Midtown
2023 International Quartet Champion

Noteworthy
Hall of Famers Renee Craig and Vocal Spectrum
Manhattan Kansas Chapter gives to 11 schools

Inside
Louisville Convention Recap, All Competitors from the 2023 International Contests
Three great ways to compete in a Seniors Chorus

Take the stage for the 2024 Senior Chorus Championship! Whether you’re part of a qualifying chapter or district chorus, or representing part of the first-ever All-Society Seniors Chorus, you’ll compete in a BHS fully-sanctioned chorus contest, under standard judging rules and full rankings.

LEARN HOW AT BARBERSHOP.ORG/MIDWINTER
They call New York City the “The City That Never Sleeps”.

We’re barbershoppers. We’ve been skipping sleep at conventions for 86 years.

What is there to do at Midwinter in New York City?

What is there NOT to do? Midwinter in NYC will be all under one roof and will include everything you know and love about Midwinter: World-class shows with the best in barbershop, the Seniors Quartet Contest, the Youth and Seniors Chorus Festival, and the NextGen Junior quartet contest.

And did we mention it’s in NEW YORK CITY?
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An all-time great convention week was the most international International of all time, with many of the best performances coming from overseas groups, for a total of nine nations represented on stage. We also saw by far highest-scoring Top 5 in quartet history, with all topping last year’s silver medal score. It wasn’t because of the judging—the performances were simply that good. Editor of The Harmonizer, Lorin May, adds to the historical record from this historical convention with his photos and realtime recordings.

On the cover: Midtown, 2023 International Champion. Photo by Read Photography

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Pacific Connection singers from New Zealand serenade a newly arrived bride & groom during Saturday Night post-Finals festivities.
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SWEET PEA
CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’
WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD
BLUE SHADOWS ON THE TRAIL
(THEY LONG TO BE) CLOSE TO YOU
HAPPY TOGETHER
GOD BLESS AMERICA
SINCE I DON’T HAVE YOU

AND MANY, MANY MORE
SHOP.BARBERSHOP.ORG

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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
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One great privilege of interviewing President John Santora and CEO Marty Monson is getting inside their heads on how much barbershop means to them. The snapshots published as the “Starting Pitch” column are about a tenth of the wide-ranging 90-minute conversations. Prompting them to discuss “What did you wish you had known when you first started barbershopping?” threatened to run an entire afternoon. Distilled, their thoughts divided into four key points, summarized here, but arching over it all: “Barbershop is never just one thing.”

MARTY: Barbershop is always about finding three other voices and hitting a chord, and that’s maybe the purest aspect. But it’s not just the barbershop seventh chords. It’s the smiles that you create with strangers or people you’ve known forever.

Our mission has not been solely focused on just barbershop harmony music-making. The BHS Mission says we bring people together—not in harmony only, or in fellowship only—it says harmony and fellowship. It’s dual. Come for the music, stay for the fellowship, but they’re balanced. That’s a key model to our success that has done a lot of good in 85 years.

JOHN: There’s an infinite range of personalities across all chapters. They’re all so similar, and all so different, but they’re all open to welcoming people who want to sing. That culture of welcoming and acceptance cuts across all of our groups. That meant so much to me, as my career relocated our family several times. You move to a new city or country, and it helps you get your feet on the ground.

MARTY: I wish I would have known I would actually be meeting some real heroes along the way—people who exude what it means to make a difference. I think about some Hall of Fame people I’ve met and the serious impact that these movers and shakers have had. We should offer a leadership class on the Hall of Fame to understand the historical elements: What are the challenges that they saw? Through them, they still had the tenacity, the perseverance, and the will to perpetuate and transform the Barbershop Harmony Society.

BRIAN: Learn early in your life that these are the good old days, with these greats. I knew Dean Snyder! Oh, my gosh! What a giant of a person to have known! I got to have lunch with him, got to sit at his knee and learn. There will be people 30 years from now who will say, “Wait a minute, you knew Vocal Spectrum? You sang for Jim Henry?” Cherish the now.
I CAN FIND HAPPINESS AS PART OF MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF CHAPTERS

MARTY: All the chapters I’ve joined have been similar, and different: Iowa City; Kalamazoo; and the Great Northern Union of Minneapolis. They have the same common ground, yet they’re all unique and different in their own identities and what they do. Over time, I’ve appreciated the uniqueness that each brings instead of placing everyone in the same sphere of expectation.

JOHN: These days, many high-achieving choruses are actively reaching out to more singers. They don’t have to limit themselves to premium singers who have a superb voice the day they walk into the organization. There are more high-quality “Joe Barbershop” choruses that do their best to make sure that everybody has the tools and the training opportunities to become better.

MARTY: One big growth area has been groups redefining themselves around their total musical package, their total artistic impact on their community of audiences. It’s not solely about that single moment on the stage with judges in front of you. And this applies across the entire spectrum of abilities, goals and just having fun.

I CAN FIND HAPPINESS IN DIFFERENT MODES OF PARTICIPATION

JOHN: Our individual barbershop experiences are initially self gratifying—come to a local chapter rehearsal on Tuesday night, ring a few chords, have one or two shows and a couple of singouts a year, and that’s one level of participation. As someone grows in the culture, there are opportunities to participate in the local community. It might be as part of the entertainment infrastructure of their community, or assisting music educators in the community—things that take them beyond the rehearsal space one night a week. There’s a level of personal achievement and gratitude that’s kind of self-reinforcing from doing that as well.

OVER TIME, I’VE APPRECIATED THE UNIQUENESS THAT EACH BRINGS INSTEAD OF PLACING EVERYONE IN THE SAME SPHERE OF EXPECTATION.

MARTY: I wish I would have known or taken advice from my father about going to Harmony University. That one was a complete miss! It is a transformation from being a dabbler in barbershop to becoming a highly engaged Barbershopper. You walk into this safe barbershop bubble with no password or code. You are just welcomed in and given all the love and joy of not just barbershop, but just the joy of singing together and creating harmony. I wish I would have taken heed to that, or had an opportunity, perhaps, with my high school quartet. That would have just been over-the-moon crazy!

JOHN: Even though I’ve been part of some high-achieving chapters, I’m not even sure at this point how many chorus medals I have. I don’t have a gold, but I have pretty much everything else. But getting into a chorus to win a competition, or to get a medal has not even been on my radar for 10 years. I joined the Alexandria Harmonizers to sing on the chorus trip to Normandy for the D-Day event in 2014. I’ve stayed for 8 years because I just love the culture.

On the other hand, I also stayed with Patapsco Valley because that’s a small chorus where with my modest level of ability and talent I was able to make a contribution as a section leader, as an assistant director, and that was rewarding. Both kinds of chapter experiences have brought me joy.

THE MORE I GAVE, THE RICHER I BECAME

JOHN: Until probably 10 years into my barbershop career, I didn’t realize the universal willingness and desire to
help other barbershoppers. That goes all the way from singing a tag and a hotel lobby at 2 o’clock in the morning to coaches and the judging community giving back so much to the organization. And amazingly, consider the chorus director of one chapter who willingly spends time coaching another chorus they will compete against! What love for the art and the people that takes!

**MARTY:** At my first few District & International conventions before becoming CEO, I had no concept or idea of the paddling under the water by hundreds of volunteers that created the environment for a memorable convention and contest experience. It has really impacted how I look at the strength of our volunteer network for delivering great barbershop experiences.

**BRIAN:** It’s hard enough to get people to volunteer for chapter roles, but at least they can see their immediate impact in their own weekly community. Thank goodness for District officers! They work just as hard without that same level of gratitude or immediate feedback.

**JOHN:** All these different ways of barbershopping—as a singer, mentor, learner, servant—are not apparent on your first day in BHS. But what a rich mosaic of opportunity we enjoy!

**Greg Christian**
Washington, DC

In the July/August Chapter Eternal, David Smotzer was incorrectly listed as lead of 1984 International Champion Rapscallions. He was instead the tenor.

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

**Toward a more inviting culture**

Having read Jake Bartlett’s article “Navigating the Afterglow” [Jan/Feb 2023 issue], I wish to share a recent experience I had at a BHS chapter’s informal gathering at a microbrewery in Baltimore in late August. I’d say that there were 40-50 BHS members present. Not a single person invited me to sing with them.

Now before you think, “Well, maybe they didn’t know you were a singer,” I’ll tell you that I’m an African-American (which makes me pretty noticeable in the barbershop community) who, in the last 18 months, has sung in two division conventions, the Festival at 2022's International Convention, Harmony College-East and two Harmony Brigades. I’ve also attended multiple informal events. Moreover, at least a half-dozen members of the host chapter know me by face and/or name.

I wish I could say that this was a unique experience, but unfortunately, it’s starting to feel like the norm. After attending the International Convention in Charlotte last year, I wrote BHS leadership saying that I felt as if I’d been invited to someone’s family reunion and left to fend for myself. And my experience at a division convention last year was pretty similar.

It’s ironic to me that these experiences come amid a number of published articles and letters over the past few years bemoaning the Society’s falling membership. From my perspective, that phenomenon is totally understandable. BHS members don’t seem to be interested in expanding the breadth of their singing communities.

Why would people join an organization that’s not welcoming? I LOVE barbershop singing, but I’m finding myself being more and more reticent about participating in BHS events outside my chapter. Being ignored sucks.

In many cultures, a visitor is honored and revered. I hope to see that become the norm in the BHS.
DOWNLOAD THE 2022 IMPACT REPORT

CULTURE
FRIENDSHIP

By 2022, barbershoppers were back from the pandemic. The Barbershop Harmony Society is critical to our mission, and though we’ve weathered the isolation, we will never take the value of singing and community for granted.

2022
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
IMPACT REPORT

Charlotte International Convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society

- First annual
- First Quarter
- First Open
- First Quartet
- First University
- First images
- First videos

Relive the moments of the convention with our photos and videos.

