

The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025



LEMON
SQUEEZY

2025 INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CHAMPION



NOTEWORTHY

ROBERT RUND IS THE SOCIETY'S NEW CEO
GOING CRUISING AS A CHAPTER

INSIDE

COVERAGE OF THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION:
DENVER ENSEMBLES PROVIDED US A "HOW-TO"



PASADENA

2026 MIDWINTER CONVENTION

beautiful

sunny and warm
SoCal weather



shows
the BEST groups,
the BEST barbershop,
the BEST venues



celebrate

crowning new Junior and
Senior quartet champs



relaxed

bring the family,
come for the barbershop,
stay for even more fun

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JANUARY 13–18, 2026

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In This Issue

JULY/AUGUST 2025 • VOLUME LXXXV • NUMBER 4



It was just another day in Denver where one could see thousands of Barbershoppers walking past a giant blue bear alongside Deadpool wearing a Hello Kitty backpack and carrying a metal skeleton. Thanks to Fan Fest taking place in the same Convention Center, for once, singers wearing sequins and bow ties were barely worth a glance during the week of International.

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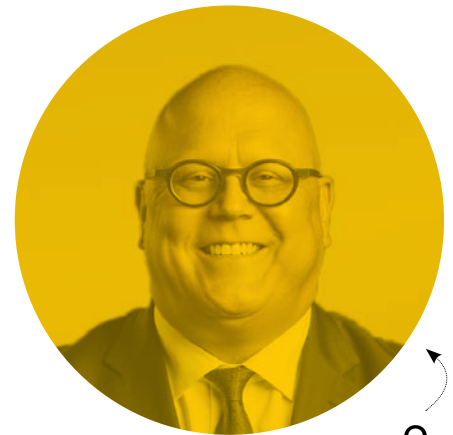
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FUN FALL HARVEST

NEW PRODUCTS ADDED REGULARLY!



BARBERSHOP.ORG

The Harmonizer

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Lorin May

OUR VISION
Everyone in Harmony

OUR MISSION
To bring people together in harmony and fellowship
to enrich lives through singing.

OUR PURPOSES
To perpetuate the old American institution:
the barbershop quartet and barbershop harmony
To promote appreciation of barbershop harmony
To initiate and maintain a broad program
of musical education, contests, and appreciation
in support of barbershop harmony and
the allied arts
To establish and maintain foundations that
support our vision
To initiate, promote and participate in charitable
projects that support our vision

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (DBA
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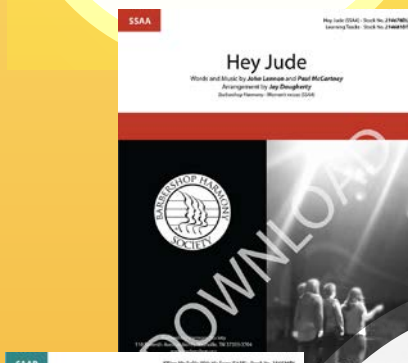
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NEW MUSIC

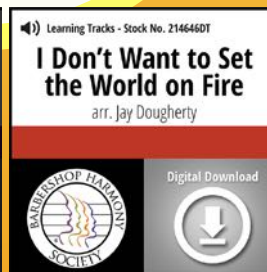
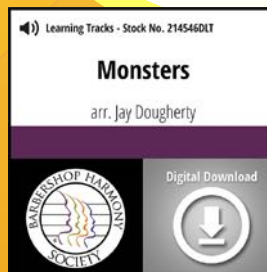
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The deeper meaning of “Unity in our community”



What BHS President Kevin Keller learned at the 2025 International Convention in Denver, why Robert Rund is our new CEO, and why we don't have to agree on everything in order to move the Society forward in unity

What a great time we had in Denver in early July at our International Convention. Long-time friends reunited and I'm confident many new friendships were forged.

Throughout this issue of *The Harmonizer* you'll see all sorts of mentions about the contests held. Congratulations to **Lemon Squeezy**, **The Vocal Majority**, and **Radiant** for your victories, but truly congratulations to all who walked across the stage and shared your gifts with us.

As I put in my foreword in the convention booklet (which I bet three people read!), I truly believe the best

conventions are where you think “Oh, yeah, a contest occurred.” If you walked away with your emotional tank overflowing with tags, laughter, hugs, and song, then you had a great time. Bonus if someone moved you with their performance. For me, the second song of **Pacific Connection**, “I Am Moana (Medley),” arranged by Aaron Dale, is a moment I'll remember the rest of my life. The video likely won't do it justice; you had to be in the theater. It happens every year: some performance captivates our minds and hearts. It's why we go year after year. You have to be there to experience it.

One of the things I will be focusing my energies on next year is volunteerism. We saw volunteers everywhere in Denver. My hat's off to the convention team and the flood of volunteers I saw at every turn. I tried to thank those I saw when I had the moment, but my sincere thanks to you for spending a few hours of the

convention week making sure others had the time of their lives. As you go through your life, take time to thank volunteers. They make a huge difference. It really is the lifeblood of our organization and always has been.

As the year has progressed and I run into friends as well as “future” friends (!), I am constantly asked, “Are you having fun being Society President?” My reply has been consistent: “I don't think in two years I will ever say being Society President is *fun*, but it is *rewarding*.” That answer changed that Thursday in Denver. One of the honors I had was celebrating our 50/60 year members. At 47 years

WE DON'T HAVE TO AGREE. ALL OF US CARE DEEPLY ABOUT THIS STYLE OF MUSIC AND ABOUT THE PEOPLE WE SING WITH. TO ME, THAT'S ALL THAT REALLY MATTERS. THAT'S WHERE WE START.



Get in Touch

Kevin Keller, Society President bhspresident@barbershop.org

myself, I'm only three years behind, so I knew many in the room; friends I have known in barbershopping for decades. Some like Jim Henry and Robert Rund I have literally known since my start as a Barbershopper. Others, like David Krause and John Stockstill, I met at my first Harmony College two years later. Giving these treasured pins to some of my dearest friends was fun! Hearing everyone's stories and seeing the pride in their accomplishment of 50 years was *fun*!

If you were as emotionally moved as I was throughout the week, then I will see you next year in my hometown, St. Louis, MO! Block out your calendar right now!

ROBERT RUND, SOCIETY CEO

One of the major tasks of the Society Board was interviewing for our CEO/Executive Director. For nearly two years Steve Denino has served as Interim CEO. We are now in far better financial shape than where we were. Steve helped reinvigorate our strategic plan and set things in motion for the future. The Board is grateful for Steve's leadership over the past 22 months.

At the end of the Denver convention, although only a few saw it, we did have "white smoke." It was announced on July 15 that Robert Rund is our new CEO/Executive Director. A 50-year member (he joined when he was 7!),

he is literally a life-long Barbershopper. He has experienced barbershop in nearly every form it can be experienced. Joe Barbershopper chorus member, quartetter, arranger, director. His vast experience in seeing barbershop in every form it can take will serve all of us. On the professional side, he has spent nearly all of his professional career as an executive in various cultural and arts organizations. He will bring those experiences to help us work towards our mission and vision. BHS is fortunate to have Robert's services and we are excited to see where Robert will lead us in the future.

UNITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

In closing, I realize that I don't discuss enough "Unity In Our Community." With a new CEO in place and a Society that is now more stable post pandemic, it is time to grow and move forward. We can only do that if we are all unified that we want barbershop to thrive beyond our own chapter walls.

I got a great email from a member after my article about "The Good Old Days." He cited that he was going to reconsider his language about talking about the barbershop style with new members. He doesn't like stylistically where barbershop music has landed, but he still believes deeply in the barbershop style and promoting barbershop to new people. He identified that

IT IS TIME TO GROW AND MOVE FORWARD. WE CAN ONLY DO THAT IF WE ARE ALL UNIFIED THAT WE WANT BARBERSHOP TO THRIVE BEYOND OUR OWN CHAPTER WALLS.

if he speaks negatively about where we are today, who would bother joining? And then barbershop dies.

For me, this was a sign that "Unity In Our Community" is not only possible, but is so important. We don't have to agree. All of us care deeply about this style of music and about the people we sing with. To me, that's all that really matters. That's where we start. If we can be unified in purpose, then our Society can move in a direction towards fulfilling our mission and vision.

If you believe in the preservation of the barbershop style and the community that barbershop can create, then choose words and actions that speak towards unity, not divisiveness. Focus on the joy that barbershop and community can bring!

Meet me in St. Louis! Block out your calendar right now, for June 28–July 5! ■

INNOVATIVE USE OF TAGGING TO STRENGTHEN MEMBERS AND CONNECT WITH COMMUNITIES

A response to Kevin Keller's "Are you 'green and growing' or 'ripe and rotting?'" column, July/August 2025 issue.

The Great Northern Union (GNU) went through big changes and challenges before and after the pandemic, years in which we transformed from a large powerhouse men's chorus to a smaller and once struggling all-voices chorus. It took our group a long time to reconcile the past with the present. But after several years of fumbling our way forward, we feel we have found a new groove.

Tags offer a welcoming entry point to those new to barbershop. GNU is developing member confidence by setting aside time at every rehearsal to learn a tag and inviting everyone into voluntary pick-up quartets. Thanks in part to a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, we created a tagging booth for street fairs and other community events. It's a low-cost, high-impact way to share the joy of barbershop, demonstrating that this vibrant art form is alive, dynamic, and incredibly fun to sing as we share the enduring



beauty of barbershop with the world.

– Chris Dart, GNU Secretary, secretary@gnusings.com



Barbershop is belonging

Robert Rund comes to the CEO job with perspective grown from decades of experience as a barbershop singer, arranger, and director, and an accomplished leader and fundraiser in arts organizations.



BRIAN: You're coming to the CEO role as a 50-year Barbershopper. Your deep history as a member is definitely reassuring to many Barbershoppers.

ROBERT: My personal conundrum is being considered "old school" in barbershop by virtue of my origins—I joined SPEBSQSA at age 7!—yet, I don't feel old school in my head. I really embrace all of the young talent and the incredible progress we've made musically. When I go to conventions and see the "young" folks—under 20? under 30?—out there tagging, it just gives me the greatest thrill. I love that

they're doing their own things. I love that there's a million new arrangers out there, and I love that they think they know better, on some level, than the rest of us. That's what I did when I was a kid, you know?

My goal is to keep all of us appreciating the other. Whatever end of any spectrum we're on, to really, truly value the benefits of all perspectives.

Since being hired as CEO, I've gotten all this positive reaction from seemingly contradictory voices, and I wonder, gosh, what is it that they think I'm gonna represent that they like? I'm grateful, and just the right amount of nervous, too.

I once took a two-year course in leadership development. It was every week, three hours, one-on-one, very difficult, very challenging. The basic premise was, you lead as you are. There's no way around that. So, authentic leadership is everything for me.

What I took from that was a daily discipline that I still do every single day, which I call my posture toward the world—that I'm receiving and listening with a mind towards service.

GETTING STARTED IN THE JOB

ROBERT: The First 100 Days concept regarding a new leader is exciting for some people, but maybe has less relevance in an organization that's 87 years old. One of my favorite books is "Pacing for Growth," written by a marathon runner who also has been an organizational leader. It talks a lot about the "Urgent and Important" matrix, an issue I'm focused on as things get thrown at me here in the first few weeks.

I want to keep the urgency in the right spot. We're going to do the right things in the right times in the right way. There are plenty of things that seem to scream *urgent!*, but whose solutions aren't immediately accessible.

In organizations that I've led in the past, these urgencies have come from either internal pressures, or market pressures, to respond to different needs for change or growth.

BHS is very different from a professional position I entered in 2008. That organization was weathering the global financial crisis, and was facing whether or not it could stay in business or meet payroll. From that perspective, survival is always one end of the spectrum of commanding urgency.

Here at BHS today, I don't see that situation. We have quite a stable business at the moment—yes, with

"WHEN PEOPLE COME TO BARBERSHOP, I WANT THEM TO FEEL LIKE IT'S THEIR HOME, WHERE THEY BELONG. OUR JOB IS TO BRING PEOPLE HOME TO BARBERSHOP."



Get in Touch

Robert Rund, CEO CEO@barbershop.org

some headwinds in the world as a whole, but really, our prosperity centers on getting to know our members better, getting to know our prospective members, and defining what a member means.

I really like to couch that in the word “belonging.” I think if we can create a sense of belonging, it doesn’t matter whether you’re in a chapter or whether you attend a convention or a chapter show. They’re all forms of engagement.

We’ve focused very heavily on our traditional bread and butter, which is a membership and a chapter, and I think we’re gonna focus on expanding that concept, and introducing and engaging people at a variety of different levels.

I had a philosophy when I started a concert series in New Jersey: Come as you are, leave changed. I love that. It’s important to meet people exactly where they are at this moment. We can be engaging people at the next orders of magnitude, more consistent with our YouTube subscriber base in the hundreds of thousands, and tens of millions of annual views.

The greater challenge for us in 2025 is engaging people in live, in-person experiences, as opposed to whatever they can access through

THE GREATER CHALLENGE FOR US IN 2025 IS ENGAGING PEOPLE IN LIVE, IN-PERSON EXPERIENCES, AS OPPOSED TO WHATEVER THEY CAN ACCESS THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA OR ON THEIR PHONE.

digital media or on their phone. I have no doubt that barbershop’s gonna live on, barbershop music in general. Our thriving starts with a better understanding of who our market is— both those that have joined and left, to those that had no idea that they could engage in meaningful ways, not necessarily by singing on the risers in a chapter.

