

The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024



WHAT'S CHANGED & WHAT HASN'T

Stats, Stories, Progress



NOTEWORTHY
TROPHY STAYS IN FAMILY
107 YEARS OF HARMONY

TIP SHEET
PRACTICE IS NOT REHEARSAL:
WHY THE DIFFERENCE MATTERS

INSIDE
CLEVELAND 2024: NEW EVENTS
AND NEW EXPERIENCES



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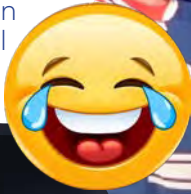
This has never been done before! Two new choruses, **OPEN TO ALL SINGERS**, drawn from all over the world, will compete as full contestants in the 2024 International Chorus Contest in Cleveland.

Cleveland is...

LAUGH *land*

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.



TAG *land*

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.



DREAM *land*

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



In This Issue

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 • VOLUME LXXXIV • NUMBER 1



San Antonio's Sound by Southwest in Louisville 2023. Contest stages have changed since 2019, but what's changed (or not changed) on Tuesday nights around the Society?

Features

14 Five years on, what's changed and what hasn't?

June of 2018, membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society was open to anyone. In January of 2019, any BHS member could form any ensemble, and existing chapters could decide whether to remain men's chapters or to go another direction.

What has happened since then?

While the Everyone in Harmony vision covers far more than gender, we explore the statistics and the stories of choruses that either embraced the new options regarding gender, and the majority that remain happy with the fraternal singing experience.

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WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

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(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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EDITOR

Lorin May

OUR VISION

Everyone in Harmony

OUR MISSION

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

OUR PURPOSES

To perpetuate the old American institution:
the barbershop quartet and barbershop harmony

To promote appreciation of barbershop harmony

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

To establish and maintain foundations that
support our vision

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

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (DBA
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Centers of innovation and stability

Everywhere in the Society where you find innovation, you also find a place of stability where people are building something even better than what they already have.

BRIAN: A year or so into a post-pandemic life, everyone's singing again. Energy is rising. The participation rate is rising. More people are coming to more activities, more people are coming to weekly meetings or are involved in more ways of barbershopping. After the trials of the last few years, is this ... dare we say it ... stability?

STEVE: One of our key efforts in the next year is to stabilize our organization. We'll need to continue that growth path of membership, which is still the flywheel powering the organization. More singers leads to more participation, which leads to more satisfaction, which leads to more volunteer contributions of knowledge, effort, and revenue, leading to more opportunities to sing, which leads to more recruiting, and back through the cycle. Our impact on communities is always dependent on active people doing what they love.

JOHN: People always like to identify themselves as part of something suc-

ceeding. I meet a lot of Barbershoppers who define the best years of the barbershop experience based on the era that they joined. Maybe it's that first rush of enthusiasm as they come to the music for the first time. Come into the Society in the 1970s, when the **Bluegrass Student Union** (1978 champ) was the blazing star at the top! Compare it with joining in the 1990s, or the 1960s, or the 2010s. Fantastic groups at the peak of the style, all different. Which one is "true barbershop"? Which era is "the best time for barbershop"?

STEVE: It's like the first time you fall in love. What could be more intense?

JOHN: Now if you limit your perception of "best era ever" to some of the constraints of the music style, you risk locking your love of barbershopping to some artificial constructs of the judging and arranging style. So if the construct changes, your affinity is fragile. You might have locked yourself to something that never actually existed.

STEVE: When really, the culture of



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STABILITY IS CHANGE, WHEN THE OTHER OPTION MIGHT BE DECAY. STABILITY IS EMBRACING THE PROCESS OF CHANGE.

barbershop experience has been and always will be about people coming together to share the harmony, geek out a bit on some chord worship, and just be together in joy.

BRIAN: It's fun to think back on how each era is defined by a key quartet or key chorus that everyone wants to emulate. It's interesting that they're often tied to each other. Going back to our example of the Bluegrass Student Union, one also remembers the mighty **Louisville Thoroughbreds**, with powerhouse quartets like **The Citations** and **Interstate Rivals** (1987), and **Second Edition** (1989), among others.

JOHN: Or think **Dealer's Choice** (1973) in the early days of **The Vocal Majority**, or the great quartets around the **Alexandria Harmonizers** or the **Ambassadors of Harmony**, or the dozens of great quartets from the **Masters of Harmony**.

STEVE: Every district has a few chapters that consistently produce the top quartets alongside a great chorus.

BRIAN: Great chapters evolve great quartets, and great quartets evolve great chapters around them. And both often are pressing forward into new musical frontiers.

STEVE: We're seeing the same things happening in new chapters being founded around an all-voice activity. (See story pp. 14–27) Wherever barbershop is growing at the choral level, it's blossoming in other ensembles.

SOMETIMES PEOPLE HEAR "STABILITY" AND THINK, "OKAY, WE JUST SQUEEZE IT REAL TIGHT SO IT DOESN'T MOVE." IN FACT, EVERYTHING NEEDS TO BREATHE.

JOHN: Every time we have a culture of innovation and a concentration of talent, we find a new center of stability. These things happen where people organize themselves around their passionate commitment to something different than what they're already getting, even if what they're getting is already very good.

STEVE: It's just the first part of a transformation where somebody gets something new that they love, and then other people find out that it's a cool thing, too.

JOHN: Stability is change, when the other option might be decay. Stability is embracing the process of change.

STEVE: Stability doesn't mean stop, doesn't mean freeze. It means thriving, inventing. Reinventing, growing. Replanting. Sometimes people hear "stability" and think, "Okay, we just squeeze it real tight so it doesn't move." In fact, everything needs to breathe.



John & Steve are attending

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

January 10-13, Midwinter Convention, New York City

January 16, Lancaster, PA chapter installation ceremony (John)

March 2, Rahway, NJ Novice Quartet Contest (John)

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

Kevin Keller elected BHS Executive Vice President



In its December meeting, the BHS Board of Directors elected Kevin Keller as Executive Vice President to replace Steve Denino upon his hiring as interim Chief Executive Officer. Kevin brings more than three decades of experience as a statistician, quality professional, and change management expert. A 2020 inductee into the BHS Hall of Fame, he is a leading arranger, coach, quartetter, historian, teacher, judge, and past Contest & Judging chair.

The BHS Nominating Committee helps the Society find, recruit, and select its volunteer leaders. Applications are generally received January-March, reviewed by the committee and district presidents in April-May, and a slate presented to the Board in June for election in July. Learn more about the process at www.barbershop.org/become-a-board-member.



STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

WITH BHS-FOCUSED GIVING
ONCE MORE GOING TO
HARMONY FOUNDATION, OUR
PARTNERS AT HFI ARE HELPING
US BRING A NUMBER OF OUR
PROGRAMS TO LIFE.

