

The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022



CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS



OFF-STAGE CHAMPIONS

Honoring some of the members who quietly do the heavy lifting that makes everything happen—often without a title, without being asked, and with little recognition



NOTEWORTHY

YOU CAN PERFORM IN CHARLOTTE
SENIORS CHAMPS GO CRUISING

SPOTLIGHT

THE HARMONIZER'S NEW
TAGMASTER, TOM GENTTRY

INSIDE

FOUR DISTRICT CONVENTIONS:
THE FUN BEHIND THE MASKS

DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST BARBERSHOP PARTY OF THE YEAR



CHARLOTTE, NC
JULY 3-10, 2022



Come celebrate the biggest barbershop party of the year with us this summer in beautiful Charlotte, North Carolina. The Barbershop Harmony Society is committed to offering a safe, accessible event, with full safety protocols published for all attendees before registering.

It will be an international convention unlike any other, with more singing, more fun, more festivals, more afterglow experiences, and more opportunities to participate than ever before.





Major events held at Spectrum Center, home of the NBA's Charlotte Hornets



Mon
July 4

Tue
July 5

Wed
July 6

Thu
July 7

Fri
July 8

Sat
July 9

Start the convention week off with some surprise special events to be announced soon!



Education in Charlotte

Quartet Festival/
Quarterfinals

Quartet Festival/
Quarterfinals

Opening Night Party



Education in Charlotte

Quartet Festival/
Quarterfinals

NextGen Varsity Quartet and Chorus Festival

Jazz Band Afterglow and Singing Pub Crawl



Education in Charlotte

Chorus Festival

Quartet Semifinals

Late Night Showcase

Chorus Contest Session 1

Association of International Champions Show

After Party

Chorus Contest Session 2

MegaSing

Quartet Finals and Finale

Chorditorium



Quartet Festival



NextGen Varsity Festival



Chorus Festival

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"I'm Always Chasing Rainbows," Buffalo Bills

If you can't wait to get back to singing at district and international conventions, know that some Barbershoppers have already taken the plunge. Below is **Voices United**, the newest, largest, and second-highest-scoring chorus at the 2021 Northeastern District Fall Convention. While the district did not require masks for performing groups, Voices United kept them on because they wanted to perform the same way they rehearsed.



Features

16 Conventions Return!

"It was so good to see, hear, and sing at a real, live contest!" There were a lot of smiles and laughs behind the masks as four districts hosted fall 2021 conventions. It was all a precursor to a great season of anticipated live, in-person barbershop gatherings for 2022.

18 Celebrating Every Volunteer

Titles and trophies are worth celebrating, but so are all the waaaaay-behind-the-scenes folks whose quietly go about solving the problems and putting in the hours to pull off everything we do.

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On the cover: A celebration of super volunteers, *cover by Eddie Holt*

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The Harmonizer

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/EDITORIAL
harmonizer@barbershop.org

EDITOR
Lorin May

OUR VISION
Everyone in Harmony

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

OUR PURPOSES
To perpetuate the old American institution: the barbershop quartet and barbershop harmony
To promote appreciation of barbershop harmony

To initiate and maintain a broad program of musical education, contests, and appreciation in support of barbershop harmony and the allied arts

To establish and maintain foundations that support our vision

To initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects that support our vision

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (DBA Barbershop Harmony Society) is a non-profit organization operating in the United States and Canada.

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Making your voices heard

Who you are, how you view the current state of the barbershop world, and what you want our wonderful barbershop world to become—this is what members talk about when communicating with BHS leadership. What you say and do is making an impact.



Marty



John

BRIAN LYNCH: Your email addresses appear on every column; phone and email addresses for all Society Board members appear in each issue. What happens when someone calls you?

JOHN: I am always happy to pick up the phone when a Barbershopper calls. It takes courage to call someone they may not know, and you have to respect that. Some callers want to give thanks, while others may want to give you a piece of their mind. As leaders and volunteers for the Society, we are here to serve and to listen. The truly important thing is to understand where they are coming from.

Some people freely speak out, some people are always hesitant, and there are many people that care deeply, but don't say anything. I weigh everybody's opinion the same. One might have lots of experience to heed, the other might bring a fresh, unencumbered perspective. Both brings energy to the conversation.

MARTY: We got really good with the strategic plan of having listening sessions at events—spirited ones!—hosted by the board and from staff on a regular basis. They made the conversation real.

JOHN: People want to have a dialogue. People want to bring a solution to the table, which is always

appreciated. Some people simply want to hear a person say it, rather than get it online. People seem to find me approachable. That's a real compliment.

MARTY: The groups that are succeeding as they emerge from the pandemic have been doing exactly that—their leaders and volunteers have been taking into consideration the situations of their own community, and listening to the whole group, having the talk so they can make informed decisions.

JOHN: A lot of us wish that tomor-



Get in Touch

John Donehower, Society President johndonehower@gmail.com

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

"WE'VE NEEDED COURAGE AND RESOLVE IN SERIOUS TIMES AND THE DISTRICT AND CHAPTER LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS HAVE STEPPED UP AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS."

row were today. It's not, but tomorrow isn't as far away as it used to be. Some groups struggle because they're trying to reinvent what they had before, rather than looking at who they are today. Our local groups are doing just a marvelous job. I don't think our District Presidents have ever been better. It's impressive to see the care with which the Society's volunteers look after their communities. I'm really proud of Barbershoppers right now, and that makes me miss them even more.

MARTY: They rise to their times. We've needed courage and resolve in serious times, and the district and chapter leaders and volunteers have stepped up at the highest levels. These people who persevere through the hardest times are really in it for the BHS collective mission.

BRIAN: Guided by David Haedtler and the Nominating Committee, the Society has worked hard to solicit new voices to sit on the Board. After reviewing applications, and making tough decisions to reach a handful of final candidates, there still are 35 other volunteers ready and willing to serve. How do you keep those non-board voices, and the voices of other volunteers in the forefront of leading the Society?

MARTY: Whether it is youth adding voices to the conversation, or whether it's our diversity group that is adding new insights to the discussion,

"OUR JOB AS VOLUNTEERS AND LEADERS IS TO CREATE SPACE FOR EACH PERSON TO BECOME THEMSELVES. WE CAN DO THAT, IF WE LISTEN TO EACH OTHER WITH OPEN MINDS AND OPEN HEARTS."

or district leaders who have been close to their chapters—we need those other areas of expertise in the Society. Those voices help create the robust Society that we have now.

JOHN: Good leadership is about giving up some control. There are central tenets you want to follow and you want everybody to be on board, but you have to be brave enough to allow little nuanced points to get out there, because nobody volunteers to be micromanaged.

We recently received a letter writing campaign from a lot of the younger Barbershoppers expressing a view. They wrote to the board en masse, and we read every single letter. It was great to hear what they want to say about one particular aspect of something we're doing. But what was truly spectacular, is that almost every letter began with a paragraph or two of "here's who



John & Marty are attending:

Strategic Planning Meeting
(Virtual) 1st Wed. each month
Jan 12-16, in-person Midwinter
Feb 25-28, in-person Society
Board Meeting, Nashville

John is attending

Wednesday Nights, The Good
Ol' Boys Quartet rehearsal

John is Reading

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy,
by Douglas Adams
(for the 20th time!)

John is Learning

"If I Ruled the World,"
arr. Ed Gentry
"Love's Old Sweet Song,"
arr. Val. Hicks

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE SOCIETY BOARD

To reflect who we are and who we wish to become, the Society Board of Directors intentionally seeks future members who bring a wider range of personal perspectives and barbershop experiences. This especially applies to people who previously might not have considered themselves qualified for the role, whether from demographics (age, gender, heritage), previous barbershop experience, or simple lack of connections throughout the barbershop world. To be more proactive, the Nominating Committee's process of inquiry, application, and interview for the 2023 Board will begin in the next few months, with applications due by the end of March, 2022. For details and timeline, please see barbershop.org/become-a-board-member.



STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

"WE OFTEN HEAR PEOPLE TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY WANT PERSONALLY; THIS WAS ABOUT WHAT THEY AS SINGING COMMUNITIES HOPE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE."

I am." I can't wait for the opportunity to actually put faces to some of these names. This person is a second-generation Barbershopper. This person had never heard barbershop before their choir teacher taught them. This person hadn't wanted to go to Midwinter with their group, but it changed their life.

MARTY: And importantly, they were saying, "This is how I fit into my quartet or chorus, and how our quartet and chorus fit into the barbershop world. This is how we want to live barbershop in the next decade." We often hear people talk about what they want personally; this was about what they as singing communities hope to see in the future.

As much as things change, they stay the same, too. In those "who I am" opening paragraphs, you see the connective tissue between people that have been Barbershoppers for 50-60-70 years and people that have been Barbershoppers for a year or two. They come down to those very simple things that are stated in our mission: harmony, fellowship, enriching, and singing. Those four things drive us to the outcomes and the impact we're making.

JOHN: We're not trying to be all things to all people, but enough things to enough people. Our job as volunteers and leaders is to create space for each person to become themselves. We can do that, if we listen to each other with open minds and open hearts. ■



Reader Feedback

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

Remember Joe Liles, and "Differently Wired"

! Pretty sure I just leveled-up as a chorus director after experiencing the powerful one-two punch of inspiration that is this month's *Harmonizer*. By my count at least 27 people (!) contributed. The Joe Liles article made me want to be a better director, and the neurodivergence article made me rethink what "better" might look like. Thank you to everyone else who participated in making these articles so great, and massive kudos and appreciation to writers Brian Lynch and Lorin May. Definitely one of my all-time favorite issues.

