

2020 Society Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

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When were award nominations submitted?

The 2019 award nomination window was January 15 through February 15, 2020. Nominations were only accepted via the official forms, and late/incomplete submissions were not considered for eligibility.

How were the finalists chosen?

Several volunteer teams gathered to review and rank submissions during the evaluation window of February 16 through March 15. These volunteers were chosen based on their subject matter expertise while taking considerations to avoid any potential conflict of interest. During the evaluation window, the Evaluation Teams read through all submissions and evaluated the merits of each. Each team selected up to five finalists in the form of a ranked list. Those lists were then returned to the BHS Gala team for an executive review.

Who is on the Evaluation Teams?

Each team included a BHS Staff member (who also acted as coordinator), a BHS Board of Directors member, and three or more volunteer reviewers for each award category. These volunteers were identified as subject matter experts or otherwise appropriate for specific teams. Special consideration was given to ensure that reviewers did not have any conflicts of interest that might have influenced nominee evaluations.

Can I volunteer to serve on an Evaluation Team for next year?

Each team member was carefully selected to participate in this inaugural event based on their individual talents. While this process may change in future years, we are not accepting additional volunteers at this time. If you are interested in getting involved in this event in the future, or general volunteering for BHS, please contact awards@barbershop.org.

How were the winners chosen?

Based on the ranks assigned by the evaluation team along with the listed criteria for each award, finalists and award recipients in each category were all confirmed by the Gala Executive Review team.

What about confidentiality?

All submissions, reviews, and volunteer team member identities were confidential during the evaluation and review periods. All Evaluation Team members were acknowledged during the Finalist Video Series shared on social media and on the BHS YouTube channel.

When were the finalists announced to the public?

Each category was highlighted in the Finalist Series of videos released on social media and the BHS YouTube channel. Please visit www.barbershop.org/societyawards for more information about the finalists and virtual event.

When will the winners be announced?

Award recipients will be announced during a YouTube premiere of the inaugural Society Awards Gala virtual event on Monday, September 14th starting at 7:00 pm Central. This virtual event replaces the in-person event that was scheduled to occur during the now-cancelled 2020 International Convention in Los Angeles, California.

Is it true that ANYONE can receive any award?

Current Society Board of Directors members are ineligible to receive individual awards, but may be part of a group award. Current Harmony Hall staff, BHS and HFI employees, are also ineligible to receive individual awards. Finally, Evaluation Team Members are ineligible to receive individual awards in their assigned categories but may be part of group awards or individual awards in other categories.

Who was not eligible to submit nominations?

BHS and HFI Executive Directors are not eligible to submit nominations for any awards and Evaluation Team members are not eligible to submit nominations in their assigned award categories.

What about Conflicts of Interest?

All possible conflicts of interest must be disclosed immediately to the Executive Review team via awards@barbershop.org. Although every effort has been taken to avoid any conflicts of interest, if one shall arise, Evaluation Team members must recuse themselves from any discussions or votes related to themselves, immediate family members, and/or ensembles in which they currently participate.

What are the criteria for the new awards?

The following criteria apply to all nominations:

- Evaluations are primarily focused on the previous calendar year
- Consideration may be given to activities from prior years when included as background
- Membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society is not a prerequisite

- **Barbershopper of the Year** (individual)
 - Description
 - Awarded to an individual in recognition of significant contributions to the Barbershop Harmony Society during the past calendar year. Additional consideration may be given to sustained contributions of outstanding service in support of BHS-related activities over a number of years.
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Achievement in a BHS competition is **not** a requirement
 - Must have made a contribution in furthering awareness of barbershop harmony
 - Strong candidates will be in alignment with the Barbershop Harmony Society's Mission and Values.
 - Must exemplify the fundamental qualities of congeniality and good character the BHS desires to perpetuate

- **Quartet of the Year**
 - Description

- Awarded in honor of artistic achievement, technical proficiency, and overall excellence in the audio recording of barbershop harmony, without regard to album sales or critical reception.
- Evaluation Criteria
 - Must have been released within the prior calendar year (2019)
 - Must primarily feature performances of arrangements in four-part harmony, consistent with the Barbershop style
- **Video of the Year**
 - Description
 - Awarded to an individual or singing community in honor of the most outstanding non-contest video recording that features barbershop harmony, created and uploaded to social media within the prior calendar year.
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Must have made a contribution in furthering awareness of barbershop harmony
 - Video must have been released during the previous calendar year (2019)

What if I have more questions?

Please send any additional questions to awards@barbershop.org