

The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023



ANOTHER KIND OF CHAMPION

Taking time to honor those who quietly make everything happen throughout the Society



NOTEWORTHY

THREE BIG DISTRICT RECORDS BROKEN
'ROUND MIDNIGHT'S NEW "MEDALS"

SPOTLIGHT

THERESA WEATHERBEE AND
HER VERY ECLECTIC RESUME

INSIDE

A FAREWELL FROM
CEO MARTY MONSON



Cleveland

2024 INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE DREAM CHORUS EXPERIENCE?

Justin Miller

**Westminster
and
Masters of
Harmony**

Greg Clancy
Vocal Majority

**The real contest. Real scores. Real champ directors.
And YOU can be one of the singers!**

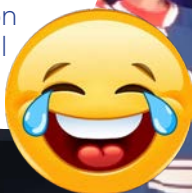
This has never been done before! Two new choruses, **OPEN TO ALL SINGERS**, drawn from all over the world, will compete as full contestants in the 2024 International Chorus Contest in Cleveland.

Cleveland is...

LAUGHland

Barbershop harmony is about music AND fun, and in 2024, both will get their due, in the new **Comedy Quartet Festival**.

Combining traditional barbershop contest scoring and audience balloting, the entire crowd will show their appreciation for the twelve quartets who bravely put their funniest bits on the Festival stage.



TAGland

What would an international convention be without all-night tag singing sessions? Cleveland will carry forward the (literally) more-than-a-century old tradition of singing tags all day and all night, along with designated **Tag Zones staffed with seasoned tag veterans** ready to sing and teach tags to anyone.



DREAMland

If you have ever wanted to perform in a chorus at international, get a score and rank, and sing under the direction of world-class directors like Greg Clancy and Justin Miller, then **the Dream Chorus Experience is for you! Sign up TODAY.**



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Weekend Pass Thr, Fri, & Sat	\$199

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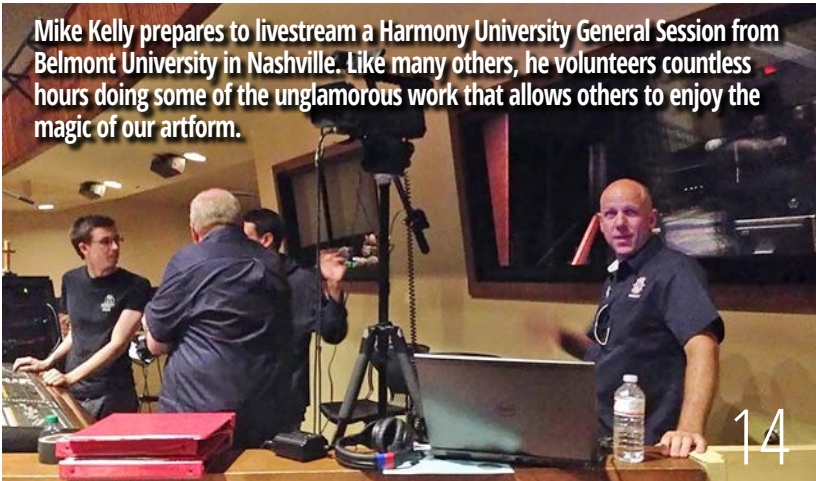
June 30–July 7, 2024
Barbershop.org/international



In This Issue

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 • VOLUME LXXXIII • NUMBER 6

Mike Kelly prepares to livestream a Harmony University General Session from Belmont University in Nashville. Like many others, he volunteers countless hours doing some of the unglamorous work that allows others to enjoy the magic of our artform.



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14 Another kind of champion

The cover article in this issue is about YOU! ... kind of. Barbershoppers often say, "I came for the music and stayed for the fellowship!" But someone set up those risers where we polished our music. Someone booked that ballroom where you tagged with your idols. A whole team worked backstage to give you your great moment onstage. You might be that very person who quietly does that work that allows the magic to happen. Let's celebrate some of the stand-out super volunteers who do the heavy lifting that makes the magic happen!

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Marty Monson spent decades as an enthusiastic Joe Barbershopper before spending the last 11 years as the Society's enthusiastic CEO and Executive Director. Now that he's returned to being Joe Barbershopper, he reflects on some of the milestones and impact of his tenure.

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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



The Harmonizer

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/EDITORIAL

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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
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Why District Conventions totally rock

The best way to meet your barber-neighbors is also where your local culture and lore are formed and live.

STEVE: Everybody fondly remembers—and maybe defines—the Barbershop Harmony Society as how it was at the time they joined. For me, that was age 12, and I was singing in my first district quartet contest. At that age, I couldn't fully perceive the power of the community and the support that comes from a crowd of Barbershoppers ready to see you succeed. As a singer in a quartet with my dad and my brothers, and my chorus experience with the **Singing Buckeyes**, I didn't even know what the district convention was other than a place to go and do more singing. I didn't realize it would become the support mechanism for my hobby, and the lifelong friendships that I would develop even as a young person. I'll soon be going to the JAD/Cardinal combined convention, and I still anchor back to those connections and friendships.

BRIAN: Were you a milk crate kid?

STEVE: What's that?

BRIAN: The Slamkas were famous as youngsters for carrying milk crates around at district conventions, so they'd

have something to stand on to be tall enough to sing tags with other people.

STEVE: No, I wouldn't call myself a milk crate kid, although my own kids stood on stuff to sing in the chorus.

JOHN: Over my 48 years as a Barbershopper, with wide experience as a judge, I've found that the district conventions are consistent in camaraderie, friendliness, and support for all the competitors. It's so comforting and energizing to gather with people that you only see once or twice a year, and resume that familiar level of communication and friendship.

STEVE: There's a uniqueness to each community that makes it special. I mean, if you haven't been to JAD and

tried "Rocky Sauce" on the hot dogs that the **Southern Gateway Chorus** serves at their afterglow, you haven't lived—and you also haven't had gastrointestinal distress. But it's part of the experience, right? Rocky is this guy in SGC who makes some of the hottest hot sauce you'll ever taste. You put it on a chili dog with cheese and onions, and this Rocky Sauce will *light you up*, but you have to try it. Isn't it crazy that the first thing that pops to mind is freaking hot dogs at an afterglow? But it's a tribal thing—everyone in the tribe is ready to relive its rituals, and if you're outside the tribe, it is completely foreign to you.

JOHN: At Ontario District conventions, it's the grilled cheese sandwiches in Barry and Sharon Towner's suite, a tradition they inherited from someone who had done it before them.

BRIAN: We have to get started with our district convention cookbook, too, and drinks recipes. These all feel like the transmission of lore and culture to succeeding generations of Barbershop-



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Society Board of Directors societyboard@barbershop.org



pers, as they come into the convention experience and realize, “these are my people.”

STEVE: I was lucky to enter that world at a young age. It was the most fantastic time of my life. We skipped school because Friday was the first round of the contest, and all of that made for exciting times for me.

JOHN: I was not a joiner in school, so it was a totally different experience for me to get on stage with 110 men, the lights come on, the lights go off, and you say, “What? That was six minutes? What just happened here?” And you know you will want to do this again and again for a long time. You’ve reached a fork in the road of life.

BRIAN: This Fall at LOL, I saw a new guy in my chapter do exactly that. He’s 23 years old, singing with us for maybe six weeks. At an afterglow, we’re in the middle of a tag, and he broke out laughing, because he couldn’t believe how fun this was. At the convention, there’s five hundred people around, and he’s just stunned while looking everywhere at everybody.

JOHN: It completely reinvigorates your own joy of this. You envy someone having that first moment of discovery.

STEVE: Then on Monday, you try to explain it all to your co-workers. “Where were you?” “Oh, I was in Indianapolis.” “Oh, did you get to go to ____? See ____?” “Nope.” “Well, what did you do?” “I was at a convention, and I sang until I slept.”

JOHN: Every time you go to a convention, there is a moment where you sit back for a second, right in the middle of the noise of everyone singing, and you look around, and realize that this is the weirdest thing possible, right? It’s so natural for everybody in the barbershop bubble, and incomprehensible to everyone else.