Elizabeth Davies

Seattle, WA

@ Congratulations on an outstanding article on Joe Liles in the latest issue of *The Harmonizer*. I don't believe there was ever a straight line uttered for which Joe didn't have a pun ready. Additionally, Joe did a recitation of Little Red Riding Hood that kept audiences in stitches every time he recited it. Joe was a master entertainer.



John Schneider

Austin, TX

@ Like so many, I loved and admired Joe Liles. I was especially touched by Lori Lyford's story in the online bonus content. (barbershop.org/joeliles) It brings a tear to think of the multiplier since her world-changing time with Joe. Thank you, Brian Lynch, for organizing and bringing Joe's life and time to legions of us. Long live Joe Liles, indeed!

Darryl Flinn

Canton, OH

@ "Differently Wired" is probably the best *Harmonizer* article I've read in my 30 years of barbershop. I hope every director's program, workshop, communication at least references it. I would add a recommendation to coaches and directors to end their critique with what they heard and what they want to hear, in that order, not the other way around. (By the way, the "we can be very analytical ..." is me.) ■

Frank Ruggiero

Plattekill, NY



110 7th Ave N.
Nashville, TN, 37203



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2022 CHARLOTTE

Your group can be onstage in Charlotte

In addition to the International Contests, the new International Chorus Festival and International Quartet Festival will be open to *any* barbershop ensemble

Even if your ensemble wasn't planning to qualify for the 2022 International Chorus Contest or quartet contest, you can still perform for an International audience this summer in Charlotte. The Barbershop Harmony Society's biggest stages will welcome more ensembles than ever before. Whether you love the challenge of competition, or crave a broader audience for your showmanship, you'll find great performance opportunities in Charlotte at our 2022 International Convention from July 3-10.

More places to sing

- Revised qualifying scores reflect post-pandemic restarts for many ensembles.
- Video qualification for some events eases the process of getting up to speed and back on stage.

New International Festivals

In addition to the International Chorus Contest, International Quartet Contest, and Next Generation Quartet Contest, two new events are coming to Charlotte. Both the International Chorus Festival and International Quartet Festival will be open to ALL ensembles regardless of ability, affiliation, or gender. Perform two songs in front of an audience, get a score and rating (if desired), and

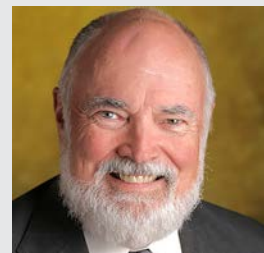


The Spectrum Center, home of the Charlotte Hornets, will be the spot in which 2019 champion Signature will finally get to sing away the quartet trophy they earned three years earlier!

receive world-class coaching from a BHS-certified judge.

Safety protocols

Attendees must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative test within 72-hours prior to arriving on-site. At the main performance venue, the Spectrum Center's air filtration and cleaning procedures have been optimized for virus control. Masking policies for the week will be announced closer to the event based on CDC and local health guidance.



Harmony to his very last breath

After a long battle with cancer, Drayton Justus, past BHS President and lead of 1971 Champion **Gentlemen's Agreement**, passed away in November. Drayton's son, JD, reports that his father was enjoying barbershop harmony literally until his last breath: *My sister ran out and got a CD of the Gentlemen's Agreement Masterwork series. My dad had become nonverbal over the last 24 hours. He listened to 17 songs in a row. His eyes were closed and he was moving his eyebrows up and down, in the same manner he has always done when he is singing. The 18th song is called "Hush." When the song reached the verse, "There'll be a chariot Lord, coming to take me home" my dad dropped his eyebrows and stopped breathing. It was a touching moment for my family. Per his wishes, there will be no service. He asked that any contributions be made towards youth programming at the Barbershop Harmony Society.*



First time in digital release!

The 2014 International Quartet songs that were once exclusive to the vinyl record release are now available for digital purchase. From Musical Island Boys "I Just Can't Wait To Be King" to Lunch Break's "Part of Your World," download them at shop.barbershop.org.



LEARN MORE AND REGISTER Keep up to date on the latest news about the 2022 International Convention at barbershop.org/international.

● SING WITH THE BOUNCING BALL



SEATTLE SEACHORDSMEN VOICE THE NORTHGATE LINK LINE

The **Seattle Seachordsmen Chorus** is going places —along the newly opened 3.4-mile Northgate Link extension of the light rail system. The group was able to use the Northgate Station garage to safely rehearse, and adapted lyrics to the “B&O Line” as a celebration of the new public transit service, which opened October 2. Their video, which includes a bouncing sing-along ball, is featured on the transit agency’s Facebook, YouTube, and websites.

● GREAT REBRAND

NEW LOOK FOR PIONEER

For the first time since 1985, the Pioneer District has a refreshed logo. Its clean, modern design reflects barbershop singing, four-part harmony, connectivity between generations and chapters, as well as between Michigan and Ontario. There are also four pine trees representing the four voice parts, a barberpole bridge, and a road or river like a music staff, and the district’s four International quartet champs as pluses; Chorus, Senior, and Youth champs are dots.



“IMPERSONATING” DOCS

A few November gigs at local hospitals found the **Wayne, Michigan, Chapter’s Music Medics** back in service to their community. The fully masked/fully vaccinated singers, outfitted with scrubs and stethoscopes, visited patients at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia. To start a Music Medics program in your area, go to barbershop.org/join/music-medics.



● A DEC. 25 SHELF LIFE



THESE ELVES ON THE SHELF ARE VOICES YOU KNOW

Anyone who has sat up nights figuring out still another location to hide the Elf On The Shelf might enjoy adding a YouTube scavenger hunt to the game. You might also recognize the voices behind “Santa’s Letters Everywhere!” a new video released last November that featured a barbershop quartet as Santa’s elite mail-handlers. The official Elf on the Shelf team reached out to Clay Hine for help with the vocal arrangement. Clay took the bari part and then recruited Dave Calland (L), Tim Reynolds (T), and Kirk Young (Bs) to record the track, and boom! Merry Christmas! The video is linked at barbershop.org/harmonizer.



● CHAMPS BEING CHAMPS

Champs were riverboat entertainers

American Cruise Lines booked 2018 Seniors Champ St. Croix Crossing and 2020 Seniors Champ Hearsay as on-board entertainment

How are the sweltering Arizona heat and the coolness of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers related to barbershop? When a Barbershopper in Arizona has an idea. In late 2019, Bill Kane in Arizona contacted American Cruise Lines (ACL) about having barbershop quartets entertain guests traveling the Mississippi and Ohio rivers on 10-day cruises aboard a five-story paddlewheeler.

ACL loved the idea, and then COVID hit and the cruises were canceled for 2020. Not to be beaten by a pandemic, Bill continued to stay in contact with ACL and two quartets who had expressed interest and availability to perform onboard whenever the big ships began touring. Performing on the Mississippi was the 2018 International Seniors Quartet Champ, **St. Croix Crossing** from Minnesota. The quartet performed five times during the summer and fall of 2021 in front of the majority of the guests aboard for the cruise. The quartet boarded the ship



(Top) 2018 Seniors Champ St. Croix Crossing at a river cruise ship gig last summer. (Right) 2020 Seniors Champ Hearsay at a different summer gig.



after dinner, performed an hour-long show, and disembarked before the ship departed for the next port of call.

The quartet performing on the Ohio River was 2020 International Seniors

Quartet Champ **Hearsay**, from Cincinnati. Following the same format as SCX for their first two shows, Hearsay boarded and sang after dinner and then disembarked. Their third performance was very different. Fifteen minutes into the Hearsay show, the boat pulled away from the dock and began motoring south towards Louisville, Kentucky! Fortunately, Hearsay had travel essentials with them and ACL had a couple of extra staterooms available. They awoke the next morning in downtown Louisville in the middle of a monsoon rainstorm. Thankfully, the quartet had arranged for fellow AISQC member Jay Hawkins to meet them at the dock. Jay gave them a lift to their rental car and the guys traveled back home to Cincinnati. A long night and day but a great time nonetheless. Both quartets thank Bill Kane for the chance to introduce more than one thousand audience members to barbershop harmony!

– Kent VanderKolk, lead of 2021 Seniors Champ Hearsay



On September 18, the **Singing Capital Chorus** performed “The Star-Spangled Banner” at the Washington Nationals ballpark. This chorus has appeared every year since 2005, the year the team relocated from Montreal to the Washington, D.C. area.

Giving their longest-serving members due recognition

Don Lenz's rare 70 years of BHS membership was an event worth celebrating; Don Dobson of the highly influential Four Rascals receives Lifetime Achievement Award

In last issue's Noteworthy, we featured a celebration for a retiring director that became more muted than the **Pretzel City Chorus** had hoped due to fall's COVID surge canceling in-person rehearsals. Here are two chapters that lucked into better timing.

70-years of harmony and counting

An hour down the road from the above chorus, on June 14 the **Delchordians** (Delaware County, PA) enjoyed a pre-Delta variant gathering at the chapter's second in-person rehearsal to celebrate a member milestone—all prompted by an envelope that had recently arrived from Nashville.

The family of Don Lenz helped the chapter celebrate a rare achievement: Don's new membership card with a big "70" on it. Pomp, circumstance, harmony, and cake marked the occasion for the 91-year-old.