BRIAN: We're always telling the same story—you should barbershop the way *you* want to.

STEVE: Stability also means you can keep doing it the way you've been doing it your whole life if you want to. We're not requiring a reinvention.

JOHN: By opening our membership to anybody who'd like to be a part of that, we're starting to see new inventions, new centers of talent, new ways to derive the most impact from barbershop.

STEVE: Stability is a satisfying outcome of concluding the disagreement with our partners at Harmony Foundation International. I'm really excited about the conversations that I'm having with them right now about our shared focus on impacting the barbershop world, and also our own realization that philanthropy includes not just treasure, but time and talent as well. With BHS-focused giving once more going to Harmony Foundation, our partners at HFI are helping us bring a number of our programs to life.

JOHN: Every time Barbershoppers harness brains, horsepower and willpower, good things happen, broadening the base of potentially millions of people who can enjoy harmony together. ■



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Reader Feedback

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

Great ad placement!



I just read through another great issue of *The Harmonizer*—Celebrating the “unsung” Heros of the Barbershop Harmony Society (pun intended). I sincerely thank you for including me as one of the “doers” who make everything happen. Whether intentional or not, it was very appropriate that my article and picture were facing the page seeking “SUPPORT for the Barbershop Harmony Society by donating to Harmony Foundation.” Was that a “God-wink?”



Larry Gilhousen

Past HFI Development Director

Unsurpassed convention coverage



Regarding the September/October 2023 Convention issue. No, you haven't done it again—you've surpassed yourself with your blow-by-blow account of the competition. With a field (a) that size, (b) that challenging and (c) that varied, you managed to say something about every quartet or chorus that was (1) different, (2) interesting, (3) fascinating in a competitive context, (4) true, (6) clever, (i) *non-controversial*, (j) thoughtful, (k) philosophical OR a combination of any of the above. Especially for those of us who chose not to be there, at the end of that magnus opum we had to take a huge breath. I assume you did the same often through all the rounds. Whether it lessened or increased your enjoyment of the week, you certainly are to be congratulated just for being able to translate it to print so brilliantly!

Jim Bagby

Kansas City, MO

Aaaaaaargh!

The only thing worse than having to run a correction is having to run a correction of a correction. And the only thing worse than that is when that corrected correction is about a beloved champion who has recently passed away: David Smotzer, tenor of 1984 champion Rapsallions. His voice part was corrected from lead to tenor in the Nov/Dec issue, but the caption for his photo was inexplicably changed to Richard Smotzer. ■



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LET'S MAKE MUSIC IN THE NEW YEAR.
SINGING CHANGES LIVES.
JOIN THE CAUSE.



\$150,000 LUMBARD FAMILY GIVING CHALLENGE

Your donations could be automatically doubled thanks to our friends, the Lumbarb Family. All new, reinstated, and increased Ambassador of Song and President's Council gifts will be counted toward the Lumbarb Family Challenge. This extraordinary endeavor has the potential to raise over \$300,000 in new support of barbershop!



HARMONYFOUNDATION.ORG



● 2024 CONVENTION

Cleveland 2024: New events, new experiences

A big gathering in Cleveland features a Comedy Quartet Festival and a way for YOU to sing for score on the International Chorus stage

Help choose the winner of the Comedy Quartet Festival then compete for score on the big chorus stage. The biggest party of the year runs from June 30-July 7, 2024.

Low hotel prices negotiated years ago: Starting January 15, registered attendees can nab great prices and locations close to the venue.

The Comedy Quartet Festival:

Groups and hilarious gags you won't see on the open quartet stage. Register before May 15. Space is limited.



Open Chorus Festival: Invite non-BHS members to perform barbershop with your chorus, as well as non-BHS groups from your area. No qualifying events required. Limited to 15 ensembles, register by April 15.

Dream Chorus Experience: Compete for score against the big guns under the baton of two of the biggest guns: Greg Clancy (**Vocal Majority**) or Justin Miller (past **Westminster Chorus** director). Sign up by April 15. All voices welcome, space is limited.

All the usual great stuff: Did we mention there's still going to be the



Public Auditorium



Greg Clancy, Justin Miller



International Quartet and Chorus Contests, the NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest, Harmony University courses, tag zones, New Orleans Jazz Band, and all the people and casual tagging you've come to love? Don't miss the big party!

barbershop.org/international

2024 International Chorus Contest order of appearance

Friday, July 5, 2024

Mic Tester: Forward Harmony (LOL)

1. Heralds of Harmony (SUN)
2. Parkside Melody (MAD)
3. The White Rosettes (LABBS)
4. Harbortown Sound (ONT)
5. Mixed Nuts (Holland Harmony)
6. Southwest Vocal Alliance (FWD)
7. Vocal Revolution (NED)
8. Westminster Chorus (FWD)
9. Alexandria Harmonizers (MAD)
10. Vocal Confluence (JAD)
11. Sound by Southwest (SWD)
12. Great Lakes Chorus (PIO)
13. Prism (SWD)
14. Voices United (NED)
15. Boulevard Harmony (BHA)
16. Harmonic Collective (SLD)
17. Sound of Illinois (ILL)
18. SmorgasChorus (CSD)
19. PDX Voices (EVG)
20. The Recruits (CSD)

Saturday, July 6

Mic Tester: Next Generation

- Barbershop Varsity Chorus
21. Dream Chorus (Clancy)
22. Dream Chorus (Miller)
23. Midwest Vocal Express (LOL)
24. Visions of Harmony (CSD)
25. Great River Voices (CAR)
26. RSVP (DIX)
27. City Lights Chorus (PIO)
28. Fog City Singers (FWD)
29. Heart of Carolina A Cappella (NSC)
30. Sound of the Rockies (RMD)
31. Toronto Northern Lights (ONT)
32. Pacific Coast Harmony (FWD)
33. Southern Gateway Chorus (JAD)
34. Space City Sound (SWD)
35. Parkside Harmony (MAD)
36. GOTHAM (MAD)

BHS MEMBERSHIP DUES RATES TO INCREASE IN 2024



Reflecting financial realities while emerging from post-pandemic recovery, the Barbershop Harmony Society will increase its base dues rate beginning February 1, 2024. This is the first increase in base dues since 2018. Full details were unavailable at press time, but for up-to-date information scan code to left or see barbershop.org/dues-2024.