BRIAN: I usually compare our conventions to a basketball tournament. All the teams come in, play some great ball. At night, there’s a bunch of pickup games, which is quartets singing in hospitality rooms and Chorditoriums where your people are there to listen. And then there

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS YOU’RE PLAYING HORSE WITH OUR EQUIVALENTS OF LEBRON JAMES AND STEPH CURRY, JUST MESSING AROUND FOR GRINS.

are bunch of folk in the gym playing Horse, which is tag singing. You challenge each other with cool shots. The only difference is you’re playing Horse with our equivalents of LeBron James and Steph Curry, just messing around for grins.

JOHN: I noticed that 45 minutes into this conversation, none of us started out with “my first contest was in 1978, when we sang ‘Royal Garden Blues’ and scored 67 in Sound.”

STEVE: Well, I remember in my first contest, I got a minus 12 in the Arrangement category. (But it’s nice you’ve all been around long enough to remember the Arrangement category.) We certainly remember the time on stage, but we remember the other times maybe more fondly. Not everybody wins the contest, but everybody has accessibility to those heart moments, those connection moments. It’s almost like there’s a convention where a contest breaks out for a while.

JOHN: Since returning from the pandemic, I’ve noticed a lot more emphasis on gathering in the hotel lobbies and hospitality suites. People are valuing being connected.

BRIAN: As a judge, John, you hardly got to do that many weekends. You got to be right next to all the fun that everybody is having—but mostly you’re working. Why in the world does someone hop a plane to spend a weekend taking care of other people’s fun?

JOHN: Well, you’re in a group of people who are the top of the top in terms of their ability. Interacting means you can learn



John & Steve are attending

Nov. 4, Patapsco Valley, Md.
Annual Show (John)

Nov 8, monthly Strategic Planning
Committee meeting

November 8-11, Harmony, Inc.
International (Steve)

January 7-8, Society Board
retreat, New York City

January 10-13, Midwinter
Convention, New York City

John is listening to

All the recordings of The Ritz

John is reading

*Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our
Best and Worst*, Robert M. Sapolsky

Steve’s recent Google searches

Italian food near me

Pilot hole size for a 5/16 lag bolt

Native plants for lawn replacement

Android Auto tips and tricks

Hiking trails near Franklin, TN

Steve’s recent YouTube

Tim Tags: “Once Upon A Time”

Fall Out Boy: “Here Comes Saturday”

GQ: “Slap That Bass”

Sweet & Sour: “It Had To Be You”

OC Times: “Sold”

Lunch Break: “Under the Sea”



STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

THESE ALL FEEL LIKE THE TRANSMISSION OF LORE AND CULTURE TO SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS OF BARBERSHOPPERS, AS THEY COME INTO THE CONVENTION EXPERIENCE AND REALIZE, "THESE ARE MY PEOPLE."

from them, and sometimes they learn from you. And traveling widely in barbershop means being exposed to all levels of barbershop—Division, District, International. So much to see and hear! There are always a couple of performances that are novel and uniquely entertaining, and that's always fun.

But a big part of it is just giving back to the hobby. It's why it's why we become chapter leaders. It's why we become district leaders. It's why we become coaches. We walked down that fork in the road, and it's made a huge difference in our lives, and we want to continue to see other people have that same experience.

STEVE: Which definitely brings us to shout out to the volunteers who make this all happen. Magically, the shoemaker's elves are hard at work, and no one sees them. Somehow, someone books the convention hotel, finds and sets up the sound system, organizes all the hospitality rooms, sends out the letters to all the competitors, lines up a judging panel, gets them from the airport to the hotel, cleans up afterward, and pays the bills. Thank goodness that all just happens magically and invisibly.

JOHN: The real heroes of the convention weekend spend the least amount of time singing, but are part of every chord that has been sung. Thanks for making it all possible. ■



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Reader Feedback

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

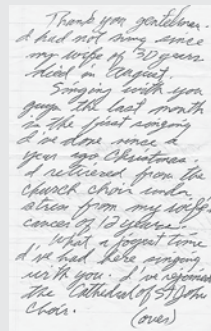
A great non-member letter, Performance rule change

Editor's note: Reader feedback was not possible for the issue that covered the 2023 International Convention in Louisville, as the Nov/Dec 2023 issue will be sent to the printer just as the Sept/Oct 2023 issue hit the streets. The following letter was forwarded to past BHS President Bill Biffle by his past chorus director. It is followed by additional comments from Bill in a later email thread:



"Bill, while I was directing we had a middle-aged gentleman come to rehearsals for about a month. He was quiet but seemed to enjoy himself. I was expecting him to join us, but prior to rehearsal one night he came up to me and told me that he would not be returning. He handed me a note to explain why. This is a powerful story that I think should be shared with the Society." — Doug Arrington (note follows)

Thank you Gentlemen. (I had not sung since my wife of 30 years died in August. Singing with you guys the last month is the first singing I've done since a year ago, Christmas. I retired from the church choir under stress from my wife's cancer of 12 years. What a joyous time I've had here singing with you. I've rejoined the Cathedral of St. John Choir. Thank you again for returning me to singing. How do you memorize everything? Good luck. I want four tickets to your Christmas concert. (Name redacted)



Also, you might be interested in something that happened in RMD a few weeks ago. We (**The NewMexichords**) invited the crowd to join us in singing the 2nd chorus of "Moonlight Bay." We were disqualified, as was the **America The Beautiful Chorus**, having done much the same thing. Some days later, the Performance Category Specialist, Gary Steinkamp, called to tell me that we had occasioned a rule change. No longer will inviting the audience to sing along be an automatic violation. Not our intent, but a happy result, nonetheless.

Stay well, be happy, keep making music. ■

Bill Biffle

Albuquerque, NM



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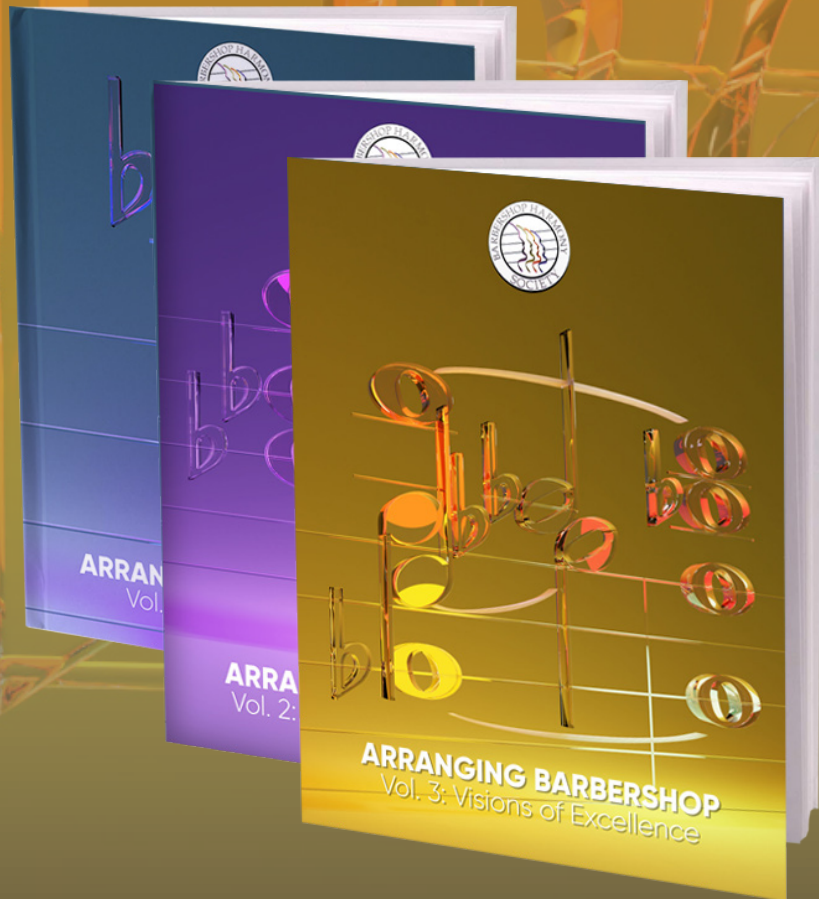


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● 2023 FALL CONTESTS

3 district champs set records

So far, the fall contests have given us oldest average age, youngest champion singer, highest district champion score

Three major BHS-wide district championship records fell during the Fall Contests this year. In the Seneca Land District, **Anything Goes** won with an average age over 80, a likely record; lead Tom Glosick, age 84, also might be the oldest winning singer. He first won district 59 years ago.

