The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026



GQ

2026 International Quartet Champion

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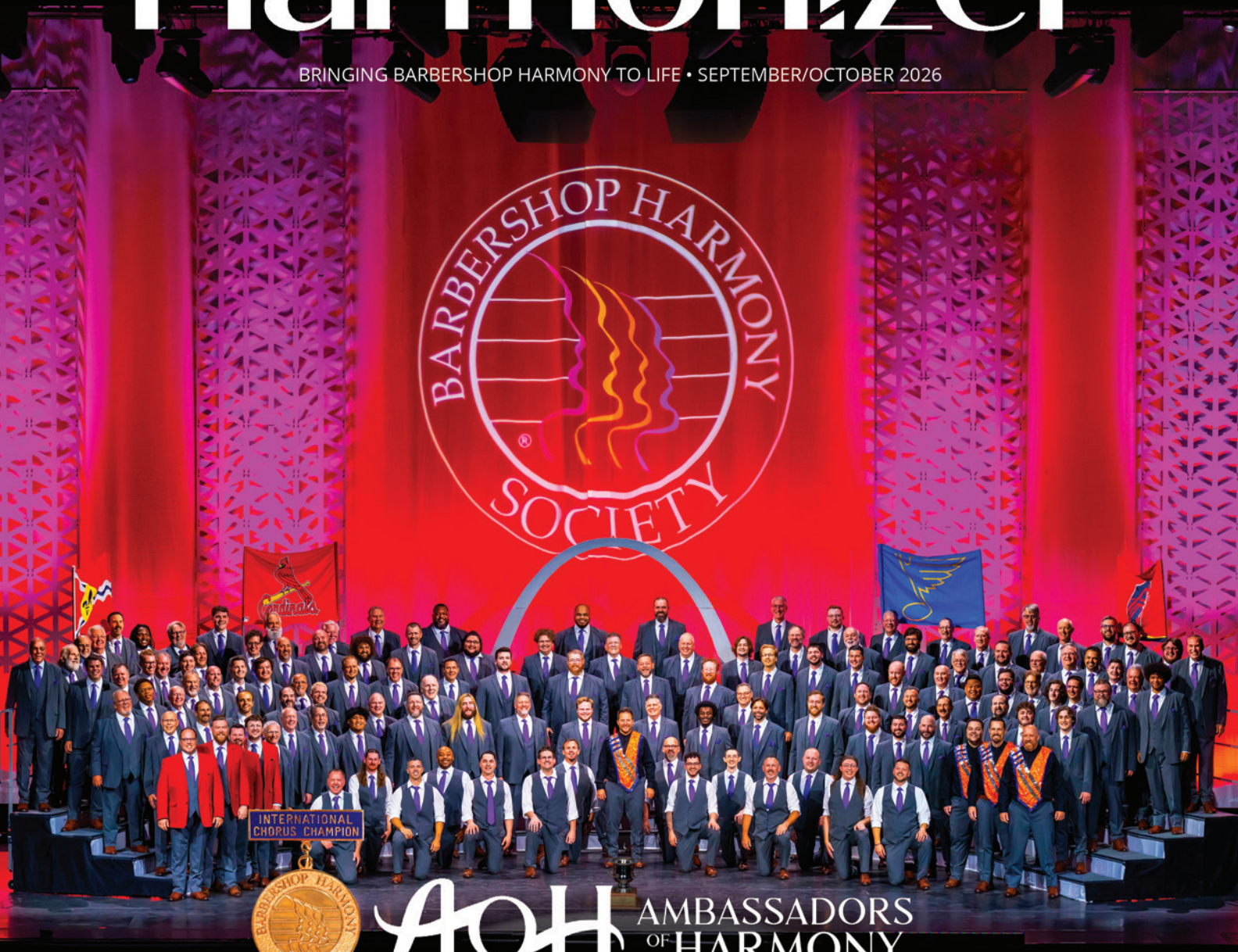
On the cover: 2026 International Quartet champion GQ. Portrait by Inbound Video Pros, *cover by Eddie Holt.*

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AOH AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY

2026 INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CHAMPION



Music City Chorus
Second P1ace



Heralds of Harmony
Third Place



Alexandria Harmonizers
Fourth Place



Parkside Harmony
Fifth Place

One Stage: Five Very Different Stories

Write up page 31, photos page 32

The Harmonizer

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Eddie Holt

OUR VISION
Everyone in Harmony

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

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

To promote appreciation of barbershop harmony

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

To establish and maintain foundations that support our vision

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

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

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SHEET MUSIC
Best Sellers
The Barberpole Cat Program and Songbook 1
Barberpole Cat Songbook Vol. II 2
Yuletide Favorites Vol. I 3
Lida Rose / Will I Ever Tell You Medley (8 part) 4
Change the World 5
You've Got A Friend In Me 6
Ebb Tide 7
What a Wonderful World 8
It's the Music That Brings Us Together 9
Yuletide Favorites Vol. II 10
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SONGBOOK POPULAR
BARBERSHOP TAG SINGING
A MUSIC EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO USING BARBERSHOP TAGS IN THE CLASSROOM
Learning Tracks Available

CLICK AND ENJOY THE LATEST
playlists
We've curated YouTube playlists so you can easily relive previous year's contests, Harmony University, or your favorite Midwinter memories. Your desktop never sounded so good.
YouTube

The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

NEXT GENERATION BARBERSHOP

GATEWAY

2026 International Next Generation Barbershop
Varsity Quartet Champion









NextGen Varsity Quartets Shine in St. Louis

Write up page 46, photos page 47



The Possibilities are Endless

How did you like my backyard? Hopefully, Jim Henry will continue to mow my lawn every summer!

If you missed the convention in St. Louis, you missed an epic time. From start to finish, it showcased everything wonderful about our hobby. And what a lobby—the temple of our hobby!—extending from registration, through the bar, the underground tunnel, and across the street into the ballrooms.

There were so many highlights. Obviously, the historic win of GQ is hugely impactful, now and into the future. From reading social posts it's clear that GQ's success has inspired a new generation of possibilities. Possibility is so important to achieving our mission and vision. The more possibilities we embrace, the more opportunities exist. As we leverage those possibilities, the faster we grow.

At the start of my week, I encountered three young people, two of whom said this was their first convention. After talking, we sang the tag "In A Gingham Gown." Years from now, they'll tell the story that the first tag they sang at their first convention was with the Society President!

Almost a week later, at about 2:30 a.m., deep in the underground of the Marriott, I was asked to sing a tag by more young people.

"Sure—what tag?"

They offered "In A Gingham Gown." I decided that would be a perfect bookend to the week. Young people wanting to sing classic barbershop. I loved it.

I'm a degreed statistician. One challenge all businesses have is measuring the intangible. I can't remember a convention in a long time where people were just happy all of the time. As EVP and President, the previous two conventions were filled with people coming to me, concerned about something. This year, people were just happy.

Part of "Unity In Our Community" is truly putting the joy of music and community at the center. We can resolve our differences if we start with unity in our love of barbershop and each other.

Speaking of the Society Board, we elected Zach Materne as our Society President, effective January 1, 2027. Zach will be wonderful in leading us forward in new possibilities.

I went to the Hilton on Thursday, and the Vocal Majority had several banners leading to the Grand Ballroom. The first struck me like a sledgehammer: "The Vocal Majority is Barbershop." They had others describing the other dimensions of the VM, but I loved the first one especially.

Decades ago, our Society and members had an attitude of "all or nothing." You "keep it barbershop" or don't say you sing barbershop. Don't say you belong to the Society if you sing anything that isn't barbershop.

How far we have come in our thinking. Rather than thinking small, we now think broadly. We all sing barbershop, and barbershop is at our core. But all of us are more than just barbershop.

I had the opportunity to coach Prism while I was there. After our session, I had to hustle back from the Hilton to the Marriott. I left with two young people who were headed to their rehearsal with Gotham Chorus. I was asking where they were from, and like many young adults, they were moving around.

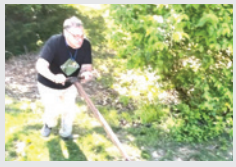
They then started talking to each other, and one said, "...and the best thing is that we get to do it together!"

In that moment, it was a confirmation of the promise of "Everyone in Harmony." There are no barriers. Anything we wish to do can be done, and we get to do it together. The possibilities are endless.

This fall, attend your district convention. Be a part of a larger community. Sing tags and songs with people you don't know. I promise, you won't regret it! And make sure you come to Minneapolis next year and ask me to sing a tag. ■

KEVIN'S INNOVATIVE STL AD CAMPAIGN (THEY'RE STILL ON BHS SOCIALS!)

A huge thank you to Kevin and St. Louis icon Jim Henry for their contributions in promoting International. Kevin opened up his backyard and Jim graciously agreed to mow Kevin's lawn, all for the greater good. Thanks, gents.





Get in Touch

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THERE ARE NO BARRIERS. ANYTHING WE WISH TO DO CAN BE DONE, AND WE GET TO DO IT TOGETHER. THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS.



The Door is Open

This One's for the 'Girls' — and for All of Us On the Fourth of July in St. Louis, I watched something I'll remember for the rest of my life. GQ — Amanda, Katie, Ali and Samantha — (aka 'Girls Quartet') took the stage and walked away with a score of 93.4%. Gold medalists. The first all-female quartet in our 88-year history to win it all.

GQ's win didn't come out of nowhere. It's the harvest of a seed planted in 2018, when the Society made a decision — not easy, not unanimous — to open our doors to all voices under Everyone in Harmony. That decision asked a hard question: is the Barbershop Harmony Society meeting the needs of the world we live in today and carrying out its mission to bring people together in harmony and fellowship to enrich lives through singing? We answered in 2018. GQ answered again in St. Louis, with a scorecard. That decision cost us something, and I won't gloss over it. Our change management in 2017 and 2018 was imperfect; some longtime members felt the ground shift without enough explanation or understanding, and some left. For those of us who had been members for decades before this decision, even if we agreed that it was the best one, it came with a sense of loss. I say all of this not to relitigate a decision I believe was right, but because we owe ourselves honesty about the cost — and gratitude to those who stayed and helped us evolve as a community.

GQ's win is the other side of that cost. Four women who met in college and spent the past fifteen years honing a sound entirely their own walked onto our biggest stage, were judged purely on their performances, and won in a very competitive top 10. Fifth-place Sunday Night Social became the first mixed-gender group to medal at International; two of its members, Ashley and Tyler Wigginton, are the first married couple to medal together.

That detail gets me. Barbershop has always been about family — the family you build shoulder to shoulder on a riser, the family that supports our passion for this art form, the family that has always been by our side. Everyone in Harmony let more of the families already in our audiences step up onto the risers themselves. I saw it up close before I ever set foot at Harmony Hall, directing an all-male chorus in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, where one dedicated member's wife came to every rehearsal for years and sat on the sidelines while he sang. She loved this music as much as he did. Today, she's on the risers, not the sidelines. This July, our incoming Society Board President, Zach Materne, stood on that same St. Louis stage not as a board member but as a father, singing in the Dream Chorus along with his daughter. Husbands and wives, fathers and daughters, grandparents and grandchildren — parents who used to just drive their kids to rehearsal are singing beside them now. That's the fullest expression of what barbershop has always meant to families. Harmony.

One thing I want to be clear about: Everyone in Harmony never meant that all-male or all-female choruses shouldn't exist. In fact, I'm the first to tout the superpower all-male chapters have always had — what happens when a young man finds his voice standing shoulder to shoulder with other men. I am a grateful product of that, and am proud of all of our choruses who provide these experiences. Today, we can celebrate all ensembles singing barbershop. Opening the tent wider doesn't mean taking down the poles already holding it up. Society changes. Families change. What hasn't changed is the desire to sing four-part harmony for a few precious minutes of pure, ringing chords. In 2018 we bet that widening the door would strengthen the music, not dilute it. GQ just proved the bet right, on the world's biggest stage, and earned a gold medal to show for it.

Congratulations, GQ. This one really is for all mothers and daughters out there. And we are all richer for it. ■

THAT'S THE FULLEST EXPRESSION OF WHAT BARBERSHOP HAS ALWAYS MEANT TO FAMILIES. HARMONY.

(Below) Robert directs Keep the Whole World Singing after the Quartet Finals



Oh, hello. You're probably wondering how I got here...

Never underestimate the power that a single innocuous question has to completely change the course of your life forever.



You may see a little bit of yourself in this welcome note. Or perhaps you'll recognize something of your own journey as you read my story of how I found my way into barbershop. Our stories are all different, but when we take a moment to connect the dots between where we are today and the day we first fell in love with this art form, we begin to see something beautiful: our own delicate thread, woven together with countless others, forming a fabric that stretches much farther back—and reaches much farther forward—than we ever realized.

This is my story. But I hope that as you read it, you'll see it not simply as my thread, but as one thread in the much larger story that belongs to all of us.

But enough sappiness. Let me get into it.

THAT GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

It's safe to say you're reading this note from yours truly because, back in 1993, a buddy and fellow music major at Baylor University in Waco, Texas named Kevin Krentz casually asked me, "Hey, Ed, you ever sung barbershop?"

"What? No."

"You're gonna love it."

Kevin was nothing if not persistent—our own version of Harold Hill, if you will. He convinced three other music majors to meet in a practice room one evening and sightread through some charts he had from his high school quartet days. Kevin had just won the "Georgia Peach State High School Barbershop Quartet Contest" his senior year and wanted to get something started at Baylor.

It took just eight bars of 'That Good Old Summertime' and we were all hooked. Immediately. The Moonlighters were born.


The Moonlighters (SWD), 1994

Maybe you've experienced this in your own journey through this art form, but it's quite a paradigm shift going from "suffering for your art" as a classical instrumentalist to "being insufferable with your art" as a rabid barbershopper who cannot stop harmonizing with literally everything. Maybe "insufferable" isn't the right word, but all we wanted to do was sing barbershop, and people actually loved watching us perform. Look at it this way: I had to practically beg family and friends to attend a clarinet recital, but barbershop? My parents eagerly flew across the country many times over the years to experience that.

In early 1994, a flyer from then-Society staffer Jim Debusman found its way onto the Baylor Music School bulletin board, inviting college quartets to compete in something called the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest (CBQC). That little flyer sent us to Pittsburgh that summer as the Southwestern District's collegiate representatives, where we earned a fifth-place bronze medal. A year later in Miami we won third. The Moonlighters performed through 1996 and after graduation we scattered to the four winds and focused on finding a career and a life after college, I sadly fell out of barbershop for the next five years or so.

"HEY, ED, YOU EVER SUNG BARBERSHOP?"
"WHAT? NO."
"YOU'RE GONNA LOVE IT."

FROM BIG APPLE TO MUSIC CITY

It took a 2001 move to New York City for work combined with a dose of loneliness to remember how much I loved and missed singing barbershop, so I googled "barbershop in New York City" one evening and the Manhattan Chapter's Big Apple Chorus popped up. I visited in September 2001, found my new best friends, and immediately

Get in Touch
Eddie Holt, Editorial and Content Strategist, harmonizer@barbershop.org

became an official member of The Society.

Just days later, 9/11 happened, and I watched a city, a nation, and my chorus—some of whose members worked in or near the World Trade Center as laborers, FBI agents, and police officers—go through a shared experience that forged lifelong bonds and close friendships I still cherish to this day. It was during this time that I truly learned how barbershop could be a powerful way to move and connect a community. You probably read a lot of these stories in the Harmonizer if you were around in those days.

