

# The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • MAY/JUNE 2025



## Harmony on the River



### NOTEWORTHY

FORECAST QUARTET SPONSORS 60 YOUTH  
SIGNATURE BOWS OUT IN STYLE

### INSIDE

REACHING BEHIND BARS FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH  
THREE AND A HALF MEN: LOW AMBITIONS, BIG RESULTS



JULY 27–AUGUST 3, 2025

# ARE YOU READY FOR THE BEST WEEK OF BARBERSHOP?

## Calling all barbershoppers!

Harmony University is seriously the most fun, concentrated, mind-expanding, intense, satisfying, and rich barbershop experience you could possibly imagine. All on the beautiful University of Denver campus surrounded by the best barbershoppers, coaches, mentors, and faculty who make HU the best week of barbershop around.



REGISTER TODAY AT  
[BARBERSHOP.ORG/HU](http://BARBERSHOP.ORG/HU)

# In This Issue

MAY/JUNE 2025 • VOLUME LXXXV • NUMBER 3



## Inside

### 12 Tip Sheet: Checklist to start a new chorus

So you and your friends have an idea for a different kind of chorus in the area—a shared vision is the first step! Kate Macdonald shares many of the other basic to-do items to get off the ground.

## Features

### 14 Jim Clancy: Larger than Life

In memoriam. There could hardly have been a bigger man in barbershop. Jim Clancy musically redefined what a barbershop chorus could be while serving as a true leader of men.

### 16 Three and a Half Men: Modest ambitions, huge outcomes

They weren't formed in a lab for the purpose of dominating contests. Our 2024 champ exemplify everything that is great about a barbershop quartet—and that's before we mention their singing!

### 22 Harmony on the River

Midwinter along the River Walk in San Antonio brought a lot of great shows, great contests, and great memories!

### 40 Youth prison music changes lives

Through Power of Harmony, an outreach program underwritten by Harmony Foundation International, Barbershopppers help incarcerated youth develop positive behaviors to replace those that landed them in prison.

**On the cover:** Combined Youth Choruses at 2025 Midwinter, led by Douglas Carnes; *photo by Lorin May*

## In Every Issue

### 4 Starting Pitch

Want to enjoy The Good Old Days? They're happening now. Stay focused. Stay strong ... and sing!

### 8 Noteworthy

Biggest, best quartet contest ever awaits in Denver. 60-Student youth event hosted not by a chapter but by Forecast quartet. Signature bows out doing what they loved most.

### 45 Chapter Eternal

Members reported as deceased between January 16 and March 15, 2025

### 46 Member Services Directory

Where to find answers

### 48 The Tag

"When I See Your Face"



## Connect with us

[barbershop.org](http://barbershop.org)



**YouTube:** [barbershopharmony38](https://www.youtube.com/barbershopharmony38)



**Facebook:** [barbershopharmonysociety](https://www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety)



**X:** [@barbershopnews](https://twitter.com/barbershopnews)



**Instagram:** [@barbershopharmonysociety](https://www.instagram.com/barbershopharmonysociety)

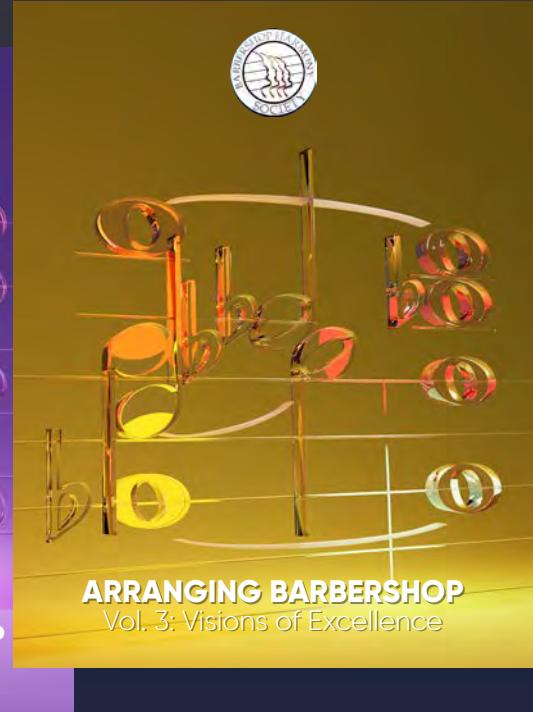
# ARRANGING BARBERSHOP



**ARRANGING BARBERSHOP**  
Vol. 1: Getting Started



**ARRANGING BARBERSHOP**  
Vol. 2: The Arranging Journey



**ARRANGING BARBERSHOP**  
Vol. 3: Visions of Excellence

## BEGINNER? PRO?

Arranging Barbershop is the definitive guide to arranging music in the barbershop harmony style, for every *level* of arranging interest.

**ORDER  
ONLINE**



**[BARBERSHOP.ORG/ARRANGINGBARBERSHOP](http://BARBERSHOP.ORG/ARRANGINGBARBERSHOP)**

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/EDITORIAL  
[harmonizer@barbershop.org](mailto:harmonizer@barbershop.org)

EDITOR  
Lorin May

OUR VISION  
Everyone in Harmony

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

#### OUR PURPOSES

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

To promote appreciation of barbershop harmony

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

To establish and maintain foundations that  
support our vision

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

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

May/June 2025  
Volume LXXXV Number 3  
Complete contact info: [pages@46-47](mailto:pages@46-47)

*The Harmonizer* (ISSN 0017-7849) (USPS 577700) is published bimonthly by the  
Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 7th Ave N, Nashville TN 37203-3704.  
Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN and at additional mailing offices.

Advertising rates available upon request at [harmonizer@barbershop.org](mailto:harmonizer@barbershop.org).  
Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts or artwork.

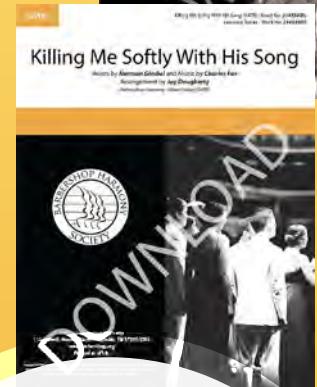
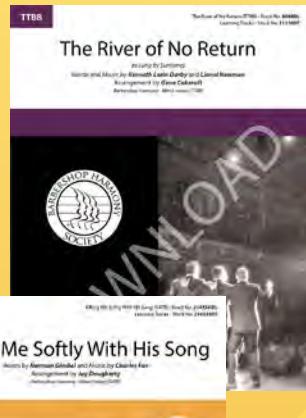
Postmaster: Send address changes to editorial offices of *The Harmonizer*,  
110 7th Ave N, Nashville TN 37203-3704 at least 30 days before the next publication  
date. (Publications Agreement No. 40886012. Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses  
to: Station A, PO Box 54, Windsor ON N9A 6J5. Email: [cptreturns@wdsmail.com](mailto:cptreturns@wdsmail.com))

A portion of each member's dues is allocated to cover the magazine's subscription  
price. Subscription price to non-members is \$30 yearly; foreign subscriptions are  
\$35 yearly or \$7 per issue (U.S. funds only).

© 2025 The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop  
Quartet Singing in America, Inc. dba The Barbershop Harmony Society.  
All Rights Reserved. Printed in the USA.  
For reprint permissions contact [library@barbershop.org](mailto:library@barbershop.org)

# NEW MUSIC

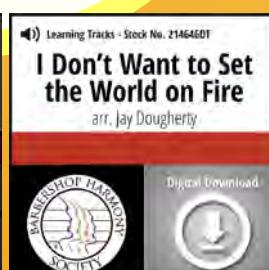
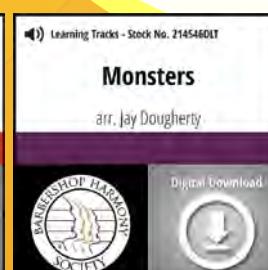
CHARTS AND  
TRACKS  
ADDED  
REGULARLY



BUY ONLINE.