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

Our Vision
Everyone in Harmony

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**NOTEWORTHY**

The latest in the world of barbershop

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**BHS HALL OF FAME**

**Vocal Spectrum and Renee Craig join BHS Hall of Fame**

The 2006 champion inspired countless groups and set the bar extra high; all-around musical genius Renee Craig is the first Hall of Famer who didn’t (couldn’t) belong to the Society.

**Vocal Spectrum** (2006 International quartet champ) and Renee Craig were inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame at the 2023 International Convention in Louisville. Still in high demand, Vocal Spectrum is one of the finest and most influential quartets in BHS history.

The late Renee Craig was a truly world-class talent as a performer, arranger, director, and coach. She is the first BHS Hall of Famer who was not a BHS member (she did not have the option) and the first woman to be so honored.

**VOCAL SPECTRUM**

The 2006 champion joins 12 other Hall of Fame quartets that have had substantial impact during and after their competitive years. Still the highest-scoring youth champion after winning the college contest in 2004, two years later Vocal Spectrum won International gold. In two decades as a high-profile show quartet, the quartet’s musical excellence and ever-youthful energy continues to introduce countless youth and others to barbershop harmony and to the Society.

Tim Waurick (T), Eric Dalbey (L), Chris Hallam (Bs), Jonny Moroni (Br) continue to raise the bar of vocal excellence, challenging all quartets to those high standards. Jonny is co-director of the Ambassadors of Harmony; Eric serves as a BHS Certified Singing judge; and as a learning track producer, Tim forever changed the landscape of how Barbershop-pers learn music; he was individually inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame in 2022. All four are popular coaches at district schools and beyond.

**RENEE CRAIG**

Renee Craig thrived in the professional music world, and as a long-time Sweet Adeline, her many arranging and performing innovations made a large and enduring impact on the entire barbershop world.

Although not a BHS member, she arranged many gold medal-winning men’s charts, including “May I Never Love Again,” Everybody Loves A Lover,” “Country Roads,” “Back in the Old Routine,” and “Tumble Down Shack in Athlone.” Prominent BHS arrangers used Renee’s arrangements as prototypes for charts such as “Lover Come Back,” “What’ll I Do,” “I Have Dreamed,” and “Royal Garden Blues.”

She also coached men’s ensembles and directed the BHS Westchester Chordsmen chorus. She sang lead in the landmark Cracker Jills quartet, directed the Ramapo Valley Chorus to three championships, and founded and directed the Coronet Club Chorus. Her personality and charisma were a model of performance.

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**READ MORE ONLINE** Read more about all our BHS Hall of Fame members and quartets at barbershop.org/history.
This past spring, the Manhattan, Kansas chapter presented $750 grants to 10 local and regional high and middle schools in the area. These grants came from the net proceeds from our Christmas/Holiday Show. Over the last 12 years, the chapter, including the Little Apple Chorus (men) and now the Heartland Harmony Chorus (women), has presented 44 grants of $750 or $500 to local and area schools for a total of $29,500. In addition, the chapter has provided another $13,800 for scholarships to high and middle school teachers to attend Harmony University, scholarships to vocal music students at Kansas State University, contributions to BHS & the Harmony Foundation, and other local arts programs. Including this year’s contributions, the total since 2011 is $43,800.

Can your chapter squeeze a few dollars from its budget to support a school in buying new music, help to improve a sound system or even buy choir robes where desired? I bet most of our chapters can find even $100 dollars or more in their budgets or even “pass the hat” at several chapter meetings to collect some dollars and coins to help a nearby school.

– Harvey Kiser
kskisers@cox.net

Ringmasters is the real deal on new Swedish family show

In Sweden, the premiere episode of SVT’s new family program—translated as ”Really?!”—featured BHS 2012 International Champion Ringmasters. The jury had a task: Which is the real barbershop group? Both the champs and the impostors were asked questions by the jury, then were able to brainstorm and ask for audience help. We will assume that they weren’t allowed to ask the three groups to sing, or this would have been a very short episode!

Gene Spilker and Larry Bomback elected to 2024 BHS Board

At its July meeting, the BHS Board of Directors elected two new at-large members. Gene “Doc” Spilker and Larry Bomback will be seated in January 2024 to three-year terms.

Music Musicality Category

The new Category name and concepts will be in place for Fall 2023 contests. In addition to the name change, the Category Description will add key concepts such as unity/contrast, tension/release, and thematic development. Guidance was added to judge common stylistic aspects such as swing rhythms and contrasting textures. For most performances, the scoring approach and levels will remain unchanged. The newer language will provide better guidance according to how judges have already been judging. The full Category Description will be coming soon!

Richard Mathe passes away

A member of the BHS Hall of Fame 2009 class, Richard Mathe passed away on June 15, 2023. His direct and indirect impact on the barbershop world was immeasurable. As director of choral activities at Bowling Green State University, he mentored hundreds of young men and introduced barbershop harmony to music educators across North America. Members of his Men’s Chorus went on to win dozens of BHS International Quartet Medals.

Making a Difference

How your chapter can support music in local schools

The Manhattan, Kansas Chapter with the Riley County High School music program, one of 11 area schools to receive a $750 check in 2023.
2024 CONVENTIONS

NYC & Cleveland: ring your tags here

Both Midwinter in NYC and Cleveland 2024 will include innovative and fun convention events that you’ve never seen before!

For a destination that truly has it all, nothing tops New York City. Every great show … every cuisine … every art … and fantastic barbershop are all mere steps away at the 2024 Midwinter Convention, January 9–14. Registration

• Seniors Quartet Championship
• NEW: Seniors Chorus Championship
• Junior Quartet Contest
• Junior Chorus Contest
• Nightly shows featuring the very best of barbershop!

Seniors Chorus Championship to launch at 2024 Midwinter. Following several years of experimentation, a new International-level contest aimed at singers age 55+. Each chorus must represent a registered BHS Chapter and District. A three-year pilot of the new contest will be adjudicated under standard BHS contest rules, and begin

CLEVELAND ROCKS!

The party we had scheduled for Cleveland in 2021 is finally on the books for 2024! A great venue and facilities will host exciting first-ever opportunities. Watch your email inbox for details about how to enter the Comedy Quartet Festival, as well as how you can sing for score on the International Chorus stage under the direction of Greg Clancy and Justin Miller!

REGISTER ONLINE
Get tickets and additional details at barbershop.org/midwinter and at barbershop.org/cleveland.
TWO RIVERS' NEW OUTDOOR STAGE NAMED AFTER 1951 CHAMP SCHMITT BROTHERS

In 1951, hundreds of cars paraded from the train station in Manitowoc to Central Park in the small town of Two Rivers to welcome their hometown heroes, the SPEBSQSA champion Schmitt Brothers quartet. This past July, the city dedicated a lasting memorial to honor the four brothers—Jim, Joe, Paul and Fran Schmitt—to the harmonies of six barbershop quartets and four choruses.

The extended Schmitt family and friends raised more than $122,000 for the naming rights to the stage. More than 325 Schmitt family descendants from nearly 20 states attended the celebration and gathered on stage to sing a Schmitt Brothers favorite, “These Will Be the Good Old Days.”

The three-hour Harmony Show presented many award-winning quartets such as YTBN, Checkmate, the Vintage Mix Quartet, Coulee Classics, St. Croix Crossing and Happiness Emporium. Four Choruses—including the Plymouth/Oshkosh chapters, Northern Gateway, Fox Valleyaires, and Clipper City Chordsmen—also took the stage. The Crescendudes, Jukebox/Lake Effect, and Chill Factor joined in the afterglow.

The event was emceed by 2004 International Senior Quartet Champion and Downstate Express lead Bruce Odell, Land O’Lakes District President Jay Althof, and Barbershop Harmony Society CEO Marty Monson.

Throughout the day, the park was filled to capacity. Many took advantage of taking a photo while sitting on a park bench with a life-sized cut-out of the Schmitt Brothers, enjoying a Schmitt Brothers Barbershop Brew from the Cool City Brewing Company, or having their copy of “The Schmitt Brothers” book signed by the author.
2023 International Quartet Champion: Midtown

2023 Next Generation Varsity Quartet Champion: Full Effect

Headline

Barbershop Harmony Society

Louisville

2023 International Contest
Music City Chorus, the first chorus since 1957 to leap from non-medalist to champion in the following contest.