BRIAN: Face-to-face is everything. It’s how our human values connect with each other. It’s the difference between just another passing moment of distraction and an authentic human experience.

ROBERT: At one of my first international conventions, Pittsburgh 1982, I got to sing with Vern Reed, tenor of the **Buffalo Bills**, in a hotel lobby. There’s a beautiful way in which we put people on pedestals. Those same experiences persist today, and it’s a genuinely beautiful thing.

I’ve known David Wright since I was a little boy, and he credits my father with getting him to join barbershop, because when he dialed the phone number for barbershop in St. Louis, it was our home phone number, and my dad, of course,

called him back.

Last summer in Denver, we were standing around singing at the headquarters lobby, and David started teaching tags. It was interesting to hear from David, given how complex some of his arrangements are, how strongly he felt about the length of tags, and how complicated they are in terms of the general tag singing culture. As an arranger, I was tutored by Lou Perry, who was always preaching simplicity, back in the time when David was really branching out musically, so it was fascinating that David today was the one touting this message of short and simple when it comes to tag singing. I loved hearing it, frankly. It was kind of a refreshing reminder. Anyway, there were no phones allowed in that tag circle.

BRIAN: You would be wasting your human time to look at your phone when you could learn straight from David’s voice.

ROBERT: It points us back to a lot of truths about who we are as an organization. The master/apprentice model around tag singing is really important culturally to who we have been, and I think it’s a cultural value that we wish to retain, because it’s so valuable and hard to find elsewhere.

I’ve talked to thousands of Barbershoppers about their origin stories. Most often it did not take them a long time for them to figure out that they wanted to do it. When people come to barbershop, I want them to feel like it’s their home, where they belong.

Our job is to bring people home to barbershop. ■

(Below) Robert Rund takes a turn directing his St. Louis chapter at about eight or nine years of age.



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blynch@barbershop.org



● BHS LEADERSHIP

Robert Rund, BHS CEO

The lifetime Barbershopper is a long-time leader in arts and cultural institutions

Robert Rund became CEO/Executive Director on August 18, 2025. A seasoned leader with more than 30 years of experience in both for-profit and nonprofit arts and cultural institutions, Robert brings an inspiring blend of strategic vision, operational acumen, and deep musical passion to the role.

Robert looks forward to leading the Society into a bold new era. A master strategist and dedicated musician, Robert holds an MBA, is a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA). His proven success in surpassing fundraising goals, broadening revenue streams, and advancing mission-driven work demonstrates his ability to align bold ambition with operational excellence.

“The Society Board of Directors is incredibly excited for our future under Robert’s leadership,” Society President Kevin Keller said. “He brings with him a wealth of experience in arts leadership and development, paired with a genuine ability

to connect with people. With deep respect for our history and culture, Robert will help us move forward toward our mission and vision of Everyone in Harmony. We could not ask for a better steward at this pivotal moment in our history.”



A 50-year BHS member, Robert’s connection to harmony—both musically and organizationally—runs deep. His leadership reflects the Society’s core values of inclusion, service, and humanity. Throughout his career, he has strengthened relationships with boards and stakeholders, championed equity in the arts, and inspired teams to achieve transformational results.

“I look forward to embracing the next chapter with creativity, energy, and purpose,” Robert Rund said. “I am committed to preserving the Society’s legacy while opening new doors—broadening our reach, developing talent across generations and backgrounds, and securing our future in vocal music. For me, harmony isn’t just what we sing together ... it’s what we build together.”

New qualifying scores for future International Conventions

The International Contests in Denver saw the largest-ever quartet field (65), which could have been as high as 87 quartets had all those that qualified accepted the invitation. The quartet contest also had the highest 11th-place and 21st-place mic testing scores in history.

With Society Board approval, the Society Contest & Judging Committee has made the following qualifying adjustments for International:

- In 2027, the chorus qualifying target score will move from 80% to 81%.
- In 2026, the quartet qualifying target score will move from 78% to 81%.
- All Districts and Global Alliances still receive at least one qualifier provided they achieve the minimum score (unchanged: 74% for choruses, 76% for quartets).
- There will be a minimum of 50 quartet Quarterfinalists, with the opportunity for wildcards.
- 2026 will feature a “sing-in” contest in St. Louis for quartets that scored at least 78 in the prelims but did not receive a wildcard invitation. The top two quartets from this onsite contest will compete in the Quarterfinals. All other sing-in competitors will be provided non-contest performance opportunities during the convention week.

For more information, contact SCJChair@barbershop.org.

CHORUS GOES CRUISING TOGETHER

Maybe your chorus members don’t live near a major seaport, but **Space City Sound** does, and the Houston-area chorus took a cruise together for their summer retreat! Samantha Tramack and Anthony Colosimo traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area to help out with classes, workshops, lessons, and coaching. Chorus members also had a tagging contest and performed for an audience in the Royal Theater.



Rehearsing for an on-ship concert

Swiss Barbershop Association prepares for founding assembly

After an International Convention in Denver that saw 24 overseas ensembles and the debut of the Japan Barbershop Association, enter Switzerland. The Swiss Association of Barbershop Singers will host its founding assembly on November 15, 2025 in Bern. For more information, contact hello@swissciety.ch or visit swissciety.ch.

Back in Pasadena for Midwinter!

The perfect venue in a fantastic city will host a perfect January vacation

After four years, we're back! A lot of folks have fond memories from our 2022 Midwinter Convention in Pasadena. The setting was incredible for so many reasons—warm weather, great downtown, casual vibe, great shows, all in the gorgeous and prestigious Pasadena Civic Auditorium that hosts the *Emmy Awards*, *America's Got Talent*, and many other major shows.

We're going back for a great Midwinter party on Jan. 13-18 in beautiful Pasadena, CA!

GREAT SHOWS

Speaking of great shows in the Civic Auditorium, how about nightly shows featuring full show sets from 2025 champ **Lemon Squeezy**, silver medalist **Gimme Four**, bronze medalists **First Take** and **Full Effect**, plus



The Newfangled Four, 2025 NextGen Varsity champion **Radiant**, and 2023 champion **Westminster Chorus**! More great performances are in the pipeline as well.

GREAT CONTESTS

- **Seniors Quartet Contest:** Every year, our most experienced quartets entertain while vying for Seniors gold.
- **NextGen Chorus Festival:** Hundreds of young singers from everywhere deliver amazing three-song sets.
- **Seniors Chorus Festival:** On the same stage, choruses featuring singers age 55+ will vie for medals in the third official year for this popular event.

RELAX AND ENJOY!

The tagging never ends in lobbies packed wall to wall with singers young and old who can't get enough of barbershop. A more laidback atmosphere always makes Midwinter one of the year's best events. Register at barbershop.org/midwinter.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE
FIRST LOOK
CHANNEL ON BHS' YouTube PAGE?



First Look features early access to convention releases, plus the first peek at classic performances from the vaults. Check it out!

JOIN TODAY!





NOTEWORTHY

The latest in the world of barbershop



What's Happening



2026 Midwinter ▲ Pasadena, California

Perfect weather, great shows and events, with a casual vibe barbershop.org/midwinter



2026 International St. Louis – June 28-July 5 ▲

It's not just one of the great barbershop cities, but one of the great cities to visit, with a vibrant downtown scene surrounding an unforgettable venue! barbershop.org/events

2026 Midwinter Pasadena

January 13–18

2026 International St. Louis

June 28–July 5

2027 International Minneapolis

July 4–11

2028 International Chicago

July 2–9

2029 International San Antonio

July 1–8

● HARMONY UNIVERSITY

HU 2025 was another smash hit!

“HU gave me a deeper understanding of barbershop concepts.”

When 94% of students say they've become better at the thing they love, something must be going wonderfully right—right? That was the overwhelming response from the nearly 300 students at Harmony University 2025. Many of them expect to come back for more.

In its second year at the University of Denver, the week-long school in July/August benefited from the gorgeous compact campus, with dorms, dining, and classrooms all within a few hundred yards walking distance. As always, the emphasis was on enjoying experiences that are only available at Harmony University: unparalleled instruction and an easy-going atmosphere that encouraged casual conversation and singing among students and faculty alike. At any given lunch session,

you'd find first-year students (about 40%



of the students!) sitting with 50-year Barbershoppers or sitting with *ahem* long-tenured faculty.

Students cited the impactful classes with barbershop legends, along with coaching breakthroughs for the three choruses and four quartets attending, plus the unique experiences of the **HU All-Voices Chorus** led by Eric Dalbey, the **HU Next Gen Chorus** led by Debbie Cleveland, and a special Harmony Brigade activity that gathered dozens of eXtreme quartetters.

BHS Hall of Famer Steve Armstrong's moving Keynote Address

kicked off a week of growth and laughter in equal measures. New social activities this year included a Tag Contest, Trivia Night featuring *Barbershop Jeopardy!* and *Password*, a casual opening night party that leaned into fun—and the welcome appearance of an ice cream truck on the moonlit campus commons for an outdoor tag party.

Alex Balikian, a first-time student, has been a Barbershopper for less than a year. “If you count the amount of YouTube videos I’ve watched, it’s been about six years” he said, “but only six months of actually singing with **Vocal Revolution**.” He attended HU with the chorus and was amazed at “the warmth and the love of the people. They’re always so kind to you and always want the best for you, regardless of where you are on your journey,” he continued. “That’s whether you’re like me and just started or whether you’re 15 years into it and getting high level coaching. This week has been incredible.” ■



WATCH ONLINE See videos of what you missed in 2025. Register for Harmony University 2026 at barbershop.org/hu.



Taking place at beautiful
DJ UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

July 26–August 2, 2026



Harmony University is for barbershoppers.

It's for leaders, directors, educators, volunteers, students of the game, people who just love singing, people who love community, people who love ice cream, and people who want to experience the best week of barbershop on the planet.

Harmony University is for you! Maybe you've been before, or maybe you've never had a chance to attend, but no matter who you are, Harmony University will make you a better musician. If you've been waiting for the right time to come to HU, the time is definitely now.

It's time to

UP

your barbershop game



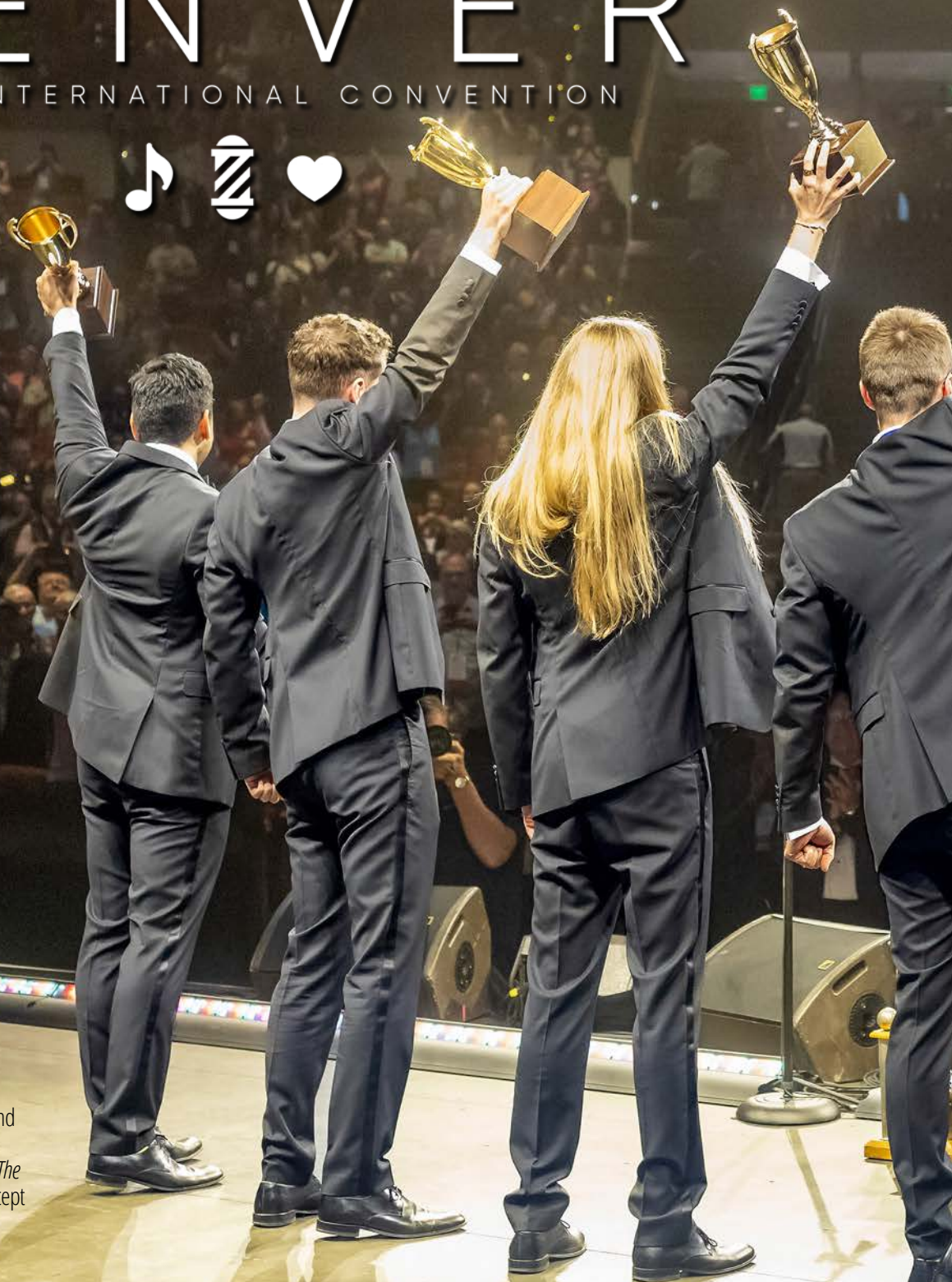
REGISTER TODAY AT
BARBERSHOP.ORG/HU





DENVER

2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



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2025 INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CHAMPION THE VOCAL MAJORITY



2025 NEXT GENERATION VARSITY QUARTET CHAMPION RADIANT

HOW-TO

A GUIDE FROM DENVER ENSEMBLES

HOW TO ...