Infectiously enthusiastic, Don is the last surviving founding member



of the chapter, formed in 1955. He sings all four parts and has lost count of how many quartets he's been in. His favorite barbershop memory is singing four-part harmony at after-glows with his late wife, Beatrice.

Don Dobson receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Don Dobson, tenor of revered two-



Don Lenz and his family join with chapter members to celebrate his 70th year as a BHS Barbershopper. Don is a founding member of the Delchordians.

time International Silver Medalist **Four Rascals** (1965-66), was honored with a lifetime achievement award on October 28 at his assisted living facility in Hampton, NH. The award cites his 72-year Society membership, his competition wins with the Four Rascals, and his service as President of the Northeastern District in 1959 and 1960. At 92 years of age, Don is still active with the **Seacoast Men of Harmony Chorus** from Dover, NH. His tenor voice is still very strong and on pitch and if asked to sing in a pick up quartet, he is quick to correct notes sung by the other parts in the quartet if needed.

The Seacoast Men of Harmony, all COVID-vaccinated and masked, put on a 45-minute show at the facility. Don sang the Four Rascals classic "Little Pal" with **Whatever Four** quartet. Also in attendance were members of Don's family and many residents and staff from the facility. ■

This assisted living center show featured resident Don Dobson of the Four Rascals. Don (3rd from left) remains active with the Seacoast Men of Harmony.





SPOTLIGHT

Brian Lynch, BHS Public Relations Manager

blynch@barbershop.org

Tom Gentry: Smile!

His charts are singable by most Barbershoppers—and rewarding enough that champs want to sing them. Meet *The Harmonizer's* new Tagmaster.

BRIAN: You'll forgive me for asking, but who the heck is Tom Gentry? You're not one of those hot young whippersnappers whose arrangements are just starting to be discovered—although when you came on the barbershop scene in 1969, that's exactly what you were.

TOM: Cliché of clichés: in 1963, I was cast in the quartet in my high school's production of *The Music Man*, and it was love at first ringing chord. Throughout high school and college, I would buy the *Top 10 Quartet* record every year. The first song I ever lifted off the recording was the **Four Rascals** version of "I'm Alone Because I Love You." It probably took me about two months, but to this day, you could wake me up at 4 a.m. and I could sing any of the four parts.

I went to Kalamazoo College and formed a quartet right away. I'd planned on joining the Society then, but this chapter met on Fridays, and what college kid wants to give up his Friday nights? I'd still go about once a month. The director was a professor at Western Michigan, Burt Szabo.

I went to the 1972 Harmony College in Racine WI, where I started to learn arranging from Val Hicks. In the fall of 1978, I was an Arrangement category candidate judge sitting on a double panel alongside Dennis Driscoll, who as a judge was very liberal. I didn't look very conservative—I had long hair and



dressed casually and sometimes had an unfortunate attitude—but I was quite conservative as far as the Arrangement category went.

Well, in this contest, about a quarter of our scores were discrepancies, and I thought, "That's it, I won't pass." I waited and waited ... no word. Finally, months later, I ran into Ed Waesche at a coaching weekend and asked him if anyone was going to tell me whether I was certified. He looked puzzled: "Didn't anybody tell you? Well, you had all those discrepancies with Dennis, but we thought about it, and finally decided it was a sincere case of the most liberal next to the most conservative, so we passed you."

You've characterized yourself as musically conservative. How did that happen? You're coming up in the 1960s, The Suntones and other groups are active, stretching the style—although you're singing in a chorus directed by KIBber icon Burt Szabo ...

It wasn't a philosophical or con-

scious matter. I just looked at things the way I did. It was simply me. With most songs, I want to arrange them so that they sound like themselves. Since people are used to hearing a Beatles song like "When I'm 64" or "Yesterday" a certain way, my job is to create a four-part barbershop arrangement that sounds like that. When people come to performances (and not just barbershop—any music), they're there to revisit and relive a part of themselves. In my arranging, I want to help people get in touch with that.

The arrangement that saved a life

What's the essential Tom Gentry arrangement that you'll be remembered for?

TOM: Funny thing, it does not fit any kind of Gentry style, but it would have to be "Smile," as sung by **The New Tradition** quartet, 1985 champion.



LISTEN TO SOME OF TOM'S FAVORITE ARRANGEMENTS Scan this QR code or link to the page at barbershop.org/harmonizer.

"IF YOU'RE A HEART SURGEON, YOU EXPECT YOUR WORK WILL SAVE LIVES. NOT IF YOU'RE A BARBERSHOP ARRANGER."

Following the success of their famous Marx Brothers set, they wanted to do Charlie Chaplin, so good friend Bobby Gray sent me "Smile."

I kept trying to think of an approach to it, but nothing much was happening. One night about midnight, I'm at the keyboard, and this arrangement just ... starts coming out ...

*When your world is turned around,
Why not smile? Don't wear a frown*

I'm talking to myself, or maybe to my Muse: "So there's a tonic, and there's a diminished, and you think it's going to be the V7 but it's the II^m7, and then the final chord on "frown" is a bII⁷, hmmm, that's not quite ... you know, it's fine, just not normally what you do."

So I just write all that down, and then my Muse takes charge. "Time for a key change." Here? "JUST WRITE IT DOWN." A couple of seconds later we have another key change. "You've

gotta be kidding. We're in the wrong key now! How do we get back?" And so on, right to the end.

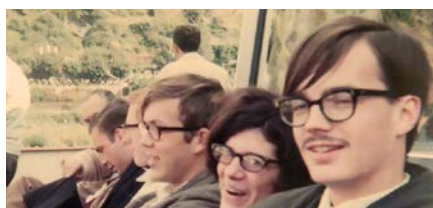
I finish the piece with a low tag, and I'm thinking that this doesn't sound like my style at all. And then I get this picture in my head of the 1972 champs, **The Golden Staters**. Their bass, Mike Senter, was a wonderful arranger, and I think, "This sounds like what Mike would have done."

The tag was fine, very garden variety, so I was surprised when I heard the quartet perform the song. They had this marvelous tag with John Sherburn posting the high G and baritone Bobby, who wrote the tag, slipping up to the high third on the final chord. It's a wonderful tag and has become a classic.

But the story goes much deeper. A few years later, a very good quartet sings my arrangement, and while I'm chatting with the quartet after the show, an emotional guy nervously approaches the quartet and says, "You guys saved my life—seriously." He told that his father committed suicide several months before, and this man had been devastated. A couple of months later, he drove to the same location where his father had died and was sitting in his truck thinking about ending his own life right then. But he sat and played this quartet's cassette—not the whole tape, but just "Smile"—over and over for hours. He said, "Finally, I decided life was worth living and drove back home. You guys did save my life."

If you're a heart surgeon, you expect your work will save lives. Not if you're a barbershop arranger. In a way, I didn't even arrange it—it was a Mike Senter arrangement channeled through me. That doesn't diminish it; it makes it more special. So nothing's going to supplant "Smile" in my heart. ■

(Top left) Tom gets along swimmingly with this Dutch quartet. (Bottom) Tom, at far right, as a student visiting Bonn, Germany in 1967.



TOM ON SOME OTHER GENTRY SONG HITS

"ALL THE WAY" as sung by **Maxx Factor**, 2011 SAI Queens. One of my most requested. Total emotional intensity that doesn't fit a negative script.

"THE LITTLE BOY" as sung by 1987 champ **Interstate Rivals**. Lead Joe Connelly made some changes that really set it off. I had not thought of that building up where the tenor takes a melody—that's so good! **Growing Girls** popularized "The Little Girl" in the women's barbershop world.

"BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR" as sung by 2006 champ **Vocal Spectrum**. Unusual for me because it's sort of like three different styles of arranging. I'm glad such a good quartet decided to do it, or we wouldn't know it worked!

"NOW IS THE HOUR" as sung by 2014 champ **Musical Island Boys**. Including Maori lyrics in a contest song was rather risky, so I added some English "subtitles" in the backtime. Success!

"SUNSHINE OF YOUR SMILE" and "WHEN THERE'S LOVE AT HOME" as sung by 2003 champ **Power Play**. I always hope my stuff is singable for a wide range of people—with enough interest that a gold medalist quartet might sing it. "Love at Home" has become a standard. (Aside: I did "Royal Garden Blues" for them and tried to emulate David Wright's style. Mike Slamka later told me that when they got to the eval session, the first thing out of Music judge Ed Waesche's mouth was, "Tell David it's a fine arrangement, but he needs to do something about the tag." So, mission accomplished, and I could go back to being myself.)



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Harmony University will take over the ENTIRE LU campus! HU attendees will have exclusive use of Loyola University's campus as we return to the incredible in-person HU experience we know and love. Also, we have confirmed there will indeed be ice cream. **Let's do this!**

LEARN MORE AT [BARBERSHOP.ORG/HU](https://barbershop.org/hu)

Conventions return!

"It was so good to see, hear, and sing at a real, live contest!"

Yes, these are all 2021 photos, and there were a lot of smiles and laughs behind the masks as four districts hosted fall conventions. It was all a precursor to a great season of anticipated live, in-person barbershop gatherings for 2022



Wild Pitch quartet from Carolinas District (above) decided to make the most of the district's masking requirements during the Fall District Quartet Contest. (Left) Vocal Revolution chorus on the way to winning the Northeastern District chorus championship. Quadrophonic quartet from the Carolinas District; Illinois Youth Quartet Champion Class Act; Land O' Lakes District Quartet Champion Coulee Classic.