Harmony University
Director Steve Scott leads nearly 5,000 voices in the U.S. National Anthem during our first BHS International Convention since 2019.
14:15 p.m. On my way to take pictures of the Board meeting and take some Board portraits. Can’t walk 10 feet without running into someone I want to talk to. Luckily, today I have time. But once the cameras and voice recorder are in my hands, it’s hard to put them down until the Quartet Finals wrap up. #StillBestWorkWeekEver

8:30 We had dinner across the river in Indiana in a crowded restaurant. Sat down at the only open spot and had a long dinner with two very interesting best buddies: a current police detective and city councilman and former WWE Wrestler, and the other guy was a multi-millionaire toymaker with an international thief ex-wife. They also may have just been jerking our chains while trying to top each other’s tall tales. In their defense, the first guy was built like John Cena and the toy tycoon paid for our meals and we saw his blinged-out Corvette. Expecting to see more authenticity onstage this week. #BarbershoppersAreReal

TUESDAY, JULY 4

Quarterfinals Session 1

10:42 Throwback’s honky-tonk uptune and “Run Away With Me”—flawless! They’re here to win it! #Would’veWonSilverIn2022

10:51 Mark Fortino [L] and Micah Jeppsen [T] of Harmonium have been at this together forever, and haven’t lost a step. Their hair color is the only clue they aren’t time-travelers from the ’90s. #DorianGrayTwins

11:03 That’s Semifinals level stuff from Praxis—Francesco Logozzo and Kevin Clark are amazing
Quartet members listed as tenor, lead, bari, and bass regardless of standing order

54. Tempest (SWD)
Chris Kirkland, Daniel Cooper, Chuck Loesch, David Kaufman
Austin, TX

53. The Essentials (FWD)
Graham Pence, Ben Smurthwaite, Jason James, John Saylor
Brea, CA; Frank Thorne; Westminster, CA

56. Summer Street (NED)
Jordan Kugler, Anand Staram, Dan Allison, Ray Johnson
Frank Thorne; Greater Boston, MA; Natick, MA

55. cityScape (CAR)
Allen Reynolds, Howard McAdory, Paul Gilman, Jay Hawkins
Louisville, KY; Nashville, TN; Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH

58. Five Star (PIO)
Cole Carey, Jamie Carey, Jeff Opperman, James Masalskis
Grand Rapids, MI

57. Lady Barbalade (IABS)
Hilary Harnett, Rebecca Gilbert, Clare Hayes-Brady, Ailbhe Hayes
Blingmasters, Bling Chapter, Ireland

60. Center Ring (ILL)
Craig Hall, Ben Dirks, Pat Henders, Andy Isbell
Chicagoland West Suburban, IL; Frank Thorne; St. Charles, MO; Sterling Rock-Falls, IL

59. Mischief (RMD)
Elle Diaz, Adam Haggart, Andrew Gordon, Grant Goulding
Wasatch Front, UT

54. Tempest (SWD)
Chris Kirkland, Daniel Cooper, Chuck Loesch, David Kaufman
Austin, TX
45. MixTape (JAD)
Dayve Gabbard, Jenni Sheets, Cy Wood, Brian O'Dell
Central Carolina; Dallas Metro, TX; Frank Thorne; Greater Central Ohio; Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH

46. Mom's Favorite (JAD)
Jonathan Lang, Alyssa Lang, Mark Lang, Don Slamka
Frank Thorne; Hilldale, WI; Independence, OH

47. Hot Ticket (LABBS)
Bethany Southworth, Oli Goodall, Isaac Gibbs, Joe Nelson
Hartford, CT; Hell's Kitchen, NY; Portland, ME; Southern New England

48. IN HOUSE (LABBS)
Jane Wadsworth, Julie Phillips, Rachel Sheldon, Jo Braham
Cheshire Chord Company

49. Madhattan (MAD)
Max Mellman, Alexander Ronneburg, Spencer Wight, Richard Townsend
Frank Thorne; Greater Boston, MA; Hell’s Kitchen, NY

50. Rare Blend (JAD)
Jason Wulf, Chad Wulf, Jeff Dolan, Ryan McDivitt
Buckeye Columbus, OH; Frank Thorne; Greater Central Ohio

51. TopGun (SNOBS)
Ellen Ritke, Anna Rosenberg, Sofia Hagman, Susanna Balsvik
Northern Stars Chorus; Pearls of the Sound

52. Greenlight (NED)
Louis Ades, Sebastian Massa, Will Rogers, Chris Cutler-Wood
Hartford, CT; Hell’s Kitchen, NY; Portland, ME; Southern New England
leads. And great songs ... that the Music and Singing judges seem to be discussing at length. Those were top-shelf vocals, but ... #NotEnoughSevenths?

11:13 I’ve always said more groups need to sing Nashville charts, so thanks to Fleet Street for so entertainingly picking up the country banner—specifically, “country drinking songs.” #OneOfThoseWordsIsRedundant

11:36 Harmonic Thunder’s “Softly as I Leave You” about the last words said to a beloved companion dying—wow! #RippedMyHeartOut

11:44 Great lead from The Essentials’ Ben Smurthwaite. #AndWhatATag!

11:54 Sth Melody—three sisters and a brother from New Zealand, and the best Southern Hemisphere group since Musical Island Boys—can’t wait to see more from them! And the best audience haka since MIB, too. #LockForSemifinals

12:04 p.m. Daily Special destroys with “If Moon Was Cookie”–a Cookie Monster song delivered as an earnest ballad. (“Me eat with both hands. No need fork or spoon. Me chew it all up until there no moon.”) #MakeItGoViral

12:13 Semifinals level performance by Limelight—wow, no giveaways that they are British. They sounded more American than even ... Lemon Squeezy. #LockForSemifinals2

12:47 Another Semifinals-level performance with Studio Talk, and a Finals-level bass in Donovan Davis. I’ve never seen such a strong Quarterfinals. #30QuartetsInSemifinals?

1:00 Midtown does “New York State of Mind” as a bebop uptempo. Wow! And the ballad (“If I Say I’m Over You”)—if that’s not a gold medal performance this year, I can’t wait to hear what is. #JustWaitUntilTheSemiFinals

1:09 This is a ridiculously stacked contest. At this rate, a great group like Showpiece won’t make the Semifinals. #40QuartetsInSemifinals?

1:11 Looking at this judging panel. Soon-to-be Board member Gene Spilker is here, and with all the Performance judges is Theresa Weatherbee, who finally gets to score her first International after being a Harmony, Inc. judge scoring with the BHS system since the ’90s. #FromThePit

1:26 Wildfire—just wow. Four A-listers, but if you ask me, bari Kevin Mendez is the MVP. That’s saying something when you hear the other three. #EspeciallyHarrisonCooke

1:36 Great debut by Mixtape, and the best visuals so far! #4Ringers

2:00 We’ve already matched last year’s comedy output and we’re still in Round 1 of the Quarterfinals! Stephanie and Andrew Bartholomew of Runway brought the husband-wife comedy with “Fixer Uppers.” Andrew arranged some of The Newfangled Four’s best hits, so you knew he’d nail it with his own quartet. #ButMelodyHineArrangedIt

4:15 Was just introduced to the tenor of Runway, Carly Denton. She and her older brother Chris, bari of Studio Talk, are both singing at their first International. She’s got her fingers crossed for bragging rights. [Studio Talk finished 24th
Quarterfinals Session 2

3:35 Artistic License—I still don’t know how their storytelling and sound keep getting better every year. Glad they brought back “Everybody Wants to Be A Cat.” #KeepGettingBetter

6:08 BoomTown, loved their set—always do. Easily earned a trip back to the Semifinals. #SoDidAnother36

6:27 Gimme Four, I’ve long said they’re the best rhythm quartet, but they could do six ballads for all I care if they were all like that last one. #LoveLikeThis

6:35 Loved Soundtrack’s “Mister Sandman”—I remember when a performance like that got you to the Semifinals. #39thPlaceThisYear

7:00 The Newfangled Four updated a couple of oldies, but they’ve never been better. Hope they finally medall! #AlwaysTheBridesmaidBut...

7:51 Oh! My! Heavens! Lemon Squeezy, what did you just do? Most treble groups couldn’t nail a final chord that high! A new lead and bari, Victor switched to tenor, away since 2016, yet singing like champions! #ToastOfCleveland?

8:01 Rick Taylor and Al Mazzoni of Legacy are two more Dorian Grays. They look exactly like when they won silver with BSQ 25 years ago. Probably because of that Steve Martin and Telly Savalas “hair.” #30YearsOfLooking55

8:21 InVoice has a famous bass clef, but those lead/tenor duets were a thing of beauty. #TheoHicksAnotherYou

8:43 Speaking of great duets, Lady Barbalade from Ireland. Hilarious parody! Overseas quartets are feeding us new flavors of awesome. #TomGentry’sAnythingGoes

8:55 Speaking of flavors of awesome, First Class quartet. “Ain’t Nobody’s Business” is a great chart, and their facial expressions were a riot! #ThreePeatSongInLouisville

9:16 With Mom’s Favorite, Don Slamka [tenor of 2003 champ Power Play] is back singing with a dad [Mark Lang] and his two kids. Huge props to Jonathan for singing about a fifth higher than regular tenor to Alyssa’s lead. #DonSlamkaSingsBass

WEDNESDAY, JULY 5

Quarterfinals Session 3

10:15 a.m. So many more National Anthems than usual. Stand for a couple, sit down for a moment and another comes out. Sit down again, another anthem comes out. And yet again. Great problem to have. #VeryInternationalInternational

10:27 Great “Mary Poppins Lets Her Hair Down” set by the women of IN HOUSE. From when I was a kid until about 10 seconds ago, I thought there was a food called “tuppings” that you fed the birds. Just looked it up—it’s “tuppence,” or “two pence.” What other childhood misunderstanding is next to drop? #DickVanDykeIsn’tBritish?

10:36 Argonauts, “Drown in My Own Tears.” Lead Andrew Forsyth, where have you been? Attempting a Signature/Daniel Cochran vehicle—you gotta either be very brave or very talented to try. #ItWasBoth

10:46 HusAar—that was fantastic! It’s not just the Clementones! 15 years after the Swedish Invasion, the Danish invasion begins. LuxembourgIsNext?