... FIND A GREAT LEAD

Male singers: wanna sing with a great lead? She might currently be singing bass or bari in an SSAA quartet. Example: Kate Macdonald (**Best Wishes**) and Holly Vose (**Verse**) are long-time basses and now killer leads now that they can sing the melody part in their most powerful natural range. A lot of quartets have figured out this dynamic. Of the 24 female leads in Denver's two major quartet contests, 18 of them competed with one or more male singers.

... DEFINE "JE NE SAIS QUOI"

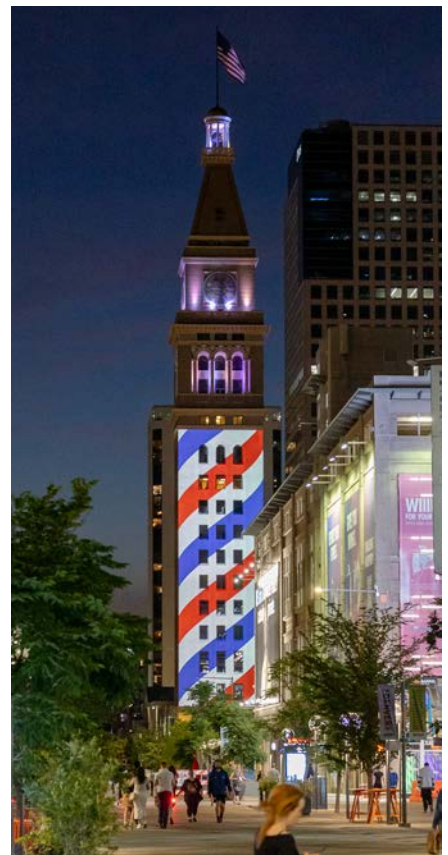
French for "a quality that cannot be named or defined easily," it's whatever the heck **Secret Best Friends** is doing right now. It's hard to pinpoint

why they sound so great and yet so different from everybody else, but the quartet's not-at-all-secret best friend Melody Hine, their main coach and arranger, may be the quartet's off-stage MVP. Watch the off-the-charts musicality of "On the Sunny Side Of The Street" or "I Married An Angel" for a taste. One easier-to-define quality: Kevin Juliana, a rare talent who is boldly planting flags in some previously uncharted swaths of barbershop tenor-dom.

... CLEAN YOUR TEETH WITHOUT A TOOTHBRUSH

(1) Stand in front of the auditorium loudspeakers, (2) wait for **Full Effect** to start singing, (3) smile, which will come naturally, (4) let the pristine sonic

power of every perfectly tuned chord—which is all of them—make your teeth vibrate and your face tingle until all plaque is removed. They've always sounded impossibly pristine, but it was Full Effect's improved musicality and performance that carried



2025 INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CONTEST



DENVER
2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



◆ = Quartet debut. Quartet members listed as tenor, lead, bari, and bass regardless of standing order. Quartet action shots by Lorin May. Medalist portraits by Read Photography, barbershop.org/photos.



1. Lemon Squeezy (SNOBS)
Victor Nilsson, David Holst, Sam Molavi, Martin Jangö
Stockholm, Sweden; Zero8



2. Gimme Four (MAD)
Paul Franek, Dave Ammirata, Joe Servidio, Will Downey
Caldwell, NJ; Montclair, NJ



3. First Take (MAD)
Alex Corson, Anthony Colosimo, Drew Wheaton, Andrew Havens
Alexandria, VA; Hunterdon County, NJ; Northern Kentucky, KY



4. Full Effect (SHD)
Brett Beard, Andrew Easterling, Caleb Hayes, Wyatt McCarter
Cleveland, TN; Frank Thorne



5. GQ (MAD)
Amanda Sandroni, Katie Gillis, Ali Hauger, Samantha Tramack
Frank Thorne; Hershey, PA



6. Sunday Night Social (RMD)
Ashley Wigginton, Tim Brooks, Seth Fetzer, Tyler Wigginton
Denver Mile High, CO; Nashville, TN



7. Secret Best Friends (MAD)

Kevin Juliana, James Isley, James Pennington, Will Daniel Simmons
Frank Thorne; Hershey, PA



8. The Newfangled Four (FWD)

Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Marcus Carline, Jake Tickner
Westminster, CA



9. Clutch (SWD)

Charlie Lotspeich, Scott Hale, David Webb, Jeff Oxley
Dallas Metro, TX



10. Smoke Ring (MAD)

Becca Eckes, Stephanie Taglianetti, Alexander Ronneburg, Gabriel Spector
Hell's Kitchen, NY



11. Pratt Street Power (MAD)

Vince Sandroni, Ed Schubel, Ben Hawker, Darren Schmidt
Frank Thorne; Hershey, PA



12. Rooftop Records (SHD)

Chase Guyton, Dustin Guyton, Jamie Breedon, Jackson Pinder
Atlanta Metro, GA; Frank Thorne; Nashville, TN



13. Fleet Street (CSD)

Matt Suellentrop, Aaron Zart, Keegan Eich, Michael Bass
Harmony STL



14. Primer (SNOBS)

Philip Hällström, Mikael Holst, Simon Isbäck, Jonas Törnqvist
Zero8



them into the medals in only their second year. The scary thing is that they are probably nowhere close to their ceiling.

... WIN CHORUS SILVER OR BRONZE WITHOUT SINGING

Should you get a text from **Music City Chorus** or **Sound of the Rockies** during the convention week, answer it—it probably means you’re doing well and they want you for a cameo. For most of the Sound of the Rockies’ western set, both their director and a past director were passed out on the stage from a “sweeping accident,” leaving the chapter desperately searching for anyone who could lead the chorus. Enter ... ah ... everyone, including some of the same folks whom MCC

had do cameos the day before. Massive kudos to SotR for not only winning bronze medals but for hosting a great convention all week long!

... SPREAD SILVER MEDALS ACROSS THE USA

Music City Chorus declared that their best shot to beat the mighty VM was to steal everyone else’s best ideas and make them bigger. (Think “77 Trombones.”) With the help of 36 cameo performers—perhaps not even counting “Curly” the chihuahua—the 102 fully vested singers lam-pooned every ensemble they’ve ever admired on the way to a silver medal. (Their epic performance of “My Way” was somehow even better.)

MCC even tried a rap, but only after getting



an on-stage thumbs-up from (wait, really?) the *seven Musicality judges* in the chorus? Some of which either aren’t local anymore or never were? Turns out there is a non-trivial number of remote Music City Chorus members, a big chunk of whom got hooked on the Music City way while attending its top-shelf Covid-era Zoom rehearsals. Many never stopped. (Remote members also travel to Nashville for chorus retreats.)

... FLIP THE SCRIPT

FRED (1999 champ) and **Storm Front** (2010) were already comedy masters before their improved singing and musicality carried them the rest of the way to gold. **First Take** has a chance to turn



... REMEMBER A LEGEND

As the stage lights came on for the **Vocal Majority**, a mere scan of the faces told you that every man was there to win gold for Jim Clancy, their recently deceased 12-time-champion emeritus director, arranger, and leader of men. After well over a decade away, there stood past VM icons like Jason January, Jeff Oxley, “Stretch,” and others. Markus Kang even flew back from South Korea to participate in this moment. Then the VM started singing and removed all doubt about whether the chorus trophy would be making its 14th trip to Dallas. If “Bridge Over Fire And Rain” didn’t melt you to your core, “Nothing Can Stop Me Now” was a preview to the inevitable. All 146 singers on stage would tell you that Jim’s fingerprints are still all over everything the VM does, and that he continues to impact the lives of the hundreds of fiercely loyal men he directed over the decades.

... BOND WITH FAMILY

Did anyone else notice that during the Quartet Semifinals, **GQ** tenor Amanda Sandroni competed from the very spot her husband (**Pratt Street Power** tenor Vince Sandroni) had stood three minutes earlier? In the few years that it's been possible for any combination of singers to compete together (or against each other), there's been an explosion of family members sharing the contest stage. The chorus list is far bigger, but here are family ties that we spotted on the quartet scoresheets:

Competing with family

- Hannah and Tim Briggs (**The Sharrow Vale Blues**) spouses
- Hawkins and Houston Burns (**Nostalgia**) brothers
- Kate and Erin Butler, Jacob and Ryan Reid (**Overcast**) two sisters/two brothers
- Chip and Madison Davis (**Showpiece**) father/son
- Melanie and R.J. Esquivias (**Yes Dear**) spouses
- Chase and Dustin Guyton (**Rooftop Records**), brothers
- Cam and Xavier Hinton (**Bassically**) brothers
- Justin and Caitlin Klemballa (**Yes Dear**) spouses
- Mark and Jonathan Lang, Alyssa Hackworth (**Mom's Favorite**) father/son/daughter
- Hanna and Emma Paschal (**Radiant**) sisters
- Amy and Sarah Patterson (**Empire**) mother/child
- Rob and Katie Roman (**Mugshot**) spouses
- Anna and Henrick Rosenberg (**The HillBillys**) spouses



- Ashley and Travis Tabares (**Party of Four**) spouses
- Jordan and Em Travis (**Empire**) father/daughter
- Ashley and Tyler Wigginton (**Sunday Night Social**) spouses

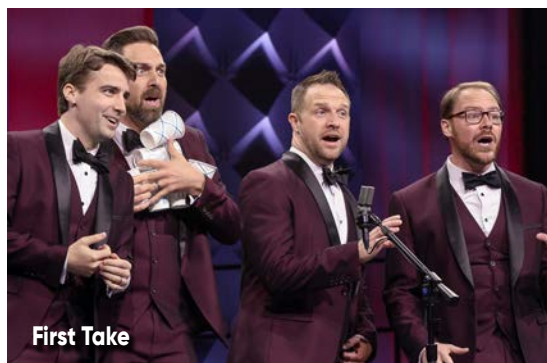
Competing against family

- Kerry Denino (**Lady A Cappella**) vs. Steve Denino (**The Core**) spouses
- David Holst (**Lemon Squeezy**) vs. Mikael Holst (**Primer**) brothers
- Kevin Mendez (**HarmoHaus**) vs. Maggie McAlexander (**Supernova**) spouses (married post-convention)
- Amanda Sandroni (**GQ**) vs. Vincent Sandroni (**Pratt Street Power**) spouses
- John Sifuentes (**HarmoHaus**) vs. Tessa Walker-Sifuentes (**Supernova**) spouses
- Donell Torres (**Non-Stop**) vs. Mollie Torres (**Knock Knock!**) spouses
- Kris Wheaton (**Presto**) vs. Drew Wheaton (**First Take**) spouses

that paradigm on its ear—debuting at bronze in 2022 via killer singing and musicality, then growing into comedy to carry them the rest of the way. Big laughs delivered two of their top three scores in Denver, with their never-ending coffee cups in the Semifinals topping even “No One

Sings Higher Than Me,” a very updated version of the now-viral 2024 performance. Here’s to an even stronger convergence of great tags and big laughs in St. Louis!

Going the opposite direction was **The Newfangled Four**’s great rendition of “The Reason.” Their



first non-comedy song in a long time reminded us that it was the strength of NFF’s singing that beat the 2013 Collegiate field by a mile and got them to 11th place in 2016’s open contest. Only after that year’s “Newfangled Tango” and “Hello My Baby” Finals mic test did NFF transform into YouTube comedy gods. But “The Reason” was only one of their six new songs in Denver—46 minutes of mostly comedy material—the best being their “L-O-V-E” tribute to **FRED** that arguably surpassed the original.

... SAVE YOUR NECK

Apparently **Primer**’s surprise foray into comedy, “You’ll Be Back,” was already a favorite among Swedish barbershoppers. Lead Mikael Holst played a perfectly unstable King George III, while the other three parts hilariously sold the performance as terrified attendants who were trying to avoid the ax by feigning enthusiasm for each of their king’s delusions.