Eleven-year-old Lincoln Beutel broke the record for youngest District Quartet Champion, winning the Illinois District with **Linc 182**. Singing bari was his dad, Tim, tenor of 2018 International champion **After Hours**.

Three and a Half Men, months after a fourth place International debut in Louisville, was the SUN champion



with a 93.5% average over four songs; that's both the highest-ever district

quartet score and the second highest quartet score outside the International stage. (2022 champ **Quorum** scored 94% in 2022's International Prelims.) Incidentally, Three and a Half Men's tenor, Joseph De Rosa, double medaled in the contest, also singing bari for silver medalist **Tonal Fusion**.

MARTY MONSON STEPS AWAY AS CEO, STEVE DENINO NAMED INTERIM CEO THRU 2025

Following discussions initiated by Marty Monson in December 2022, the Society Board and the 11-year CEO reached an amicable decision to part ways, making room for a new leader to tackle the realities of the post-COVID world.

In his tenure as CEO from 2012 until August 2023, Monson spearheaded the 2017 adoption of a strategic plan developed by multiple committees of Society members and with input from thousands of barbershop singers. Goals of that plan include Everyone in Harmony, which opened Society membership to all who want to sing.

Monson led the Society through the historic two-year hiatus in singing and gathering caused by the

pandemic, and then saw the return of rehearsals, concerts, conventions and Harmony University.

"Marty has served with profound dedication and commitment to advancing barbershop harmony into the broader choral ecosystem," Society Board President John Santora said.

Monson plans to always remain an active Barbershopper.

STEVE DENINO SERVES AS INTERIM CEO

In August, the Society Board appointed Steve Denino as interim CEO and executive director through 2025. Denino has been on the Society Board six years,



the last three as executive vice president; he also has served as chair of its Strategic Planning Committee. He was a founding member of the BHS Leadership Operations Team, which was created to help local chapters grow in membership and impact.

An executive in the computer services and insurance industries,

Denino leads large-scale, mission-critical projects through the engagement and accountability of employee teams and key stakeholders. He spent the last nine years with Nationwide Mutual Insurance.

"I look forward to continuing the momentum Marty started," Denino said. "Marty served Society members with his whole heart and soul. That's a model all of us should follow."



READ MORE ONLINE Read more on this and other news by subscribing to the LiveWire e-newsletter at barbershop.org/livewire or go to barbershop.org/news.

Idaho Gateway Chorus fills high school coffers with music

The **Pocatello, Idaho Chapter** donated 12 boxes of sheet music to Highland High School after a fire destroyed the choral department's sheet music collection. The music came from many corners of the Rocky Mountain District.

Chapter member Kelly Byers helped solicit the collection from various RMD chapters, which included music types the choirs could perform throughout the school year.

Bass legend Jim Kline passes away



The Barbershop Harmony Society mourns the September passing of Jim Kline, beloved bass singer of **Gotcha!** (2004 champ) and the BHS Hall of Fame's **139th**

Street Quartet (perennial quartet medalist and 2020 Legacy Quartet champion).

Jim was caught off guard by an unexpected illness while traveling in France late this summer. Online fundraisers among his legion fans helped fund a very expensive ambulatory flight to the states where he could be treated by his own doctors.

Jim was a devoted encourager of youth activities and co-founder of the College Quartet Contest, now known as the Next Generation Barbershop Varsity Contest. The 139th Street Quartet members first conceived of the contest in the early 1990s and helped bring it to fruition; it was only one of myriad reasons the quartet was inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame. As Legacy Quartet Champion, in 2020, the audience-voted event formally honored 139th Street Quartet as the best foursome to never win an International Championship.

HARMONY SWEEPSTAKES



'ROUND MIDNIGHT PLACES SECOND IN 2023 HARMONY SWEEPSTAKES

The 2022 International finalist quartet skipped Louisville due to a baby's due date during the convention; but their avail-

ability for America's most prestigious non-barbershop a cappella contest was wide open. **'Round Midnight** won the New York Regional contest then finished second to winner **Radius** in the National Finals, held Oct. 7 in San Rafael, CA. 'Round Midnight overwhelmingly won Audience Favorite, and lead Wayne Grimmer's "Take the A Train" won Best Original Arrangement. Above: Larry Bomback (T), Jeff Glemboski (Bs), T.J. Carollo (Br), Wayne Grimmer (L).

harmony-sweepstakes.com

WORLD-CLASS SINGERS

RINGMASTERS AND INTERNATIONAL SENSATION VOCES8 COLLABORATE IN CONCERT AND IN THE RECORDING STUDIO

Get ready to smash the replay button for days after you hear the results of a "Ringmasters and voces8" search on YouTube. The 2012 champs from Sweden and the Grammy-nominated eight-voice international classical sensation came together twice this year for both concert and recording sessions. As great as both groups are separately, hearing their Stockholm and London collaborations cannot be missed. Some pieces show off Ringmasters' classical training, as the quartet seamlessly blends with the English ensemble in 10-part harmony.

The most jaw-dropping of the four pieces online is "Shall We Gather At The River," a groundbreaking original arrangement by voces8 tenor Blake Morgan, a long-time barbershop harmony lover. The piece combines the best of classical with the best of barbershop—an ethereal opening that builds up to a 12-part barnburner tag! Be sure to wear good headphones to immerse yourself in a supergroup collaboration that more than rivals voces8's collaboration with **The King's Singers** in 2021.





2024 CONVENTION

Cleveland: our funniest and most diverse events ever

Enjoy comedy quartets as well as some non-BHS choruses—and then compete for score on the International stage with Justin Miller or Greg Clancy

DREAM CHORUS EXPERIENCE

If you've always dreamed of competing on the International stage—if you've always wanted to learn at the feet of a multi-gold-winning director—2024 is the year your dreams will come true. Sign up to *compete for score on the big stage* under the baton of either Greg Clancy or Justin Miller. You'll learn and rehearse your set online before coming together in Cleveland to polish and then compete with your set on the International stage!

- For any BHS member not competing with another chorus in Cleveland.
- All vocal ranges welcome.
- Convention registration is required, plus \$30 participation fee.

COMEDY QUARTET FESTIVAL

This new event will feature traditional barbershop contest scoring, audience



balloting, and a small dose of pixie who show off their best routines on the Festival stage. Sign up your quartet.

- Both songs must have a comedic nature and be in good taste.
- At least one song must be contestable barbershop.

CHORUS FESTIVAL NOW OPEN TO ALL

Our Society is filled with one-time non-barbershop singers who showed up at a BHS youth event for kicks and then got floored by barbershop music and culture. Non-BHS individuals and/or entire choirs can now have the opportunity for that same thrill, starting in Cleveland!

For the International Chorus Festival, only a convention registration is required—BHS membership is optional. This is true for individuals as well as entire church choirs, youth choruses, community choruses, symphonic chorales, and other non-barbershop ensembles. Each group will perform two songs, one of which must be contestable barbershop.

Check out these events and register for the convention at barbershop.org/cleveland.



What's Happening



Harmony University ▲

July 21-28, 2024

Location TBD

Learn why it's widely called the best week in barbershop!

barbershop.org/hu



2024 International Cleveland – June 30-July 7



▲ 2024 Midwinter New York City
January 9-14

2024 International Cleveland
June 30-July 7

2025 International Denver
June 29-July 6



BARBERSHOPPER TEACHES “LET’S MAKE A DEAL” HOSTS A TAG

Did you know that the game show “Let’s Make a Deal” is a big deal again? Michael Van Schoonhoven did, and the long-time BHS member, who has won multiple medals with the **Masters of Harmony**, showed up at a taping ready to cast barbershop harmony in a positive light. The 72-year-old spoke about the Masters’ nine International championships and then successfully taught Wayne Brady and his two co-hosts a tag before “beating” two other contestants and winning \$7,000 worth of home gaming equipment. [cbs.com/shows/lets_make_a_deal](https://www.cbs.com/shows/lets_make_a_deal)

THEY OWNED THE NIGHT

It’s no coincidence that Meredith Willson cast the legendary **Buffalo Bills** as the School Board Quartet for *The Music Man*. Their powerful voices allowed us to cheer for lead Harold Hill by showing that while he may have arrived in town as a shameless huskster, he needed to succeed—they were living validation of Harold’s sales pitch about the redeeming power of music. Such a powerful role requires powerful voices, and BHS luminaries Tim Reynolds, Mike Slamka, Clay Hine and Jackson Pinder overdelivered in a recent Decatur, GA show. Imagine how voices of this caliber must have lifted the entire production! ■



FIRST LOOK

The new BHS YouTube subscription will feature early access to new contest releases, plus the first peek at classic performances from the vaults.

