

The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021



OUR HAPPINESS MACHINE

The science behind why singing barbershop harmony makes you happy—
And how one chapter grew 5X by living up to the motto “Make People Happy”



NOTEWORTHY

CAL YODER, 15 MONTHS LATER
PRIME TIME IN ARGENTINA

SPOTLIGHT

MELODY HINE: GROWING UP IN—AND INTO—THE SOCIETY

TIP SHEET

WHY AND HOW TO RUN A READY, SET, SING! PROGRAM



**Remember your
first convention
experience?**

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Nearly 500 young singers from across the U.S. will join in Next Generation Barbershop events created by the Society at the Midwinter Convention in Pasadena. They'll bring nine original arrangements, an eagerness to compete, and a love of ringing chords.

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Steve Denino, BHS Board Member

Each year, we watch these young singers perform their favorite barbershop tunes on the Midwinter stage. With your support, their energy brings joy and hope for the future of barbershop.

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In This Issue

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 • VOLUME LXXXI • NUMBER 5



Our first-ever online International Convention—and with any luck, the only one—had the same casual vibe and avatar-based interface as the January's Midwinter convention. Four days of festivals, contests, and afterglows showed off the creative output of many of today's best groups, as well as great performances from many up-and-comers. From the archives we saw many decades-old performances that have never been seen since they were live.

Features

14 Your happiness machine

You know that singing barbershop makes you happy, but do you know why? Researchers know: Involvement in organized barbershop strongly contributes to each of the five major components of human happiness.

20 Happiness leads to growth

If you're hoping to increase member happiness by growing your chapter, you may have the order backwards. How New Jersey's Morris Music Men transformed from nine members and struggling to 50 members and thriving

Departments

10 Tip Sheet

The offer of free singing lessons followed by a public performance can indeed lead to chapter growth. A major key to success: Run it as a public service—NOT as a recruiting program!

12 Spotlight

She is a third-generation BHS member born into Georgia's busiest barbershop family, and she's making her mark on the barbershop world. Melody Hine talks arranging, performing, contests, and inclusion.

In Every Issue

4 Starting Pitch + Letters

The power of "yes"—and why perfect doesn't mean perfection

7 Noteworthy

Prime Time barbershop in Argentina
The Songwriters Project—all-new songs for youth

29 Chapter Eternal

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

30 Member Services Directory

How to contact your leaders, where to get answers

32 The Tag

"Happiness Tag" by Joe Liles



8

On the cover: Happiness machine: *Photos & cover by Lorin May, gears by Pexels-Miguel Á Padriñán*

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The Harmonizer

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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.

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The power of “yes”—and why perfect doesn’t mean perfection



We almost turned down the talent-packed show because we thought we weren’t good enough. What could have been our biggest mistake instead turned into a Gold Medal Moment.

*When the beating of your heart
Echoes the beating of the drum
There is a life about to start
When tomorrow comes!*

The stage was bare save for a lone singer in a stark spotlight. The haunting melody began in solo, and two more singers took the stage and added their voices behind him ... then three more voices ... five more voices ... six more voices ... until the stage was full of voices, full of harmony. The audience was ... well, let me come back to that.

WE DID NOT BELIEVE IN OURSELVES

The performance of the **Dubuque Music Men** almost didn’t happen.

When the local theater reached out to invite us to perform on a fundraiser for their *Broadway Series*, chapter leadership almost turned the show down. The show was to be filled with performances by area artists, and would conclude with a feature performance from a popular stage singer from Chicago. It was an impressive array of talent, and to be honest, our chapter leaders were worried that our tiny chorus would pale in comparison. We were afraid we would embarrass ourselves.

The Music Men, founded in 1948, had a long history in our little corner of Iowa, but we rarely grew beyond 25 or so singers. We competed often

in Central States contests but rarely got more than middling scores. The judges would assure us that we had worth, but it was difficult to hold our heads high when we just finished last in yet another contest. But we kept going back, almost always improving on our score, but often feeling a bit worse about ourselves.

The result of these contest experiences was that our perfectly imperfect chorus always doubted itself. Culturally, we always felt that we weren’t good enough. And now, presented with the thought of standing on the stage with a veritable who’s who of Midwest talent, we were

“DID WE REALLY WANT TO SHINE A BRIGHT LIGHT ON OURSELVES AND STAND IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE WHO EXPECTED MORE?”



Get in Touch

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Marty Monson, CEO/Executive Director CEO@barbershop.org

afraid. We loved singing. We loved each other. But we were afraid. We were only a barbershop chorus—and we certainly weren't the the **Ambassadors of Harmony**. Did we belong on the stage with all those great singers?

We were safe doing annual shows for our friends and neighbors, but did we really want to shine a bright light on ourselves and stand in front of an audience who expected more? Even Society founding Father O.C. Cash had worried about sharing barbershop with unsympathetic ears. We loved barbershop, and yet, at the same time, felt a bit ashamed of barbershop. In a lot of ways, we were hiding from the world out of a sense that barbershop wasn't cool and that we weren't good enough.

"NOT FAIR—I HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM?!"

Ultimately, we got over our fears and decided to take the performance opportunity. We practiced and polished up our performance of Tom Gentry's arrangement of "Do You Hear The People Sing?" from *Les Misérables*.

The Dubuque Chapter was inspired by the 1999 silver medal winning "Les Misérables" set by The New Tradition Chorus.



**"NEVER FORGET THAT
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A
CHAMPION TO HAVE A GOLD
MEDAL MOMENT, YOU JUST
NEED TO BE YOU. AND YOU
ARE WONDERFUL!"**

As the director, I was feeling pretty good, but our singers were still full of worries. And those worries only grew when we found out that we were slotted to perform on the sold-out show, right before the feature act of the night. Oh boy.

The performers on the first half of the show sang beautifully, the variety of acts was wonderful, and the audience of 1,200 was warm but not exuberant. Finally, when it was our turn, our best singer took the stage, began to sing, and as I've already said, one singer became two then four and so on, until our whole chorus was on stage. The stage grew brighter, the sound grew louder, the passion was palpable.

The Music Men were singing



John & Marty's Virtual Meetings

Aug 23, Staff, Board & District Presidents small group huddle

Aug-Sept: Annual Alliance Meetings (Marty)

Sept 1: Society Planning Committee (SPC) Meeting

Sept 19: Big Idea Virtual Roundtable—Organizational Health (Marty)

Oct 6: SPC Meeting

John is attending

Sept. 30-Oct. 2: SWD Fall Convention, Dallas

Oct. 7-10: CSD Fall Convention, Lawrence, KS

John is reading

Writing for Dummies, Hammond

Marty is Re-Reading:

Race for Relevance and *Road to Relevance*, Coever & Byers

John is learning

"Brother, Can You Spare A Dime" & "Happy Days Are Here Again"

Marty is Re-Learning

(for Nashville Music Medics)
"A Spoonful of Sugar," arr. R. Foris

John is Binge Watching

Downton Abbey



STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

“THE RESULT OF THESE CONTEST EXPERIENCES WAS THAT OUR PERFECTLY IMPERFECT CHORUS ALWAYS DOUBTED ITSELF. CULTURALLY, WE ALWAYS FELT THAT WE WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH.”

their hearts out—mostly in tune, mostly in step—and then, from my vantage point in the back row, I noticed something amazing. Audience members were standing up. One, then two, then three, then more. By the end of the performance, and our less than perfect cutoff, more than half of the audience was already standing. The other half soon joined them in a thunderous standing ovation. The first of the evening!

I smiled—and laughed—and even cried. I was supposed to be the first man off the stage, but I stood there, and let my singers soak it in. I've never been prouder to be a Music Man or to be a Barbershopper. And I couldn't believe that we almost said “No” to this opportunity.

The moment that sticks with me most from that evening was after the feature performer took the stage, the first words out of his mouth were, “Not fair! I have to follow them?! Bravo!” And the applause—for us, now backstage—began again.

My none-too-subtle point is this: Always say “YES!” You don't have to be perfect to be perfect. Be proud of what you do. Be proud of each other. Be proud to be a Barbershopper! Never forget, that you don't need to be a champion to have a *Gold Medal Moment*, you just need to be *you*. And YOU are wonderful! ■



Reader Feedback

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

Happy Days are Here Again—featured chapters follow up

Note: The below letters reflect these chapters' status and plans as of mid-July, when these letters were received. Many plans are likely to have changed in intervening weeks.

@ THX has finally gone back to meeting in person! We held our first rehearsal on June 26, and used YouTube Live and Zoom in conjunction to reach out to guys that are still not able to be there!

Bruce Checca

President, Sunrise, FL Chapter (THX)



@ Shortly after our piece was submitted, the CDC changed its vaccination recommendations. We polled our chorus and found over 85% of our members were vaccinated. There was unanimous consent to resume weekly rehearsals with relaxed protocols (no temperature checks, social distancing optional). We still maintained an area where members could socially distance if they chose, and we continue using Facebook Live to stream our rehearsals. We have a live, in-person show planned for late August and a full Christmas Show in December.

Jacob Simpson

President, Cleveland, TN Chapter (Sound of Tennessee)

@ We've had good feedback from our members regarding the *Harmonizer* cover. With our Youth Festival, *Midtown* has been replaced by *Half & Half*, which will stay in town to perform two days later at our annual show alongside headliner *Crossroads*. The 2009 champs will now come early to be part of the Youth Festival. Both groups will be visiting schools on Friday.

Dennis Berg

Marketing VP, Boise, ID Chapter (Boise Chordsmen)

@ On June 8, the chorus began in-person rehearsals for the first time in 16 months. On July 2, we performed our patriotic repertoire to a large and enthusiastic audience in the opening ceremonies of the Dundalk, MD, July 4 Heritage Fair. What a great feeling it was to finally perform. We'll compete in the MAD district contest and our annual show plans are moving forward. In addition, we've been contacted by two organizations to perform at events this fall. ■

William Day

Marketing VP, Dundalk, MD Chapter (Chorus of the Chesapeake)



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Judicial opinion & order

Judge addresses relationship between the Society and its foundation

An opinion and order issued in U.S. District Court in July concluded that Harmony Foundation International is not separate from the Barbershop Harmony Society, and that the BHS Board of Directors is responsible for electing HFI trustees.

Subsequently, in compliance with HFI bylaws and as of Harmonizer press time the Society Board had requested nominations from the Foundation board for the election of six trustees.

The Society Board also called on HFI to restore Society CEO Marty Monson as an ex-officio member of the Foundation Board of Trustees; restore Society President John Donehower as Society liaison to the Foundation Board; provide a financial accounting to the Society, as is required every six months but which has not happened in more than a year; and engage with the Society to complete the annual joint audit for 2020; all in accordance with the governing documents.

While Judge William M. Conley dismissed the federal case involving BHS and HFI on procedural grounds, he directed the parties to state court if necessary.



READ ONLINE For related background, previous communications by the Society, and links to legal filings, visit www.barbershop.org/keyissues.



ARGENTINA SEES BARBERSHOP ON PRIME TIME TELEVISION

Barberdrunk, the Buenos Aires quartet that won 2019 BHS Ambassador of the Year, promoted four-part harmony on one of Argentina's most popular primetime programs. "We're finally having the opportunity to fulfill our duty as Ambassadors of the Year after a long struggle with the pandemic and hoping for better times for everyone," said member Enrique Nicolás Borlenghi in a Facebook post.

On July 27, the quartet sang, "What a Wonderful World" in English for the assembled contestants on the *Showmatch: La Academia* dance and entertainment program on El Trece (Channel 13). The program has a large following in Argentina and surrounding nations.

After discovering barbershop via YouTube, the quartet attended Harmony University 2019. Later that year they formed Barbershop South America and organized its first convention. Their first barbershop promotion of 2021 could hardly have been bigger. "And what a way to start!" Enrique continued. "¡Que cante todo el mundo! Keep the Whole World Singing!"

Link to the performance at barbershop.org/harmonizer.



