

The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • JULY/AUGUST 2021



HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN!

A post-COVID present and future: After more than a year of virtual offerings, BHS groups are finally returning to ringing chords together live and in person



NOTEWORTHY

VIRTUAL HARMONY U 2021
THE OLDEST AFTERGLOW SPOT

SPOTLIGHT

HERB MORDKOFF: WHY YOU
NEED A SUNSHINE CHAIR

TIP SHEET

EIGHT TIPS FOR
BEGINNING ARRANGERS

Kickstart your restart with



Connect LIVE to the best in barbershop.

Online. Together.

**It's the super-flexible, accessible, and unmissable education event
you need to recharge your barbershop life.**

This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov.





Design your personalized barbershop education! Choose from packages that fit your schedule and budget, plus full replay until September 1.

Virtual Chorus Weekend

just
\$59!

July 17, 2pm • July 18, 4pm
2 sessions • 6 hours

- Quick & fun with hundreds of barbershop friends around the world
- Includes tracks and music for "ABC" arranged by David Wright
- Directed by Alex Morris
- Dream quartet section leaders Ali Hauger, Kim Newcomb, Kohl Kitzmiller, Dan Wessler

All VHU experiences include

- LIVE ACCESS to barbershop rockstar instructors
- General sessions each week of VHU
- Special nightly afterglows, watch parties, hangouts
- Access anywhere on smartphone, tablet, or laptop
- **Full replay of all courses until September 1!**

Core Seminars

July 19-31

6 sessions each • 15 hours

Deep dives on core topics led by pros

- Music Educators
- Arranging
- Performing
- Leadership
- Director
- Applied Vocal Instruction

CEU credits available for some courses!

starting
at just
\$65!

Get them all
with a full
registration, just
\$249!

Electives

July 24 • July 31 • Aug 2-7
More than 80 choices!

starting
at
\$99!

- Our flagship offering for general barbershop education!
- Dozens of courses in all areas of performance, theory, vocal technique, leadership, personal vocal training

New! Quick weekend deep dives

- **Labs** - small groups, hands-on tutoring in arranging, conducting and more
- **Panel Discussions** - experts debate and expand on a single topic
- **Reading Sessions** - Sing along to dozens of songs in fast paced, fun setting
- **Workshops**

**Scan and
register
today!**



See full course descriptions, faculty,
schedules, and pricing at

barbershop.org/VHU

In This Issue

JULY/AUGUST 2021 • VOLUME LXXXI • NUMBER 4



Transparent philanthropy means giving not only to the programs you care most about, but deciding exactly how those funds are used. For example, knowing exactly which NextGen Junior chorus you are about to help fall in love with barbershop harmony. Above: **Anna Coyotes Chorus**, Anna High School in Anna, Texas.

Features

16 Blue skies are coming our way!

After more than a year of masking, Zoom chapter meetings, and small social bubbles, singers are beginning to meet safely again. Learn what chapters around the Society have been doing to prepare for and thrive post-COVID, and which chapters are already singing together in person.

23 On sharing our wealth

From the Jan/Feb 1971 issue, Tom Welzenbach shares why Barbershoppers should spend a lifetime learning—and giving away what we learn.

24 Become somebody's hero

When Blair Brown discovered barbershop harmony, BHS members became both her healing and her rock after many years of darkness. You, too, can become somebody's hero—but perhaps only if doing so is a conscious choice.

28 Transparent philanthropy

BHS Chief Development Officer Jeff Fincher says that when donors have more visibility and control when giving to the programs that matter most to them, the result is a “multiplier effect.”

In Every Issue

4 Starting Pitch + Letters

A new, happier “normal”

8 Noteworthy

Virtual Harmony U: prep for post-COVID success
After 14 months, SOI restarts 65-year afterglow spot

12 Tip Sheet

Adam Scott: 8 suggestions for beginning arrangers

14 Spotlight

Why you need a Sunshine Chair: Herb Mordkoff

33 Chapter Eternal

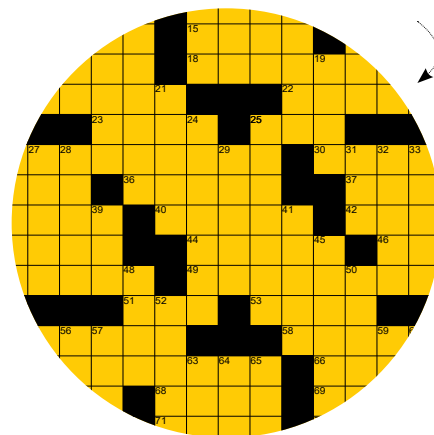
Members reported as deceased between March 15 and May 15, 2021

34 Member Services Directory

How to contact your leaders, where to get answers

36 The Tag

“Sing a Song Each Day”



On the cover: The Boise Chordsmen celebrate singing maskless. *Photo by Chris Wethered.*

Connect with us
barbershop.org



YouTube: BarbershopHarmony38

Facebook: barbershopharmonysociety



Twitter: @barbershopnews

Instagram: @barbershopharmonysociety

Learning Tracks

Your favorite charts

Buy online.
Download immediately.
Start learning today.



and so many more!
shop.barbershop.org

The Harmonizer

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/EDITORIAL
harmonizer@barbershop.org

EDITOR
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 Barbershop Harmony Society) is a non-profit organization operating in the United States and Canada.

July/August 2021
Volume LXIII Number 4
Complete contact info: pages 34-35

The Harmonizer (ISSN 0017-7849) (USPS 577700) is published bimonthly by the Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 7th Ave N, Nashville TN 37203-3704. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Harmonizer, 110 7th Ave N, Nashville TN 37203-3704

Advertising rates available upon request at harmonizer@barbershop.org. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts or artwork.

Postmaster: Send address changes to editorial offices of *The Harmonizer*, 110 7th Ave N, Nashville TN 37203-3704 at least 30 days before the next publication date. (Publications Agreement No. 40886012. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Station A, PO Box 54, Windsor ON N9A 6J5. Email: cp RETURNS@wdsmail.com)

A portion of each member's dues is allocated to cover the magazine's subscription price. Subscription price to non-members is \$25 yearly or \$5 per issue; foreign subscriptions are \$35 yearly or \$7 per issue (U.S. funds only).

© 2021 The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. dba The Barbershop Harmony Society.
Printed in the USA



STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

Barbershop is back— and it's improved

Our year-plus forced reset has helped leaders at every level listen to members and learn to maximize what makes people happy and mitigate what does not

BRIAN LYNCH: Everything is resetting now. As we talk at the beginning of May, some groups are reassembling for outdoor rehearsals, meetings with masks, and so on. By the time this reaches mailboxes, likely many groups will be together again in some fashion. What will that look like? How will we accommodate differing comfort levels? Will everything just “go back to normal?”

MARTY: No doubt, the excitement is building. There will not be a single answer, no single “normal.” There will be many answers, and they will be built around core values of respect and the voices of everyone in the room.



Marty



John

JOHN: I really like the fact that over the last few years, in particular, we’ve really emphasized the need to talk and find out what’s going on in chapters and seeing what they’re doing and maximizing what’s making people happy and mitigating what’s making them unhappy.

MARTY: Probably one of the greatest values we all have gotten from the pandemic was learning how to do that, by responding with what people need. Groups all over the world are getting resources from all over the world to be part of their meetings on Zoom. We’ve made a technological jump that enables a social and educational jump. That’s

what is driving our staff priorities right now around support for our singing communities by reaching their leaders with the tools they need to keep moving forward, and having the greatest reunions in barbershop history.

JOHN: Do you think that getting back to “normal” should be the priority, or should the priority be establishing an even better and brighter norm?

MARTY: It’s the latter, it’s a better normal.



Get in Touch

John Donehower, Society President [johndonehower@gmail.com](mailto: johndonehower@gmail.com)

Marty Monson, CEO/Executive Director [CEO@barbershop.org](mailto: CEO@barbershop.org)

“THERE WILL BE NO SINGLE ‘NORMAL.’ THERE WILL BE MANY ANSWERS BUILT AROUND CORE VALUES OF RESPECT AND THE VOICES OF EVERYONE IN THE ROOM.”

BRIAN: How do we find that?

JOHN: We need to talk more to the chapters in the district, and chapters need to talk to their members. Don't just rely on the visible people who have run things for 50 years—have conversations with the folks who come every Tuesday night, but really don't say much. Find out the commonalities, because I guarantee if you've got a group of 30 people in a room, those 30 won't agree on absolutely everything. A lot of members don't actually open their mouths and speak to what they want, but they are speaking in what they're participating in, and they're speaking in how quickly they learn music, and lots of other actions. Let's face it, it's easier to align 30 singers musically to sing the exact same note and the exact same rhythm than it is to align happiness and joy and satisfaction.

MARTY: Look at any chapter that is succeeding, and in the center of it, whether it's a music director or anyone else, there is a gigantic heart beating that makes everyone feel like "I am part of this, because I'm happier around this person."

JOHN: I want to buy into the culture being offered. I want to fly into that kinder, gentler space. I've seen people who in daily life can be very brash and dismissive suddenly become kind and nurturing as soon as they walk on the risers. It's a reflection of the culture that they live in on chorus nights.

We used to do a "random thank you" thing every week, where somebody would say thank you to another member of the chorus. "I appreciate that you're always singing behind me, I can hear you and you really keep me on track," that sort of thing. It could be a little superficial at times, yeah, but then somebody would go deep and it was really something. Everybody got

"IT'S EASIER TO ALIGN 30 SINGERS MUSICALLY TO SING THE EXACT SAME NOTE AND THE EXACT SAME RHYTHM THAN IT IS TO ALIGN HAPPINESS AND JOY AND SATISFACTION."

that validation, and maybe some of these guys probably didn't give or receive that much in their daily lives. We had this culture of truth that we needed to be grateful to one another.

MARTY: When you got a degree in Choral Conducting or Music Education, you weren't being trained on interpersonal skills, except maybe a little "classroom management." You didn't get a degree in the psychology of how to work with people. During the pandemic, that fellowship has been the driver, and we're just more attuned to that right now. Maybe as chapters start meeting again, we need to carve out space to say "I'm so grateful we're together again, thank you for being here, because I didn't get to do this for 15 months and it's a treasure to get to do this face to face." So that new normal is one of gratitude.

JOHN: I'm glad to know that there is content in Harmony University and directors seminars related to the social leadership aspects of being a director. One of the blessings to the pandemic is that when we can't sing, we can talk, and more importantly, we can listen. As we establish a new, better norm, a brighter norm and optimistic norm, we might very well find that the people who are going a different direction are actually leaders that we haven't recognized.



John & Marty's Virtual Meetings

Live Good Ol' Boys rehearsals every Tuesday (John)
June 30-July 4, Virtual International
July 7, SPC meeting
July 17-Aug 7, Virtual HU
Aug 16, Society Board meeting
Aug 4, SPC meeting

Marty is Reading

Me, Myself, & Bob, Phil Vischer
The Schmitt Brothers, P.T. Rivers (So good!)

John is Reading

One and Done: Dealer's Choice Quartet Overnight Success Story, Gary Parker

Marty is Learning

"Keep the Whole World Singing" (correcting wrong notes. See Jim Henry video at barbershop.org/harmonizer)





STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

"CARVE OUT SPACE TO SAY, 'I'M SO GRATEFUL WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE, BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET TO DO THIS FOR 15 MONTHS AND IT'S A TREASURE TO GET TO DO THIS FACE TO FACE.' MAKE THE NEW NORMAL ONE OF GRATITUDE."

If we only stay focused on the direction we're always going and pay no attention to the people off to the sides, we might end up surprised to find that the leading edge has moved over there.

BRIAN: It happens all the time for us musically. In every era, there are hugely influential groups who push all kinds of boundaries about what we sing. Time passes and tastes evolve, until that "leading edge" feels like the norm.

JOHN: Even today, how many people are able to follow down the road that **Signature** is walking? It's a new little bit of a new paradigm isn't it? For most years, our champions leave us wanting to be them. And Signature's overwhelming message is, be yourself. They can be so wonderfully Signature and inspire me to be wonderfully whatever I am.

MARTY: If you're ruffling feathers today, there's a good chance you're going to be leading tomorrow.

JOHN: That's how I got this job.

MARTY: So the better normal is: be yourself even more than ever!

JOHN: That's not new. But maybe we're all in a better place to make it happen now. It's time to engage. You don't want to miss this! ■



Reader Feedback

Let us know what's on your mind: Harmonizer@barbershop.org

Explosive chapter growth remembered

@ What a thrill to see the picture and reference to the Cape Breton Chordsmen's successful 2008 membership drive in the latest edition! Our chapter has managed to keep going during COVID, mostly through Zoom, with a few socially-distanced mask-wearing practices back in the fall.