JOIN TODAY!



Now you can be sure to see all the best in barbershop as soon as it’s released! **For just \$7.99 per month, you can unlock First Look**, a YouTube subscription option from the Barbershop Harmony Society.

First Look subscribers will enjoy premieres of **more than two hours of videos every month**—usually much more— at least **a month before it’s released in public channels**.





SPOTLIGHT

Joe Hunter, Performance judge, bari of 2023 Seniors Silver Medalist Up All Night
✉ jhunner1@aol.com

● EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE

Barbershop's most eclectic résumé?

What *hasn't* Theresa Weatherbee done? Her experience as a professional architect, a boxer, drum majorette, stage actor, and as a hockey referee all helped her become the famous barbershop coach/performer/judge/choreographer she is today.

The following is a distillation of a free ranging conversation between Joe Hunter and Theresa Weatherbee. No names have been changed to protect the innocent or the guilty.

JOE: Hi Theresa! So, here we are again, having one of our many, many chats. Having just gotten back from a wonderful and transformational Judging Category School, I was thinking we have been at this a *long* time, eh? Almost 30 years!

THERESA: Yeah—a *looong* time, Joe! My first candidacy started in '95 with Harmony, Inc., certified by HI in '97, first BHS school in '98.

JOE: Well I came at it very green in terms of coaching and judging. Not like you ...

THERESA: Yeah, I had been doing theater and performance coaching for a long time, but we were both experienced performers who were learning how to judge. I have always been fascinated with breaking down how to judge—teaching what you do naturally on the stage.

JOE: That was at the advent of a very positive movement in judging—getting



Theresa on the 2023 International Judging Panel in Louisville. Some of her judging peers weren't yet born when she started using the BHS scoring system in the mid-1990s as a Harmony, Inc. Performance

more judges who had high-level performance experience.

THERESA: I was discovered as a Barbershopper from my experiences in a tiny little Nova Scotia playhouse of my youth. The cast numbered about 42 onstage.

JOE: Probably most of that town.

THERESA: The cast included townspeople, including little kids. The director needed a choreographer and vocal coach, and I was asked to step in. Pretty challenging—some cast could sing, some not so much ...

JOE: Hmmmm, sounds just like barbershop!

THERESA: I soon discovered that what I'd been learning for 15 years translated to barbershop. Everything a character does or sings has to relate and have a *purpose*. So this informed my journey very early. In '93 I was approached

by Richard Treptow and Linda Janes about getting involved with judging.

JOE: For me it was Steve Plumb.

THERESA: Well, very quickly he was a wonderful mentor for me, too!

JOE: I started by dancing in front of the TV at home during *Lawrence Welk*. I'm not proud of that.

THERESA: My sister and I would put on shows in our room. I would skip down the street imagining I was Doris Day singing "Que Sera, Sera." We'd pretend pencils were microphones and that we were **The Beatles**. At eight years old, I was a majorette dancing with a baton. That's where I started to understand choreography. I also belonged to the square dancing club—again highly choreographed.

JOE: Not many square dancing clubs in NYC. My background was a little more rock and roll.

THERESA: Well, in Nova Scotia, *everybody* played hockey. In fact I became a hockey referee when I was 21. Doing that as a woman was pretty groundbreaking at the time. There were some headlines in our local papers that didn't age well. One was, "The best curves on the ice"! I showed up in figure skates. I did that for about three years until I became pregnant with my first—Ashley, who is turning 40!

JOE: Congratulations!

THERESA: I *always* treated sports as a performance!

JOE: Another little known fact: you also took up boxing. Theresa the Prizefighter!

THERESA: It was a bad back that led me to that—I woke up and had to crawl out of bed—my husband had to help me to the local chiropractor. It was suggested that I strengthen my core, and there was this local women's boxing class.

JOE: And of course you dove in ...

THERESA: Yes, I ended up becoming pretty addicted. It not only helped my core but also assisted my breathing. I was already singing for a while by then. I got proficient enough that my trainer told me I should go pro. At the

I LOVE SEEING PEOPLE
SUCCEED, SEEING THE LITTLE
LIGHT BULBS GO ON OVER
THEIR HEADS.

BOXING TRANSLATES AS CHOREOGRAPHY—EFFORTLESS MOVEMENT, PERFORMANCE MATTERS! BUT THERE'S LESS BLUNT FORCE TRAUMA IN BARBERSHOP.

age of 42, I didn't think that was in the cards, but I was able to spar with Olympic hopefuls. My husband gave me a choice—barbershop or boxing. You know what choice I made!

JOE: Less blunt force trauma in barbershop. It actually makes sense: boxing translates as choreography, effortless movement—performance matters! Let's jump ahead. What has been your most memorable experience as a barbershop coach?

THERESA: I can't name just one. I love seeing people succeed, seeing the little light bulbs go on over their heads. Watching people realize that there is so much more available to them. It *never* gets old and makes it all worthwhile.

JOE: Yeah people don't understand about the glamor of traveling three weekends per month, sitting in airports, canceled flights, airport food ...

THERESA: Probably my proudest moment was Aaron Dale with **Kentucky Vocal Union**—Aaron used to call me “The Finisher.” He would have me in to do final molding and prep. When they won their bronze medal for “Foot-loose” and “Every Breath You Take,” Aaron pinned a medal on me. *That* was pretty emotional!

Theresa chose a barbershop career over a professional boxing career. The skills she acquired in boxing and as hockey referee were surprisingly applicable to her role as a barbershop judge and choreographer.



JOE: I would bet!

THERESA: But there are rewards at all levels—you work to that level and their needs.

JOE: What comes to mind is something Ben Zander said at Harmony U this year. He looked at the auditorium full of judges and said “You are all healers.” That has stuck with me.

THERESA: Me too!

JOE: You've been doing a lot of travel recently—BABS, LABBS, New Zealand Pan Pacific contest and, of course, becoming the first female judge at International in exotic Louisville.

THERESA: I'll also be judging the Harmony, Inc. International in November. I'm the Performance Category Specialist for HI.

JOE: As well as a member of the BHS Board of Review. And one of the pioneering groundbreakers for tearing down gender barriers in barbershop. You showed the way—you may not realize what kind of a hero you are for so many.

THERESA: I feel like I always had the right reasons for doing these things, but I was very fierce in my commitment to the hobby.

JOE: You had to be tough and thick skinned and uniquely tenacious. And of course talented! It's been an incredible privilege to have gotten to know you and counting you as a close friend. Any closing thoughts?

THERESA: I wanted to start by thanking all of my mentors who believed in me. They kept me going. But I say *continue to dream big*. It truly is the Art of Possibility. ■



Theresa as choreographer and director of Valley Voices and with husband Brent Graham, a well known BHS arranger, performer, and judge.

FACULTY

- Harmony College East, 2001-23
- Harmony University, 2014-16
- MAD Top Gun School, 2010-18
- Diva Days England, 2015 (UK)
- SAI Region 19 Education Day, 2016 (Philadelphia)
- Holland Harmony College, 2018
- BinG! Harmony College, 2018

JUDGING

- Certified Presentation Judge (1995-97)
- BHS Certified Musical Director (2006)
- HI Presentation Cat. Specialist (2008-11)
- Certified Performance Judge (2016)
- HI Performance Cat. Specialist (2016)
- Certified BHS Performance Judge (2019)

EMPLOYMENT

CEO of EngageOnStage™ (2006-present)

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE

- Featured Role: *RollerTown* movie (2012)
- Background Actor: *Call Me Fitz* (TV series, 2010-13)
- *Mr. D* (TV series (2012-13)
- Hallmark Movies (2012-13)
- Various TV commercials (2012-14)



THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE EVERYTHING HAPPEN

The September/October issue celebrated the best performers our artform has to offer; for this issue, let's celebrate some of the waaaaay-behind-the-scenes folks who quietly go about solving the problems and putting in the hours to pull off everything we do.