... BE A TRUE ORIGINAL

“Scarface Claw Is The Toughest Tom In Town,” the NextGen medal-winning performance by **Promenade**, features text based on a cat from

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15. Lady A Cappella (JAD) ❖
Stacey St. John, Deidra Ronfeldt, Kerry Denino, Gretchen Holloway
Frank Thorne



16. Maple Reserve (ONT)
Chris Tanaka-Mann, Greg Mallett, Jonah Lazar, Reuven Grajner
Burlington, ON; Toronto, ON



17. The Core (JAD)
Michael Nesler, Josh Van Gorder, Mike Hull, Steve Denino
Buckeye Columbus, OH; Greater Central Ohio; Nashville, TN



18. Trademark (JAD)
Matt Cook, Keith Parker, Kyle Snook, Chris Gregory
Elyria, OH; Greater Indianapolis, IN; Nashville, TN



19. The Sharrow Vale Blues (LABBS) ❖
Hannah Briggs, Becca Nicholson, Sam Hubbard, Tim Briggs
Cheshire Chord Company; Crucible Vocal Project; Hallmark of Harmony; Steel City Voices



20. The Hillbillies (SNOBS) ❖
Hillevi M Billinger, Anna Rosenberg, Rasmus Krigström, Henrik Rosenberg
Northern Stars Chorus; Zero8



21. Opus IV (SWD)
Daniel Cooper, Peter Cunningham, Ryan Wisniewski, Brent Suver
Austin, TX; Dallas Metro, TX; East Texas, TX; San Antonio, TX



22. Studio Talk (SWD)
Kevin Wagner, Bret Morris, Chris Denton, Donovan Davis
Dallas Metro, TX; San Antonio, TX



Though the event was organized too late to make the convention program or receive wide publicity, word still got out regarding the MegaSing organized by the convention-hosting **Mile High Chapter**. Held outside the Boettcher Concert Hall that would later host the Association of International Champions Show, the number of singers and the number of onlookers steadily rose throughout the event as onlookers gaped at the large vertical crowd of singers who somehow knew all the same songs.

a children's book written by a fellow New Zealander. It's no exaggeration to say you've never seen anything like it. Composed and arranged by lead Will Lynch, his magnetic performance chewed up the stage in the best way.

... PREVIEW YOUR OWN LEGACY

Just honor Sweet Adelines legend **Ambiance** in a tribute that is so good that folks favorably compare you to the original. This was no aural

illusion for **GQ**. In a small but very high quality sampling, the quartet's leap over the 90% BHS scoring barrier makes GQ the highest-scoring women's quartet in BHS history, ahead of even two recent Sweet Adelines champions who now compete with us. GQ's four new songs averaged nearly 91%, and that's while debuting a (fantastic) new bass. GQ grabbed audiences by the heart in some of the most passionate ovations

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... WAIT OUT THE LOG JAM AT THE TOP

Nobody came out of nowhere this year: not a single new quartet or chorus debuted in the top 10. Thankfully, these appear to be statistical quirks rather than sustainable trends:

- There were no first-time Quartet Finalists in Denver; everyone had been to the Finals before—a first. By contrast, there were four first-time Finalists in 2024, two in 2023, and six in 2022.
- Of the 27 debuting quartets, only two (both from overseas) reached the Semifinals; no debuting BHS quartet reached the Semis, also a first. All of the other Semifinalists had been there before, and three were even past Finalists. (**Lady A Cappella** debuted in the Semifinals in Denver, but it would be laughable to call a past Sweet Adelines champion a first-timer.) We saw four first-time Semifinalists in 2024, six in 2023, and seven in 2022.
- **The Seventh Variety** finished 23rd as the top scoring debut BHS quartet, with an 82.5% average that would place them comfortably in the Semifinals most years. In 2024, the top debuting BHS quartet placed 6th, 2023's placed 4th, 2022's placed 3rd, 2019's placed 5th, 2018's placed 8th, and on and on.
- The largest and highest scoring Quarterfinalist field in contest history saw every quartet through 42nd score 80%+, and quartets 21-28 all scored above the cutoff for last year's Semifinals.



GQ lead Katie Gillis called the reaction to "It's All Coming Back To Me Now" a "mountaintop experience."



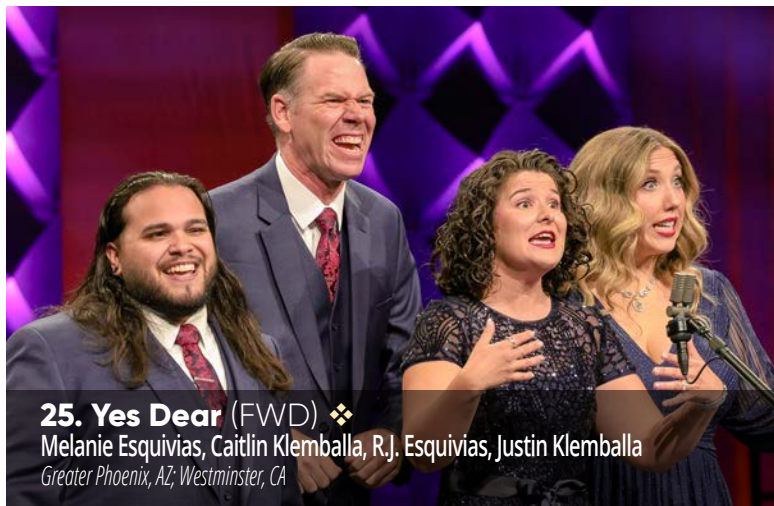
23. The Seventh Variety (FWD) ❖

Jacob Gonzalez, Michael Keleshian, Emil Pichardo, Ross Valentine
Greater Los Angeles, CA; Westminster, CA



24. Fifth Element (BABS) ❖

Brian Fox, Duncan Whinyates, Ryan Jensen, Jake Waghorn
MaleVox, Birmingham, United Kingdom



25. Yes Dear (FWD) ❖

Melanie Esquivias, Caitlin Klemballa, R.J. Esquivias, Justin Klemballa
Greater Phoenix, AZ; Westminster, CA



26. Party of Four (SWD) ❖

Holly Janda, Ashley Tabares, Steven Keener, Travis Tabares
Frank Thorne; San Antonio, TX



27. Tribute (SUN) ❖

Brian Lindvall, Ryan Killen, Marshall Crowl, Sam Rinkenbaugh
Miami, FL; HarmonySTL; Tampa, FL



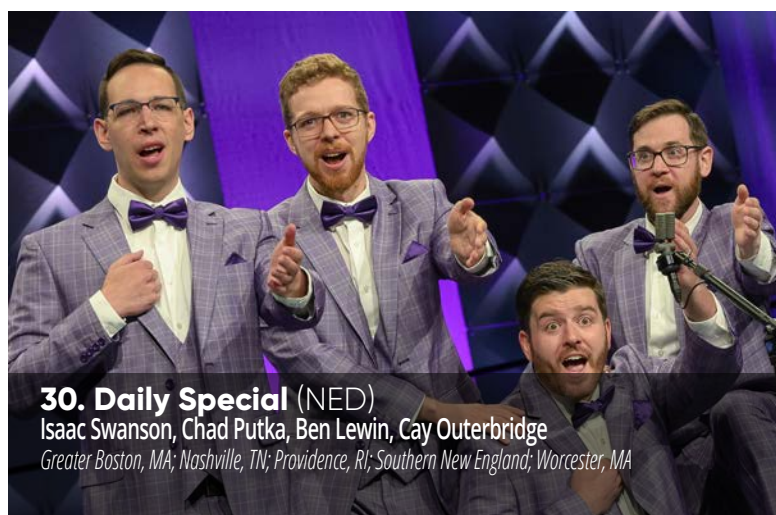
28. Verse (RMD) ❖

Grant Hamilton, Holly Vose, Hunter Adam, John Aragon
Denver Mile High, CO



29. Empire (ONT) ❖

Em Travis, Amy Patterson, Sarah Patterson, Jordan Travis
Burlington, ON; Hamilton, ON; Scarborough, ON; Town North Plano, TX



30. Daily Special (NED) ❖

Isaac Swanson, Chad Putka, Ben Lewin, Cay Outerbridge
Greater Boston, MA; Nashville, TN; Providence, RI; Southern New England; Worcester, MA



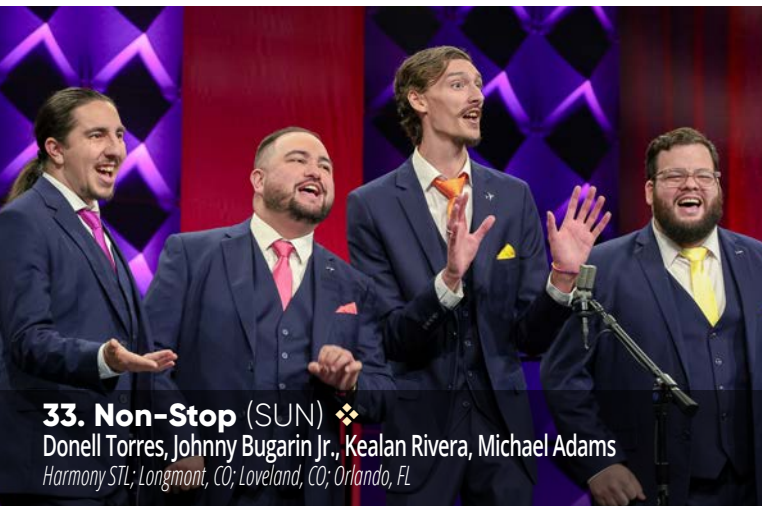
31. Best Wishes (MAD) ❖

Michael Cawley, Kate Macdonald, Tommy Hunter, Jonah Levinson
Greater Delaware, DE



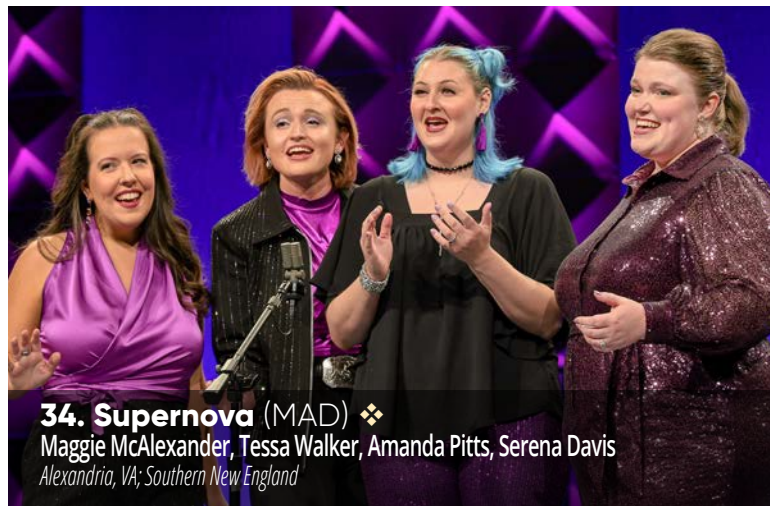
32. Presto! (CAR) ❖

Lindsay Patrick, Jen Cooke, Kathe Schellman, Kris Wheaton
Northern Kentucky, KY



33. Non-Stop (SUN) ❖

Donell Torres, Johnny Bugarin Jr., Kealan Rivera, Michael Adams
Harmony STL; Longmont, CO; Loveland, CO; Orlando, FL



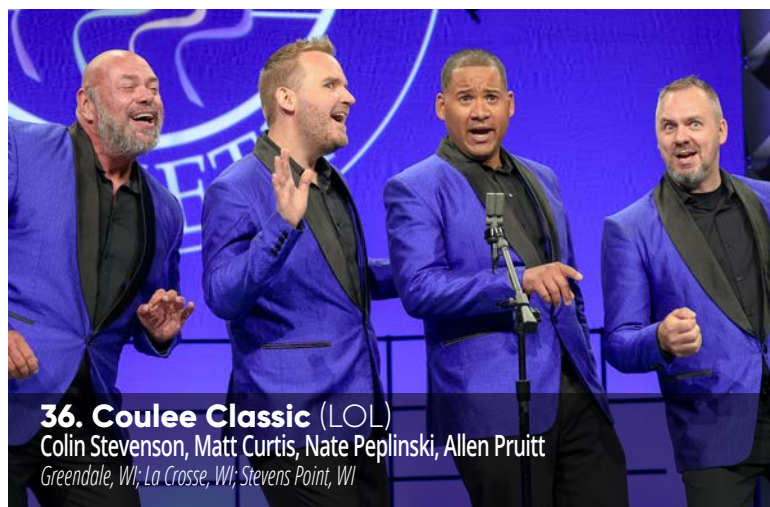
34. Supernova (MAD) ❖

Maggie McAlexander, Tessa Walker, Amanda Pitts, Serena Davis
Alexandria, VA; Southern New England



35. Vagabonds (JBA) ❖

Teru Matsumori, Atsushi Sato, Kento Haga, Mikio Shiina
Japan Barbershop Association



36. Coulee Classic (LOL)

Colin Stevenson, Matt Curtis, Nate Peplinski, Allen Pruitt
Greendale, WI; La Crosse, WI; Stevens Point, WI



37. HOME (CSD) ❖

Micah Jeppesen, Mark Fortino, Michael Troyer, Shaun Whisler
Frank Thorne; Kansas City, MO; Metro Kansas City, MO; South Central Kansas, KS



38. Showpiece (SWD)

Madison Davis, Daniel Zeagler, Geoff Kannenberg, Chip Davis
Dallas Metro, TX; Greater Baton Rouge, LA; San Antonio, TX

HOW TO ...



we've seen in years. If the two-time bronze medalist keeps on upping its game, Denver may not be the last time we hear *Ambiance* and *GQ* mentioned in the same breath.

... MAKE THOUSANDS CHECK THEIR WATCHES MID-SONG

It certainly didn't happen to *GQ*. How many quartet singers would love to receive the kind of endless standing O they got for their nearly six-minute performance of "It's All Coming Back To Me Now"? Answer: *everybody!* How many quartets actually get that kind of ovation for their performance of an epic ballad? Answer: *almost nobody*, and that goes for almost any song that passes the four-minute mark. Exceptions: the song is funny, brand new to everybody, and/or by a medalist-level performer. Otherwise, to an audience of Barbershoppers sitting through a 40-song session, hearing the setup to yet another verse could be literally a bridge too far.