RV GOES ALL-IN ON HARMONY

Chris Eitman apparently does nothing halfway. The 27-year member sings in a quartet, is active with both the Canton and Akron Chapters, and joined the Society at age 13. He has long enjoyed the annual Barbershopper weekend on Middle Bass Island in Lake Erie, and the camper he normally borrowed got sold. Since Chris now owns his own, and since it's mainly for that weekend, he decided to decorate. Printing and installation was done by Visual Marking Systems in Twinsburg, Ohio, in case you have your own camper and you believe that Chris's design is unnecessarily subtle.





NOTEWORTHY

The latest in the world of barbershop

● ASK A STAFF MEMBER

HOW DO I REINSTATE RETURNING MEMBERS?



NOW THAT WE'RE MEETING IN PERSON AGAIN, WE HAVE A LOT OF RETURNING MEMBERS. HOW DO I REINSTATE THEM?

It is now easier than ever to add a member to your chapter or chorus via the Member Center. To add new members or reinstate a former BHS member to your group, the process now includes a guided page-by-page screen flow. You only need to know the prospective member's name and former member number OR email address. You can finish the process entirely in Member Center if you know all the contact and payment details OR you can send a form via email to the member to complete the process. Find online tutorials for this and more in our Document Center at members.barbershop.org. Member log-in is required.

– Luke Davis, CustomerService@barbershop.org



STARTING A DAY OF SINGING ON A HIGH NOTE

In a July children's hospital performance, the **Nashville Chapter's** Music Medics found that their day's first patient was the brother of a Barbershopper who sings with **The Caveman Chorus** of the Bowling Green, KY Chapter. He knew the style and even sang a tag with the group.

Music Medics visit children hospitals dressed as medical staff to comfort and entertain patients. Members of the **Miamians** and **Southern Gateway Chorus** have done so for years.

● REMEMBERING A GIANT

LATE BUT NOT TOO LITTLE

Beloved lead Cal Yoder of **Rural Route 4** (1986 Champion) passed away from cancer on April 22, 2020, when in-person memorial services became impossible. On July 24, 2021, about 300 people filled a big sanctuary in Garden City, Mo., for the Calvin Yoder Memorial Hymn Sing. There were Yoders—lots of Yoders—plus members of Sycamore Grove Mennonite Church and members of the Garden City Community Choir, who Calvin directed in an Easter Cantata for 49 years. Many Barbershoppers were also present, particularly from Cal's **Heart of America Chorus**. The **Rural Route 4** performed with Cal's son, Wesley, filling in at lead. One audience member said, "Close your eyes and you can hear Calvin."

Below: Rural Route 4: Jim Bagby (Br), Willard Yoder (Bs), Wesley Yoder (L), Don Kahl (T).



● TWO'S COMPANY, SIX IS A CROWD



STUDENT FILM FEATURES QUARTET AS MAJOR PLOT POINT

Bookcliff Barbershop Harmony Chorus (BBHC) member Davis Devereux (below) incorporated his love of barbershop music into a student film project in a Western Colorado Community College (WCCC) Digital Filmmaking short-form production.

He wrote and produced *Harmony of Love*, a story about Randy and Melody, two sweethearts whose relationship is suffering. The two find a magical barber pole charm that summons a barbershop quartet every time Melody rubs it.

You view this short film at <https://tinyurl.com/efebrrab> to see whether Randy or the quartet "get the girl."

Harmony of Love will be submitted to Rocky Mountain PBS this fall for a possible future broadcast of "In Short," a series shown statewide featuring student films from all over Colorado.

The barbershop singers are played by the **Canyon Grand Quartet**: Olyn Carlson (L), George Humfeld (T), Dave Woodward (Bs), and Bob Labig (Br), all members of BBHC, the **Grand Junction, CO Chapter**.

– George Humfeld, Chapter Secretary



BIG IDEAS

ROUNDTABLE SERIES

As more groups work to return to a new, better normal, they are looking for tools to help re-energize their barbershop experience. Throughout the Fall, Chapter and District Leaders, BHS staffers, and other guests will offer weekly virtual sessions on Zoom that focus on reopening after the pandemic, getting the most from fall events, Everyone in Harmony, BHS organizational health, preserving the all-male experience, and more. Get the schedule of events for Sept.-Dec. and watch replays of previous sessions at barbershop.org/bigideas.

Contest Entry makes big strides

Competing quartets and choruses can now enjoy a more integrated Contest Entry (formerly called "Barberscore") experience thanks a huge first step facilitated by the new Member Center platform. Log in at members.barbershop.org to get more info, read the how-tos, and then better track your repertoire and participation.



Download back issues

Each week's issue of *LiveWire* now links to a great *Harmonizer* article from the archives. Link to all past issues yourself (including index) at barbershop.org/harmonizer. Member login required.

YOUTH OUTREACH

The Songwriters Project

Songwriters, arrangers, and youth collaborate on original songs that better connect

Slated to premiere at the Mid-winter Convention in Pasadena, California, the Songwriters Project is a unique collaboration between the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Nashville Songwriters Association that gives musicians the chance to flex their muscles in a different genre: barbershop!

The project puts a songwriter, an arranger, and a high school chorus together to deliver an unforgettable set of performances not just for the audience but for the kids themselves.

"I'm excited to be part of this inaugural event that is actually giving youth the opportunity to perform their own custom songs made especially for them," said Nikki Smart, a songwriter from southern California.

While it is great to see a quartet or chorus sing "Shine" or "Sixteen Tons," how many 16- and 17-year-olds relate to working as a shoe shine boy or a coal miner? This project allows high school students to be a part of the songwriting process itself and then take that emotional buy-in onto the stage.

"Every artform needs to have a continual supply of new music," said arranger Larry Tripplet. "Even one that's based on nostalgia like ours."

Thanks to the partnership, new, original barbershop charts are coming, and they'll be performed by amazing young singers about topics and issues they chose and connected with.

"For a lot of the students, choir was their joy," songwriter Alexander Ruwe said. "Choir is what gets them up in the morning."

One of three schools in this project, the Anna High School music program in Anna, Texas, is the bene-



Above: Texas Music Educator Dan Rohovit and California songwriter Nikki Smart.

ficiary of Ruwe's work.

"Alex's song could've been plucked out of our hearts," said Dan Rohovit, a music educator and barbershop veteran. Such songs have a much deeper effect on youth, who are still figuring out who they are, Dan said. Because Alex collaborated with the kids, his original song is saying, "Here's who you are," Dan continued. "Here's something sprinkled on top to make it better."

The collaboration between the two organizations is only getting started.

"It seems to be a match made in heaven," said arranger Robert Rund. ■

—Jeremy Gover, jgover@barbershop.org



TIP SHEET

Stephen Banker, President of The Westchester Chordsmen

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Ready, Set, Sing! Keys for an effective program

The offer of free singing lessons followed by a public performance can indeed lead to chapter growth. A major key to success: Run it as a public service—NOT as a recruiting program!

Numerous chapters have used Ready, Set, Sing! successfully to bring in new members. Once you believe it is wise and safe to do so, you may want to give RSS a try, or fine-tune your existing RSS program. In the **Westchester, N.Y. Chapter**, we've run RSS twice a year since 2016 (missing two sessions due to COVID). Twenty-eight of our RSS graduates became active members of our chorus, many in leadership positions.

We didn't invent RSS, but we've put our own spin on it. We focus on four elements: structure, program, communication, and member buy-in.

STRUCTURE

It is critical to structure RSS as a community outreach program—a public service—rather than a recruiting program. This is the magic sauce that attracts students. Membership will follow naturally if students love the program.

Marketing. We market RSS as free singing lessons, no experience required. Marketing tools include social media, community newspapers, flyers, outreach to other community organizations, a press release, and word of mouth. They are all effective. You can also use special RSS business cards and any other marketing you find productive. Marketing is best started three to four weeks before the first RSS session.

Scheduling. We run a six-week program, scheduled not to interfere with the last weeks of preparation



for contest or a major show.

Greeting. When the students first arrive, we give them a name tag, a letter of greeting, the chart for the song they will be learning, a CD (or access to other media) with the learning tracks, and material about our chorus. We maintain a roster with each student's name, telephone, e-mail, singing experience, and how they heard about RSS.

THE PROGRAM

The program consists of:

- Before we start each evening, members can engage with the students.
- Each student is voice-placed, and assigned a "riser buddy"—a member singing the same part—who will stand beside him on the risers.

After their public performance, the graduates of one of the chapter's Ready, Set, Sing! sessions with their diplomas

- Students warm up together with the chorus.
- Students then adjourn to another room with our music director for their group lesson. Our director has prepared an outline for each session that highlights different skills for good singing.
- Students then return to the risers and learn a song together with the chorus (a song the chorus has not yet learned). It's best to use a simple song. We've used up-tunes like "Sh-Boom," "A Wink and a Smile," "Daydream" and "Happy Days."
- Then the program ends—about

90 minutes in total. Before the students leave, we have another opportunity to schmooze.

- The chorus then takes a break before continuing rehearsal. Students are welcome to stay and join us on the risers. We usually have a few takers.
- Week Six is our graduation ceremony. We perform a mini-concert for an audience consisting of the students' friends and family. As a finale, the students join us on the risers to perform the song we've learned together. Then we announce each graduate, and hand him a personalized diploma, followed by a reception with drinks, snacks, and more schmoozing.

Exit interview. In Week 5 or 6, our director has a brief meeting with each student to review that student's progress. He will discuss membership with those students who might be qualified.

Follow-up. After completion, we reach out to the students, seeking feedback and asking whether they'd be interested in auditioning to join us.

COMMUNICATION

I place a big emphasis on communication. This conveys to the students that we are a friendly and caring group, showing a genuine interest in each student and each other. An important part of this is the opportunity to meet and converse with each student. But there's also a more structured messaging. When the student registers for RSS, I immediately send them a welcome message. Then, a few days before the program begins, I send each student a description of what to expect on their first evening. Finally, I send them a friendly reminder the day before each succeeding session.

The director also sends weekly messages to the students. He presents a review of the last lesson, tips for practicing at home, and homework (including learning the RSS song).

"DO MAKE STUDENTS FEEL WELCOME, AND GET TO KNOW THEM. BE THE AWESOME PERSON AND HOST THAT YOU ALREADY ARE. DON'T TRY TO SELL THE CHORUS OR MAKE A SALES PITCH TO JOIN."

I communicate with members weekly, reminding them of the importance of RSS and giving a few tips on interacting with the students. I also ask each riser buddy to reach out to his student between sessions.

CONCLUSION

Good luck with your own RSS program. Regardless of your recruitment results, I'm sure you'll find it rewarding, and your community outreach will pay dividends in the future. Many thanks to Christian Hunter and the **Hunterdon Harmonizers** for enlightening me about RSS at the 2015 Mid-Atlantic District Leadership Academy. And many thanks to the **Morris Music Men** for their help in getting our RSS program off the ground! ■

THE DO'S & DON'TS OF MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Member buy-in. RSS will not be effective as a public service or a recruiting tool unless the members are behind it. Widespread member participation is essential for (1) marketing, (2) engaging with the students, (3) serving as riser buddies, (4) graduation logistics and (5) conveying the best image of the chapter. We engage in role play to give members tips on marketing and engagement.

Several weeks before RSS starts I discuss with the members the importance of RSS, and ask for their active participation. Since not all members attend every week, I also prepare and circulate a brief memo, outlining RSS (including the dates), its impact on rehearsals, and a brief list of DOs and DON'Ts:

- DO wear your name tag and your smile.
- DO make students feel welcome and get to know them. Be the awesome person and host for guests that you already are.
- DON'T try to sell the chorus or make a sales pitch to join. If a student asks about membership, direct him to the Membership VP, President, or Director.
- DO share your love of singing.
- DO encourage the students to return the following week.
- DON'T leave a student alone (or engaging only with other students) before rehearsal or during a break.
- DO be a riser buddy if asked and try to support and befriend the student.
- DO be on time and use good riser discipline.
- DO be helpful to the students on the risers but DON'T criticize or correct.
- DO sing tags and quartets informally, when time allows but DON'T be pushy about students participating.
- DO have a great time with the RSS program.