11:06 First Take, “Santa Fe.” Man, do they bring you to your feet! And the applause goes on and on and on ... and on. Probably the loudest and longest so far. #SongOfTheQuarterfinals

11:29 Thank you The Core for a great rendition...
38. The Collective (BHA)
Dan Beckitt, Luke Stevenson, Lindsay Ondracek, Kelly Shepard
Brisbane, Australia

37. Showpiece (SWD)
Madison Davis, Daniel Zeagler, Phillip Zeagler, Chip Davis
Greater Baton Rouge, LA; San Antonio, TX

39. Soundtrack (NSC)
Buck Himman, Jay Lusk, Patrick Blaha, Michael Adams
Central Carolina; Frank Thorne, Greensboro, NC

40. Detour (ONT)
Mike McKim, Kevin Harris, Andrew Carolan, Steve Armstrong
Hamilton, ON, Toronto, ON

41. Union Station (CSD)
Chad Whiting, Sam Dollins, Jeff Wolff, Reed Pattee
Frank Thorne; Metro Kansas City, MO

42. Spitfire (CSD)
Stephen Vandenberg, Chris Pingel, Austin Veteto, JT Reid
Frank Thorne; St. Charles, MO

43. Legacy (MAD)
Rick Taylor, Bill Stauffer, Brian Mastrull, Al Mazzoni
Alexandria, VA; Dundalk, MD; Frank Thorne, Hamilton Square, NJ; Patapsco Valley, MD

44. Daily Special (NED)
Isaac Swanson, Chad Putka, Ben Lewin, Cay Outerbridge
Greater Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Southern New England; Worcester, MA
30. **Panda Ring** (SWD)
Patrick McAlexander, Zachary MacLaren, Daniel Laguros, Robby Black
Greater Indianapolis, IN; Houston, TX; Houston Metro Area, TX; Nashville, TN

29. **Rule #1** (MAD)
Michael Cawley, Ian Wolfe, Justin Ross, Joshua Whitney
Frederick, MD; Hershey, PA; Nashville, TN

32. **Coulee Classic** (LOL)
Colin Stevenson, Matt Curtis, Nate Peplinski, Allen Pruitt
La Crosse, WI; Stevens Point, WI

31. **Trailblazers** (BABS)
Alex Sanctuary, Alastair Hay-Plumb, James Whittick, Simon Arnott
Meantime Chorus, London

34. **Harmonic Thunder** (JAD)
Jamison Calland, Nate Ogg, Will Baughman, David Parrett
Frank Thorne; Greater Kanawha Valley, WV; Nashville, TN; Northwest Ohio

33. **Capitol Ring** (FWD)
Dallas Halvorson, Larry Halvorson, Kevin Palmer, Mike Stewart
Barbary Coast, CA; California Delta; Las Vegas, NV; Reno, NV

35. **Praxis** (MAD)
Francesco Logozzo, Kevin Clark, Lance Fisher, David Breen
Alexandria, VA; Caldwell, NJ; Frank Thorne; Greater Boston, MA; Hershey, PA; Nashville, TN

36. **Argonauts** (EVG)
Iain Haukka, Andrew Forsyth, Drew Osterhout, Mark Heathershaw
Portland, OR; Portland Metro, OR
of “How It Ends”—from a show I’ve actually seen! [My son’s fantastic high school production of Big Fish, so don’t give me too much credit.] Your performance has me wondering why I haven’t paid more attention to Broadway.

#RowWS218PerTicket

12:10 p.m. Overheard backstage during intermission: Eddie Holt and Dusty Schleier discussing which quartets are within striking distance of gold already. Sounds like they’re going to write them into Music City’s Swan set.

#NailedAllFive Picks

12:33 Rare Blend, did I just hear country again? If so, thank you. If not [it was Motown’s Sam Cooke!], don’t hate me because I live in Nashville and don’t know much country music. Or Broadway. Or today’s top 40. So many songs that sound new to my ears! #IgnoranceIsBliss

12:42 Three and a Half Men—wow, that group is tight! Josh Szolomayer is a champion-grade lead, and Chris Keough [Bs] is the least novice-sounding novice in contest history. Tony De Rosa is singing like the best bari ever—which he is—and his son, Joseph [T], looks like this week he’ll become a medalist while in his teens, just like his dad did. #FifthGoldForTonyStartsHere

12:44 I hate the mass exodus after a big-name group performs. It’s like, hey, stick around, there are other great groups here. You just don’t know who they are yet. #IfICan’tLeaveNeitherCanYou

12:45 I’ve probably filled my Semifinals ballot already, and we’ve still got 20-something more quartets to go. #MyEarWasn’tWrong

1:05 10 years on, Yonge Guns becomes Maple Reserve and shifts into another gear. Lead Greg Mallet sold that ballad perfectly, and “My Baby Loves to Dance” was their best version yet. Wouldn’t be surprised to see them singing Saturday Night. #KindaGotOneRight

1:14 Trailblazers from BABS was great, but they were clearly going for “fabulous.” Mission accomplished. #TrailBlazed

1:33 Trademark’s “No One Ever Tells You”—great chart! That was definitely (?) Semifinals (?) I can’t tell anymore. With this many quality groups, that might be the last time we hear the name “Trademark” this week. #Foreshadowing

1:44 Summer Street’s bari complained that he lost his big moment because the side mics are gone. From a photo angle standpoint, I’m ecstatic! #MicBlockingFaceSyndrome
21. Entourage (DIX)
DC Nash, Ian Galvin, Daniel Huitt, Jeremy Conover
Frank Thorne; Mount Pleasant, SC; Nashville, TN

22. Limelight (BABS)
Peter Bryant, Danny Gortier, Luke Freeney, Connor Cobb
Main Street Sound; Spirit of Harmony

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

24. Studio Talk (SWD)
Kevin Wagner, Bret Morris, Chris Denton, Donovan Davis
Dallas Metro, TX; Frank Thorne

25. Harmonium (CSD)
Micah Jeppesen, Mark Fortino, Michael Troyer, Marshall Crowl
Frank Thorne; Kansas City, MO; Metro Kansas City, MO; St. Charles, MO; Tulsa, OK

26. 5th Melody (BHNZ)
Jane Esera, Sina Esera, Solomon Esera, Theodora Esera
Pacific Connection

27. BoomTown (CSD)
Zane Sutton, Caleb Fouse, Aaron Walker, Shaun Whisler
Frank Thorne; South Central Kansas, KS

28. Runway (SWD)
Carley Denton, Stephanie Bartholomew, Joseph Livesey, Anthony Bartholomew
Dallas Metro, TX; El Paso, TX; Frank Thorne
1:46 Thank you emcee Richard Reeve for explaining fair dinkum, (“FAY-a DIN’kum”) and other Australian slang. #ItMeansLegit
2:50 This Quarterfinals score sheet is ridiculous. How is a group as good as Entourage only the Semifinals mic tester? Limelight, Trademark, Harmonium, 5th Melody, BoomTown are all done? The first score below 80 is 38th place. [22nd place in 2013] It’s not because of scoring adjustments—it’s because 29 groups scored above last year’s Semifinals cut-off. #PlethoraOfA-Listers

Next Generation Varsity Quartet Championship

5:28 Notable—at least as funny as last year. #ThoseFaces!
6:04 New Zealand might be getting a medalist tonight with Promenade—that “Scarface” was the most original thing I’ve seen in years. Who arranged that? #LeadWillLynch
6:17 That’s medalist-level singing from Golden Hour and the Paschal sisters, our Junior Next Gen Champs with Singing Double [2020]. #TwinSistersTwinMedals
6:47 Biggest applause of the night by far for “Speechless” by The Quin-Tones. If they don’t win this, they stole the show. #AllGrownUp #Medalist
7:29 Tofu Concern sings like they’re in the Semifinals, even by this year’s impossible standard. “Come What May” is probably the performance to beat. #80Points+Silver
7:43 Fashionably Late. Great new group. Cue up their video singing “Wedding Bells” and tell me we’re not in good hands. #NextGen Loves LastGen
7:57 Momento, another St. Charles, Missouri Chapter quartet group kills it. How many quartets did they qualify? #TechnicallyFour
8:04 I keep waiting for a weaker quartet to show up and it never does. It’s not just the open contest. #StrongestYearEver
8:13 Suite Life just sang “Once Upon a Time” and “Roll Them Bones.” Keepsake [1992 champ] and The Gas House Gang [1993] sang those at least a decade before most of these singers were born. #WannaFeelOld?
8:24 Evening Glow—Jim Henry’s daughter, Gea, is making a name for herself. Quality quartet! Evening Glow is also what BHS members look like. #AndSoundLike
8:33 The Breakfast Club—wow! Great English group. Didn’t know that a movie about ‘80s American high schoolers resonated with young 2020s Brits. #BeansOnToastClub
8:38 I thought this was anybody’s to win, and then Full Effect comes out and smashes the strongest field ever with a PLATINUM-worthy “Cuddle Up.” #OnlyVocalSpectrumScoredHigher
8:41 No doubt Full Effect is about to become our second youth champion from Cleveland, Tennessee. They’re Four Voices [2002 champ] version
1.9. Way past the 1996 college champ version, already the same league as the 2000 13th-place International debut version. #GuytonProtégés
8:57 In their Swan set, the Clementones have barbershopped a Danish pop song and they’re singing it in Danish. THIS is barbershop’s next phase—songs from all over sung by groups from all over in their own languages. #NederlandseInvasie

Golden Hour
The Quin-Tones
The Breakfast Club

As the top-scoring quartet with at least two new Barbershoppers, Momento won the 139th Street Legacy Prize.
The most talented overall field in contest history showed off the great present and future of barbershop harmony. In the 31-year history of this contest, only 2004 Collegiate champion Vocal Spectrum (84.3%) has outscored 2023 champion Full Effect, whose 83.2% winning score would have been good enough for 14th place in this year’s open contest.