DOWNLOAD  
IMMEDIATELY.

START LEARNING  
TODAY.



**SHOP.BARBERSHOP.ORG**



## STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

# Want to enjoy The Good Old Days? They're happening now



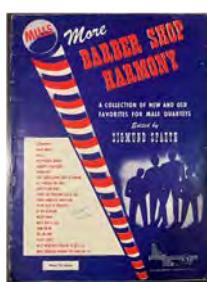
It can be great to look back fondly on the Barbershop Harmony Society's past. However, we can focus so much on what we loved about our past that we can harm our ability to enjoy the many great things that are going on today.

I have been blessed to have been a member of our Society for 47 years. I have had incredible experiences and friendships, more than anyone deserves.

The people who join barbershop and our Society don't simply like barbershop. They *love* barbershop, and not just barbershop music, but everything associated with barbershop. The music, the people, the director, the camaraderie, their quartet, the kindness, and so on. We fall deeply in love with our local barbershop experience. For many of you, you also fell in love with the Society. We take pride in our affiliation and how that expands our experience with barbershop.

### CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

But as with everything in life and nature, things change. Our relationship with barbershop and the Society changes as a result. A few embrace the changes, but many long for the "good old days." They wax nostalgic over our early days. I certainly do from time to time, sharing fond stories of my past. There are things I definitely miss about barbershopping back in the late 1970s and early 1980s.



Today's Society is different in many ways, but I've come to accept that it is different because it adapts to survive and thrive. I want to share "my" Everyone in Harmony story. It actually began in 1978. Through conversation with my dad (May/June 2021 issue, [barbershop.org/harmonizer](http://barbershop.org/harmonizer)), I learned

that there was such a thing as a barbershop chorus, and soon after, SPEBSQSA. A few weeks into my barbershopping career, my dad gave me a songbook of 1940s barbershop music.

He told me that when he was in Oak Ridge, TN in the early 1950s, he sang in a barbershop quartet on a variety show. I had forgotten most of the details until after he passed away. I was going through his old photos in 2017 and found a picture of the quartet.

My dad is on the left and the book they are holding is the same book I possess today. He's actually singing tenor and the woman is the lead. I then remembered he had mentioned that there was a woman in the quartet.

I found this picture one month after the announcement of "Everyone in Harmony" in 2017. In that moment, this photo caused me to think more deeply about our then "new" Mission and Vision.

1. None of them were Society members (and perhaps none ever did join a barbershop society). Yet barbershop is available to anyone who wishes to sing. It isn't ours because we are BHS members. We happen to be skilled at barbershop, but that doesn't mean we own barbershop.



### Get in Touch

**Kevin Keller, Society President** [bhspresident@barbershop.org](mailto:bhspresident@barbershop.org)

2. Back in the early 1950s, it was a mixed quartet. No one in the quartet or audience cared. No one said “barbershop is single gender.” Music is music. What they were singing was barbershop.

### DON'T HOLD PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES HOSTAGE TO THE PAST

I am well aware of many of my friends look at today's Society and claim “that's not barbershop!” or “that's not what barbershop is supposed to be” or “I wish it was like back when I started.” Our paradigms have been shattered. And in multiple corners of our universe, I hear people utter “Back in the Good Old Days.”

Blair Brown, in her 2021 Midwinter address (May/June 2021 issue, *barbershop.org/harmonizer*), discussed this same sentiment. What we fail to



Kevin Keller's father (left) sings in a barbershop quartet in an early 1950s variety show. They made choices that organized Barbershoppers then and now wouldn't go with (performing with sheet music), or which wouldn't have received official sanction until recently (mixed gender). But they were still singing barbershop.

realize is that the “Good Old Days” for our newer members is right now. *This is their “Good Old Days.”*

What I have discovered about a longing for the “The Good Old Days”—not just with barbershop, but with any endeavor in life—is that it can become a cancer. It can consume us, blocking our ability to enjoy the

present. And if you are still singing, there is something deep down you value in barbershop!

Yes, I have extremely fond memories of my earliest days in barbershop, but I also have equally fond memories of what transpired just yesterday and what I'm experiencing right at this moment. I allow myself to be present with the joy that newer members find in this beloved hobby. This allows me to thrive in a new world and appreciate all that it has to offer—which is a lot!

I have watched many of my friends grow depressed over the loss of what they fell in love with and become unable to revel in what is today. When we say out loud to our newest members “Well, back in the good old days ...” you are significantly discounting what they have fallen in love with. They will think, “Oh, I thought this was good, but I guess it isn't.” Perhaps your chorus was 50 or 60 strong and now is 20. But that person fell in love with the 20 people that are there today. They don't know the difference and now you are casting a dark cloud over something they could have grown to love more deeply.

### LOOK THROUGH NEWER MEMBERS' EYES

Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Likewise, “the good old days” nurtures decay.

If you are a dinosaur like me, all you have to do is go down to the lobby late Saturday night of any convention to see that our newest members are carrying on the greatest of traditions we have. Rather than resisting broader societal changes that are inevitable, begin to see our Society through the eyes of our newest members.

My “slogan” is “Unity in our Community.” We start down the path of “Unity” by looking at our beloved hobby through the lens of others, not just our own. I did that very thing in

YES, I HAVE EXTREMELY FOND MEMORIES OF MY EARLIEST DAYS IN BARBERSHOP. BUT I ALSO HAVE EQUALLY FOND MEMORIES OF WHAT TRANSPRIED JUST YESTERDAY AND WHAT I'M EXPERIENCING RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT.

2022 in Charlotte on Saturday night in the lobby of HQ. It was purely by accident. I was just taking it all in after the dark days of COVID. I realized that what we have today is beyond incredible. This doesn't exist without the Barbershop Harmony Society. That moment profoundly changed my life and my attitudes. In that moment, I realized that our best days are ahead of us. *These are the “Good Old Days”;* right here, right now. ■



*No one has impacted the barbershop world the way Jim Clancy did. His musical vision defined the Vocal Majority. The impact of the VM redefined the barbershop choral artform. The quality of our choruses today is directly traced to Jim. I was blessed to sing with the VM every week for four years from 1984-1988. I witnessed every week how musically talented Jim was. But even more than that, he made sure that every person he met felt truly valued and wanting to strive to be better. I've never met a greater motivator in my life. His loss will be huge, but his impact and gifts will last with us for ages.*

•••• Cyber-Tone  
Perfect Pitch Every Time



## Introducing Cyber-Tone Re

Now with Performance Mode!  
Disable pitches you don't need  
for your performance!

And the ability to change keys  
while using the perfect Pitch  
Metronome!