SPOTLIGHT

Katie Macdonald, BHS Recruitment & Retention Manager
✉ kmacdonald@barbershop.org

Melody Hine: growing up and growing into the Society

She's a third-generation BHS member born into Georgia's busiest barbershop family, and she's making her mark on the barbershop world. Melody Hine talks arranging, performing, contests, and inclusion.

Melody Hine is baritone of 2019 Harmony, Inc. Champion *Hot Pursuit*, and an accomplished arranger, coach, and BHS Music judge. She grew up a barbershop brat to Clay and Becki Hine, directors of *Atlanta Vocal Project* and *Song of Atlanta*, respectively. Melody Hine and I help lead *Parkside Melody*, partner chorus of *Parkside Harmony* in Hershey, PA. We've become great friends and I've learned so much about what she experienced growing up in barbershop, and what we can do to make new singers feel included and comfortable.

WHAT'S IT LIKE GROWING UP IN A PROMINENT BARBERSHOP FAMILY?

I was surrounded by singing my whole childhood—Barbershoppers love to tell me that they used to change my diapers. My grandfather, Thom Hine, and then my dad directed *Big Chicken Chorus*, so the whole Dixie District knows the Hine family. But I always appreciated how my parents didn't force me and my brother into barbershop—we went to shows and afterglows, but it was up to us if we wanted to sing.

"WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES WHY PEOPLE ARE FEELING EXCLUDED, AND THEN TAKE THE STEPS TO SHOW THEM THAT THEY BELONG."

YOU'RE ALREADY ONE OF THE SOCIETY'S MOST PROLIFIC ARRANGERS, AND I'M SURE YOUR DAD, CLAY, HAD SOME INFLUENCE ON THAT. WHAT HAS YOUR DAD TAUGHT YOU ABOUT ARRANGING?

I started arranging when I was 16 and didn't know any music theory beyond key signatures and scales, but I did steal my dad's Finale license to play around with notating music. My senior year of high school, I arranged "Merry Christmas, Darling" but with a lot of help from my dad, so it didn't feel like it was technically mine.

My freshman year of college I took a music theory class. My forever quartet lead, Tessa Walker, had fallen in love with "Someday" from *Memphis* the musical. That was my first arrangement that felt like it was really from my brain.

My dad and I still send arrangements back and forth before we send them to a group, which I love. I'm fortunate to have a mentor who went through this trial-and-error process with me because that's truly the best way to learn how to arrange. Dad taught me a lot about how to stay true to the original song while also bringing it into the barbershop style. He's also great at writing arrangements that are engaging but still singable by groups with a lot of different skill levels, and I think that's so important



Hot Pursuit: Melody Hine (Br), Candra Rice (Bs), Tessa Walker (L), and Michaela Olson (T) before the quartet finals of Harmony, Inc. 2019 International Contest. They finished with gold medals.

when you're arranging barbershop.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'VE TAUGHT HIM ABOUT ARRANGING?

I'd like to think that I've changed his mind on some of my jazz arranging. He'll notice something that's a little unconventional and suggest a change, and I'll say, "I swear it works in my head, just wait until you hear them sing it!" I'm (usually) right. I think he trusts me more on that now.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEW ARRANGERS?

When I started arranging, I used *The Theory of Barbershop Harmony*, which helped a lot but is now pretty outdated. The BHS is working on an updated *Arranger's Manual* that's virtual and interactive, which will

be super useful. You can also always learn more at Harmony University!

One thing I love about barbershop arranging is that since the majority of us are not professional musicians, you can start from knowing *nothing*. You can teach yourself most of the basics with the internet no matter your age or musical background. It's not something that only the David Wrights, Aaron Dales, and Clay Hines can do—*anyone* can arrange.

The best way to get better at arranging is to just do it. Find an arranging mentor who will look at your chart and give specific feedback about your choices. Just realize that you're going to make a lot of mistakes and that's okay.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON BARBERSHOP'S CULTURE AROUND COMPETING?

I am in choruses and quartets that enjoy competing, but I feel the competitive aspect of barbershop can be more harmful than we realize. Some groups use our contests to improve steadily,

BELOW: 1999 Champ FRED in 1994: Joe Clay (Bs), Clay Hine (Br), Rick LaRosa (L), and Jared Carlson (T) "hold Melody up together, because this is a metaphor," said Melody.

BOTTOM: Clay, Camden, Becki, and Melody Hine, 2021
RIGHT: Grandfather Thom Hine and Melody, 2011



"I AM IN CHORUSES AND QUARTETS THAT ENJOY COMPETING, BUT I FEEL THE COMPETITIVE ASPECT OF BARBERSHOP CAN BE MORE HARMFUL THAN WE REALIZE."

which is great, but that shouldn't be our whole purpose for existing.

Freddie King said, "They come for the music but stay for the fellowship," but for some reason, a lot of members seem to equate others' worth to whether they can judge or how they place in a competition. I have friends who have literally been told their opinion doesn't matter because they haven't placed in a barbershop contest. I feel that we should focus more on building relationships with our community to get more people singing barbershop and feeling like they belong. I'm not sure competition is the best way to do that.

YOU'VE SEEN A LOT IN THE SOCIETY OVER THE YEARS. WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE, WHERE DO YOU SEE THE BHS TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

While I have heard countless opinions about how people want the BHS to change or not, I do want to point out that it has come a long way. I remember a time when I'd be standing in a circle with three other guys, and one of them would say "Let's sing a tag," and then they'd start looking around for another person that was not me. They'd be looking around for another guy.

My grandfather used to say, "If you want to sing tags, you have to have sharp elbows," and I took that to mean that I should learn all the parts to a bunch of tags so that I can confidently

step into tag circles when I want to. People don't usually exclude me anymore, but I still have female friends that this happens to. This is just one anecdotal example, but to me it shows how far the BHS has come and also how far we have to go.

HOW DOES THAT INFORM HOW WE TREAT NEW AND POTENTIAL FUTURE MEMBERS?

Members of our chapters already know that being a Barbershopper is awesome, but the random singer who shows up to your rehearsal won't automatically know this. They don't know that they're welcome yet—especially those visitors who've been historically marginalized. It's unrealistic for us to just assume that they'll feel welcome, and it's not fair to put that burden upon them.

That's where explicit inclusivity comes in. You have to literally tell your current and future members what you appreciate about them. It's on us to speak up and make all people, but especially people with marginalized identities, feel valued and included. To me, in order for the BHS to be the most successful version of itself, we need to take on the accountability of being more radically inclusive. We have to ask ourselves why people are feeling excluded, and then take the steps to show them that they belong. ■



READ ONLINE Learn the essentials of music theory and barbershop arranging at barbershop.org and at the Document Center at members.barbershop.org.



B Yo



Manoj Padki is a 30-year member of BHS, and a happiness coach. He sings with **Fireside** and **Mixed MetaFour** quartets, and writes tags. www.ManojPadki.com/100-tags-book
padki@yahoo.com



BARBERSHOP

Our Happiness Machine

You know that singing barbershop makes you happy, but do you know why? Researchers know: Involvement in organized barbershop strongly contributes to each of the five major components of human happiness.

"It isn't THE Gold Medal you need in your life; it is the gold medal MOMENTS. The little gold medals you win every time when you stand with your friends and master a new skill or ring that bear of a chord... or rejoice at the birth of one of our fellow chorus member's children or weep at the death of their spouse or child."

— Jim Henry, "Gold Medal Moments"

"When I was really serious and focused, singing barbershop brought me relief and joy. When I was lonely, it brought me companionship. When I felt low about myself, it raised my self-worth. I don't think barbershop has ever been everything to me, but it has always, always raised the level of everything in my life."

— BHS President John Donehower

It has been a tough day, and I force myself to go to the chorus rehearsal. As I get out of the car, I see my friend, Mark. "How are you, bud?" he asks me. "Tired, but excited for the night!" I reply. We walk in the door and say hello to more friends. We sneak in a short tag with a new guest before chorus starts. We have a good warmup and then we jump straight into the contest prep with one of our favorite coaches. It is a tender ballad. We are making lovely music, the softs are tugging at my heart and the louds are soaring with passion. As I

start getting into it, I feel my tiredness melt away. By the time we break, I feel like the balance of the universe has been restored and I am happy again.

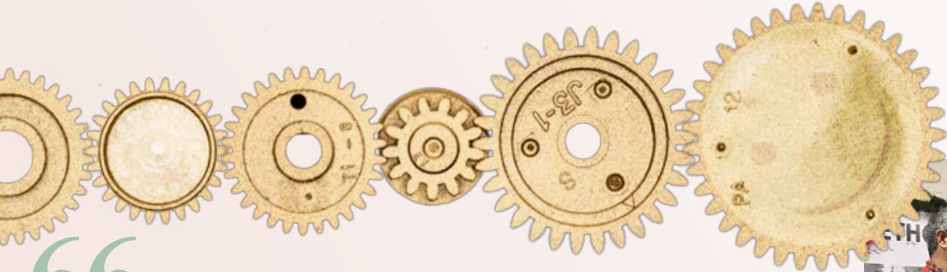
This is a scene that gets played out over and over again across the globe. What is behind this magic of a barbershop chorus (or quartet) that creates such a repeating and predictable pattern of happiness?

I have been told by many people that I am the happiest man they know. I am not sure about that, but I *am* a student of happiness and a happiness coach.

And I know for a fact that singing, and singing barbershop in particular, have been—and continue to be—a big part of my happiness. The more reading I do, the more I realize that scientific research backs up what many of us readers of this magazine intuitively know: participating in organized barbershop harmony can be a powerful component of a happy life.

POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

In the beginning, psychology's main goal was to diagnose and mitigate men-



“

Unlike most of the choral world, the barbershop world strives not only for musical artistry but performance artistry. This often leads to deeper emotional connections with audiences, the music, and with our fellow performers.

”



tal dysfunctions—improving a patient from, say, from -6 up to 0. The relatively new field of Positive Psychology asks a different question: How can we get a functional person to flourish? To go from +4 to +10?

Positive Psychology research suggests that roughly 50% of the variation in our happiness between people is centered around a genetically determined set point, while another 10% or so depends on our circumstances, such as where we live and how much money we make. The remainder, a whopping 40%, is deter-

mined by our daily choices.

Known as the Father of Positive Psychology, the University of Pennsylvania's Dr. Martin Seligman says that feeling good is only the first of five key components of happiness:

1. Positive emotions, such as awe, gratitude, pride, love
2. Engagement (a.k.a. flow), being completely absorbed in an activity; or, in a barbershop context, “being one with the music”
3. Relationships or social network
4. Meaning (having a purpose in life), or being a part of something bigger than yourself
5. Achievements (striving for goals or milestones), or a sense of forward motion

Let us explore how singing in a barbershop chorus or quartet contributes to each.

1. Positive Emotions

We all have an intuitive sense of the uplifting emotions that include hope,

Pick-up quartet Manoj Padki (Br), Ray Johnson (Bs), Mike Klein (L), Dan Washington (T) sing for food bank volunteer “Mary” in 2016.

interest, joy, love, compassion, pride, amusement, awe, and gratitude. Positive Psychology researchers call them positive emotions, and they are a prime indicator of flourishing. The more positive emotions you experience on a regular basis, the better your life is.

The barbershop world differs from most of the choral world in that we strive not only for musical artistry but performance artistry. This often leads to deeper emotional connections with the music and with our fellow performers. I have had so many positive emotions while singing in quartets and choruses: spine-tingling awe when a chord is perfectly lined up, joy and pride in the middle of a glorious moment of choreography or an intricate musical passage, and gratitude that I got to be a part of a wonderful and artistic team!

“

Sometimes, I show up only because there's a commitment. After 20 to 30 minutes I'm feeling better. By the end of the night, I couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

”

Elise Kappelmann (left) performs in a pickup quartet, December 2019, about nine months after joining *Space City Sound*. She couldn't compete with the men's-only chorus at the 2019 International Chorus Contest, but the chorus is now officially mixed and Elise serves as chapter president. L-R Elise Kappelmann (T), Kyle Maninantan (L), Jacob Bankston (Br), Anthony Holder (Bs).