Member names listed as tenor, lead, bar and bass regardless of standing order. Candid photos by Lorin May; portraits by Read Photography.
7. Noteable
Jacob Gonzalez, Michael Kelesian, Emilio Pichardo, Ethan Miley
Cal State Fullerton; Citrus College; Far Western District (FWD)

8. Average Intelligence
Jonathan Lang, Giovanni Castiglione, Nick Denine, Jake Bavarsky
Bowling Green State University; Buckeye, Columbus; Greater Central Ohio; Independence, OH; Johnny Appleseed District (JAD); Northeast Ohio Medical University; Ohio State University

9. Momento
Matthew Pointer, Jordan Carr, Parker Miller, Alexandar Johnson
Central States District (CSD); St. Charles, MO; University of Missouri-St. Louis

10. Evening Glow
Rita Schien, Maddie James, Gea Rose Henry, Mollie Garrett
Central States District (CSD); University of Missouri-St. Louis

11. Suite Life
Lex Goity, Cody Mathewson, Tripp Carter, Zach Gould
Rollins College; Sunshine District (SUN)

12. Spruced Up
Kesney Faubion, Mitch Jacobson, Joseph Salmon, Keith Waldheim
Denver Mile High Chapter

13. Side Hustle
Camden Espino, Ethan Albro, Antwun Puckett, Jason Hill
Bellevue; Evergreen District (EVO); Far Western District (FWD); Frank Thorne; Las Vegas Chapter

14. Synergy
Matt Barris, Tejas Menon, Dhruv Menon, Eric McKee
Barbershop Harmony New Zealand (BHMNZ); Pacific; Connection; Vocal FX
15. Hoopla
Haley Patrick, Kyle Hottel, Santino Panzica, Michael Adams
Central Carolina; Carolinas District (NSC)

16. Top Shelf
Harrison Patri, Jeremy Ingraham, Christopher Rodrigues, Edward McNally
Far Western District (FWD)

17. Fashionably Late
Michael Garrett, William Aiken, Grant Heineman, Gerald Shazor
Johnny Appleseed District (JAD)

18. Valkyries
Gracie Lueck, Therese Masangcay, Kayla Quilantang, Sarah Morehead

19. Playground
Sam Schein, Adin Dove, Ian Trent, Ted Lewis
Purdue University

20. Catalyst
Daniel Hoke, George Alden, Nathaniel Finke, Rit Carroll
Northeastern District (NED)

2023 Contest Trivia from Bob Sutton

Tony De Rosa
• His 4th-place bronze with Three and a Half Men extended his "most quartet medals" to 16 (three others have 11, including Sean Devine as of this year).
• The first singer to medal with five different quartets.

Sean Devine
• His fourth 5th-place bronze with Throwback puts him in a five-way tie for 5th-place medals

Jim Henry
• His 18th chorus directing medal ties him with Jay Giacomello for the most ever.
• Jim’s fifth directing gold medal is the third-most after Jim Clancy and Jim Morris.
• Something about being named "Jim" helps?

Throwback
• Second-most medals by one group ever, joining three other groups with seven (Boston Common, Wack Attack, Countless)
DEADLINES APPROACHING!

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Deadline: Nov 30, 2023

2024 Varsity Chorus Invitational at Cleveland International
Deadline: Nov 30, 2023

2024 Junior Quartet Contest at New York City Midwinter
Deadline: Oct 30, 2023

barbershop.org/nextgen
THURSDAY, JULY 6

8:30 Got to take portraits of a few dozen newly-pinned 50-year members at a breakfast this morning. Each spoke briefly. Careers have come and gone, family members have come and gone, and our singing and fellowship have been maybe the one constant in their lives over the past 50 years. #WhatAGreatSociety

9:53 Stopped into the Town Hall and Harmony U classes to take pictures and listen for a while. Avail yourself of these. #Underrated

10:30 At Quorum’s Gold Medal Hour, they discussed their journey, including having to find a new baritone in 2018. The biggest laugh came during the Q&A, a question from KJ McAllee-jergins [bari of Midtown]: “Are there any people who auditioned for the baritone part that you regret not picking?” #NoRegretsForEither

11:26 Humongous applause for NONBIANCE, a bunch of All-Stars paying tribute to SAI legend Ambiance. I didn’t get all the inside jokes, but I do know that Ambiance had a ridiculously talented tenor and that Kim Newcomb was hilarious. #ShellySweet-Rubenic

11:55 So many groups that never saw the International stage until now. There are dozens filing in and out for each group. #StandingRoomOnly

12:02 Smoke Ring’s lead soloist was jaw-dropping good—if she’s not a professional singer, she could be. The Festival is worth it just for all its Stephanie Taglianettis. #Week’sBestVocals?

12:12 Great stuff from the Timberliners, and earlier, The Kentuckians. Love these choruses and the energy in this ballroom. #CrowdsIsElectric

12:28 B-Side—another great New York City group. Nicholas Roberto is a great lead! #GothamRoots

1:20 The Knees Bees, 3 am Edition—two post-breakup songs. Lead Allison Phillips was so convincing that I felt guilty for all the things her fictional ex did. So apparently, Olivia Rodrigo and Billie Eilish songs can ‘shop. Who’s the arranger? #WillyynchAgain

1:29 Mushjot’s Katie Loman—what a powerhouse! Second time today we’ve heard “Sunday Kind Of Love.” #TaglianettiAudioDoppelgänger

1:46 Didn’t see that coming. The Bored Friends is a chorus of BHS Board and HFI Board and friends. #SingingOffTheSamePage

1:55 Clever Girl—wow, that’s high-level. Dozens streamed in just to see them. Well-deserved popularity—they’ll go far. #FestivalChamp

2:04 R&D’s genius mic drop moment! Ryan Smith does a spot-on Bowsers singing the “Peaches” song from the Mario Brothers Movie. Then he collapses on stage and they leave without finishing the song. Only possible on this stage. #NotRemotelyContestable

2:14 You’d be expecting comedy with a name like Chonk, but totally serious set. Great group though, and heckuva lead in Aiden LaPointe. #HeirsOfFrankTheDog

2:16 The Festival is like the love child of the International Contest and the Buckeye Invitational. Groups that didn’t or couldn’t qualify for International, plus a high-energy audience. #ButSingingAtInternational

2:27 Loved “I’m Still Standing” from The Alliance. Famous men’s chorus on the way to becoming a famous all-voices chorus. #EltonJohnShops

2:38 Adrenaline is... going places. Really strong! Huge crowd came in just to see them. #SuperiorRating

2:48 Q’D UP just did that one song by ... was it Van Halen? [“Big Bad Bill (Is Sweet William Now),” a 1920s Tin Pan Alley song.] They probably chose it because it’s set in Louisville, but Eddie Holt [T] probably knew about it because it’s the only Van Halen song with a clarinet, and also probably their most wholesome cover song. #EddieHAndEddieVHShred

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No qualifying score was necessary, but you’d never have known that from the high-level performances at the second International Chorus and Quartet Festival—nor from the applause from a large and lively crowd. The certified judges provided post-Festival evaluations, as well as rankings rather than published scores.

Except for Festival winner Clever Girl, groups shown in order of appearance. Quartet members are listed as tenor, lead, bar, and bass regardless of standing order. Photos by Lorin May.

Festival Champion

Clever Girl (Superior)
Neyla Pekarek, Ashley Tabares, Holly Janda, Taylor Daniels
Texas, Colorado, and Tennessee

NONBIANCE (Superior)
Kim Newcomb, Michaela Johnston, Melody Hine, Candra Rice
New York, New York

Bridgetones (Outstanding)
Alisa Peters, Kelly Sophar, Dominic Pedotto, Kenji Matsuoka
San Francisco, California

Vine Street (Outstanding)
Brett Bellman, Alex Stenger, Andrew Wittenberg, Richard Gonzales
Cincinnati, Ohio

Smoke Ring (Superior)
Rebecca Ecks, Stephanie Taglianetti, Alexander Ronneburg, Gabriel Spector
New York, New York

B-side (Superior)
Brett Watanabe, Nicholas Roberto, Chris Granger, Braden Lynk
New York, New York

Fog Q (Excellent)
Stephen Leander, Neal Rogers, Dominic Pedotto, Ben Porter
San Francisco, California
**Mixed Signals (Superior)**
Emily Moriarty, Lindsay Ondracek, Luke Stevenson, Andrew Bird
Australia

**The Knee’s Bee (3am Edition) (Outstanding)**
Allyson Lotz, Allison Phillips, Will Lynch, Nicholas Bratcher
Denver, Colorado; Los Angeles, California; Wellington, New Zealand; Christchurch, New Zealand

**Mugshot (Superior)**
Maria Burri, Katie Roman, Robert Roman, Scott Fewell
Portland, Oregon

**High Gravity (Superior)**
Josh Moore, Mike Beck, Danny Becker, Steve Moore
Nashville, Tennessee

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Josh Moore, Mike Beck, Danny Becker, Steve Moore
Nashville, Tennessee

**R&D (Outstanding)**
Dominick Finetti, Ryan McCall, Daniel Rohovit, Ryan Smith
Mushroom Kingdom

**CHONK (Superior)**
Matthew Bidigare, Aiden LaPointe, Luke LaPointe, Kent Kirby
Lansing, Michigan

**Adrenaline (Superior)**
Maggie McAlexander, Amanda Pitts, Jadyn Johnson, Kesney Faubion
Denver, Colorado; Providence, Rhode Island; Washington, DC

**Q’D UP (Superior)**
Eddie Holt, Jacob Strong, Shane Ownby, Adam Wheeley
Nashville, Tennessee
The Kentuckians Chorus • Kris Olson • Lexington, Kentucky (Eval Only)

The Timberliners • Tyler Wigginton • Broomfield, Colorado (Outstanding)

The Bored Friends • Larry Bomback • North America (Outstanding)

The Alliance • Jay Dougherty • Columbus, Ohio (Superior)

Heart of Carolina A Cappella • Dr. William Adams • Durham, North Carolina (Superior)
Cleveland
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3:45 Two new songs from The Newfangled Four and two massive ovations! They changed “Bare Necessities” to “Insecurities” and tried to work through theirs, like Jackson’s inability to “[Dang It!]” deliver a punchline. But their “Joe Re Me” was a confusing, convoluted mess—intentionally—and it was genius! #YouTubeGloryAwaits

6:06 “Cruella DeVille”–HusAar does Vocal Spectrum proud, including the 30-second tenor post. He almost collapsed, but he did it! #RareVSCover
6:23 Artistic License does fewer up-tempo charts than most, but with how “Look Out For Love” went down, I’m hoping they decide to flex those rhythm muscles a whole bunch more during the Finals. #ButTheirBalladsThough

