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news from the Barbershop Harmony Society

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MARCH 19, 2026

BARBERSHOP NEWS



MIDWINTER KEYNOTE • JOE CERUTTI

“You’re gonna be a Barbershopper” — and maybe something more

Director of Philanthropy Joe Cerutti draws on his rich experience as a Barbershopper, student of leadership, and architect of a model community involvement initiative, to weave a compelling vision of the future of BHS.

[WATCH NOW](#)



Sing, compete, learn and BARBERSHOP at District Conventions

Shake off the winter blues and welcome Spring with some singing! Coming this weekend:

- [Far Western Northern Divisions](#) • Stockton, CA
- [Southeastern Harmony District](#) • Knoxville, TN
- [Mid-Atlantic Central/Southern Division and Prelims](#) • Towson, MD

Keep up with [all the upcoming events](#).

JUST A WORD with Robert Rund



Stourzando - Little Town in The Ould County Down

Robert Frost once said that “a poem is best read in light of all the other poems ever written.” I feel the same way about songs, chords, or even places for that matter.

Given St. Patrick’s Day this week, I went down a bit of a rabbit hole of songs related to Ireland arranged in the barbershop style. This led me to listening to every recording I could find of “Little Town in the Ould County Down.” The song itself is over 100 years old, and Lou Perry’s masterful arrangement sounds as fresh now to me as I imagine it did when it was first introduced to the BHS community in the 1960s by **The Four Statesmen**, 1967 International Champions.

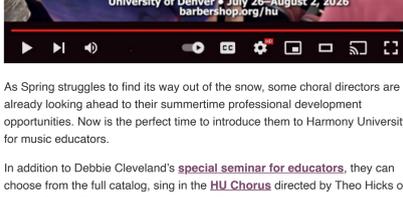
But, thanks to YouTube, you can easily access wonderful recordings by excellent quartets from every decade since. These include **Purple Rebar**, **Incognito** and Varsity Quartet **Frostbite** (2020s), **Stourzando** (2010s), 2011 International Champs, **Old School** (2000s), **Genuine Blend** (90s), 1988 International Champs, **Chiefs of Staff** (80s), all with very few, if any, changes to Lou’s original chart. I even stumbled onto recordings of this gem by **Les Botones**, a quartet from Barbershop Harmony South America (BSAS), **Uncalled 4** from Barbershop Harmony Australia (BHA). I loved watching and listening to all of these performances, each for different reasons.

It then occurred to me just how cool it is that, clearly inspired by a small town in Northern Ireland, Richard Pascoe, Monte Carlo and Alma Saunders penned this song so long ago; that Lou Perry crafted such a perfect and timeless barbershop arrangement; and that quartets from all corners of the earth have shared this beautiful piece of repertoire in common. “In light of all songs ever written” and arranged in the barbershop style, this one holds a special place among them. Just one more reason I LOVE barbershop!

In Harmony,

Robert Rund
CEO, Barbershop Harmony Society

Music educators belong at Harmony University



Harmony University University of Denver • July 26-August 2, 2026 barbershop.org/hu

As Spring struggles to find its way out of the snow, some choral directors are already looking ahead to their summertime professional development opportunities. Now is the perfect time to introduce them to Harmony University for music educators.

In addition to Debbie Cleveland’s [special seminar for educators](#), they can choose from the full catalog, sing in the [HU Chorus](#) directed by Theo Hicks or the [Next Gen Chorus](#) directed by Neyla Pekarek, and discover how barbershop appeals to singers of all ages.

Add a little scholarship incentive from your own chapter, and you can hew a path to continued barbershop success in your local schools.

Share the [course catalog](#) (or [download as PDF](#) and email to them.)

HQ LEADERSHIP

Bill Stauffer named Director of Music and Education

Veteran Barbershopper, arranger, quartetter, and chorus director Bill Stauffer has joined the BHS staff. He brings more than three decades of leadership experience across the nonprofit and technology sectors, more than 40 years of barbershop experience, and an abiding love for building community through song.



Bill has competed internationally in multiple quartets, arranged music performed by international champion ensembles, and directed choruses at the highest levels, including three consecutive International top 10 finishes with **Voices of Gotham**.

HARMONIZER HIGHLIGHT

In Good Taste

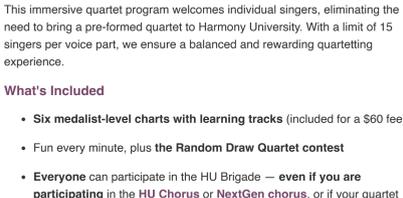
How can Performance judges prepare to adjudicate questions of taste for performances that haven’t happened yet? Help has come from sources like Beyoncé, Meatloaf, and Marilyn Manson. See [how the judging community explored these questions](#), and the wide [range of artists they considered](#) in the latest *Harmonizer*, in mailboxes now and [always online](#).



Keep reading! The entire [Harmonizer](#) (login required.) Skim through decades of history, education, and memories, or [search the online index](#).

SIGN UP NOW

eXtreme quartetting — all week long at the Harmony University Brigade!



The **Harmony University Brigade** offers a **ready quartet experience** for **all voices** designed for barbershop singers premy to sing at a mid-high level. This immersive quartet program welcomes individual singers, eliminating the need to bring a pre-formed quartet to Harmony University. With a limit of 15 singers per voice part, we ensure a balanced and rewarding quartetting experience.

What's Included

- **Six medalist-level charts with learning tracks** (included for a \$60 fee).
- **Fun every minute, plus the Random Draw Quartet contest**
- **Everyone** can participate in the HU Brigade — **even if you are participating in the HU Chorus or NextGen chorus**, or if your quartet or chorus is being coached!

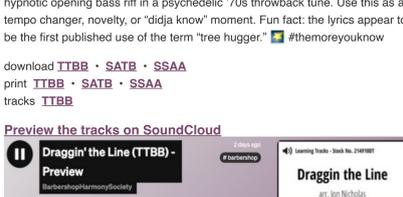
[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



Keeping Their Melody Ringing: Preserving the Legacy of Barbershop

Thanks to generous donors, the Keep A Melody Ringing plaque continues to honor the memory of “those who loved the sweet sounds of barbershop harmony...” A few new names were added this week: **Daniel (Dan) M. Brinkmann** • **William (Bill) M. Carr, Sr.** • **Jim Funderburg** • **Lawrence Hills** • **Donald (Don) L. Horton** • **Donald M. Lind** • **Vincent R. Vespole** • **Vincent R. Winans**.

SONG OF THE WEEK



Draggin' The Line arr. Jon Nicholas

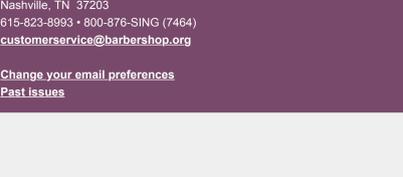
Tommy James’ only Top Ten hit after leaving The Shondells features that oddly hypnotic opening bass riff in a psychedelic ‘70s throwback tune. Use this as a tempo changer, novelty, or “dija know” moment. Fun fact: the lyrics appear to be the first published use of the term “tree hugger.” #themoreyouknow

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FEATURED PERFORMANCE



Westminister Chorus • Sloop John B 2026 Midwinter Convention • Pasadena

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