Hal Higgins

Director, Cape Breton Chordsmen (Nova Scotia)



May/June kudos, and "Name that quartet!"

@ Several kudos and one teeny weeny "wish you woulda."

I thought President John's article was very enlightening. More directors should make sure that they are doing what members want. I imagine a lot of members think that if they offer constructive critical thoughts, their director will quit and move to Poughkeepsie. Also, I've known Manny Lopez since he was about a sophomore at Texas State, where the chorus rehearsed. He's certainly a gem. We need hundreds more like him.

The little "Wish you woulda" is this: I recognized the picture of the guy's quartet and the girl's quartet. I know the guys were the **Four Teens**, '52 champs—even though, believe it or not, it was before my time. I didn't join until '54. I THINK maybe the girls were the **Junior Misses**, but maybe one of you could tell me who the ladies were?

Brian Beck

Dealer's Choice (1973 champ), Side Street Ramblers (1983 champ)

*Sorry about not captioning that photo. (Actually, we failed to caption all three.) But Brian was right, the bottom photo was the Four Teens; and minus the caption, one might ask whether the women were simply some now-obscure foursome excited to be in the same picture as some talented guys. Drumroll: according to the original Harmonizer photo caption, this presumably long-since-forgotten foursome was called ... let's see ... **The Chordettes**. (For those not joining Brian in a collective facepalm, many consider The Chordettes of "Mister Sandman" and "Lollipop" fame to be the most successful barbershop quartet of all time!) ■*



110 7th Ave N.
Nashville, TN, 37203



Harmonizer@barbershop.org



Barbershop.org



[Facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety](https://www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety)

IN A QUARTET?

YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS HERE.

LEARN ABOUT OUR
FREE QUARTET RESOURCES!

**FAMILY
QUARTETS
VIRTUAL
QUARTETS
QUARTET
PODS**

Are you starting a new quartet, or in a long-distance or virtual quartet?

BHS can help you get started for FREE! Receive great benefits right away, such as a free song after sign-up, access to past issues of our quartet quarterly newsletter, and more.



**Sign up for FREE quartet resources at
barbershop.org/freequartet**



● ONLINE EXCELLENCE

Virtual Harmony U: perfect prep for post-COVID success

Hit the ground running as a performer and as an ensemble with classes geared toward today's challenges and opportunities—plus the timeless high-end learning of years past

If you are ready to take all the silver linings from online barbershop life and integrate them into your post-COVID barbershop life, don't miss Virtual Harmony University, this summer from July 17-August 7. Faculty have been gearing up to adapt classic curriculum to the emerging challenges and opportunities of post-pandemic singing and leadership.

Our deepest faculty bench of all time will be building on last year's overwhelmingly positive feedback for Virtual HU. In addition to new offerings, classic courses have been tailored to reflect the needs and realities for today's singers. Participate live or, if needed, watch on your own schedule. Register for an all-inclusive pass or order à la carte. All purchased content can be viewed until September 1!

Virtual Choir. Join director Alex Morris and all-star section leaders to prepare for a mixed-voice virtual performance of David Wright's arrangement of the **Jackson 5** hit "A-B-C."

Quartet College. If your quartet has a laptop and a greenlight to safely sing together live, you'll see just how powerful virtual coaching can be. Sign up your quartet for one-on-one sessions with a variety of top-level coaches and get a big jump in prepar-



ing for shows, contests, and community performances. At the end, your performance may be posted to the BHS YouTube channel.

Seminars. The world's top Barbershoppers provide a deep dive into the craft through six intensive two-hour courses for each of the following areas:

- Leadership
- Applied Vocal Instruction
- Music Educator
- Arranging
- Performing
- Directing

Electives. Choose from 90 live, in-

Top-level 2021 faculty includes (clockwise from top) David Wright, Aaron Dale, Steve Armstrong, and Cindy Hansen Ellis. Also learn from Rob Mance, Steve Tramack, Rob Macdonald, Jay Dougherty, Cy Wood, Justin Miller, David McEachern, Kim Newcomb, Joe Cerutti, Mo Field, Don Campbell, and dozens more!

teractive 50- and 110-minute courses offered from August 2-7. A huge variety of courses will provide endless expertise from (Did we mention this before?) our deepest faculty bench of all time.

General Sessions. You won't want to miss these four sessions with fast-moving, engaging, participatory content that should be familiar to anyone who has attended HU Belmont or *Barbershop Live @ Home*. Get full details for all seminars, offerings, and classes at barbershop.org/hu.



REGISTER ONLINE A full registration for two seminars, all electives, and virtual choir is \$249, with à la carte options available. Register and see classes and faculty at barbershop.org/hu.



SUPERCARGE YOUR GROUP'S RETURN TO LIVE SINGING!

The excitement grows as more of us return to live singing and districts are scheduling live conventions. The Society has been partnering with chapters, districts, and singing communities to assemble resources and opportunities to help fuel some of the greatest reunions in barbershop history.

Virtual International Convention, June 30-July 4.

Socializing, Virtual Chorus and Quartet festivals, the AIC Show, and the **Westminster Chorus** during the holiday weekend at a price virtually anyone could afford.

Insights from medical experts. Watch for live and printed up-to-date guidance from singing and health experts.

Singing community leader ideas and insights exchange. **Big Idea Roundtable Sessions** to address the return to singing together in person and retaining and attracting members.

Social media graphics. Use the images shown here and on the front cover in your social media and community outreach.

"Together Again" stories in LiveWire, Harmonizer and on the BHS Blog. Look for more stories like restoring your voice after lockdown, chapter fund-raising and hosting virtual campfire nights.

Links at barbershop.org/harmonizer.



● ASK A STAFF MEMBER

MORE INQUIRIES+SMALLER STAFF=DELAYED RESPONSE

HOW LONG DOES IT TYPICALLY TAKE TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE FROM HQ?



This year's Member Center upgrade has resulted in about a third more inquiries handled by a smaller Customer Service staff. We are working hard to catch up to our normal level of service, but delays may take up to a few weeks depending on the complexity of the issue. We have

compiled many self-help articles and tutorials on our Document Center at members.barbershop.org (log-in required) under a tile labeled *Member Center Help*. Learn how to:

- renew your membership.
- search for another Barbershopper.
- update your chapter leaders, and more.

We are working hard to address the problems and return to a normal service timeline soon.

– Luke Davis, CustomerService@barbershop.org

● EVERY TUESDAY SINCE 1956



SOI restarts at 65-year afterglow spot

The first post-COVID gathering at a place where everybody knows their name

The **Bloomington, Ill., Chapter** received its charter in April 1942 (only 21 chapters formed earlier). In 1936, Bloomington's Lucca Grill opened. While the date the two began a relationship is not chronicled, it is believed to be in the mid-1950s (if not sooner). A 64-year member recalls winding down after rehearsal at the back table with his father in 1956. (Does anyone know of afterglow sites that old and still active?) Photo shows first visit (May 4) to the Italian grill since the pandemic by eight **Sound of Illinois** members.

From the Lucca Grill menu: *Barber Shopper Special (Inspired by our Tuesday night regulars.) Sausage, mushrooms, and onions.*

– Jim Stahley



NOTEWORTHY

The latest in the world of barbershop



● MARIO REACHES THE NEXT LEVEL

Bonkers—and perfect

Dedicate nine months to a 14-minute project, and maybe you can get this kind of exposure, too. Kohl Kitzmiller, bari of 2015 champion **Instant Classic** and a popular arranger and vocal track maker, shot for the moon and produced what *GAMINGbible* told their 6.7 million Facebook followers was “the best Mario Acappella ever!” That was no faint praise. There are other pretty high-level versions out there, but Kohl’s vocals and visuals are in their own league. While the barbershop world is already familiar with his top-shelf singing and arranging prowess, it’s Kohl’s wildly complex, frenetic video editing that makes you wonder how he arranged, recorded, shot, and edited the whole thing in *only* 400 hours. Truly pro-level.

He could hardly have chosen a more popular property to catch the attention of the online masses. Kohl covered 40 of the catchy background songs from Nintendo’s vast Mario franchise, which has earned \$30 billion since 1981—more than every Star Wars and Marvel movie combined. Link to the full video at barbershop.org/harmonizer.



WISCONSIN YOUTH HARMONY FESTIVAL IS BACK!

The performances were recorded, but the energy was undiminished in the May 22 Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival. Eight quartets and two choruses vied for top honors in the contest, whose past winners include **Vintage Mix Quartet** and **Best Sellers**, both of which went on to place near the top of the Next Generation Barbershop Junior Quartet Contest. Watch at [YouTube.com/barbershopharmony38](https://www.youtube.com/barbershopharmony38).

AIC, SUNSHINE DISTRICT, HFI RESTART LABOR DAY JAMBOREE

From Sept. 3-5, watch what happens when the Sunshine District joins forces with the Association of International Champions & Harmony Foundation International for the first big, live event of 2021!

LDJ 2021 will feature all the things you love about Labor Day Jamboree—family, fun, food, pool time, golf, incredible entertainment, tags, tags, and more tags! This year LDJ also hosts the return of the annual in-person AIC Show we’ve missed for over two years. Come and spend a few days harmonizing with hundreds of your closest friends, and finish the weekend watching the best in barbershop strut their stuff.

Saturday’s Jamboree Show features the best in men’s, women’s, and mixed barbershop, and Sunday’s AIC Show features TEN of your favorite BHS Champs along with the AIC Chorus.

Not quite ready to attend LDJ in person? You can still experience both shows streaming live.

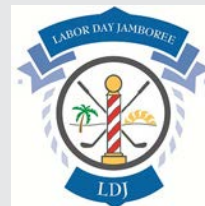
Go to sunldj.com for more information, including registration, hotel, performer details, livestream information, and more.

Check out aicgold.com and harmonyfoundation.org for more details on how the AIC Outreach Fund can help your Chapter and District connect with your local/regional communities.

Don’t miss out on your chance to be part of the greatest harmonizing comeback party ever!

See you in Orlando on September 3rd!

September 3-5, 2021 – Omni Championsgate Resort – Orlando, Florida





What's Happening

Virtual International Convention 2021

June 30-July 4

From your PC or Mac

As close as you can get until we're back to singing live in Charlotte!
barbershop.org/international



◀2022 International Charlotte

2023 International Louisville

2024 International Cleveland



2022 Midwinter Pasadena

2023 Midwinter Daytona Beach

2024 Midwinter New York

Midwinter Convention

January 11-16

Pasadena, California

Live and in-person Seniors & Youth contests, casual vibe, great shows!



Virtual HU 2021

July 17-Aug 7

Great content in an online format until we can meet live at Belmont in 2022!