"If I don't do it, who will?"

Everything you've ever enjoyed as a Barbershopper, *somebody* made it happen. "Obviously. But most of the doers are rarely recognized for all their behind-the-scenes work. Let's remedy that just a bit.

Truth be told, some of the people who were suggested for inclusion in the following pages declined the invitation. And several more of those who agreed to be included had to be coaxed to do so, even if all appreciated that someone wanted to recognize their contributions over many years. The following pages are just a slice of those who quietly make things happen, whether large or small, whether or not the job has a title.

Who are the people in your corner of the Society who deserve to be recognized?

... and if not by you, then who?



ANOTHER KIND OF CHAMPION



About 90 of the 133 attendees at this year's 44th Woodshed Party, organized by Karen Rourke (behind her husband, Dave, who is wearing an apron and red hat).



Jodi Ceaser Spring, Texas

“Jodi is the one of those literally behind the scenes workers who every singer on the back side of the curtain couldn’t function without, and who most people on the audience side of the curtain don’t even know exists. Like so many others, Jodi has been doing the heavy lifting to keep shows and contests running smoothly, a thankless task ... unless you count the performers, emcees, and presenters. She has kept our contest pipelines running like clockwork for years without even being a member of the Society—until recently!”

Jodi: My first “job” for SWD was to fill in as stage manager for a single contest. While I had stage managed many BHS and SAI chapter shows, I knew this would be different, and I was a little nervous. Then the presenter—probably the district president, if I recall—started to walk out to the lectern before I had given him the green light. He was stopped in his tracks by my abruptly extended arm. If it didn’t knock the wind out of him, it definitely surprised him ... oops! “Great way to make a first impression!” I thought. Somehow, I was later asked to be a permanent member of the Events Team, as the Competitor Services Chairman. Because I’d felt so welcomed and appreciated at that first contest by everyone in this amazing barbershop community, and knowing how important non-singing volunteers are to the contest experience, I gladly accepted.

Best perk: I have the best seat in the house, even though I rarely get to see a performance!

Why she serves: The authentic array of emotions I get to share with these groups, both before and after their performances, is an incredibly intimate and heartwarming honor that motivates me to be there for them contest after contest.

Paying
the love
forward
and
celebrating
our hobby
is thrilling
each time
I go out on
stage.

“Our chorus director since 2007, Mike is quick to deflect praise and reluctant to blame others for chorus shortcomings. He is humble yet talented, and fosters positive reinforcement. The chorus has navigated the difficulties of the past three years with growth and improvement. We are blessed to have such a kind, capable self-deprecating director.”

Mike: I have always endeavored to use “enabling discourse” to lead my chorus, much as I do every day as an English teacher at Maine-Endwell High School. Bringing out the best in people is a labor of love, particularly as it involves spreading our harmony to the local community.

Keeping everyone engaged as we get older and busier is always a challenge,

but I have many people to thank for my success in and never-wavering love for this hobby: first, my father and mother, who played recordings of **The Buffalo Bills** as I was growing up and instilled my love of harmony; my supportive wife, Holly, who participates with my volunteering; Dr. Jerry Schmidt and Mac Sabol, my mentors in the Binghamton chorus; Eddie Martinez, Al Baker, and the many other wonderful coaches, judges, and class instructors I have learned from through the years; and especially my chorus for always giving their best and supporting me!

Why he volunteers: The interaction with the audience—paying the love forward—and celebrating our hobby is thrilling each time I go out on stage in the community at

Past president and two-time BOTY of Manitowoc County (WI) Chapter, former co-chair of the Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival, member of Land O' Lakes District Hall of Fame, LOL East Region VP

Jim Rasmus
Manitowoc, Wisconsin



“He’s given many years of work to the Wisconsin Youth Festivals. And recently, he was a key coordinator of the Schmitt Brothers Stage Dedication event in Two Rivers, WI. Jim is the person who makes sure all the details are covered and things actually get done.”

Jim: Since I retired in 2013, my new “job” is Barbershopping. My Youth in Harmony work has led to wonderful relationships with music educators and Barbershoppers across Wisconsin. At Midwinter 2023, I watched Penny

Yanke’s two choruses and three quartets from Burlington, WI take home three of the top prizes. July was a dream come true for Bill Schmitt and I, as over 500 people gathered with the **Schmitt Brothers’** family to enjoy barbershop music on a summer afternoon.

Why he volunteers: I love seeing young people perform on stage, helping music educators incorporate barbershop into their curriculum, and all occasions when Barbershoppers get together.

Because I’d felt so welcomed and appreciated, and knowing how important non-singing volunteers are to the contest experience, I gladly accepted.



42-year member; Carlindian Chorus in Carlisle, PA, Southerntier Barbershop Chorus (Binghamton, NY) in 1986, 19+ years as assistant director and 15+ years as Musical Director; Route 26, The Troubadours, Pro Tem, and Terry and the Pirates quartets

Mike Lurenz
Binghamton, New York

large. And performing in front of my high school students will always be the most cherished of memories. I consider our chorus performances, in fact, to

be the best manifestation of volunteering—for example, the reward of smiling faces in nursing homes and the surprised elation of Singing Valentine recipients.



Member, director, coach, and educator for SAI, HI, and BHS. 2006 Harmony Queen with Boston Accent, 50 year member of SAI, Party Instigator

Karen Rourke
Tewksbury,
Massachusetts



“ I run out of superlatives when talking about her leadership with the Meredith Bay Barbershop Jamboree and her frequent woodshedding and quartet matching parties that are attended by people from all over the NED. ”

Karen: I love to bring people together to sing! Tags, woodshedding, competition, pick up quartets, festivals, mix and matches. Most recently, my husband Dave and I hosted the 44th “Woodshed Party” with about 130 attendees from Canada to Virginia to Missouri. Seven quartets showed up, including **Praxis** and **The Square Route**. We also host SSSSS gatherings (Singing, Scotch, Stogies, Steak Tips, Sausages) on no more than a few weeks notice because a friend is visiting: Ken Hatton, Kevin Keller, Ed Waesche, Tom Spirito, Terry Clarke, Jakob Stenberg, Joe Cerutti ...

I’m helping a team rebuild the Meredith Bay Barbershop Jamboree that had been held in Alton Bay for 60-some years. We’ve involved the community, the merchants, local students and volunteer Barbershoppers, it’s quite an event.

Favorite moment: Honoring Ron Menard at the first Meredith Bay Jamboree last year, with a touching, funny, inspirational tribute by his son, Roger. Ron got a five-minute standing O; he passed away just weeks later.

Why she volunteers: I love to see people have fun, enjoy a ringing chord, and a love watching someone “get it.” The most exhilarating times have been conversations with icons: Justis, Liles, Clancy, Pilcher, Clause, Renee Craig, so many more ...

It is immensely satisfying to help others learn, grow, and establish new skills and friendships. And, *If it is to be, it is up to me.*

“ He has served the district for many years and created and ran Harmony College North for many years. He is a Past President and continues to be on the District board. ”

Ken: When my amazing wife introduced me to barbershop in 1973, I joined to ring chords. But it wasn’t long before local mentors and wonderful visitors—Joe Liles on his first staff tour!—opened my eyes to the incredible richness of opportunities in our hobby. Big lesson learned: it is immensely satisfying to help other Barbershoppers learn, grow, and establish new skills and friendships. And most important, *If it is to be, it is up to me.*

Why he volunteers: In 2016, Dr. Ray Danley (director) and I (manager) created the first ONT District Seniors Chorus, **The Maple Leaf Chord Company**. After our performance in San Antonio, a member wrote

(paraphrased), “This MLCC experience has allowed me to achieve three of my longstanding barbershop dreams: to sing in a large chorus (about 65) a good chorus (score 74), and I got to sing on an International stage.” How could one not volunteer to provide rich opportunities for fellow Barbershoppers to learn grow, and celebrate our ‘sport’?