After a spring and early summer of optimism that in-person singing events could finally move forward in 2021, the Delta variant brought COVID surging back in late July and August, just as chapters and districts were in the latter stages of preparing for their fall conventions. The path forward was unsure for all, and most districts canceled plans due to health and safety concerns and/or chorus and quartet concerns reducing support for the event.

On the other hand, chapter and district leaders for the Carolinas, Illinois, Land O' Lakes, and Northeastern Districts together determined that they could implement enough precautions to host a safe event for all attendees. Numbers were generally lower than normal at each event, with many chapters, quartets, and individuals bowing out for a variety of reasons. Some did not believe they were prepared enough for a public performance, while others presum-

ably viewed the health requirements as too not strict enough (or perhaps too strict) to desire to attend.

Health protocols make it happen

Most of the districts had vaccination and/or COVID testing requirements for all attendees, as well as masking requirements for performance venues and public spaces. Social distancing took place not only with the audience but with judges who sat further back from the stage than normal. The Carolinas District additionally required masks for the performers as well.

Reports from the four conventions indicate that attendees who abided by the health precautions did indeed stay healthy. And both performers and attendees were thrilled about finally gathering and singing together live and in person!

The Northeastern District hosted 350 vaccinated, masked attendees in person, with an additional 200 people watching a livestream. Due

to travel restrictions, the district's Canadian ensembles were unable to attend.

The Carolinas District hosted two Tennessee choruses whose Dixie District contest had been canceled. The **Heart of Carolinas A Cappella Mixed Chorus** was the top-scoring chorus in the Carolinas (with the same chapter's men's chorus taking second place). The NED's new **Voices United** mixed chorus was the district's largest chorus and earned its second highest score.

Carolinas District competitors were concerned that wearing masks would hurt their scores compared with other districts. After discussion and some listening in the venue, the judges assured the competitors that they could fairly judge the contest. ■



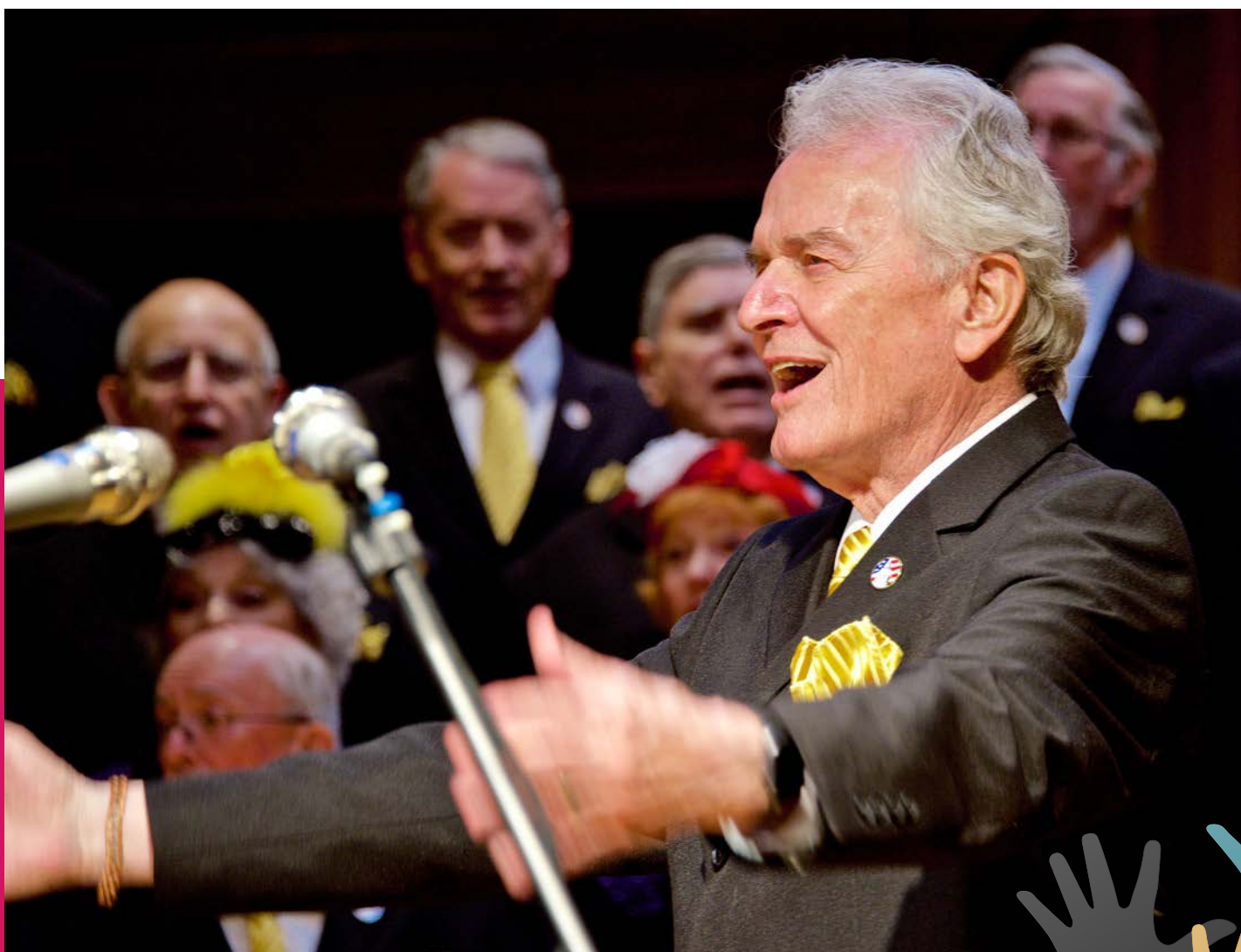
Clockwise from top: Tagging after Carolinas contest; ILL Men's Quartet Champ **Lake Shore Drive**; NED Mixed Chorus Champ **Voices United**; NED Men's Champ **Soundtrack**; impromptu chorus in Land O' Lakes; **Center Ring** quartet prepares to go onstage for ILL International Quartet Prelims.

DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

- **Carolinas:** CHORUS: Heart of Carolina (men's); Heart of Carolina A Cappella Mixed Chorus (mixed), QUARTET: **Soundtrack** (Men's) Impromptu (Mixed)
- **Illinois:** CHORUS: West Towns Chorus (Men's), Arlingtones (Mixed); QUARTET: **Lake Shore Drive** (Men's), Abilene Paradox (Seniors)
- **Land O' Lakes:** CHORUS: Great Plains Harmony (Men's); QUARTET: Coulee Classic (Men's), Double Dutch (Mixed), Loose Change (Seniors)
- **Northeastern:** CHORUS: Vocal Revolution (men's), **Voices United** (Mixed); QUARTET: **Soundtrack** (Men's), The Queens Gambit (Mixed), Trade Secret (Seniors)



CELEBRATING EVERY **VOLUNTEER**



Ray Rhymer had plenty of on-stage plaudits over the decades, but his biggest and longest-lasting impact may have come from his 20 years as district bulletin editor.



THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE EVERYTHING HAPPEN

Titles and trophies are worth celebrating, but so are all the waaaaay-behind-the-scenes folks who quietly go about solving the problems and putting in the hours to pull off everything we do.



The Barbershop Harmony Society is a volunteer-led organization from top to bottom, and it's difficult to overstate the importance and volume of the work put in by presidents, VPs, Board members, and directors at every level.

But in this issue we are celebrating some of the people who, title or no title, do so much of the behind-the-scenes work that makes everything happen. For every person selected on the following pages, there are many others who can share similar stories.

Each person featured on the following pages was nominated either by a staff member or (more often) a district leader. Were we to attempt to represent all the MVPs who serve at the chapter and quartet level, we could fill an issue or two on that topic alone. No, that's not currently part of our editorial calendar, but who knows? Tell us about the Super Barbershoppers you know at harmonizer@barbershop.org.

This issue also represents a pause from the Yearbook format that has appeared in the past two January/February issues. The Yearbook was always intended to be a one-stop reference to all the major Society-wide and district-wide events that took place the previous year, including photos and/or names of competitors, leaders, faculty, judges, etc.

As we considered the uneven approaches and outcomes throughout the Society during a full year of both COVID activity and inactivity, we thought the space would be better served in honoring all the people who do much of the heavy lifting throughout the Society.



Walt Ogburn Stillwater, MN

Croix Chordsmen member since 2017. Music Librarian and Board Member at Large, 2019 Barbershopper of the Year

Leveraging his organizational and technical skills, Walt was instrumental in helping his Minnesota chorus not only survive, but thrive, during the pandemic. From the beginning, Walt has gone to great lengths to acquire new skills. First, he erased his inexperience with barbershop by taking piano and voice lessons and forming a quartet, quickly transitioning from a learner to a leader. Then when the pandemic canceled in-person rehearsals, Walt learned video editing and created dozens of videos for internal rehearsals and external performances, greatly helping keep members engaged and motivated in singing.

Walt: As a new member, I was overwhelmed with all there was to learn about the barbershop world. I soon started seeing things that were good, but that I felt I could make better. I started with organizing the information for our chorus sponsors to help our members solicit supporters. The next step was being asked to be music librarian. This allowed me to use my organizational skills to benefit the chorus. When the pandemic hit, I used my technology skills and became part of the Zoom team. I also volunteered to learn a new skill—video editing—and created about 75 scrolling videos to make it easier for our members to see and hear the music we were working on over Zoom. I was part of the team that created two virtual choir videos that became part of the YouTube Virtual Christmas show I produced for our chorus. I also created a District Virtual Christmas Show with a compilation of videos from past shows within our District.

