that an energized, well-supported director is a key to the health and happiness of their barbershop community. That's why the Barbershop Harmony Society has developed so many donor-supported pathways to its premier education event. There's a pretty good chance that your director meets the criteria for one of these scholarships:

- AISQC • Young Directors of Youth Choruses
- Grand Central Red Caps • Singers, music educators, and directors of color
- Music Educator Full Scholarship • Music Educators in the first 5 years of their teaching career
- Jim Miller • Directors who pursue artistic excellence in service of preserving barbershop music
- Peggy Leon • Women in Barbershop
- Robert & Judy Brown • for Barbershoppers demonstrating financial need & a strong commitment to service
- HU Half Scholarships • Music Educators, Frontline Directors, Next Generation Barbershoppers (ages 18-30), and/or those demonstrating financial need

LEARN MORE & APPLY

Get a free vocal assessment online

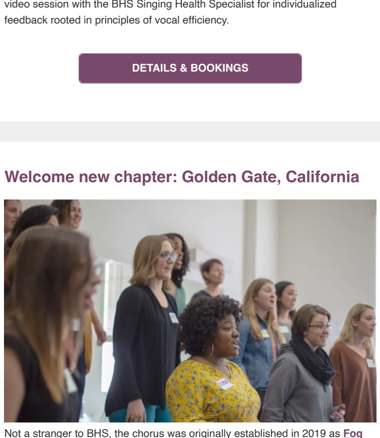
The Barbershop Harmony Society now offers free Voice Assessments for BHS members experiencing vocal fatigue, instability, or effort that feels inefficient.

This confidential, non-medical assessment reviews rehearsal load, performance demands, and common coordination patterns that may impact tone, endurance, and reliability.

Participants complete a brief online screening and receive a free follow-up video session with the BHS Singing Health Specialist for individualized feedback rooted in principles of vocal efficiency.

DETAILS & BOOKINGS

Welcome new chapter: Golden Gate, California



Not a stranger to BHS, the chorus was originally established in 2019 as Fog City Harmonia, part of the Barbary Coast Chapter. Harmonia reached the BHS international stage in 2023 and again in 2025. Now, a new chapter opens for **Harmonia,** as the newly chartered **Golden Gate Chapter.**

You can make a difference as a Society Board Member

Nominations will open soon for the election of the 2027 Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society. We're looking for leaders from all backgrounds to help shape the future of barbershop. The Board especially wants to **encourage applications from people who previously might never have considered themselves** qualified for the role - whether from demographics (age, gender, heritage), previous barbershop experience, or lack of connections throughout the barbershop world.

Learn about the duties, process and timelines, or schedule an informal chat with team members.

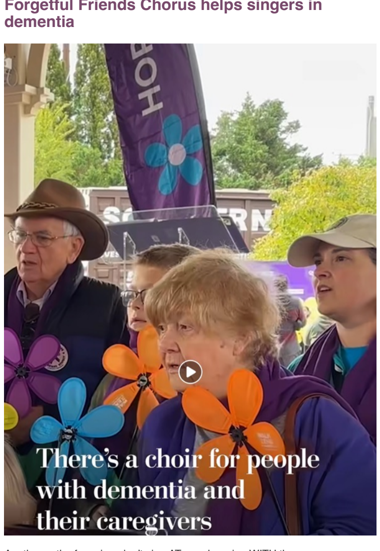
The Leadership Development Committee will be hosting the three Open House Virtual Meetings to answer any questions you may have about serving on the BHS Board or the application process.

- Sunday, March 15 • 3:00pm
- Wednesday, March 18 • 8:00pm
- Friday, March 27 • 8:00pm

LEARN MORE

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?

Forgetful Friends Chorus helps singers in dementia



Another path of service: don't sing AT people—sing WITH them.

That's what happens in the Forgetful Friends Chorus of Manassas, Virginia, where people with dementia find happiness and respite singing familiar music.

As reported in the Washington Post, "Procedural memory, a type of long-term memory, is what makes it possible for dementia patients to summon long-ago lyrics, experts say — even as they forget their loved ones' names, how to write checks and how to take care of themselves."

READ MORE

SONG OF THE WEEK

It's De-Lovely
arr. Kohl Kitzmiller

Classic Cole Porter! Clever word play, catchy melody, captured by Kohl Kitzmiller's arrangement that screams barbershop in every fat chord. Audiences will eat this one up, and you'll have a ball singing it!

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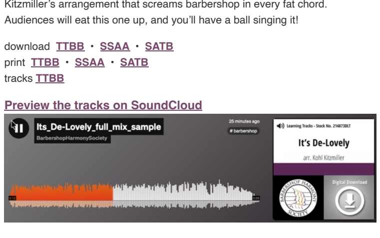
tracks TTBB

Preview the tracks on SoundCloud



FEATURED PERFORMANCE

Dynasty • In My Daughter's Eyes
2026 Midwinter Convention • Pasadena

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