... EXCEED YOUR OWN EXPECTATIONS

Want to make it rain? Leave your jacket and umbrella at home. Want to sing on the Semifinals stage? Pack only one performance outfit and prepare only one set. It worked for the only two first-timer quartets to reach the Semifinals, **The Sharrow Vale Blues** (LABBS) and **The Hillbillies** (SNOBS). To be fair, SVB did prepare a second

set, although they hadn't practiced it as much; The Hillbillies had to brainstorm their Semifinals set only a day before performing it. That's got to sting a little for quartets 21-28, most of which were first-timers as well, and all of which arrived in Denver with realistic expectations to reach the Semifinals. (And maybe packed some Semifinals outfits as well!) All finished within a point of



Westminster Chorus Gold Medal Hour

the 2025 Semifinals cutoff, and all scored high enough to have qualified for the 2024 Semifinals.

... DO A QUARTET FENG SHUI MAKEOVER

Clutch has rocked the Finals with its high-energy repertoire during its last three contest, each of which featured an evolving set of singers. Last year brought Jeff Oxley singing bass while standing in the middle; but while the quartet sounded great, something was off. Then average-height David Webb joined at bari in the middle while Jeff moved to the outside. The bat helmet symmetry—that had to be it! As any fan of both barbershop and ancient mystical

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... SUPPORT YOUR TENOR

Some of the funniest people at the Comedy Quartet Festival didn't even compete. **Fleet Street** Quartet and entourage took every opportunity to "encourage" their tenor (and Festival Administrative judge) Matt Suellentrop every time he stood up to interact with the panel. The cheering section was relentless, and the more Matt ignored the cheers the louder the laughs became throughout the ballroom. (And yes, Matt's entourage finally got him to crack!)



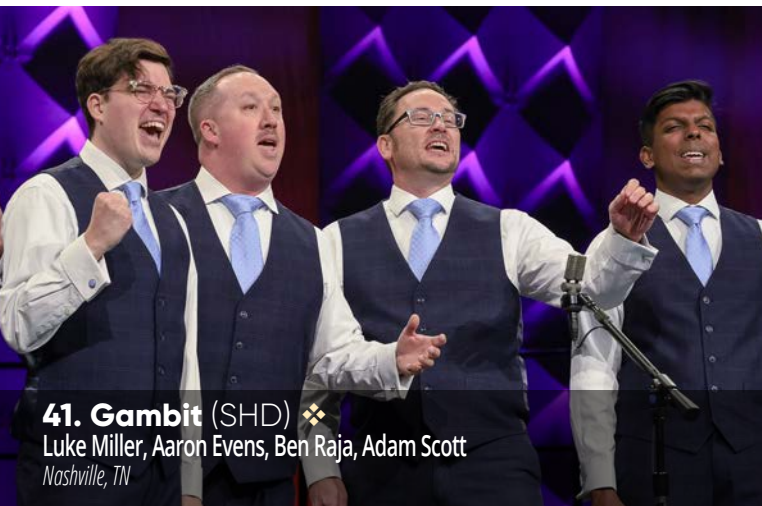
39. Western Addition (FWD)

Trip Master, Matthew Fellows, Jeremy Raven, Matthew Herweyer
Barbary Coast, CA



40. The Summertimers Harmony Band (FWD)

Lane Aikin, Derrek Wayne Robertson, Kedar Shashidhar, Tom Metzger
Barbary Coast, CA; Westminster, CA



41. Gambit (SHD) ❖

Luke Miller, Aaron Evens, Ben Raja, Adam Scott
Nashville, TN



42. The Light Fantastic (LABBS) ❖

Jenny Savory, Emma Wright, Colin Howarth, Simon Lubkowski
Lux A Cappella, Leicester, UK; The Rolling Hills Chorus, Edinburgh, Scotland



43. Hot Ticket (LABBS)

Bethany Southworth, Oli Goodall, Ben Catt, Joe Nelson
London, UK



44. Extra Credit (NSC) ❖

Amy Moyer, Kayla Fernandes, Haley Burton, Nate Lueders
Asheville, NC; Upstate South Carolina



45. Mom's Favorite (JAD)

Jonathan Lang, Alyssa Hackworth, Mark Lang, Don Slamka
Hillsdale, MI; Independence, OH; Motor City Metro, MI; Southeast Michigan



46. Spitfire (CSD)

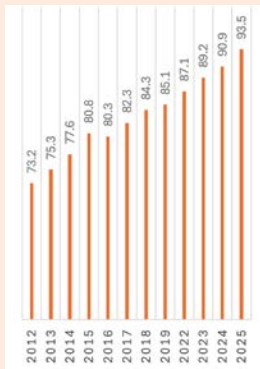
Austin Veteto, Chris Pingel, Stephen Vandenberg, JT Reid
Harmony STL

HOW TO ...

Chinese design philosophies can tell you, the improved onstage qi allows the minor VII overtones to flow more freely.

... GET CHEERS FOR TAGGING ON THE BIG STAGE

21st-place **Opus IV** had just finished its Semifinals mic test when they were asked to repeat their "In Your Eyes" tag a couple more times to settle an audio question. The second and third time through topped the original, and so did the applause! (What late-night tagger wouldn't give a left arm for thousands of Barbershoppers to applaud every time they nailed their favorite tag?)



... RETURN STRONGER EVERY YEAR

Statistics sometimes lie, but the above graphic seems to point in only one direction: **Gimme Four** is on a trajectory to top **After Hours'** 2018 score of 94.7% next year in St. Louis and become the highest-scoring quartet of all time. If you're not into stats, just believe your eyes and ears.

Like clockwork, these same four singers have come back about two percentage points stronger in 11 out of the last 12 contests since 2012, with a half-point drop in 2016 being the only time their score went down. Then there's Gimme Four's growing champ aura: pingier and more refined than ever, with infectious musicality and visuals, quiet songs that are as great as their uptunes, and they were even in first place after the first two rounds. (Until four Swedes in yellow socks rocketed past them for a close win; there's no playing defense in barbershop.)

It's a tall order to expect Gimme Four to average 95.X% in 2026. But considering that they just earned the second highest silver medal score ever (93.5%), they might be able to win even if they simply maintain their current level of excellence. Don't count on that happening—there's no evidence Gimme Four knows the meaning of the word "plateau."

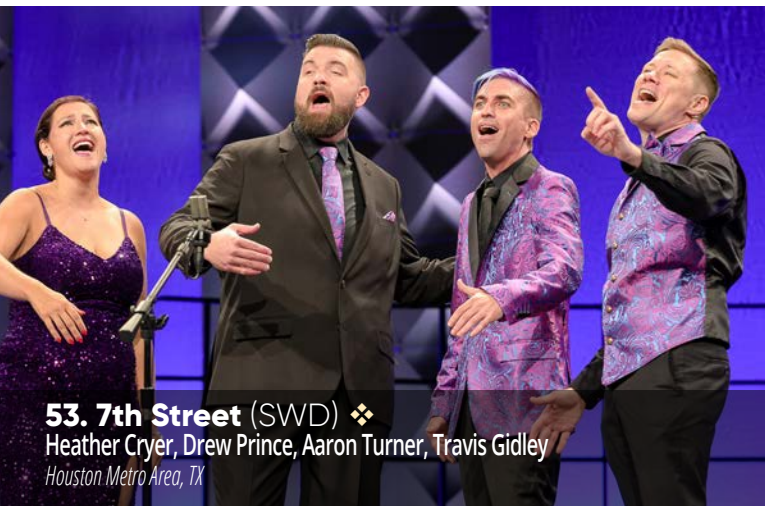




51. Company (PIO) ❖
 Kyle Kolebuck, Ryan McCall, Brandon Smith, Cody Harrell
Southeast Michigan; The Motor City Metro, MI



52. Mischief (RMD)
 Elie Diaz, Adam Haggart, Steve Scott, Grant Goulding
Nashville, TN; Wasatch Front, UT



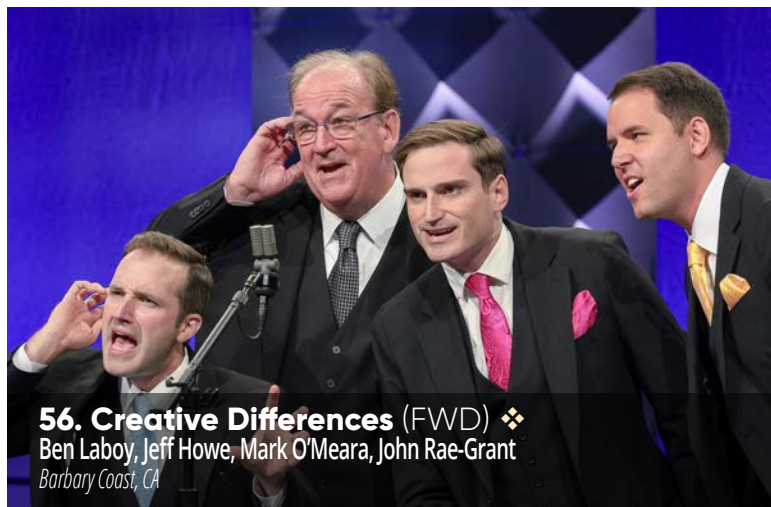
53. 7th Street (SWD) ❖
 Heather Cryer, Drew Prince, Aaron Turner, Travis Gidley
Houston Metro Area, TX



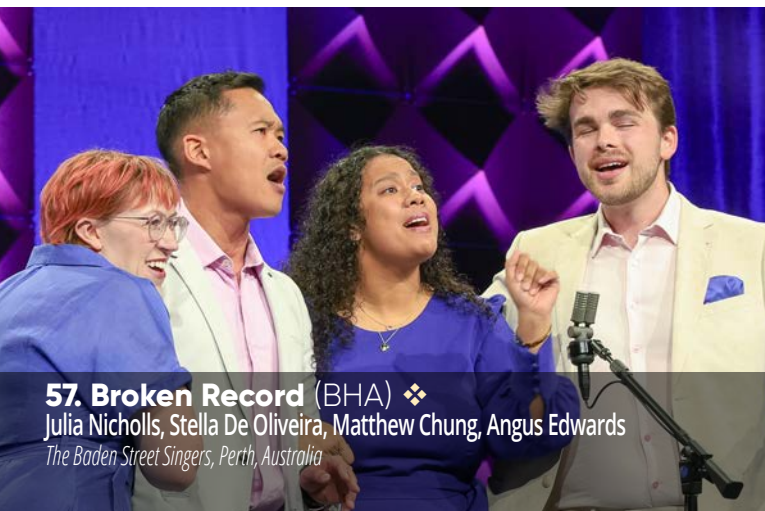
54. HarmoHaus (MAD) ❖
 John Sifuentes, Lance Fisher, Kevin Mendez, David Breen
Alexandria, VA



55. Raise the Roof (JAD)
 Steve Shiveley, Marco Crager, Tom Rouse, Nat Comisar
Frank Thorne; Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH; Xenia, OH



56. Creative Differences (FWD) ❖
 Ben Laboy, Jeff Howe, Mark O'Meara, John Rae-Grant
Barbary Coast, CA



57. Broken Record (BHA) ❖
 Julia Nicholls, Stella De Oliveira, Matthew Chung, Angus Edwards
The Baden Street Singers, Perth, Australia



58. Mugshot (EVG)
 Maria Burri-Ketchum, Katie Roman, Rob Roman, Scott Fewell
Aloha, HI; Portland, OR



59. ALL IN (SWD) ❖

Michael Litman, Trevor Crawford, Nick Ruiz, Matthew Cassi
Austin, TX; Frank Thorne; Town North Plano, TX



60. Destination (NED)

Christina Tramack, Jude Olney, Chris Granger, Sam Eurich
Hell's Kitchen, NY; Manchester, CT; Worcester, MA



61. Promenade (BHNZ) ❖

Will Harris, Will Lynch, Harry Burt, Kieran King
Ōtautahi, Aotearoa, Christchurch, New Zealand



62. Shoot The Moon (RMD)

Nathan Brown, Chase Butler, Niel Westover, Roger Motzkus
Wasatch Front, UT



63. Onset (ILL)

Frank Blackman, Mark Servos, Nathan Gross, Dan Mulligan
Bloomington, IL; Chicagoland West Suburban, IL; Frank Thorne



64. Never Too Late (FWD)

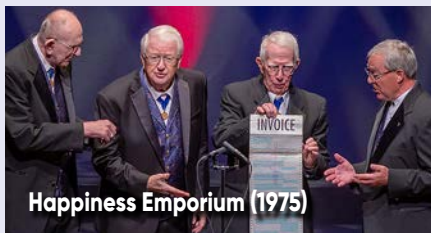
Ken Martin, Adam Teachout, Max Coxon, Jean-Paul DeChambeau
Nashville, TN



65. Beltway (MAD) ❖

Robert Santine, Suranjan Sen, Joshua Myers, Dan Krackhardt
Alexandria, VA; Caldwell, NJ; Montclair, NJ; Motor City Metro, MI





Happiness Emporium (1975)



Interstate Rivals (1987)



Vocal Spectrum (2006)



Storm Front (2010)



Instant Classic (2015)



Forefront (2016)



Main Street (2017)



After Hours (2018)



Quorum (2022)



Midtown (2023)



Three and a Half Men (2024)

... MAKE THE BIGGEST BHS QUARTET LOOK EVEN BIGGER

The second half of the AIC Show was a tribute to the 75th Anniversary Champion **Buffalo Bills**, probably still the most famous BHS quartet of all time. All the champs performed original Bills' or newer arrangements based on the 1950 champs' repertoire, with stand-out performances coming from **Storm Front's** classic, chaotic "Lida Rose" and **After Hours'** jaw-dropping "Moon River." The tribute must've had a lot of people thinking, "Have we all just spent the last 75 years singing nothing but Buffalo Bills charts?" They weren't just the most famous or just among the greatest—the AIC pounded home the enduring legacy of what remains one of our *most influential* quartets 75 years later.