Favorite moment: Being named Barbershopper of the Year, followed closely by every moment I see our chorus taking another step forward in our development.

Why he volunteers: I can't sit back and let others carry the load, I have to contribute my skills and talents whenever I see the opportunity.

Ann has been helping keep online barbershop discussions civil and on point since Mark Zuckerberg was in elementary school. The rare occasions when moderators publicly flex their authority are dwarfed by all the posts we never see. (Thankfully!) Posts that violate the rules may have been removed before you saw them, and some rule-breakers might have been removed from the group or lost the ability to post without moderator approval. Most important are the untold number of offline conversations Ann and other moderators have had with people who may have crossed the line—and who have since learned to police themselves.

Ann: I first embraced barbershop social media in the early 1990s when I joined The Harmonet e-bulletin board, eventually becoming an administrator for this first barbershop social media platform. As Facebook later emerged and The Harmonet faded, I eagerly jumped in. By then I was a BHS Associate in addition to my memberships in two other bar-

I do what I do
because I want the
performers to be able
to tell their stories
in song without any
distractions, to be able
to achieve their best.



bershop organizations, so I joined or helped co-found several related Facebook groups, and am now an admin of two of the largest, the Barbershop Harmony group and the Sweet Adelines Chat group. People tell me they like my common sense, direct approach to keeping discussions on track, and I try to keep up on all things barbershop so I can help people find their way to the information they seek.

Favorite moment: Being contacted by the Society to participate in a survey several years ago, before I was a BHS member, and being told it was because I was a barbershop “Key Influencer.” Who knew?

Why she serves: As Barbershoppers, we can learn so much from each other, and these social media platforms offer a wonderful way to do that. I encourage all members to seek them out and participate in the discussions, share videos, and expand your barbershop world beyond what you experience in your local chapters. It’s free, and there are so many of us waiting there to welcome you in!



**Ann
McAlexander**
Chicago, IL

Northbrook Chapter Secretary; long-time Cardinal District volunteer as convention backstage manager, webmaster, bulletin co-editor; administrator of two of the largest barbershop Facebook discussion groups; member of BHS, Sweet Adelines, and Harmony, Inc.



Mark Freedkin Irvine, CA

Masters of Harmony: Seven-time Gold Medal Chorus Member, baritone section leader, webmaster, truck driver, vocal auditioner, countless other jobs, MoH Hall of Fame (2021); Far Western District: President’s Award (2007); Outstanding Accomplishment Award (2012)

A “dedicated volunteer for anything barbershop,” Mark spearheaded several major YiH accomplishments within FWD, including a “Young Men’s Honor Chorus” that performed at the 1999 International Convention in Anaheim. He also worked closely with the Southern California Vocal Association to establish and organize an annual “Young Men’s Harmony Festival” from 2001 through 2017, which resulted in him being appointed to the SCVA Executive Board as their first “Vice President of Barbershop Harmony Festivals”. Mark has served that organization as their volunteer webmaster since early 2000.

Mark: To paraphrase a song from the musical *Oklahoma*, “I’m just a guy who can’t say no ...”

Favorite moments: Performing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in 1996 and 2005, performing on the 1999 Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon, and enabling over 3,600 high-school young men to get hooked on barbershop between 1999 and 2017.

Why he volunteers: All of the awards and accolades are wonderful (7 golds, a silver and a bronze since joining the chapter in 1996), but I truly love singing with my brothers in the **Masters of Harmony**. Music has been a big part of my life, and this is a way of giving something back. I believe that the time you spend singing is not deducted from your allotted lifespan.

Of many super Virtual Harmony University volunteers, HU Dean Steve Scott called Rafi the “superest” for contributing his professional expertise—and then “oodles” of time—to make the weeks-long event successful. In early 2020, Rafi joined the BHS Education staff as a volunteer to help plan and organize its virtual offerings. Leveraging his professional experience with digital learning in his company’s Developer Experience and Training & Docs teams, he assisted Steve Scott, Brent Suver, and VHU with technical support, training, marketing, advising, analysis, and more. The lessons learned carried through Virtual Midwinter and VHU 2021, as the HU program continued to expand its audience and course offerings.

Rafi: The BHS Education team has such diversity in background, perspective, and complementary skills, where everyone can lend their talents in productive ways. The passion, synergy, and collaboration they share allows them to tackle challenges swiftly and effectively to offer an engaging experience for others. Time and time again, they demonstrate that when you have the right team, it really feels like anything is possible.

Why he volunteers: Barbershoppers want to learn, to grow, to enjoy music, and HU makes that accessible to everyone, no matter their talent, background, and past accomplishments. Volunteering time and energy for HU—through teaching, supporting, or simply attending—can positively impact more individuals, bringing them together through discussions, and building the barbershop community as a whole. Without the stress of the more popular contest or show settings, it helps foster a healthy, productive environment where everyone can make new friends, explore new ideas, and discover new things about themselves. No matter how the barbershop style, audience, and membership evolve, the communal love for learning found here will continue to unite barbershoppers. That alone is worth the investment, and that is why I volunteer.



Virtual Harmony University (VHU) School Board & Technical Advisor; VHU faculty; Music Candidate judge; Mid-Atlantic District Leadership Development Committee; 2018 Voices of Gotham Barbershopper of the Year

Rafi Hasib New York City, NY

CAR Events Team, JAD Events Team, JAD Laws & Regulations Committee Chair, BHS CEO Evaluation and Staff Compensation and Benefits Committee Chair

Skipp Kropp Indianapolis, IN

A long record of service usually precedes appointment to BHS leadership—but Skipp exemplifies a long string of leaders at every level who keep serving in the background long after their time in the limelight ends.

In the words of a Cardinal District Board member: *“This is a guy who has served the Society long and well. He put in his time in top leadership, and no one would blame him for resting on*



his laurels, so to speak. Instead, he is active in our district (as well as JAD) as a vital part of the Events Leadership team. He is also one of those people who is willing to help in any way he can, and always follows through. I find him to be a personal inspiration, and is an ideal example of selfless service.”

Skipp: I’ve been a member of the Society for 50 years and have gotten to know amazing people along the way. I watched the contributions of Society giants like Darryl Flinn and Ed Duplaga and I was mentored by another giant, Gene Courts, a man who gave and served immeasurably in both JAD and at the Society level. Gene was heavily involved in administration and ingrained that attitude in me. I love the Society and want to do what I can to ensure its existence in perpetuity.

Favorite moment: Confirmation by Theo Hicks (lead of 2015 champ **Instant Classic**) of acceptance of my invitation to present the Midwinter keynote address in 2019 in Nashville.

Why he volunteers: I’ve never seen life as a spectator sport. There’s only one way I know to make a difference, and that’s as an active participant, and that’s the way I’ve tried to live my life.





Tim Peterson Fort Collins, CO

Bass in Old Town Sound quartet and Denver's Timberliners mixed chorus; prior VP Operations for Parkside Harmony (PA) and president of Chorus of the Old Dominion (VA)

Have you ever started barbershopping in a new area and wished that you could have brought some of your old area/district traditions with you? Tim did, and he did something about it, too. He organized an outdoor quartet get-together to give area quartets an opportunity to sing for an audience and get ready for the RMD District Convention. Unfortunately, it was later canceled—but they went ahead with the show anyway. Twelve quartets from the greater Denver area got together in late August, 2021, for a two-hour show. For many of the participants, this was their first time singing for an audience for well over 18 months.

Old Town Sound at the festival: Chad Hoseth (T), JD Jacob (L), Tim Peterson (Bs), Tim Soper (Br), Photo by Jordan Eisel

Tim: I moved to the Rocky Mountain District a few years ago after several years in the Mid-Atlantic District. Back east, there are many less-formal get-togethers, and that doesn't really exist in RMD. As COVID restrictions eased in the late spring, I saw posts from several of my Mid-Atlantic friends getting their events going again, and that inspired me to create something local. I found an inexpensive local amphitheater and reached out to all registered quartets—men's, women's, and mixed—in the area. An hour after sending my first email, I got several positive responses and people volunteering to help (special shout-out to Tyler Wigginton), and we were off and running. The show was just so fun—quality barbershop and a lovely audience under the Colorado sunshine.

Favorite moment: Watching the first quartet take the stage and sing, and hearing the audience give them so much love. It had been so long!

Why he volunteers: I just love this art form and how it brings people together. In my opinion, Barbershop should always be an “and,” not an “or”—inclusive, not exclusive, with more options, more singing, and more fellowship.

Let's not shortchange all the volunteer service performed by people who DO have a title. Gil has two big titles: Seneca Land District Board member and President of the Binghamton, NY Chapter. He's considered a “workhorse” in the chapter and the key to taking care of countless details that keep everything running smoothly.

While it's certainly great to have contributions to any organization acknowledged, it seems unnecessary and unearned when you love what you do. As Mark Twain (and Confucius before him) said, “Find a job you love and you'll never work another day in your life.”