• www.barbershop.org/hu

A barbershop-themed crossword puzzle by Michael Black. Answer key on page 32

Across

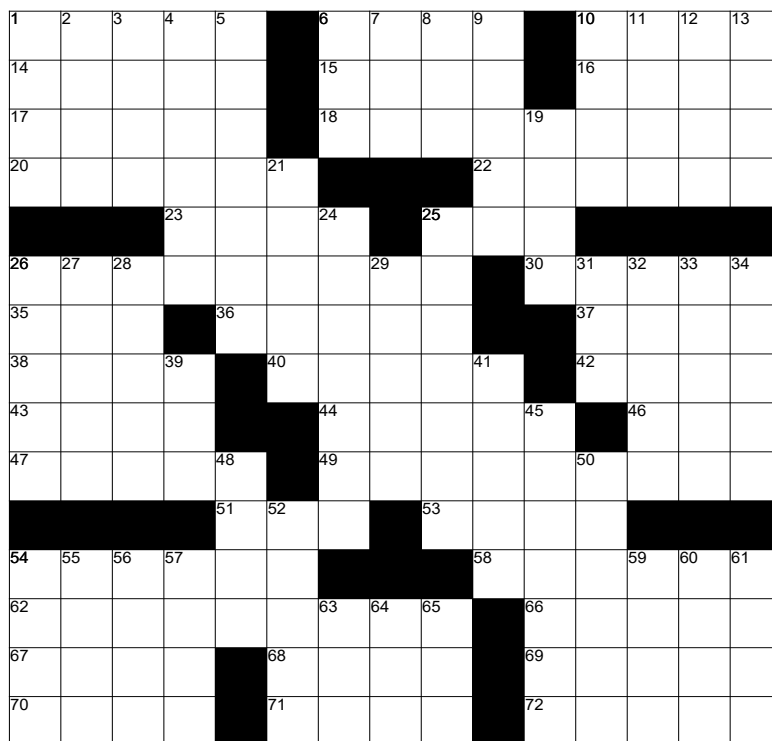
- 1 Bread choice
- 6 "___ of the sea am I..."
- 10 In the thick of
- 14 United with
- 15 "Say it isn't so!"
- 16 Brewed beverage in a barbershop jive
- 17 Song with "Blackbird" in a Gas House Gang medley
- 18 1955 Quartet Champions*
- 20 Kind of valve in a car
- 22 Mists
- 23 Enthusiastic Spanish assent
- 25 Visualize
- 26 1967 Quartet Champions*
- 30 Twilights
- 35 Bill's "excellent adventure" partner
- 36 Barbershopper and Grammy-nominated cellist Pekarek
- 37 Haunted house sound
- 38 When You ___ Were Young, Maggie
- 40 Long baths
- 42 The ___ Towners, 1966 Quartet Champions
- 43 Bow out of a poker hand
- 44 Of service
- 46 Pen tip
- 47 Straight from the garden
- 49 1965 Quartet Champions*
- 51 Nincompoop
- 53 Bygone G.M. compact cars
- 54 Dealer's Choice member Al
- 58 Uprights and grands
- 62 2016 Quartet Champions, or, spelled differently, what the starred answers are missing

66 "Assuming it's true ..., " informally

- 67 Greek H's
- 68 Otherwise
- 69 Give 10% to one's church
- 70 Amount owed
- 71 University official
- 72 Proceed on tiptoe

Down

- 1 It began only 508 days after the BHS was established
- 2 Chopped down
- 3 Word between File and View on a menu bar
- 4 Etta James hit performed by Signature in contest
- 5 Author of The Hobbit
- 6 2012 chorus champions, for short
- 7 That woman
- 8 "___ Sunday morn sat a maid forlorn ..."
- 9 Like the Vikings
- 10 Legendary barbershop coach Larry ___
- 11 Papa's partner
- 12 Tony-winning actress Judith
- 13 AIC members Walz and Wessler
- 19 Zoomed
- 21 Classic collection?
- 24 2008 Jason Mraz single that spent 76 weeks on Billboard's Hot 100
- 25 Weaving in and out
- 26 Sheet music lines
- 27 54-Across, for example
- 28 Bewilder
- 29 Overjoy
- 31 Thurman of "Kill Bill"



- 32 Bygone contest scoring category
- 33 GQ's Gillis or Macdonald
- 34 BHS alliance org established in 1980
- 39 Driver's licenses and such, for short
- 41 Shuteye
- 45 Selfish sorts
- 48 Football break
- 50 As neat ___
- 52 Fathered, as a racehorse
- 54 Britney Spears' ex-husband, familiarly

- 55 Cast a ballot
- 56 The "A" of U.A.E.
- 57 Container for eggs
- 59 Part of a melody
- 60 Workplace-inspecting org.
- 61 Look for
- 63 Bullring cheer
- 64 Secretive government org
- 65 Number of quartets in the Finals, often



TIP SHEET

Adam Scott, Harmony University Faculty
✉ musicscotty@gmail.com

8 suggestions for beginning arrangers

You don't need extreme talent or an extensive education in music theory to become a successful barbershop arranger—it's a learnable skill. Accelerate your learning curve with these suggestions.

Once heard it said that a good arrangement is one you can't wait to sing and one you wish you'd done yourself. Arranging is a learnable skill. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

Start with a good song. This is probably 80% of arranging. A great song has compelling harmony, interesting lyrics, and/or a good hook. Dominant sevenths and tritones generate forward motion and keep the harmony compelling and moving. An interesting lyric is one that tells a story. A good hook or repeated thematic material like the ooga-cha-ka recurring rhythmic pattern in "Hooked on a Feeling," the surprise note in the refrain of "Daydream," the infectious beat of "Happy," or the simple singable riff in "All About That Bass" are excellent examples. If your song does not contain compelling harmony, interesting lyrics, or a good hook, your project is fighting an uphill battle. There just aren't many ways to dress up "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" (as good a song as it is).

Sing through all four parts. Can an average singer perform all four parts? As arranger Don Gray put it, "If you can't sing it, probably no one else can, either." Ask yourself if there is a smoother way to get the sound



Adam Scott teaches arranging at Harmony U 2014. He is one of the arranging instructors for the upcoming Virtual Harmony University 2021.

you're after. The old woodshedding (ear singing) rules of thumb should apply: "Don't move unless you have to (or if the melody takes your note), and if you must move, move the smallest distance you need to move to complete the chord." You can execute anything with computer software, but that doesn't mean you should. Eventually, someone has to try to sing it.

Do not double the lead with the baritone. Many novice arrangers will inadvertently double these parts—an easy mistake given the similar ranges and different clefs. But doubling a note in the chord means something has been left out.

Eliminate weak bass writing. At

least initially, get used to writing your bass on roots and fifths of the chord. Yes, there are times to give the bass first inversion or even third inversion (often in a so-called bass/tenor scissor, for example). Give the bass the root or fifth, even if you have to write multiple jumps in the arrangement to make that happen. The bass part is most accustomed to large leaps.

Avoid "divorced bass," which is when the bass is one octave or further from the next lowest note in the chord. Yes, there are moments when this is used to good effect (the tag to Walter Latzko's arrangement of "As Time Goes By"), but having the bass too far removed means the upper three parts will be singing in efficient range while the bass is not. This lessens potential for the chords to lock and ring.

Get feedback. Ask for help and mentoring. Even great arrangers often bounce their arrangements off another set of ears for feedback.

Listen to the recording(s). A great song will often have been covered many times by multiple artists. A careful listening of several versions of the same song can reveal more layers to you as an arranger. What elements in the different orchestrations come to the foreground? Each iteration will give you a nugget to build on.

Utilize the original score. It's well worth paying a few bucks, particularly if you are a beginning arranger.

"DON'T MOVE UNLESS YOU HAVE TO (OR IF THE MELODY TAKES YOUR NOTE), AND IF YOU MUST MOVE, MOVE THE SMALLEST DISTANCE YOU NEED TO MOVE TO COMPLETE THE CHORD."



READ/WATCH ONLINE Go to barbershop.org/harmonizer to link to BHS music theory and arranging resources as well as Dave Stevens' "What Are We Trying to Preserve?"

The piano/vocal score, the lead sheet, and guitar tabs are all excellent tools for the arranger. The score reveals the harmonic progression, rhythmic timing, and phrasing. Many scores show the pop/jazz analysis (G7, F#6, etc), giving you quick reference to the chords. The original score is vital to capturing the intent of the original composition. Websites like Sheet Music Plus and *Musicnotes.com* have just about everything.

Ask “does it circle?” The circle of fifths is a cornerstone of barbershop music. The Society created a page to train its members in what the circle of fifths is and how it is employed. Or, if you haven’t yet seen it, Dave Stephens’ “What Are We Trying to Preserve?” is a masterclass.

Given time, patience, and plenty of practice, you can move from dabbler to bona fide arranger. ■

ARRANGING JARGON

Scissor. Two voice parts that start on two different notes, meet in the middle at the octave, then switch notes on the third.

Bell chord. A chord built one note at a time. A vocal arpeggio, famously demonstrated in “Bye Bye Blues”

Woodshed. When singers create new harmonies entirely by ear – the origins of barbershop harmony

PTA (Permission to arrange). A form arrangers fill out in order to make a legal derivative

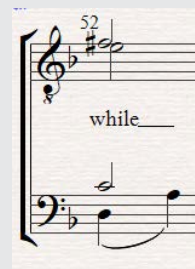


A swipe from Brian Beck's “Play a Song Like Daddy Used to Play” arrangement for Dealer’s Choice

work of an existing song

Waesche 13. Once considered very dissonant in a contest setting, arranger Ed Waesche used this dominant V13 chord in “Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair.”

Dominant 9th (omit root, omit 5). Because a true 9th chord requires five notes, this 9th chord must omit one of two notes: the 5th or, oddly enough, the root. The final few bars of “Sweet and Lovely” contain several dominant ninths, with the bass swiping to give the flavor of root and 5th so the ear isn’t left wanting.



Both versions of the dominant 9th: the omit 5 and rootless variants

Over 300

WOMEN’S AND MIXED

SSAA and SATB barbershop charts!

shop.barbershop.org

FIND YOUR FAVORITE SONG by using the Search tool.

Place the song title in quotes (example: “Change the World SSAA”).

Or use the Ensemble filter and select SSAA and/or SATB to find all available charts!



SPOTLIGHT

Nate Barrett, Director of the Morris Music Men chorus

✉ natebarrett8@gmail.com

Why you need a Sunshine Chair

New Jersey's Morris Music Men enjoyed explosive growth by focusing less on contest scores and more on members' happiness and well-being. Sunshine Chairman Herb Mordkoff plays a key role

The **Morris Music Men** is a chorus of about 50 members with a mission to “Make People Happy.” Over the past few years, they worked on developing the Sunshine Chairman role and systematizing much of the work that goes into it so they could help more members and help them feel supported. The following is a conversation between Nate Barrett, the Music Director, and Herb Mordkoff, the Sunshine Chairman.

NATE: Could you give us an idea of what a Sunshine Chairman does and why it is important to a chapter?

HERB: When a member is absent for some time, the Chairman finds out why he isn't there and what is going on. If there is an issue, I offer my support and the support of the chorus. I let them know that we're thinking of them and we miss them. Immediately after hanging up the phone, I send out a “get well” card with a personal note. We get the chorus to amplify the support with phone calls, visits, actual support, etc. We may send a card appropriate to the person's religion or situation. We also may make a donation to support/help them out, or make a donation to a relevant cause to show support.

NATE: What is the impact you're trying to make?

“WE KNOW THAT THE HAPPIER OUR GUYS ARE, THE MORE THEY CAN MAKE OTHERS HAPPY.”



By focusing on happiness and community connections, the Morris Music Men chorus grew from nine members to 50 members today. Nate Barrett will show your chapter how to do the same in the coming Sept/Oct 2021 issue of *The Harmonizer*. (Left) This April, Herb and Nate celebrated Herb's 31st year of BHS membership.

HERB: To help members know that we are there for them, and people who may have fallen off often get re-engaged when they know that we're there for them.

NATE: Our three-part mission is to Make More People Happy, Do a Better Job of Making People Happy, and Make Ourselves Happy. The last one may sound selfish, but we know that the happier our guys are, the more they can make others happy. Happiness can be a squishy topic, though. So, as a chorus board, we regularly have conversations about meeting people's human needs. Our Sunshine Chairman and surrounding programs are essential to supporting members and making them happy. We give them support and stability when they're having a rough time and

they know they are a part of something bigger than themselves—something special. How could someone feel secure without support/stability or connection?

HERB: My family is amazed because they think of it as just a hobby, but there's so much more to it. We're really brothers.

NATE: You're a brother to me, too. A much older brother, but still a brother. To the point about the impact of building a “brotherhood,” some members may not be in need of help right now, but they see the incredible support that other members get and that shows that we really care about “being there for each other.” They know that the same support would be there for them. They see the guy who just got a cancer diagnosis getting calls, having people drive them to appointments, dropping off food, etc. That sticks with people, and they know that they are a part of something special.

HERB: I have reached out to people

and had them break down in tears because nobody else knocked on their door. We were their only support.

NATE: We had a really strong example of this a few months ago when we were checking on a member we hadn't heard from. We got no answer on the phone and we didn't have an address. Some people remembered that he lived above an insurance agency, so we had people go on Google Earth and figure out where he lived. They called downstairs and found out the ambulance just left with him because he was incapacitated from a severe stroke. There was no emergency contact. Our board members, Rich Petillo and Al Nittolo, called through a Wisconsin phone book to find a family member. They coordinated everything with his sister, helped clean out his apartment, moved his car so it didn't get towed, and more.

HERB: When the members heard the story, they were so proud to be Morris Music Men and proud to be a member of the Society. We were getting emails thanking everyone involved and congratulating them on their above and beyond heroics that led to a member getting the help and care he needed.

Shortly after moving to New Jersey, Herb and his wife, Marcia, were dealing with health issues. Herb's new chapter was so supportive that he was inspired to appoint himself to the informal role of Sunshine Chair. It soon became a formal title connected to the chapter's ongoing mission.



"WE GIVE THEM SUPPORT AND STABILITY WHEN THEY'RE HAVING A ROUGH TIME AND THEY KNOW THEY ARE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES—SOMETHING SPECIAL."