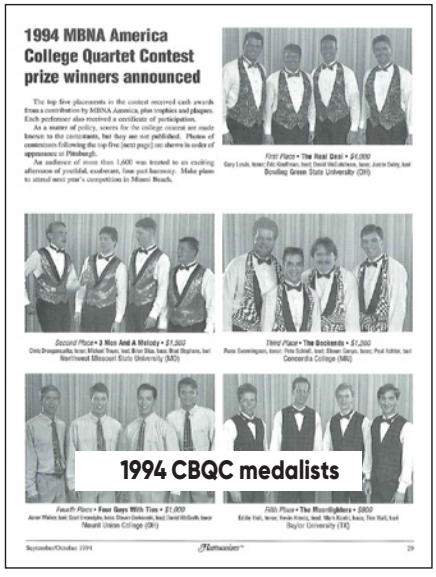
It was during my NYC era that I was mentored by Joe Hunter and Roger Payne of Four Under Par fame, and ushered into the world of comedy quartetting as the tenor sub in Mid-Atlantic District quartet Reveille for a variety of shows. We can get into more of that later, but suffice it to say, as far as I'm concerned, being a silly goose in barbershop is The Way.

In 2005 I moved to Nashville to be closer to family and promptly joined Music City Chorus. Just two years later, the Society Headquarters serendipitously relocated to downtown Nashville to the old abandoned McQuiddy Building and sure enough, in 2009 a headquarters job opened up. I applied for the role of Society Webmaster, and Todd Wilson and Ed Watson gave me a chance.

GHOSTS

My first desk at HQ was a middle-cube between Nick the IT guy and Jerry from Customer Service, and in the unoccupied cube just behind me on the desk sat a curated encyclopedic volume of every issue of the Harmonizer going back to 1941. It's a massive collection, beautifully-bound albeit dusty and worn with age, and I approached it like Indiana Jones approached that artifact from that movie. You know the one.

I carefully extracted one of the binders and slowly cracked it open. "Ghosts." I muttered as I flipped through year after year of stories, photos, and memories lost to time. "Hey, I'm one of these ghosts..." I reached for the binder that included the 1994 International convention recap. There it was, Sept/Oct 1994. The Moonlighters in black and white glory, proud fifth place medalists, surrounded by photos of other quartets with guys that I actually knew, guys who got their start just like I did. I was floored.


1994 MBNA America College Quartet Contest prize winners announced

1994 CBQC medalists

"Are these issues online?" I asked coworker Rick Spencer.

"I don't think so," he replied.

"We have to get these online."

"We have spare copies of every issue in the basement archives, I'll show you."

IT BELONGS TO US

It's not until you stare at the full width and breadth of every issue of The Harmonizer in front of you that you start to realize that this magazine isn't merely a collection of barbershop rags in two-month increments. It's our collective story, told in the most beautiful and caring way imaginable by dedicated storytellers, editors, contributers, and barbershoppers from all over the world who, for the past 85 years, have shared stories that not only reflect The Society, but reflect every era of our history-at-large *in* society. This is a treasured tome that embodies the bleeding edge of our history that has been constantly unfolding since the first issue of Re-Chordings was published in 1941. It belongs to all of us.

So it's with utmost gratitude, humility, and a peculiar sense of adventure that I embrace the role of BHS Editorial and Content Strategist and assume editorial responsibilities for The Harmonizer. To look back is to see the work of Society giants who have come before and written our stories, and to look ahead is to see a wild landscape dense with new paths being charted by our beautiful barbershop community. It is my honor to walk this path with you all and take notes along the way.

To my team on staff who has supported me and given me this opportunity, thank you. Let's have some fun and tell our stories.

To recent editor Lorin May, thank you. Lorin, you have been steadfast, humble, inventive, and creative during your tenure as editor, and you have consistently demonstrated exemplary work ethic that has set a standard worthy of utmost admiration.

And lastly, to *all* the editors who have walked this path before—Lorin May, Brian Lynch, Reed Sampson, Dan Daily, Jack Bagby, Ray Heller, Mrs. Lynne Soto, Robb Ollett, Leo Fobart, Robert M. Hockenbrough, Curtis Hockett, Robert H. Breunig Jr., Robert G. Hafer, Carroll P. Adams, Joe Stern—I'm honored to stand on your shoulders. ■

CHAPTER GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

We Love What You're Doing

Celebrate our chapters with us, and be inspired.

FIVE (AND COUNTING) IN 2026

The Society welcomed its fifth new chapter of 2026 this spring: Empire Harmony, an auditioned vocal ensemble bringing barbershop and a cappella harmony to the Lincoln Center area of Manhattan's Upper West Side.

The newly formed chorus is building its identity around community, one chord at a time. Inspired by



fellow chapter Fog City, Empire Harmony modeled its inaugural season on choral society set design.

AKRON CHAPTER ROCKS ITS FIRST PORCHROKR



The Akron Chapter's two choruses made their debut at the annual PorchRokR festival in Akron's Highland Square neighborhood. They performed an 11 a.m. set from a porch on the corner of Elmore Avenue. The volunteer festival turns neighborhood porches into stages, with homeowners hosting performers throughout the day.

Derbytown Chorus and the newly formed all-voice Akron Harmony Project shared the hour-long slot. They closed with a combined rendition of "Fun in Just One Lifetime." Derbytown sang Chorus 1, and Akron Harmony Project took Chorus 2. The Akron Beacon Journal covered the event and ran a photo of Derbytown performing.

It marked the chapter's first time participating in PorchRokR, and organizers say it won't be the last.

MISHAWAKA HONORS VALLEYAIRES' HISTORIC RUN TO STL

The City of Mishawaka proclaimed July 3, 2026, "Valleyaires Day" in honor of the Valleyaires Chorus, part of the South Bend-Mishawaka Chapter. Mayor David A. Wood signed the proclamation ahead of the chorus's first-ever appearance at the Society's International Chorus Competition, held that same day at the America's Center in St. Louis.



JAMESTOWN HARMONY EXPRESS SINGS THROUGH A HISTORIC FOURTH IN D.C.

The Jamestown Harmony Express marked America's 250th birthday with a five-day, four-night bus trip to Washington, D.C. The



chorus was invited to open the national Independence Day parade on Constitution Avenue. The parade itself was called off when temperatures hit 102 degrees, but the chorus's schedule stayed full.

Chapter officers laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a highlight of the trip. An overhead flyover from the Air Force Thunderbirds made the moment even more memorable. The chorus performed a full hour of patriotic, sacred, and barbershop music for veterans at The Fairfax for Distinguished Military Veterans, including the first female pilot in U.S. Air Force history. They sang the National Anthem at the Fort McHenry flag-raising, where Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner during the War of 1812. A performance at the Church of the Epiphany, plus several spontaneous sing-outs for D.C. bystanders, rounded out a trip the chorus called one of its most memorable.





2027 MIDWINTER CONVENTION

The Stage is Set for Virginia Beach

A new destination for Midwinter sets the stage for one of the best lineups in Midwinter history

Earlybird registration is now open for what promises to be one of the biggest, star-studded lineups we've had in quite a while. Save the date now for an incredible week of barbershop on February 3-7 in beautiful Virginia Beach, VA.

GREAT SHOWS

The gorgeous Sandler Center for the Performing Arts will be hosting *all five* current medalists! **GQ**, **Gimme Four**, **Full Effect**, **First Take,** and **Sunday Night Social** will be in the house. Not only that, but 2025 champ **Lemon Squeezy** is making the trek to Midwinter all the way from Stockholm, Sweden to be with us. Add to this lineup the 2026 *and* 2025 NextGen Varsity champs **Gateway** and **Radiant**, as well as outgoing Seniors champ **cityScape**, and you have a recipe for an incredible series





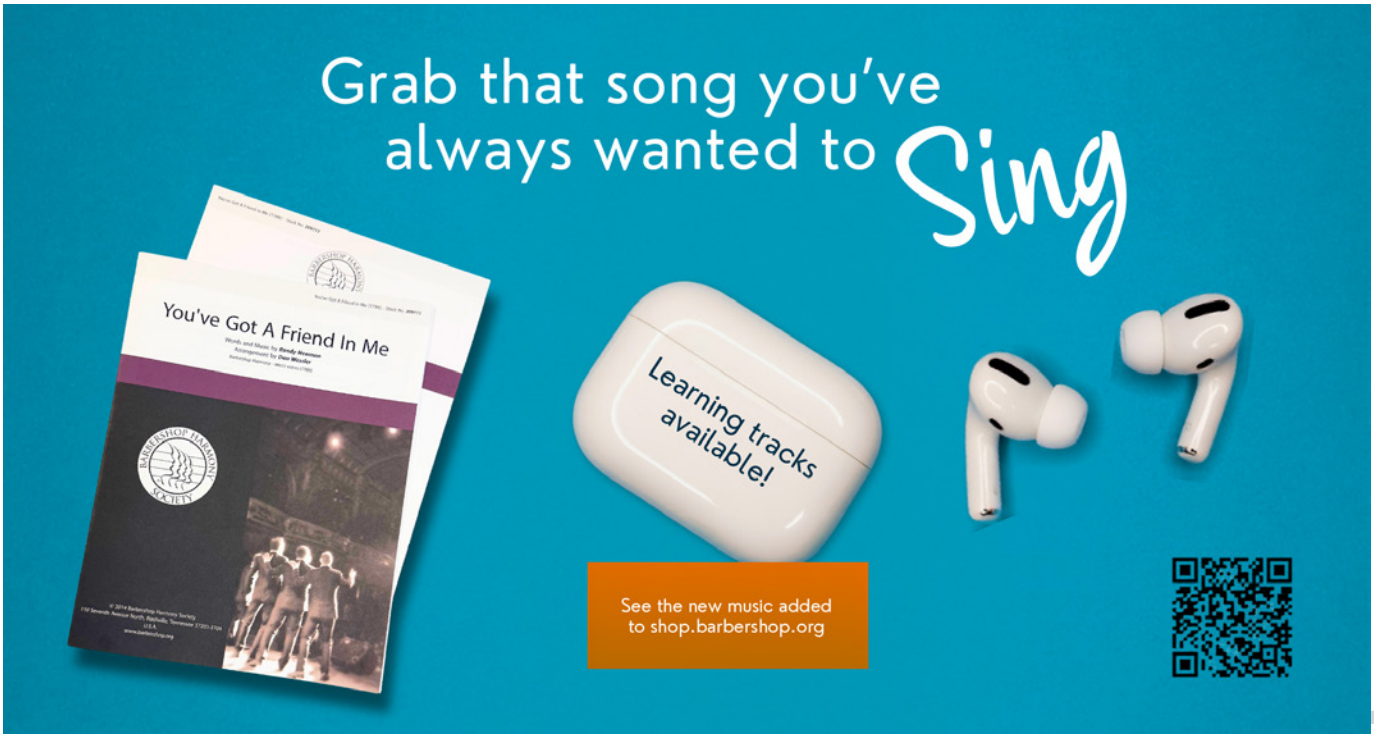
of unforgettable shows you simply cannot miss.

GREAT CONTESTS

- **Seniors Quartet Contest:** Every year, our most experienced quartets entertain while vying for Seniors gold.
- **NextGen Chorus Festival:** Hundreds of young singers from everywhere deliver amazing three-song sets.
- **Seniors Chorus Festival:** On the same stage, choruses featuring singers age 55+ will vie for medals in the third official year for this popular event.
- **NextGen Junior Quartet Contest:** Quartets of singers 18 and under perform one song each for a chance to win the Junior Quartet gold.

RELAX AND ENJOY!

Midwinter is a fun, entertaining, and casual event perfect for anyone who loves barbershop and loves spending time relaxing with barbershop friends and family. If you've never attended before, this is the year. Register at *barbershop.org/midwinter*.



What's Happening



2027 Midwinter ▲
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Beautiful locale, great shows and events, with a casual vibe
barbershop.org/midwinter



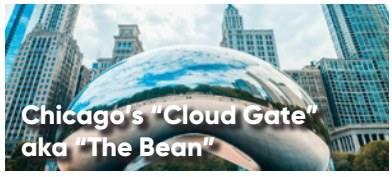
2027 International Minneapolis – July 4-11 ▲
It's been a short 42 years since we've hosted International in the Twin Cities, but we're coming back and we're bringing our pitch pipes with us. Save the date! *barbershop.org/events*

2027 Midwinter Virginia Beach
February 3–7, 2027

2027 International Minneapolis
July 4–11, 2027

2028 International Chicago
July 2–9, 2028

2029 International San Antonio
July 1–8, 2029


Chicago's "Cloud Gate" aka "The Bean"

HARMONY UNIVERSITY

HU 2026 Sees Huge Resurgence

"Our barbershop family works together, lives through things together, and walks life together."

Harmony University continues to set the standard for barbershop education, and our third year in Denver proved why. Attendance increased by more than 100 students over last year, a testament to the impact of the previous year's experience—and to the power of word of mouth and grassroots efforts to encourage more members to make HU part of their summer.

The University of Denver provides an ideal setting for the HU experience, offering the perfect balance of walkability, modern classrooms, comfortable accommodations, and breathtaking scenery. The setting makes an already rewarding learning experience even more memorable. And, as always, HU brought together some of the very best in barbershop instruction, faculty, coaching, and event expertise, making the entire experience feel more seamless than ever.


General Session with Melody Hine

This year's coaching track served more than a dozen quartets and four choruses. The result was a rich and rewarding experience for both singers and coaches, perhaps best illustrated by the "before and after" performances presented at the beginning and end of the week.

Neyla Pekarek led the **HU NextGen Chorus**, while Theo Hicks directed the HU **All-Voices Chorus**. Legendary barbershopper and Hall of Famer Tony De Rosa opened the week with a keynote address that established a clear theme for HU: love and respect for our barbershop family, coupled with a commitment to "learn, then learn some more."

We also brought back the popular Tag Contest as well as Trivia Night to rave reviews. The Trivia Night's category "Barbershop History" inexplicably proved to be the most difficult category of the night. Perhaps knowing the history of barbershop is harder than singing it!

Tony closed his keynote with words that seemed to capture the spirit of the entire week: "Family is not perfect. Our Barbershop family is not perfect. But family works together, lives through things together, and walks life together."

Harmony University this year felt larger, yet more intimate; traditional, yet refreshingly new. Most importantly, it felt like a place where everyone belonged—regardless of age, gender, background, or experience.

You belong at HU.

Information for Harmony University 2027 at *barbershop.org/hu.*

Philanthropy

ADD YOUR VOICE TODAY



$4
A dollar for each part in a barbershop chord

$12
A dollar for every month you've sung this year

*Tell your story with the amount you give.

$128*
A dollar for every friend you've made through barbershop

$42*
A dollar for every year you've been a member

$35*
A dollar for every state your chapter has traveled to for a contest

GIVE.BARBERSHOP.ORG

A GLASS CEILING GETS *Shattered* IN ST. LOUIS

Pages 12-50:
Text and layout by **Eddie Holt**
Editor of The Harmonizer
and photos by **Lorin May** and
Inbound Video Pros except
where noted.

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barbershop.org

At an event already frontloaded with expectations, anticipation, and superlatives, few could have anticipated the impact of the week of barbershop that culminated in **GQ** being the first-ever women to become International Quartet Champions.