... PRE-BOOK YOUR QUARTET'S SPOT ON THE AIC SHOW

Scoring 90%+ at International is a big, *big* deal: every BHS quartet to have ever done so either

(A) won gold that year, (B) won gold eventually, (C) is **Throwback** quartet, which scored 90%+ four times, including 92.5% just before retiring in 2023, (D) is still competing. It took 10 years from



National Anthems

... LOOK AND SOUND 50 YEARS YOUNGER

On the AIC Show, 50-year champion **Happiness Emporium** pulled off something we haven't seen to this degree since the **Suntones** in 2011—wild applause not only for a 50-year champ quartet's legacy, but for the product they're putting on stage right now. Still hilarious, the Emporium's voices are 20 years younger than what their Medicare cards say.

Lemon Squeezy's first 90%+ performance in 2015 before the quartet won gold. So, history suggests that **Gimme Four**, **First Take**, **Full Effect**, **GQ**, and (assuming they can shake off six years of rust) **Rooftop Records** (90.7% in 2019) will all likely appear on a future cover of *The Harmonizer* as long as each keeps competing. (Warning: citrus-themed champ covers will be retired after 2025.)

... IMPROVISE THE BEST LINE ALMOST NOBODY HEARD

As mic testers for Quarterfinals Session 1, **Three and a Half Men** (2024 champ) sang the first chords on Denver's International Stage. After their prepared set, they waited at the front of the stage while the audio people discussed an issue in the judging area. Bari Tony De Rosa

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THE BARBERSHOP

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barbershop.org/ring





THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BHS PROGRAMS

"It started with a music educator scholarship to Harmony University in 2019."

Amy Moyer

Wade Hampton Singers,
Greenville, SC

2024

NextGen Youth Chorus
"Audience Favorite"



2020 MIDWINTER



2023 MIDWINTER



2024 MIDWINTER



2025 INTERNATIONAL

AMY'S QUARTET EXTRA CREDIT
(COMPOSED OF MUSIC EDUCATORS)
COMPETED IN DENVER

"I truly believe the spark ignited in my students at the 2020 Midwinter Convention kept them involved and hopeful through the pandemic for the future of singing."
- Amy Moyer, music educator

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... STEAL THE SHOW

The **Vocal Majority** took gold, **Music City Chorus** took silver, but third-place **Pacific Connection** took everybody's breath away. The chorus contest's most rewatchable set is a must-see, even if the videos do not begin to do justice to the powerful sound and visuals. Every face, gesture, and phrase hit like a hundred generations of Pacific Islanders reaching out through song. Pacific Connection lived up to its name and earned every bit of its astonishing 98.2% Performance score for "I Am Moana." Truly transcendent.

... RESPOND WITH "CLASS"

The audience chortled in anticipation as **Smoke Ring** somberly strode onto Denver's Finals stage wearing neck-to-toe smocks: the quartet would *finally* be responding to the online brawl that followed its 2024

debut. Some fans probably hoped to see a beat-down. Detractors may have braced for incoming fire. What followed was literally nine minutes of "Class," parodying the chart from the *Chicago* musical.

The song began auspiciously—a lugubrious caricature of some who have panned their plunging necklines or gender-blurring personas: "Whatever happened to old values and fine morals and good breeding? / Why is it that modesty now is a thing of the past? / Whatever happened to class?" But after lamenting that the Society "is being overrun by deviants and (gasp!) women," the tone switched to self-deprecating laughs and relatability. (Most memorable were their



humorous failed attempts to build bridges by singing barbershop classics, awkwardly abandoning each song when the old-timey lyrics became too alarming to continue.)

In the end, **Smoke Ring** mostly avoided the culture war baggage that friend and foe alike try to lay at their feet. Their plea was to simply let them be their authentic selves and to enjoy them as fellow lovers of four-part harmony. The song earned the quartet's biggest ovation among many big ovations. It's anybody's guess how many minds were changed; but even Barbershoppers who still have no plans to book **Smoke Ring** for a chapter show might appreciate that the quartet's first official reply to its critics was delivered with "Class."

spent a few seconds scanning the judges' faces. "You look angry already," he finally told them. "Pace yourselves!"

... DEMONSTRATE THE DUNNING-KRUGER EFFECT

Emil Pichardo (below, far right) took a star turn in **The Seventh Variety's** "A Major Chord" as a bari who blames everyone but himself for the cringy minor chords he keeps creating, his unearned swagger only exceeded by his

page 35



The Seventh Variety



2025 INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTEST

♦ = Chorus debut. Chorus portraits by Read Photography, barbershop.org/photos



1. The Vocal Majority (SWD) • Greg Clancy • Dallas Metro, TX



2. Music City Chorus (SHD) • Dusty Schleier • Nashville, TN



3. Pacific Connection (BHNZ) • Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa and Chad Va • Wellington, New Zealand



4. Fog City Singers (FWD) • Kory Reid • Barbary Coast, CA



5. Sound of the Rockies (RMD) • Tyler Wigginton • Denver Mile High, CO



6. Central Standard (CSD) • Rob Mance • Metro Kansas City, MO



7. Masters of Harmony (FWD) • Alan Gordon • Greater Los Angeles, CA



8. Voices of Gotham (MAD) • Keith Harris • Hell's Kitchen, NY



9. Parkside Melody (MAD) • Melody Hine and Madeleine Larrimore • Hershey, PA



10. Northern Stars (SNOBS) • Rasmus Krigström • Stockholm, Sweden



11. City Lights Chorus (PIO) • Aaron Pollard and Brandon Smith • The Motor City Metro, MI



12. Stockholm City Voices (SNOBS) • Tindra Thor • Stockholm, Sweden



13. Prism (SWD) • Jake Bavarsky • Town North Plano, TX



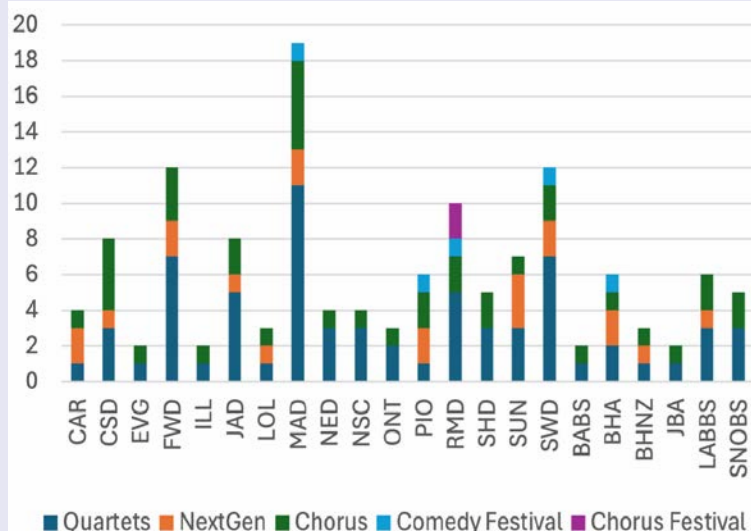
14. Vocal Summit (EVG) • Justin Miller • Portland, OR

HOW TO ...

obliviousness. Show the performance to someone who could use a laugh and/or who needs to understand that there's often an inverse correlation between confidence and competence. It was the highest-scoring song by a first-time quartet, and helped earn The Seventh Variety the International Dealer's Choice Award. Are we witnessing the birth of the next big comedy ensemble?

... UTTER A LINE EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE HEARD

Overheard backstage conversation between two Performance judges walking back from intermission: "I told [redacted chorus director] you've spent enough time being impressive. Now it's time to be engaging ..."



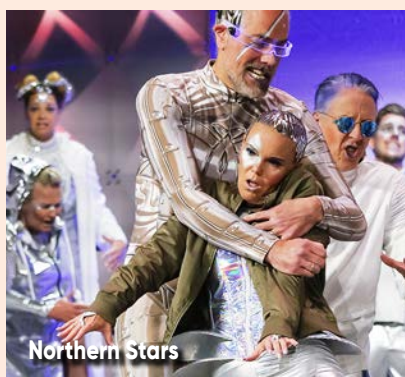
... GO ALMOST TOTALLY MAD

MAD (Mid-Atlantic District) is the largest BHS district, but even then it still appears to be overachieving. The 19 (!) MAD ensembles in Denver included three of the quartet medalists and five of the top 10. The hosting Rocky Mountain District probably had the highest per capita representation, with 10 ensembles.

SHEET MUSIC



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... VISUALLY STAND OUT

Downtown Denver was filled with Fan Fest attendees wearing every imaginable outfit. Maybe for the first time ever, barbershop performers were getting none of the curious glances from passers-by ... except for the three dozen goth girls of **Parkside Melody**, the 100+ cowboys of **Sound of the Rockies**, the maroon wave from **Sirens of Gotham**, or the red wave for **Voices of Gotham** or **Fog City Harmonia**, or the 1960s London look of **Cheshire Chord Company**.

But light years beyond all of these were

the beautifully bonkers space-age outfits for **Northern Stars** and **Stockholm City Voices**. (Raise your hand if your bingo card had "High art space dystopian set in white immediately followed by a high art dystopian-themed set in black." Bonus points if you had "Medley blending 'Radioactive,' 'The Final Countdown,' and 'A Whole New World.'") Assisted by talented teams, art professor/SCV director Tindra Thor was the artistic visionary behind both sets, from developing the scores with arrangers to creating the mood boards for the costumes.



... REPRESENT AN ENTIRE CONTINENT

The **Vagabonds** earned two loud, lengthy ovations, partly because they were the first-ever competitor from the Japan Barbershop Association, but mostly because they were *really good*, with an 80%+ score that made them the highest-scoring alliance debut quartet of all time.

Ditto for **The Lockers**, whose great debut with "Tomorrow Is Promised To No One" and "I Want You To Want Me" electrified the chorus stage. The latter song was a no-brainer if you know the history of American rock band

Cheap Trick, which was huge in Japan long before **Throwback** revived their biggest hit for the barbershop stage.



... BE THE MOST INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL

Remember way back when a small handful of overseas groups would show up at International





15. Voices Unlimited (ONT) • Jordan Travis • Burlington, ON ❖



16. Visions of Harmony (CSD) • Erin Odell • Harmony STL



17. The Recruits (CSD) • Eric Dalbey and Keegan Eich • Harmony STL



18. True North Chorus (MAD) • Julian LeFlore • Greater Delaware, DE ❖



19. Sirens of Gotham (MAD) • Anna Chelak • Hell's Kitchen, NY



20. Great Lakes Chorus (PIO) • Jamie Carey • Grand Rapids, MI



21. Land of the Sky Chorus (NSC) • Kati Swinney • Asheville, NC ❖



22. Vox Canvas (BHA) • Rob Sequeira • Petersham, Sydney, Australia ❖



23. Saltaires (RMD) • Adam Haggart and Steve Scott • Wasatch Front, UT



24. Amersham A Cappella (LABBS) • Helen Lappert • Amersham, UK ❖



... BE A MASTER OF DISGUISE

Clark Kent used glasses, bass Niko Porter used a Norelco. Above: Tuesday with Quarterfinalist **Legacy** (left), Wednesday with NextGen Varsity medalist **Talk of the Town** (right). If that impresses you, what would you say if we told you the pictures are *actually reversed*! (They're not, but that certainly would be impressive ...)



... MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION ON THE CHORUS STAGE

Fog City Singers delivered a fantastic set under the baton of director Kory Reid, joining **Pacific Connection** as veteran groups that became first-time medalists. Nine choruses made an International debut in Denver, led by 15th-place **Voices Unlimited** (ONT) under the direction of past gold medal director Jordan Travis. Julian LeFlore directed **True North Chorus** (MAD) to an 18th-place debut while he was still young enough to compete in the NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest as lead of **The Quin-Tones**.



... MAKE A CALL-BACK OF A CALLBACK OF A CALLBACK'S CALLBACK

A little inside humor never hurt anyone, but this chain of comedic callbacks may need explanation. If you didn't know it from the seats, let's make a long story short: **[INHALING ENORMOUS BREATH]** In the middle of **Daily Special's** humorous Quarterfinals medley of children's songs, they stopped to insist that they'd had the idea before **The Newfangled Four**, who performed a humorous children's medley the night before, then flashed a "cease and desist"



letter NFF claimed to have received from First Take, which was a callback to a put-down from last year's NFF parody of the 2024 Finalists as well as a callback to when Alex Corson showed up during 2023 champion **Midtown's** 2024 swansong performance with a cease and desist letter on behalf of **Lunch Break** quartet regarding Midtown's 2023 "Spider-Farm"

and always end up on the bottom half of the score sheet? We can't either! Barbershop is doing great in other parts of the world, and the quantity and quality keeps going up at International. We saw a record 24 overseas ensembles in Denver, including 9 open quartets, 6 NextGen quartets, a comedy quartet, and 8 choruses. Overseas numbers included Quartet Champion **Lemon Squeezy** (Sweden), third place chorus **Pacific Connection** (New Zealand), top 10 chorus **Northern Stars** (Sweden), and NextGen bronze medalists **Promenade** (New Zealand) and **Ami Quartet** (Great Britain).