NATE: With the Sunshine Chairman role, it's obvious to talk about the rough parts and the support, but we should also talk about the positive end of it.

HERB: We're there for the hug when they need it, and we're there to toast the champagne and say "to your health" when things are good. I love putting a card in the mail for a new baby or getting the members to congratulate a recent graduate.

NATE: You obviously love your job. How did you get into the role?

HERB: When I got to New Jersey and joined the Morris Music Men, my wife was diagnosed with cancer, and I was diagnosed with neuropathy. The chorus instantly started reaching out to me and supporting us through it, extending help whenever and wherever it was needed.

Later on, they asked me to join the board because of my marketing background. I can't drive at night or get around too well because of my neuropathy. So, I thought that this was the best way to support the chorus and its members: by being there for them in their time of need the same way that the Morris Music Men was for me.

NATE: We were supporting members already, but with you, Herb, we systematized so much of it and created a point

person to lead it all. Now, our job as a chapter is pouring gas on the fire when it comes to support so we can make an even bigger difference in people's lives.

HERB: On top of being the right thing to do, this leads to retention and sustainability.

NATE: In the chorus, we say "Aspiration and inspiration requires stabilization." So much of what we do with the chorus leadership is aspirational, looking up and figuring out how to bring everyone higher. The Sunshine Chairman and the support systems act as a backboard making sure that people are supported and that we are always there for them. They focus on stabilization so that everything else we do can focus on aspiration and inspiration. Herb, what would you say to anyone reading this thinking that it may be a good idea for their chapter?

HERB: It behooves every chapter to have a Sunshine person and make people's lives better. If you love your chapter, this is the perfect job for you. All that you need is a phone, a computer, and a warm heart.

NATE: Thank you Herb for all of your efforts to make us all feel supported.

HERB: It's my pleasure, and I'd be happy to help anyone learn how to do this in their chapter. ■

Herb Mordkoff, a retired marketing executive, is a 31-year Society member and a member of the Morristown, NJ and North Brookhaven, NY Chapters. harmonyherb@optonline.net

Nate Barrett is a nine-year director of the Morris Music Men. He now spends time helping other chapters learn how to grow and become a part of their community. He has worked with many chapters, and he is on the faculty of Harmony College East. natebarrett8@gmail.com



READ ONLINE San Antonio's Friends in Harmony chorus credits much of its explosive growth to a Director of First Impressions. Blink to the blog post at barbershop.org/harmonizer.

Blue skies are coming our way

With local laws easing up and significant numbers vaccinated against COVID-19, a strong sense of optimism is palpable among singers, and many BHS groups began singing in person this spring.

While there are varied views regarding when and for whom it is safe to sing together in person, it appears that most chapters have imminent plans to do so—and many have already started.

In late April, several dozen BHS groups of various sizes and types were contacted mostly at random and asked:

- What is your chapter/chorus doing now to prepare for its post-COVID future?
- What short-term and long-term ambitions do you have for your chapter/chorus?

The responses were submitted on or before May 10, 2021. On May 12, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released the following guidance: *Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business*

and workplace guidance. Indoor group singing was explicitly given the green light.

Local laws and vaccination rates vary, but this May 12 CDC guidance is likely to have further accelerated the policies and guidelines of some of the U.S. chapters in this article. As of press time, the Public Health Agency of Canada has not released equivalent guidance, and rules that may affect chapter gatherings were evolving and varied by province.

Most of the following groups reported varying satisfaction with virtual meetings using Zoom to retain social bonds and sense of belonging. Skill-building and repertoire development were central pillars of most pandemic-era meetings. Many noted that this mode provided access to notable guest teachers and coaches they might otherwise never have met.

Many stretched their technical skills to create virtual chorus videos, which were well-received.



How times change! In mid-March of 2020, Westchester County, N.Y. was Ground Zero for one of America's biggest COVID-19 outbreaks thus far. In mid-May of 2021, 25 members of the Westchester Chordsmen rehearsed outdoors and unmasked, all fully-vaccinated and actually even more cautious than health guidelines. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, indoor, maskless singing is safe among the fully vaccinated.

Tomato Staccato

Tomato Staccato was fortunate that two of our members were in the same "bubble" during COVID. We were able to rehearse online using Jamulus, record tracks and videos, and continue to grow our repertoire over the past year. Still, we're very excited to rehearse together in person after we're all fully vaccinated. We really value having fun together as a group, and being able to spend time singing and laughing together in person is much needed after the past year.

– Ben Lewin, blewin1@gmail.com

Clockwise from left: Ben Lewin (Br), Ryan Jordan (T), Jeremy Marcus (Bs), Harmony Brown (L)



Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus

Aloha, HI Chapter

Outdoor masked rehearsals since May

We created numerous virtual chorus projects to keep our members engaged and our patrons connected. We are focused on community involvement, especially to help partners who have been so generous with us in the past and are challenged financially. Our virtual Ice Cream Social benefited Dave's Ice Cream, and we produced a virtual Christmas show as a fundraiser for the Hawaii

Theatre. Pre-recorded Singing Valentines and Mother's Day greetings will become a permanent offering. We're planning live performances in late summer 2021, a youth festival in October, and our annual Christmas shows.

Mark Conching, Director
mconching@hawaiiiantel.net

Rick Wagner, President
wagsre@gmail.com

Acappella Road

Calgary Foothills, AB Chapter

"If the water's too cold, try skating instead of swimming!" This resilient attitude helped Acappella Road maintain high participation rates in our weekly Zoom rehearsals, with a weekly Polecat, vocal recordings to help personal singing development, and a weekly "Karaoke Gladiator," where two members "sang off" for social entertainment.

Greg Verhappen, Marketing VP
gverhappen@shaw.ca

Bridge Town Sound

Portland Metro, OR Chapter

Our rehearsals include a mix of virtual social time plus (almost) real-time singing using low-latency software Jamulus (<https://jamulus.io/>). It's so rewarding to be able to ring chords, even online! We're gearing up to compete in Charlotte in 2022 and we have a committee working on inviting all our singers who don't relate well to online experiences to sing with us again as soon as it is safe.

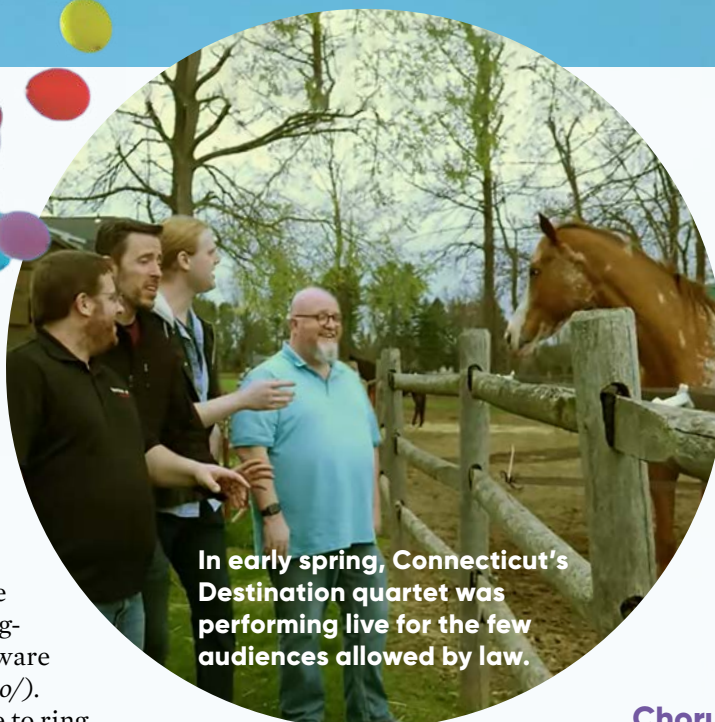
*David Dennison, President
denalidcd@earthlink.net
Duncan Gilman, Marketing VP
duncangilman@gmail.com*

Commodores

Minneapolis, MN Chapter
Live rehearsals since May, including livestream

Experts from across the Society participated in our Summer of Stars live video series (<https://insights.targetoutcome.com/summer-of-stars701721>). Our learning tracks are now videos with the scrolling music synchronized to the audio—great for rehearsals going forward. We are focused on getting everyone actively involved at the District Fall Convention via the new LOL District Fun Squad initiatives.

*Dave Casperson, President
djcasperson@frontier.net
Steve Grady, Marketing VP
sgradymn@gmail.com*



In early spring, Connecticut's Destination quartet was performing live for the few audiences allowed by law.

laws, and CDC guidelines, we will begin meeting in small groups starting on May 25, 2021, for five to six weeks until we begin meeting at full strength on June 15. This timeline should prepare us in time for the Dixie District Fall Festival in September, as well as a fall and winter show,

*Rich Smith, President
richthebarbershopper@gmail.com*

Chorus of the Chesapeake

Dundalk, MD Chapter
Live rehearsals begin this summer

We maintain member contact through bi-weekly Zoom rehearsals/meetings where Director Kevin King and Assistant Director Doug Treff sharpen current and new repertoire. We hope to meet in person sometime this summer and will participate in fall district events if they are held. We have scheduled our annual show for November 2021.

*Bill Day, Marketing VP
wrday48@gmail.com*

Music City Chorus

Nashville, TN Chapter
Live rehearsals since May 25 (small groups), full strength planned for July

We focused more on our music learning as it began to look like we would be able to get back together relatively soon. We've surveyed all active and recently active members about their vaccination status and comfort level singing in various configurations. Based on feedback, local

Mixed Messages

Mixed Messages wants to be ready for competitions and conferences as soon as possible. Once we were comfortable the local COVID surge was past, we began rehearsing in person in early 2021 with masks, distancing, and a new tenor. Our meetings, singing, and videos have inspired our chapter as we built up a varied repertoire of new and familiar songs while leading sections of the chorus. We've recorded videos for Singing Valentines and other occasions, and are continually working to prepare ourselves and our chapter for the return to in-person rehearsals and performances. We're looking forward to a human audience to supplement our howling dogs!



Paula Reece (Br), Todd Minners (Bs), John Reece (L), Alina Bogovic (T)

- Paula Reece, PaulaDebes@gmail.com

WHAT IS YOUR GROUP DOING TO MAKE A STRONG RETURN?

Share the wealth with other BHS ensembles in your post-COVID efforts. Is your group having success:

- inviting recently lapsed members back into active chapter life?
 - getting new gigs or connecting with new audiences?
 - making new community connections or reviving opportunities with music educators?
- Share your ideas and successes with us at community@barbershop.org and we'll share them with the rest of the barbershop world!

Boise Chordsmen

Boise, ID Chapter

Live rehearsals since March 2

In-person rehearsals restarted when the state of Idaho increased its group limits to 30, then to 50. Keeping three-foot distance with masks on, we began slowly with Polecat songs and tags. Our group numbers started low but have grown to an average of 30-35 voices each week. We have long been famous for our large Youth Festivals, averaging 800-1,000 students. This year, 2019 bronze medalist **Midtown** quartet will be clinician and headliner in late September as well as perform on our Annual Show.

*Dennis Berg, Marketing VP
dsnberg@hotmail.com*

Fun Center Chordsmen

Mansfield, OH Chapter

Live rehearsals and performances expected this summer

We have been preparing for the pandemic to end with emphasis on fine-tuning our still-unperformed 2020 show music in any way possible, including virtual meetings and at home. "Keep on keeping on" may very well be our motto for this year.

*Tom Webb, Membership VP
sweetspot_3@hotmail.com*



River City Sound

Winnipeg, MB Chapter

Live rehearsals: outdoor & masked this summer, weather and law permitting

Weekly Zoom rehearsals and four online video performances have kept 25-30 of our members actively singing and also attracted new singers to our chorus. We plan to return to indoor rehearsals in September 2021 leading to our annual Christmas performance in December. We're all looking forward to seeing each other in-person and welcoming back members who have found the "e-world" challenging.

*Paul Bullock, President
prof.p.bullock@gmail.com*

Oregon SenateAires

Salem, OR Chapter

What an exciting season of growth and preparation! Will Fox was named Director following the resignation of beloved 29-year Director Steve Morin. Will, with new music, membership, and board teams, has implemented a vision for an amazing chorus culture filled with care, positivity, fun, and excellence in singing. We're growing with new members and guests. The chorus has already learned seven charts in preparation for entertaining audiences with fresh songs. We've met since March 2020 via Zoom but have found occasions to meet safely in person, including

Christmas performances outside of senior living communities.