We're rarely speechless, but we're still struggling to put into words exactly what GQ's victory means for our community and for barbershop as a whole. Fortunately, where words fail us, the internet is undefeated. The heart of barbershopdom never stops beating, and nowhere was the joy more palpable than online and around our community, where celebrations, reflections, tears, big feelings, and one unmistakable realization spilled across the footlights.

SOMETHING HAD CHANGED FOREVER.



Photo by Alex Sturgill



GQ

"So incredibly thankful."

In your own words...

Maria Christian

"I witnessed fathers and daughters singing together, husbands and wives singing in mixed quartets, diverse families able to fully share in something in ways that were until recently not possible."

Lemon Squeezy

"A beautiful moment in time."

Avery Winters

"I've watched Mothers and Daughters at least 25 times, most of which I've cried during and some of which I've sobbed."

Jeff Hunkin

"Since EIH, I've been able to officially sing with my sister Henrietta, and with my eldest daughter Willow now regularly attending our Pacific Connection chorus, we will continue the Hunkin legacy in this awesome craft."

Gateway Quartet

"Big congratulations to our new 2026 International Champions, GQ! Being the first female quartet to win! Another congratulations to The Ambassadors of Harmony for taking home gold in our HOMETOWN!

Rik Johnson

"My heart was bursting with happiness watching Steve Tramack announce GQ as the winners. Won't ever forget that."

Ambassadors of Harmony

"We feel real gratitude toward the Barbershop Harmony Society and toward the many talented performers we shared the stage with."





ST. LOUIS-BASED NEXTGEN QUARTET GATEWAY AND THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY BRING HOME THE GOLD IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD

NEW

the sing-in contest



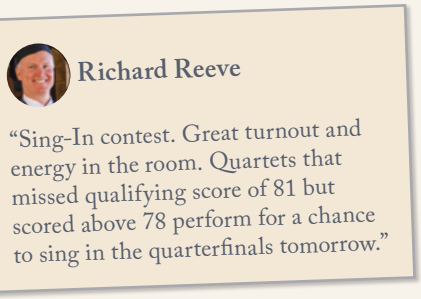
It was a full house at the inaugural Sing-In Contest. New format, new rules, new must-see kickoff event.

We did something new in St. Louis, and it was kind of wild. The Sing-In Contest was an entirely new approach to a barbershop contest; rather than having the scores announced after the entire contest session has completed, each quartet received their score immediately following their performance so the audience knew exactly how each quartet's score compared to everyone else's. Think "Olympic events" style scoring.

The stakes were fairly high, as the top two quartets would go on to compete in the Quarterfinals the next day.

The Sing-In Contest was a way to involve more groups at International and provide groups "on the cusp" of qualifying a chance to compete in the Big Show. Both **Brother Nature** and **Tall Girls Club** made it to the next round.

And the audience was here for it. Great news: the Sing-In Contest is coming back in Minneapolis!



Richard Reeve

"Sing-In contest. Great turnout and energy in the room. Quartets that missed qualifying score of 81 but scored above 78 perform for a chance to sing in the quarterfinals tomorrow."



ADVANCED!

Brother Nature (NSC)
Ian Galvin, Will Walker, JR.,
Nate Lueders, Franklin Pierce
Asheville, NC; Mount Pleasant, SC; Nashville, TN



Chill Factor (LOL)
Michael Blair, James Estes,
Chris Vander Pas, Matthew Hornbuckle
Appleton, WI; Barbary Coast, CA; Greendale, WI; Manitowoc, WI



Ephen Steven (CSD)
Steve Azevedo, Chaz McPeek,
Dave Carlisle, Stephen Day
HarmonySTL



Never Too Late (FWD)
Ken Martin, Adam Teachout,
Max Coxon, Mike Stewart
Barbary Coast, CA; California Delta; Nashville, TN; Reno, NV



Scores were displayed in real-time as each quartet completed their set. The top two quartets qualified to compete in the next day's Quarterfinals.



Onset (ILL)
Frank Blackman, Mark Servos,
Nathan Gross, Danny Mulligan
Bloomington, IL; Chicagoland West Suburban, IL; Frank Thorne

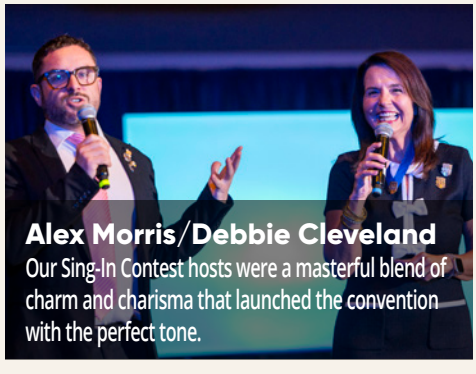


ADVANCED!

Tall Girls Club (MAD)
Melody Hine, Heather Havens,
Meredith Glemboski, Candra Rice
Five Towns College, NY; Hell's Kitchen, NY; Hershey, PA



Vintage Blend (PIO)
Mark Wilson, Jamie Carey,
Kirk Wood, James Masalskis
Grand Rapids, MI; Gratiot County, MI



Alex Morris/Debbie Cleveland
Our Sing-In Contest hosts were a masterful blend of charm and charisma that launched the convention with the perfect tone.

2026 INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CONTEST

❖ = Quartet debut. Quartet members listed as tenor, lead, bari, and bass regardless of standing order. Quartet action shots by Lorin May and Inbound Video Pros. Medalist portraits by Inbound Video Pros. All action photos are available at *barbershop.org/photos,* all group portraits are available at *barbershop.org/photos.*



1. GQ (MAD)
Amanda Sandroni, Katie Gillis, Ali Hauger, Samantha Tramack
Alexandria, VA; Hershey, PA



2. Gimme Four (MAD)
Paul Franek, Dave Ammirata, Joe Servidio, Will Downey
Caldwell, NJ; Montclair, NJ



3. Full Effect (SHD)
Brett Beard, Andrew Easterling, Caleb Hayes, Wyatt McCarter
Cleveland, TN



4. First Take (MAD)
Alex Corson, Anthony Colosimo, Drew Wheaton, Andrew Havens
Alexandria, VA; Hunterdon County, NJ; Northern Kentucky, KY



5. Sunday Night Social (RMD)
Ashley Wigginton, Tim Brooks, Seth Fetzer, Tyler Wigginton
Denver Mile High, CO; Nashville, TN



6. The Newfangled Four (FWD)
Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Marcus Carline, Jake Tickner
Westminster, CA



7. Secret Best Friends (MAD)
Kevin Juliana, James Isley, James Pennington, Will Daniel Simmons
Hershey, PA



8. Purple Rebar (FWD) ❖
Tim Keeler, Andy Van Allsburg, Kory Reid, Jared Graveley
Barbary Coast, CA



9. Double Date (FWD) ❖
Michaela Slamka-Johnston, Blair Brown, Nathan Johnston, Ravi Raghuram
Marietta, GA; Westminster, CA



10. The Ladies (SWD)
Quincie Snook, Caroline Durrett, Kim Newcomb, Ashley Rohovit
Frank Thorne; Hershey, PA



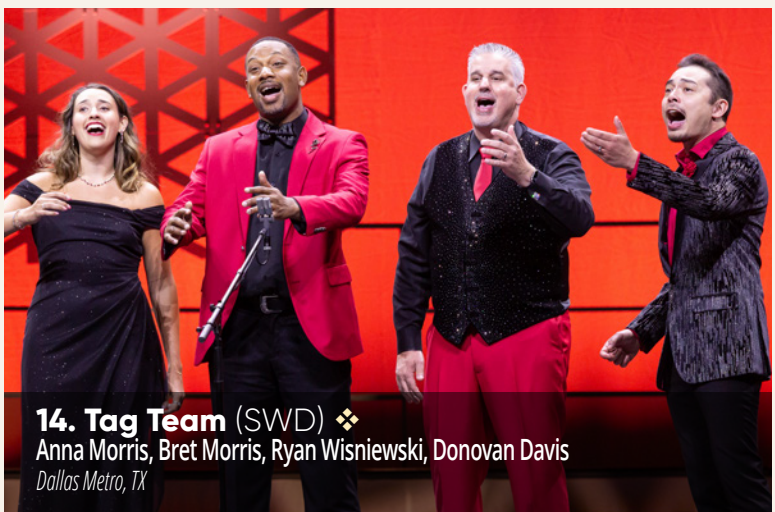
11. Smoke Ring (MAD)
Becca Eckes, Stephanie Taglianetti, Alexander Ronneburg, Gabriel Spector
Hell's Kitchen, NY



12. Fleet Street (CSD)
Matt Suellentrop, Aaron Zart, Keegan Eich, Michael Bass
Harmony STL; Lincoln, NE



13. Clementones (SNOBS)
Søren Detlefsen, Oliver Hansen, Erik Lindstrøm, Malte Øster



14. Tag Team (SWD) ❖
Anna Morris, Bret Morris, Ryan Wisniewski, Donovan Davis
Dallas Metro, TX

TWO COMEDY SONGS?

Are you taking that bet?

You're watching the Quartet Finals in St. Louis, and someone asks you, "Guess which quartet tonight is going to sing two comedy songs?" Are you taking that bet?

The average barbershopper might bet on it being comedy icon **Newfangled Four**, but maybe you've been paying attention the last few years and fully expected to see perennial medalist and serial crusher-of-tags **First Take** come out and perform not one, but two rock-solid comedy songs that left the audience in stiches. It's been said, "You do whatever it takes to the get the laugh. No matter what." And First Take showed up to play, no matter how much shaving cream clogged their nasal cavities. You try holding another human being in your arms and still win a medal. We'll wait.

Meanwhile, as they did last year in Denver, Newfangled Four once again took a brief respite from comedy in the Finals with "A Cottage For Sale" (Arr. Theo Hicks), only the the second non-comedy number they've performed in recent years which interestingly ended up being their highest scoring song in the Singing Category for the entire week. Here's the kicker: First Take and Newfangled Four scored an identical 2181 points in the Finals round, with First Take finishing fourth and Newfangled finishing sixth after all three rounds.





The Newfangled Four averaged

90+

for the first time, en route to earning 6th place for the fourth time.

They ranked

3RD IN PERFORMANCE

this year, which is the highest they have ever ranked in any category.

FUN FACTS *with PMac*



As in years past, we'll be getting a bit of assistance from arranger, director, certified Musicality Judge, and good pal Patrick McAlexander who has become something of a legend in the field of "fun barbershop facts."

His traditional post-convention roundup of facts, data, and statistics have become a staple for everyone keeping score, and they indeed could be described very accurately as "fun."

So be on the lookout in this feature for the red boxes and give PMac a high five when you see him. We hope you enjoy reading these tidbits as much as we did stealing them. Thanks Patrick, these ***ARE*** fun facts!

11

The Quartet Finals featured a record number of 11 women, including new champs GQ, along with members of 10th place The Ladies (returning to the Finals after a year off), 9th place Double Date (2-time BinG! Mixed World Champions), and new medalist Sunday Night Social.

A Medal 38 Years in the Making

Sunday Night Social represents the third iteration of a quartet shared by spouses Tyler and Ashley Wigginton, first with **X&Y Quartet** (2019), **Windfall** (2022), then SNS. This is Lead Tim Brooks' impressive 8th bronze medal just 38 years after his own International debut in 1988 with **Atlanta Forum**. And this is Seth Fetzer's third international-level quartet, his first being **X-Factor** in 2009, then **Maelstrom** in 2017. While he sang lead in those two quartets, SNS is his first outing as a baritone. We have to say: he's a natural.



Roman King

"Buy your Sunday Night Social stock now while you can, folks."

100%, Roman

ST. LOUIS 2026

COMPETING *with* FAMILY

Wherever you stand on the "nature vs. nurture" debate, our ever-growing body of data suggests that when it comes to the quartet contest, family has a lot to do with it. Not exactly a shocking revelation, but certainly a delightful reminder of the joy made possible by providing a place where people can "barbershop however they wish to barbershop." And more and more each year, we see families make their choice. So please indulge us as we provide this updated list of family members who crossed the St. Louis stage, either singing together or competing against one another.

SINGING *with* FAMILY

Catie and **Cole Carey** (Cruise Control)	SIBLINGS
Tim and **Lincoln Beutel** (Linc 182)	FATHER/SON
Blair Brown and **Ravi Raghuram** (Double Date)	SPOUSES
Michaela Slamka-Johnston and **Nathan Johnston** (Double Date)	SPOUSES
Sophia De Rosa, **Kylie Kirkman**, **Chris DeRosa**, and **Drew Kirkman** (In the Genes)	NIECE/ DAUGHTER/ MOTHER/ FATHER
Mark and Jonathan Lang, **Alyssa Hackworth** (Mom's Favorite)	FATHER/ SON/ DAUGHTER
Melanie and **R.J. Esquivias** (Yes Dear)	SPOUSES
Justin and **Caitlin Klemballa** (Yes Dear)	SPOUSES
Ashley and **Tyler Wigginton** (Sunday Night Social)	SPOUSES
Anna and **Brett Morris** (Tag Team)	FATHER/ DAUGHTER

SINGING *against* FAMILY

Joe Krones (Overdrive) vs **Heather Havens** (Tall Girls Club) vs **Andrew Havens** (First Take)	FATHER/ DAUGHTER/ DAUGHTER'S SPOUSE
Kyle Snook (Trademark) vs **Quincie Snook** (The Ladies)	SPOUSES
Dan Rohovit (Nocturne) vs **Ashley Rohovit** (The Ladies)	SPOUSES
Kerry Denino (Lady A Cappella) vs **Steve Denino** (The Core)	SPOUSES



Double Date's Blair Brown and Ravi Raghuram holding hands during "If You Love Me, Really Love Me"



HONORABLE MENTION

While this page focuses on quartet family members, we wanted to quickly highlight mother/daughter duo Kati and Poppy Swinney of **Land of the Sky Chorus**. Kati directs, and Poppy was the youngest competitor in St. Louis at 10!

FUN FACTS *with PMac*



Ambassadors of Harmony's one-point win is the closest win since 2007, in which Westminster beat AoH in a tiebreaker.

Both AoH and Music City Chorus became the first choruses to hit a 96+ average since pre-Covid.

Point MADE.