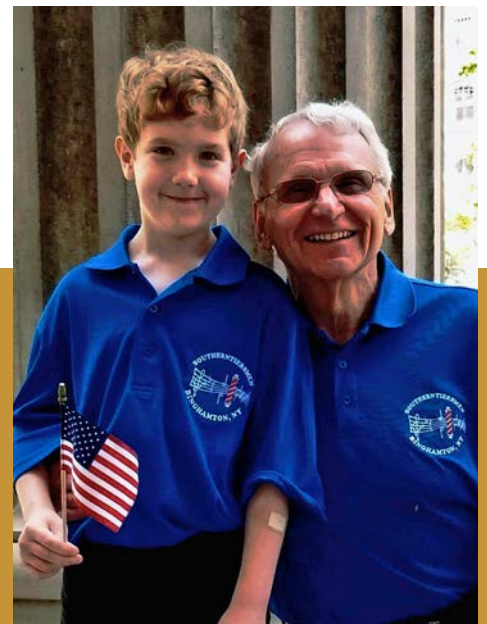
Years ago, when I was a relatively new Barbershopper, my Mom passed away unexpectedly. This occurred the same week that the **Southerntiersmen Chorus** was singing in the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, Ohio. My mother's memorial service was on the next Tuesday ... rehearsal night. That night, instead of having a chapter meeting, nearly the entire chorus traveled 60 miles to attend her service. When I expressed my gratitude to the director, Dr. Jerry Schmidt, he responded, “We couldn't be anywhere else!”

That night I thought to myself, “I can never repay the chorus for this!”

So, when I work on the weekly chapter meeting program or publish rehearsal notes so that we may grow as a chorus. I'm just trying to give back to the organization that means so much to me.

There are many individuals who selflessly contribute time, effort and financial support to the chorus. That's why the barbershop culture is so wholesome—it attracts “congenial persons of good character” with one primary requirement ... to “love barbershop harmony.”

And, it gives grandfathers an opportunity to sing with their grandchildren.

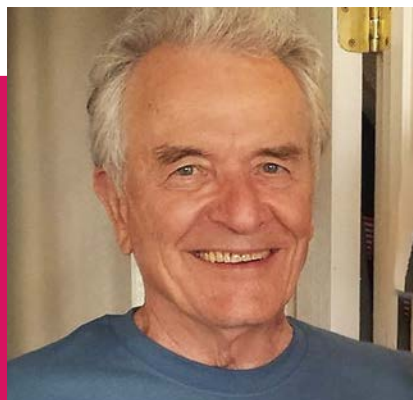


Gil Durham
Binghamton, NY

Ask anyone in the Far Western District: The district publication *Westunes* is an institution, and the production likely includes time requirements rivaling volunteer roles at any BHS level. The editor for the past 20 years, Ray recently sent out his final issue before retiring from the role, culminating over 55 years of service in various leadership positions, including many years as a chorus director, Singing judge, coach, district VP of Music & Performance, VP of Youth in Harmony, 2004 FWD Hall of Fame.

Ray: My love of Barbershop harmony and helping other Barbershoppers improve in our “hobby” has been a wonderful journey for over 55 years. My reward is when Barbershoppers, quartet or chorus, have what Jim Henry called a “Gold Medal Moment.”

Favorite moments: (1) Certified as a Sound Judge, (2) coaching the **San Diego Chapter** to third-place at International, (3) induction into the 2004 FWD Hall of Fame, (4) distinction of being the 2017 FWD Spring Convention Honor-



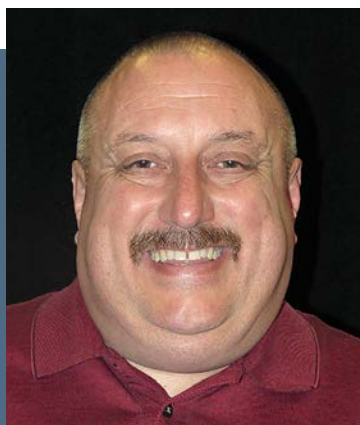
FWD
Westunes
Editor, retired
December
2021 after 20
years (at 86
years of age)

Ray Rhymer Granite Bay, CA

ee. One more: Coaching an exhausted senior quartet at the end of a HEP school, I was coaxing them to match a vowel. They “got it,” and the bari exclaimed, “We never sounded so good!” That was their Gold Medal Moment.

Why he volunteers: Love and passion prevailed for barbershop and Barbershoppers. I’m indebted to many barbershop icons that helped me over the years. I would be remiss if I hadn’t given back.

Sound of Illinois
Chorus, Past
ILL District
President,
Past district
board member,
assistant to
Jeff Bowyer, ILL
District VP of
Events



Jim Waldorf Bloomington, IL

Even in the best of times, putting on a district convention is a logistical challenge—and much more so with all the uncertainties from hosting the first BHS convention of the COVID era. Throughout the pandemic, there was much concern whether or not an ILL Fall Convention would happen. Everything was off again, on again. Once it was settled that the ILL District Fall event would happen, time was short. Jim, who lives in Bloomington and has close connections with the hotel and the venue, was able to make arrangements on site with short notice, making the event possible.

Jim: I knew time was short and we were hosting

not only the first convention for the district since the pandemic began, but the first for the whole Society. It had to be seamlessly safe and yet give the participants and the audience the right experience. I assisted Jeff Bowyer with local arrangements at the hotel and venue, arranged the donation of a shuttle bus to move the judges back and forth, gathered a riser crew (the great men of **Sound of Illinois** chorus) to transport, set up and tear down risers at the venue, arranged a new videographer (our regular one retired!), solicited program ads for the convention program (produced by Ken Ota), worked with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to provide donated name tags and packets with local items of interest (on 24 hours’ notice), and arranged for two photographers (SOI members Jim Ferrier and Jim Finch)! Finally, I arranged a quartet to sing at the City of Bloomington’s tree planting ceremony. Because of the off again/on again nature of the times, the bulk of this work took place on very short notice.

Favorite moment: Hearing that it all went off smoothly. No sickness, no cancellations. But my most unfavorable “moment” was that I could not attend any of it due to a family wedding in Nashville!

Why he volunteers: I serve because of the fine people of the Illinois District and the great hobby we all share. Reading the above, it sounds like I did a lot of work. I guess I did. But I didn’t do any of it alone. Every single person I asked for help pitched in. Some are mentioned above, many are not. But please know, it all happened because we worked together.

That's why the barbershop culture is so wholesome—it attracts "congenial persons of good character" with one primary requirement ... to "love barbershop harmony."



Judy Galloway Hood River, OR

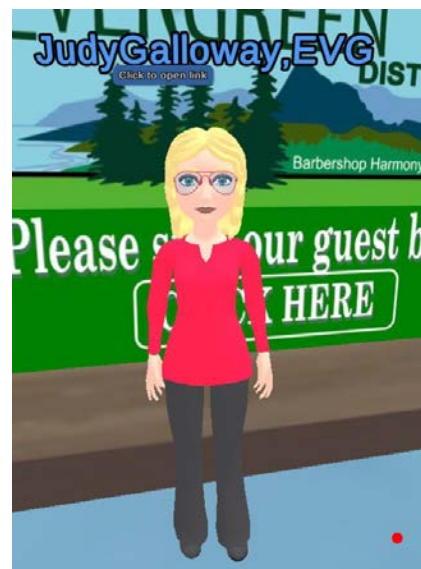
EVG Webmaster, Pacific Barbershop Summit since 2005, Past co-dean of Harmony College Northwest, 2020 EVG Barbershopper of the Year

Over the course of four months, Judy created, stocked, and staffed the Evergreen District's Hospitality Suite at the Society Virtual Midwinter Festival in January 2021. She mastered an entirely new technology while collecting priceless records, videos, and other memorabilia from throughout the district. Judy also worked with and helped people from other Districts and Alliances from around the world set up their "suites," and was informally one of the chief technical problem solvers for these organizations during the Virtual Midwinter event.

Judy: When asked to showcase our Evergreen District and become a "builder" for the Midwinter hospitality suite (at the early stages of this pandemic), I jumped at the chance to learn about new ways that people could possibly work together in the avatar world that Dusty Schleier had picked for Midwinter (through Event Farm and Virbela). I joined with other volunteers (David, Don, Peter, and Gordon) from around the world for ZOOM classes with Dustin Guyton on how to "build" our suites. But the magic happened when we all got to step onto the avatar island – and at that moment, my world changed. Here was a place that all barbershoppers could come together without leaving their homes – a place where we all could talk, visit, learn, share, attend classes, play games, do walk-about, and even try to sing tags with new friends (very slowly). Back in Evergreen, a large committee was gathering photos, videos, stories, Q&As, recording classes, and finding volunteer greeters to serve in the EVG lobby during Midwinter. While I was organizing the EVG's 36-room space, I had a chance to meet, work with, and go help other volunteers get their spaces ready before Midwinter started.

Favorite moment: The EVG lobby had an "Avatar Obstacle Course" to help get new avatars learning how to move smoothly, raise their hands, clap, shake hands with others, etc. My favorite moment was when our EVG Hall of Fame member and Treasurer did a flip right in front of me!

Why she volunteers: I've learned so much from my barbershopping friends over the years (Kendall, Ken, Bruce, Gerry, Keith, Glenn, Carl, Tom, Harry, Bill, Don, and many more) – I have to give what I can to make sure their dreams continue.



I'm indebted
to many
Barbershop
icons that
helped me
over the
years. I would
be remiss if I
hadn't given
back.

Although 2018 was the first year full BHS membership was available to everyone, countless women had been unofficial Society MVPs for decades. A tireless contributor in the Northeastern District since the 1980s, Dianne was the district's 2020 Barbershopper of the Year for her service in multiple past and ongoing roles. Integral to the NED events team since 1983, she holds many behind-the-scenes roles, including the enhancement of district conventions by bringing many major guest performers and presenters, as well as securing grants for their appearances. She teaches chapters recruiting and retention methods as District VP of Membership, serves as Standing Ovation Program coordinator, and has for many years served as both a chorus director and manager of the NED's Mountain Division.