HISTORIC FIRST



PIONEER QUARTETS HISTORICALLY KEEP IT ALL IN THE FAMILY

In a fall district quartet contest season full of records (see last issue's Noteworthy), the 2023 Pioneer District Quartet Contest also featured a historic first, when Pioneer's 2022 champion, **CHONK**, handed over the trophy to 2023 champion **Girl Talk**. We've already had several non-male district champions, but the wrinkle is that CHONK's Aiden LaPointe (L) and his brother Luke (Br) were handing over the trophy to Girl Talk bass Kendra Gibson LaPointe, their mother. Congratulations to keeping the trophy in the family for another year!



DEKE, 'ROUND MIDNIGHT, SMOKE RING HEADLINE FESTIVAL

In October, the **Westchester Chordsmen** snagged a cappella icon Deke Sharon for their 8th Annual Youth a Cappella Festival, running a workshop for five participating high schools and teaching them two of his arrangements. He also taught barbershop fundamentals with local quartet and 2022 International Finalist **'Round Midnight. Smoke Ring** (2023 MAD quartet champion) was also a guest quartet. The day-long workshop was followed by a concert featuring all groups.



Deke Sharon and 'Round Midnight teach barbershop fundamentals



SABS is now BIBA

Looking to the future and hoping to be more inclusive of the Iberian Peninsula, the Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers (SABS) changed its name to the Barbershop of IBERia Association (BIBA) and debuted a new logo featuring the Iberian Peninsula. BIBA promotes barbershop throughout the peninsula and related islands, with plans to include the Canary Islands, Balearic Islands, Madeira and the Azores.

bibabarbershop.com



VM Donates \$42,651 from 9/11 Concert Proceeds

After the Vocal Majority's 9/11 Concert of Remembrance, the 13-time champion chorus donated concert proceeds of \$14,217 to each of three organizations that support military and first responders: A Soldier's Child, the Texas LODD Task Force, and Folds of Honor.

107-year-old quartetter rang his final chord

Dr. Clare McCreary, the Society's oldest member (age 107) and oldest quartet competitor (101), joined the heavenly choir in November. Clare's wisdom and ageless vitality at age 101 was shared in a 2017 BHS video produced by Alex Sturgill. (See [YouTube.com/barbershopharmony38](https://www.youtube.com/barbershopharmony38).) Energetic until the end, he performed in two quartets at his 107th birthday party, and sang a solo version of "Young at Heart."





NOTEWORTHY

The latest in the world of barbershop

● BEST THAT NEVER WON?

NOT YOUR AVERAGE RETIREMENT: SEVEN-TIME MEDALIST THROWBACK FINISHES AS ONE OF THE ALL-TIME GREATS

Throwback retired this past fall as the first former silver medalist since **Uptown Sound** (2002) to retire without gold. Trivia guru Patrick McAlexander argued online that the 2023 bronze medalist and 2019 silver medalist might be without peer among non-champion quartets.

Their competitive career of essentially all peaks, no valleys wrapped up only .5% behind silver and with a final song that earned a 93.8% score. Throwback:

- holds the International record for years averaging 90+%, with five.
- is one of only three non-winning quartets with 5th, 4th, 3rd, and 2nd place medals, joined by **Sundowners** and **139th Street Quartet**. (Also joined by **Boston Common** and **Golden Staters**, which won gold as well.)
- joins **Main Street** as the only quartet to have medaled seven



Throwback takes its final contest bow during the 2023 Quartet Finals: Alex Rubin (Br), Sean Devine (L), Michael Skutt (Bs), Dan Rubin (T).

consecutive years; both are tied with **Roaring '20s** and **139th Street Quartet** for the second-most all-time quartet medals, with seven. (Boston Common has eight.)

- made the top 10 ten times, behind only **139th Street** (17), **Bank Street** (12), and **Roaring '20s** (11). Throwback is the only quartet to reach the top 10 ten times in a row.

● COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN HELP DEDICATE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

The **Southern Gentlemen** quartet from the **Low Country Chorus (Grand Strand, S.C. Chapter)** performed at the dedication of the Myrtle Beach WW II Memorial in War Bird Park in Myrtle Beach, SC, which featured extensive media coverage and 11 surviving WW II veterans in attendance. Several veterans who sing in the Low Country Chorus assisted in the ceremony. The chorus is highly active in community events, particularly with commemorating significant milestones. ■



What's Happening



Harmony University ▲ July 28-Aug 4, 2024 Denver

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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

2024 Spring District Conventions

Cardinal



Apr 12-13
TBD

Central States



Apr 19-20
Ames, IA

Dixie



Mar 15-16
Chattanooga, TN

Evergreen



No Spring event for EVG,
Fall event details soon!

Far Western



Mar 15-16
Fremont, CA
May 11 (SE/SW Div)
Ontario, CA

Illinois



No Spring event for ILL,
Fall event details soon!

Johnny Appleseed



Apr 12-13
TBD

Land O' Lakes



No Spring event for LOL,
Fall event details soon!

Mid-Atlantic



Apr 12-13
Nazareth, PA

Northeastern



Apr 19-20
Hyannis, MA
May 11 (Sunrise Div)
Sydney, NS

Carolinas



Apr 19-20
Pinehurst, NC

Ontario



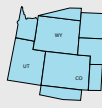
Apr 12-13
Belleville, ON

Pioneer



Apr 26-27
Kalamazoo, MI

Rocky Mountain



Apr 26-27
Cheyenne, WY

Seneca Land



Apr 12-13
Nazareth, PA

Sunshine



Mar 22-23
St Augustine FL

Southwestern



May 3-4
Dallas TX

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City

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Chapter

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Tickets

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TIP SHEET

Dr. Jay Dougherty, HU Faculty, Director of Choral Activities, Marietta College
✉ jmdougherty@gmail.com

● PRACTICE TIPS

Practice and rehearsal are not the same thing

While practicing the words and notes on your own can make a world of difference, practice cannot substitute for the transformative experience in which an ensemble rehearses and creates music together.

When it comes to chorus singing, it is important to understand the difference between practice and rehearsal. While many singers use these terms interchangeably, they refer to two distinct activities. *Practice* involves individual work at home, where singers focus on learning their music, figuring out complex rhythms, ensuring note accuracy, memorizing their part, and ingraining muscle memory for good vocal production. *Rehearsal*, on the other hand, involves the full ensemble coming together to find part balance, improve intonation, fine-tune the timing of swipes and embellishments, and make the music come alive with emotional connection, musical nuance, and sympathetic resonance.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PRACTICE BUT DO NOT REHEARSE

As a director by trade, I have countless times heard singers say things like, "I can't be at rehearsal next week, but I'll practice at home." While I admire their commitment to at-home study, practicing simply does not make up for missed rehearsal. If it did, then we would just say, "Here's the music and the learning tracks; See you at the show!" Ponder that for a moment and you'll agree that home practice just isn't enough. Yes, we absolutely should be practicing at home, but we should not pretend



that it exempts us from attending rehearsals, or somehow makes up for missing them.