2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

Everyone in Harmony



A Note from Our 2020 Presidents



In 2020, we faced unprecedented challenges as we adjusted to the reality of a global pandemic. Not being able to sing in-person has led to many organizational challenges, including

a drop in membership and subsequent loss of revenues and music sales. Hard decisions had to be made at the International level to curtail costs. But over the last year, we have put one thing above all else: keeping our members, keeping you, safe and informed.

This year, we leaned on each other like never before. Everywhere we looked, we saw Barbershoppers checking in on each other, creating fellowship opportunities, and seeking innovative ways to sing together. Online rehearsals, virtual meetings, "Car"bershop rehearsals, and virtual conventions and schools became the norm.

2020 was a rough year but we're all in this together. And most importantly, we've never lost faith that there is a bright new normal just over the hill. It's coming.

John Donehower

President, Society Board of Directors

Barbershop Harmony Society

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Donehower".



Resilience has to be the word of the year for the Barbershop Harmony Society. Through every challenge, Barbershoppers innovated new ways of connecting, sharing, and

supporting one another.

Our singing communities showed again and again that our fundamental connections bind us more strongly than external circumstances, and propel us to be more than we thought we could be. Think of all those folks who might once have been tech-challenged, who grew themselves into video editors, virtual choir singers, and Zoom maestros. Why? Because barbershopping is worth stretching oneself for!

If I have learned one thing from my two years as your Society President, it's that there is always a "next person up," someone who will spot a need or an opportunity to serve, and give 110% effort for the betterment of all. Nothing can ever dampen that energy. We've got the future well in hand.

Dick Powell

President, Society Board of Directors

Barbershop Harmony Society

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Powell".

Much like 2020, the presidency term was unusual. Both John and Dick served as president for different time periods of 2020.

Why I Barbershop



Nate Ogg

Lead, Harmonic Thunder

Nate is also the director of the Sweet Adelines International women's chorus Greater Cleveland Chorus

Nate Ogg



2020 was difficult for so many people, and in spite of the challenges, I truly believe that harmony has prevailed, as we needed it to.

Over the past year, I have been consistently impressed by the perseverance of our barbershop community. I felt gutted not seeing my brothers and sisters in harmony, watching our quartet performances get cancelled, and missing another chance to perform on the international stage. What inspired and kept me going, however, was the open-mindedness of the barbershoppers I saw in Zoom calls each and every week who were ready to learn a new skill and completely reinvent their experience.

I think we all went through the 5 Stages of Grief in regards to our barbershop lives over this year (Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and finally Acceptance) and the membership and staff alike shared in that. I know that, even inspired by the creativity I was seeing each week, I still missed my quartet, my judging peers, and my chapter families. I missed the personal connection,

handshakes, and hugs.

But time and again our community found ways to connect via

old-fashioned letter writing campaigns, parking lot meet-ups, and anything that provided a way to still be a part of each other's lives. This is about more than music.

It may not always feel like it, but I know that we are coming out of this stronger than we went in. We're showing that what this world truly needs is harmony. Our collective thirst for that has been greater than the division that we seemingly see every day on our TV screens and in social media. It's clear that barbershoppers will do whatever we need to do to ensure that our art form survives and we are willing to work for it.

The world has a lot to learn from barbershoppers and I'm proud to be one!

Barbershop Snapshots



12

Global Alliance Organizations



17

501(c)(3)s Districts in North America



44%

Percentage of members that volunteer their time at the Chapter, District, or International level



72

Hours per year (6 hours per month) BHS members sang in 2020



60,822

Whether people bought music, attended an event, took classes, or sang in a quartet or chorus, over 60,000 people actively participated with the Barbershop Harmony Society in 2020 alone



Why We Barbershop

Mo Field

Director, **Great Northern Union**

Mo is the former director of the internationally acclaimed Stockholm City Voices, a 42-voice women's a cappella ensemble, from Stockholm, Sweden



Without question, we have all been faced with this perplexing puzzle over the past number of months - and the brain explodes when describing this deeply and clearly enough.

Art and chaos fuel creativity. Barbershop is about interacting. The activity and culture are the most succinct representation of harmony we could hope to touch. This year+ has been an incredible test to all we have taken for granted in the easy days of yore. There have been successes, stresses, great learning, and innovation that have all been in the soup these past so many months. We have been challenged and called upon to

become more functional, more purposeful, more intentional and more creative.

Immediately, I got busy with a plan to get smarter, grow stronger, build abilities and a sense of self to help enrich my soul and hopefully, the world around me. And I wanted to bring my my chorus along on the journey. The simple things were clear; strengthening education streams with ear and voice training, new material, dissecting directing cues to deepen interpretive choices and signals which translate into emotional sound. There were virtual videos, a virtual and intentionally diverse show, remote members and engagement beyond all borders. We hosted a 3 month Performance Feast webinar series featuring accomplished non-barbershop performers. Previous geographical limitations were eliminated - illuminating a freedom, curiosity and more interconnectedness in more powerful, meaningful ways. We interacted - in spite of our

separation.

More deeply, we set about identifying who we are, where we are and what we can do to strengthen ourselves as individuals, as musicians, as humans, so that we may better 'interact'.

Vision and cultural growth have underpinned our every decision, helping redefine who we are as we enter this new, and very changed, decade. We became futurists. In a musical style that straddles nostalgia and catching up with 'now', we are asking some hard questions about what works for tomorrow. Yes, the heartbeat of close 4 part harmony in one room does magical things, but what else have we got?

We are emerging with a stronger sense of why and what we do, our role as autonomous individuals in a collective, an awesome sense of responsibility to communities around us and how vital precious healing harmony can be ...

Undauntedly, we face more questions with great spirit - actively, continually re-identifying more deeply who we are, what we do and why. We are excited and more able to do this work now, as we step boldly into our new vision - growing Harmony in Union with Humanity.



The Impact of Quarantine

After several months of quarantine and the growing uncertainty that came along with it, many groups came to view the forced downtime as a sabbatical—a break from the routine that gave our singing communities the time and means to rejuvenate personally and musically.

In music, there's a notation known as a caesura, a metrical pause or break in a verse where one phrase ends and another phrase begins. A break like this—either by choice or by necessity—can be disruptive to an organization, but often sparks creativity and establishes new perspectives regarding a group's work, organization, and leadership style.

The disruption may also show leaders that they need to take on, delegate, or outsource additional responsibilities—sometimes permanently—and allow board members to examine their own roles from a new, productive perspective.

Many of our groups took this time to create a new foundational base, refine and realign mission and vision statements, raise local funds, apply for grants, and make necessary personnel changes. Many built an education plan for members (or for their community as an outreach project), and mentored leaders more intentionally. They also reached out and connected virtually with past members.



\$1,793

Donated to BHS Community Impact



3,324

Ensembles of four or more singers engaged with BHS in 2020



Why We Barbershop



Ripple Effect

Ontario, Canada

Robert Ross, Rachel Hearn,
Jonah Lazar, Erin Smythe

2018 World Mixed
Quartet Bronze
Medalist



At the start of 2020, Ripple Effect was one among many quartets who saw their much anticipated events, performances, and competitions come to a screeching halt. We couldn't wait to celebrate Everyone in Harmony representing Canada at the World Mixed Championships at BinG! and were working to be among the first mixed quartets to qualify for the BHS International.

But we decided that anything worth doing is worth the wait,

and we knew that eventually barbershop would be back, and better than ever! So we worked on our craft separated by distance but not in heart. We took part in an online quartet competition called Barbershop Royale, we produced videos for both the anticipated 2021 Virtual Midwinter and Virtual International events, MBHA showcases, and visited other groups via Zoom.

Of course I think we can all agree that Zoom and recording music

by yourself was not the ideal situation. However, it kept us going, kept us connected, and introduced us to some fantastic people in the barbershop world that we have come to love.

With restrictions lifting and vaccines in arms, we are once again slowly coming back together and ringing chords together in the way we have all come to treasure. We can't wait to see and sing with you soon – In Harmony!

Gentlemen Songsters Lowell, Mass. Chapter

Directed by music educator James Ham (Chorus pictured to the left on bottom of page 6)



Our chapter spent 2020 honing our craft to become a great virtual chorus and demonstrate a vibrant, online chapter life. Our production skillsets grew as the opportunity to showcase our music online set the tone for so many other groups to do the same. Singing Communities all over the Society encouraged and inspired each other to do the same. Some chapters even coordinated Virtual Chapter Visits and spent time connecting in ways that would have otherwise been

impossible. Despite all the many challenges of the pandemic, we were fortunate to be able to offer great programming for virtual chapter meetings, included guest speakers at our virtual rehearsals.

We also stretched our member skills by teaching our members how to use Audacity to record personal voice tracks and producing virtual chorus videos which made our weekly chapter experiences fun, informative, and engaging.

How Barbershoppers Responded

COVID brought the most challenging times in BHS history and our Barbershop community responded in ways no one could have possibly imagined a year previously.

From performing socially-distanced and masked outdoor concerts in public spaces, rehearsing in open areas and parking lots while standing next to their vehicles (a term dubbed "Carbershop"), and even putting on full annual shows in a virtual setting, our

singing communities found creative ways and developed new skillsets to adjust to the new reality to not just survive, but thrive.

Many of these new skills, techniques, and behaviors made necessary by quarantine have even laid the groundwork for ongoing innovations in how groups will bring barbershop to their communities after quarantines are lifted. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention!

The Arlingtones of Arlington Heights, Illinois in their "Concert in the Parking Lot" performance

178

Virtual Chapter Performances

75

choruses rehearsed safely and effectively "in person" in parking lots across the Society (dubbed "Carbershop")

250

Singers spread across four countries engaged with "Hot Rods and Harmony", a group dedicated to outreach efforts

68%

of BHS choruses were having either in-person or virtual rehearsals by the end of 2020

Many

Countries benefited from free streamed shows and rehearsals in service to charity organization Sing Aphasia

100

SSAA and SATB charts added to the BHS catalog

\$59,977

Donated to Chapters, Districts, and Brigades





Why I Barbershop

Rafi Hasib

Rafi Hasib

Parkside Harmony

Hershey, PA Chapter
Rafi also sings with
Voices of Gotham,
based in Hell's
Kitchen, New York City.

“

The pandemic challenged the barbershop community in unprecedented ways, as the world came to a halt and silenced our voice. I, too, lost friends, family members, and a sense of purpose. Like many others, I felt helpless, trapped in

a tiny apartment without a car in New York City, a literal island at the epicenter of the disease.

Yet in that solitude, through this great hobby, I found the strength, courage, and self-worth to persevere. With that determination, I also discovered my deepest friendships, core values, and a renewed sense of purpose. I found my voice.

I spent 2020 pouring all of my energy into the community: writing arrangements, running Zoom rehearsals, coordinating virtual choirs, supporting HU, volunteering for the BHS, conversing with HFI leaders, and participating in the judging program. I saw this not as a way to boost my credentials but to help others boost theirs, as we

emerge stronger from these trying times.

Along the way, I realized that at the heart of this wider conflict, our members felt they lost their voice. Now, the best we can do as people, in search of our own voice, is to empower others to find theirs in healthy and productive ways, starting at the local level. In the end, no matter who or where you are, we are fundamentally one community, several voices uniting as one, all deserving of the same rights, privileges, and benefits.

This is both greater than barbershop and the core of barbershop. We can do better, and we will be better, but only if we work together and give everyone a voice.

Youth Shine in Jacksonville

Anna Coyotes Chorus from Dallas, TX perform at the Next Generation Barbershop Junior Chorus Invitational in Jacksonville, FL

625

Singers crossed the stage in Jacksonville

2,234

Total Jacksonville attendees

28

Junior Quartets submitted videos for qualification

20,000+

Singers under the age of 25 sung barbershop for the first time in the last ten years through the Next Generation Barbershop program

15

States and Provinces represented in JCI

54

Songs performed



\$16,272.25

Donated to Youth

In what would be the last in-person convention before the pandemic, Jacksonville Midwinter provided an opportunity for thousands of barbershoppers to gather together and celebrate harmony.