MUSIC CITY CHORUS



AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY

MUSIC CITY CHORUS		AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY
☑	BEGAN UPTUNE WITH LOUD "BARBERSHOP!"	☑
☑	REFERENCED ST. LOUIS	☑
☑	REFERENCED DAVID WRIGHT	☑
☑	"BARBERSHOP IS WORLDWIDE"	☑
☑	POINTLESS TEARAWAY	☑
☑	LARGE UNFOLDING PROP	☑
☑	FEATURED A QUARTET	☑
☒	SOMEONE DELIVERED A PIZZA	☑



15. The Seventh Variety (FWD)
Jacob Gonzalez, Michael Keleshian, Emil0 Pichardo, Ross Valantine
Barbary Coast, CA; Westminster, CA



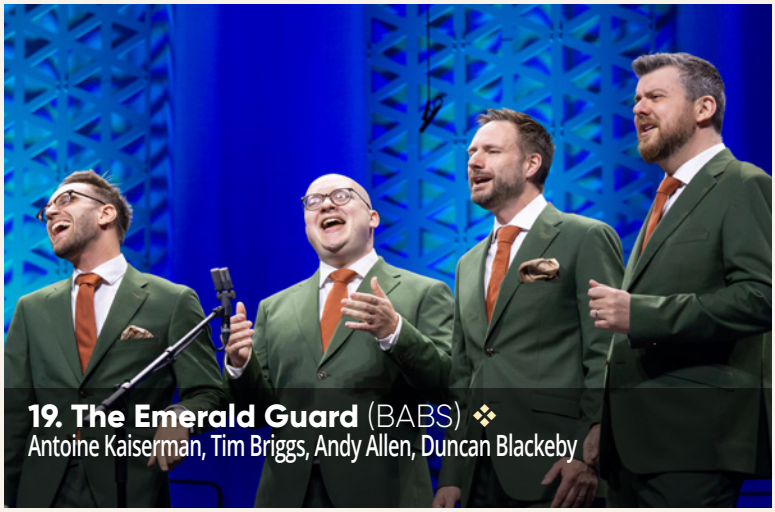
16. Tribute (SUN)
Brian Lindvall, Ryan Killeen, Marshall Crowl, Sam Rinkenbaugh
Tampa, FL



17. Lady A Capella (JAD)
Stacey St. John, Deidra Ronfeldt, Kerry Denino, Gretchen Holloway
Frank Thorne



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



19. The Emerald Guard (BABS) ❖
Antoine Kaiserman, Tim Briggs, Andy Allen, Duncan Blackeby



20. Cruise Control (PIO) ❖
Shoshana Sprecher, Catie Carey, Kayla Reed, Cole Carey
Frank Thorne; Grand Rapids, MI; Lansing, MI; Saginaw Bay, MI



21. Ami Quartet (LABBS) ❖
Isabel Clarke, Alex Georgiadis, Matt Friend, Matt Pandya



22. The Core (JAD)
Michael Nesler, Josh Van Gorder, Mike Hull, Steve Denino
Buckeye Columbus, OH; Defiance, OH; Greater Central Ohio; Nashville, TN

ST. LOUIS 2026

BARBERSHOP 'JEOPARODY'

TRIVIA. CELEBRITIES. A SPELLING ERROR.



With host Anthony Bartholomew

Here's to the hero in St. Louis who had a wild, new idea: Let's put on a game show.

We'll call it (a deliberately-mispelled) "Barbershop 'Jeoparody'" (three cheers for Letigaphobia), and give three trivia competitors a chance to compete for fame and fortune.

Texas-based funnyman **Anthony Bartholomew** hosted the show.

An open trivia contest for everyone in attendance yielded our top three who advanced to the featured game.

OUR THREE CONTESTANTS



SCOTT KITZMILLER | AUSTIN SHORTES | DAN COOK

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

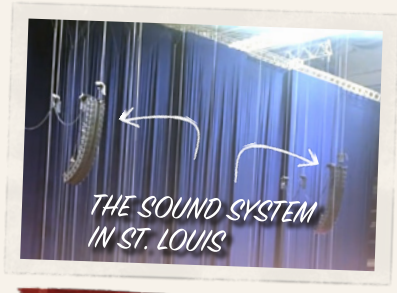
David "Zimmyzims" Zimmerman
Dan "The Doctor" Wessler
Anthony "The Other One" Fortino

They joined our finalists for a chance to win the grand prize:



But the real winner? All of us.

(Also, it was Scott Kitzmiller)



THE REVIEWS ARE IN

This is true: according to our post-convention survey, the most positive feedback was for

THE SOUND SYSTEM

From our sound guy **Tim Brooks**:

"The room and how it was setup was definitely a plus. Our vendor opted for the heavy fabric drape that was used as the 'runoff curtains' on the left and right side of the house which reduced sound bounce that causes intelligibility issues.

"Also, the shape of the space was a plus as it was narrower than the typical hockey arena. Lastly, As we didn't use the upper level of seating, the speakers were aimed specifically to avoid the back walls that would have also created more bounce.

"And, never discount the value of our FOH engineer, Wade. He can tune a space better than anyone."

(More on the heavy drapes later...)

A BEAUTIFUL *Arrangement*

Behind every amazing performance in St. Louis is an arranger who helped make that happen. Groups will often pull an arrangement off the shelf and perform it as is, but there's something beautiful about the relationship that some groups form with arrangers who just... get them.

To truly arrange for a group is to know and love that group, and no more was this apparent this summer than with **GQ**'s two primary arrangers and dear friends, Patrick McAlexander and Melody Hine.

GQ'S SONGS IN ST. LOUIS:



PATRICK MCALEXANDER
3 *Arrangements*

+

MELODY HINE
3 *Arrangements*



QUARTER-FINALS	"It's All Coming Back To Me Now"	Patrick
QUARTER-FINALS	"Pity Party"	Patrick
SEMI-FINALS	"Coffee"	Melody
SEMI-FINALS	"When He Sees Me"	Melody
FINALS	"At Your Mother's House"	Patrick
FINALS	"Mothers and Daughters"	Melody



GQ achieved a perfect

100%

PERFORMANCE SCORE

On "Mothers and Daughters"



Elizabeth Davies

"Do not watch Mothers and Daughters if you need to be able to function for the rest of the day. Melody Hine is a genius arranger."



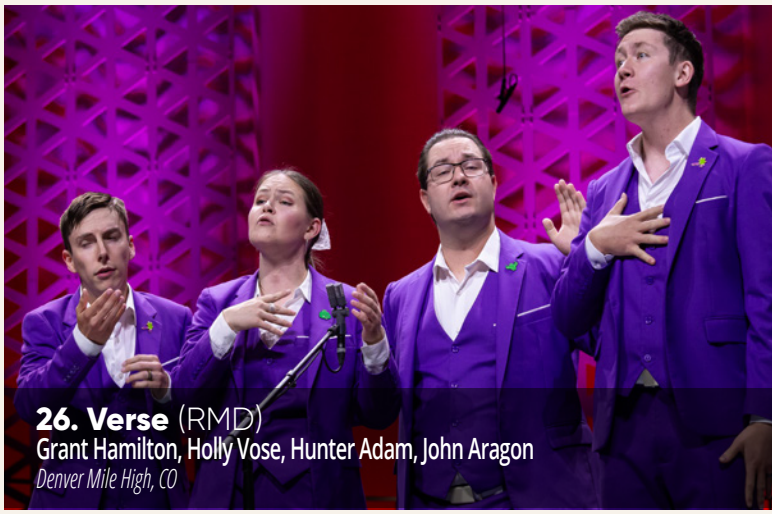
23. Fully Vetted (CSD) ❖
Austin Veteto, Chris Pingel, Stephen Vandenberg, Adam Veteto
Harmony STL



24. Fifth Element (BABS)
Brian Fox, Duncan Whinyates, Ryan Jensen, Jake Waghorn
Denver Mile High, CO



25. Tall Girls Club (MAD) ❖
Melody Hine, Heather Havens, Meredith Glemboski, Candra Rice
Five Towns College, NY; Hell's Kitchen, NY; Hershey, PA



26. Verse (RMD)
Grant Hamilton, Holly Vose, Hunter Adam, John Aragon
Denver Mile High, CO



27. Promenade (BHNZ)
Will Harris, Will Lynch, Harry Burt, Kieran King



28. Daily Special (NED)
Isaac Swanson, Chad Putka, Ben Lewin, Cay Outerbridge
Greater Boston, MA; Nashville, TN; Providence, RI; Southern New England; Worcester, MA



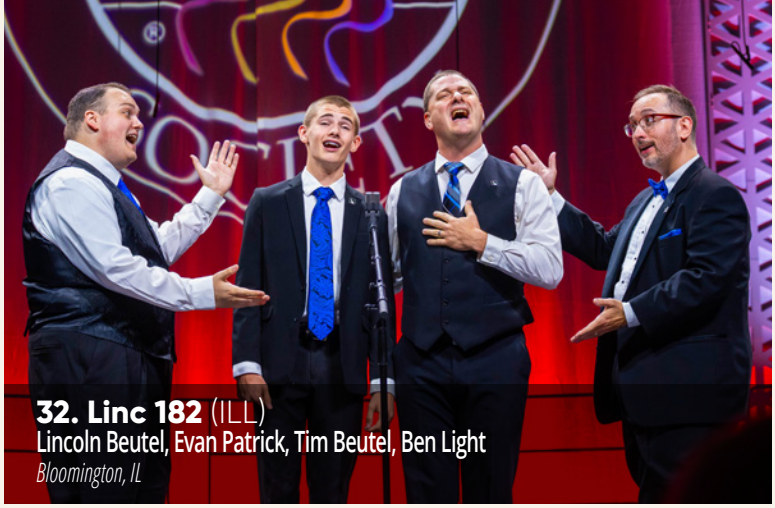
29. Spice Report (BABS) ❖
Arran Bayliss-Chalmers, Jacob Carter, David Nuttall, Greg White



30. Jukebox (LOL) ❖
Terry Blessing, Ian Wolfe, Josh Umhoefer, Jeremy Conover
Hershey, PA; Nashville, TN; Town North Plano, TX



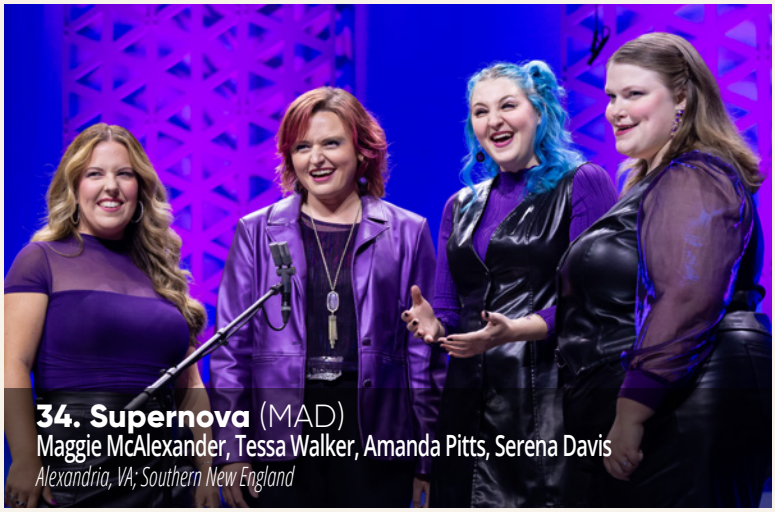
31. Yes Dear (FWD)
Melanie Esquivias, Caitlin Klemballa, R.J. Esquivias, Justin Klemballa
Greater Phoenix, AZ; Westminster, CA



32. Linc 182 (ILL)
Lincoln Beutel, Evan Patrick, Tim Beutel, Ben Light
Bloomington, IL



33. Fountain City Four (CSD) ❖
Brayden Heath, Arlen Burroughs, Dan Rasmussen, Jon Kready
Metro Kansas City, MO



34. Supernova (MAD)
Maggie McAlexander, Tessa Walker, Amanda Pitts, Serena Davis
Alexandria, VA; Southern New England



35. Rived (PIO)
Gabe LaPointe, Jake Kershaw, Matt Bidigare, Kaleb Lenneman
Lansing, MI; The Motor City Metro, MI



36. Blue Skies (FWD) ❖
Matt Bohy, Royce Ferguson, Jason James, Jim Campbell
Greater Los Angeles



37. Centreplace (BHNZ)
Natassja Medina, Karma Newton-King, Keegan Davies, Harley Pitihira



38. Catalyst (NED)
Nate Finke, George Alden, Dan Hoke, Rit Carroll
Nashville, TN; Schenectady, NY

PURPLE REBAR

2026 Dealer's Choice Winner

The Dealer's Choice Award goes to the highest-placing new quartet each year at the International Quartet Contest (with no members who have previously won a gold medal or no two members having competed together before), and this year, that honor went to newcomer **Purple Rebar**. We use the word "newcomer" lightly, as each of the Rebars is a current or former member of one of the most acclaimed men's singing groups on the planet, three-time Grammy Award-winning ensemble **Chanticleer**. So it comes as a surprise to no one that they were so successful their first-time out at International, and we are thrilled to watch what they do next.



Tim Keeler, Andy Van Allsburg, Kory Reid, and Jared Graveley

8TH PLACE

88.8% SCORE

(so many eights)

Many people ask "how did Purple Rebar get their name?" We're not entirely sure, but we want to *believe* this is how they settled on their name:

EMERALD I-BEAM — TAKEN

CRIMSON RIVET — TAKEN

PURPLE REBAR — ✓ *Available*

We do worry that the quartet has inadvertently locked themselves into a single color scheme.

VOCAL SPECTRUM ROAST & TOAST

Celebrating 20 Years As Champs



Vocal Spectrum, Gas House Gang, and Crossroads (and friends)

"Good evening, friends. There was a time when Dr. Jim Henry's four finest students formed a quartet. But we're not here to talk about Double Date."
- Dr. David Wright

Boom, roasted.

It was all music and laughs at the **Vocal Spectrum** "Roast and Toast", a special, separately-ticketed event celebrating their 20th anniversary as champs right in their hometown of St. Louis where the quartet got their start. Vocal Spectrum and members of the legendary (and temporarily un-retired) **Gas House Gang** and **Crossroads** and friends took the stage for some songs and the ceremonial trading of barbs with arguably some of the most influential and decorated quartets and barbershoppers in the history of the Society.



*Dalbey-approved

TOWN HALL REPORT

Barbershop Harmony Society leadership, including CEO **Robert Rund** and Society Board members, hosted a Town Hall in St. Louis. Here are the three biggest takeaways:

1

Smaller chapters matter.

Gratitude was expressed for our focus on smaller chapters, without whom none of this is possible.

2

The Big Leap is already paying dividends.

Chapters who attended are reporting a resurgence of energy and excitement for growth and retention.

3

Music educators are worth investing in.

With the new Music & Education team. the BHS is once again partnering with ACDA to connect with music educators.

Thank you to everyone who came and made their voices heard!