It is important to understand that your absence at rehearsal is not just about you. Singers often think that it's really no big deal if they miss rehearsal. Who would even notice? They'll just practice at home and

WITH THE FULL ENSEMBLE, YOU ARE ABLE TO HEAR HOW YOUR PART FITS IN WITH THE OTHER PARTS, AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS AS NEEDED.

Better known to Barbershoppers as judge, arranger, chorus director, and Harmony University faculty member, Jay's day job is Music Department Chair and Director of Choral Activities at Marietta College in Ohio.

all is well, right? Unfortunately, the answer is no. This line of thinking does not consider how the singer's absence affects the rest of the chorus. How can a rehearsal be successful if people are missing? How would those present be able to balance the chords properly or lock into the full resonant sound that would otherwise be present?

When singers miss rehearsals, they also miss out on the opportunity to connect with their fellow chorus members, build relationships,

SINGING IN A CHORUS IS NOT JUST ABOUT HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES; IT'S ABOUT CREATING SOMETHING TOGETHER, SOMETHING THAT IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS.

and create a cohesive sound. Singing in a chorus is not just about hitting the right notes; it's about creating something together, something that is greater than the sum of its parts. When you miss rehearsals, you miss out on that experience, and those that do show up miss out on what could have been if you had been there. When everyone is present and engaged, the energy in the room is palpable, and the music comes alive in a way that is impossible to rep-

licate through individual practice alone. Practice is where the grunt work is done, and where the building blocks are established. Rehearsal is where the magic happens, where singers can learn from each other, and where they can create something truly special.

Of course, life happens, and there will be weeks when singers have to miss rehearsal. We all understand that. However, it is important to think twice before pretending that extra practice at home will make up for that missed rehearsal. Be aware that you are a vital part of your choir's sound and success. It's easy to feel unimportant in a chorus setting because you're just "one of many," and it's easy to think that no one will miss you if you're not there. This simply isn't true. Your chorus needs you. In fact, they completely depend on you.

When everyone is present, we can work on things like resonance, musicality, delivery, balance, performance

techniques and intonation among others. When people have to miss, even with good reason, it slows us down, and we have to spend time catching them up when they return. The improvement process is much slower as a result.

CONCLUSION

No one joins a chorus with the intent to miss as many rehearsals as possible. We all lead busy lives and 100% rehearsal attendance is simply not possible for most of us. However, if we truly understand how our presence impacts others and how our absence can be a detriment to progress, then perhaps we'll make an extra effort to prioritize our other responsibilities to what extent we can for the betterment of the whole. Yes, practice at home. But practice does not count as rehearsal. And rehearsal isn't the place for practice either.

Now let's get out there and make the world a better place through music. ■

Why rehearsal attendance is of paramount importance

ACCOUNTABILITY

By attending rehearsals, you are holding yourself accountable to the group and committing to the process of making music together. This helps to ensure that everyone is on the same page and working toward the same goal.

TIMING

One of the most important aspects of chorus singing is timing. When you rehearse with the full ensemble, you are able to fine-tune the timing of the music, ensuring that everyone is singing together and creating a cohesive sound.

FEEDBACK

Rehearsals provide an opportunity for feedback from your director and fellow singers. You can receive guidance on how to improve your singing technique and musical interpretation of the music. By missing rehearsals, you are depriving yourself of this valuable feedback and the ensemble will not improve as quickly as it could otherwise.

INTONATION

This refers to the accuracy of the pitches being sung. By rehearsing with the full ensemble, you are able to hear how your part fits in with the other parts, and make adjustments as needed to ensure that the chords are in tune.

MUSICAL AND PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

By rehearsing with the full ensemble, you are able to practice changes in musical elements such as dynamics and interpretive choices, and you learn how to work with others to ensure that the music has the appropriate emotional impact as a result.

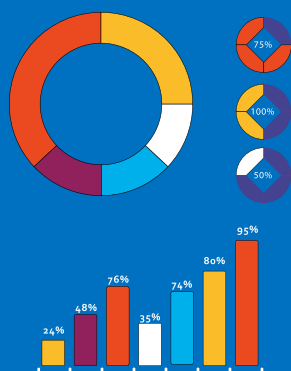
INSPIRATION

Being part of a chorus can be a source of inspiration and motivation. Hearing the other singers around you and feeling the power of the music can be incredibly uplifting and energizing. By attending rehearsals, you are opening yourself up to these positive experiences and opportunities for growth. In addition, you are providing those opportunities for others around you as well.




EVERYONE
IN
HARMONY

FIVE YEARS LATER



About this issue's statistics

- Numbers were drawn from members.barbershop.org on Nov. 3, 2023. Info provided by some members and choruses may be erroneous or outdated.
- Chorus memberships are counted rather than chapter memberships; multiple choruses may belong to the same chapter.
- Members may be counted more than once in chorus statistics if they have membership in more than one chorus.
- Per BHS rules, chapters (not choruses) must have at least eight members. For this article, "active" includes choruses with six or more members, as a nod to choruses that are still actively working to get their post-pandemic numbers up and/or have not recently updated their membership records.



When Everyone in Harmony was announced in 2018, “everyone” was described as “young and old, with people of every color and every strata, with city people and country people and everyone in between, because the world needs what we have.” Membership was open to all immediately, with January 2019 becoming the date in which any BHS member could form a chapter or ensemble. Existing chapters were encouraged to discuss what they wanted to change (or not change) regarding gender in their ensembles, with all options becoming open to them beginning in 2019.

In the following pages, we single out one narrow component of the Everyone in Harmony vision: gender within choruses. Via statistics and stories, we’ll address the 76% of BHS choruses that have remained men’s choruses, some of the more than 100 former men’s choruses that chose to open their membership to all, and some of the more than 60 new non-men’s choruses that have been formed since 2019.

Text by Lorin May,
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Stats and graphics by Eddie Holt
BHS Digital Media Manager
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Northwesternaires

Defiance, Ohio
48 members on roster
northwesternaires.org

"Here you have friends that you're closer to than your brother because you sweat and drip in the same bucket. The singing is special, and the 'not singing' is special."

History. "We've been here since 1945. I used to be the youngest person in the chorus, but I'm 83 now," said director Jim Shisler, a retired music educator and tenor of 1991 champ **The Ritz**. "The mayor was a member, the boys from town would get together, sing, tell stories, and have a beer. We don't have the mayor anymore, but we've always had the same kind of people in the chorus. Every profession—one of everything."