Favorite moment: 1) Seeing the pride on my chorus members' faces following a great performance acknowledged by audience applause and/or standing ovation. 2) Seeing the entire NED member audience giving me a standing ovation when I walked across the convention stage to accept the District BOTY trophy.

Why she volunteers: My past husband sang tenor with the **The Hallmarks** and coached in the MAD and NED. When he passed away in 2003, I wanted to carry on his legacy of helping the Joe Barbershopper quartets and choruses strive to improve. That pride led to my passion to help make the barbershop experience of every member I came in contact with

Barbershop ensembles invest in enormous time to create and prepare for shows and contests. Few realize the amount of time and expertise needed to competently amplify those performances for the audience or to capture them well on video. Ron is one of the many behind-the-scenes people who lend their expertise—and enormous amounts of time—helping make our performances look and sound as good for the audiences as they do for the judges. Ron also regularly takes his expertise on the road to help chapter shows look and sound their best.

Ron: When I was asked serve in this capacity, a friend of mine, Larry Clemons, a former Presentation judge, said, “You realize this is a serious undertaking, right?” I answered “Of course I do.” At that moment, I knew I had to do my best for the contestants on stage, the audience, and the judging community. I strive to assure all technical aspects of the contests are organized, and provide coordination between the venue and our contractors to meet the schedule that is placed before us. Sometimes that means late nights. I also want the judge's venue inspection to go smoothly. I have a great team with which to work and we all focus on what is best for our contestants. In addition to serving at the district level, I also provide audio support for area choruses throughout the year when requested.

Favorite moment: When Larry called me over to his camera (he provided competitor videos) and said, “Listen to this!” I did, expecting a problem, and I said it sounded good to me. Larry said “Exactly! There isn't an issue.” He then smiled and I knew I had met his expectation.

Why he volunteers: I do what I do because I want the performers to be able to tell their stories in song without any distractions, to be able to achieve their best.

Ron Rehus San Antonio, TX



SWD
Director A/V,
2019 SWD
Barbershopper
of the Year,
Past SWD
Managing
Director

as enjoyable and fulfilling as I could and to let them know how valuable they are to our district and Society. I felt I started out small by thanking every competitor for participating and welcoming them to the stage. Somehow, throughout time, my involvement has grown! I love my little chapter, love helping all chapters improve their shows, enjoy brainstorming with my Division leaders, but most of all I enjoy seeing and greeting the many barbershop friends I've met throughout the years at the various conventions and functions. My husband Tom, a son of a Barbershopper, is a big support for my passion. As for the future or maybe just a dream, I would like to hold a position on the Society level where I can help make a difference.

Northeastern District (NED):
Chorus Director,
VP Membership
& Outreach,
Mountain Division
Manager, Awards
Chair, Standing
Ovation Program
Chair, Events Team
Member, 2018
Barbershopper of
Distinction, 2020
NED Barbershopper
of the Year



Dianne Tortorelli-Brooks
Glens Falls, NY



Director,
Floral City
Harmonizers,
Monroe North
Chapter,
Pioneer
District; Host
of "I Miss My
Barbershop
Rehearsal"
from March
2020 through
June 2021.

Chris Berry Monroe, MI

Necessity is the mother of invention, but during the pandemic, some Barbershoppers were more than innovative—and contributed way beyond what any of us would call "necessity." Chris helped Barbershoppers from all over the Pioneer District (and much of the continent) socialize and sharpen their music skills during 62 Zoom meetings he hosted over the course of 16 months. These events brought together members from his own Monroe Chapter, many other chapters in the Pioneer District, as well as members from four other districts as they discussed quartet and chorus performances.

Chris: COVID-19 shut down face-to-face meetings for the **Floral City Harmonizers** and most other chapters in March 2020. Performance that were reviewed were generally from previous conventions. The meeting format used a roses and thorns form of discussion where "roses" were those things that were found to be positive for the listener (e.g. "good blend," "no tension in the sound," etc.); and "thorns" were suggestions for the singing groups to make their next performance "just that much better" (e.g. "check in with other members of the quartet"). The meeting participants were encouraged to use comments that went beyond basic remarks like "They were good" or "I liked their outfits (or shoes)." The objective was to improve listening skills and apply the barbershop techniques we are learning within the comments on performances.

Favorite moment: Working with a young quartet for an entire evening. The quartet sang several songs from a remote location over Zoom and the 20 or so attendees that week were able to "coach" the quartet through the program. I was amazed at the comments provided by the meeting attendees and the immediate change that was seen in the quartet.

Why he volunteers: I have had so many great experiences and made a great many friends singing barbershop for the past 25 years, this is my way of helping others to have those same types opportunities to learn more about the joy of singing barbershop.



David Murphree Flat Rock, AL

*Dixie District Webmaster, Newsletter Editor,
District Member-At-Large*

You meet star performers like David from time to time—an almost-new member who dives in with enthusiasm and in little time has the connections and service accomplishments of a Barbershopper with a lot more years in the rear-view mirror. In David's case, the Dixie District had two members retire, webmaster and *Town Crier* (newsletter) editor, and David answered the call in late 2019. After some District Board retirements, David also accepted the role of Member-At-Large for the district.

David: I guess I'm a jack-of-all-trades. My prior work and volunteer experience have given me a vast collection of tools that are perfect for barbershop. I've helped with live video for district contests and editing video for a virtual performance of the **Nashville Music Medics**. Currently, I'm in the early stages of a Christmas Music Medics virtual video project with singers across the country. I only joined BHS in May of 2018, and am involved with my quartet, **Eight Feet Wide**, and three choruses: **Choo Choo Chorus**, **Music City Chorus**, and **Rocket City Chorus**.

Favorite moment: My quartet, Eight Feet Wide, was asked to deliver a singing Valentine in Decatur, AL at a barbershop event in 2020. I was told we were singing to the wife of a well known Barbershopper and that he would be there when we sing. Singing for Kay on behalf of (and with) Ken Hatton (lead of 1978 champ **Bluegrass Student Union**) was a very neat experience.

Why he volunteers: I come from a background of over 30 years in the Boy Scouts of America before I began my barbershop singing; serving is just part of my core being. I was ready to start helping with my local chorus after my first performance. With scouts, the inside volunteer joke is that it's "just one hour a week." I'm used to wearing many hats and tackling multiple tasks so applying my weird set of abilities and talents to barbershop is just natural.

At the tail end of his two-year term as Sunshine District President, Nick wondered what would become of the valuable work done by the District Presidents Council due to full council turnover every two years. He had an idea for how the next council could more easily pick up where the prior council left off—and unwittingly cast himself into an indispensable new role for the past two years.

A number of years ago, I bought a ticket to the **Heralds of Harmony** Annual Show. I went to their rehearsal the following Monday night. Young Tony DeRosa was and is still their director. His Dad, Papa Joe voice-placed me, and here I am today.

I was coming off the District President's Council as District President. There had been a problem within the Council maintaining consistency due to the fact that they only stay on for two years and then someone else from their District takes their place. What gets started rarely gets finished.

In a weak moment, I suggested to the Council that the person they elect to the District Presidents Moderator (I like facilitator better) should be someone that has been in the Council for a period of time and can pass on the programs that have been started without skipping a beat. The more I talked, the more I was thinking to myself, "Just keep talking, Nick." Sure enough, they said, "Okay, we agree, so Nick, you do it." And they voted me in on the spot. I think that I was in the right

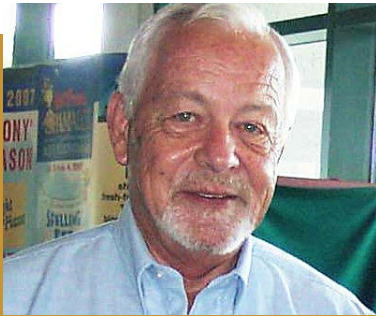


Dr. Jay Dougherty Marietta, OH

Director of Choral Activities at Marietta College. Jay is a district quartet champion, an 8-year Harmony University faculty member, an active quartet and chorus coach, and the current director of both the City of Flags Chorus (SAI) and the Alliance Chorus (BHS).

place, at the right time, to bring all of us together, BHS, Harmony Hall and the DPC. I work with a great bunch of guys from all sides. A new voice in town saying, "Keep it simple so everyone will understand what you're saying." We have accomplished a lot in the past two years, and we're in a much better place today in the relationship between all three. I have enjoyed this time with the team, getting to know so many new faces. It's nice to know that when the day is done, we're all still part of the family and tomorrow is just another day.

I do this because I think that I can make a difference by looking at things from a different perspective. Listening, rather than speaking, keeping things simple, and always surrounding myself with positive people. It's so much easier.



Past Sunshine District President, Moderator for BHS District Presidents Council

Nick Schwob Zephyr Hills, FL

One of the biggest silver linings of the past couple of years has been quality and quantity of people who have been able to visit our chapters virtually—and one of the most widespread visitors just happened to be a well-known music professor who has never failed to pack his popular high-tech classes at Harmony University. Pre-pandemic, Jay couldn't have visited scores of chapters around the continent as he did via Zoom, where he presented on tuning techniques, overtones, and the BHS Music Category, among other things.

Jay: Presenting on tuning and overtones is always a joy. Whether it's at my Harmony University class or over Zoom, it's always a delight to see people with shocked faces as they truly hear what overtones sound like for the first time.