*Darrin Loescher, Membership VP
darrin.loescher@gmail.com*

Barrie County Chordsmen

Barrie, ON Chapter

Live singing as soon as allowed by Ontario law

Outdoor gatherings of more than five people are currently banned in Ontario; however, once they are allowed, we plan to get together outdoors socially and then sing. We're developing a marketing and recruiting plan to have in place when things return to normal. We believe there

are many singers out there eager to come out and try something new.

Brian Tracey, President, president@barriecountyhordsmen.com

Westchester Chordsmen

Westchester County, NY Chapter
Live outdoor rehearsals started in May, with continued Zoom and car singing

We produced composite videos of all the Polecat songs. (Thirty-nine of us completed the Polecat Challenge!) We also produced a virtual holiday show, virtual Singing Valentines, and virtual tributes to our area healthcare workers. We've just taken on Polecat 2 as our new challenge. Some of us have been using the Jamulus software platform as well as car singing. We remain optimistic that our annual Youth Festival in November 2021 and Holiday Show in December will move forward in person, and we've been lining up our venues and participants.

*Stephen Banker, President
stephenmbanker@gmail.com*

Noteworthy Chorus

Middle Tennessee, TN Chapter

We decided early on that Zoom rehearsals wouldn't align well with our chorus' rehearsal structure so we have been on an indefinite break. We are excited to work toward in-person social gatherings and rehearsals as the pandemic wanes.

*Maggie McAlexander, President
barbershopmaggie@gmail.com*



Chorus of the Keys

Sarasota, FL Chapter

Limited live outdoor rehearsals since April, indoor coming soon

In addition to virtual rehearsals we now host socially-distanced, outdoor, in-person rehearsals every other week. We found that our virtual rehearsals helped maintain and improve social connections among members and expanded our discussion of new and existing charts, enhancing our performances. New warm-up techniques have also carried over, and a Very Large Quartet has increased our entertainment options. Press releases, social media, e-blasts to past patrons, and a revamped website have helped us gain new members and reconnect with our past friends and supporters. We have started to connect with many public and private organizations to set up community concerts once they can be safely scheduled.

*Ken Rear, President
kbr34280@gmail.com
Roger Murphy, Marketing VP
rmurphy779@gmail.com*



Detroit Sound Machine

The inability to sing together gave us time to discuss what our songs were about and to work on interpretation tracks. We not only hope to win a district championship but strive to incorporate new songs, courtesy of our in-house arranger Dave Ebersole, that reflect our own racial and generational diversity. Returning to in-person singing won't be the same since we lost our unofficial 5th member, Lisa Hall, wife of our bass, Jason Hall, to kidney cancer. Lisa came to every rehearsal and performance. DSM aims to honor her by engaging with our community through outreach and service.

detroitssoundmachine@outlook.com

Dave Ebersole (T), Jason Hall (Bs), Dylan Broome (L), George Jackson Jr. (Br)

Sound of Tennessee

Cleveland, TN Chapter
Limited masked live singing started in January

From January through March 2021 we met in-person every other week, utilizing temperature checks, social distancing, and masks (even while singing). We now meet every week with the same precautions in place. We broadcast meetings via Facebook livestream so that our singers at home can continue to rehearse with us. We are also looking forward to participating in a fall district convention. We will continue to maintain our protocols until either CDC recommendations are relaxed or our chorus has achieved sufficient vaccination that all men are comfortable with adjusting our guidelines.

*Jacob Simpson, President
jwsimpson82@gmail.com*

THX

Sunrise, FL Chapter
Live rehearsals planned for June

We have rehearsed monthly via Zoom; thankfully, remote learning has been a staple since our inception 10 years ago.

We're so very thankful that technology has been able to keep us connected, but it's also reminded us of the connection we share when we're standing together ringing chords, making music, and evolving together. It's The Music That Brings Us Together!

*Bruce Checca, President
bruce.checca@gmail.com*

*Alex Rubin, Director
alex@barbershopchorus.com*

Toronto Northern Lights

Toronto, ON Chapter

Drawing on the depth of musical leadership in our chapter, we created "TNL Academy," with classes on music theory, arranging, performance, and judging. Many sessions were open to the Ontario District, helping us strengthen our bonds with other chapters. We've hosted illustrious BHS guests and added poignant, upbeat music to our repertoire to match the mood when we are together again.

*Patrick Brown, Marketing VP
pat_of_brown@yahoo.com*



On Another Note

Determined to emerge from quarantine stronger than ever, On Another Note actually formed during the pandemic. Coming from one of the Society's first mixed-gender chapter choruses, we are excited to be our chapter's first all-female quartet. We have been meeting virtually to strategize our repertoire, sharing audio, harmonizing at home, and recording videos, but we're tired of singing to our cats. We're eager to hit the ground running once we're all fully vaccinated and finally able to meet in person, refining our craft with goals for competition and bringing the joy of barbershopping to our community and beyond.

Clockwise from top left: Susan Basel (L), Alina Bogovic (T), Miriam Heller (Br), Paula Reece (Bs)



We own our rehearsal hall, which we have upgraded with hospital-grade mechanical and UV sterilizing filtration as well as increased fresh air exchanges. In March 2021 we initiated a progressive schedule for eventually returning to unmasked, full-riser singing that follows policies and procedures designed and monitored by our COVID Team composed of doctors and chapter leadership. In late April, over 80 percent of our members had been vaccinated and there were no reported COVID cases or exposure since we returned to singing. We are preparing to host social and recruitment events, perform locally, and participate with our new director, Doug Harrington, in the joint fall district contest with CAR/JAD.

- Christopher Owen, Ph.D., President, musseldoc@gmail.com

Racing City Chorus

Saratoga Springs, NY Chapter
Outdoor rehearsals on June 1

We'll monitor and adhere to NY guidelines while working on the five new repertoire songs we've learned virtually! We hope to perform on Broadway (Saratoga Springs!) during the thoroughbred racing season in July and August, especially during Travers Week. Downtown business establishments will sponsor us on Thursday evenings to perform for their customers. We have begun a focused membership growth initiative to include: new ideas, networking, and community involvement!

*Rusty Senecal, President
president@racingcitychorus.org*

Heart of Carolina Chorus & Heart of Carolina A Cappella Mixed Chorus

Central Carolina, NC Chapter
Live rehearsals planned for June

We plan to have an outdoor social gathering in May 2021 to reconnect and then resume in-person rehearsals in June. We have access to both indoor and outdoor rehearsal spaces that are safe with singers' masks. Our men's chorus will compete at International in Charlotte; our mixed chorus is working on its contest package and will attempt to qualify for Charlotte. Both choruses plan to compete for District titles this fall.

*Kerri Keys, Marketing VP, kakeys89@gmail.com
Dr. Bill Adams, Director, drbilladams@gmail.com*



Program VP Bob Hirsh warms up members of D.C.'s Singing Capital Chorus at the home of Stan Marcuss in mid-May.



√16 quartet

Formed in January 2020, √16 met a few times before the pandemic hit, followed by a three-month hiatus. In July, we experimented with online rehearsing, but with unsatisfactory results due to internet latency. By September, there were semi-comfortable meeting in person (masked and frequently tested for Covid-19). We set up a hybrid rehearsal system, connecting the upstairs (Lead, Bari, Bass) and downstairs (Tenor) of our rehearsal space via analog audio and video, delightfully devoid of latency. In May 2021, with all fully vaccinated, √16 will begin rehearsing fully in person. We have taken advantage of this time to work on 20 new arrangements, spanning all genres of music, in anticipation of returning to live performances and competitions.

– Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox, Lead, wilcoxw@wcsu.edu

Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox (L), Jon Mansfield (on TV) (T), Scott Poarch (Bs), Daryl Bornstein (Br).

Thunderbird Chorus

Vancouver, BC Chapter

In addition to weekly Zoom meetings, in November 2020 we began "Carbershop" on Sundays when the weather permitted. We received great publicity for this, including a mention on the CBC national news. This will help us in a renewed recruiting drive once public health officials allow in-person rehearsals and everyone is vaccinated. Zoom is excellent for learning from distant experts and one-on-one vocal coaching, which we will incorporate into our in-person practices. We've booked a Christmas show for December and a blow-out 70th anniversary show (two years late) in Spring 2022. ■

*Paul Melhus, President
pmelhus@toursbylocals.com*





THE WAY I SEE IT

By Tom Welzenbach,
Member, Dundalk, Md. Chapter,
5 Maple Drive,
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

On Sharing Our Wealth

I sometimes wonder how many of us really know how lucky we are to be members of the greatest fraternal Society in the world. We have heard countless men extol the greatness of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., but do you just believe what you have been told, or have you *really* found out for yourself? If you have discovered how great this Society is, what are you doing about it?

Kids today are shouting such phrases as: "Tell it like it is!" "What is truth?", "Do your own thing!" and countless others. These probings for understanding are punctuated with action — be it right or misguided. Those actions come in the form of demonstrations and, whether you agree or not with their purpose or subsequent results, you cannot dispute their dedication. No matter what our age we can still learn from others, including those we teach.

In my chapter bulletin we have a column called "Viewpoint," where members have an opportunity to express ideas or personal feelings concerning our hobby. One notable article delved into the spiritual aspect of barbershopping and the blessings we share. Another explored the understanding of why each of us, from various walks of life, participate in this common activity. These men, and many others, like myself, and like the youth of today, seek to understand. But should we come to know all the answers to our questions, what do we do then?

Your chapter is, in effect, the Society itself. We may have, in our chapter, old guard woodshedders, quartet men, administrators, crows, average John Doe chorus members, social members and so on, men who gather together in little cliques. Why each to his own? Perhaps because of kinship, understanding without spoken words, a sense of comfort or even security. Whatever the reason, you eventually find your own comfortable, little niche.

Don't some of you think the grass might be greener in another clique? Time doesn't stand still, why should you? That is the first probe into knowing. Once you start — don't stop. Find out for yourself. Share all the joys of barbershop with *everyone all of the time*. Demonstrate our cause to others.

In testimony to all the wealth that awaits you, just ask any active quartet, current or past champion quartet, Bob Johnson, Wilbur Sparks, my pop, me, or any of the men who "get around" in this hobby of ours. O.K., now that you're ready to explore, what do you do? First of all, you've got to start finding out what other pastures are available. Mingle with another clique in the chapter; attend a board meeting; go to a different

barbershop hangout; attend all conventions; visit a neighboring chapter; woodshed; form a quartet; attend a seminar, and on and on. Barbershopping isn't dull or lacking in activities. Once you've participated in these activities and have come to *know* how great our Society is, you'll truly understand the wealth your chapter harbors. Now is the time to ACT. Share that wealth!

You know of men in your area and in others that contribute their time and talents to others outside their own chapters. Somewhere along the line they started out just as green and unknowledgeable as you may think you are. Remember some very old axioms like, "you reap what you sow," and "give and you shall receive." Perhaps the best way to teach kids today is to show them. Actions *really do* speak louder than words. So now you've explored, you understand and have resolved to do something. "What do I do?" — you ask. Become a judge. Some of you guys have been taught by the best in barbershop. Be an administrator. No goal can be reached without planning and organization. Become a coach. Some of you woodshedders know more about a chord than you can get out of a manual. There are other services you can provide, but perhaps the greatest one of all is being just plain you, a knowing, satisfied Barbershopper who would like to share his wealth with another.

In your explorations, you will find that names such as Dundalk, "Thoroughbreds," "Dapper Dans," etc., strike fear in the hearts of chorus competitors, envy in the pockets of board men, awe in the minds of new members and beginning chapters, cheer in the spirits of district and international public relations men and many other reactions. These chapters, and others like them, are not successful due to the efforts of any one man, but rather to the combined efforts of many. Have you ever wondered what it's like to be great, to have others seek you out. Perhaps you, as an individual, cannot singularly accomplish this feat, but maybe your chapter, quartet or buddy can, and all because of your efforts.

Most of us will never attain the status of an expert in our own right, but we can come to know and share the peace and satisfaction of understanding and accomplishment. Once you attain the goal of knowing what barbershopping is all about, you must commit yourself to sharing that wealth with others. If you think you have nothing to contribute, just give a little of your time to others, sharing the essence of harmony. Harmony is sharing a chord and the company of a fellow Barbershopper. You can't harmonize by yourself. The "Way I See It" each of us ought to do our own thing — *together!*

**"Sometimes, we're not just singing barbershop—
we're saving lives."**

Become somebody's *Hero*

BHS Board member Blair Brown had spent a decade drowning in darkness and self doubt, but the clouds truly began to part when, as a young college student, she attended her first BHS chapter show and discovered a culture filled with mentors and meaning. Every BHS member can change lives and become somebody's hero.