Did the chapter discuss dropping gender requirements? "We broached the subject one night early on and opened a conversation the next week. Everyone in the chorus had their say," Jim said. "I'm not sure we understood all of Everyone in Harmony, but nobody was campaigning for or against it. There was no tension. We were all happy dealing with just the current chorus makeup on Monday, and it was unanimous that we stay men's."

Chapter culture. Weekly afterglows have moved to the local Eagles club, where beer is still \$5 a pitcher. "We might have 15-18 there who don't care about waking up early on Tuesday," Jim said. "We really enjoy each other's company, make up stories about each other and laugh. Some members sing and go home,

but the majority really appreciate the social part of what we do."

The flipside of a laid-back culture. The mentality is great after hours, but can frustrate Jim during rehearsals. "We only have a handful of sparkplugs, and a few too many who seem to still be learning words and notes backstage before a show," he said. "They want the director to do their work for them instead of learning words and notes at home."

Financial tip. "Lodges in your town have money they have to give away—the gambling machine is only legal if they give the money away," according to Jim. "They gave us \$3,000 to pay for uniforms and fees. Monies may be available for choruses."

The Northwesternaires represent the majority of BHS chapters that continue to embrace the fraternal singing experience.





Great Northern Union

Minneapolis, Minnesota

43 members on roster
greatnorthernunion.org

In one of its first big "radical inclusion, diversity, and equity" events, Great Northern Union hosted Choirs Alive, featuring six additional area choirs.

History. Even for those who lived through it, it's difficult to nail down the timeline for the decade-long transition from a competition-driven men's juggernaut to a smaller, community-focused all-voices chorus. "Our journey overlaps a tumultuous period for GNU, including slippage in both contest scores and in our ranks, strife between members and the board, and a transition that included a nearly two-year Covid shutdown and three directors in five years," said 30-year GNU member Kevin Lynch. "Most of that came before the change in gender."

After pre-Covid tumult, additional members left for area ensembles that returned to live rehearsals months before GNU restarted in early 2022. But GNU started back with ambitious plans for "radical inclusion, diversity, and equity" for both a men's chorus and an all-voices chorus. Ultimately, the all-voices chorus attracted the bulk of leadership and demand, and the remaining men's-focused members left to pursue other options. Since then, GNU has aggressively reached out to under-served parts of the Greater Minneapolis community.

A new mission. "We've turned over our programming to facing the community," Kevin said. Their first big event in 2022 was to host Choirs Alive, featuring six other choirs from diverse, under-served communities, including children, gospel, LGBTQIA+, and women's ensembles. "Roots Re-Visioned" this fall was a community musical and historical celebration of barbershop's African-American roots.

"This year, we went out and did partnerships with four choirs in the community," Kevin added. "Non white, non-straight groups, and we re-granted some of our funding with them to share the wealth."

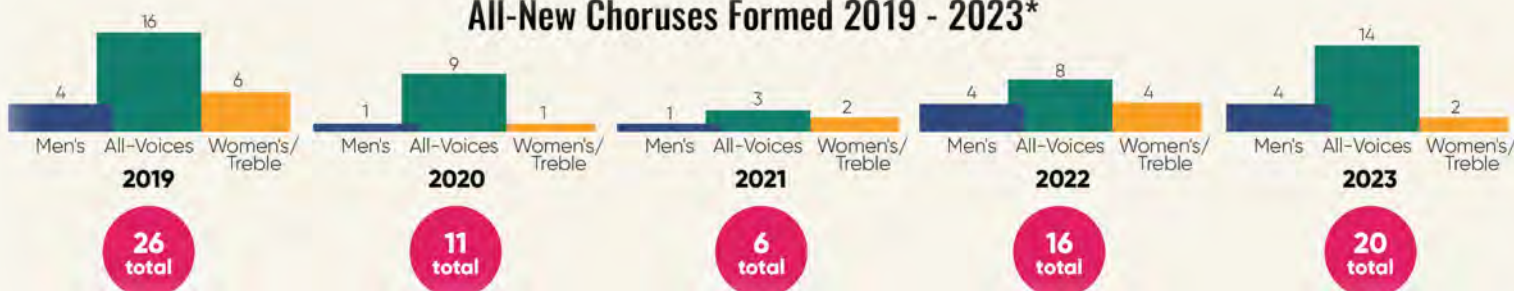
"While Great Northern Union is an older chorus, our members consider it an all-new chapter. We've flipped the equation from a self-focused chorus to an 'other'-focused chorus."

New chapter culture. Colleen Cashen's son has sung in GNU for years, and she and her daughter-in-law joined him in early 2022. "I appreciated the sense of welcome I got right from the start," said Colleen, the 2024 chapter president. "It's a close-knit, family feel where we have connections outside of chorus. We're growing our members in a way that I think is creating a quality experience emotionally and musically."

New chorus, old name. "We're really kind of a new chorus starting with the legacy and reputation and resources of GNU," Colleen said. "We need to build our numbers and live up to the GNU legacy of barbershop craftsmanship. At the same time, we're intentional about being inclusive, even as we can be steeped in a culture that includes all kind of prejudices that you don't realize. Having people interact in intentional and respectful ways is important. Those values are woven into the chorus now. We're walking our talk, working to be open and affirming."

How today's GNU compares. "Our numbers are much lower than they used to be. Fall 2023, we took fifth in district, where we once dominated for decades," Kevin said. "But even loving the sound of men's harmony as much as I do, I feel like I belong to this chorus more than to any GNU iteration over the past 30 years."

All-New Choruses Formed 2019 - 2023*



*Regardless of current level of activity



Pacific Coast Harmony

La Jolla, California Chapter

50 members on roster
pacificcoastharmony.org

"PCH is now a thriving chorus—we've had a dramatic change in fortune. It's not just good musically, but also wonderful fellowship."

History. Formed in 2002 with a competitive focus, the chorus earned four International appearances between 2005 and 2014. "But that focus only takes you so far," said 2023 chapter president Tom Fazekas. By late 2018, they couldn't afford to pay a director and had shrunk from a one-time high of 57 men down to 12.

Then four high-level Barbershoppers—two wife/husband pairs—told the chapter they'd love to join. Membership was opened to all, and interest surged throughout 2019. Then the pandemic moved chapter meetings to Zoom and the two original couples—who were also key musical leadership—had to leave the area. Director Bonnie McKibben's hiring in August 2021 changed the chapter's fortunes once again. "She's a fabulous director," said Tom. "She's not scolding singers, but positive and supportive."

Did chorus members embrace the change? Most did, but "some members of the men's chorus only wanted to sing with men—they talked about the purity of the sound," said Tom. "Not every group is for every singer, and they decided to leave the chapter. But we picked up many more that were happy to sing in the all-voices group."