6:41 The Core did a great audience sing-along from The Sound of Music (“The Lonely Goatherd”). That was super fun, but the singing judges are scrumming, probably about the yodeling and the audience singing. Was there a spot where the audience sang the melody and The Core was doing four-part backing? #OneWayToSingFifths

7:01 Wow, “Still Hurting” from Midtown— incredible range! Every soft, every loud, every power chord and quiet section—perfect artistry, pristine singing. They had you hanging on every note. Massive standing O still going. One of the best ballads I’ve ever heard! #It’sNotjustSpiderfarm #95.8%

7:04 Holy frijoles Midtown and “After Today”! This is where you’ve broken away from the pack. Best set this week by anyone by far! #WaitUntilSaturdayNight

7:13 Clementones are at the stage where they’ve proven they belong. Next step, they’ll be getting songs that belong to them. #DanishInvasion

7:41 They introduced the judges, and Steve Scott stood up and waved for Adam’s intro and Adam for Steve. A few people picked up on it. Have we ever had siblings serving on the same International panel? #GreatScotts

7:45 Sweet & Sour’s “It Had To Be You”—that husband/wife energy between Samantha and Merton Tramack was incredible! #SpousesInTheHouse

7:55 “Love You Like I’m Gonna Lose You”–Ian Kelly of The Kelly Brothers is still underrated. #ThenCameTheSecondSong

8:00 So right after I say that, they have Ian go full “diva on steroids” and turn “You And Me (But Mostly Me)” into a virtual solo act. For half the song, the others sang from behind a curtain. Lots of fun, but … #ProbablyHurtTheirSingingScore

8:02 A dozen times already, with two more days to go: “Keith! … Matt! … Chris! … Kyle! … oooOOO … Trademark!” #BigScreenAd

8:12 That Wizard of Oz set by Three and a Half Men was pretty much perfect. Four straight bullseyes so far. #FourNewClayHineCharts
8:18 There’s no way Kevin Stinson found that hat in his closet. #InVoiceDoesHumor
8:33 Two great breakup songs by Pratt Street Power. How do they sing “Cry Me A River” every year and keep getting better? That’s impressive. #Since2016
8:40 Am I mistaken, or have we heard as many
20. **Clementones** *(SNOBS)*  
Erik Buchreitz, Oliver Runge Skovbo Hansen, Erik Fjendbo Lindstrøm, Malte Øster  
BarbAros; The Danish Invasion

19. **Wildfire** *(SUN)*  
Andrew Lujan, Stephen Goldman, Kevin Mendez, Harrison Cooke  
Frank Thorne; Southern New England; Tampa, FL

18. **Sweet & Sour** *(NED)*  
Christina Tramack, Samantha Tramack, Merton Tramack, Joshua Tramack  
Alexandria, VA; Frank Thorne

17. **First Class** *(CSD)*  
Wendy Pool, Stacy Schumacher, Kristin Drummond-Mance, Maria Christian  
Frank Thorne

16. **Fleet Street** *(CSD)*  
Matt Suellentrop, Aaron Zart, Michael Bass, Eeyan Richardson  
St. Charles, MO; Lincoln, NE; Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH

15. **InVoice** *(EVG)*  
Jake Yoakum, Paul Carter, Dean Waters, Kevin Stinson  
Portland, OR

14. **Kelly Brothers** *(EVG)*  
Steven Kelly, Ian Kelly, Sean Kelly, Michael Kelly  
Bellevue, WA; Frank Thorne; Hershey, PA

13. **HusAar** *(SNOBS)*  
Anders Slot Sørensen, Yngve Lyngsø, Søren Detlefsen, Jonas Rasmussen  
BarbAros; The Danish Invasion; WondAros
breakup songs this week as we’ve heard love songs? #HopefullyNotRealLife

8:45 Fleet Street is definitely claiming the “drinking songs” mantle. Not sure that “Let Me Drown” is country, though. [It’s Broadway.] Maybe next year they’ll specialize in breakup songs—heavy drinking tends to move things in that direction. #UnfortunatelyRealLife

8:53 “I Want You To Want Me” and “Two Of A Kind, Workin’ On A Full House” by Throwback. Amazing! A Cheap Trick rock song from the 1970s and a Garth Brooks country anthem from the 1990s—these guys have been in a song-selection league of their own for 10 years plus. So far it’s Midtown by a head, but too close to call for everyone else. #BestSemifinalsInDecades

9:04 “Devil May Care” by Lemon Squeezy is in a different league. If we judged quartets by their last chord, there’s your winner. #BlewMyMind

9:23 Maple Reserve. Their second song, “Prepared,” was just powerful. We’ve always seen them as more whimsical, but they’ve now done two strong “rip your heart to shreds” ballads. #ComedyWasGreatToo

9:46 No shockers about who’s in the Finals—all have been there before except Three and a Half Men, and they were no-brainers. But the Semifinals is usually the best round of the week. #ExceptIn2023

11:18 Took me an hour to get into the World Harmony Jamboree ballroom because the door only opened when I was chatting with friends all the way from Boston and Perth and Stockholm and Germany and … Kentucky. This is what International is about: the joy of mixing with people from all over the world who speak a common language. #IDontMeanEnglish

FRIDAY, JULY 7

Chorus Session 1

10:09 a.m. Ripped out of The Harmonizer pages, Heart of Carolina A Cappella demonstrates how to be welcoming at an afterglow. Jenni Sheets was the central character onstage and contributed to Dr.
32. Midwest Vocal Express (LOL) • Bryan Ziegler • Greendale, WI

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

30. Sound by Southwest (SWD) • Manny Lopez • San Antonio, TX

29. Heart of Carolina A Cappella (NSC) • Dr. William Adams • Central Carolina, NC

28. Fog City Harmonia (FWD) • Alisa Peters • Barbary Coast, CA
Jake Bartlett’s article. #PleaseInternalizeIt

10:31 Stockholm City Voices was spectacular—and most of the audience was away at their chorus rehearsals. Definitely earned their reputation for showmanship, and their storytelling was top level. Gonna be tough to beat.

#TightChorusContestToo

11:18 “Come Alive” by Smorgaschorus was great. They’re a lot bigger this year—it looks like most groups so far are bigger than last year.

#ScoreSheetConfirmed

11:50 Justin Miller’s fresh from scratch-ish chorus may be starting with different ingredients than he had in L.A., but those amazing hands have Vocal Summit singing super clean and pretty. #Top10Debut

12:23 Cool—that was a lot of father/son/grandson pairs and trios in Great Lakes Chorus singing to each other in “Thanks For Being My Dad.”

#TuggingHeartstrings

12:39 Great rock and roll set from Men of Independence! Really authentic costumes, too. The guys who played hooky in my high school parking lot might still dress like that today.

#ClassOfThe80s

Chorus Session 2

2:55 I confess, their whole set, I was thinking, “Hey, the whole chorus is standing!” For Parkside Harmony, that’s a big deal. Also a big deal: this year’s sound and artistry. A BIG deal! #SilverMedal

3:10 Heavy Medal Chorus is a great name—all

2023 records for the three-category judging era (1994-present)

- Throwback has a record 10 appearances in the top 10. (Metropolis and Excaliber have 8 each.) They have averaged 90+ at International a record five times. (Signature did it four times.) They have sung 60 songs for score; if Throwback competes next year, during the Semifinals they will likely overtake Metropolis (62) for the record.
- First Take topped the 3rd place scoring record by 17 points.
- Three and a Half Men topped 4th place record by 122 points and set a record for the highest quartet debut score.
- Throwback obliterated the 5th place record by 213 points.
- Midtown’s “Spider Farm” set was the first to score a perfect 100 in a category (Performance) with a 97.0% average that smashed PLATINUM’s 2000 record for the highest-scoring quartet song (95.9% for “Cuddle Up”).
- Midtown’s record-setting 95.6% Finals score was the same as Ambassadors of Harmony’s winning score—the first quartet to tie or beat that year’s winning chorus set.
- A record 37 quartets scored 80% average or higher.
- Northern Stars (SNOBS) was the first chorus to debut in the Top 5 since Great American Chorus in 2000.
- Four choruses debuted in the top 10 this year (Northern Stars, Stockholm City Voices, Pacific Connection, and Vocal Summit).
- Heralds of Harmony earned both their first medal and the first Sunshine chorus medal since 1966!

- Parkside Harmony now has exactly one of every medal except for gold. Artistic Director Sean Devine has collected 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place medals in both the quartet contest and the chorus contest over the past five contests.
- Three choruses from Global Alliances finished in the top 10, the first time ever. The 11th- and 12th-place choruses also came from Global Alliances.

—Patrick McAlexander
gold medalists from BinG! [Germany]. One missed opportunity: borrowing costumes from Men of Independence. #BinGBling

Anthony Bartholomew, session emcee, reading the house rules: “If you start clapping after a false tag, we will stop the chorus and remove you from the auditorium. If you scream ‘you bet’ after a ballad, we’ll cancel your membership. If you recognize the song, feel free to join in …” #TwoOuttaThreeAin’tBad

3:28 Love The Recruits for a couple of reasons. First, A+ on those Dr. Seuss costumes and that great sound. Second, this is every music educator’s dream: young men and young women singing together after graduation for the joy of it. #OhThePlacesYou’llGo!