After a year that has been so challenging for us individually and collectively, I want to talk about us, our barbershop community. I want to discuss this big barbershop family and why it is so important for us to stick together, maybe now more than ever before. I also want to talk about how we might attempt to navigate the big changes we face, together.

Barbershoppers are passionate people. This musical style, the heartfelt ballads we love to sing—we're forced to confront our feelings a lot as Barbershoppers. And that also means that we can't help but bring all of our other emotional baggage right along with us to rehearsals, to conventions, and into the online spaces where Barbershoppers interact.

Barbershop is a heart space. When we sing together, we dig deep and show one another our hearts. Whoever we are, whatever we're carrying around inside, we bring it onto the risers with us. We bring it to the convention with us. We don't suddenly become different people when it's time to sing.

My fervent wish is that we might all work together to make this barbershop community a place where people from all backgrounds, from all walks of life can come join us and share in what we have.

As we create space for new people to engage with us in new ways, we just might revolutionize the world.

Barbershop lifted me from years of darkness

I grew up in the Midwest and in an environment where my level of emotional sensitivity wasn't encouraged or celebrated. During my adolescence, I spent so much time and energy absolutely hating myself for being ... myself. I didn't have a community where I felt a sense of belonging, where I felt it was okay to truly be myself.

At 12 years old, I was diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and depression. Somehow I continued on and graduated high school while attempting to cope in every harmful way you can imagine. I developed an eating disorder and became dangerously thin. I took up smoking, alcohol, and—probably most damaging—endured relationships with people who treated me badly because I wholeheartedly believed that was the treatment I deserved.

After high school and a few semesters of fum-

"I NEVER FELT PARTICULARLY CALLED TO SING BARBERSHOP WITH MEN OR WOMEN. I WAS JUST CALLED TO SING BARBERSHOP AND KNEW EXACTLY WHERE I WANTED TO DO IT: IN THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY."

bling around at a fancy private college, my private voice teacher suggested I transfer to University of Missouri St. Louis. "There's a choir director there who I think you will really connect with," she said. That choir director turned out to be none other than Dr. Jim Henry, co-director of **Ambassadors of Harmony** and bass of **The Gas House Gang** (1993 champion) and **Crossroads** (2009 champion).

At my voice teacher's suggestion I also attended an Ambassadors of Harmony concert. I had barely heard of barbershop, which I thought was an outdated style of irrelevant music. But from the moment the Ambassadors walked out and I heard that first chord, it was over for me. I was hooked—completely obsessed. By intermission I had decided to join the Barbershop Harmony Society, join a chorus like the Ambassadors, and sing this music for the rest of my life. It never crossed my mind that this incredible music would be siloed into separate organizations based on whether a singer was male or female.

Let's think about that for a moment. When a life-changing musical experience happens to someone, it doesn't matter your race, gender, or sexual orientation. Only one thing matters: how it makes them feel within their hearts. They're excited about learning tags but probably not too concerned with the gender of the person teaching them.

Personally, I never felt particularly called to sing barbershop with men or women. I was just called to sing barbershop, and knew exactly where I wanted to do it: in the Barbershop Harmony Society. But joining wasn't possible at the time because of my gender.

But I soon found myself singing barbershop charts with three other USML singers: Michaela Slamka, Nathan Johnston, and Ravi Raghuram. We formed a mixed quartet and performed everywhere, with me blissfully unaware that mixed quartetting wasn't very popular or widespread in North America at the time. But something incredible happened. We received audience acclaim—



Blair Brown is a member of the BHS Board of Directors and sings lead with award-winning mixed quartet Double Date *brown.blair.1986@gmail.com*

Adapted from Blair Brown's Keynote Address at the 2021 Virtual Midwinter Convention, January 2021.



From the opening chords at an Ambassadors of Harmony show, Blair Brown found meaning and mentors through ever-growing BHS connections. Above top is 2009 Champion Crossroads: Brandon Guyton (Br), Mike Slamka (L), Jim Henry (Bs), Fred Farrell (T); and Double Date quartet: Ravi Raghuram (Bs), Blair Brown (L), Michaela Johnston (T), Nathan Johnston (Br). Bottom: Double Date mentors and coaches Sandi and David Wright.



How's this for a bass/lead match? Lead Blair Brown and bass Ravi Raghuram formed one half of mixed quartet Double Date at the University of Missouri Saint Louis. Over time, they learned just how harmonious they could be offstage. They married in 2015, and last year the pair became a trio.

while I was being my authentic self on stage—and I began to understand that I didn't need to be ashamed of my sensitive nature. I began to see that my emotional openness and vulnerability were not weaknesses but were among my greatest gifts.

This acceptance began to trickle down to every area in my life. I stopped hating who I had been and nurtured the person I was becoming. I became more loving and accepting of those around me, and life became tremendously more rewarding.

Our Society can create a culture of belonging

In the Barbershop Harmony Society, we can offer people a sense of belonging in a world where belonging is hard to come by. As a Barbershopper, you have tremendous power to help create and strengthen real communities. You have the power to build an environment where someone will feel safe, welcome, and included.

We are all collectively going through some tough stuff right now. There is no one who has been exempt from the pain and loss of the last year. And you may think of someone as being really tough, but inside they could be struggling a lot. And it's okay, for all of us, to not be okay.

Now, more than ever before, we are the people who will create spaces where a lost or lonely person might come and find a family. Through our barbershop community each one of us can be the reason that someone says, "This is hard, but I am not alone."

Sometimes, we're not just singing barbershop. Sometimes we're saving lives.

So how will we do it?

Behave as though you are becoming someone's barbershop hero

Not everyone gets to experience something like our barbershop family in

their lifetime. A lot of people could use a barbershop hero in their lives right about now. Let us make sure that we aren't building walls to keep new people out, but building doors to welcome them in.

Historically, the Society has focused on young men and the incredible impact that positive male role models can have on their lives through barbershop singing. That is still absolutely vital to who we are. Although I'm a woman, barbershop has brought many positive male role models into my life, too.

Because of Everyone in Harmony, each of us has the potential to be that positive force for good in the lives of more young people than ever before, regardless of gender. One person who really cares can change countless lives for the better. It only takes one flame to ignite a thousand fires.

You might be someone's hero already. We can always check in and ask ourselves, *"Am I behaving in a way that would make someone proud to have me as their barbershop hero?"*

Does a hero run away from a challenge? Do they give up when things get tough? Do they spread negativity or focus on the flaws in other people? Of course not. Heroes show up. Heroes do what needs to be done, spread joy where they can, and lead with love.

Focus on the best things about who we are, what we can uniquely offer, and release any worry we might have about judgment from others

Your unique flavor won't be for everyone. But if you're being yourself, being kind, and sincerely doing your best, that's more than enough. If even one person's life is changed for the better by something you've said or done, or their heart is changed by watching a performance from your quartet or chorus, that can create a huge ripple effect.

However, you can't do this if you're too caught up with worrying what people will think when you put yourself out there. In any online barbershop chat group there is no shortage of

"ONE PERSON WHO REALLY CARES CAN CHANGE COUNTLESS LIVES FOR THE BETTER. IT ONLY TAKES ONE FLAME TO IGNITE A THOUSAND FIRES."

armchair quarterbacks eager to point out the flaws in others, to create drama and division, and to sprinkle cynicism and negativity on every situation. I would love to see every internet critic step up and instead add value to our organization. Until that happens, let's show people how it's done. Become so busy being kind and encouraging and awesome that you don't have time to worry about people who only offer criticism. Focus only on being your best self, and release the judgment of others. Who you are won't resonate with everyone, but for someone it will make all the difference.

Learn to be comfortable with uncertainty. Learn to embrace the mystery of not knowing exactly what's going to happen next

Human beings prefer the safety and security of what we know. With such a long and rich BHS history, it might seem that embracing new ideas or change means we don't value or respect our roots and where we've come from, or that the past didn't matter. But it is precisely because we cherish our past and value this organization's history that we absolutely must embrace change, to ensure that the barbershop artform will live on and thrive for generations to come.

No one knows what the Society will look like in 10 years. So for now, let's try new things. Fail quickly. Then learn from what worked or what didn't, pivot, and try something else. Let's be faithful in our values but flexible in our tactics. Together, let's embrace the

mystery of not always knowing exactly what will happen next.

We should cherish the past, but make the most of the opportunities in our present, and keep focusing on the future

I recently saw a video on social media

of a young new quartet and one of the first comments I saw under their post? "That's not barbershop." A new young Barbershopper shouldn't have to care whether their barbershop style isn't exactly the same as it was when you or I first joined the Society. They don't remember the "good old days"

25 AND UNDER?
MAKE AMAZING
VOCAL HARMONY

 **NEXT**
GENERATION
BARBERSHOP

Varsity Quartets and Choruses
For singers 25 and under

Junior Quartets and Choruses
For singers 18 and under

NEW Open to young men's,
women's, and mixed!

Learn more at
barbershop.org/nextgen

of barbershop. To them, these *are* the good old days.

Whether they decide to stick around depends on the welcoming culture we choose to create and on the ways we make space for change. Add to their enthusiasm; don't diminish it by reminding them what we think they've missed by discovering barbershop "too late." Like the transformation of a caterpillar to a butterfly, we're going through a big transformation right now. As Society members we can cherish every step that led us here today, even as we continue to evolve and change. The two are not mutually exclusive! Trust that the journey is leading us somewhere more beautiful than we can imagine.

Teach new Barbershoppers Barberpole Cats and the classics. Sing through the Suntones songbook with them. But don't, for a single second, let a new Barbershopper feel like they missed something by arriving too late. They've come here at exactly the right time, and our job is to make sure they know it.

If you think the best days of barbershop are behind us, then you're not paying close enough attention! Let's cherish the past, but let's not set up camp and live there.

Decide to be a life-long learner

Every new piece of information you acquire is one more tidbit that can

"LET'S LET OUR ONLINE PRESENCE REFLECT THE LOVE WE EACH HAVE FOR THIS ARTFORM AND FOR ONE ANOTHER. WHEN SOMEONE SAYS, 'WOW, NOW THIS IS A COMMUNITY I WANT TO BE A PART OF,' THEN WE'LL KNOW WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK."



Blair's sensitivity felt like a burden while she was growing up, and she had long viewed her emotional makeup as a liability. It was only after seeing the effect her quartet performances had on audiences that Blair began to view her natural authenticity and vulnerability as a gift. While her long-time mental health challenges didn't simply go away, she found love and support within the BHS community that has been a rock for her during challenging times. View the full Keynote address at youtube.com/barbershopharmony38.

lift your quartet, chorus, chapter, or district. Decide right now that you will be a forever learner, and watch as everyone in this organization benefits from your personal development right along with you.

You may be the first to do many things, but make sure you are not the last

You might be the first woman to serve on your chapter or district's board. You may be the first person in your chorus who looks like you, or loves like you, or shares your faith. And that's amazing. You're being brave and you should feel proud. But ask yourself: Now that I'm here, how will I lower the ladder down and help someone else climb up?

Flood the Barbershop Harmony Society with kindness

Our barbershop community is perfectly situated to be a haven for people who are in desperate need of deep human connection. It's what we do best!

Be genuinely curious about your fellow Barbershopper. We still have a long way to go to make BHS truly inclusive, and we won't get there unless we operate from a space of love for one another. I know we all have strong opinions. But if we can't find a way to disagree without disrespecting one another, we really are in trouble. If a new Barbershopper saw

the way we talk to each other online today, would they want to stick around? Let's let our online presence reflect the love we each have for this artform and for one another. You might see a heated discussion online, but you absolutely do not have to weigh in on it. When someone who has never heard of barbershop finds us and sees the way we interact and treat one another and says, "Wow, now this is a community I want to be a part of," then we'll know we're on the right track.

Find your gift and give it away

When things feel dark or heavy, if that light in you starts to dim, please reach out to someone. Keep seeking out new things in barbershop to get excited about!

You don't need to make yourself smaller in order to fit within the Barbershop Harmony Society. Be the full spectrum of whoever you are and let this organization expand and grow to make room for you. You are absolutely here for a reason. Pablo Picasso once said, "The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away." If you haven't uncovered your unique gift yet, my sincere wish for you is that you'll keep exploring until you find it. And once you do, I pray you will spend the rest of your life giving it away.

I can't wait to see all the amazing things we'll do together. ■

GET READY FOR **SUMMER!**

PERFECT FOR THE BEACH, THOSE PICNICS
IN THE PARK, OUTDOOR EVENTS, OR
COZY SNUGGLES WITH LOVED ONES.