And once again, the Next Generation Barbershop Junior Chorus Invitational pulled out all the stops and featured male, female, and mixed choruses from all over the country.

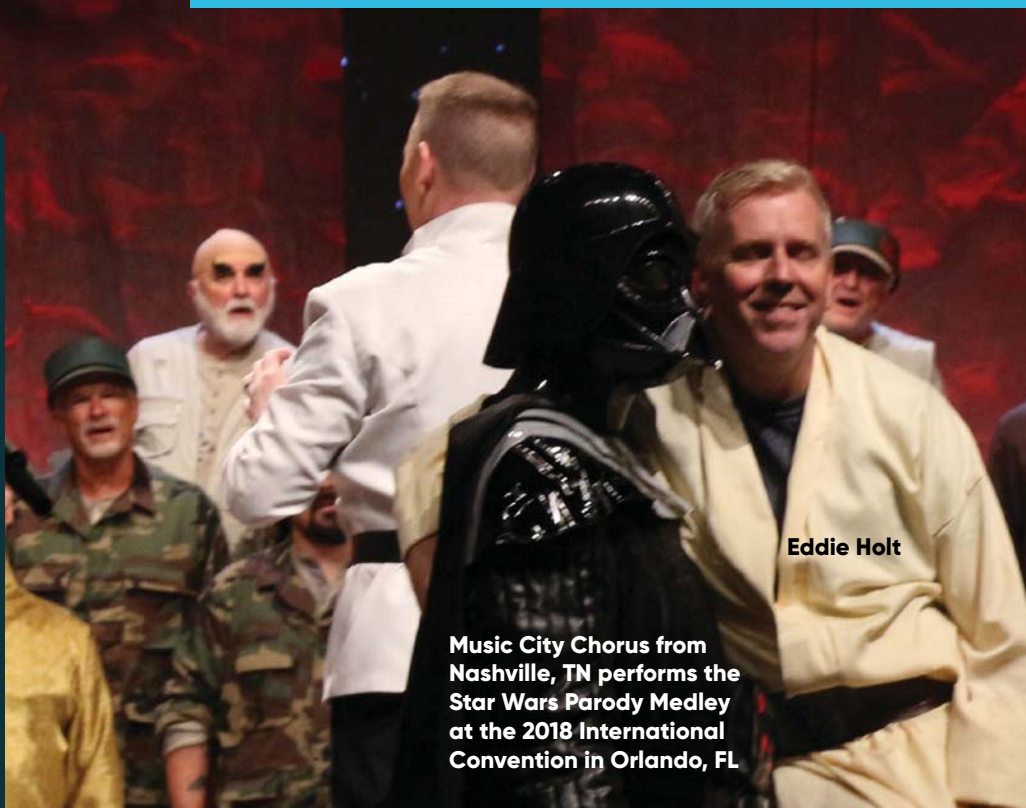
Jacksonville was also host to 15 Youth Quartets that competed for the Next Generation Barbershop Junior Quartet Contest Championship, with Singing Double from Gaither High School taking top honors.



Why I Barbershop

Eddie Holt

Member, **Music City Chorus** in Nashville, TN since 2005



Eddie Holt

Music City Chorus from Nashville, TN performs the Star Wars Parody Medley at the 2018 International Convention in Orlando, FL

2020 was a difficult year for me. The general feeling of disconnect I had from my chapter brothers during quarantine was more profound than I had initially realized. Our chapter, like so many others, participated in regular Zoom meetings and virtual singing projects that helped us stay connected and engaged with one another in new and interesting ways, and it was so rewarding in so many ways. But friendships that I had once had the opportunity to cultivate weekly through in-person “preglows”, rehearsals, and the afterglows were now reduced to socially-distanced digital approximations. It was, to be blunt, somewhat dehumanizing for many of us. Staying connected digitally was certainly a gift in its own way, but, for me, it was lacking that critical component that you can only get in person.

Throughout much of 2020 as a result of these necessary quarantine measures, we watched feelings of uncertainty, fear, frustration, anger, and malaise spill out all over social media, in private messages and groups, phone calls, emails, and

even in virtual meetings, exacerbating already heightened emotions from a year burdened not just with Covid, but with a heated Presidential election season and a summer of civil unrest that seemed to draw unexpected lines between friends and even family.

For many of us, being apart from one another tested friendships in a way no one could have anticipated. And it was towards the end of 2020 that it truly dawned on me how much I needed Barbershop.

We need to see our barbershop friends in person again. We need to see each other's facial expressions, read body language, give high fives, laugh with them, ring chords with them, express emotions through song with them.

We need Barbershop. We need the music that builds community and friendships and respect, admiration, and joy, now more than ever.



Society Revenue

\$4,638,000

total Society revenue

Society Services and other activities

\$2,482,000

Harmony Marketplace	\$420,000
Harmony Foundation Support	\$327,000
Outreach Activities	\$127,000
Harmony University	\$126,000
Charitable Contributions	\$178,000
Contributed (Volunteer) Services	\$275,000
Chapter Services	\$205,000
PPP/Investment Income/Other	\$824,000

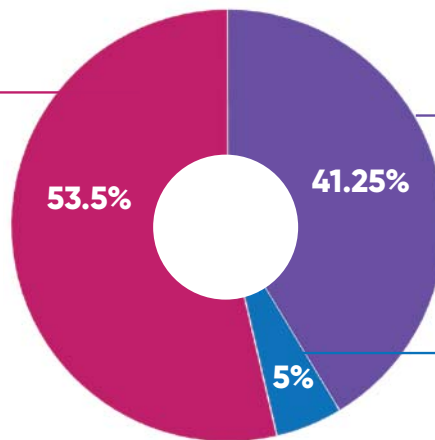
Membership dues

\$1,926,000

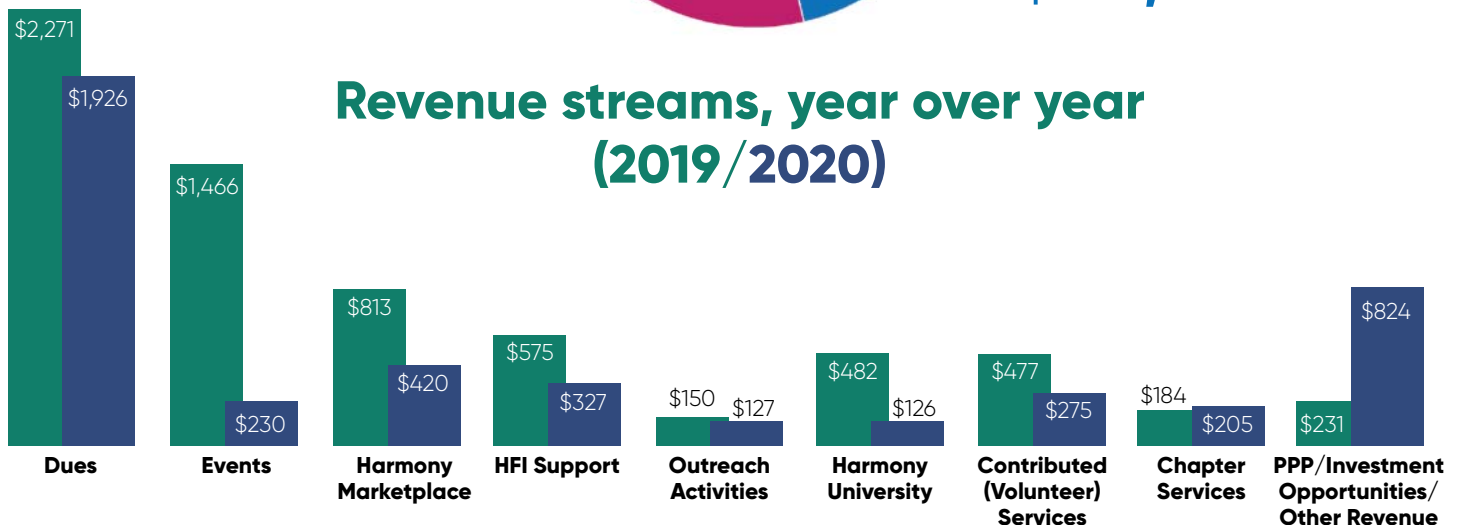
Events

Midwinter and International

\$230,000



Revenue streams, year over year (2019/2020)



BHS and Chorus America surveyed their respective membership and found that 75-90% of choruses expected to lose a significant amount of revenue from their daily operations and nearly 50% anticipated a membership fall off. Even music distribution giant, Hal Leonard, furloughed 153 staff members

at the start of the pandemic. Although BHS has weathered the storm, like these other organizations, it was not without taking a significant financial hit. Because people were not singing in person as much, even revenue sources like music sales fell dramatically for BHS.

Thank you for supporting us through this storm, and know that your support plus supporting others to get back to singing again is needed now more than ever. It will take all of the Barbershop Harmony Society community working together to fully recover.

THE LEGACY QUARTET *Championship*



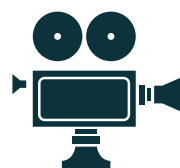
Preserving Barbershop in New Ways

2020 spurred innovation, like the Legacy Quartet Championship that celebrated many of the best barbershop quartets that never won the coveted gold medal but could have. Through a partnership with BHS, AIC, and Districts, the event featured never-before-seen footage from the Society archives with beautifully restored video and sound.

Participants watched from the comfort of their homes, discussed the performances with legendary barbershoppers in a virtual setting, and even got to vote for their favorite quartet to be "The Best Who Never Won".



\$6,558.15
Donated to Preservation



140

Hours of Barbershop audio and video content digitized

20
LQC Quartets



16.5 million

Total BHS YouTube videos views in 2020

943,472

Total hours of BHS channel video were watched.

528

LQC Performances Digitized

40

LQC songs mixed and mastered



Doug Anderson, Larry Wright, Pete Neushel, Jim Kline

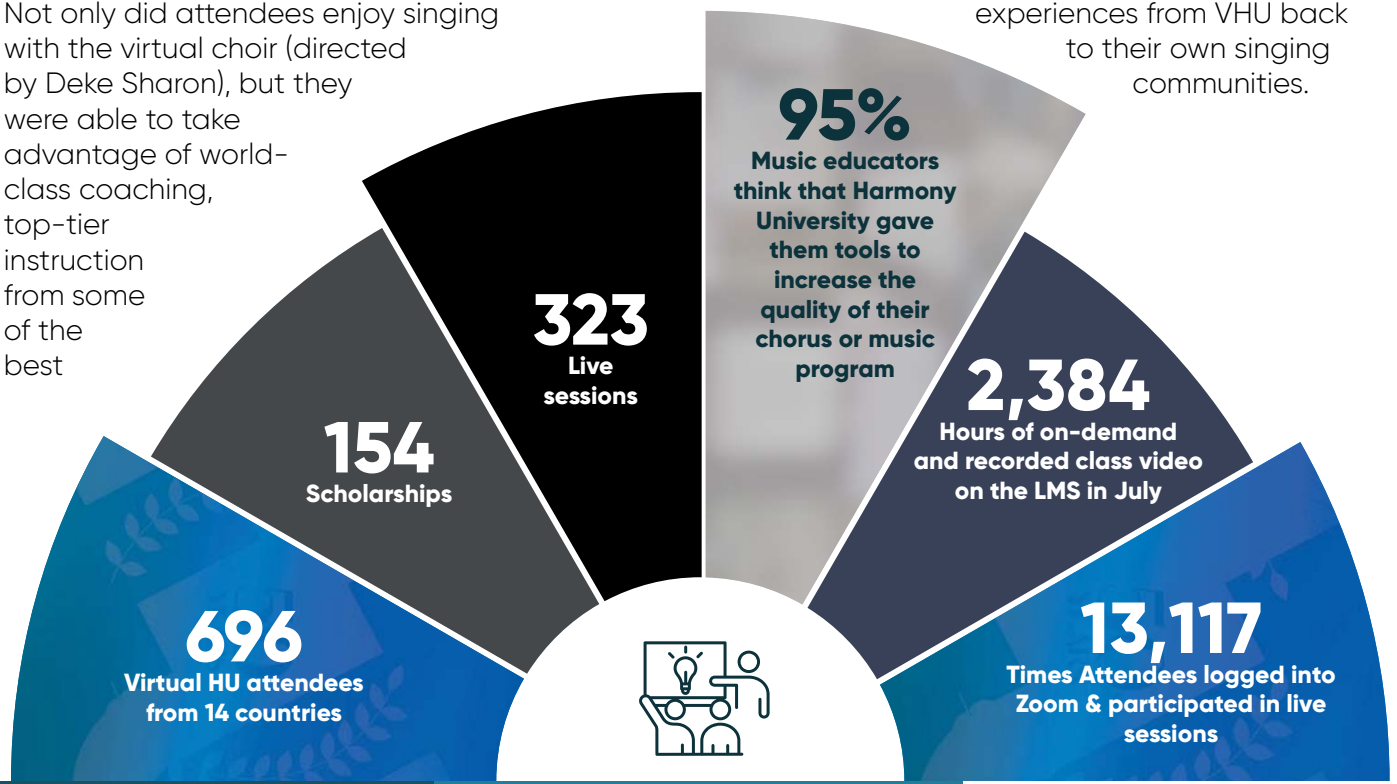
Hall of Famers
139th
Street
Quartet finally got the win that had eluded them for 20 years. Watch all the quartets at youtube.com/barbershopharmony38



When the in-person Harmony University Belmont was cancelled due to Covid, BHS and Barbershoppers quickly rallied to organize and execute one of the most incredible virtual barbershop experiences ever. With everything moved online and virtual including all classes and even a virtual choir experience, more people from all over the world were able to participate than ever before.