3:49 Loved the visuals for the Midwest Vocal Express “awkward wedding dancing” set. Not to brag, but I can be more awkward than that without practicing at all. #justAskMyKids

4:24 The Ty Wigginton era is off to a good start with Sound of the Rockies. Midtown did a cameo, and Nick Gordon tripped on his way off the stage. Was that intentional? #ItWasn’tLastYear

4:23 Atlanta Vocal Project combines with Heralds of Harmony for contests, and their “Anything You Can Do We Can Do Better” had directors Clay and Tony—and then their districts—battling for supremacy. So many quartet champ cameos that you’d think this was a Music City Chorus set. [Well, Eddie Holt did help write it!] It was great to see all of PLATINUM [2000 champ] together for the first time in 20 years! #104QtetMedalsOnStage
24. Saltaires (RMD) • Adam Haggart • Wasatch Front, UT

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

22. SmorgasChorus (CSD) • Matthew Webber • South Central Kansas, KS

21. Circle City Sound (CAR) • Theo Hicks • Greater Indianapolis, IN

20. Singing Buckeyes (JAD) • David Calland • Buckeye Columbus, OH
Brian Beck competed today with Sound of the Rockies, his 8th decade (!) on the International stage—every decade since the 1950s.

#AndStillTeachesVoice

**AIC SHOW**

8:11 Interstate Rivals [1987 champ]—and they've STILL got it! The only quartet where all four won gold again, including two more for Kipp and three more for Joel! #ChampsSpawningChamps

8:11 Wow to Vocal Spectrum's [2006] “Cheer Up Charlie,” and “Golden Ticket.” 17-year champ, and still the gold standard for singing. #2023HallofFamers

8:20 I was laughing so much it was hard to take good pictures of FRED [1999]. They were classic contest songs so we knew what was coming, and it didn't matter. #TheyGotRhythm

8:27 Max Q [2007] honors the 1973 champ with a full Dealer’s Choice set. Betcha their first live practice was this week, and it was still amazing. #SameAsWhenMaxQCompeted

8:48 With “One More Last Chance,” bass Cory Hunt shows why he’s the secret sauce for OC Times’ [2008] still-cutting-edge sound. #YourTeddyBear

8:57 One of the all-time greats Dealers Choice [1973] is the only 50-year champ to put all four members on stage. They sing a tag and the standing O goes on and on forever—literally several minutes. #GoldMedalMoments

9:24 Didn’t know the Hughes Brothers of Forefront lost their dad during Charlotte 2022. That story and that last ballad hit hard. #Decade Ago For My Dad

9:37 That “Finian’s Rainbow” by Main Street would have made the Suntones [1961] swoon. If you’re keeping score: so far, Tony De Rosa has sung lead on stage with Max Q, lead with Main Street, bari with PLATINUM, directed the AIC Chorus, and co-directed Heralds of Harmony ... all JUST TODAY. During the rest of the week, he rehearsed with all of the above, was the bari of the Fantasy Quartet that opened Quarterfinals, will sing three sets with Three and a Half Men, and if this year’s like any other, probably coached a few groups, too. How can one person possibly do all that? #TwinTonysConspiracyTheory

9:51 Who cares about Revival [1998]? Apparently everybody, despite the famous FRED joke. Brett Littlefield subs for bass Bill Myers. Huge applause, and lots of emotion from the 25-year champ. #SentimentalGentlemenFromSoCal

10:03 With “Mother Hubbard,” After Hours [2018] is following the Vocal Spectrum trajectory—from “great champ” to “greater champ.” #ButterOuttaCream
10:19 “Midnight Train to Georgia”—wow! We are so lucky to have Daniel Cochran and Signature (2019) as part of Team Barbershop. #AndPaulSacaChannelingGeneCokecroft

10:33 Quorum (2022) knocked it out of the park! That last spiritual—great to see them show off Nathan Johnston’s solo voice. #ThreeLeadsAndATenor

10:53 In the lobby, I told members of Three and a Half Men—the three that haven’t won a championships yet—that I’m looking forward to their debut on the AIC stage in not too many years. Can tell this is far from the first time they’ve been told something like that this week. No, it’s not too early to call it. #CaptainObvious #BecauseIHaveEars

SATURDAY, JULY 8

Chorus Session 3

10:19 Nice debut for Fog City Harmonia, the treble sibling of Fog City Singers. Young group with a bright future. #I’veGotMyPlan

10:27 The Pine Barons—wow, that’s a big group. Great … debut? Have they been on this stage before? [Yes, 1981] #OldSchoolSwagger

10:57 We’ve now heard “Devil May Care” several times (4) this week, and City Lights Chorus had a wonderful take. They came out nowhere last year, and they’re already one of the best groups here. #2PIOChorusesThisWeek

10:59 Whenever I ask someone which quartet
16. Voices of Gotham (MAD) • Keith Harris • Hell’s Kitchen, NY

15. PDX Voices (EVG) • Rob Roman • Portland, OR

14. The Recruits (CSD) • Eric Dalbey • St. Charles, MO

13. Southern Gateway Chorus (JAD) • Jeff Legters • Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH

12. Heavy Medal Chorus (BinG!) • Norbert Hammes and Matthias Neuberger • Germany, The Goethe Institute
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7. Sound of the Rockies (RMD) • Tyler Wigginton • Denver Mile High, CO

8. Pacific Connection (BHNZ) • Chad Va and Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa • Wellington, NZ

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

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

11. Meantime Chorus (BABS) • Simon Arnott • Central London, UK
will win tonight, they’ve said, “I have no idea!” Some years, that would mean nobody has smashed it on all their songs. This year, four or five groups sound like champions. Never seen that before. #NotSinceTheEarly’90s

11:10 Meantime Chorus is like London’s version of Westminster Chorus—young and super clean. “Trip the Light Fantastic” was … fantastic. And trippin’. And light. Even a little bit “the.” #I’llStopNow

11:13 The Swedish, Danish, German groups are all nailing the North American pronunciation. But the Australians and New Zealanders do it, too, so maybe it’s really an “English-singing-unless-you’re-British” accent. Meantime instead leaned into the King’s English. #PahtOfTheChahm

11:54 Clay Hine gets the Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award. He’s a rock star at pretty much everything in barbershop: arranger, director, quartetter, coach, you name it. His message: “Share the joy of barbershop with everyone,” and “Barbershop should only be something that brings everyone together.” #WordsOfWisdom

12:08 Pacific Connection—almost all Pacific Islanders, and I was so into it I accidentally took, like, 500 pictures. “Don’t Forget Your Roots” literally brought me to tears! You’re supposed to finish a show with a number like that—should we close up shop now? The Ambassadors are up next … so, no. #ButStill…

12:25 In “9 to 5” Ambassadors said they’re tired of being second place. Pretty sure they’ve got this one in the bag. They dialed the creativity up to 11 again, and that was gold-medal sound. Which it was for the silver medals, too, but this time it’ll probably stick. That uptune’s gonna translate great to video, and that ballad … wow. #StuffOfChampions

12:49 Sounds of Tennessee is no longer the little chorus that could. And all of Full Effect is in it! #ThatGuytonSound

1:05 Wow, Northern Stars was off the charts! It’s safe to say we’ve never seen staging or costuming remotely like that on the International stage. It was like a fairy godmother from the ’70s dumped a barrel of Elton John Dust all over Stockholm. Fantastic! #TonyAwardForCostumes

1:09 Manny Lopez starts another great new
1. Ambassadors of Harmony (CSD) • Jim Henry and Jonny Moroni • St. Charles, MO

2. Parkside Harmony (MAD) • Sean Devine and Vincent Sandroni • Hershey, PA

3. Heralds of Harmony (SUN) • Tony De Rosa and Clay Hine • Tampa, FL

Mic Tester: Varsity Honors Chorus • David Zimmerman

Mic Tester: The Timberliners (RMD) • Tyler Wigginton • Denver Mile High, CO
group in San Antonio, this time Sound by Southwest. Someone shouted “You Bet!” just before the applause. Security, please? #IsItGettingOld?YouBet

20: Music City Chorus must’ve created their set after combing through the contest rules, because I’m pretty sure they just broke all of them—polka band included. The best part was the slow buildup that ended with 80-something guys pulling out a mic and jockeying for the solo part. Loved the part when they bet on which quartet will win tonight. [And correctly picked all five eventual medalists for on-stage lampooning.] Then they tugged the heartstrings by bringing their families on stage to sing “Thank You For Being A Friend.” A wild, emotional ride! #BlessedChaos

23: 1,455 competitors crossed the stage in the chorus contest. Well-deserved fifth win for the Ambassadors in the same city where they won their first. #2004and2023Louisville

Quartet Finals

6:05 Great set by The All Voice Chorus and Rasmus Krigström! Hard to believe their first rehearsal was days ago. Rasmus added his personal touch with a Swedish song translated into English. Extra big group with singers from literally all over the world—and an extra “pinginess” to the sound. #TheRasmusTouch

6:59 Maple Reserve just became the first Ontario District quartet in 55 years to sing on Saturday night. #Sweet

7:39 What was that amazing second Lemon Squeezy song? [“Oh-Ho-Ho-Ho (Got The
Rhythm Of My Heart” arr. Rasmus Krigström]. Mind-blowing! That’s in the same league as their “Devil May Care.” #SameArrangerSameScore

7:51 “The Trolley Song”–long, long applause for First Take. They are getting a lot of love this week! If they win a championship tonight, that tag didn’t hurt. Now that Quorum has won, it’s between First Take and Lemon Squeezy on the “pull you to your feet” tags. #NextLevel

7:53 Did Trademark have any idea that the whole auditorium would be chanting their names several times a session all week long? Best big screen ad ever. #NowHireThem

7:58 High tenor post by the BASS, Chris Keogh, and endless applause for Three and a Half Men. Where does Tony De Rosa keep finding these perfect basses? #ProSingingPeerGroup

8:27 The Newfangled Four may have saved their best for last. Both songs were new to me [“Zazz” and “Stonehenge”] but they were wonderfully bizarre. Nobody’s better at pre-song banter or setting up a joke. Huge laughs and crazy ap-
plause for both songs. #Honorary6thPlaceMedalist

8:48 That, my friends, is what is called swinging for the fences! Midtown's standing O keeps getting louder and longer. That “Old McDonald’s Spider Pig,” or whatever they call it, just made them champions! They took a page from Storm Front and had their funniest guy play a perfect straight man while the others were the clowns. [No wonder—the 2010 champs’ Jim Clark and Darin Drown coached it!] Only future champs get this kind of standing O. #KJ'sGoldenPratfall

8:51 You gotta feel for The Newfangled Four. They aced all six comedy numbers, then Midtown comes up next and drops the mic with their first contest comedy song. I bet Newfangled’s sets dominate YouTube again, though.