... DOMINATE THE SCORE SHEET



Here's one top scorer you may not have known about: David Wright alone arranged 12% of the contest charts we heard in Denver. His record 39 out of 236 charts is even more impressive in a week that saw a record 80 unique arrangers on the score sheets. After 18 charts last year, most of David's additional performances in 2025 were his older songs. Did the bump have anything to do with groups hoping for brownie points because David was on this year's Musicality panel? If so, that's a risky move. From this author's past eval experience, that would only ensure that David's ears burn every time your group fails to exploit his chart's musicality.

Despite so many arrangers working at a high level, nearly half of Denver's contest charts came from just seven arrangers:

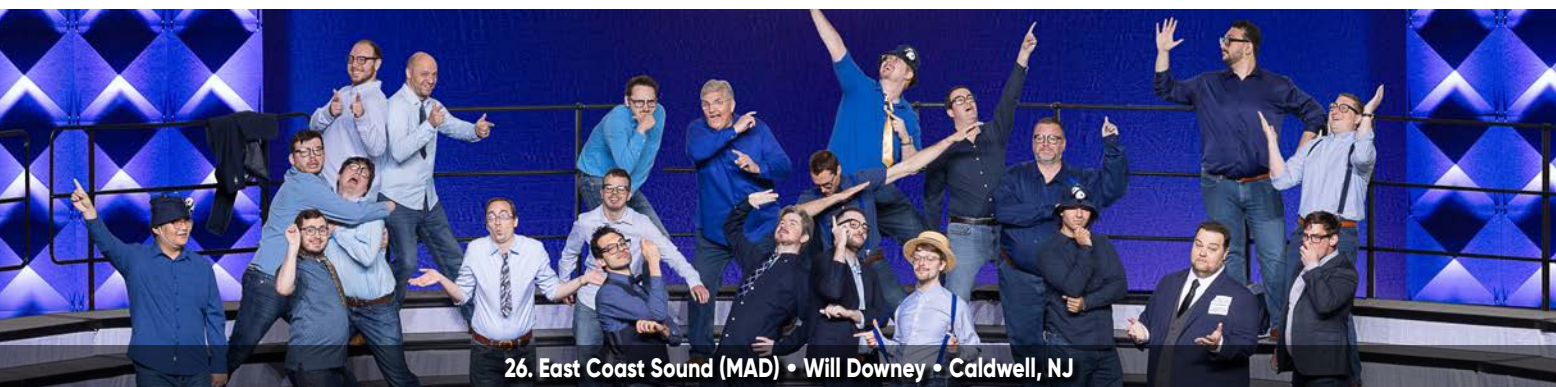
- David Wright (39)
- Patrick McAlexander (25)
- Theo Hicks (22)
- Melody Hine (22)
- Dan Wessler (21)
- Aaron Dale (18)
- Kohl Kitzmiller (14)



When we add contributions from Brent Graham (9), Clay Hine (8), Adam Bock (7), Rasmus Krigström (7), Kyle Snook (7), Kevin Keller (6), Justin Miller (6), Simon Isbäck (5), and Brian Mastrull (5), more than two-thirds of all scored songs came from these 16 arrangers.



25. Cheshire Chord Company (LABBS) • Jo Braham • Warrington, UK ❖



26. East Coast Sound (MAD) • Will Downey • Caldwell, NJ



27. Fog City Harmonia (FWD) • Alisa Peters • Barbary Coast, CA

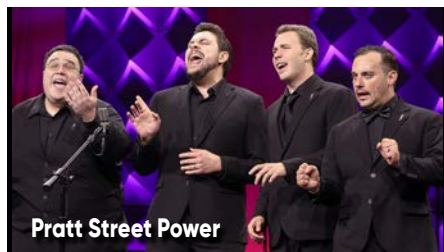


28. Sound of Tennessee (SHD) • Brandon Guyton • Cleveland, TN



29. SmorgasChorus (CSD) • Matt Webber • South Central Kansas, KS

song, a performance that was a callback to Lunch Break's popular "Old McDonald's Deformed Farm" routine. *[GASPING FOR AIR]* See? Now you're caught up.



... BREAK AN UNWANTED RECORD

Equal portions of congratulations and condolences go to **Pratt Street Power** (86.5%) and **Opus IV** (82.6%), two great quartets who became the highest-scoring mic testers ever for the Finals and Semifinals, respectively. Which is another way of saying that in any of the past 87 years except for this one, each would have been a Finalist or Semifinalist, respectively.

Then there's **Fender Bender** (72.7%), the highest-scoring last-place NextGen quartet ever, whose score would have easily won a lot of the earlier contests. And also there's **Suite Life** (81.2%) and **Promenade** (81.2%), whose high 2025 NextGen silver and bronze scores matched the score of 2012 Collegiate Silver Medalist **Instant Classic**, who lost that year to a Swedish quartet whose name was just on the tip of our tongue a minute ago. Instant Classic then aged out, but we understand that they went on to have a pretty decent competitive career; hopefully Suite Life and Promenade will, too.

Additional congrats and condolences to the 4th-place **Ami Quartet** (79.6%), who would have won the 2022 NextGen Varsity Contest and 5th-place **Talk of the Town** (79.4%), who would have finished only one point behind.



... WIN THRICE AT MARKETING

Who else could this be but "Matt! ... Keith! ... Chris! ... Kyle! ... Whoooooaaaaa **Trademark!**" This was the Semifinalist's third time using different visuals but the same video rhythm that always

... GO FROM ZIGGING TO ZAGGING

We heard a lot of jazzy, intricate, rhythmic charts from top arrangers on Denver's stages, but contest history shows that the pendulum swings both ways. When groups like **Michigan Jake** (2001) zigged, groups like **Power Play** (2003) and **Gotcha!** (2004) zagged. When **Storm Front** (2010) and **Old School** (2011) zagged, **Ringmasters** (2012) and **Musical Island Boys** (2014) zigged.

Some of Denver's quartets put zagging in their name, such as **Tribute** (Ryan Killeen back in action!) singing "Wedding Bells" and "Sweet Roses of Morn'," while the NextGen stage saw **Nostalgia** singing "Love Me And The World Is Mine" and "Bye-Bye Blues." (Yes, olden days-loving Nostalgia picked arrangements from David Wright and Greg Volk. They weren't wrong.) Shout-outs also go to the genius zagging performances of **Creative Differences**, **Raise the Roof**, **Broken Record**, **Knock Knock!**, **Mom's Favorite**, **Western Addition**, **Opus IV**, **Presto!**, **Talk of the Town**, **Empire**, **Full Effect**, and a bunch of others.



... GO FROM ZAGGING TO ZIGGING

Crooner Tim Brooks used to earn medals while showing off the power of more traditional arrangements. In **Sunday Night Social**, he now delivers some of barbershop's jazziest rhythmic contest repertoire. Don't blame Tim's artistic left turn on hypoxia following his move to Denver: he's just a versatile singer who chose to perform in a creative quartet of jazz fans/instrumentalists. Special props to bari Seth Fetzer (far right), whose featured vocal runs showed off his jazz IQ as a seasoned saxophonist.



gets audiences chanting their names whenever their big-screen ad comes on. If Trademark doesn't get the same treatment at every chapter show, something is wrong with this world.

... DOUBLE UP ON EVERY GOLD MEDAL

Radiant dazzled as they topped the strongest-ever NextGen Varsity field (we'll stop saying that when it stops being true), becoming the first-ever female ensemble and first identical twins to win one of the two quartet trophies awarded at International. Twins Hanna (L) and Emma (Br) Paschal join a long list of sibling winners;

they were also NextGen Junior Quartet champs in 2020 with **Singing Double**, competing with a second pair of identical twins. The Paschals found another couple of ringers with **Radiant**; a special shout-out to tenor Abbie Owens, who never failed to make the audience gasp after one of her effortless sky-high runs.





30. The Men of Independence (JAD) • Gary Lewis • Independence, OH



31. VocaMotion (NED) • Cay Outerbridge • Greater Boston, MA ❖



32. Great River Voices (CAR) • Drew Wheaton • Northern Kentucky, KY



33. Vocal Confluence (JAD) • B Rauch • Pittsburgh Metro, PA



34. HD Chorus (SUN) • Alex Rubin • Miami, FL



35. The Lockers (JBA) • Takahiro Fujimura • Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya, Japan ❖



36. Dream Chorus (BHS) • Jim Henry



37. Lux A Cappella (BABS) • Simon Lubkowski and Rhiannon Owens-Hall • Leicester, UK ❖



38. Forward Harmony (LOL) • Bryan Ziegler • Greendale, WI



39. New Tradition (ILL) • Mitch Greenberg • Northbrook, IL

... THROW CONTINUITY OUT THE WINDOW AND STILL WIN

From **Lemon Squeezy's** 12th-place 2010 Collegiate debut (75.3%) to its 2025 International Championship (93.9%), the only constant has been Martin Jangö singing bass. Well, that and continual excellence. Otherwise, during those 15 years, the quartet brought to the International stage three baritones, three-ish tenors, two leads, and a part change for Victor Nilsson. (And a lot more hair.) Oh, and the quartet had three gaps totaling eight years (counting Covid) in which they stayed home in July.

Even though they were in second place going into Denver's Finals, Lemon Squeezy left with gold thanks in part to a sudden (and very successful) switch to comedy: a "Popular" set drenched in Scandinavian Sauce. Here's some 2025 champ trivia, thanks to Patrick McAlexander. Lemon Squeezy:

- is the first champion to not win all three rounds since 2019 (**Signature**) and the first since 2017 (**Main Street**) to win after trailing through two rounds.
- is the fifth champ to also be a NextGen/College champ, with the longest gap between championships (13 years).
- joins **Signature** (2019) as the only champs in 30+ years to win while debuting five new songs. Lemon Squeezy also won singing five uptunes.

- tenor Victor Nilsson joins Rod Nixon (**Yesteryear**) as the only champion who switched parts after being that champion's original lead.
- topped **Instant Classic** once in the college contest and three times at International, but **Instant Classic** won International 10 years before Lemon Squeezy.
- topped six quartets in prior contests that went on to be champions before them. (**Instant Classic**, **Main Street**, **After Hours**, **Signature**, **Quorum**, **Three and a Half Men**). This ties the record by 1980 champ **Boston Common**, and no other quartet comes close.
- joins fellow Swedes **Ringmasters** (2012) and New Zealanders **Musical Island Boys** (2014) as the third overseas International champ.
- performed the second highest-scoring quartet song (96.4%) of all time with "All-American Prophet (Parody)" (behind **Midtown's** 97% in 2023's "Spider-Farm") and the highest-ever quartet Singing score (97%) for a song.
- is possibly the first quartet ever to win while using two different leads during the contest.
- joins the **Orphans** (1954) and **Ringmasters** (2012) as the only champions who skipped the previous year's contest.



After **Gimme Four** was announced as 2nd place, the new silver medalists ran first to **Lemon Squeezy**, wanting to be the first to congratulate the presumed champion. Bass Martin Jangö couldn't hold still as the four awaited the gold medal announcement, briefly throwing himself onto a couch to breathe and release some adrenaline before rejoining the other three. Once on stage, the quartet thanked many; most memorably, they paid tribute to their mothers, who had traveled overseas to support them at each of their International contests.

NEXT GENERATION VARSITY QUARTET CONTEST

NEXT
GENERATION
BARBERSHOP

... MAKE THE MOST FUTURE IMPACT

The most underrated round every year is the NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest. It's entertaining for its own sake, with but then there's the impact: In **Lemon Squeezy's** first appearance in the 2010 contest, Victor Nilsson and Martin Jangö finished at 12th place, but ended up being two of that contest's 17 singers who later went on to win International ... so far. All five 2010 collegiate medalists and eight of the top 10 quartets featured one or two future gold medalist singers. We inevitably saw some future International champion singers at the NextGen Contest in Denver, too—we just don't know who they are yet.