Not only did attendees enjoy singing with the virtual choir (directed by Deke Sharon), but they were able to take advantage of world-class coaching, top-tier instruction from some of the best

educators in the industry, and spend time in virtual hangout sessions to relax, enjoy each others' company, and bounce ideas and thoughts off one another. Virtual Harmony University inspired attendees to bring all of the experiences from VHU back to their own singing communities.





How You Supported Barbershop

Unrestricted	\$91,564
Youth	\$16,272
Communities	\$1,793
Preservation	\$6,558
Education	\$1,595
Chapters, Districts and Brigades	\$59,977

Total Giving \$177,759

2020 Annual Dues Breakdown

Member Services and Member Programs	\$64.24
Communication and Marketing	\$18.35
IT, Administration, and Operations	\$16.36
Harmonizer Subscription	\$15.95
Music/Leadership Training (includes Contest and Judging Program)	\$14.55
HR, Audit, and Legal	\$6.45
BHS Outreach Programs (Grants, Youth, Advocacy)	\$5.28
Music Library, Publications, and Clearance Services	\$2.82
	\$144

In 2020 you made a huge impact! Your dues supported youth outreach and advocacy efforts, provided music and clearance services for all types of singers and ensembles, and allowed us to reach new audiences.

We are grateful for our volunteers who donated on average three hours of their time per month to support the mission of the BHS.

If you have any questions about the impact your dues or donations are having, email ceo@barbershop.org

Thank you

While 2020 was indeed a rough year for so many of our singing communities and The Society, it's as true now as it ever was: **We simply cannot do this without you.**

It's through your generosity that we're able to provide the critical services and support that help our singing communities flourish and grow. **It's through your giving**

that we're able to fund the important programs that help bring Barbershop to the next generation of Barberhoppers and preserve our artform for generations to come.

And when you renew your membership, you're providing the Society and the Districts the means to host Barbershop events and contests that bring our incredible community of

Barbershoppers back together to sing, to fellowship, and to build relationships that last a lifetime.

2020 was hard, but the future is bright. As we move forward post-COVID, let's never forget how precious our time is together in song, together in harmony, and together in purpose. Join us! **Learn more at give.barbershop.org today!**



Join us in expressing gratitude for the funding and support from all 17 Districts of the Barbershop Harmony Society throughout 2020. Not only did they help make the Legacy Quartet Championship possible, but the generosity of our District volunteers also helped keep our Chapters and Quartets engaged, supported, and encouraged during an unprecedented year of challenges.

Our relationship with the Districts continues to be a true collaboration that benefits all who love barbershop harmony.



Special thanks to our Alliances who are helping keep the whole world singing





"Barbershop is like magic -- it's a mood enhancer, a mood lifter," said 36-year Barbershopper Daniel Schwartz of Boston. "I come away from rehearsal feeling pumped every single time. Even if I'm down in the dumps and don't feel like going, I will feel 200% better when it's over."

Elise Kapplemann, president of the Houston Metro Chapter (Space City Sound), discovered barbershop harmony in early 2019. "Sometimes, I show up only because there's a commitment," she echoes. "After 20 to 30 minutes I'm feeling better. By the end of the night, I couldn't imagine being anywhere else."

Barbara Fredrickson, the premiere researcher of positive emotions, concludes that happiness is not only the result of success and high-functioning behavior, but also a precondition for making better decisions and acting with greater confidence.

2. Engagement or "Flow"

Have you ever been so engrossed in what you were doing that you lost complete sense of time? That is the basic definition of "flow" or engagement: when we are engaged in a task that is in the Goldilocks zone of "not too challenging" and "not too boring," dancing at the edge of our comfort zone.

"My 2.5-hour drive to quartet practice seems to last forever," said John. "The singing is a blink of an eye. But on the drive home, the energy I've gotten from that blink of an eye -- a lot of the times I wonder how I got home."

Few people have the privilege to

Fireside quartet holding Emmaline, Grace, and Jessica, daughters of lead Dave Adams. After singing at the church service, the girls decided to be a part of the church luncheon performance.

become so engrossed in an activity they love to do for its own sake! This is a key component of what the Greek philosophers called "eudaimonia," or flourishing. It comes with another reward: The more we play in our Goldilocks zone, the more our zone expands.

3. Relationships

Perhaps the key finding of Positive Psychology, based on the landmark 80-year Harvard study of adult development and corroborated by much other research, can be summed up by this formula: Happiness = relationships.

Barbershoppers enjoy a relationship advantage few others in the choral world experience. We share a common repertoire with singers from across the globe. Beyond our own choruses or quartets, we have regular opportunities to spend thrilling hours with friends old and new as we sing Barberpole Cats, Harmony Brigade repertoire, teach and learn tags, or woodshed new harmonies. Such cultural gems make it easy to instantly connect with Barbershoppers in any gathering, enjoying a breadth and depth of friendships that is increasingly rare in this world.

Elise was both intrigued and anxious when she was exposed to tagging at her first rehearsal. Although she had been singing for most of her life, she found the prospect of learning a tag "totally new and totally terrifying. That's not something classical musicians go into!" As she quickly grew to enjoy the musical rewards of this fun new skill, Elise also began to grasp the social rewards that had kept many of



Don't underestimate what we do. We touch people's lives—and we do this by doing what we do for fun!



Fireside quartet, featuring author Manoj Padki (Br), Daniel Schwartz (Bs), Dave Adams (L), and Jesse Heines (T).

her fellow singers harmonizing for decades. "It's one of the amazing things about barbershop harmony," she said.

I have heard countless Barbershoppers say, "I came in for the music, I stayed for the people." But for some, the music isn't the major draw. Nine-year Barbershopper Mark Schuldenfrei's first exposure to barbershop harmony came after his wife showed him an ad for free voice lessons. Mark showed up at "Ready, Set, Sing!" hosted by the **Vocal Revolution Chorus** to improve his singing and was sold

“

I wasn't attracted to the music per se, but the gang was so encouraging and they were such fun people to sing with. I hoped I could figure out barbershop eventually.

”

on the chapter members even before warmed up to four-part harmony.

“I wasn't attracted to the music per se, but the gang was so encouraging, and they were such fun people to sing with,” Mark said. “I hoped I could figure out barbershop eventually.”

4. Meaning or Purpose

“Singing in a quartet is one place in my life where I don't doubt my importance,” said John. “I always know I matter when I'm singing close harmony. And I know the other people matter.”

Having a sense of mission or purpose in life can come from religion and spirituality, raising children—and being a part of a barbershop chorus. Barbershop is a team sport. Each of us brings in the best parts of ourselves to build this living cathedral of sound. Working together as a team and pulling toward a common goal is one of the most meaningful human experiences. It makes us feel a part of something grander than our individual selves.



“No one can be a barbershop chorus by themselves,” said Elise. “There's a sense of accountability to something outside of, and bigger than, yourself.”

Daniel strongly believes that singing for others brings a deeper brand of happiness than, say, playing golf with cherished friends. “Have you ever sung and brought people to tears? Most Barbershoppers would say yes,” he observed. “Don't underestimate what we do. We touch people's lives, and we do this by doing what we do for fun!”

5. Achievement

Achievement does not necessarily mean championships, but it can also mean the psychological rewards of a show that goes well or a gig that gets rave reviews.

“For me, the big part of barbershop is the rehearsing, because I don't want to defer the reward,” said John. He believes that most Barbershoppers want rehearsals to be more than progress toward a future reward, but also a reward in its own right. “If we spend 10 hours singing and one hour performing, those 10 hours are where I want my victory.”

We humans need a sense of moving forward toward something. Barbershop rehearsals, chorus or quartet, are

Dr. Jim Henry's landmark 2007 Harmony University Keynote address, “Gold Medal Moments,” can be found in the Nov/Dec 2007 issue of *The Harmonizer* (access archive at barbershop.org/harmonizer) or view at [YouTube.com/BarbershopHarmony38](https://www.youtube.com/BarbershopHarmony38).



The League of Ordinary Gentlemen, 2018 NED Fall Contest Manoj Padki (T), Ray Johnson (L), Mark Schuldenfrei (Bs), Daniel Schwartz (Br)

always about getting better, and we are always rehearsing for upcoming events, shows, and competitions. After these events are done, there is often a sense of completion and achievement.

“Very few things are more satisfying than putting in effort and practice and making palpable improvement,” said Mark. While he has many great memories from performances, more great memories come from great rehearsals and Harmony Brigade weekends. “I'm always about ‘What can I work on now?’ Progress is not winning; progress is improving. It's a fundamental source of happiness to say, ‘We did the best we could do today.’”

Conclusion

As Jim Henry puts it in his keynote address, “Several of us chuckle because we know that the word ‘hobby’ doesn't begin to describe our obsession.” I have experienced high levels of happiness in all five dimensions throughout my 30 years as a Barbershopper, from plentiful positive emotions to winning medals with my choruses and quartets, and, of course, lifelong close friends. Barbershop has not been a mere “hobby.” It has been a magical happiness machine. ■

– By Manoj Padki
Interviews by Lorin May

IN A QUARTET?

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**Sign up for FREE quartet resources at
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GROW

your chapter | by becoming
the happiest
group in town

If you're hoping to increase member happiness by growing your chapter, you may have the order backwards. New Jersey's Morris Music Men focused primarily on making themselves and their community happy—and transformed from nine members and struggling to 50 members and thriving.

One of our members recently saw a perfect Saturday forecast and sent out a “coffee in the park” email invite. Twenty-plus showed up to hang out, bringing another ten significant others and friends. We laughed, caught up, sang a few together, improvised a rousing rendition of “Happy Birthday,” and sang some





New Jersey's Morris Music Men have intentionally focused on happiness—the happiness of members of their community and the happiness of chapter members themselves. One of the chapter's six keys to happiness is “Contribution,” and it is the chapter's mission to be the best at contributing to its community. They have long-term relationships with area veterans organizations and with school music groups that are located in disadvantaged areas. Among an average of 30 annual performances, the chapter performs with and contributes to these choral programs.

uptunes for a party going on across the park.

A few years ago, we had only nine members. Now, three times that many people show up to an unofficial event on a whim. We've consistently averaged 50 members and 30 annual performances. We're deeply involved in our community, and we've upgraded theaters twice because our chapter shows keep selling out. Most importantly, our members are HAPPY. The transition wasn't an accident.

Happiness is the ultimate growth (and survival) strategy

I call the challenge “barbershop capitalism.” Choruses (and civic organizations in general) have always had

to compete with work, family, and other activities for their members' time. Today, we're also competing with Netflix and the thousands of tech firms that invest billions in learning how to keep you on your phone rather than mix with real people at chapter meetings.