## Still Perfectly in Tune

Use Several for a Large Chorus  
and They will Perfectly Agree

Configurable  
Two Octave Range  
From C4 to B<sup>#</sup>5

## Micro-Tuning for each Pitch

Adjust Each Pitch to the "Cent"  
100 Choices Between Half Steps

Perfect Pitch Metronome  
From 10 to 255 BPM in any Key  
Now with the ability to change  
Keys while maintaining Tempo

Tactile Aids  
Play on Dark Stage

**cyber-tone.com**



## Reader Feedback

Let us know what's on your mind: [Harmonizer@barbershop.org](mailto:Harmonizer@barbershop.org)

### Where Michigan Jake learned swing

Donny Rose, author of "Swing for the very afraid" (March/April 2025 issue), received feedback on his article from readers who were concerned about a photo caption that appeared in the layout (which Donny did not write). The readers were concerned that the wording seemed to disparage the 2001 champion quartet, which has long been praised for its mastery of swing rhythms. The passage read: *'Michigan Jake, 2001 Quartet Champion, delivered its final swan song here on the AIC Show at the 2004 International Convention in Louisville. Famous for masterful performances of David Wright's swing arrangements on the International Stage, their first forays into swing came not from imitating jazz and big band masters but imitating David's custom learning tracks exported from Finale arranging software.'*



Donny alerted editor Lorin May and the members of Michigan Jake. Lead Mark Hale, who had provided the anecdote upon which the caption was based in an interview for another article (see "Remembering Legends," Jan/Feb 2025 issue, page 18), replied with the following:

*I appreciate your concern. Our feel for swing was a combination of several factors, most notably, bass Greg Hollander's background in jazz saxophone from college, which helped to ground the beat. Then we also had an affinity for swing from listening to lots of singers from that era. David Wright became aware of us hearing us sing "Wedding Bells" and being impressed with how we handled the swing nature of it. That made him want to arrange for us. What David's learning tracks did for us was provide a synthetic style, which, when overlaid with our natural feel for the beat, resulted in the style we sing. So the truth is that it's a combination of many factors. Lorin was correct in using the fun, albeit simplified, bit of trivia. For what it's worth, I'm OK with any of this being used. I just want to make sure we're given credit for having a good feel for it regardless of how we got there.*

### Correcting an important detail regarding 12th Street Rag

A correction for the teaser article on page 8 of the March/April issue regarding 2025 champion **12th Street Rag**: "Four early members of the quartet A version of the quartet that competed multiple times on the International stage won the Seniors championship in San Antonio ..." The first few years of the quartet included Rick Kready (T) and Keith Schweer (Bs), who did not compete with the version of 12th Street Rag that recently won the 2025 Seniors Quartet Championship. ■



110 7th Ave N.  
Nashville, TN, 37203

Harmonizer@  
barbershop.org

Barbershop.org

Facebook.com/  
barbershopharmonysociety



# Stay focused. Stay strong. ... and sing!

While politics of the day can have real consequences, they need not separate us from the harmony we have enjoyed together for decades.

**W**e've all felt it. A lot is happening in the world around us. No matter where we live, we experience the tension, the uncertainty, and the animosity of the times.

Barbershop singers are among those losing jobs. Some BHS members are deeply affected by disputes between nations. Some feel threatened because of beliefs, identities, or political affiliations. We have chapters struggling to find and spread joy and others that worry about the future.

I see the hurt and fear. I hear chorus directors and chapter presidents talking about it. In response, I return

again and again to our mission, which reminds us to bring people together in harmony and enrich lives through singing.

Do you remember when you first joined barbershop? Do you remember the sense of community you experienced and the way you were welcomed into the fold?

Do you remember the soul-filling connection you felt to those around you during your earliest rehearsals and the first time you nailed an entire song with your chorus or quartet? How about the euphoria that rippled through your chorus after your first show with the chorus or quartet?

Actually, it's bigger than that, isn't it? Do you remember the magic of every single performance and how each one helped you see how much you love your chorus?

That's the power of barbershop. We gather in harmony and fellowship. We gather to sing, and when we sing we enrich our own lives and the lives of those around us—our chapter members, our friends, our families, and our communities.

Barbershop harmony is a haven. It's a beacon of light on our darkest days. It's a place, and a time, and a space where we come together, where we

**SOME BHS MEMBERS ARE DEEPLY AFFECTED BY DISPUTES BETWEEN NATIONS. SOME FEEL THREATENED BECAUSE OF BELIEFS, IDENTITIES, OR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS. LET US BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN HARMONY AND ENRICH LIVES THROUGH SINGING.**



leave politics and differences at the door and sing our hearts out. That's been our culture for generations, and it's in our Code of Ethics.

We feel hope and at least a bit renewed during each barbershop experience, thanks to the collective energy and support of those singing around us. We, in turn, give strength right back to them.

It seems like we need barbershop more than ever, doesn't it?

Thank you all for making it happen. Stay focused. Stay strong. Sing. Be a part of something greater, together.

*STAB*

**The passing of Jim Clancy.** *Some barbershop heroes are people we get to know not through conversation but through their expression of music. Jim Clancy is one of those barbershop heroes for me. Other than a quick hello in an elevator at a convention, I don't recall that we ever spoke, but through his music, I felt like we were old friends. When I joined the Society in 1982, his work with the Vocal Majority was so influential on me as I began to understand barbershop and how amazing this artform is. Jim will certainly be missed, but I am confident that his influence will continue to make singers fall in love with barbershop harmony.*



## Get in Touch

**Steve Denino, Interim CEO** [sdenino@barbershop.org](mailto:sdenino@barbershop.org)



● 2025 CONVENTION

# Biggest, best quartet contest ever awaits in Denver

A great venue in a great city will host the most diverse and most talented field of performers and competitors we've ever seen. See it in person or on livestream.

**B**y the time you read this, the International Convention in Denver may be nearing sell-out. If you're not able to join us in Denver, please be sure to check out the livestream at [barbershop.org/livestream](https://barbershop.org/livestream).

### QUARTET CONTEST

The Un-Convention qualifying contest hasn't even happened yet, and we already know we'll likely see the largest and most stacked quartet field of all time—yes, *again!* (We can stop saying that when it stops being true.) And not just on this continent—at the European Barbershop Convention, 16 quartets topped the 78% qualifying score. Overall top qualifying scores come from **Gimme Four** (93.7%), **Lemon Squeezy** (92.2%), and **First Take** (91.1%); not far behind are **GQ** (89.8%), **Smoke Ring** (88.7%), **The Newfangled Four** (88.6%), **Full Effect** (88.3%), **Secret Best Friends** (88.3%), **Sunday Night Social** (88.3%) and **Clutch** (86.8%). It could be anybody's game!

### CHORUS CONTEST

The two top qualifying choruses are 2022 winner **Music City Chorus** (93.8%) facing **The Vocal Majority** (93.4%), which will likely pull out all stops to honor 11-time winning director Jim Clancy. Other top competitors include **Fog City Singers** (91.2%), **Central Standard** (91.1%), the return of New Zealand's **Pacific Con-**



Gimme Four



Music City Chorus



Lemon Squeezy



Vocal Majority



First Take



Fog City Singers

nection

**Masters of Harmony** (89.6%) and Japan's first-time International competitor, **The Lockers**.

### NEXTGEN VARSITY QUARTET CONTEST

**Promenade** and **Suite Life** are essentially tied with sky-high 81.3% qualifying scores. Always one of the best contest rounds, this event has long been an entertaining introduction to future champion singers and quartets.

### DON'T MISS!

- **Harmony Without Borders.** A

Monday evening event that features **Northern Stars** (SNOBS), **Stockholm City Voices** (SNOBS), **The Lockers** (JBC), **Sunday Night Social** (BHS), **Fifth Element** (BABS), and **Sound of the Rockies** (BHS).

- **Comedy Quartet Contest.** To say that last year's inaugural contest is back *by popular demand* is an understatement. Not to be missed!
- **International Chorus Festival.** Also back by very popular demand. Though choruses don't have to qualify to appear, they've always managed to bring some of the week's best performances.