❖ = Quartet debut. Quartet members listed as tenor, lead, bari, and bass regardless of standing order. Action photos by Lorin May. Portrait photos by Read Photography. www.barbershop.org/photos



1. Radiant (SUN)
Abbie Owens, Hannah Paschal, Emma Paschal, Katie Vincent



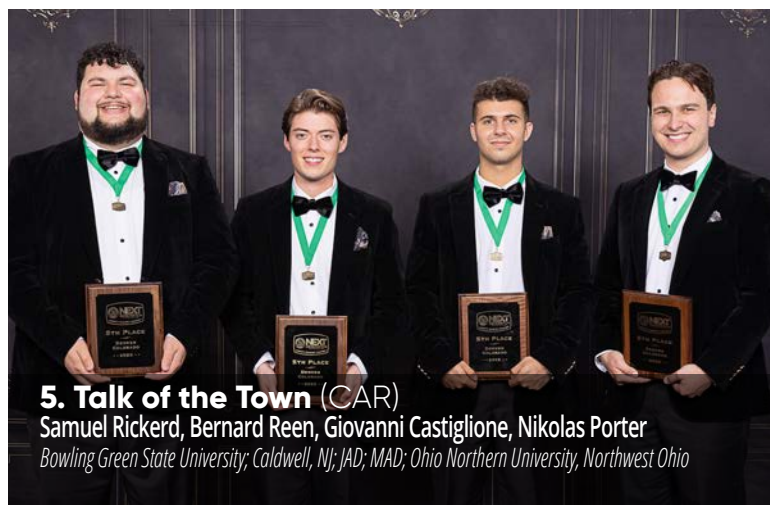
2. Suite Life (SUN)
Lex Goity, Cody Mathewson, Tripp Carter, Zach Gould
Frank Thorne; Rollins College; Tampa, FL



3. Promenade (BHNZ)
Will Harris, Will Lynch, Harry Burt, Kieran King



4. Ami Quartet (BABS) ❖
Isabel Clarke, Alexandra Georgiadis, Matt Friend, Matthew Pandya



5. Talk of the Town (CAR)
Samuel Rickerd, Bernard Reen, Giovanni Castiglione, Nikolas Porter
Bowling Green State University; Coldwell, NJ; JAD; MAD; Ohio Northern University; Northwest Ohio



6. Cruise Control (PIO) ❖
Shoshana Sprecher, Catie Carey, Kayla Reed, Cole Carey
Alma College; Grand Valley State University; Michigan State University



7. Gateway (CSD)

Robert Abbott, Stephen Reynolds, Cole Williamson, Johnny Padigos

Harmony STL



8. Centreplace (BHNZ) ❖

Natassja Medina, Karma Newton-King, Keegan Davies, Harley Pithira



9. Rived (PIO)

Gabe LaPointe, Jake Kershaw, Matt Bidigare, Ryan Berry



10. Incognito (FWD) ❖

Dallas Halverson, John Yokoyama, Emilio Pichardo, Ross Valentine



11. The Quin-Tones (MAD)

Jacob Lapp, Julian LeFlore, Tommy Hunter, Chris Crawford

Greater Delaware; Rowan University



12. Overcast (BHA) ❖

Kate Butler, Erin Butler, Jakob Reid, Ryan Reid

The Gold Coast in Queensland, Australia



13. Nostalgia (SWD) ❖

Houston Burns, Kyle Feather, Carson Kientz, Hawkins Burns

Hell's Kitchen Chapter; MAD



14. Trilogy (SUN) ❖

Jesus Pacheco, Bryan Adames, Kevin Osano, Ben Anderson

Orlando, FL; Tampa, FL



15. Proof of Concept (SWD) ❖

Meghan McClafferty, Kianna Montanez, Jaylord Lobaton, Nate Lueders
Asheville, NC; NSC; Town North Plano, TX



16. Monosodium Glutamate (FWD) ❖

Grace Lueck, Kayla Quilantang, Grant Heineman, Will Aiken
Frank Thorne; JAD



17. FreshF (CAR)

Jackson Staton, Jayden Bowman, Chase Miller, Zach McCord
Cardinal District



18. Plead the Fifth (BHA) ❖

Shane Naidoo, Liam Dwyer, Ben de Courcy, Xavier Hinton
Sydney Harmony, Voices of Western Sydney, Vox Canvas



19. Frostbite (LOL) ❖

Seth Olson, Oliver Nicholson, TJ Striblen, Ian Witry



20. Ceoltoirí Canóla (IABS) ❖

Alice O'Connor, Sadbh Breathnach, Katie Coyle, Síne Ó hAodha



21. Fender Bender (SWD) ❖

Brandon Falknor, Zach Hoover, Kyle Maninantan, Carson Koch



NEXT GENERATION VARSITY CHORUS FESTIVAL

NEXT
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1. Vox Corvi (CAR) • Directed by Theo Hicks • Anderson University in Anderson, IN

2025 INTERNATIONAL CHORUS FESTIVAL


DENVER
2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
♪ ♪ ♡



1. The Timberliners (RMD) • Jady Johnson • Denver Mile High, CO Outstanding



2. Longs Peak Chorus (RMD) • Ron Black • Longmont, CO Outstanding

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INTERNATIONAL COMEDY QUARTET FESTIVAL



... WIN A SOMETIMES DARK COMEDY CONTEST FESTIVAL

As a festival, the scoring wasn't traditional, nor were the jokes. One might say that there are some talented groups out there who have a dark sense of humor. Overall winner **Graffiti** was memorable in the "Weird Al"-penned "One More Minute," especially Cole Carey's take as an obsessive ex-boyfriend who is not processing his break-up well. Other dark turns included **Mostly Joking's** "Old Friends," where a seemingly sweet old man (played by a puppet) casually reveals his criminal side. In **Counterpoint's** "Dream" medley, quartet members' aspiring dreams are soon forgotten after they persuade ditzy tenor Molly Rymes to share what turn out to be her absurd and occasionally disturbing night visions, causing the others to question her sanity and to fear for their personal safety. ■

Quartets listed in order of appearance. Quartet members listed as tenor, lead, bari, and bass regardless of standing order. Photos by Lorin May



1. Graffiti (PIO) Outstanding
Ethan Steele, Charlie Gross, Cole Carey, Roberto Rojas
Greater Wall Scrawlers, MI



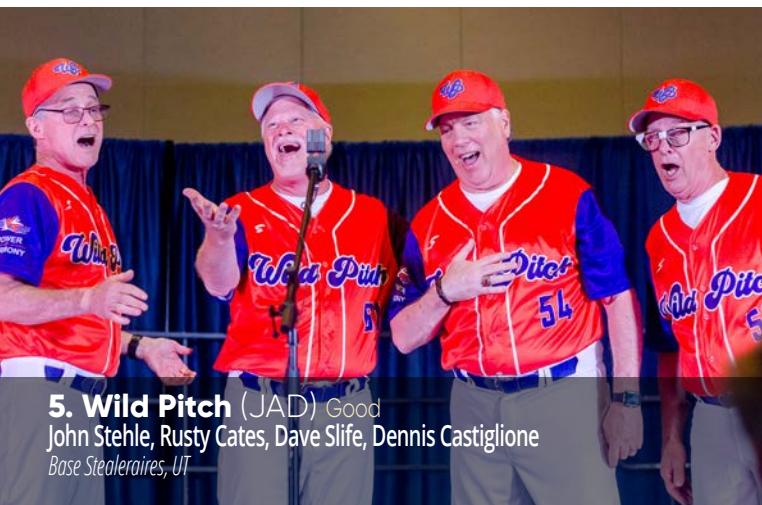
2. Counterpoint (RMD) Outstanding
Molly Rymes, Jamie McIntyre, Rhianna Spong, Holly Vose
School of Mines Serenaders, CO



3. Basically (BHA) Outstanding
Hugh McDonald, Liam Dywer, Cam Hinton, Xavier Hinton
Silly Geese Central, Sydney



4. Four Sure (SWD) Good
Amanda Dover, Diane McGuire, Roman King, Paulo Iza
The Four Is Because There Are four Of Us, CO



5. Wild Pitch (JAD) Good
John Stehle, Rusty Cates, Dave Slife, Dennis Castiglione
Base Stealers, UT



6. Mostly Joking (MAD) Outstanding
Zachary Zimmerman, William Fazzina, Eric Blum, Branden Carlson
Hell's Guest Bath, NY



**Thank you to everyone who attended Harmony University in
Denver, Colorado this summer!**

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hosting our signature educational event!**

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MEN IN HARMONY

ashevillebarbershop.com/men-in-harmony

Men in Harmony (organized under the NSC District), ashevillebarbershop.com/men-in-harmony, Beautiful Asheville, NC. Men in Harmony seeking experienced director. A growing group of about 15 of us men continue to rehearse weekly, focused on community singing, performing about once a month to rave reviews. Salary, relocation assistance. See ashevillebarbershop.com/men-in-harmony. Contact: Jim Gordon jimgkiss3@gmail.com or 828-545-2262.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Members reported as deceased between May 16 and July 15, 2025. Send updates to membership@barbershop.org. See previous memorial listings and links to online obituaries at barbershop.org/in-memoriam.

CAROLINAS

Mike Sobolewski
Mount Pleasant, SC

CENTRAL STATES

Dale Allen
Topeka, KS
Stephen Kohlbray
St. Louis Suburban, MO
John Schlender
Manhattan, KS
Bill Scott
Hays, KS

EVERGREEN

Jack Anderson
Olympia, WA
Warren Ballew
Olympia, WA
Terry Bucknell
Langley, BC

Russell Faldzinski
Juan De Fuca, WA
Maurice Jones
Greater Vancouver, BC
John Oliver
Olympia, WA

FAR WESTERN

Charles Edwin Bevitt
Santa Monica, CA
Edward Johnson
Tucson, AZ

JOHNNY APPLESEED

William Pace
Greater Central Ohio
Buckeye Columbus, OH

LAND O' LAKES

Larry Kinatader
Oshkosh, WI
John Staut
La Crosse, WI

MID-ATLANTIC

Jesse Barron
Prince William, VA
William Carr
Frank Thorne
John Celani
Cherry Hill, NJ
Allen Elkins
Prince William, VA
Mt. Vernon, VA
Andrew Guerriero
Manhattan, NY
Richard Kessmann
Norfolk, VA

Robert Kovach
Manhattan, NY
Dan Little
Cherry Hill, NJ
John Andrew Metzo
Wilkes Barre, PA
Terry Oxenreider
Lebanon, PA
Edward Smith
Red Bank Area, NJ
Ocean County, NJ
Mike Sobolewski
Cherry Hill, NJ

NORTHEASTERN

Phillip Biller
Concord, NH
Kurt Boutin
Nashua, NH
Daniel Clark
Portland, ME

Charles Currey
Schenectady, NY
Mark Genest
Waterbury/Derby, CT
Fred Grainger
Dartmouth, NS
Robert LJordan
Hanover, NH
Roger Martin
Keene, NH

ONTARIO

David Leitch
Newmarket, ON

PIONEER

Donald Horton
Marquette County, MI
Lansing, MI
Dan Lance
Sault Ste Marie, ON

Irwin Mann
Pontiac-Waterford, MI

SUNSHINE

Frank Bates
Everglades, FL
Andrew Guerriero
Sarasota, FL
Irwin Mann
Central Florida
Mike Sobolewski
Jacksonville Big O

NO DISTRICT

Bede Bender
Robert Bihl
Dee Clark
Jerome O'Connor



Harlan Wilson
Baritone of 1961 champ
Suntones



Marjorie Latzko
Tenor of the Chordettes

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTORY

How can we help you barbershop today? Get answers from the staff at Harmony Hall.



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- BHNZ (Barbershop Harmony New Zealand)
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- BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)
singbarbershop.com • Shanna Wells: Shanna.wells@singbarbershop.com
- BIBA (Barbershop of Iberia Association)
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- LABBS (Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers)
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- MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association)
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- SNOBS (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)
snoobs.org • Bjorn Lindstrom
- SPATS (Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers)
spats.co.za • Mark Jensen van Rensburg: president@spats.co.za

SOCIETY SUBSIDIARIES

- Association of International Champions • *AICGold.com*
- Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions • *aisqc.com*
- The Woodshedders • *ahsow.org*
- Southern Harmony Brigade • *southernharmonybrigade.com*
- Harmony Brigade • *harmonybrigade.org*
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- New England • Lone Star • Northern Pines • United Kingdom • European
- Mixed Harmony Brigade of New England

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- Harmony Foundation International
harmonyfoundation.org
- Sing Canada Harmony
SingCanadaHarmony.ca
- American Choral Directors Association
acdaonline.org
- Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
sinfonia.org
- World Harmony Council
worldbarbershop.org
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- Sweet Adelines International
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- National Association for Music Education
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- Chorus America
chorusamerica.org
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The Harmonizer

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Brian Lynch (Associate Editor)

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Brian Lynch, Lorin May



THE TAG

Tom Gentry, Tagmaster
tgbari1@gmail.com

Denver's one-word-per-person tag

So there I was at the Denver International, minding my own business, when my Muse spoke up and said, "How about making the next tag something related to this convention?" Good idea, I thought. "You could do something really creative, like having some attendees come up with the lyrics and melody. Let them contribute one word at a time and then one melody note at a time." Great, let's roll!

The first person I buttonholed came up with the word "Gee." Yep, that gets us off to a barbershoppy start. My next pal, a wag who

shall go nameless (for a little while), slyly said "pers." Okay, wise guy, the first word is now "Jeepers." Then came "let's." Good. Next was "see." Solid. With "if," lots of possibilities were opened up. The word "we" was a fine fit. Next came what I was hoping for to get us headed for the barn: "can." Finally—just right, like the Baby Bear's porridge—was "harmonize." Eureka!

The melody was easier to concoct. I asked various folks to pick a number from 1 to 10, letting them know that 1 was do, 2 was re, and so on. (This is the system Steve Delehanty, the aforementioned wag, and I use

in our Songwriting class at Harmony College East.) Here is the sequence they generated: 9-7-6-3-6-4-7-6-7-5.

The arrangement suggested itself quite nicely. (The first three measures could actually have been all chords in the V7 family, but that would have been duller than hearing about the latest exploits of other people's grandchildren.) The lead line, while not really difficult, may be a bit more challenging than the harmony parts. At any rate, enjoy this offbeat product of an absolutely wonderful convention! ■

Words by Some Denver Attendees

Music by Some Other Denver Attendees
Arrangement by TOM GENTRY

TTBB voicing

Tom Gentry (2025)

1 2 3 4

Jee - pers, let's see if we can har - mo - nize!

SSAA voicing

Tom Gentry (2025)

1 2 3 4

Jee - pers, let's see if we can har - mo - nize!

SATB voicing

Tom Gentry (2025)

1 2 3 4

Jee - pers, let's see if we can har - mo - nize!



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