Fortunately, chapters have one unfair advantage: Staring at a screen often leaves people feeling empty; time spent with a properly designed and run chorus leaves people feeling fulfilled. We have what people are chasing after—real happiness and fulfillment.

To any chapter facing a decline in membership, I always have one basic question: “How are you fulfilling your members' human needs?” A follow-up: “How much value are you providing in your members' lives?” Many leaders THINK they know the answer, but it's not that easy. A leader's great memories and attachments to the chapter and its program are his or hers alone. If asked, many current members may have a different view. Past chapter members may have already voted with their feet.

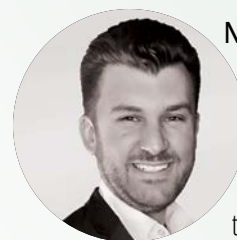
Where we started and how we turned it around

When I started as Director of the **Morris Music Men** over eight years

ago, we had nine guys, no money in the bank, and poor singing. The prior director would berate the chorus every week, and ten months of the year, he spent most rehearsal time on the two contest songs. After he walked out, I was called in as a one-night substitute. I've been there ever since.

Our chapter defies the misconception that the key to chapter growth is to doggedly chase musical excellence. Early on, after realizing that the chorus would not win contests or sell out a hall, my sole focus became this: Make Tuesday the happiest night of every guy's week. That goal is designed into every rehearsal block and the flow of the entire night. Early on, I felt that if we only rang two chords the whole night but walked out the door feeling great, that was a success.

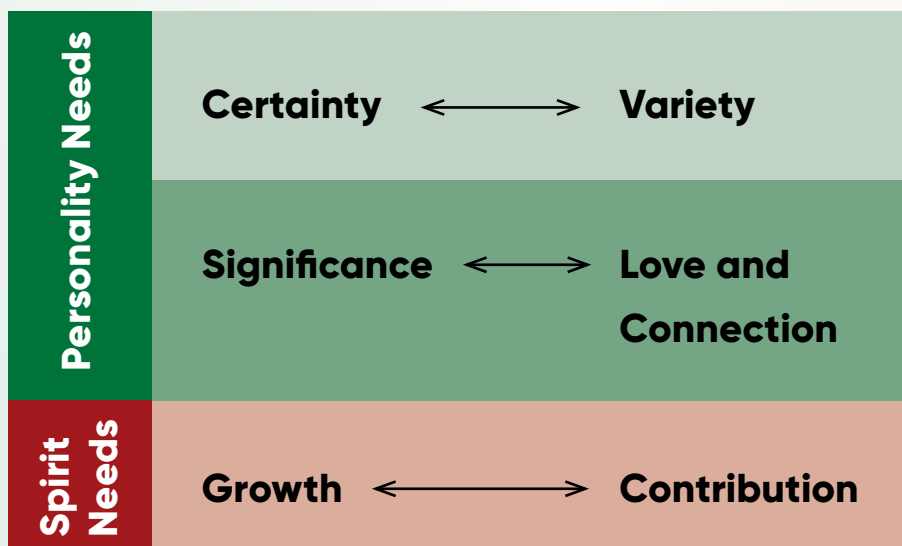
A couple of years in, we broadened our “make people happy” focus into



Nate Barrett directs the Morris Music Men and helps other chapters learn to grow and become a part of their community. He is on the faculty of Har-

mony College East and works as a technology product manager. natebarrett8@gmail.com

“EARLY ON, MY SOLE FOCUS BECAME THIS: MAKE TUESDAY THE HAPPIEST NIGHT OF EVERY GUY'S WEEK. THAT GOAL IS DESIGNED INTO EVERY REHEARSAL BLOCK AND THE FLOW OF THE ENTIRE NIGHT.”



three parts:

1. Make MORE people happy.
2. Do a better job of making people happy.
3. Make ourselves happy.

Every year, I proposed a target of 50% membership growth, and every year I was told how unrealistic that was. Yet, we grew from 9 to 13 the first year, 13 to 21 the second year, 21 to 30 the third year, and then 30 to 45 the fourth year. Once we exceeded 50 members, we decided that was our sweet spot, and now, we only actively recruit if we dip below that number.

How did we do this? By overdelivering on meeting people's needs.

The 6 Human Needs

We center our chapter planning on a framework that addresses six human needs. We present them in pairs because of the tension that naturally exists within each pair. Leaders must constantly work to deliver on each of the six needs without doing so at the

expense of the other half of the pair.

Certainty & Variety

Certainty: The need for stability and knowing what is going to happen. Some people need more consistency than others. What regular chapter rituals give all members a sense of stability? A frequent ritual must be exceptional in meeting one or many needs: the big annual shows the year is built around, the Christmas singout everyone loves, the emotionally powerful gigs for needy audiences. This also includes having a regular rehearsal cadence and performances fine-tuned to fill needs as well as possible.

Variety: Novelty, or experiencing the new and unexpected. Occasional push-out quartets at rehearsals doesn't cut it. We're talking new songs, new types of music, songs with more or fewer than four parts (gasp!), and more. Think new performance types, new venues, split-bill shows with a new performance partner. Change your rehearsal program or singout formats. Stop the rehearsal at the halfway mark one night to go somewhere and give a

spontaneous show. Break out of the old routine!

The dynamic tension: Variety by its nature means doing unexpected things. Leaders must be constantly aware of which changes would be welcomed and which changes would not.

Significance & Love and Connection

Significance: Being different or exceptional in positive ways. Chasing significance via contest works for some, but for those not in the top choruses, this pursuit will rarely deliver the feeling you want. The Morris Music Men focus on being the best at serving our community. We have relationships with organizations for special needs students and with the veteran's hospital and several groups that feed the hungry. In addition to performances and raising money, we sometimes put on special programs for our partners. During 2020, we created virtual programming with educational notes and segments that special needs students could attend with their families. It was a rush for our guys to make so many people happy!

Love and Connection: Feeling connected and sharing a special bond with others. Brotherhood (and sisterhood) are often spoken about





"STARING AT A SCREEN OFTEN LEAVES PEOPLE FEELING EMPTY; WE HAVE WHAT PEOPLE ARE CHASING AFTER: REAL HAPPINESS AND FULFILLMENT."

but rarely lived. While it's good to pursue member bonding experiences, the best leaders focus on creating and supporting rituals and routines that build and strengthen connections, particularly at rehearsals. We create unstructured time before every rehearsal for everyone to simply mingle and connect. As the director, I work to set the tone of real connection. I greet every member at every meeting and speak about his life. We lengthened our breaks to provide more social time and started doing multiple afterglows after every rehearsal. Our rehearsals end at 10:15. We then hang out and sing for a while, then we go to a diner. The last 5-8 guys typically leave sometime between 1:30 and 3:00 a.m.

Create more rehearsal time to work



Florence was having a difficult adjustment after having just moved into the assisted living facility where the chorus performs annually. After the performance, she came up to one of our members and said that she enjoyed the chorus so much that she would make sure to take care of herself so that she would be around to hear us again the next year.



A Morristown, N.J. Chapter quartet finished its performance at the same time and in the same venue as a wedding. Coming upon the newly married couple, they serenaded the duo for a few songs, after which the newlyweds requested a photo. The bride later used the photo on her thank you cards with the caption "Sometimes the best things are the ones that you don't plan."



Jersey Sound Chorus Director Search

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To apply, please visit jerseysoundchorus.org/directorsearch or contact directorsearch@jerseysoundchorus.org.

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www.JerseySoundChorus.org



How does a chapter turn around or reboot?

Here's an abbreviated outline of the steps I teach in my Harmony College East class, "Chorus Rescue: How to Save and Revitalize a Failing Chorus."

1. Take stock honestly. Surveying all chorus members often shows where leaders have to lean in and where we should pour gas on the fire. Great questions deliver great answers. One of my favorites: "If we could win any award at the end of next year, what would it be?" Have honest conversations with your board and chorus leadership to learn who is (and is not) on board with driving change because it can be a couple of long seasons before you achieve your objective.

2. Plan together. Our annual planning meetings always start with an in-depth conversation on the six human needs. We review survey responses and discuss where we did well and where we fell short. Only then do we discuss goals, innovations, and changes that will better fulfill all six needs for all members.

3. Build activity blueprints. All our goals include one or multiple blueprints of what actions we will take, what those actions will yield, and how we'll retain that yield. Example: "Grow the chorus by eight members this year." Our blueprint might say we will lose three members to attrition, so we need to gain 11. One activity blueprint may be: We will run two "Ready, Set, Sing!" programs—which will get 18 people in the door—which will yield 11 members if we have a 61% retention rate. We might have additional blueprints for guest nights, another for social media outreach, etc.

4. Have honest check-ins at regular intervals. The more you're starting from behind, the more you'll need to check that you're moving in the right direction. It doesn't have to be drawn out, but leaders should check in at least monthly on your goals and any new rituals you are establishing. Between check-ins, you should be soliciting member feedback. Anyone in my chorus

can tell you about my ritual to never leave a rehearsal or a gig without asking at least five guys how they felt about it. I then bring their insights to our leadership check-ins.

5. Get wins under your belt and stack them. Early in the transition, focus on creating certainty that you will hit your goals. Personally, I hustled like a madman to hit our goals early so that these achievements could create a new standard, new expectations, and a virtuous cycle for us. Pep talks become unnecessary when you become a group that sets goals, drives at them, and then hits them. You create a winning machine that creates fulfilling experiences.

6. Make the whole process fulfilling and worthwhile. If the leaders aren't enjoying what you're creating, no one else will. Every chorus member is there because he loves it. If I didn't love what I was doing, I wouldn't be there. I don't even have a contract as the director—just a handshake agreement that covers my expenses. Turning a chorus around is not easy, and many nights I questioned whether it was going to work out. Loving what we were doing and being great friends was the only reason we were able to endure the tough points.

Bonus tip: Run a "Ready, Set, Sing!" program. (See Tip Sheet this issue, pages 12-13.) This program, modified to our own style, is how most of our members joined. We focus on "creating new singers" because it removes the need to fish in the same limited pool of current singers as everyone else. Most of our men had always wanted to sing but never had a path to do it. Now, they get to fulfill a dream and perform for audiences. They're in it for the love of it, and that type of fresh blood can do wonders for your group.

in sectionals and duetionals where people can dig into the rep together, for VLQ run-throughs of items, for different committees to help with the show, etc. We also host "Fami-

ly Night," picnics, afternoon coffee gatherings, and more. Our excellent Sunshine program (See July/August issue, pages 14-15) for members who need a boost and to check in on older

members. We do much more than I could ever do justice here.

Dynamic tension: To be significant means you are unlike others, which can make connection harder. If you have a member who craves personal significance at the expense of others' needs, such "weeds" won't

As the chapter created a new environment focused on chapter happiness, they found a high rate of guests were turning into members. Director Nate Barrett twice proposed adding "Ready, Set, Sing!" to the chapter program, and the board twice rejected it as "hokey" and a failure in prior chapters. Nate and the music team then created an original singing curriculum centered around maximum guest enjoyment at rehearsals that has been a chapter success ever since. Nate teaches a course on their approach at Harmony College East.





"PEOPLE INSTINCTIVELY BELIEVE 'IF YOU'RE NOT GROWING, YOU'RE DYING.' THEY OTHERWISE FEEL STAGNANT. PERFORMING BETTER IS ONLY ONE POTENTIAL FOCUS."

go away on their own. Address issues directly and promptly. Tip: Never negotiate with "terrorists."

Growth & Contribution

Growth: Improving and reaching higher levels. People instinctively believe "If you're not growing, you're dying." They otherwise feel stagnant. Performing better is only one potential focus. Actively growing your membership helps everyone feel like your chorus is on the up and up. Grow your online following, sell more tickets to your annual show than the year before, take on a new cause, forge new community partnerships, and more. Growth is not always about having the plant get taller. It could be new green shoots springing out so that you



The leadership team was once asked, "Are you a group of singers that are friends, or are you a group of friends who sing together?" For the Morris Music Men, it's definitely the latter.

cover more ground. Growth is both vertical and horizontal.