39. Mom's Favorite (JAD)
Jonathan Lang, Alyssa Hackworth, Mark Lang, Leo Zigmond
Independence, OH; Town North Plano, TX



40. Best Wishes (MAD)
Michael Cawley, Kate Macdonald, Tommy Hunter, Jonah Levinson
Greater Delaware, DE



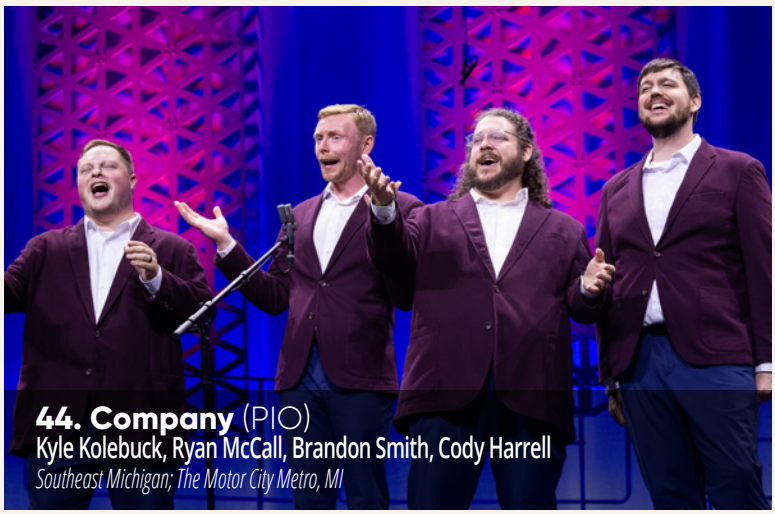
41. Overdrive (SWD)
Tyler Wilson, Greg Rogers, Philip Sense, Joe Krones
Dallas Metro, TX; Oklahoma City, OK



42. Nocturne (SWD) ❖
Dom Finetti, Daniel Rohovit, Taylor Miller, Colin McGibboney
Frank Thorne; Houston Metro Area, TX; Nashville, TN



43. Avalon (LABBS) ❖
Boo de Bruin, Helen Whittick, Sophie Sanctuary, Sophie Hasson
Amersham, UK; Central London, UK



44. Company (PIO)
Kyle Kolebuck, Ryan McCall, Brandon Smith, Cody Harrell
Southeast Michigan; The Motor City Metro, MI



45. Brother Nature (NSC) ❖
Ian Galvin, Will Walker, JR., Nate Lueders, Franklin Pierce
Asheville, NC; Mount Pleasant, SC; Nashville, TN



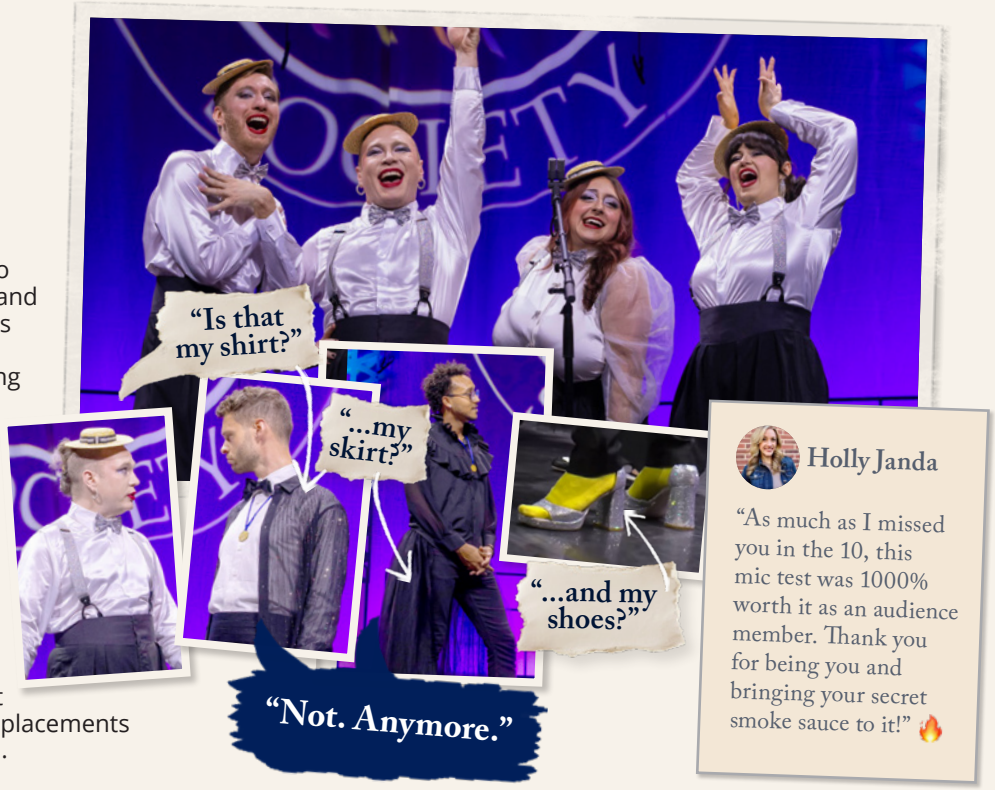
46. In The Genes (SUN) ❖
Sophia De Rosa, Kylie Kirkman, Chris De Rosa, Drew Kirkman
Sarasota, FL; Tampa, FL

WHEN IN Rome

This probably goes without saying, especially to anyone who knows what the unapologetically and delightfully roguish quartet **Smoke Ring** brings to the table, but the traditional Quartet Finals mic-test performed by Smoke Ring was anything but traditional.

Mic-test? No rules? Smoke Ring definitely knew what to do. They delivered one of the more memorable moments of an already-unforgettable Finals when they invited two AIC basses, **Lemon Squeezy**'s Martin Jangö and **Three and a Half Men**'s Chris Keough to join them on stage dressed in authentic Smoke Ring faire. Naturally.

Bass Gabriel Specter was shocked to learn that Chris and Martin were there to "audition" as replacements for the bass part. This is when things got weird.



Holly Janda

"As much as I missed you in the 10, this mic test was 1000% worth it as an audience member. Thank you for being you and bringing your secret smoke sauce to it!" 🔥

NOTABLE Spotlights



DAILY SPECIAL

We saw the return of Daily Special's good friend Horace The Horse (who debuted in Cleveland 2024) during their performance this year of "Still Hurting (parody)". It was a serious moment for Horace, however, as only watching their performance on YouTube can explain.



TRADEMARK

aaaaaaaaaahhhhhdang. Our friends in Trademark, a quartet known for their smooth sound and innovative charts, have announced they're retiring from competition. Fantastic contest run, guys! Thanks for the beautiful music and incredible big screen ads. IYKYK.



LADY A CAPPELLA

Lady A Cappella paid tribute to the (recently departed) queen of country music, Dolly Parton with a spirited rendition of "9 to 5." For anyone who hasn't experienced Dolly's music barbershopped, it's a must-watch—and a testament to an artist whose music knows no genre boundaries.



THE 'LOO-WOPS

NextGen Varsity quartet The 'Loo-Wops, seen here flying invisible kites during their performance of "Let's Go Fly A Kite", holds the distinction of having arguably the coolest quartet name of the convention, and performed the Canadian National Anthem for the audience during the Quarterfinals.

HALL of FAME Class of 2026



"Sing for just two people: the person who's never heard you before and the person who will never hear you again."

Cindy Hansen Ellis

- EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE
- CHAMPIONSHIP INFLUENCE
- MENTORSHIP
- LEGACY

"Cindy Hansen Ellis' mentorship and influence is indispensable to the modern history of barbershop harmony."



Keepsake

- LEGENDARY STYLE
- ICONIC REPERTOIRE
- THRILLING TAGS
- GENERATIONS INSPIRED

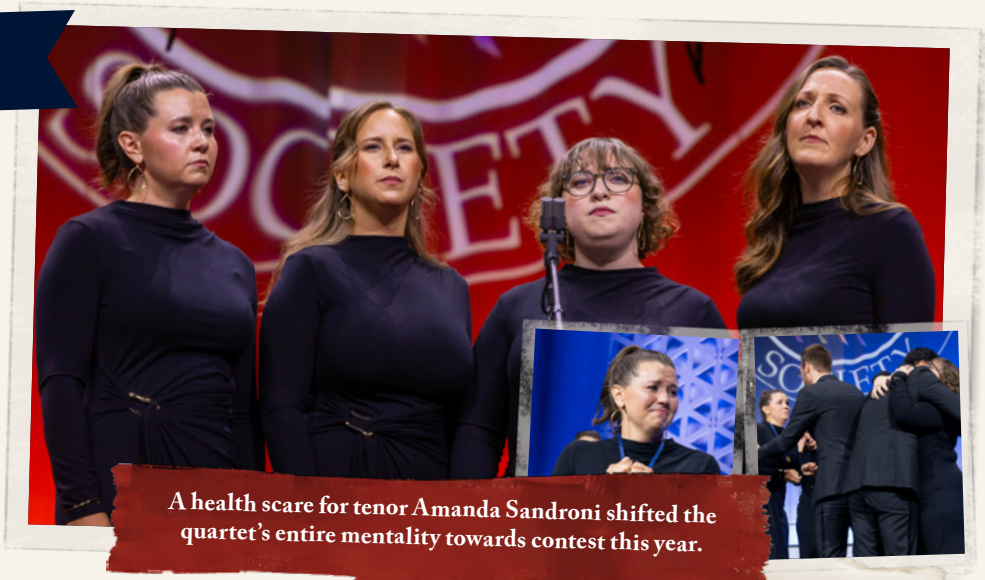
"Nearly every international champion over the last three decades credits Keepsake as one of their biggest inspirations." Keepsake is Roger Ross, Joe Connelly (unavailable for the presentation), Tony De Rosa, and Don Barnick.

GQ'S MENTAL *shift*

We learned something both fascinating and frightening during the recent 2026 Finals Rebroadcast, when lead Ali Hauger shared what was happening in the quartet members' lives in the weeks leading up to St. Louis.

Katie Gillis had given birth to her daughter Ivy just two months before convention, adding an obvious layer of complexity to travel and contest preparation—something many parents of newborns can surely appreciate. But just one week before flying to St. Louis, tenor Amanda Sandroni told the quartet she was headed to the emergency room to address a growing concern: persistent pain behind her knee that had begun several years earlier after the birth of her son, Luca, and had steadily worsened.

The diagnosis stunned them. Amanda had developed a life-threatening blood clot, essentially a ticking time bomb, and suddenly there was a very real question of whether the quartet would even be able to make it to St. Louis.



A health scare for tenor Amanda Sandroni shifted the quartet's entire mentality towards contest this year.

Thankfully, with expert medical care, Amanda was able to make the trip. And what followed was a profound shift in perspective for the quartet—a renewed sense of gratitude simply for being together, being healthy, and having the opportunity to stand on stage together. That perspective completely changed their mental game all week long.

> "We're just happy to be here, we're happy that we get to sing things together, and how great is that? It was a really great mindset for our week."
>
> *Ali Hauger*



We think that perspective showed. A quartet already poised and dynamic seemed to find an entirely new level of confidence and relaxed energy that carried a championship-caliber presence and exploded over the footlights for every performance.

Shaun Whisler

"Thank you GQ for making this the most special daddy/daughter trip ever. Bri got to witness history as her favorite quartet goes on to win the International Championship!!!! She was in tears of joy!! She felt like you were talking to her, Amanda Sandroni, thank you for being you! What a week for this Whisler duo!!!!"

FUN FACTS *with PMac*



This is the first time since 2016 in which a different quartet won each judging category: Full Effect won the Musicality Category, GQ won the Performance Category, and Gimme Four won the Singing Category.

GIMME *Fifth Grade?*

Did we say last year that current silver medalist **Gimme Four** had been together for 15 years? So sorry, we meant ~28 years. Imagine our surprise when Gimme Four published this photo of lead David Ammirata and bass Will Downey singing together in the 5th grade, seemingly starting their bass/lead duetting about 28 years ago in elementary school.

Well that's one way to find your sound, right? Lesson learned: start early, folks.



Gimme Four

"Gimme Four has been singing together since 2011 - but did you know that Will and Dave started practicing their lead/bass match in the 5th grade? Check out this recently unearthed photo from a Lincoln Elementary school choir performance!"



47. Triple Threat (LOL) ❖
Tyler Leibengood, Shane Frantz, Mitch Greenberg, Steve Schoultz
Greendale, WI; Nashville, TN; Northbrook, IL



48. Top Spin (EVG) ❖
Dane Chevassus, Jacob Bailey, James Williams, Kevin Javie
Bellevue, WA; Portland, OR



49. B-side (MAD) ❖
Chris Granger, Jude Olney, Nick Roberto, Braden Lynk
Hell's Kitchen, NY; Manchester, CT; Manhattan, NY



50. Cackalacky Sound Machine (NSC) ❖
Julian Selano, Jay Lusk, Bill Adams, Michael Adams
Central Carolina



51. F.F. (JBA) ❖
Daiki Kawano, Fumikado Motoe, Jo Sugawara, Itaru Chida
Ensemble Reed Chorus



52. IPA (CAR) ❖
Jace Crossland, Kurt Ives, Scott Trout, Pat Garmire
Defiance, OH; Fort Wayne, IN; Muncie, IN

ST. LOUIS *Sings*

The stage wasn't the only place to hear barbershop in St. Louis. A huge thank you to volunteers Manoj Padki, Paul Olguin, William Stutts, Ethan Wolfe, Jacob Fry, Dylan Oxford, and Brett Graham who woodshedded, taught tags, and kept the convention ringing all week. Not to mention endless tags in the lobbies, hallways, and stairwells...



It was an incredible night of barbershop at the Stifel Theatre in St. Louis Friday night of convention when nine champion quartets took the stage, pulling out classics from the Great American Songbook. The **Association of International Champions (AIC)** continues to finds more stops to pull out each year, securing a gorgeous concert hall in the vicinity of the International Convention and packing the house full of barbershoppers eager to get a taste of the best that our quartet champs have to offer.

It was, as usual, a series of performances for the ages, with last year's champ **Lemon Squeezy** bringing the house down and capping off an already unforgettable night that also featured our 25th anniversary champs, the timeless and beloved **Michigan Jake** who pulled out some classic Jake songs of their own.

The usual parade of active champs along with tributes to our 50th and 75th anniversary quartets **The Innsiders** (1976) and The **Schmitt Brothers** (1951) capped off a wildly successful evening of barbershop. Congratulations, AIC!

















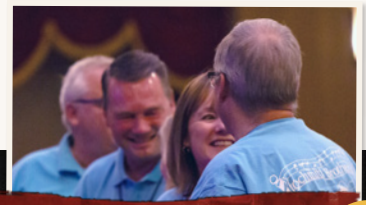














The Music OF ST. LOUIS

by the numbers

As the late great Joe Liles once said in his Keynote Address at Harmony University, "Where would we be without our music?" We've already celebrated Patrick and Melody earlier in this issue, and so we wanted to dig a little deeper and honor those who brought the music to the stage in St. Louis that so many amazing groups performed all week.



"Where would we be without our music?"
Joe Liles (1930-2021)

MOST PERFORMED SONGS:

"Not While I'm Around"

4 TIMES

Performed three times as a part of the "Not While I'm Around/No One Is Alone" medley (arr. Steve Tramack). It was performed by Ami Quartet twice (in Quarterfinals and NextGen Varsity) and by In The Genes.

First Take's version (arr. Theo Hicks) was performed in the Finals.

"Still Hurting"

3 TIMES

(Arr. Theo Hicks) Performed three times, straight by Cruise Control and Ami Quartet, and was parodied by Daily Special.

17

Just 17 songs were performed twice by different groups.

337 TOTAL SONGS PERFORMED

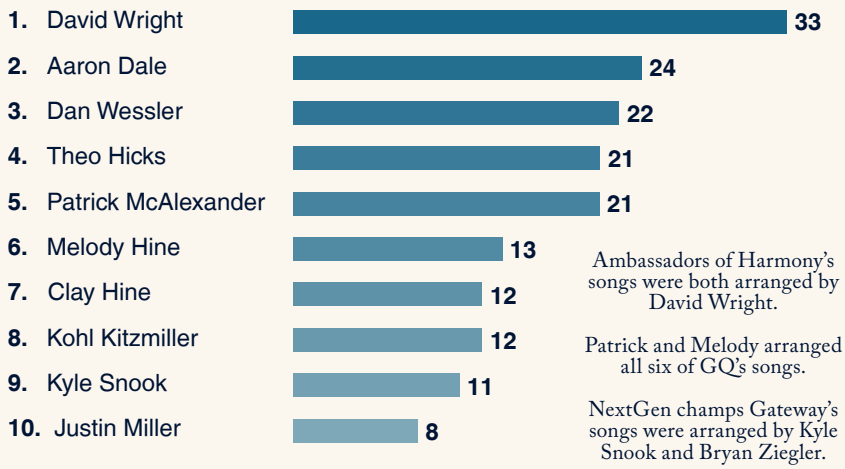
307 UNIQUE SONGS PERFORMED

76 DIFFERENT ARRANGERS

91.1% OF SONGS IN ST. LOUIS WERE UNIQUE

More unique songs = better audience experience

TOP TEN *Arrangers*



Ambassadors of Harmony's songs were both arranged by David Wright.