[barbershop.org/denver](https://barbershop.org/denver)



**REGISTER AND BOOK HOTELS** and check schedules and more at [barbershop.org/denver](https://barbershop.org/denver).  
For the Livestream, go to [barbershop.org/livestream](https://barbershop.org/livestream).

## BOTH U.S. AND OTHER TRAVELERS: FLY WITH THE RIGHT IDENTIFICATION

As of May 7, 2025, to board a U.S. aircraft, the TSA requires either a passport or a state issued ID that is REAL ID-compliant. More details at [dhs.gov/real-id/are-you-real-id-ready](https://dhs.gov/real-id/are-you-real-id-ready).

To potentially smooth entry for non-U.S. travelers to BHS events, the Society has prepared a document that describes the purpose of travel to BHS Conventions and schools, with reference to relevant statutes. Go to [barbershop.org/travel-resources](https://barbershop.org/travel-resources).

## NEW SENIOR SINGER RESOURCE PAGE

The Society is proudly introducing a dynamic online hub for chapters, directors, music teams, and individuals who are passionate about keeping voices strong across the decades. The new Senior Singer Resource Page assembles the latest research, practical tools, and inspiring strategies to support older adults in singing communities, created by a task force from the District President's Council and Harmony Hall.

Learn how to manage breath control after retirement, adapt to mobility changes, navigate memory challenges, or simply crave meaningful music-making in your golden years. You'll find engaging articles on vocal health, stamina building, rehearsal pacing, intergenerational programming, low-memorization options, and more, all grounded in current research and crafted with care.

And it's not just for singers. Directors, coaches, arrangers, and chapter leaders will find recruiting and marketing resources, rehearsal tips, repertoire suggestions, transportation solutions, and community engagement ideas that affirm aging voices as a core strength, not a liability.

See [barbershop.org/senior-singers](https://barbershop.org/senior-singers) to shape a more inclusive, joyful future for barbershop and beyond.



### ● ABOVE AND BEYOND

## 60-STUDENT YOUTH EVENT HOSTED NOT BY A CHAPTER BUT BY FORECAST QUARTET



If you're wondering whether your chapter has the resources to put on a great youth outreach event, take inspiration from North Carolina's **Forecast Quartet**. Having garnered a lot of extra help, they hosted a one-day youth workshop and concert on March 29 called A Cappella Spring Sing. Sixty students from nine high schools and three states gathered at Salem Academy in Winston-Salem, NC.



Forecast bari Travis Murray arranged three popular modern songs and tenor Mike Fitch created learning tracks and directed the men's, women's, and mixed ensembles. Lead and bass Tyler Rackly and Kevin Jones led a teaching team with vocalist Mira Fitch, **Greensboro Chapter** director Detra Davis, NSC Board Member Justin Slack, and Charlotte Christian School director Eric Simpson. Financial support came from the Carolinas District, **Heart of Carolina A Cappella**, **Triad Harmony Express**, the **Tarheel Chorus**, and the Williams Center. The event garnered local TV and radio attention and left 60 young singers with a barbershop high!



The Music Medics of Portland, ME are used to singing together only in children's hospitals, but they decided to take the show on the road. Eleven of them registered as a VLQ (Very Large Quartet) in the 2025 NED Spring Eastern Regional Barbershop Convention Chorus and VLQ Competition to spread the word about the Music Medics program. Mission accomplished! They fielded questions all weekend from chapters wanting to start their own program and they won the VLQ contest!



## NOTEWORTHY

The latest in the world of barbershop

### ● CHAMPS BEING CHAMPS

# Signature bows out doing what they loved most



Four teen-aged singers mentored by legendary Suntones tenor Gene Cokecroft found their lives changed forever. As 2019 International Quartet champs, Signature passionately carried that legacy through many youth camps and clinics—including, fittingly, their retirement performance in April. The quartet joined more than 50 Milwaukee-area students and the Greendale Chapter's Midwest Vocal Express and Forward Harmony choruses in a show that capped a youth clinic sponsored by an AIC/Harmony Foundation grant. Signature's final set earned five standing ovations, and a legacy that will continue for years to come.



## AMBASSADORS RECORD FILM SCORE

On March 13, film producers visited the **Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus** in St. Charles, MO to record choral portions of a soundtrack for a four-part documentary to be aired on Netflix titled *A Train Near Magdeburg* written and arranged by award-winning choral director and composer Jim Papoulis, front in blue sweater. Release date not yet set; details at *magdeburgtrain.com*. ■



# What's Happening



**Harmony University** ▲  
**July 27–August 3, 2025**  
**University of Denver**  
A transformative experience!  
[barbershop.org/HU](http://barbershop.org/HU)



**2025 International Denver – June 29–July 6** ▲  
Come to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado this summer and harmonize just a stone's throw from some of the continent's best outdoor activities. [barbershop.org/events](http://barbershop.org/events)

**2025 International Denver**  
June 29–July 6

**2026 Midwinter Pasadena**  
January 13–18

**2026 International St. Louis**  
June 28–July 5

**2027 International Minneapolis**  
July 4–11

**2028 International Chicago**  
July 2–9

**2029 International San Antonio**  
July 1–8

# BELLEVUE A CAPPELLA NORTHWEST – SING SING SING!

## Singing Community Success Stories

Each fall, **Northwest Sound** and **Northwest Mix** choruses of the Bellevue, WA Chapter host FREE singing lessons as a service to the Eastside. In this six-week workshop, vocal coaches teach proper techniques for four-part harmony singing in the barbershop style. Attendees learn healthy singing, proper tuning, finding their vocal range, singing in close harmony, proper vowel usage, and finding the message of a song. Attendees have group

lessons, opportunities to sing with Northwest Sound during rehearsals, and a chance to sing on stage at their holiday show at the Kirkland Performance Center. People of all genders, ages, and skill levels are welcome. Even if they've never sung in a group before! **The sing Sing SING! program is made possible in part by a grant from the City of Bellevue Eastside Arts Partnerships.**

Proudly in its 77th year, Evergreen District (EVG) has 45 chapters spread out over 2.2 million square miles covering two Canadian provinces (BC, AB) and all or parts of five states (AK, WA, OR, ID, MT), which now includes 51 choruses.

It's been said that EVG members have always been connected and aggressive about looking into the future and working together to keep our quartets and chapters healthy and growing. Looking back at 2024 activities such as Sing Sing Sing! along with many other efforts, chapters are refocusing on youth and reaching out in their communities.



READ MORE AT  
[BARBERSHOP.ORG/ANNUAL-REPORTS](https://barbershop.org/annual-reports)



## TIP SHEET

Kate Macdonald, VP Music & Performance, True North Chorus

✉ kmacdonaldmusic@gmail.com

# Checklist: how to start a new chorus

There's no way around it: starting a new chorus is a lot of work. Here's a checklist for getting together with friends and charting your own vision.

A new BHS chapter starts with a dedicated group of friends with the same vision. You get to create something new—however you'd like. My friends and I started **True North Chorus** in the Mid-Atlantic District, based in Wilmington, DE. We've got servers, lawyers, engineers, project managers, music teachers, parents—all incredible people coming together to create something bigger than ourselves, with a mission of being a safe place for all to sing.

We got on Zoom and got to work. I won't lie, it's a lot of effort and time to charter a new BHS chapter. So be sure you're doing it with people you love. I love lists, so here's what I consider to be the bare minimum to get started.

### RALLY YOUR CREW

- Your goals and mission must align.
- If mixed voices or another model new to your area, people will look to you to see how your model panned out.

### FIGURE OUT YOUR NICHE

#### What makes you special?

- The first all-voices chorus in your area?
- Contest focused?
- Outreach focused?