Contribution: Giving your time, energy, and resources to a worthy recipient. Most of our goals are to enhance our community contributions. We use our annual shows for outreach, and we recently hosted choruses from schools in low-income communities of color. We interacted with students while rehearsing for combined numbers, and then donated to their music programs. We love showing people young and old that music can be a life-long passion.

We regularly perform at the local VA hospital, including special holiday performances where we recognize their sacrifices and then spend time with the vets. There's rarely a dry eye. During their isolation throughout 2020, our members individually recorded personal messages for them as interludes between performance videos. Our programs were played in the rooms throughout the hospital. I can go on and on about all of the work we do is focused on contribution. Most importantly, charity starts at home. When members have challenges and people rally

together to help them, something special happens.

Dynamic tension: When focusing on growth, it feels like any resource that you dedicate towards contribution is taking away from reaching your goal. However, if you focus on the positive feelings that come when you contribute, you can refresh the group and launch new growth.

Conclusion

A few years ago, after hearing what our chapter is like, an attendee at our "Ready, Set, Sing!" Seminar asked, "Are you a group of singers that are friends, or are you a group of friends who sing together?" We all smiled, because there was no question that we are the latter.

Basketball coach Bobby Knight once said, "The will to win is not nearly as important as the will to prepare to win." Those words apply just as much to barbershop chapters. The steps above will help you turn your chapter into a thriving chorus that will meet your members needs and have them love their time in your chorus. The preparation, the planning, and the execution will all take your time and energy, but so will having a chorus that doesn't fulfill members. The work that you do to make your organization truly happy and fulfilling for all will give you life and energy. Time is going to pass anyway: Why not spend it making something magnificent? ■



WATCH ONLINE Link to the video Nate's 2021 Harmony College East presentations on these topics at barbershop.org/harmonizer.



Virtual

INTERNATIONAL 2021

Best blasts from the past

Throughout the week we were treated to never-before-seen videos from the BHS archives.

Too many great performances to mention, but three favorites: "Shine," from **The Gas House Gang's** 1993 contest sets; the **Masters of Harmony's** 1991 Swan Song the year after their first of nine championships under four different directors; last but not least, **The Suntones'** amazing 2011 50th Anniversary performance.



International from your back porch

It was the first time we've ever held our International Convention online and with any luck, it will also be the last. Using the same Virbela interface as January's Midwinter Convention (see May/June 2021 issue for details and attendee reactions), those who registered could chat, dance, tag, and motorboat between sessions. In the middle were four days of festivals, contests, and afterglows. Many performances from the archives were seen for the first time.

Go to barbershop.org/events to see all competing and contributing groups. Many participants have posted their videos online, and they are generally easy to find on Facebook and YouTube.



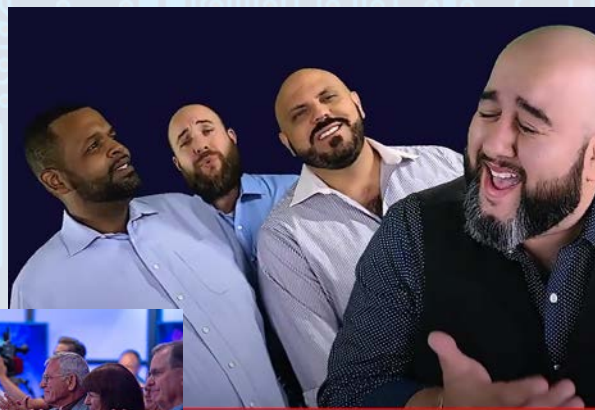
First-of-its-kind online BHS International Quartet Contest

Of the 28 quartets participating in the Quartet Contest, 17 performed for score. Many recorded new submissions while others used footage from recent-ish contests or shows. Mixed quartets were strongly represented, with plenty of men's and women's quartets as well. **Barbershop Pot Luck** (above, left) showed us a new kind of "mixed" quartet: all four (L-R: Daniel Huit, James Pennington, Kevin Mendez, and Chad Bennett) are listed as tenor, lead, bari, bass, and each sang all four parts at least once per song!



Most entertaining Chorus Festival "champions"

The Chorus Festival was a joy to behold, with 33 old and new choruses represented. Many submitted new video performances, and others were represented by amazing classics from decades past. In a show filled with great and original performances (shout out to **Central Standard!**), three audience favorites rose to the top. From Hershey, Pa., **Parkside Harmony's** "The Jumpin' Jive" with **Crossroads** is a toe-tapping masterpiece. The **Heralds of Harmony** from Tampa delivered a morbidly hilarious Halloween surprise, presenting "Monster Mash" with next-level costuming and video effects. Finally, Nashville's **Music City Chorus** had the moxie to cover 2016 champ **Ringmasters'** magnum opus—Aaron Dale's "Notre Dame Medley"—and showed they had the vocal chops to pull it off beautifully.



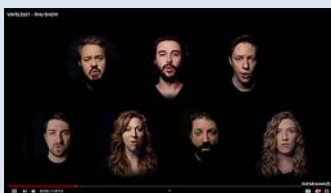
Slickest production: Association of International Champions Show

Was there ever any doubt? The AIC really knows how to put on a show, even one without a live audience. Actually, their show on Saturday Night featured a small studio audience, broadcasting from Cleveland, Tennessee. **Interstate Rivals** (1987), **Vocal Spectrum** (2006)



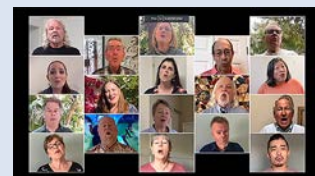
Major kudos to 2019 Champion **Signature** for its groundbreaking video tribute to Motown.

and **Crossroads** (2009) provided live performances, while champs from other areas checked in via video.



Most auspicious performances: Just about everybody in the multiple shows and afterglows

Had two international contests not been canceled, 2019 International Bronze Medalist **Quorum** might already be an International Champion. The next best thing was to be blown away by some of the new contest songs they would have performed. Mixed with previously unseen performances from past decades were new videos from groups you know, like **'Round Midnight**, **Yonge Guns**, and **GQ**, plus a lot of other top quartets that can't wait for their first live standing O. All four days were heavenly.



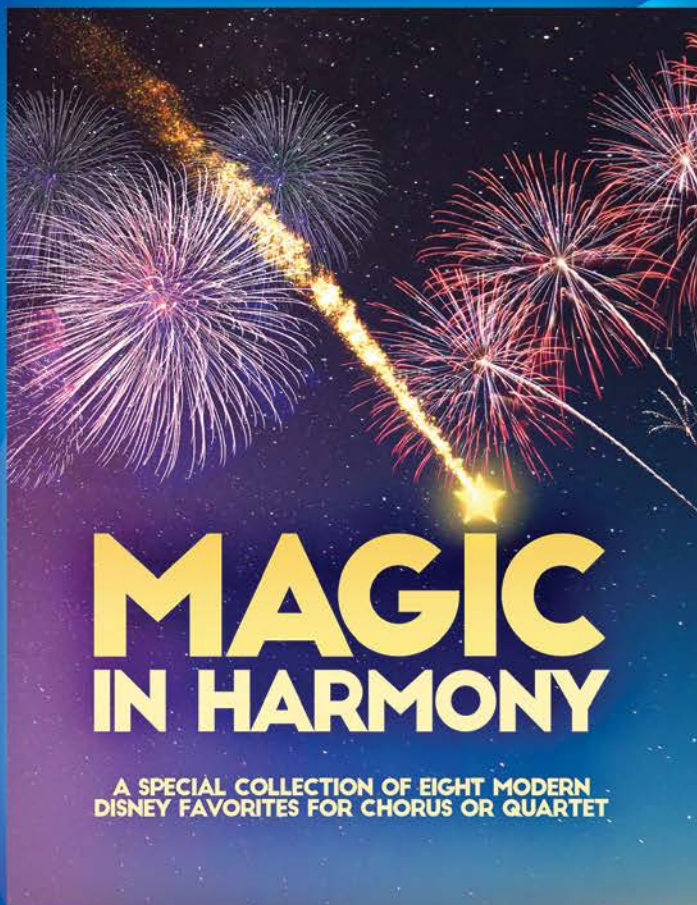
The most "berry interdasting" 50 minutes of the week

Don't know what "berry interdasting" means? Neither did most of us during a variety-filled video presentation by **Westminster Chorus**. No biggie. Packed with new performances by Westminster, **The Newfangled Four**, **After Hours** (2018 Champ), **Hot Pursuit** (2019 Harmony, Inc. Champ) and others, the variety show-like swan song continually leapt back and forth between inspiring and amusing. The "berry interdasting" sketch was one of several created by writer and director Will Ajax Lagos (below, right). Thankfully, even if you scratched your head at some of the rapid-fire inside jokes, it didn't matter—they worked anyway.



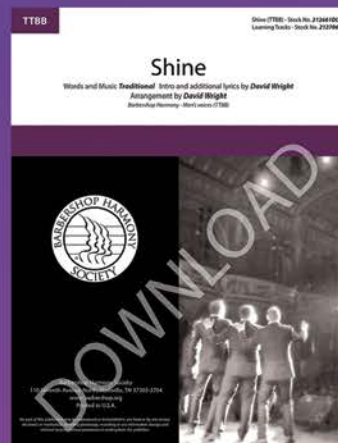
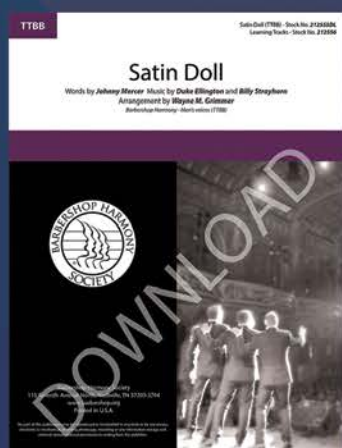
Best original performance

In a week of so many great new video performances, **Westminster Chorus** arguably topped them all with a performance of "Beautiful City" that included top-level voices from other men's, women's, and mixed groups. Find it on YouTube—and wear headphones! ■



DISNEY SONGBOOK FEATURING:

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GO THE DISTANCE
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REMEMBER ME
A WHOLE NEW WORLD
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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.

The Paradise Coastmen Chorus (Naples, FL) seeks a dynamic front line musical director. A 45-year-old chorus with 40 singers and three registered quartets meets Thursday evenings. Salary and expenses are negotiable. Contact Gray Poehler at grayp@aol.com.

West Sound Chorus (Bremerton, WA), is seeking a talented replacement to extend the 25-year successful trajectory of retiring director, Mike Menefee. This competitive 35-man chorus placed 5th at the latest EVG district contest while still hosting two public shows each year. Contact pr@singkitsap.org.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

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

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THE TAG

Joe Liles, Tagmaster
JoeLilesMusic@gmail.com

A happy tag

Joe Liles is unavailable to write the commentary for this tag, so Tom Gentry is filling in for him. Tom writes:

Joe let me know that he often chooses a tag which fits the theme of the edition as a whole. Anyone who knows Joe is aware that he is great at spreading happiness wherever he goes—and he does just that with this tag, simply titled, “Happiness.”

Especially creative is the sequence wherein measures 1-2 are repeated a whole step up in 3-4. This implied key change is happily surprising, and Joe somehow manages to get us back to the feel of the original key right after that. Also, the dissonance of the penultimate chord, with the bass ♭II a crunchy major seventh below the lead tonic, makes the resolution to the ringy final chord extra enjoyable.

So join Joe, President John, Manoj, and the Morris Music Men in making every day you sing this tag the happiest day of your week! ■

Happiness Tag

TTBB voicing

Joe Liles 2021

SSAA voicing

Joe Liles 2021

SATB voicing

Joe Liles 2021

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2 Sing	Grimmer
3 Change the World	Sharon & Wright
4 Lazy Day	Wright
5 When I Fall in Love	Wright

SATB	ARRANGER
1 Sing	Grimmer
2 Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You*	Rector & Bergman
3 A Whole New World	Hicks
4 Africa	Morris
5 If There's Anybody Here From out of Town*	Briner



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