Weekly afterglows overlap Open Mic Night at Mr. Peabody's

Chapter culture. "We're now primarily a performing chorus, with two shows and multiple gigs a year," Tom said. "We create entertaining shows with popular songs that audiences know. We also compete, but we don't live and die by contest scores." (They've qualified for Cleveland 2024.) "There are quite a few married or dating couples that also sing in other choruses and wanted to sing with their spouse," Tom continued. "We always have afterglows, and at Peabody's it's open mic night. The audience's jaws drop and all the phones come out when it's our turn."

Adjusting to all-voices. It's difficult to find SATB barbershop arrangements, and there is a mix of genders on all parts but bass. "The majority of our songs are men's arrangements that we pitch up a step or two," Tom said.

Secret Sauce. Members love what they sing in part because they help choose them via online poll among songs that meet the music team's selection criteria. "The singers are happier with the music and feel empowered," Tom said. The resulting variety of genres (mostly barbershop, plus jazz, blues, pop) has attracted a number of young college students and recent graduates who sang in a cappella groups in school and are looking to continue performing.

BHS Membership



Total: 14,139

Male: 12,427 (87.9%)
Average age: 65
Female: 1,588 (11.2%)
Average age: 54
Non-binary: 38 (0.03%)
Average age: 29
PREFER NOT TO SAY: 38 (0.03%)
Average age: 44
NO ANSWER: 50 (0.04%)
Average age: 55



Chapter social life



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. Lumbar, 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 Lumbar 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

One of the newest BHS choruses has been harmonizing for 65 years. Director Caroline McLean is in the center of the photo.



L.A. South Towns Chorus

Redondo Beach, California

30 members on roster
lasouthtowns.org

"Joining the Society has been a big shot in the arm for the chorus. We felt like we needed a new home, a new family, and new adventures. It just felt right."

History. In 2022, the chorus emerged from a long Covid Zoom slumber with voices rusty and a desire to devote all energies to reviving their popular shows and community gigs. The chorus was expected to compete in 2022 or 2023, but the members didn't want to compete any sooner than 2024. While they could have petitioned for an exemption, "we already felt like a square peg in a round hole at our last couple of regionals," said director Caroline McLean. "We were ready for a new adventure."

Like several other chorus members, Caroline had enjoyed decades of close ties with the Society and had been highly moved when the BHS Everyone in Harmony vision was announced. After a presentation by Caroline and an hour-long discussion, chorus members voted enthusiastically—and unanimously—to charter as a BHS chapter.

Pre-existing interchapter connections. "We have members whose spouses/partners/close friends are **South Bay Coastliners**, so being in the same organization makes sense on many levels," said Caroline, who is married to Coastliners director and **139th Street Quartet** tenor Pete Neushul.

Chorus culture. "We've always been a fun, show-based chorus. The Society just seemed like a better fit for our musical growth and approach to competition," said Caroline. "We are doing what we need to do to stay alive. If we had been heavily oriented toward contest, we wouldn't have a chorus."

On joining a majority-male organization. Caroline discovered four-part harmony at age 19 in Great Britain, where major barbershop events were already all-voices. When she moved to the states, "it felt foreign to go to a women-only event. I never got used to it," she said. "Then I watched the Everyone in Harmony video five years ago. I was so stunned by it, so thrilled that it made me cry. It was so timely. Any organization has to look outside its own walls and see the real world. Young people don't care anymore about gender. They just want to hang out together."

New goals. "The spirit of the group is much more positive now. It feels like a different group, the morale and collective determination," Caroline said. "I told the chorus, 'If we're going into BHS, we have to learn to sing barbershop.' We are going to take the next year and do that. We're preparing for our first Far Western divisional next May."

Will the chorus ever become all voices? "At least for now, we'll stay as a women's chorus, Pete's will stay as a men's chorus," Caroline said. "But here, you have this freedom of choice. Down the road, we can do whatever we want. We can decide. That's the beauty of this—Everyone in Harmony!"



New MexiChords

Albuquerque, New Mexico
44 members on roster
newmexichords.com

"In past years, there was a lot of 'This is the way we've always done it' attitude. I don't know if can attribute the change to the newer members, but there's just none of that left."

History. In 2019, the wife of a member who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness asked whether she could join the **New MexiChords** to sing with her husband as long as he was able. She was an experienced Barbershopper and they were short on tenors, so the chorus made her its first female member. Though she continued only until her husband passed away, the door remained open to all ... although few walked in until after Covid lockdowns eased. Since then, the majority of new chorus members have been women.

What has changed for the chorus. "The eagerness to learn, their faithfulness in attendance, guys are picking up on that subconsciously," said Bill Biffle, a long-time chorus member who re-joined as chorus director in August of 2022 after a few years away. "I've never had a chorus so willing to learn things and eager for me to teach them. And we have a lead sound we've never had before. Two or three women are on the 2024 board. They've just leapt in with both feet."

Did members struggle over the change? "I don't know a single member who quit," Bill said. "We are a chorus that takes people as they are

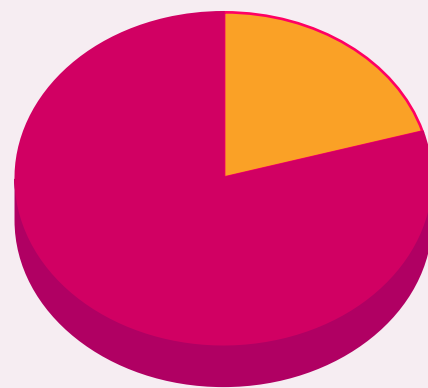
and we teach them how to sing. We're also the beneficiary of being the only the only place in town where you can sing barbershop with your husband or wife or daughter."

Has the music changed? "Among the 10 female singers are a bari, two tenors, and the rest are leads, but we're still a low voice chorus," Bill said. "We haven't pitched anything up."

Has the social atmosphere changed? "It's better now. We hadn't had a retreat in several years and our newer members helped us bring that back. More than a third of us go to afterglows, and sometimes most of the people in the bar are the newer members," Bill said. "And they're helping us with the spirit of 'Let's go meet new people at district events.' We're learning Polecats at chapter meetings so we have songs to sing with strangers."

Any downsides? "There's not a single negative. Well, I guess I am having to fight with some of the newer members about adding more choreo—they think we ought to be moving more," Bill laughed. "I'm just happy to get the notes right!"

Status of Active Choruses formed before 2019



Total: 523

■ **Became All-Voice:** 105
■ **Remained Men's:** 417

SUPPORT

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



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BHS National Fundraiser
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twigginton@harmonyfoundation.org



Dixie Semich

BHS Donor Center Associate
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HARMONYFOUNDATION.ORG





Seattle Seachordsmen

Seattle, Washington

48 members on roster
seachordsmen.org

History. In 2018, a series of one-on-one and chapter-wide discussions revealed that most of the Seachordsmen wanted the chorus to go all-voices, but that some feared the chapter would lose its identity. Members settled on performing singouts and shows as an all-voices chorus and contests as a men's chorus. Covid soon canceled both options.