### EMPOWER YOUR LEADERS

#### Your artistic team

##### Bare minimum:

- Musical director
- Section leaders

### Awesome, but not necessary to start:

- Assistant director
- Performance team
- Singing team
- Assistant section leaders
- Honestly, what do your artistic friends *want* to do? Let talented people do what they do.

### Your do-ers

#### Board (*boring, but necessary*)

- President
- Vice president
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Someone in charge of your public presence. This can look a million different ways, but someone has to get the word out.

### LISTEN TO MEMBERS WHO WANT TO HELP

- Spreading the work out among many people who are motivated to help means more gets done, and there's less burnout.
- Let people do things. Let them try, let them pivot—collaborate with them. There's nothing cooler than seeing a member



light up because their contributions are acknowledged and appreciated.

### ENLIST PEOPLE YOU LOVE

Barbershoppers are a talented bunch—people both inside and outside of the chapter can help you with:

- Chorus coaching
- Director coaching
- Marketing
- Communication platforms
- Chorus structure
- Performance plans
- Arrangements
- Learning tracks
- Quartet resources
- Literally just about anything you might need, someone's probably done it!

### UNABASHEDLY PROMOTE YOURSELF ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- Word of mouth is everything—happy members bring happy friends.
- Get a logo designed—it's everyone's first impression of your chorus. Make it something you're proud to wear. (Literally: make merch!)
- Website—make one! (Or, at minimum, a Facebook page.)
- Record tags and post them. This is So. Easy.

### PERFORM THE MUSIC YOU WANT

Like attracts like. If you sing songs people like, they'll want to sing with you. It's as simple as that, really.

Good luck, friends! ■



# HFI PROUDLY SUPPORTS BHS HARMONY UNIVERSITY!

## WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE 2025 BHS HARMONY UNIVERSITY IN DENVER!



Last Year at BHS HU:

400+ Attendees

34 Faculty Members

&

Hundreds of  
teaching, learning,  
& singing hours!



Due to popularity, HFI  
will have a BRAND  
NEW t-shirt premium for  
donors at HU this year.  
You won't want to miss it!



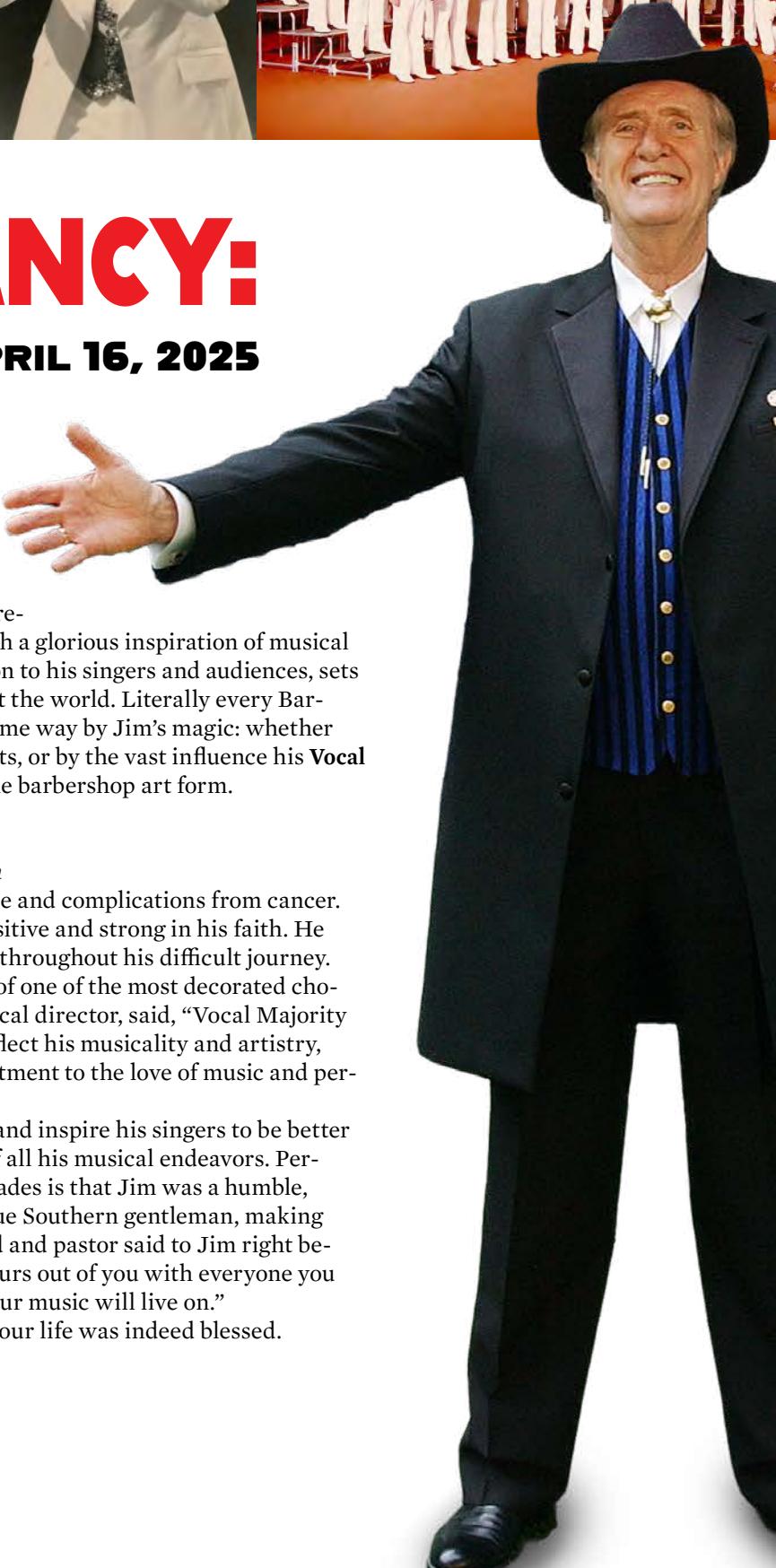
**HELP US SUPPORT BHS HARMONY UNIVERSITY AT  
HARMONYFOUNDATION.ORG/DONATE**



# JIM CLANCY:

**SEPT. 21, 1937 TO APRIL 16, 2025**

**J**im Clancy's stature in our world compares with Tom Landry in football, or John Wooden in college basketball. Jim's relentless pursuit of musical excellence, infused with a glorious inspiration of musical genius, poured out with passion, love, and devotion to his singers and audiences, sets him on the highest peak of admiration throughout the world. Literally every Barbershopper singing today has been ennobled in some way by Jim's magic: whether through his hundreds of magnificent arrangements, or by the vast influence his **Vocal Majority Chorus** has had on the development of the barbershop art form.



*Excerpted from Jim's official obituary at legacy.com*

Jim Clancy passed at age 87 from a year-long battle and complications from cancer. He was an incredibly strong fighter, extremely positive and strong in his faith. He remained sweet, kind, humorous, and very loving throughout his difficult journey.

Reflecting on his father's legacy as the director of one of the most decorated choruses in the world, his son, Greg, the current musical director, said, "Vocal Majority is the house that Jim built. We will continue to reflect his musicality and artistry, but more importantly, my dad's values and commitment to the love of music and performance will live on for generations to come."

His passion to emotionally touch his audiences and inspire his singers to be better men, husbands, and fathers was at the forefront of all his musical endeavors. Perhaps even more impressive than his musical accolades is that Jim was a humble, truly kind, and sweet giant of a man who was a true Southern gentleman, making everyone seem important in his presence. A friend and pastor said to Jim right before he took his last earthly breath, "God's love pours out of you with everyone you meet. You have touched thousands of lives, and your music will live on."