Patrick and Melody arranged all six of GQ's songs.

NextGen champs Gateway's songs were arranged by Kyle Snook and Bryan Ziegler.

Charlotte Barbershop Reunion 2022: **336** SONGS PERFORMED, **291** UNIQUE SONGS, =86.6% ratio — *Charlotte, 2022*

VS

337 SONGS PERFORMED, **307** UNIQUE SONGS, =91.1% ratio — *St. Louis, 2026*

You can't have a conversation about St. Louis music without mentioning Scott Joplin's name. St. Louis' own "King of Ragtime Writers" Scott Joplin changed American music forever. Joplin himself sang in a barbershop quartet and coached barbershop quartets long before the term "barbershop" was even broadly used, and his ragtime compositions informed and helped shape so much of what we love about the barbershop style and its harmonies.

We were honored to have Joplin's nieces Joyce Grant and Pamela Adams, along with friends, join us to honor him posthumously with a Life Membership.



SCOTT JOPLIN HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Philanthropy

ADD YOUR VOICE TODAY



RING TRUE CAMPAIGN

Here's the truth: sponsors and grant-makers watch how we support ourselves. They ask, "Does the barbershop community back its own organization?" When the answer is yes, they're far more willing to put their money behind preserving this art form too.

Your dues keep the Society running. Your extra gift is what propels us into the future.

A donation to the Ring True campaign, of any size, tells grant-makers we're committed to that future. It's proof that barbershop matters to us. And that proof moves others to give, multiplying the impact of what you've already put in.

We're 60% of the way to our $600,000 goal.

If you've been on the fence, this is your moment. Make your annual gift today and help show sponsors, grant-makers, and each other that BHS believes in BHS.

Thanks to our Ring True Sponsors

Gary Bolles
William Conway
Mike & Sheila Deputy
William Faulkner
Ron & Betty Grooters
Hank Hammer
Kevin & Ann Keller
Rick Knight & Peggy Leon
Roger & Sue Lewis
Randy & Jolene Loos
Curt McLees & Nancy Anderson
Mark Lumbard
Glenn Reid
Dave Watts
Association of International Champions (AIC)
BHS Society Board of Directors
Barbershop Harmony Society Staff
Contest & Judging Committee
Philanthropy Committee

GIVE.BARBERSHOP.ORG

ONE STAGE

Five Very Different Stories

The traditional approach to barbershop competition has often been what might be called the "standard" format: choose a ballad, choose an uptune, and sing them as well as possible. While themed sets have certainly existed throughout contest history, recent years have seen groups increasingly embrace more ambitious and deliberate thematic approaches.

In St. Louis, the top five choruses demonstrated just how broad the possibilities have become. Viewed side by side, their sets represented an extraordinary range of musical styles, storytelling approaches, and creative concepts, making for some of the most diverse and distinctive chorus performances we've seen.

That each of these approaches was rewarded not only by the judges, but also by an audience treated to some of the most innovative and entertaining sets in recent memory, should be cause for excitement throughout the barbershop community. More than anything, it points toward an exciting future for the art form—and for the audiences who will experience it in the years to come.

Ambassadors of Harmony
Directed by Jonny Moroni



Theme: A Tribute to St. Louis icons





Jim Henry delivers

The Ambassadors, now directed solely by Jonny Moroni, performed a tribute to St. Louis barbershop and local icons... from sports teams, to the arch, to Vocal Spectrum, to David Wright, and (former co-director) Jim Henry, they brought the gold back to their hometown with a masterful celebration of St. Louis.

Music City Chorus
Directed by Dusty Schleier

Theme: "Book of Barbershop" parody



Music City turned the irreverent Book of Mormon musical upside down and sang a parodied tribute to their die-hard devotion to barbershop and the lifelong passion of harmony.

Heralds of Harmony
Directed by Tony De Rosa and Clay Hine

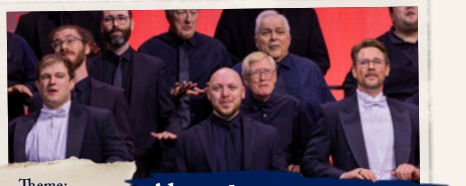
Theme: Monsters, "being true to yourself"



The Heralds of Harmony performed a magnificent tribute to classic monster tropes complete with genius-level hilarity, only to brilliantly turn the ballad into a powerful message about authenticity.

Alexandria Harmonizers
Directed by Joe Cerutti

Theme: The Comedian Harmonists





Relatively little is known about The Comedian Harmonists, a groundbreaking vocal group based in Germany whose career in the early 1930 was derailed by the turmoil of WW2 and German oppression. The Harmonizers passionately told The Comedian Harmonists' sometimes difficult story and brought their journey to life.

Parkside Harmony
Directed by Sean Devine and Vincent Sandroni

Theme: Aerosmith "Rock and Roll, Baby"





It was full throttle rock and roll barbershop when Parkside took the stage and nailed two Aerosmith songs to the wall. Huge props to the tenors who absolutely crushed the high tessitura lines at the end of "Dream On". We're sure Steven Tyler would be proud.

FUN FACTS *with PMac*



Vox Infinitus is the first Iowa-based chorus to compete at International since 1988.



Directed by Nate Green

Star Harmony Chorus is the first Idaho-based chorus to compete at International EVER.



Directed by Rich Lapp

2026 INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTEST

❖ = Chorus debut. Chorus portaits by Inbound Video Pros, *barbershop.org/portraits*



1. Ambassadors of Harmony (CSD) • Jonny Moroni • Harmony STL



2. Music City Chorus (SHD) • Dusty Schleier • Nashville, TN



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



4. Alexandria Harmonizers (MAD) • Joe Cerutti • Alexandria, VA



5. Parkside Harmony (MAD) • Vince Sandroni and Sean Devine • Hershey, PA



6. Central Standard (CSD) • Rob Mance • Metro Kansas City, MO



7. Gotham Chorus (MAD) • Anna Lynk • Hell's Kitchen, NY



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



9. Meantime Chorus (BABS) ❖ Simon Arnott • Central London



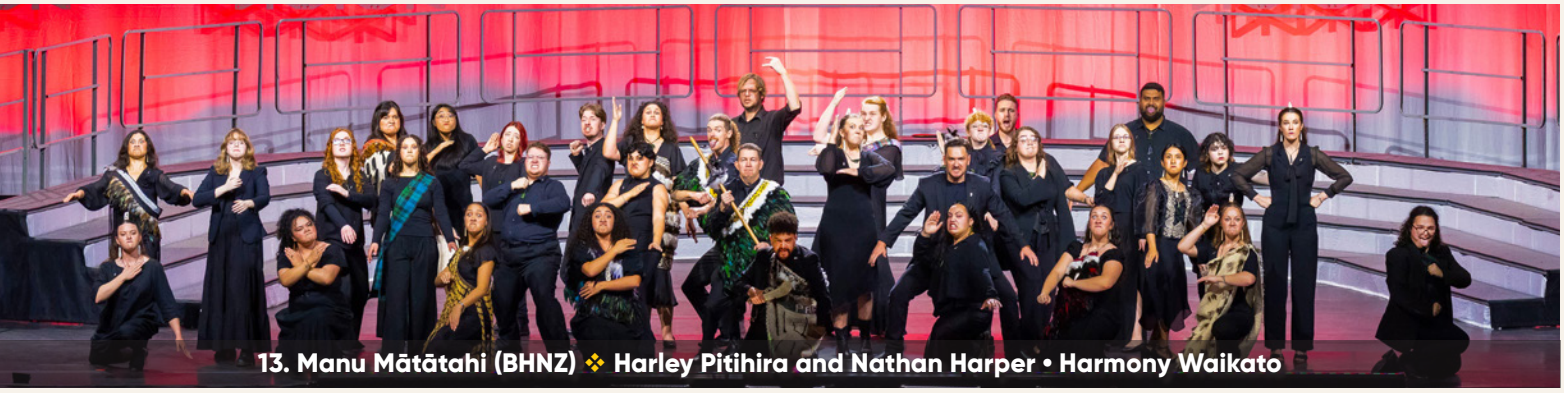
10. Masters of Harmony (FWD) • Alan Gordon • Greater Los Angeles



11. Visions of Harmony (CSD) • Erin Odell • Harmony STL



12. Space City Sound (SWD) • Patrick McAlexander • Houston Metro Area, TX



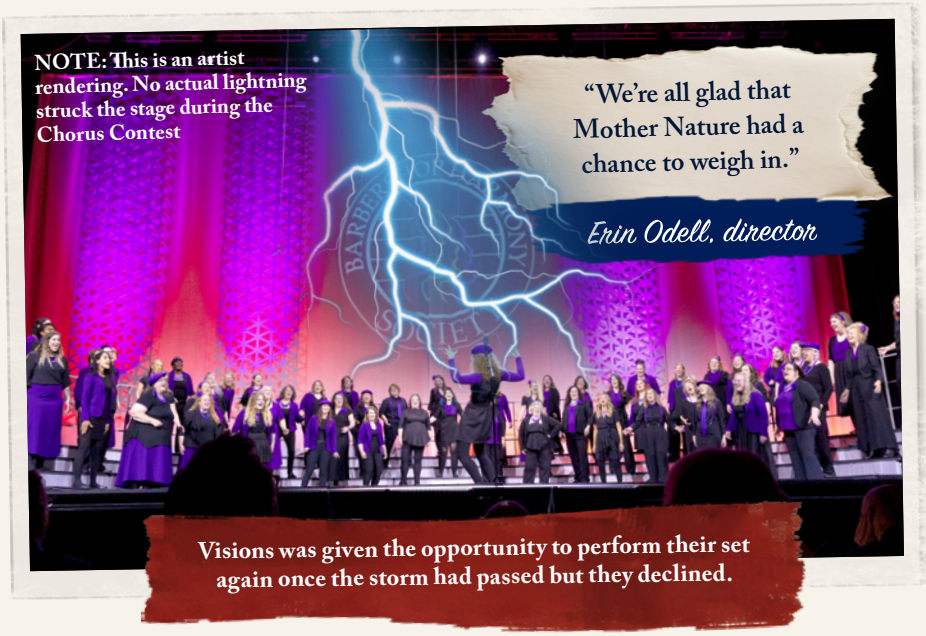
13. Manu Mātātahi (BHNZ) ❖ Harley Pitihira and Nathan Harper • Harmony Waikato



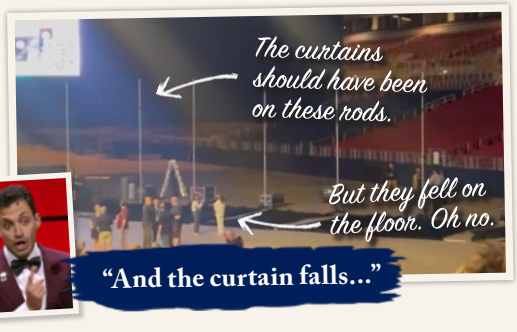
14. Sound of Tennessee (SHD) • Brandon Guyton • Cleveland, TN

Thunderous Applause

As luck would have it, a large thunderstorm rolled through St. Louis on Saturday, the day of the Chorus Contest Session 3, and reached its apex *right* during **Visions of Harmony**'s set. Bone-jarring peals of thunder resonated through The Dome's relatively thin roof, with the sounds of thunder and heavy rain echoing loudly through the entire arena and onto the stage. A huge congratulations to Visions who not only sang through the storm, but pulled inspiration from it to complete their set to thunderous applause... from human beings.



Speaking of HEAVY



The same heavy curtains that were so instrumental in expertly reducing sound-bounce in the venue became the same heavy curtains that overwhelmed their housings during the Semifinals on Thursday. 'Thank you' to the venue crew who got everything back on track and minimized the delays. And 'thank you' to **Gimme Four** who took advantage of the moment when they sang the line "...and the curtain falls..." during "Don't Blame It On Me." Nice.





JBA
Japan Barbershop Harmony Association



9 ALLIANCE QUARTETS

119 SINGERS IN FOUR ALLIANCE CHORUSES

by the numbers

WE'VE GONE *Worldwide*

It is difficult to overstate how humbled and honored the Barbershop Harmony Society is by the commitment our Alliance members and ensembles make each year to attend the International Convention. For many, that commitment means setting aside significant time, investing considerable resources, and traveling great distances to be part of this shared experience.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who made the journey to St. Louis. Your presence, participation, and passion made this convention what it was—and made it better simply because you were there.

Thank you for making the trip, for sharing your music, and for being part of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



LADIES ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH BARBERSHOP SINGERS











BH NZ





One of the joys of International is experiencing the unique musical styles and perspectives that groups from around the world bring to the barbershop stage. New Zealand ensembles, in particular, have a remarkable way of honoring barbershop traditions while making it distinctly their own.

Barbershop may have its roots here in America, but when it's filtered through different cultures, experiences, and backgrounds of our many Alliances, it becomes something fresh, unexpected, and inspiring.



BABS







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



16. The Recruits (CSD) • Keegan Eich and Eric Dalbey • Harmony STL



17. Prism (SWD) • Jake Bavarsky and Allyson Lotz • Town North Plano, TX



18. Great Lakes Chorus (PIO) • Jamie Carey • Grand Rapids, MI



19. Metro Voices (MAD) ❖ Samantha Tramack • Alexandria, VA



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



21. Sound of Illinois (ILL) • Tim Beutel and Terry Ludwig • Bloomington, IL



22. Vocal Revolution (NED) • Cay Outerbridge • Greater Boston, MA



23. London City Singers (LABBS) ❖ Simon Arnott • LABBS



24. SmorgasChorus (CSD) • Matt Webber • South Central Kansas, KS

ST. LOUIS
Through the Years

Fourth time's a charm

This was our fourth time hosting the International Convention in St. Louis, and quite a bit has happened since our last visit in 1984. Between the ever-changing shifts in world politics and culture, you can see a common thread amongst barbershoppers going back nearly a century: we just love ringing chords, and we'll do it wherever we can (rule no. 6 "Thou shalt not sing to unsympathetic ears" notwithstanding.)



1941

- MOUNT RUSHMORE COMPLETED
- "CITIZEN KANE" PREMIERES IN NYC
- ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR
- GLENN MILLER'S "CHATTANOOGA CHOO CHOO" RELEASED

1941 International Convention



1969

- MOON LANDING
- "SUGAR, SUGAR" BY THE ARCHIES NO. 1 SONG
- TOP MOVIE: BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID
- 400,000 PEOPLE GATHER AT WOODSTOCK

1969 International Convention



1984

- FIRST COMMERCIAL CD PLAYERS LAUNCHED
- BEVERLY HILLS COP NO. 1 MOVIE
- PRINCE'S "WHEN DOVES CRY" NO. 1 SONG
- WENDY'S "WHERE'S THE BEEF?" CAMPAIGN DROPS

1984 International Convention

THE *old* SONGS

FUN FACTS *with PMac*



Five of GQ's six songs were written after 2010, and two of them were written after 2020. ("It's All Coming Back To Me Now" was first released in 1989.)