49 years at the chapter level (director, quartetter, section leader); District Level (HCN, various schools and activities, Seniors quartetter, ONT Seniors chorus, President and Board); and Society Level (10 years as a Singing judge); two-time ONT District BOTY

Ken Fisher Guelph, Ontario

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Al: I'm blessed to have many opportunities to serve my beloved Pioneer District: Contest & Judging guy, reviewer of shows, chapter officer installer, coach/clinician at schools/conventions, former Youth in Harmony Director/Chorus Director Development team/Assistant Music Education Director/Quartet Champions Association Secretary.

Favorite moment: Years ago, while doing a quartet gig at a local retirement home, I bumped into a guy who was a Boy Scout in my grandad's troop in Maryland in the '40s. My favorite volunteer duty (with Bonnie!) is working the pit at International contests. We love catching up with our friends in the judging community. (Not to mention the great seats!)

Why he volunteers: 45 years in the Society has given me community, lifelong friendships, and many goals proudly achieved. I'm grateful to give back to my chapters, our Pioneer District, and the Society.



Al Fisk Rochester, Michigan

PIO quartet champ, district chorus champ director, singer with multiple international choruses, PIO Hall of Fame, past director of several choruses, Glenn Van Tassel Award (promotion of quartetting), past Music judge, SCJC Award for creating a candidate judge mentoring program



Cardinal District Treasurer, Communications Director, and Past President; Circle City Sound Treasurer, past President, newsletter editor and webmaster; Indiana Harmony Brigade

charter member and past Secretary; District and chapter HoF; Host Chapter Chairman of the 2006 BHS International; three-time International Bulletin Editor of the Year; Leadership Academy instructor

Jerry Troxel Noblesville, Indiana

“He is current Cardinal treasurer (also Circle City Sound treasurer), current Cardinal Communications (also did the daily publications in Louisville), past President of Cardinal (and CCS.) He does a lot and has for some time.”

Jerry: I have certainly enjoyed the fun, the fellowship and the music since discovering barbershop in my mid-20s. Since moving into chapter and district leadership, I've focused on communication. Whether acting as newsletter editor, webmaster, Singing Valentines chairman, section leader or officer, I've worked to give our members the who, what, when, where, and especially the why, of what is going on and coming up.

Why he volunteers: We leaders get involved in the details of a new project early on and often forget that our fellow members may not be fully in the communication loop. Through chapter visits, emails, website postings, newsletters, announcements, financial presentations, social media and the like, I strive to keep the information flowing, and try to make it interesting and entertaining.



“

As CSD Membership Development VP, he has done a lot trying to make the BHS Member Center more functional and has pointed out a lot of bugs after their roll out. Don keeps his eyes out for me identifying deceased BHS members.

”

Don: I mentor other chapter leaders in understanding the business processes that help more members join and thrive. Local chapter leaders can often use existing tools to keep members out of “hot water” without having to contact HQ. Understanding what members expect through their singing experiences, and helping them understand what they can do on their own (from learning new music to paying attention to dues renewals), the local experience can be enhanced in many ways!

Biggest perk: Finding a solution that helps one member feels great! Helping HQ find and resolve cases that impact many feels greater! Helping leaders use member and



CSD President (2007-08) and International President (2015-2016); BHS Administrative Judge; CSD Senior Quartet Champ; current VLQ and two chorus memberships; chapter and district BOTY; CSD Hall of Fame

Don Fuson Leawood, Kansas

chapter data to better reach out into their communities feels awesome.

Why he volunteers: I love to see when members know how to use present tools and techniques. I love when chapter leaders trust others with critical chapter functions and

develop new leaders that can succeed them. My quartet used to have to cancel performances because of my travel. But now we've recruited backup singers to fill these gaps, and they've benefited by learn new music and perform for more audiences more often.

“

Just ask her and she gets it done!

”

JAD Events Team, JAD Hall of Fame, “Queen of JAD,” Apple Corps, Leadership Academy

Sharon Stevens

Cross Lanes,
West Virginia



The barbershop community has become my lifeline and my support system through many life events. I would not be who I am today without that support.

Sharon: In 1990, I reluctantly attended my soon-to-be husband's chapter show, but only to show my willingness to accept his hobby. That night, I fell in love with the art-form and lifestyle!

In 1996, we began working with the JAD Events Team. At the 2016 Spring Convention, I was honored as the “Queen of JAD.” In 2019, I became the first woman inducted into the JAD Hall of Fame. Not too shabby for someone who had to be coerced to attend her first concert!

I consider myself a behind-the-scenes worker bee. While I may not possess the visionary qualities of a great leader, I strive to fulfill my assignments in order to realize the ideas of others.

Most recently, I have worked in promoting and organizing the many events of JAD, including Apple Corps (JAD's version of a mini-HU), the Leadership Academy, both Spring and Fall Conventions, and any other task asked of me.

Why she volunteers: One of the true joys of my volunteer life has been working the registration process at conventions for more than 20 years. It has been a joy to get to know so many wonderful people and meeting Barbershoppers from all over the world. The barbershop community has become my lifeline and my support system through many life events. I would not be who I am today without that support.

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Words by Norman Gimbel and Music by Charles Fox
Arrangement by Jay Dougherty
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Arrangement by Barbershop Harmony Society
Barbershop Harmony - Men's voices (TTBB)
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Mike has been our photographer, videographer, and webmaster in MAD since the middle ages. He is *always* available and offers a quick response to any request, whether it be updating our District website (hosted on his personal server), or general support and advice. He is selfless in taking great pictures of each ensemble at our three District events, and he makes those available within hours (again on his personal server) to all performers at NO CHARGE. Performance videos, including Director webcams, are also available within minutes of each performance and the cost is a mere \$25.



43 year member,
Choruses: Cherry Hill, NJ;
Patapsco Valley, MD; Bowie,
MD; Alexandria, VA
Quartets: Persuasion (8th Sr.
Intl.), District Champs: Casino,
Wheelhouse (INTL Finalist),
Last Men Standing and many
others not so recognizable!

Mike Kelly Laurel, Maryland

Mike: My friend asked me to help him lug some audio equipment at a District contest in 2006. Since then, I've been on the MAD District Events Team and worked/volunteered my way up to all things technical for the District, my chorus, and a few other choruses nearby.

In that time, I've overhauled the district's photo/video process. Contestants used to have to wait a month for their VHS tapes, photos, CDs or DVDs. We

now deliver files electronically (in a couple of days), and they can buy them any time. Contest audio files often arrive as an email while they're walking off the stage!

The 2001 District President asked me to be the webmaster for a few years—22 years later, I'm still at it.

Best perk: I get the best seat in the house for every contest & show!

Why he volunteers: If I don't do it, who will? And, I get to make sure it gets done right!

Greg Kronlund Puyallup, WA

Emceed for the Tri Cities, WA, Chapter show in 2004, that year, joined the Society, the chapter board, a registered VLQ, and Over Forte quartet. In 2011, became Marketing VP and later President of the Federal Way Harmony Kings



Greg Kronlund is indispensable to the Evergreen District, helping our chapters start rebuilding and marketing themselves as pandemic restrictions started loosening up. He now has three web pages under the "M&M" drop-down on the district website (www.EVGDistrict.com) to which he adds regularly.

Greg: I was invited to take a marketing role with the EVG Communications team in 2021. The role was undefined, so the team and I created my Chapter Marketing Advisor role. I wrote articles for district publications, managed three pages of the website, and offered Zoom marketing training meetings. For

the first meeting, I planned to talk about marketing to an audience; however, attendees wanted concepts of marketing for members. Over the course of the year, I worked with 29 chapters (about 60% of the district) with 60+ members in 13 Zoom meetings, ranging from "The Four Ps of Marketing," "How to SWOT Your Chapter," "Advertising Principles," "Understanding Features and Benefits," "Chapter Vocabulary," and "Developing a Personal 'Elevator' Speech."

The workshops helped me look at the district through the eyes of small and large markets. I saw how Covid froze chapters in place. But I also experienced the passion for growth that comes from sharing barbershop more often in chapter communities. I saw one chapter grow from four members to 16 in four months. I smiled every time someone's face lit up with an "ah-ha" moment.

Why he volunteers: I have a passion for the continuing work of barbershop chapters, and I have a desire to help them grow beyond their wildest imagination. If only one chapter catches fire from my efforts, I will be satisfied. Recovery is in our grasp.