Recruiting. Some pre-Covid singers never came back, and in 2022 the chorus advertised an all-voices holiday chorus. "Half the women who joined it wanted to join the chorus," said Membership VP Michael Sheldon. "That brushed this whole conversation about competition under the rug." Today, about eight of the 35 members at a typical chapter meeting are women, helping chapter numbers return to pre-Covid levels. "There is now an energy of growth, announcing new people every month," said Michael. "That's great after years of either no growth or decline."

Has adding higher voices changed the repertoire? "We continue using TTBB tracks, but we've pitched up a few of them," said VP of Music Andy Kopser. "We're getting more tenors, and the bari parts sometimes have optional notes for higher voices. Among the women are three leads, two baris, and three tenors. We sounded good before and sound better now."

Advice for men's choruses considering all-voices. VP of Marketing Tyler Bosma said he knew of another chorus that became all-voices without member input, and half the members left immediately. "Have real conversations with

"We're not actively recruiting women, but it just feels like they regularly trickle in and they're more apt to join. We're better for it in a lot of ways."

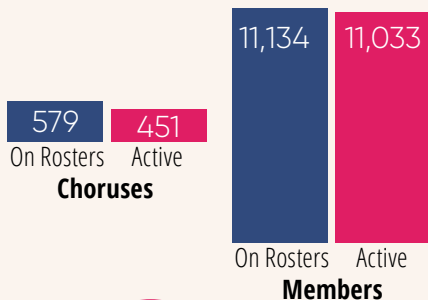
the chorus members, where they understand the thinking and can offer real reactions," he said. "People don't want to be blindsided with a change like this."

Did any Chordsmen leave due to the change? "The people who didn't like it were mostly from the older set who stopped singing during Covid lockdowns," said Michael. "Today, those from that camp who stayed with us are still having fun."

Has the culture changed? "It's not that different, except musically we've gone up by adding a couple of strong singers to each section," Tyler said. "And we're trending younger. We don't know what's pulling in people other than we are having so much fun."

"We apparently have a reputation for being welcoming," Andy said. "Some older members say that maybe 15 years ago it wasn't so welcoming. Now, about half the chorus goes to afterglows to spend a couple more hours having fun."

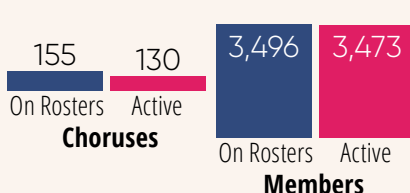
Men's Choruses



24.5

Average
Active Men's
Chorus Size

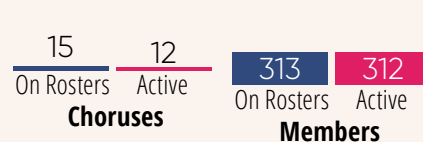
All-Voice Choruses



26.7

Average
Active All-Voices
Chorus Size

Women's/Treble Choruses



26

Average
Active Women's/
Treble Chorus Size



Star Harmony Chorus

Meridian, Idaho
25 members on roster
starharmonychorus.com

Before a September 2023 community performance. Chapter President Kaylyn Hyman is at far right.

"We wanted a different experience, but we didn't want to step on anyone's toes. We were so welcomed, so validated at our first district contest that we thought, 'This is exactly why we did this!'"

chorus to be a grassroots thing all our own."

The importance of organized help:

"We have had so much help from the district, so many resources," Kaylyn said. An inter-chapter relationship has quickly blossomed with the nearby **Boise Chordsmen**, who invited Star Harmony Chorus to participate in the Chordsmen's signature event, the Idaho Youth Barbershop Festival. The two chapters combined for a quartet parade this past summer and have planned a combined 2023 Christmas Concert.

Their 2023 Evergreen District Fall Convention experience. For 21 members, it was their first-ever barbershop convention. For the others, "it was a little different, and we were liking the

different," Kaylyn said. "So much variety in the music, and songs we'd never heard before. The evals with the judges after the contest were very different, and we especially enjoyed the social scene and tagging scene. Three of our members did Harmony Platoon."

Recruiting. Several members have joined after singouts, including two from singing at a seniors center. Last year's holiday chorus outreach brought in three or four new members. "Most of the growth has been word of mouth," Kaylyn said, "and for most it's their first barbershop experience."

Future goals. "At this point, we want to remain a women's chorus," Kaylyn said. "Mostly, we've created a culture of fun, a family that loves to go to chorus every week. We want to keep building this great experience ... and go to International!"

History: As Covid restrictions began to ease in 2021, six California natives who were experienced in barbershop but new to Idaho met in a living room in suburban Boise to harmonize. There they discussed forming a new chorus. They didn't want to compete for members with the local Sweet Adelines chapter, and were intrigued by the BHS Everyone in Harmony vision. While they could have approached a men's chapter about becoming a sister chorus under an existing charter, they instead decided to form an all-new chapter. "We wanted to have our own board," said Chapter President Kaylyn Hyman. "We wanted the new





The Virginians

Richmond, Virginia
60 members on roster
virginians.org



A VLQ of Virginians performs for other chorus members.

Overcoming early resistance. “Everyone in Harmony wasn’t a big deal for me, but some members thought it came out abruptly and unsolicited,” said 2018 chapter president Jerry Candrelli. “A presentation by Joe Cerutti was helpful for us over the next few weeks. We later spent a chapter meeting discussing it. Some guys said they’d quit because this would ruin barbershop. The next week we had a secret ballot. About 2/3 wanted to go all-voices.”

Did the move cost any members? “All our people who were going to quit didn’t quit,” Jerry said. “You have to socialize the change. Our first female member was Erin Cook, a long-time coach and chapter friend. She was totally awesome. Then suddenly more potential members started showing up. Some were wives, some were SAL. Overall, it’s been a really positive thing for the chapter. Now, it’s just like, ‘Of course they’re here. They are a lot of fun, we enjoy the fellowship.’ We’re still a TTBB chorus, with a couple of pieces pitched up. Among the women, we have one baritone and the rest are leads and tenors.”

Covid recovery still ongoing. “Our director, Mike Whalen, and our leadership team helped us stay active and engaged via Zoom,” Jerry said. “But there were probably 15-20 members who have not come back, although some are still paying dues and say they might return eventually. We still have 35 strong, active people.”