It's a neverending debate on which songs we sing in barbershop fit the definition of "the old songs", and whether a specific era of music is better suited to our style. We'll leave the technical aspects of these discussions to the music nerds out there, but we found this information about specific songs from our past St. Louis champs fascinating:

In 1941, The Chordbusters sang "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" which was published in 1912, so when they performed it, it was **29 years old.**

In 1969, The Mark IV sang "I'd Give A Million Tomorrows", which was published in 1940, so when they performed it. It was **29 years old**. (The chorus champs **Thoroughbreds**' ballad "If I Had My Way" was 55 years old.)

In 1984, the Rapscallions sang the Disney song "Toyland" which was released in 1961, so the song was **23 years old.**

In 2026, GQ's "It's All Coming Back To Me Now" was **37 years old.**

We're getting **Main Street**'s "Pop Songs Medley" vibes going through this data.

THEY DID IT *Again*



Manu Mātātahi
Directed by Harley Pitihira & Nathan Harper

Their song "I Am/Māori Ki Te Ao" scored a **91.8%** In Performance, a solid medalist-level score.

As with Pacific Connection last year, this year's representative from New Zealand once again stole the show in St. Louis, performing two charts that drew heavy inspiration from Māori musical and cultural traditions. **Manu Mātātahi** performed a breathtaking set of "Back To The River" (arr. Dan Wessler) and "I Am/Māori Ki Te Ao" (translated "Māori to the world") (arr. Robin Park) and received a huge standing ovation from the audience. Absolutely incredible job, friends.

FAMILY *Secret*



Squeezy's 9th member

News travels fast these days: We've received word that after returning from their wildly successful victory lap and capping off a successful Swan Set in St. Louis, lead of **Lemon Squeezy** David Holst is stepping down from the quartet to focus on life and family. Their new lead? David's little brother, Mikael Holst. You may remember Mikael from recent International competitor and Sweden's own **Primer**, and their breakout performance of "You'll Be Back" from the musical Hamilton. As per Squeezy's social post: "Hail King Mikael Holst, second of his name!" So, the Secret Sauce is a family secret, eh?

FULL *Commitment*



Gotham Chorus
Directed by Anna Lynk

It was both musically excellent and visually-stunning watching **Gotham Chorus** take the stage and transport us to another place entirely. In their own words: "This set meant so much to us—not only because of the beautiful arrangements by Patrick McAlexander and Adam Bock, but because of the story it tells: one of self-discovery, found family, belonging, and acceptance. We're so grateful for the heartfelt reactions we've received from the audience. Thank you for embracing this message and taking the journey with us."

FUN FACTS



with PMac

ALL-TIME CHORUS MEDALS



Alexandria

22 TOTAL MEDALS



Southern Gateway

22 TOTAL MEDALS

The **Alexandria Harmonizers** have now won 22 total chorus medals, tying **Southern Gateway Chorus**' 22 medal-count. They are the **only chorus** with at least three of each top five placement in their history.

BRITISH INVASION



Meantime Chorus

88.2% SCORE

Meantime Chorus' 88.2% is an all-time International record for a chorus from a British Alliance. Their 9th place finish in the chorus contest is also a record for a British chorus.

GO, TIM!



Emerald Guard



Sharrow Vale Blues (2025, 19th place)

Tim Briggs is the first person to make the top 20 twice while representing a British alliance organization.



Clementones
All-time highest scoring Danish quartet
85%



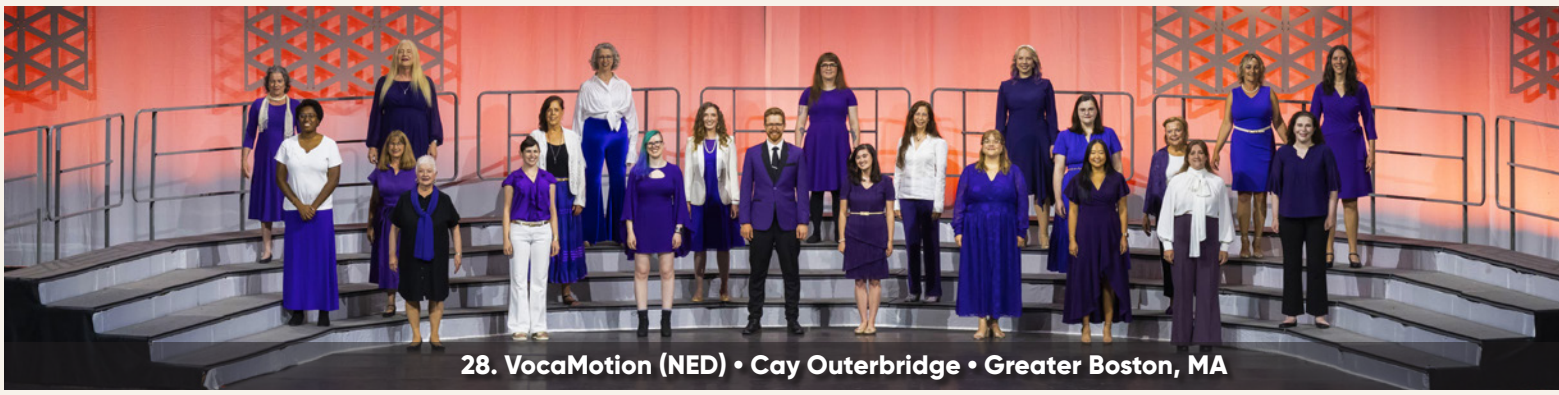
25. The Alliance (JAD) • Brian O'Dell and Zac Robison • Greater Central Ohio



26. Southwest Vocal Alliance (FWD) • Danny Ryan • Maricopa County, AZ



27. Vox Infinitus (CSD) ❖ Nate Green • Des Moines Metro, IA



28. VocaMotion (NED) • Cay Outerbridge • Greater Boston, MA



29. Northwest Sound Men's Chorus (EVG) • Scott Fikse • Bellevue, WA

The BACKSTAGE CALLOFF

If you watched this year's Quartet Finals Rebroadcast, you witnessed just a taste of the pressure cooker that is the Medalist Calloff. Agonizing, euphoric, excrutiating, exciting, heartbreaking, cathartic... just a few of the words tossed around by those quartetters who stand in the shadows backstage waiting to hear their name called out. Or not. It's a moment that has everything.

Countless hours of getting charts and learning music, preparation, coaching, travel, getting in the right mindset, pre-stage rituals, all of these and more coalesce around a singular moment of realization of expectations and dreams either missed, met, or exceeded.

Good calloffs have profound moments of celebrations for a quartet and the audience. The great ones have a sense that something has changed forever for those who were able to witness a historical moment. Something unforgettable.

This one surpassed even that.



Quartets mix and mingle backstage, calming nerves as best they can while waiting for results



Sunday Night Social announced in fifth place



When announced in 2nd place, members of Gimme Four congratulate GQ, who are still in disbelief



The moment GQ heard their name



GQ embraces Steve Tramack, bass Samantha's father



GQ

"Last night feels like the kind of moment we'll spend our lifetime trying to put into words.

We laughed. We cried....a lot. We questioned reality. We sacrificed. We dreamed of this moment for so long —and now that it's here, words somehow feel too small.

This championship may have our names on it, but it belongs to our entire community."

Disbelief carried over past the calloff, past the medal ceremony, past the Acceptance performance of "If I Dare", past "Keep The Whole World Singing", and right into the portrait room where the medalist quartets line up into the evening with family and friends for the traditional medal and trophy shots. These are the shots you'll find on the cover of this issue and on the walls of Harmony Hall where they'll hang as a testament to their place in history as a champion. Forever.







"We're now in an era where women are champs."

Ali Hauger



30. Star Harmony Chorus (EVG) ❖ Rich Lapp • Star, ID



31. Duke City Sound (RMD) • Farris Collins • Bernalillo County, NM



32. Ensemble Reed (JBA) ❖ Nanako Yamanishi • Kyoto, JP



33. Singing Buckeyes (JAD) • David Calland • Buckeye Columbus, OH



34. Land of the Sky Chorus (NSC) • Kati Swinney • Asheville, NC



35. Midwest Vocal Express (LOL) • Bryan Ziegler • Greendale, WI



36. Valleyaires (CAR) ❖ Kerry Foley, Scott Kitzmiller • South Bend Mishawaka, IN



37. Harmonic Collective (SLD) • Sky Harris • Liverpool, NY



38. Dream Chorus • Theo Hicks • Barbershop Harmony Society

Euphoria

The members, family, and friends of The **Ambassadors of Harmony** celebrate after hearing their name called as chorus champions. It was a close one—a victory by a mere one point, the closest margin of victory since 2007. But a single point never felt so huge.



2012
was a very good year

This year was actually **GQ**'s second championship. They won SingUnited's Rising Star Contest in 2012, which made us wonder, what else was happening in 2012?



FUN FACTS *with PMac*



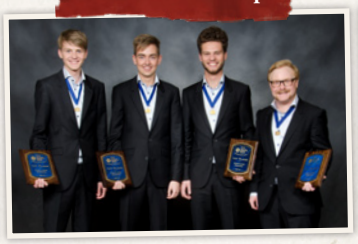
Three quartets who competed in international youth quartet competitions in 2012 have now won BHS International. GQ won the 2012 then-Sweet Adelines Rising Star Contest, while Lemon Squeezy won the 2012 then-Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest (CBQC). And Instant Classic would win BHS in 2015. Two other quartets that competed in the 2012 CBQC are still active: Gimme Four and, as of this spring, Trocadero.

2026 BHS Champ



GQ
2012 SWEET ADELINES RISING STAR CHAMP
(WITH ORIGINAL BASS, KATE MACDONALD)

2025 Champ



LEMON SQUEEZY
2012 CBQC CHAMP

2015 BHS Champ



INSTANT CLASSIC
2012 CBQC SILVER MEDALIST

Competed in 2012, still active today



GIMME FOUR
2012 CBQC 8TH PLACE



TROCADERO
2012 CBQC 14TH PLACE

OTHER NOTABLE 2012 COMPETITORS

"Are the youth programs working?"

The 2012 CBQC contest revealed a sizable number of singers who are not only still actively quartetting in 2026, but are leading, directing, judging, and helping lay the foundation for the Next Generation of barbershoppers. It's clear: continued investment in these youth programs is absolutely *critical* to ensure we're setting up the next wave of barbershop leaders for success.



DOMINANT PREP
2012 CBQC 4TH PLACE
Matt Suellentrop (judge/CSD officer/Fleet Street), Aaron Pollard (director City Lights Chorus), Nathan Johnston (Double Date/Quorum), and Bryan Zeigler (After Hours/director Midwest Vocal Express and Forward Harmony)



BONUS TRACK
2012 CBQC 5TH PLACE
Anthony Bartholomew (judge, arranger, "Jeoparody" game show host), Anthony Fortino (Midtown, game show contestant)



VINTAGE STOCK
2012 CBQC 8TH PLACE (tie with Gimme 4)
Andrew Rembecki (influential coach and leader in BinG!), Dan Rasmussen (Fountain City Four), Sam Dollins (director NextGen Junior Chorus Blue Valley High School Chorale)

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FOUNDATION
2012 CBQC 16TH PLACE
Tyler Wigginton (judge/BHS staff member/Sunday Night Social)



MACH 4
2012 CBQC 18TH PLACE
Tim Briggs (The Emerald Guard)



SUPERNOVA
2012 CBQC 21ST PLACE
Chris Vander Pas and Michael Blair (Sing-In competitor Chill Factor)



THE ULTIMATE PACKAGE
2012 CBQC 22ND PLACE
Patrick McAlexander (judge/arranger/director Space City Sound)

ST. LOUIS 2026

THIS IS NEXT GENERATION BARBERSHOP

What's Next

FUN FACTS with PMac



Similar to the quartet contest, each category picked a different winner in the NextGen Varsity contest. Trilogy won Musicality, Gateway won Performance, and Ami Quartet won Singing. Cruise Control placed 2nd overall without placing higher than 3rd in any individual category.



Gateway



Cruise Control



Trilogy

Gateway has the biggest climb from lowest placement to winning of any quartet with the same four members.





15TH IN 2024

1ST IN 2026

This was the first time since 2017 that all five medalist quartets had previously competed in the NextGen Varsity contest

This is the first time ever that the Semifinals round featured two quartets who competed in the NextGen Varsity contest in the same week (Cruise Control in the top 20, Ami Quartet as the mic-tester)

2019 Junior Champ



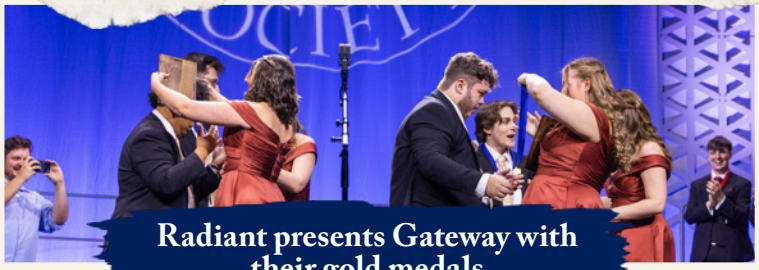
Quin-Tones
2026 6th place Varsity

We salute **Quin-Tones** who made their 6th appearance in a NextGen contest, five in the Varsity contest, and one in the Junior contest (which they won in 2019). This is their final Varsity appearance as they've aged out after St. Louis. What a ride, friends!

Junior Quartet 2025 co-champ **Boysen Blue** had an impressive 9th place finish this year. We love watching our Junior quartets grow.



Boysen Blue
2026 9th place Varsity



Radiant presents Gateway with their gold medals



Trilogy won the 139th Street Quartet Prize and $10,000

2026 INTERNATIONAL NEXTGEN VARSITY QUARTET CONTEST AND VARSITY CHORUS INVITATIONAL

NEW *History*

This has been true for some time now, but sufficient time has passed and adequate data gathered to confirm that the NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest is quite literally history in the making. Many singers in this contest are new to barbershop, yes, but go to any International and look around, and you'll see a ever-growing number of performers, directors, champs, arrangers, judges, volunteers, and leaders at all levels who got their start in this contest and stuck around. It's working, folks.