“

Larry helped develop and direct chapter shows, and he worked with music educators to introduce Barbershop to their students. Several of those educators are now BHS members! He was the indefatigable driving force in a years-long to bring BHS and SAI champion quartets including **Signature** to area schools for demonstrations, coaching, and fundraising shows. He is a master at coordinating and leading his chapter as Volunteer Coordinator of our Spring Convention.

”

Larry: I’ve worked to serve the Society for over 40 years and in every board position possible across six chapters. I was also the first full-time Development Director at Harmony Foundation during its fundraising “transition” in the years 1997-2003.

Why he volunteers: As a youth I volunteered for community events and school activities. And then while in the Air Force I learned to *not* volunteer! After my military service, I directed fundraising events for different charities. I like seeing good causes succeed, and I fell in love



NSC District 2022 BOTY, President Upstate South Carolina Chapter, served different Chapter boards as Secretary, Membership Development VP, Newsletter Editor, Marketing & Public Relations VP, and as a COTS/LEADAC M&PR instructor

Larry Gilhousen

Simpsonville, South Carolina

with the Barbershop Harmony “mission” soon after joining the Society. I am blessed with a gift for visualizing what needs to be done and then helping people succeed at it. Like singing, volunteering is fun for me. It’s a joy to help young singers discover Barbershopping.



Brian & Danny Wunderlin

Largo, Florida

The “Riser Guys” for Heralds of Harmony and for the Sunshine District

“ These are the riser guys for HoH and for district functions as well. Whether it is our two times a year events for conventions or setup for district or local youth camps, they get it done. We just could not do what we do without them. They are there early for set up and finish up late for tear-down. Unsung heroes and I am thankful for them!

”

Brian: My father, Bill, and I joined the Society in 1980 with the **Heralds of Harmony** in Tampa. He had been involved in barbershop years earlier, but didn’t enjoy it as much until both he and I were involved—and much more so when his grandson joined years later.

My father was always involved with the Heralds including the crucial but thankless job of setup, breakdown, and moving of those very awkward, heavy, and cumbersome risers. My son, Danny, first started helping at 9 years old, and he was small enough to fit in and hold the elevator while we were loading and unloading. Ever since, this task has always been something we just do because it needs to get done.

Since then, Danny has taken this very important and thankless job to the next level by becoming the Equipment Manager for both the Heralds of Harmony and the Sunshine District. Danny and I are the tag team that gets the risers where they need to be and get set up before rehearsal. Although Bill is unable to participate with the Heralds anymore, he takes great pride knowing he was largely responsible for creating this legacy. ■

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twigginton@harmonyfoundation.org



Dixie Semich

BHS Donor Center Associate
(615) 571-2089

dsemich@harmonyfoundation.org



Or contact your BHS District HFI representative:

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



"I've had so many of my friends do amazing things this fall at various district competitions that I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude that I know these people. **I love seeing my friends succeed and achieve through barbershop.** I'm just so happy."

Roman King

"Last year I decided to get back into singing again, after an almost 6-7 year hiatus. Bringing barbershop harmony back into my world has made me feel a little more whole/myself again. **Singing truly does make everything better.**"

Taks Southon

"Being globally aware, yet singing all the intimate colors of your own voice, is where the **true magic** of choral singing lies."

Jim Henry

We are so grateful for all our members and volunteers who love this art form, express themselves through barbershop harmony, give their time, energy, and talents to their local singing groups, and help bring barbershop to their communities through performances and volunteer efforts. **We could not do this without you all!**
Thank you!

HELP US SPREAD THE JOY OF BARBERSHOP!

WWW.BARBERSHOP.ORG

Looking back on 11 years as CEO

A personal reflection from Marty Monson as he transitions from Society Executive Director back to Joe Barbershopper

After eleven years, thousands of handshakes and new friends, tens of thousands of emails, hours and hours of conversations and meetings—and oh, yes, quite a few tags!—thank you, my friends, for the privilege of serving you as Chief Executive Officer of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

When I first arrived for this position in 2012, I began by urging us all to “look out the window”—to challenge ourselves to see all the possibilities out there for barbershop harmony, and to see how others view the Society. A branding effort soon followed to remind ourselves that what we do is important. More than just a hobby, we are “Together, Making The Music That’s Making A Difference.”

Sunsetting the annual International DVD marketplace project was replaced with posting all of the International videos on YouTube so *everyone* around the world could see the great BHS barbershop performances. (We had 7K subscribers at that time, and 192K today.) We worked to rebuild and truly value our understanding of the importance of our deep social connections, of the lasting impact of music education in our communities, and the power of philanthropy.

We then set our sights on making those beliefs realities by expanding and re-imagining participation in our major events. Midwinter Convention attendance skyrocketed as

we leveraged the energy of all the types of youth choruses and the power of our motivated donor base to create festivals for hundreds of singers from around the globe. Our summer conventions became more fun, with greater variety, through innovative programming like the Saturday Night Spectacular. Harmony University brought record numbers of educators due to partnerships with NAFME and ACDA and regular barbershoppers for incredible education events. A Better World Singing Day in 2016 in Nashville brought thousands of locals to join us for a gala concert to close a fantastic convention week.

At the same time, we started building a culture of impact and measurement that helps us understand how well we are aligning our activities to our dreams and joy of barbershopping. A comprehensive research and listening project distilled our wide-ranging number of barbershop activities into a cohesive whole and, ultimately, a strategic plan embraced by our Society Board of Directors.

Everyone in Harmony continues to inspire us to bring the core meaning of barbershop—the heart to heart connection of singing together in harmony—to *all* people. The Society’s efforts to acknowledge groups ex-

cluded in the past because of race is a small initial step. Making amends and fostering a culture of inclusivity is an ongoing process. Everyone in Harmony will only be “there” when any person, of any age, race, gender, orientation, beliefs, or means can walk into a barbershop setting and immediately know they are at home as friends and peers.

The explosion of barbershop singing ensembles over the past five years has been astonishing. Participation in all kinds of contests, festivals, and shows is going through the roof, thanks to the infusion of new singers, new ideas and new ways to connect as a barbershop ensemble.

As I leave this role, I am grateful to the many friends and mentors who have helped me understand the deep impact we make on tens of thou-

sands of lives every year through membership or through the purchase of a barbershop arrangement for your high school choir. I’m grateful to my dedicated colleagues on the BHS staff, who daily bring cheer and passion to their work. I am grateful to our Society Board for the

courage to change a tradition-bound organization to a modern, welcoming and ever evolving one.

I am grateful to the people who have agreed with me, and to the people who disagreed with me. Every spirited debate, every wild brainstorm and plan, every success we have shared through the years, has come from the same source: Every time we sing harmony together, goodness grows in the world. Every time we let our musical harmony lead us, our hearts naturally grow toward more peaceful and joyful places.

I’ve always known that Barbershoppers are driven by harmony to expand harmony, and I bless and thank you for the love of this beautiful harmony we’ve shared.

– Marty Monson





CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE: *PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY*

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.

To honor this achievement, we are thrilled to announce an initiative that underscores our commitment to the growth and sustainability of our mission and invaluable program partners. M.B. Lumbard, a champion of enriching lives through singing, has generously pledged a \$150,000 giving challenge to HFI. **All new, reinstated, and increased Ambassador of Song and President's Council gifts will be counted toward the Lumbard Family Challenge.** This extraordinary endeavor has the potential to raise over \$300,000 in new support of life-changing programs!



Join us in celebrating two decades of President's Council!

HARMONYFOUNDATION.ORG

DIRECTORS WANTED

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

Golden Valley Chorus (Modesto, CA) is looking for a director to boost the skills of our talented, competing, motivated, and enthusiastic chapter of 17 male singers. We perform throughout the Central Valley. Salary and benefits. Contact Roe Darnell at 209-499-1118 or darnellroe@gmail.com; or contact Marc Jantzen 209-401-7545, mmacmar01@aol.com.

Co-Director wanted for **Mosaic** all voices chorus in Manchester, CT. For more information, contact Glenn Reid at 860-437-3029 or directorsearch@manchesterchorus.org. manchesterchorus.org

Coachella Valley Barbershop Chorus in America's Retirement Capital, Palm Springs, CA, is a growing chorus looking for a new director. We had eight paid gigs this past season, and the

the audiences in this Valley are wonderful! Contact Dale Marin at dalemarin1@gmail.com, 415-377-1541; cvbarbershop.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.