If you were lucky enough to know Jim Clancy, your life was indeed blessed.

[jimclancyarrangements.com](http://jimclancyarrangements.com)

Jim Clancy Memorial: [VocalMajority.com/donate](http://VocalMajority.com/donate)



# LARGER THAN LIFE

## THE JIM CLANCY FILE

**Favorite song:** How Deep Is The Ocean?

**Favorite movie:** Field Of Dreams

**Favorite color:** Gold

**Favorite car:** 1940 Ford

**Favorite meal:** Fillet mignon at Del Frisco's

**Ultimate dinner party guests:** Jesus Christ, Thomas Jefferson, Tom Landry

**Other interests:** Dallas Cowboys

**Year joined society:** 1972

**Favorite non-VM chorus performance:** Louisville Thoroughbreds "Mardi Gras March" at International in Detroit 1981

**VM highlights:** Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast with Ronald Reagan; several performances with The Mormon Tabernacle Choir; the performance on Sept. 17, 2001, following the Sept. 11 disaster. "More than 2,000 people joined hands and cried together."

**VM lowlights:** 1978 contest; the deaths of VM members over the years

**Family:** wife, Judy; sons, Dave and Greg; stepson, K.C.; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Michael, Meredith, McCaa and Jack

— *From cover feature, The Harmonizer, July/August 2004*

## LESSER KNOWN JIM CLANCY FACTS

- 1957 Wins Intercollegiate Southwest Talent Conference Championship with his first quartet, **The Troubadors**, a musical comedy group.
- 1957 Forms **The Four Laffs**, featuring Jim's arrangements of "Four Freshman style" harmonies.
- 1958 Forms **The Fore-Sites**, a professional group that later signed with Mercury Records.
- 1971 Co-founded **The Vocal Majority Chorus**
- 1974 Became director of the VM, a position he would hold for 40 years.
- 1975 VM wins its first championship, to be followed by one silver, 10 consecutive gold medals, and finally two silvers in 2009-10.
- Widely regarded as the most recorded bass singer of all time, with jingles for thousands of radio stations all over the world over the course of five decades.
- Lifetime BHS member
- BHS Hall of Fame member
- Directed the VM for two sitting US Presidents and several concerts with the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir**.
- Arranged nearly 400 songs for the VM; his wife, Judy, served as the muse for his ballads. (No ballad was ready for performance until it made Judy cry!)



Watch Jim's 2019 "Legends in Their Own Words" interview with Jeremy Gover at [bit.ly/legend-jim-clancy](http://bit.ly/legend-jim-clancy).





Instagram: @3.5men.qt  
FB: ThreeandaHalfMen  
YouTube: @ThreeandaHalfMen-qt1  
Website: [threeandahalfmen.com](http://threeandahalfmen.com)



At 2025 Midwinter in San Antonio

# Modest ambitions, HUGE OUTCOMES

## How four folks became Three and a Half Men



**P**icture this: your quartet is going to perform for the Society's Midwinter audience as newly crowned champs after a meteoric rise to the top. And heck, it even feels like you're doing better than you were when you won, and you *really* want to show the audience that. Then, thanks to Murphy's Unforgivingly Inconvenient Law, one of you starts feeling vocally hosed *right* before the weekend—and it gets worse throughout the day of your performance! He has trouble even phonating by the time the show starts. What do you do?

Well, if your name is **Three and a Half Men**, you stick with who you are and what got you there in the first place—and despite what you may assume, they were not formed in a lab for the purpose of dominating contests. They were—and still are—just a father and son who wanted to sing a set together on the big stage and then invited two good friends to sing with them. For years, their quartet was just four folks who loved hanging out together, who loved sharing the joy of singing barbershop, and who were there to support each other as life rolled by. The idea of prepping for an International Championship didn't enter the discussion until years later.

On this Saturday night at Midwinter with only Three and a Half voices, I doubt many knew they were watching a master class in



**Clay Hine** is bari of 1999 champ **FRED**, director of **Atlanta Vocal Project**, and co-director of 2024 BHS silver medalist **Heralds of Harmony**. He is BHS Musicality Category Specialist, a 2024 BHS Hall of Fame inductee, 2023 Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award winner, arranger of almost 500 songs, and bari of WBQA quartet champ **Brouhaha**. [clayhine@gmail.com](mailto:clayhine@gmail.com)



**Chris Keogh (Bs)** was raised in Columbus, GA, where he attended Columbus State University. At the age of 19, Chris was hired by The Walt Disney Company to sing with the **Voices of Liberty** in EPCOT's Candlelight Processional. At the time, he was in school pursuing a degree in pre-dentistry, but the move solidified his desire to become a professional singer. Since moving to Orlando, Chris has performed at every major theme park. In addition to performing, Chris works as a commercial and fashion model; he has been featured by clients such as Champs Sports, Planet Hollywood & The Walt Disney Company. In 2017, he started **Resolve**, an a cappella jazz quartet. His immediate family includes, his mother (Torri), father (Ronald), and brother (Cameron).

what it means to be a barbershop quartet. I've never seen the quartet be quite as vulnerable, accessible, or as open to sharing themselves as they were. Chris was digging deep to give his friends 100% of what he had left, and in return, Joseph, Josh, and Tony were calmly helping reassure Chris of their unconditional support. Each guy only cared about the other three and about sharing some joy with the audience. "How can we impress folks with our singing?" wasn't even on their to-do list.

Later in their set came one of several magical moments as they honored recently departed Barbershopper Shane Scott (a truly wonderful person who, years before, had very tragically lost the love of his life, Kristi) with their rendition of the 1961 champion **Suntones'** "Their Hearts Were Full of Spring." The fact that Barbershoppers and so many

## ON THIS SATURDAY NIGHT AT MIDWINTER WITH THREE AND A HALF VOICES, I DOUBT MANY KNEW THEY WERE WATCHING A MASTER CLASS IN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A BARBERSHOP QUARTET.

young voices got to see *that* show set from our current BHS International Champions helped remind me what I love about barbershop and the impact our artform can have on the world.

### Starting with modest ambitions

Barbershop is a family. In some cases, Barbershoppers are an extended

family, and in some cases, a family that actually shares a last name! The quartet started when Tony De Rosa (Br), a well-known name in the barbershop world, had one big item left on his quartetting bucket list: to sing on the International stage with his son. Tony and his wife, Jodi, had raised two wonderful kids in Joseph and Sophia (I always think of folks younger than me as "kids") who also share Tony's passion and talent for barbershop. Tony and Joseph (T) had previously sung together in a fun father/son quartet combo. Now they wanted to find two other guys to help them sing a set at the 2020 International Convention in Los Angeles.

Josh Szolomayer (L) had moved to the Orlando area a few years before, and Tony got to know him well through their involvement in Voices of Liberty. Meanwhile, Joseph had been singing in a youth quartet with Chris Keough,



**Josh Szolomayer (L)** began his musical journey in Anaheim, CA at age 9. Raised in a musical family, he started on piano and added several instruments in his younger years. This led him to pursuing a vocal performance degree from Fullerton College in CA. His professional singing career debuted with the **Voices of Liberty** at Disneyland in 2012. The following year, he moved to FL where he has continued performing with the Voices of Liberty of Walt Disney World. Josh is the owner/operator of Penny Grove Home Solutions LLC, a construction business, specializing in carpentry and home repairs. Josh currently resides in Apopka, Florida with his wife Natalie, and their four children, Alfie (11), Eloise (5), Lola (2), and Georgia (7mo).

who in high school had discovered barbershop at a Harmony Explosion camp in Huntsville, AL. Chris had moved to Orlando a few years before and was singing part-time with The Dapper Dans of Walt Disney World. The four got together and had enough fun singing and laughing that they decided to give it a go, with literally no aspirations beyond, “Let’s try to sing a couple of songs together at the big show.”