#FewerInsideJokes

9:03 Gimme Four must’ve had two minutes backstage to cobble together that “better than a deformed spider” lyric. Bravo! Their performance easily tops 90% of the bronze medal performances I’ve seen over the years, but I’ve also never seen this much talent in a single year. If there were any justice, they and Newfangled would get medals tonight. #ButAheadOfWho?

Post Finals

10:37 Was too busy with photo stuff to record for a while. I’m sitting in the photo room right now watching Midtown get their champ portraits. What did I miss? The current Sweet Adelines and Harmony, Inc. champs [The Ladies and Take Four] had phenomenal performances. Quorum’s Swan set was magical. And then during the medalist announcements, I had no idea where to point my camera for the medalist reaction shots until it was just Lemon Squeezy and Midtown left. #Fever3nsidesJokes

10:39 Tony De Rosa has not NOT medaled since 1991. And all four of those quartets ended with gold. During that time, every quartet that’s debuted in the medals has finished with gold; Midtown being the latest. Both stats apply to Three and a Half Men. #JustSaying... #ILIShutUpNow

10:42 Caught the last part of a conversation where one of the medalists came in saying one song got a perfect 100 from the whole category. I didn’t have to ask which quartet or which song or which category. Get this: Throwback nails every song, beats Midtown’s silver medal score from last year, and somehow finishes fifth—but only half a point behind Lemon Squeezy’s silver! #HighestScoresTightestSpreadEver

10:43 Just wanna say that it’s fun to watch how over-the-moon happy Lemon Squeezy is tonight. They couldn’t be smiling bigger right now if they’d won gold. #TwoGuysDebutedAtSilver

11:30 A new bride and groom were dropped off in a limo to head to their honeymoon suite, and the Pacific Connection singers improvised a couple songs for them. The show continued in the lobby, with all the taggers there joining in. Such a cool moment. #They'llNeverForgetIt

11:50 Gonna call this week a wrap. I need to talk to some people, sing a few tags, and look at people without a camera covering my face. The shows and contests were great, but I won’t need my cameras or recorder for the next part—the off-stage fun that’s the best reason to go to International. See all y’all in Cleveland! #KeepTheWholeWorldSinging
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With great joy and gratitude, we commemorate a remarkable milestone – the 20th anniversary of our leadership giving program, President’s Council, launched by Harmony Foundation in 2004.

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Harmony United Chorus, Greater Detroit Chapter, seeks a director to oversee and direct all aspects of music education and performance. Contact Joe DeSantis, jdesantis203@outlook.com, 248-797-9916; greaterdetroit.org.

The Omaha, NE Chapter—an 80-year chapter—and the Heartland Harmonizers Chorus seek a music director to help us regrow our membership and music programs and develop community and school outreach efforts through public performances and demonstrations. Contact Dave Stock, dmstock28@gmail.com, 402-238-4172; omahabarbershop.com.

The Statesmen Spring Chorus Chapter in Houston, TX seeks a skilled director to help us grow as singers and performers. Contact Richard Dove, rdove007@sbcglobal.net, 832-541-3624; thestatesmenchorus.org.

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<tr>
<th>OPERATIONS &amp; INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</th>
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</table>
| support@barbershop.org  
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| Sarah Baxter  
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<tr>
<th>PROGRAMS, IMPACT, &amp; RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT</th>
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| impact@barbershop.org  
  Joe Cerutti  
  Director of Relationship Management |
| Daniel Rohovit  
  Singing Community Program Manager |

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<tr>
<th>EXECUTIVE OFFICES</th>
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</table>
| Steve Denino  
  Interim CEO / Executive Director |
| Robyn Chancey  
  Executive Assistant to the CEO |

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<th>CUSTOMER SERVICE</th>
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</table>
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  Luke Miller  
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| Douglas Gordon  
  Receptionist / Building Maintenance |
| Sean Lubbers  
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| Erin Wipperman  
  Community Care Coordinator |

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<tr>
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</table>
| events@barbershop.org  
  Dusty Schleier  
  Director of Events & Conventions |
| Chad Bennett  
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<tr>
<th>FINANCE</th>
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</table>
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  Chief Financial Officer / Chief Operating Officer |
| Jama Clinard  
  Controller & HR Manager |
| Nick Anello  
  Finance Administrator |

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  Director of Marketing & Communications |
| Eddie Holt  
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| Brian Lynch  
  Public Relations Manager |

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  Steve Scott  
  Director of Harmony University & Education Services |

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  Joe Cerutti  
  Director of Relationship Management |
| Daniel Rohovit  
  Singing Community Program Manager |
GLOBAL ALLIANCES

• Barbershop Harmony Australia
  barbershop.org.au • Dan Millgate: secretary@barbershop.org.au

• BHNZ (Barbershop Harmony New Zealand)
  barbershopharmony.nz • Warwick McWha: mcwha21ad@gmail.com

• BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)
  singbarbershop.com • Alan Hughes: chairman@singbarbershop.com

• BinG! (Barbershop in Germany)
  barbershop-in-germany.de • Maximilian Hilz: maximilian.hilz@barbershop.de

• Holland Harmony
  hollandharmony.nl • Leonie Vink: voorzitter@hollandharmony.nl

• FABS (Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers)
  fab.fi • Johannah Boberg: fabs.hallitus@gmail.com

• IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)
  irishbarbershop.org • Liz Nolan: iabsexecutive@gmail.com

• LABBS (Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers)
  labbs.org.uk • Natalie Feddon: chair@labbs.org.uk

• MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association)
  mixedbarbershop.org • Barry Towner: barry.towner@gmail.com

• SABS (Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers)
  sabs.es • Angel Rodriguez Rivera: president@sabs.es

• SNOS (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)
  snobs.org • Henrik Rosenberg: henrik@raspart.se

• SPATS (Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers)
  spats.co.za • Mark Jensen van Rensburg: president@spats.co.za

SOCIETY SUBSIDIARIES

• Association of International Champions • AICGold.com
• Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions • aisqc.com
• The Woodshedders • ahsow.org
• Southern Harmony Brigade • southernharmonybrigade.com

• Harmony Brigade • harmonybrigade.org
  North Carolina • Indiana • Atlantic • Great Lakes • High Sierra • New England •
  Lone Star • Northern Pines • Mixed Harmony Brigade of New England

FRIENDS IN HARMONY

• Harmony Foundation International
  harmonyfoundation.org

• Sing Canada Harmony
  SingCanadaHarmony.ca

• American Choral Directors Association
  acdaonline.org

• Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
  sinfonia.org

• World Harmony Council
  worldbarbershop.org

• National Museum for African-American Music
  nmaam.org

• Sweet Adelines International
  sweetadelines.com

• Harmony, Incorporated
  harmonyinc.org

• Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association
  bqpo.com

• National Association for Music Education
  nafme.org

• Chorus America
  chorusamerica.org

• Nashville Songwriters Association International
  nashvillesongwriters.com
Great tag, song-free

Dr. Jeff Taylor is a lifelong Barbershopper, having joined the St. Catharines (Ontario) Singing Saints at age 14. While at university, Jeff sang with the Winnipeg (Manitoba) Golden Chordsmen, as well as in a popular college quartet. He was a student of barbershop great Dr. Greg Lyne during his masters and doctoral days in the U.S. southwest.

Jeff has three International gold medals, two earned with the Masters of Harmony and one with the Toronto Northern Lights. He writes, “Since then, I have continued to love my work coaching teenagers through the valley of the shadow of adulthood, teaching music and humanities stuff. I got to sing for a couple of famous conductors back when I was an active choir singer, and I have directed a few choirs too while also learning the delights of making band music with wonderful young folks.” Nice! Jeff recently retired as a Music judge after 30 years of service, having been certified since the current judging system came to be in 1993.

The first version of this tag was written in honor of the late Doug Maddox, long a leader in the Masters of Harmony and the Far Western District. Lemon Squeezy, who just won the International silver medal in Louisville, recorded the tag in its final form. You can find this on YouTube.

“Goodbye, My Friends” has plenty of crunchy chords, reflecting the fact that Jeff’s musical expertise is not limited to the world of barbershop. Don’t you wish there were a whole song that went with this tag? Hey, perhaps you could write one yourself! Till then, enjoy singing this highly creative gem.
Give the gift of barbershop to young singers

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our Sponsors and Donors, the Barbershop Harmony Society was able to bring over 100 young singers from across the U.S. to the Next Generation Barbershop events created by the Society at the Midwinter Convention in Daytona Beach. These young singers brought original arrangements, an eagerness to compete, and a love of ringing chords.

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.

Our gifts change lives. We create the future by giving to the Harmony Foundation. Please consider supporting us today and help give the gift of barbershop to the Next Generation of singers, leaders, and mentors!

The Next Generation Barbershop program continues to provide a space for more and more young singers to fall in love with barbershop. Through the chorus and quartet festivals and contests, these singers are given a big stage and the best audiences in the world to express themselves through this life-changing art form.

harmonyfoundation.org
Contact us directly at donorcenter@harmonyfoundation.org • (615) 571-2776
Ambassadors of Harmony (CSD)
2023 International Chorus Champion

Full Effect (DIX)
2023 Varsity Quartet Champion
2023 Next Generation Chorus Champion