\$20
53"x48"

\$10
beach
towel

This polyester fleece blanket folds neatly inside
itself, secures with a Velcro® closure, and has an
attached handle for easy carry. Back is lined so
water won't seep through.

Shop for thousands of products!

shop.barbershop.org

Member prices shown. Join today to receive your discount!

Jeff Fincher

Transparent philanthropy



From child singer to high school state champion quartetter to university leader and teacher, Jeff Fincher's life has been threaded by interwoven devotions to making music and making a difference. Now, as BHS Chief Development Officer, he's weaving a broader tapestry with Barbershoppers.

BRIAN LYNCH: *It's pretty much a given that whenever we meet a Barbershopper, we start by connecting your singing history and your life history, so take us back in time to meet young Jeff Fincher.*

JEFF FINCHER: I was born in Nashville, and music has always been a part of my life. I grew up going to an a cappella church where my grandfather was the preacher. Being in Nashville, it wasn't unusual to have a producer or sound engineer come listen to our elementary school chorus, which is how I was selected to sing professionally in some commercials as an elementary school kid—for McDonald's and Hardee's and Purina Dog Chow!

When we moved to Dallas in middle school, I joined the band as a percussionist, but this guy at church, a Barbershopper, gave me a cassette tape of this Christmas album that I absolutely wore out—I could sing bass or bari to every song. Of course, it was **The Vocal Majority's** *Secret of Christmas*, so you can see why I loved it!

Starting high school in Atlanta, I met one of the most influential teachers in

my life. Mr. Clovis was like a second dad to me, who taught me how to be a better singer. Our high school quartet competed at state every year, and early on, he said, "I've got some friends who can train you a whole lot better than I could," so he sent us to sing with the **Stone Mountain Barbershop Chorus**. We sang with them for years, but never became official SPEBSQSA members (I didn't know that was something that I could even do!), but our high school quartet won the state competition my senior year.

After dropping my college music scholarship after freshman year, I started a quartet called **Harmony**, which performed our original music all over the country and put out two albums. I've been in various groups since then, and when I went into ministry, did a lot of singing there. Now, as a part of my church, I get to sing with my kids.

BRIAN *Through this long and circuitous path, there are all these points where you cross over the Barbershop Harmony Society, but we never closed the deal! It's like a romantic come-*

dy—"Oooh, he almost landed with the Vocal Majority/Stone Mountain, but veered off this way ..." and now, 25 years later, here you are!

JEFF: For me, the common theme throughout life has been music. No matter what I've done, music found its way back to me. It only took 46 years for me to land here. When Mr. Clovis passed away a couple of years ago, his wife told me that he would have been tickled to know that this is where I landed. I told her that the seeds that he had planted 30 years ago were blooming.

BRIAN: *That's the common theme in all of our development and outreach efforts: You don't know when or where that seed is going to germinate.*

JEFF: When I worked at Lipscomb University, our goal was for every student to leave the university and to see themselves as a missionary wherever they landed. Engineering students would build a suspension bridge connecting villages in an impoverished area. In addition to being a whole feat of engineering, the two villages could improve their economies by being able to safely cross a river. We were teaching that our work is important because it helps people boost their own work.

Now in barbershop, I see people like Herb Mordkoff (see pages 14-15 this issue) talk about being a Sunshine Person in his chorus, and it's the same thing: being there for others in the chorus, making sure they're okay, making sure



Last year's Legacy Quartet Championship was made possible by BHS districts, which funded the specialized process of digitizing the relevant International Contest sessions. The Society's vast library of analog video and audio recordings is in urgent need to be digitized before media deteriorates beyond recovery. BHS donors can either contribute to the overall effort or fund the digitization of specific events/sessions.

that they're engaged, and making sure that they're involved and connected. It's a calling for him, and it makes a difference. That kind of attitude is ingrained in the DNA of this organization.

BRIAN: *You're a Rotarian, too, which is all about service. Marty has described barbershop as "Rotary that sings." I mention this because there's a mission in barbershop, to keep the whole world singing, to bring together everyone in harmony, which is larger than just getting our barbershop refill each week. But—and this is the big "but"—that only comes into play once you've got the bug. I'm not sure people actually join us with an aim toward service; they join us for their own pure sensation of "This sounds great, this is fun." Where's that tipping point for individuals, where they go, "Oh, plus I get to do this for other people!"*

JEFF: All of us over and over again attempt to relive that glorious moment of musical, spiritual, and fraternal synergy of ringing a great chord. That's why I think describing it as a hobby is really not a fair phrase—I feel like that box is way too small. We need each other in order to sing together, and the more you do it, the more you realize how much harmonizing has the power to benefit everyone. It's one of the last places on earth where those who disagree profoundly about matters of conviction can come together and temporarily lay aside differences and connect at the deepest level of our shared humanity with friends and strangers.

Theo Hicks said in his keynote that every voice matters—matters whether it's there or whether it's not there. You

“

If you do philanthropy with transparency and accountability and in the most effective manner possible, it's a multiplier.

”



don't have to be a perfect singer, you don't have to have perfect pitch, because your superpower is to be able to share that with someone else who may desperately need it right now.

BRIAN: *To the point about time-talent-treasure, everyone makes the gift of time by being present so we can make four-part harmony, and knowing we can't do that if the tenor doesn't show up. As the saying goes, 80% of life is just showing up. And obviously we all understand the talent portion of it, and sharing our talents is core to making music at all. And finally, the treasure component, which is your personal expenditure for your own joy in participating. But let's talk leverage.*

We have a long history of people saying, "Hey, you gotta contribute to barbershop—it's for the good of the entire world!" But you speak strongly about this added dimension that philanthropy helps people fulfill their barbershop lives.

JEFF: Sure, we want to "Keep the Whole World Singing"—it's right there in the motto. How do we do that in a way that ensures the longevity of the organization and deepens the connection between members and the programs they support? We launched our own development office so that you as a Barbershopper could be more engaged at a deeper level, so more of your outreach resources could go directly to the things that you truly care about. That might be your chapter, your district, or a student scholarship this year, or a long-term endowed scholarship for

The multiplier effect in action: when music educators learn how to connect with BHS resources and use barbershop in their curriculum, we're impacting all their current and future students as well. Donors can not only direct their contributions specifically to HU music educator scholarships, but may specify exactly which music educator benefits.

Harmony University, or Next Generation Barbershop. Your passion might be around historical preservation, to save and restore our video archives. Whether in your local chapter or in our combined Society efforts, we believe everybody will end up in a much better place. Everybody ends up happier because of the deeper connections and relationships that you have forged.

BRIAN: *That tangible connection between the dollars we give and the outcomes we care about is important. It's like when giving to a charity, I might choose to help the entire community*



Jeff's college quartet, Harmony.



During this July's Virtual International Contest, the Association of International Champions and the Society used the AIC Show as a fundraising platform for the 2022 Next Generation Junior Chorus Invitational in Pasadena.

through a general donation to an organization, or I might say, "I want to fund the new job skills program at this nearby homeless center" and not just have my donation pay the charity's electric bill.

JEFF: Nobody ever wants to fund operations, right? Of course, supporting BHS in our annual fund is crucial to help us be able to operate, because it's a multiplier. Your dollar turns into a hundred dollars because we've gone out and been able to do a lot more because you've empowered us to do that.

However, one of the differentiators now is that your gift can be as tangible as you want it to be, all the way down to which music educator receives that Harmony University scholarship you

funded, or which Junior Chorus you sponsor and celebrate with backstage at Midwinter. That's the level of transparency and accountability and connection that donors are able to have with this new development operation.

BRIAN: "I gave you a buck to help a kid barbershop, and here's the kid. You did what I wanted you to do."

JEFF: You get to see the impact you are having on the barbershop community. We want you to come back and keep serving and helping and finding ways to connect.

One of the things I truly love about fundraising is that if you do it well, if you learn how to do it well, then everybody wins. The donor is pleased because they've supported something that they're passionate about. The organization is pleased because you've allowed them to do the work that they love to do. The recipient is pleased because they're getting to do something that they couldn't do on their own. Everybody's happy at the end of the day. If you do it with transparency and accountability and in the most effective manner possible, it's a multiplier.

BRIAN: And that's a way of fulfilling your barbershop lifestyle.

JEFF: People ask themselves, "What does barbershop mean to me?" It seems very easy to see that the world needs singing, the world needs our art form. This tradition isn't rooted in age, race or gender, it's in the musical style and the amazing humans singing it. You have this ability, you have this spirit that

drives you to build on that ability, you have found other good quality people who share your talent and passion and want to sing with you. You have musical and administrative leaders who dedicate themselves to help perpetuate it in the next person. We need each other to keep it all thriving another 80 years.

BRIAN: When you walk in the woods, you're not shaded by just one tree. You're grateful to the entire forest.

JEFF: It takes all of them to be a forest. We're here to help sustain everything living in the forest. We're here for that kid from an underfunded school district, and music is the thing that brings them hope and brings them joy. We're here because of that educator that has dedicated their life to working with those kids.

That's what development is: just making that connection between your "most important thing" and the ways we can preserve and expand it. Maybe it was a person in your past—your parent or your former choral director that shaped you, and you want to keep their story going. Maybe it's that quartet that you've sung with for the last 30 years, and who will be there to your last breath. Once I know your need, I'm going to find a way to help you better your life by bettering someone else's life. That's my calling, and my delight. ■

— Brian Lynch, BHS Public Relations Manager, blynch@barbershop.org

From page 11



LORIN MAY

DIRECTORS WANTED

Need a director? First 50 words are free for BHS chapters. marketing@barbershop.org. See the most current postings at barbershop.org/directorsearch.

Atlanta Vocal Project. Multi-time district champion and International competitor is seeking a new musical director to lead us on the next chapter of our journey. We seek an enthusiastic team player with a proven track record. This is a paid position. Please direct inquiries to directorsearch@atlantavocalproject.com

The Marcsmen (San Marcos, TX), a six-time international competitor and current SWD Chorus champion, are searching for an experienced musical director. Go to marcsmen.org/director-search to make inquiries or submit an application.

Bucks County Chapter, Country Gentlemen Chorus. Enthusiastic men's chorus looking for a front line director. We're a vibrant chapter that focuses on community sing-outs, annual show, quarteting and competition—a "throwback" chapter that has a ton of fun, yet sings well and wants to improve. We meet weekly on Tuesday evenings in Doylestown, PA. Contact : Andrew L Gensey Jr at njmadhungarian@yahoo.com or 215-639-7108.

Classic western red suits for sale (50) sizes small to extra large contact Jim: jadallman@shaw.ca for details

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Members reported as deceased between March 15 and May 15, 2021. Send updates to membership@barbershop.org

CARDINAL

James G. Applegate
Elizabethtown, KY

CAROLINAS

Robert W Appleton
Wilmington, NC
Donald E Smith
Wilmington, NC

CENTRAL STATES

Dale E. Bieber
Iowa City, IA
William A.
Bullington
Des Moines, IA
Melvin G. Forsling
Sioux City, IA
Robert L. Gnuse
Fremont, NE
Richard L Henderson
Kansas City, MO
Ross L. Jamison
Hays, KS
Denny Jones
Papillion, NE
Bill Pratt
Des Moines, IA
Thomas Sekavec
Hays, KS
Dick A. Woodall
Hays, KS

DIXIE

Peter A. Whitman
Lake Lanier, GA

EVERGREEN

Christopher Bishop
Greater Portland, OR
Rupert E. Fixott
Tualatin Valley, OR
Timothy Michael
McDonough
Portland Metro, OR
Alvin I. Powell
Fairbanks, AK

FAR WESTERN

Raymond E. Baker
Frank Thorne
David M. Briner
Brea, CA
South Bay, CA
South Orange County, CA
Greater Los Angeles
George R. Crosby
SaddleBrooke, AZ
Miller M. Keplinger
Stockton, CA
Norman V. Landweer
Visalia, CA
Robert M. Platzer
South Bay, CA
Gaylord K. Spence
Inland Empire, CA
Richard P. Thompson
Frank Thorne

ILLINOIS

Elmer A. Boeldt
Elgin, IL
Arthur A. Deem
Sterling Rock Falls, IL
Robert E. Joos
Peoria, IL

JOHNNY APPLESEED

Kenneth R. Rieger
Greater Cranberry, PA
Cletus M. Schirra
Pittsburgh Metro, PA
John A. Shockey
Miami-Shelby, OH
Wayne S. Taormina
Greater Cranberry, PA
David A. Wayland
Shenango Valley, PA
Ronald F. Wolfangel
Cincinnati, OH

LAND O' LAKES

Mary E. Evenson
Lake Geneva, WI
Robert E. Hammer
Faribault, MN
Harold Huissen
Kenosha, WI