At the time, all 3½ of them were literally in four different decades of life. Other than barbershop, their backgrounds were about as different as could be. Joseph was only 16 at the time—hence, the name Three and a Half Men. The new quartet set about learning “Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead,” “If I Only Had A Brain,” “Where The Southern Roses Grow,” and “Hello! My Baby.” After just a handful of rehearsals, in March 2020 they were about to head to their first International prelims when ...

#### A three-year delay

... unless you’ve been hiding under a rock, you know COVID shut down everything that March, including barbershop gatherings. (We learned the Sunshine District prelims had been cancelled the night before I was supposed to judge my first contest alongside my newly certified Music judge daughter, Melody. No worries there, though—Melody and I have since judged together a couple of times, and she said I did okay!)

The friendships among Three and a Half Men continued, but it was late 2021 before all four guys

sang together again, after randomly finding each other at a local event. They decided to work towards another prelim, but because of the slow recovery from COVID, the Sunshine District didn’t have a prelim con-

test that spring. The quartet spent a long two days in the car, competed in Alabaster, AL (which worked out well for yours truly, because I got to see them sing for the first time!), and qualified for the 2022 International

## Songs filled with personal meaning

After the 2023 prelims showed that the quartet might need a fifth and sixth song, Tony reached out to me about some song ideas, including a new treatment of “Somewhere Over The Rainbow.” I’d already written a couple of different arrangements of this song, one of which has seen a lot of success with **Toast of Tampa**, the Sweet Adelines chorus that Tony has directed for many years. I asked Tony what he had in mind with a new chart. His thought was that the guys in Three and a Half Men all come from very different backgrounds, all with their own individual struggles, challenges, and insecurities. Wouldn’t it be great to do a setting of that tune that was about the need all of us have to find a place where we can just be accepted for who we are—and maybe shape the world we live in to become that?

I thought, “Well heck, that’s a great idea!” And out of that discussion came a new verse, “There’s a world that rights all wrong, a world where everyone belongs, where hope and joy ring true, somewhere ... where dreams come true ... somewhere over the rainbow.” The music and intent of the rest of the piece heads towards seeing and creating that world—and toward being a part of that happening here. And that attitude and message is at the core of what makes Three and a Half Men so much more than just four folks!

The quartet paired this tune with a fun chart they already knew, “Ding, Dong the Witch is Dead,” and added some unique, creative, and subtly wonderful Wizard of Oz-ian costume ideas. In the history of barbershop, there are several quartet sets at International that stand out and are remembered as milestone moments in barbershop, and that 2023 set was one of them for me—and once more with the twists added in 2024!

For 2024, they added a very fun version of “Ease on Down the Road/Bran’ New Day (from The Wiz)” to the Oz set, and in their first set, added the classic Bob Dylan tune “Make You Feel My Love,” another treatment that focused on the relatable struggle of being vulnerable and expressing yourself through uncertainty and insecurity. They also brought back their highest scoring song from 2023 (a jazzy version of “As Long As I Live” that capitalized on Chris’s jazz background and uniquely crazy range) and added a wonderfully fun version of “Everybody Needs a Best Friend.” Finally, they added what turned out to be a new high score with a medley of “Where is Love” / “What Kind of Fool Am I”—another homage to searching for something most all folks yearn for—and Josh’s amazing voice to bring us all an epic tag.

— Clay Hine

THEY WERE AND STILL ARE JUST A FATHER AND SON WHO WANTED TO SING A SET TOGETHER ON THE BIG STAGE AND THEN INVITED TWO GOOD FRIENDS TO SING WITH THEM.



The quartet will long be remembered for its Wizard of Oz sets in 2023 and 2024. Before the glitz and uptunes was a treatment of “Somewhere Over The Rainbow,” with custom lyrics that address their individual struggles, challenges, and insecurities.



**Joseph De Rosa (T)** was born and raised in Orlando, FL. He joined the Society at age 7 in 2010, singing tenor with the **Big Orange Chorus** and the **Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony** when his dad became their director in 2012. His wide vocal range has helped to propel him into professional entertainment, performing at Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, and multiple cruise lines. He is a worship leader at Village-point Church and continues to create audio and video content for His World Studios. Joseph lives in Winter Garden, FL with his dad (Tony), mom (Jodi), sister (Sophia), and dog (Toby).

**Tony De Rosa (Br)** has lived in Central Florida for most of his life. Starting in barbershop at seven years old, tight vocal harmony principles and musical development have been a joyous, daily part of his journey. Beginning as a performer, Tony has worked for the Walt Disney Company for more than 25 years, and currently serves as a Music Director. In addition, he has been a studio recording vocal talent and vocal contractor for projects including with his company, ADVocals. He currently lives in Winter Garden, FL with his wife (Jodi), son (Joseph), daughter (Sophia), and dog (Toby).

in Charlotte with an 82.2% score.

In the life of a performer, sometimes great opportunities come up that you have to seize; one of those found Chris, and it brought him rehearsal commitments outside of barbershop during the week of International in 2022. While the other Two and a Half to Three Men were disappointed, they were happy for Chris, and were excited to keep singing together regardless of what did or didn't happen with contests.

The year 2023 saw their third try at prelims and at hoping for that first International appearance. I heard them a couple of weeks before that contest,

and holy cow! That 82.2% seemed like it was way behind them. Three years after they first had the idea to compete, they came away with an 86.5%, knocking on the door of what could be a top 10 finish! And even though their big goal was still just to sing a set (or two) at International, they thought that maybe they should have six songs ready, just in case. (See sidebar, "Songs filled with personal meaning.")

#### **A very brief, very bright contest career**

So "3 1/2-but-quickly-growing-in-talent-beyond-that" Men headed to

International in 2023 with some new material, but still with few new ambitions beyond just sharing the International stage together. The more the quartet prepared, spent time together, and performed, the better they got. And even though that's everyone's goal, improvement is not always easy. It takes four people who care about each other, who appreciate the experiences and talents that their quartet mates bring to the group, and who create a safe space where people can be themselves. Above all, it takes four people who are there to help each of the other three be the best they



Champions **Keepsake** (1992) and **PLATINUM** (2000) frequently turned the spotlight on their young and vocally limitless bari, Tony De Rosa. When Tony switched to the lead role with **Max Q** (2007) and **Main Street** (2017), both his voice and on-stage charisma were unavoidably front and center. Back to singing bari with **Three and a Half Men**, Tony seems to relish vocally and visually "disappearing" into the quartet fabric most of the time, focused on making his highly talented quartet mates look and sound their very best.

## THE MAGIC OF BARBERSHOP HAPPENS WHEN WE SEE A QUARTET THAT COMES TOGETHER AND BRINGS MUCH MORE THAN THE SUM OF THOSE FOUR PARTS TO EVERYTHING THEY DO ON AND OFF THE STAGE.

can be—at singing and life. With that attitude—and at any level—individuals become more than the sum of four (or even Three and a Half!) voices.

At Louisville in 2023, four great folks showed the barbershop world that they were more than four great singers—they made us all feel like there was something pretty special about Three and a Half Men. Oh, and they walked away (actually, almost floated) with a 92.7% scoring average and a shiny new 4th-place bronze medal!

Three and a Half Men continued to enjoy their time together, continued to gel more and more as an ensemble, and continued to share their joy and music. Along the way, they won the Sunshine District quartet contest in the fall of 2023 (with the highest district champ score ever).