The **Tucson Sunshine Chapter/Tucson Barbershop experience** seeks a skilled director for weekly rehearsals and performances in the coming season. Contact Frank Hartline, frank.hartline@comcast.net, 520-977-1587; www.tucsonbarbershopharmony.org.

Harmony Celebration (formerly Ramapo Valley), an award-winning chorus on the regional/

international stage in Ridgewood, NJ, seeks a dynamic and experienced director to take us to the next level! Go to harmonycelebration.com/director-search.

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

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Members reported as deceased between July 15 and Sept 15, 2023. Send updates to membership@barbershop.org. See previous memorial listings and links to online obituaries at barbershop.org/in-memorial

CAROLINAS

Kenny Bland
Research Triangle Park, NC

CENTRAL STATES

Ronald Abel
Kansas City, MO
Ken Jackson
Olathe, KS
Richard Kimball
Omaha, NE
Papillion, NE
Erling Nerem
Fort Dodge, IA
Larry Poisner
Frank Thorne
Edward Shaw
Lincoln, NE

DIXIE

Barry Owens
Chattanooga, TN
Cleveland, TN
David Reiff
Macon, GA

EVERGREEN

Larry Sundholm
Spokane, WA

FAR WESTERN

Al Justice
El Cajon, CA
Palomar Pacific, CA
Phil Lockwood
San Fernando Valley, CA
Garth Ratliff
South Bay, CA
Rincon Beach, CA
Robert Saxe
Crescenta Valley, CA
Charles Stahl
Greater Los Angeles
Stefford Veltema
Coachella Valley, CA
Walnut Creek, CA

JOHNNY APPLESEED

James Parks
Columbus, OH
Gary Sollmann
Frank Thorne

Rodger Suver
Buckeye Columbus, OH

LAND O' LAKES

Robert Dell
Mankato, MN
Darrell Egerton
Minneapolis, MN
Carl Schumacher
Appleton, WI
Thurman Slack
Minneapolis, MN

MID-ATLANTIC

Charles Carter
Philadelphia, PA
Eric Thomas Engelhardt
Philadelphia, PA
Hell's Kitchen, NY
Steven Guy
Dundalk, MD
Joseph LeCompte
Hunterdon County, NJ
Rahway Valley, NJ
Red Bank Area, NJ

John McCloskey
Pottstown, PA
Fred Spages
Sussex County, NJ
Gerald Ray Stewart
Prince William, VA
Stephen Stojowski
Nassau-Mid Island, NY
Bryn Mawr, PA

NORTHEASTERN

William McGonegal
New London, CT
Norwich, CT
Norman Mendenhall
Saratoga Springs, NY

ONTARIO

Royal H.E. Connor
London, ON
Murray Crone
Newmarket, ON
Edward Davis
Frank Thorne
Clifford Himes
Barrie, ON

PIONEER

Roger Brook
Hillsdale, MI
Henry Todd Hoath
Hillsdale, MI
Joseph Rogers
Sault Ste Marie, ON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Alexander Lunsford
Denver MountainAires, CO
John Williams
Albuquerque, NM

SENECA LAND

Carlton Harper
Binghamton, NY
Mark Twain, NY
Daniel Philip Lummuka
Mark Twain, NY
Allen Shirey
New Bethlehem, PA
William Szigeti
Binghamton, NY

SOUTHWESTERN

Bryan Dunn
South Texas Alamo
Regional
Gearl Koonce
Permian Basin, TX
Darrell Stevens
East Texas, TX

SUNSHINE

Steve Cargill
Greater Sun City Center, FL
Bob Deppisch
Naples/Fort Myers, FL
Kent Joachim
Manatee County, FL
Greater Sun City Center, FL
Fred Spages
Hernando County, FL

NO DISTRICT

Nancy Bergman



Jim Kline
Bass of 2004 champ Gotcha! and multi-medalist bass of Hall of Fame 139th Street Quartet, which launched the modern youth quartet movement

MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTORY

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



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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)
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- IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)
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- LABBS (Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers)
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- MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association)
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- SABS (Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers)
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- SNOBS (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)
snoobs.org • Henrik Rosenberg: henrik@rospart.se
- SPATS (Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers)
spats.co.za • Mark Jensen van Rensburg: president@spats.co.za

SOCIETY SUBSIDIARIES

- 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
bqpa.com
- National Association for Music Education
nafme.org
- Chorus America
chorusamerica.org
- Nashville Songwriters Association International
nashvillesongwriters.com

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THE TAG

Tom Gentry, Tagmaster
tgbari1@gmail.com

Sing like The King

The wistfully beautiful “Are You Lonesome Tonight?” was written by Roy Turk and Lou Handman. Primarily a lyricist, Turk (1892-1934) penned such standards as “Mean to Me,” “I Don’t Know Why (I Just Do)” and “Walkin’ My Baby Back Home.” He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970. Handman’s other compositions are less familiar, but he too made it into the Hall, in 1975.

“Are You Lonesome Tonight?” was introduced in 1926 by Vaughn Deleath, who had a #4 hit with it. (I didn’t even know they rated songs back then.) It was revived in 1950 by **Blue Barron and His Orchestra**. In 1960, a fellow named Elvis Presley had a #1 chart record with the song. Little is known of this Presley fellow. Just kidding, of course. The King had a whopping 149 songs on Billboard’s Hot 100. Of these, 114 were in the Top 40, 40 made it to the Top 10, and 18 rose all the way to #1. Even Donny Osmond got into the action with a 1974 revival that spent eight weeks on the charts, topping out at #14. (Something to make your head explode: Elvis and Donny were friends, and the **Osmond Brothers’** white jumpsuit look was Elvis’s idea.)

This tag starts atypically on the VI7 chord, so a bit of care is in order. Whoever is blowing the peace pipe might want to sound do and then la, the root of the chord, sung by the bari. Tenors, make sure your second note is the minor third, not major, or people will talk about you behind your back.

Leads, you are not likely make the whole pedal tone in one breath unless you are a Tim Waurick clone. One option is to take a quick breath in measure 8 and repeat “tonight” with the other three parts. Where not to breathe is at the end of 9, for the others will likely do so there.

This tag will come when the weather is none too balmy—here in the Northern Hemisphere. So try putting some chill into your voice as you sing this heartfelt plea. But remember that there is always hope when it comes to matters of the heart. ■

“Are You Lonesome Tonight?”

TTBB voicing

Tom Gentry (2008)

My dear, are you lone - some to - night? to - night?

My love, are you lone - some to - night, to - night?

My love, are you lone - some to - night, to - night?

- night?

SSAA voicing

Tom Gentry (2008)

My dear, are you lone - some to - night? to - night?

My love, are you lone - some to - night, to - night?

My love, are you lone - some to - night, to - night?

- night?

SATB voicing

Tom Gentry (2008)

My dear, are you lone - some to - night? to - night?

My love, are you lone - some to - night, to - night?

My love, are you lone - some to - night, to - night?

- night?

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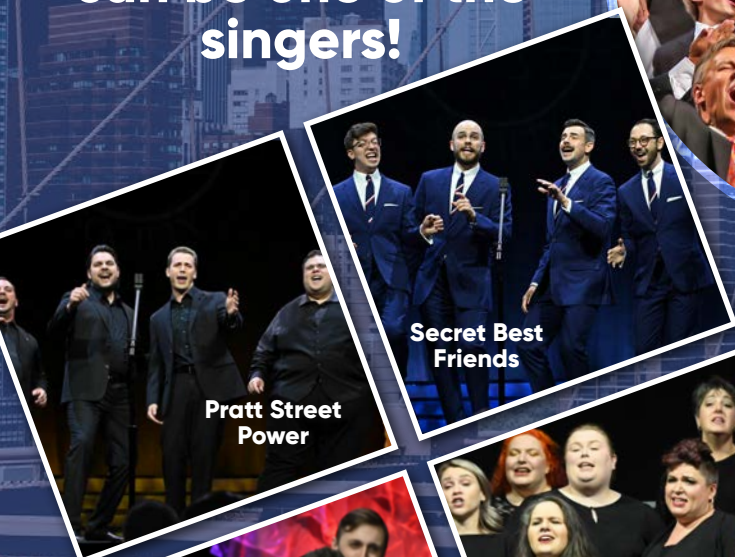


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