❖ = Quartet debut. Quartet members listed as tenor, lead, bari, and bass regardless of standing order. Quartet action shots by Lorin May and Inbound Video Pros. Medalist portraits by Inbound Video Pros. All action photos are available at *barbershop.org/photos,* all group portraits are available at *barbershop.org/photos.*



1. Gateway (CSD)
Rob Abbott, Stephen Reynolds, Cole Williamson, Johnny Padigos
Harmony STL; Tampa, FL



2. Cruise Control (PIO)
Shoshana Sprecher, Catie Carey, Kayla Reed, Cole Carey
Frank Thorne; Grand Rapids, MI; Lansing, MI; Saginaw Bay, MI



3. Trilogy (SUN)
Jesus Pacheco, Bryan Adames, Kevin Osano, Ben Anderson
Tampa, FL



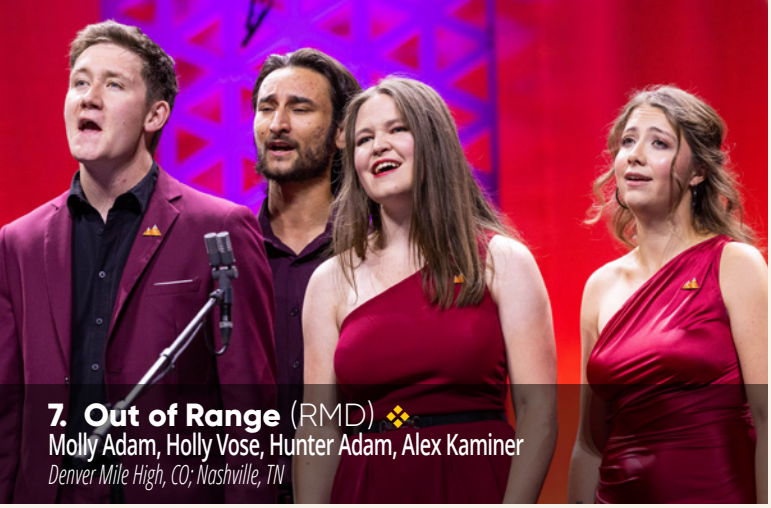
4. Promenade (BHNZ)
Will Harris, Will Lynch, Harry Burt, Kieran King



5. Ami Quartet (LABBS)
Isabel Clarke, Alex Georgiadis, Matt Friend, Matt Pandya



6. Quin-Tones (MAD)
Jake Lapp, LJ LeFlore, Tommy Hunter, Chris Crawford
Caldwell, NJ; Greater Delaware, DE



7. Out of Range (RMD)
Molly Adam, Holly Vose, Hunter Adam, Alex Kaminer
Denver Mile High, CO; Nashville, TN



8. Four A Limited Time (FWD)
Dallas Halvorson, Michael Keleshian, John Yokoyama, Antwun Puckett
Barbary Coast, CA; California Delta; Los Angeles; Las Vegas; Westminster, CA



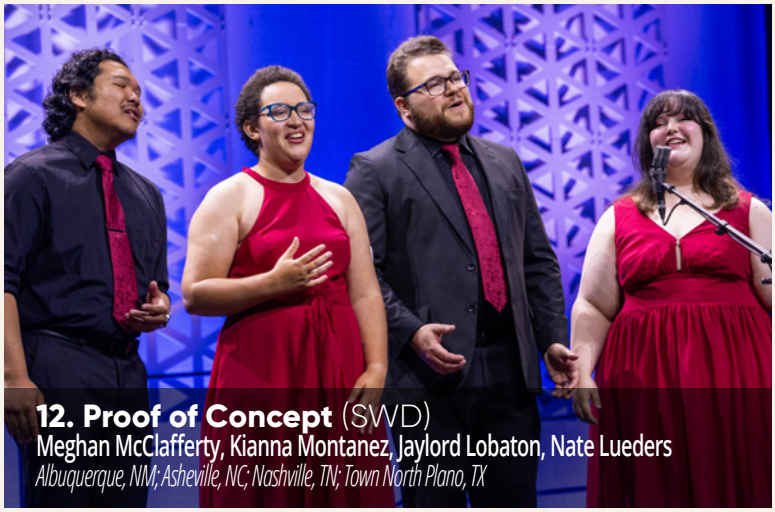
9. Boysen Blue (PIO)
Ethan Steele, Charlie Gross, Muamen Alsheakh, Giovanni Castiglione
Grand Rapids, MI; Independence, OH; Kalamazoo, MI; Lansing, MI; Saginaw Bay, MI; Town North Plano, TX



10. One Shot (NED)
Ryan Dieselman, Alexander Balikian, Luke McCrory, Michael Geary
Greater Boston, MA; Hell's Kitchen, NY; Town North Plano, TX



11. They Must Be Mad! (LOL)
Audry Gerow, Efren Martinez, Dani Wanak, Connor Lawrence
Denver Mile High, CO; Greendale, WI; Madison, WI; Town North Plano, TX



12. Proof of Concept (SWD)
Meghan McClafferty, Kianna Montanez, Jaylord Lobaton, Nate Lueders
Albuquerque, NM; Asheville, NC; Nashville, TN; Town North Plano, TX



13. Ultra (CAR)
Sam Rickerd, Michael Peterson, Sam Copeland, Ted Lewis



14. The Figment Five (CSD)
Matthew Pointer, Michael Flannery, Parker Miller, Josh Neighbors
Harmony STL



15. Frostbite (LOL)
Seth Olson, Oliver Nicholson, TJ Striblen, David Friedges
Minneapolis, MN



16. The 'Loo-Wops (ONT) ❖
Sebastien Hampson, Chauvin Zhou, Cole Fredericks, Damien Ho



17. Vitality (CSD, JAD) ❖
Brayden Heath, Michael Abrams, Charlie Hill, Kobe DeChurch
Harmony STL; Independence, OH; Metro Kansas City, MO; Town North Plano, TX



18. SmorgasChords (CSD) ❖
Dashall Meyer, Henry Helget, Lucas Smith, Jordan Webber
South Central Kansas, KS



19. Sinfournia (MAD) ❖
Jackson Abbott, John Fonmboh, Isaac Young, William Sudduth



20. What's New (LOL) ❖
Clarissa Krueger, Madeline Thompson, Steven Hsieh, Elias Mettner
Greendale, WI; Madison, WI; Town North Plano, TX



Golden Voices (SUN)
Jason Fieler • University of Miami & Miami, FL Chapter

HISTORY *In the making*

The vintage aesthetic style of this convention recap was inspired by past International Society scrapbooks that we, with the help and expertise from volunteer digitization specialist Brian Parks, have been scanning over the past several years. These scrapbooks were once hauled to International conventions and placed on display for attendees to enjoy, but with the passage of time these items have become fragile and worn to the point where digitization and preservation efforts must step in to ensure these don't get lost to time.

We are exploring ways to bring some of the same spirit of sharing past memories in the form of photos, videos, and audio to the International Convention exhibitor area again so everyone can enjoy these aspects of our rich history. Stay tuned for more information soon.



Sample pages from past Society convention scrapbooks

CHANGES FOR MINNEAPOLIS *and beyond*

There are quite a few Contest and Judging changes coming up for the 2027 International Convention in Minneapolis and beyond, and we encourage you to read everything over at barbershop.org/ContestChanges to get all the information, complete with all specifics as well as a Frequently Asked Questions section.

But here is a summarized breakdown of changes in the coming contest cycles that will impact all quartets and choruses looking to compete in Minneapolis in 2027 and Chicago in 2028.

Questions can be directed to scjcchair@barbershop.org.

1 FOR 2027

Two-Round Chorus Format

- The Chorus Finals are Sat. July 10th, featuring 15 choruses: the top 10 seeded choruses based on prelims qualifying scores and five TBD spots.
- Choruses seeded 11th place and lower will compete in the Chorus Semifinals on Fri, July 9th. The top five choruses in the semifinals advance to the finals on Saturday.

2 FOR 2027

New Recognition for Friday Competitors

New tiered awards will honor the best Friday performances within seeded scoring tiers for those choruses who do not advance. The tiers will be determined based on qualifying scores from Prelims and will be roughly equal in number of choruses. The specific scores for tier groupings will be determined once all choruses have qualified for International.

3 FOR 2028

Reintroduction of Time Limits

Due to the ever-increasing length of contest sets, a performance time limit will be implemented to enhance the contest experience for all attendees and participants. This change is designed to maintain the artistic integrity of performances while ensuring contests remain engaging and manageable in duration.

Be sure to read all the details at barbershop.org/contestchanges

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Lost Forever?!

It started with an archive filled with BHS history on video cassettes, film reels, and covered in cobwebs.

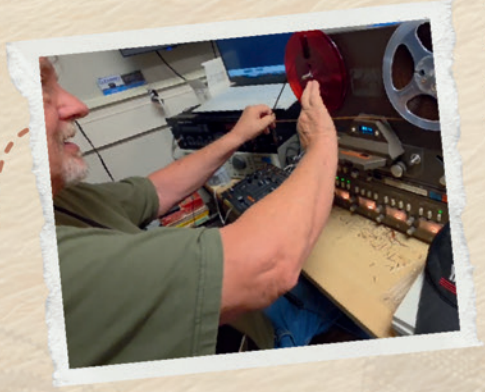
It was disintegrating and about to disappear.





But a barbershopper named Steve Adams stepped up to the mic in that moment.

He had the equipment and the know-how to free those trapped moments from the reels and tape.



With a soldering iron, some glue, and a lot of old-fashioned stick-to-it-iveness, 80 years of history came to life before our eyes digitally.



And BHS moments throughout time went from lost... to being relived.

No longer relegated to foggy memories, these pivotal performances can be shared for generations.



An outside company estimated the cost of digitizing the archive at $2 million dollars! Thank you Steve.

When you give, you preserve.

Philanthropy

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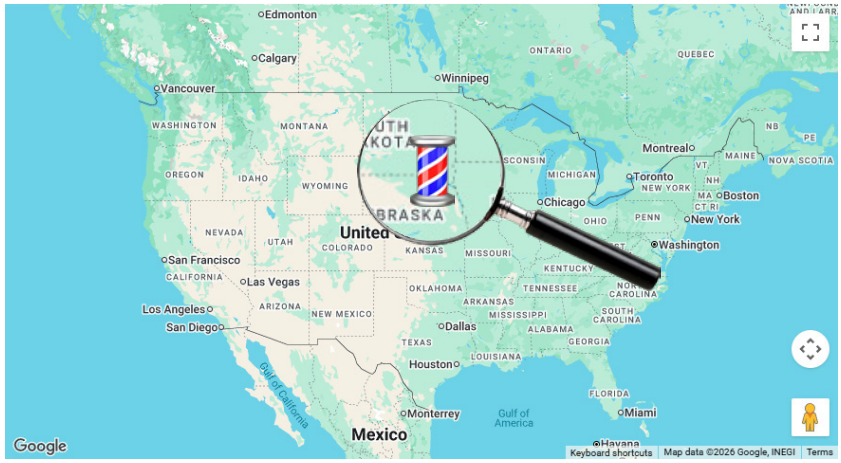
DIRECTORS WANTED

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

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shrineofdemocracychorus.org

The Mount Rushmore Chapter of Rapid City, SD, nestled in the beautiful Black Hills and known as the gateway to Mount Rushmore, is home to our mixed chorus of 20 singers. We are a growing organization with an active board and music team. We offer a monthly stipend, Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) dues, and Harmony College tuition assistance. For more information, Contact Alan Schulte at schultealan@yahoo.com or 605-381-4972.



PLACE YOUR DIRECTOR SEARCH ON OUR MAP!

If you're looking for a director, head over to barbershop.org/director search and send us your information. It's free for BHS chapters. Start today!

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Members reported as deceased between May 16 - July 15, 2026. Send updates to *membership@barbershop.org*. See previous memorial listings and links to online obituaries at *barbershop.org/in-memoriam.*

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Arthur "Artie" Dolt
Director of the Monclair Chorus (1974) and Influential Mentor

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THE TAG

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From the Bass Who Left Us Too Soon

So The 1912 popular standard "I'd Love to Live in Loveland" was written by Will Rossiter and popularized by Walter Van Brunt. As Will Rossiter, the publisher, he would promote songs written by his composer, W.R. Williams. In fact, they were one and the same! Although this song was Rossiter's only composition that stood the test of time, his 1920 tune "Don't You Remember the Time" was covered by an impressive nine singers.

This is the third tag by gifted arranger Mike Senter to be featured in this column, following "It Must Be That Look in Her Eyes" and "I'm Always Chasing Rainbows." The bass of our 1972 quartet champion, the Golden Staters, Mike left us much too soon, but his musical legacy will always be with us.

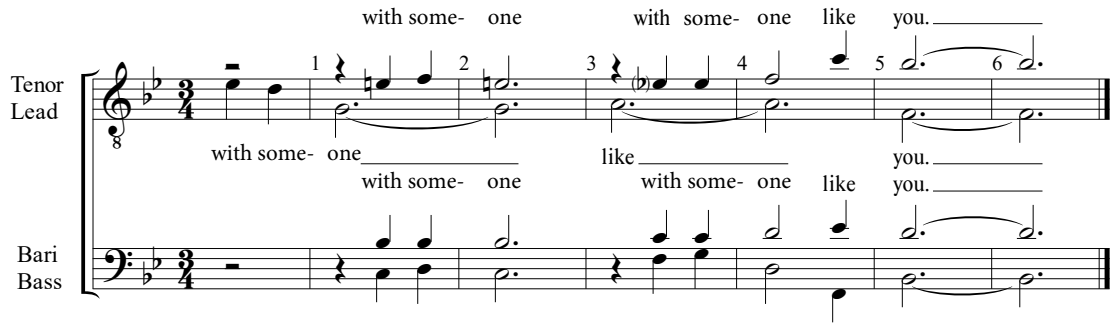
True Confessions Department: Sometimes I fuss about tags that are too long to memorize, thus necessitating reading them, whether from a sheet of paper or a phone. And sometimes I publish those very same tags anyhow. Sigh. But this tag is quite singer-friendly, short and sensible while still being fun and interesting.

The SSAA version differs from the other two in one respect: The penultimate bass note is voiced up an octave. No divorced bass for you all. (That term means that the bass note is more than an octave below the next lowest part, in this case the lead.)

I can't think of anything clever or witty to end with, so just enjoy this sweet tag! ■

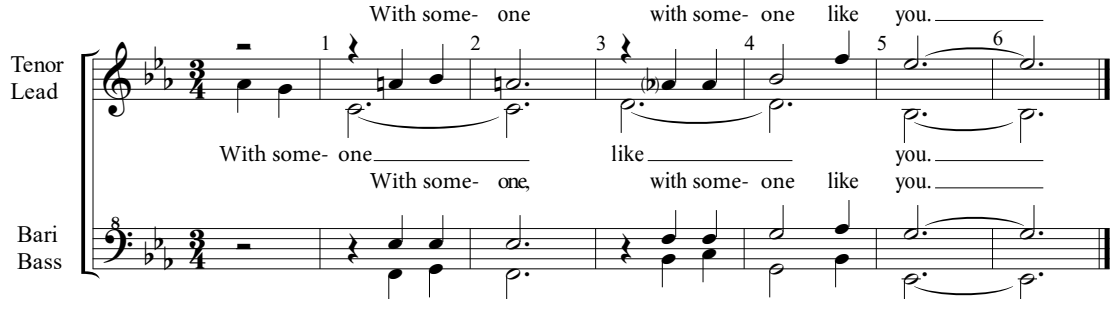
TTBB voicing

Mike Senter (1969)



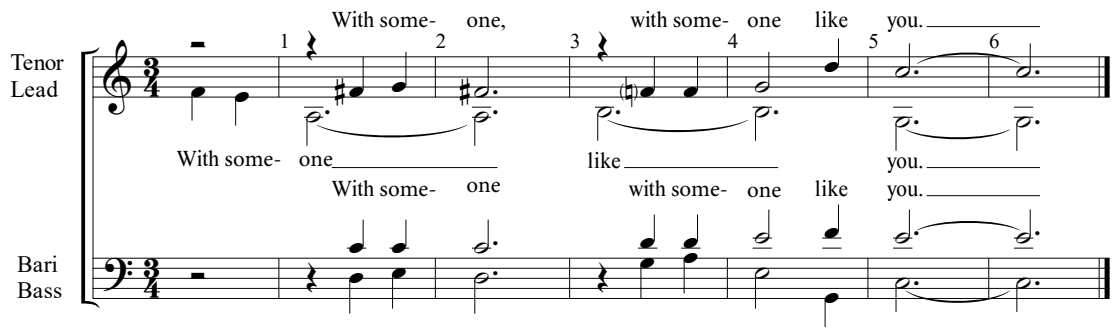
SSAA voicing

Mike Senter (1969)



SATB voicing

Mike Senter (1969)



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