MID-ATLANTIC

Steve Adams
Cherry Hill, NJ
Carlton F. Andrus

Mt. Vernon, VA
John J. Benzi
Wilkes Barre, PA
Raymond E.
Buntaine
Cherry Hill, NJ
Joel M. Fairman
Nassau-Mid Island, NY
John J. Felthaus
Cherry Hill, NJ
Craig L. Fisher
Harrisburg, PA
Peter J. McArdle
Manhattan, NY
Willard A. McCoy
Nassau-Mid Island, NY
Michael R. Monfils
Westchester County, N.Y.
William F. O'Connell
Cherry Hill, NJ
Edward T. O'Connor
Nassau-Mid Island, NY
George Rau
Cherry Hill, NJ
Phil L. Rink
Dundalk, MD
Kevin B. Rooney
Cherry Hill, NJ
Michael L. Sanyour, Jr.
Cherry Hill, NJ
Joseph R. Tanfani
State College, PA
Chris T. Taylor
Frank Thorne

Ronald M. Teer
Cape May County, NJ
Carl R. Wennberg
La Plata, MD
Mt. Vernon, VA
Peter A. Whitman
Cherry Hill, NJ

NORTHEASTERN

Lucian R. Bernard
Plattsburgh, NY
Albert W. Charsky
Keene, NH
Fred A. Dawson
Greater Montreal, QC
Donald G. Flom
Schenectady, NY
G. William Glidden
Plattsburgh, NY
Roger M. Klinger
Bridgeport, CT
Richard A. Neilsen
Keene, NH
Edward G. Plecinoga
Beverly, MA
James G. Pockwinse
Worcester, MA
Anthony W. Szerszen
Central, CT
Ernest R. Treadwell
Keene, NH

ONTARIO

Robert Armstrong
Barrie, ON

Stanley G. Crawford
Kingston, ON
Lewis Knetsch
Kingston, ON

PIONEER

Bruce E. Campbell
Livingston County, MI
Lisa M. Hall
Livingston County, MI
Robert Ross Marshall
Greater Detroit
William Kyle McKenzie
Wayne, MI
John C. Stiegemeier
Kalamazoo, MI

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Fred L. Draney
Colorado Springs /
Pikes Peak, CO
James P. Gallagher
Utah Valley, UT
Salt Lake City, UT
Golden Spike, UT
Donald R. Knepp
Colorado Springs /
Pikes Peak, CO
Charles H. Stewart
Casper, WY

SENECA LAND

Donald E. Evans
Onondaga County, NY

SOUTHWESTERN

Dwain Brobst
Northwest Louisiana
Dale H. Neff
Tulsa, OK
Gregory P. Sense
Oklahoma City, OK

SUNSHINE

Donald L. Bain
Gainesville, FL
Richard R. Bernardy
Hernando County, FL
David S. Cohen
Gainesville, FL
Elbert Ford
Central Florida
Marlon W. Gerould
Naples/Fort Myers, FL
Frank Gracie, Jr.
Charlotte County, FL
John Guastella
Greater Pinellas, FL
Richard A. Neilsen
Central Florida
Elvin Parker
Gainesville, FL
Eric D. Petersen
Gainesville, FL
Dr. Richard M. Ramer
Gainesville, FL



Richard Thompson
56-year member, long-time international competitor, appeared in Music Man on Broadway



Dick Woodall
60+-year member in Central States District

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTORY

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



Society Headquarters

110 7th Ave N • Nashville, TN 37203-3704
615-823-3993 • fax: 615-313-7615 • info@barbershop.org
Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central

www.barbershop.org
800-876-7464 (SING)

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Marty Monson
Executive Director/CEO
Megan Henderson
Executive Assistant to the CEO

FINANCE

finance@barbershop.org
Erik Dove
CFO/COO
Jama Clinard
Controller / HR Manager
Nick Anello
Finance Administrator

CONVENTIONS

events@barbershop.org
Dusty Schleier
Director of Events & Conventions

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

support@barbershop.org
Sam Hoover
IT Manager

HARMONY MARKETPLACE

customerservice@barbershop.org
Justin Gray
Warehouse Manager

DEVELOPMENT

development@barbershop.org
Jeff Fincher
Chief Development Officer
Bryan Mullican
Development Operations Manager
Dustin Guyton
Relationship Manager
Katie Macdonald
Relationship Manager

MARKETING

marketing@barbershop.org
Devin Anna Bradford
Director of Marketing
Sarah Brown
Marketing Coordinator
Jeremy K. Gover
Video Production Manager
Brian Lynch
Public Relations Manager

PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

customerservice@barbershop.org
Caki Gray
Director of Membership
Devin Anna Bradford
Community Development Manager
Danny Becker
Quartet Success Manager
Katie Macdonald
Recruitment & Retention Manager
Rich Smith
Salesforce Administrator

CUSTOMER SERVICE

customerservice@barbershop.org
Allison Barrett
Customer Service
Luke Davis
Customer Service
Douglas Gordon
Receptionist/Bldg. Maintenance

PROGRAMS & IMPACT

impact@barbershop.org
Erin Harris
Chief Program Officer
Cassi Costoulas
Strategic Initiatives Manager
Dustin Guyton
Volunteer Manager

OUTREACH

outreach@barbershop.org
Joe Cerutti
Director of Outreach
Chad Bennett
Show Production Manager
Lani Torroll
Outreach Youth Programs Coordinator

MUSIC EDUCATION

harmonyu@barbershop.org
Steve Scott
Online Education Curriculum Manager
Brent Suver
Online Education Production Manager

MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

library@barbershop.org
Janice Bane
Senior Manager, Copyright

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

John Donehower • Colona, IL
563-599-8565
johndonehower@gmail.com

Executive Vice President

Steve Denino • Grove City, OH
614-795-8145
steve.denino@gmail.com

Treasurer

John Santora • Bel Air, MD
410-937-2611
jsantora@mac.com

Immediate Past President

Dick Powell • Crofton, MD
410-451-0694
leadsingerdpowell@gmail.com

Executive Director/ Board Secretary

Marty Monson (Ex Officio) • Franklin, TN
800-876-7464
CEO@barbershop.org

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jeremy Brann • Lexington, KY
859-420-7696
jeremy.brann@gmail.com

Blair Brown • Fort Myers, FL
314-486-1668
brown.blair.1986@gmail.com

Maria Christian • Oak Park, MI
248-376-4548
maria.christian@dteenergy.com

Mark Fortino • Overland Park, KS
816-519-5013
markfortino@aol.com

Christian Hunter • Flemington, NJ
908-391-2907
njbslead@gmail.com

Randy Loos • Largo, FL
727-510-5901
RandyLoos@gmail.com

OFFICIAL ALLIANCES

- Barbershop Harmony Australia
barbershop.org.au • Dan Millgate: secretary@barbershop.org.au
- BHNZ (Barbershop Harmony New Zealand)
barbershopharmony.nz • John Denton: johnandchrisd@gmail.com
- BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)
singbarbershop.com • Martin Baglow: chairman@singbarbershop.com
- BinG! (Barbershop in Germany)
barbershop-in-germany.de • Constanze Jaeger: constanze.jaeger@barbershop.de
- Holland Harmony
hollandharmony.nl • Leonie Vink: voorzitter@hollandharmony.nl
- FABS (Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers)
fabs.fi • Johannah Boberg, fabs.hallitus@gmail.com
- IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)
irishbarbershop.org • Liz Nolan: iabsexecutive@gmail.com
- LABBS (Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers)
labbs.org.uk • Natalie Feddon: chair@labbs.org.uk
- MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Assoc.)
mixedbarbershop.org • Roxanne Powell: powellrx@gmail.com
- SABS (Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers)
sabs.es • Dawn Ritch: president@sabs.es
- SNOBS (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)
snoobs.org • Henrik Rosenberg: henrik@rospart.se
- SPATS (Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers)
spats.co.za • Mark Jensen van Rensburg: president@spats.co.za

SOCIETY SUBSIDIARIES (PARTIAL LIST)

- Association of International Champions • *AICGold.com*
- Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions • *aisqc.com*
- Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders • *ahsow.org*
- Southern Harmony Brigade • *southernharmonybrigade.com*
- Harmony Brigade • *harmonybrigade.org*
- North Carolina • Indiana • Atlantic • Harmony U • Great Lakes • High Sierra • New England • Lone Star • Northern Pines • European • United Kingdom • Mixed Harmony Brigade (New England)

FRIENDS IN HARMONY

- 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
- National Museum for African-American Music
nmaam.org
- Sweet Adelines International
sweetadelines.com
- Harmony, Incorporated
harmonyinc.org
- Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association
bqpa.com
- National Association for Music Education
nafme.org
- Chorus America
chorusamerica.org
- Nashville Songwriters Association International
nashvillesongwriters.com



The Harmonizer

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

harmonizer@barbershop.org

EDITORIAL

Lorin May (Editor)

Brian Lynch, Sarah Brown
(Associate Editors)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Devin Anna Bradford, Sarah Brown, Jeremy Gover, Brian Lynch, Lorin May,

Copy editing: Stan Peppenhorst, Janice Bane, Allison Barrett



Sing a Song Each Day

Due to a layout error, the SATB version of the "This is a Wild, Crazy Sound" tag in the May/June issue was a repeat of the TTBB version. Get the correct version at barbershop.org/tags.

"Sing a Song Each Day" has an interesting backstory. It starts with a request from the Westchester County, NY (WESCO) Chapter asking Steve Delehanty to write a Mother's Day tag. Steve is a member of that chapter. What a lucky thing to have an in-house composer, arranger, coach, quartet man, and certified Music judge so ready and available! Steve sent me a copy and I loved the chords and progressions.

It was a little late to place in *The Harmonizer* for Mother's Day and was a bit long to fit onto a single page and show the usual three voicings we provide. We reduced the length of it and Steve created a new, current message for us. Thanks, Steve! ■

TTBB voicing

Steve Delehanty 2021

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Ev - 'ry - thing will be o - kay; — lots of joy will come your your,

each, sing a song each day!

way come your way when you sing a song each day! —

each, sing a song each day!

SSAA voicing

Steve Delehanty 2021

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Ev - 'ry - thing will be o - kay; — lots of joy will come your your,

each, sing a song each day!

way come your way when you sing a song each day! —

each, sing a song each day!

SATB voicing

Steve Delehanty 2021

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Ev - 'ry - thing will be o - kay; — lots of joy will come your your,

each, sing a song each day!

way come your way when you sing a song each day! —

each, sing a song each day!

BARBERSHOP



IS

BACK!

PASADENA
2022
MIDWINTER CONVENTION

**WITH THE BIGGEST
REUNION
EVER!**

Youth and
Quartet
Festivals

World
premieres
of newly
commissioned
songs

Together again
with thousands
of friends

Save the date!

JANUARY 11-16, 2022

barbershop.org/midwinter

COMING THIS FALL
TO A DISTRICT
NEAR YOU

BARBERSHOP

IS

BACK!

**Go to your district convention
for great barbershop reunions!**

Now more than ever, your district convention is the place to be to get back to barbershopping!

Contest is just part of the fun. Many conventions will include non-scored festivals, Harmony Brigades, education and casual singing opportunities.



**Visit barbershop.org/calendar
for more information**

*Save the date!**

**SEPT
17-18**

Illinois District (ILL)
illinoisdistrict.org

**SEPT
23-25**

Rocky Mountain District (RMD)
rmdsing.org

**SEPT
24-26**

Dixie District (DIX)
dixiedistrict.org

**SEPT
30-
OCT
2**

Southwestern District (SWD)
swd.org
Mid-Atlantic District (MAD)
midatlanticdistrict.com

**OCT
8-9**

Central States District (CSD)
singcsd.com
**Johnny Appleseed District (JAD) and
Cardinal District (CAR) (combined)**
singjad.com • cardinaldistrict.org
Far Western District (FWD)
farwesterndistrict.org

**OCT
15-16**

Land O' Lakes District (LOL)
loldistrict.org
Pioneer District (PIO)
pioneerdistrict.org

**OCT
29-30**

Northeastern District (NED)
nedistrict.org

**NOV
12-13**

Carolinas District (NSC)
carolinasdistrict.org

Ontario, Sunshine, and Seneca Land Districts will be pushing back their in-person events to Spring 2022 with details TBD. The Evergreen District is also postponing their in-person event until Spring 2022, but is encouraging local singing festivals at the chapter level this fall.

Check District information at barbershop.org/district for more details.

*This event information as of July 2021,
details are subject to change