Why he volunteers. I firmly believe that people's lives are enriched by music. If I possess any knowledge that I can impart to others, I'm excited to do so. The joy that harmony brings to me is too much to keep to myself. I'm eager to share it with anyone that will listen.



Music VP for Central Carolinas Chapter (Heart of Carolina A Cappella)

Jason Patrick Apex, NC

Jason represents all the Barbershoppers who spent countless hours developing virtual choir videos over the first year of the pandemic. When it became obvious that a Fall 2020 Carolinas convention would not be possible, Jason and Bill Adams, the Director of the Central Carolinas Chapter, suggested inviting the District's barbershop shut-ins to participate in a district-wide virtual choir performance of Clay Hine's "It's the Music That Brings Us Together." Jason spent countless hours over many late nights and weekends editing and assembling videos from across the district to complete the project.

Jason: After just a handful of Zoom rehearsals, and with no end to the pandemic in sight, it became obvious that our chorus needed a goal to work toward in order to survive. It needed to be something that we could share with our friends, family, and community as we normally would with our live performances. Together with our music team, we came up with a plan to produce a series of virtual chorus videos. Some were simple "Brady box" creations while others were more involved, including cinematic elements, photos of family and friends, and even drone shots. It kept us busy and moving forward, but most importantly, it kept us singing! So, when it became clear that a 2020 District Convention was not possible, it only made sense to share what we had learned with the District. We invite you to check out what kept us going on YouTube at "Heart of Carolina."

Favorite moment: It was amazing to witness the creativity of our members throughout the process and to see them stepping up and out of their comfort zones to learn about things like how to work with audio software and how to record videos against a shower curtain in the bathroom with their phones.

Why he serves: Music was always such a big part of my life growing up, but it was one that I feared I might miss out on by choosing not to pursue music as a career. Barbershop has given me a way to keep music in my life; but even more, it has given me an amazing extended family with which to share it. ■



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“We’re proud to support Next Generation Barbershop programs. **It’s the perfect way for us to pay it forward.** As former educators, we know that the future of BHS is with our youth.

Our goal is to have an educator or mentor introduce young people of tomorrow to barbershop music and our Society early in their lives, not to let them “stumble” onto barbershop like we did.

Please join us to “Show Them the Way” and invest in the future of our Society by supporting the Next Generation Barbershop program. We have confidence that our donations, made directly to BHS, will be efficiently utilized to support BHS programs both now and in the future.”

Rich Knight and Peggy Leon
-Music Educators and
BHS Youth Donors



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MISSION

We Need Your Help to Preserve Our Legacy



The amount of analog video and audio footage and photography just sitting in the BHS basement Archives is absolutely staggering.

It's one of those things where you actually have to walk into the Archives and see it for yourself to get an idea of exactly how vast the collection of nearly a century's worth of priceless Barbershop history truly is. Visitors to the Archives are greeted with shelves upon shelves of huge arrays of assets in a wide variety of formats. There are reel-to-reel videos and magnetic audio tape, obscure tape deck formats, cassettes, vinyls, binders full of photo film negatives, slides, and even audio formats like wax cylinders, all of which are essentially unplayable without the proper equipment.

Adding to the complexity of digitizing these assets is the limited shelf-life of a considerably large portion of our reel-to-reel video footage. As film ages it can become brittle and can easily crack. Some of it has become so old and compromised that in certain cases we have one shot to run the film through a digitization device to capture the images and audio before the film itself irreparably breaks. We are basically in a race against time.

Thanks to generous donations from our 17 Districts for the 2020 Legacy Quartet Contest, we were able to

“With the right equipment, we could immediately begin digitizing large portions of our analog audio and video assets in-house without relying on expensive digital conversion shops.”

Doug Gordon
- Building and Archives Manager

acquire the resources to farm out the digital restoration of a considerable amount of priceless, never-before-seen footage dating back well into the 1940s, but even this relatively large-scale project barely scratched the surface.

The overwhelmingly positive response from those who enjoyed the Legacy Quartet Contest event showed us just how valuable bringing our incredible history back to life in fully-restored high-resolution glory is.

Whether for sheer enjoyment of classic barbershop and ringing chords, historical analysis, reliving old memories from conventions gone by, celebrating past quartet heroes, or exposing a new generation of singers to the rich history of the art form, our history needs to be preserved.

Preservation is our duty. It is our charge. And we need your help. Consider giving today!



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give.barbershop.org

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

Merrimack Valley Chorus The award-winning Merrimack Valley A Cappella Chorus, in Andover MA, is seeking a dynamic director to lead a vibrant, fun-loving community of SAI women in their musical and artistic growth. Please submit a resume to directorsearch@merrimackvalleychorus.org, or visit www.merrimackvalleychorus.com for more information.

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.

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Topeka, KS

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Greater Ozarks, AR

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Peter Somerville

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Les Tait

Frank Thorne

Adrian F Van De

Mosselaer

Kelowna, BC

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Yuma, AZ

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Dwain Chambers
Key developer of Contest Administrator role, past CA Category Specialist



Bob Spong
Bari of 1975 champion Happiness Emporium

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EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Marty Monson
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library@barbershop.org
Janice Bane
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customerservice@barbershop.org
Caki Gray
Director of Membership
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DEVELOPMENT

development@barbershop.org
Marty Monson
CEO/Executive Director
Katie Macdonald
Relationship Manager
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Community Fundraising Manager
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EVENTS & CONVENTIONS

events@barbershop.org
Dusty Schleier
Director of Events & Conventions
Chad Bennett
Show Production Manager

HARMONY MARKETPLACE

customerservice@barbershop.org
Justin Gray
Warehouse Manager

FINANCE

finance@barbershop.org
Erik Dove
Chief Financial Officer / Chief Operating Officer
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

support@barbershop.org
Sam Hoover
IT Manager
Rich Smith
Salesforce Administrator

MARKETING

marketing@barbershop.org
Devin Anna Bradford
Director of Marketing
Jeremy K. Gover
Video Production Manager
Eddie Holt
Digital Media Manager
Brian Lynch
Public Relations Manager

MUSIC EDUCATION

education@barbershop.org
Steve Scott
Director of Harmony University and Education Services
Brent Suver
Music Educator Relationship Manager

OUTREACH

outreach@barbershop.org
Joe Cerutti
Director of Relationship Management
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impact@barbershop.org
Erin Harris
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908-391-2907
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OFFICIAL ALLIANCES

- Barbershop Harmony Australia
barbershop.org.au • Dan Millgate: secretary@barbershop.org.au
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barbershopharmony.nz • John Denton: johnandchrisd@gmail.com
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fabs.fi • Johannah Boberg, fabs.hallitus@gmail.com
- IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)
irishbarbershop.org • Liz Nolan: iabsexecutive@gmail.com
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labbs.org.uk • Natalie Feddon: chair@labbs.org.uk
- MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association)
mixedbarbershop.org • Barry Towner: barry.towner@gmail.com
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GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

harmonizer@barbershop.org

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THE TAG

Tom Gentry, Tagmaster

tgbari1@gmail.com

A Bills classic

Some astute readers noticed that the TTBB version of last issue's "Joe Liles Tag" did not match the commentary. Gremlins crept into the printer's office by dark of night and substituted an earlier version of the tag for the intended one. The intended appears at the bottom of this page. You now have two tag options when it comes to honoring Joe!

The 1917 song "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows" was sung by what is probably the most famous barbershop quartet of all time, the 1950 champion **Buffalo Bills**. Beginning in 1957, the quartet played the School Board in *The Music Man*, which ran for 1,375 performances on Broadway, then starred in the 1962 film.

This tag, though, was sung by the championship configuration of the quartet, with Dick Grapes on baritone. It may have been written by the Bills' legendary arranger and coach Phil Embury—Walter Latzko's marvelous arrangements were to come later—but we really don't know for sure. Dick chose to keep his secure job rather than take a gamble at Broadway, so Ohioan Wayne "Scotty" Ward took his place in *The Music Man*. (Dick told me he never regretted his decision.)

Measures 2 and 3 are quite interesting, with the second chord in 2 rooted a tritone away from the first one. (A tritone is half an octave, three whole steps, hence its name.) And the tritone move from there to the first chord in 3 gets us back to the root we started on. The third and seventh change roles each time, causing, for example, the bari to have to raise an eyebrow and then lower a shoulder in order to tune what looks like a single tone.

If the technical stuff does not mean anything to you—or even if it does—just be ready, no matter what part you are singing, to have fun making slight adjustments in pitch to hear the chords ring. And, like the "Hokey Pokey," isn't that what it's all about? ■

I'm Always Chasing Rainbows

TTBB voicing

As sung by the Buffalo Bills

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Wait-ing to find a lit-tle blue-bird in vain.

SSAA voicing

As sung by the Buffalo Bills

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Wait-ing to find a lit-tle blue-bird in vain.

SATB voicing

As sung by the Buffalo Bills

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Wait-ing to find a lit-tle blue-bird in vain.

Joe Liles Tag

TTBB voicing

Tom Gentry 2021

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Through glad times and sad times, you al-ways brought us smiles. We love you, our broth-er Joe Liles, Joe Liles! Liles! Joe Liles! Liles! Joe Liles! Liles!

A Serenade is *always* in season!

Five-song collection arranged in the barbershop style:

Sweet Valentine
(Sweet Adeline)

I Love You Truly

Let Me Call You Sweetheart
Let Me Call You Sweetheart
Intro

Story of the Rose
(Heart of My Heart)

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