After-hours culture. Afterglows are decidedly not a weekly event. “Our average age is approaching 70, and after we finish at 10 p.m. we’re beat,” Jerry said. “We mostly do afterglows after competitions and after our Christmas shows. We’ve also had some combined picnics with the Commodores Chorus” (Virginia Beach Chapter).

Interchapter collaboration. “This year we have our Christmas show and four

“Some guys said they’d quit because this would ruin barbershop. But all our people who were going to quit didn’t quit.”

more with other chapters,” Jerry said. “Some of our members sang with the Commodore Chorus at district to boost their numbers.”

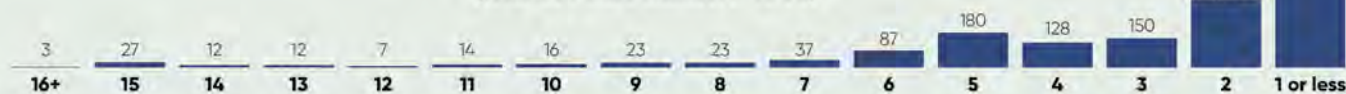
Making contests more fun. “We used to get burned out preparing for contests, but we’re having more fun now,” Jerry said. At the 2023 MAD Fall District, the chapter prepared six songs, and after an audience vote found out from the stage which two songs they’d be singing. “We said, ‘Let’s not kill ourselves trying to win where we can’t win,’” Jerry continued. “That seems to be more engaging.”

Secret sauce. “It gets monotonous to work on a single phrase for 40 minutes,” Jerry said. “We’ll work on a song for maybe 10 minutes then record it and post to our website with a note on what we need to work on. Then next rehearsal we’ll work on that part and record again. We’re spending less time on each song and having break-out quartets and fun stuff to add more variety in the meetings. New members join because we’re having fun.”



A 2022 farewell picnic for departing member Erin Odell Cook

Non-male members, years of service* (total non-male members: 1,703)



*Years of service are total, and not necessarily consecutive. 1 or less=less than 2 years total membership. Totals include all members identifying other than male, including female, non-binary, "prefer not to say," or did not answer. Most members with 6-15 years of service joined BHS as Associates between 2009-2018, before membership became open to all in June 2018; Associate years are now included in total years of BHS membership. Members with 16+ years of service joined as male but no longer identify as such.

Foreground: Erin Odell Cook. Watch her 2023 Midwinter Convention keynote at youtube.com/barbersopharmony38

Visions of Harmony

St. Louis, Missouri

60 members on roster
visionschorus.org

"We run tight and productive rehearsals, but if it's not fun, why are we doing it?"

New Choruses Formed Since 2019

15
Men's

50
All-Voice

16
Women's/
Treble

History. The St. Charles, MO Chapter (now also known as Harmony STL) has long been the home of five-time International Chorus Champion **Ambassadors of Harmony**, and for years has also been the home of **The Recruits**, a 25-and-under group that started as a Midwinter youth chorus then more recently evolved into an all-voices chorus competing at the International level. Having embraced Everyone in Harmony, the chapter's natural next step was to welcome a women's chorus under its umbrella. When chapter leaders learned that Erin Odell Cook (a third-generation Barbershopper and former graduate student of Dr. Jim Henry at University of Missouri St. Louis) was returning to St. Louis after a decade in Virginia, they hired her as musical director for the new chorus.

Many spread the word about the first chapter meeting, which had 80 in attendance. At the 2023 CSD Fall Chorus Contest, **Visions of Harmony** scored an 84.5% debut, good enough for district silver, just behind The Recruits.

About the singers. The chapter's two top priorities are musical excellence and fostering a positive, supportive environment. "You can't have one without the other," Erin said. "We run

tight and productive rehearsals, but if it's not fun, why are we doing it?" Almost all singers are new to the Society, but more than half have prior barbershop experience. Twenty of the 49 singers at the 2023 CSD Fall Contest had never competed in any organization. "All had a blast, and they loved the feel of the event," Erin said.

Challenges of a big chapter umbrella. "This is still new as we're finding how we fit together and all that comes with that," Erin said. "We are striving for a consistent chapter culture, but each chorus has its own unique vibe."

Advantages of a big chapter umbrella. "We're so spoiled to be part of the same organization," Erin said. "It's an automatic audience any time the other choruses show up." The choruses have each appeared on some of the others' shows, and they have a combined spring show. The three groups also rehearse in different venues on different nights so that moms and dads don't need a babysitter in order to sing. "And I get to learn from the best," Erin continued, "being in the same chapter with Jim Henry and David Wright, Kevin Keller, Jonny Moroni, and Eric Dalbey." ■



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

Pacific Spirit Voices (formerly Evergreen District powerhouse **Gentlemen of Fortune**) in Vancouver, BC seeks a new director. We are a 20-voice and growing mixed chorus that values love of one another, love of our music and love of our audiences above all else. Contact David Anderson, 604-230-5695, drdkanderson@gmail.com, gof.bc.ca

Founded in 2014, **Rittenhouse Sound** (Philadelphia, PA) has been a harmonious haven to create, inspire, and share the transformative power of music. We seek a director that can help us achieve our mission of musical excellence and community engagement. Contact Jonah Levinson, rittenhousesound@gmail.com, 856-625-8871. rittenhousesound.org

Chorus of the Genesee (Rochester, NY) seeks a director with musical and vocal production skills and a background in barbershop music or willingness to learn. Contact Steve Caso (stevecaso@gmail.com, (585)734-1328) or Joe Bradbury (jbradbari@gmail.com, 315-524-7349. ChorusoftheGenesee.org

Commodore Chorus of Norfolk/Virginia Beach is searching for a new director. We number about 25 active members and were recently named District Most Improved Chorus for 2 consecutive years—would love to keep the momentum. Contact at VP_MUSIC@Commodorechorus.groupanizer.com or Dave Edgington, (757)270-9025 or dedgington77@gmail.com.

Baylander Chorus, a 79-year-old chorus in Green Bay, WI seeks a music director to help us regrow our chorus membership and continue our music programs in the future. Contact John L. Whitehouse at jwhiteho@frontiernet.net, 715-853-9324. baylanders.org

Stone Mountain Chorus/Greater Atlanta Chapter seeks full-time director to lead weekly rehearsals and prepare for fall and spring shows, other public performances, and contests. Requirements include conducting skills, knowledge of vocal technique and music theory, and ability to motivate and inspire Chorus members. Compensation offered. Contact Robert Siegel, rsieg01@gmail.com, 404-895-1972. stonemountainchorus.org

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Members reported as deceased between September 15 and November 15, 2023. Send updates to membership@barbershop.org. See [previous memorial listings and links to online obituaries at barbershop.org/in-memoriam](http://barbershop.org/in-memoriam)

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