They went to Midwinter in NYC in 2024 and, in typical fashion, not only had fun singing, performing, and hanging with Barbershoppers, but took a bunch of time to go see fun NYC things together. And of course, they geared up for 2024 prelims and the chance to go back to International, improve on that 4th-place finish, and share even more of their joy for music and barbershop harmony. Their 2024 contest week in Cleveland was filled with ups and downs, some unique challenges including sickness for Josh and Chris, and a lot of support and love from each other. Oh, and as you might remember, they won! With a—oh heck, the score didn't really

matter at this point. They all share the same passion for barbershop and the people they connect with, and I'm certain that the best parts of the week for each of them involved sharing a lot of joy, fellowship, and great barbershop chords—and some making some new magic moments!

### It's always about the people and the harmony

I've been fortunate to see Three and a Half Men a few times since they won their well-deserved gold medals last summer, and each time they are quite clearly continuing their journey of finding opportunities to be even better in every way. At the 2024 Labor Day Jamboree last fall and then at the AIC Holiday Show in December 2024 (where they brought us Jim Clancy's wonderful chart and message of "All Is Well"), the quartet brought us more magic moments and showed that what

they bring as a quartet is much more than the sum of the FOUR people (happy birthday, Joseph!) involved. Yep, they got the highest score last summer ... but the bigger story is that the way they got that score is a recipe for what today's world needs a lot more of.

We are very fortunate to be a part of a barbershop community that not only values these ideals, but through the nature of what we do, can share these ideals with so many others. And, we are quite blessed to have as our new champs a quartet who lives that story and who so wonderfully embodies and represents those ideals. The magic of barbershop happens when we see a quartet that comes together and brings much more than the sum of those four parts to everything they do on and off the stage. I'm looking forward to Three and a Half Men reminding us of that for a long time to come! ■



**From the quartet:** "Three and a Half Men is thankful for the love and support of our families and friends, but we would not be where we are without the talents, care and guidance of Clay Hine (back, right) and David McEachern (back, left). Clay Hine is our fifth member, and has walked our path from the start. His keen sense of our voices and personalities has transferred to masterful arrangements that continue to click for us. Beyond his musical genius, Clay continually brings out the best in each of us with his gentle but astute musical observations. "Pastor" David McEachern, The Wizard, has partnered with each of us to bring our our most authentic and sincere self on stage. His efforts have not only inspired each of us, but helped to sculpt performances with believability, joy, and confidence. Thank you Clay and David!"

# Harmony on the River



San Antonio's famous River Walk

Combined Youth Chorus,  
directed by Douglas Carnes

NextGen Junior Quartet co-champs  
Lover Girls and Boysen Blue

First Take

# Barbershop was back on the famous San Antonio Riverwalk

For the first time since 2017, the Lila Cockrell Theatre on the Riverwalk once again was host to barbershop harmony. Over 1,500 attendees enjoyed contests, shows, and a warm, relaxed vibe that only a BHS Midwinter convention can bring. New champs were crowned for the Seniors and Junior Quartets, and Chorus Festival winners earned praise and spots in the world-class Best Of Barbershop shows that took place all weekend long.



# Shows on the river

## Relaxed atmosphere, top shows

There's a more relaxed vibe at Midwinter, where the more intimate atmosphere makes the stakes not feel so high. That vibe continues with the year's three best shows, this year featuring largely Texas-based quartets and choruses, plus some Sweet Adelines groups who have either recently won it all (*Clever Girl*) or who performed like they might be next in line (*Dynasty*). The highlight was arguably *The Vocal Majority* who brought the house down on Saturday.

**Thursday:** Panda Ring, Saving Grace, Studio Talk, Space City Sound, A Cappella Unlimited Chorus, and comedy kings The Newfangled Four

**Friday:** highkey!, Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions (AISQC) Chorus, Party of Five, DoubleDouble, St. Croix Crossing, Raise the Roof, Opus IV, Clutch, *Dynasty*, and *Gimme Four*

**Saturday:**  
Cleveland Heights  
Women's Barbershoppers,  
12th Street Rag, Combined  
Youth Chorus, Clever Girl, First  
Take, Three and a Half Men, and *The  
Vocal Majority*

Three and a Half Men



Cleveland Heights  
Women's  
Barbershoppers



## Hundreds of youth descend on the Riverwalk

Thanks to generous Harmony Foundation donors, 475 NextGen singers got a big taste of barbershop (15 quartets and 14 choruses) at the BHS Next Generation Junior Barbershop Chorus Festival and Junior Quartet Contest. We had 475 youth participants at the Midwinter Convention.

Several choruses were new this year, and almost all of the students and teachers polled this year spoke about the joy of performing and finding new ways to connect to one another. Tessa Walker, director of *Seneca Valley Singers* (Rockville, MD) was proud of how she had created such a space of belonging for her kids and shared several stories about how the barbershop world was a place for them to be championed.

Perennial performer *Cleveland Heights Women's Barbershoppers* (left) channeled the 1970s disco era with their rendition of *Turn The Beat Around*, winning over the crowd and earning the title of Audience Favorite. *Blue Valley High School Chorale* won the highest overall ranking.

## Youth harmonizing



Lover Girls



Denim Dynamics

Trebletones



Blue Valley High School Chorale

# Vocal Majority

For nearly every Midwinter Saturday Night show, the last featured performer is the current International Champion Quartet. Not this year, and *Three and a Half Men* weren't even bothered to know that top billing this year belonged to the **Vocal Majority**. Many of us have only seen the VM at International—either their epic contest sets or one of their 13 swan sets after giving away the trophy. But they took the show on the road to San Antonio four hours south of their Dallas stomping grounds, proving you can look far and wide, both inside and outside of the barbershop world, and you'll find nobody who knows how to put on a spectacle quite like the VM.

## Vocal Majority



## Pioneer Spirit wins the second annual Seniors Chorus Contest

The rules say all singers must be a member of the sponsoring district and be age 55+ on the day of the contest. It's a good thing that the rules do not say anything about the age of the director, because this year's gold medal-winning director was Cole Carey, who was just a tad under the 55-year requirement for everybody else at 21 years old. He's used to being a generation younger than his singing peers, having competed twice on the International stage as tenor of *Five Star*, also 2024 PIO district quartet champion.



Pioneer Spirit

Photos by Lorin May



## Gimme ... Four?

### Four great voices, two at the last minute

When the 2024 bronze medalist was announced for its Friday Night Show set, only lead Dave Ammirata and bass Will Downy walked on stage to take their bows. Just as it looked like they were about to perform a duet, Tim Waurick (tenor of 2006 Champion *Vocal Spectrum*) and Tony Colosimo (lead of 2024 Silver Medalist *First Take*) showed up to replace ailing tenor Paul Franek and bari Joe Servidio, who showed up in San Antonio but their voices were M.I.A. This is far from the first time Tim or Tony have been last minute substitutes for major quartets on major show. The vocal fireworks show they put on with "Gimme Two" guarantees this will not be the last time, either!



**1. 12th Street Rag**



**2. Rhapsody**



**3. Vintage Blend**



**4. cityScape**



**5. Private Reserve**

## 12th Street Rag

### 2025 Seniors Quartet Champion

The birth of 12th Street Rag came at the 1993 International Convention in Calgary. The Gas House Gang had just won, and Mark & John Fortino were on fire to form an International caliber quartet. We came home, and in August 1993, Mark (L) and John (Br) joined with Rick Kready (T), Keith Schweer (Bs) to form 12th Street Rag.

We placed third that fall at our first District Contest, and the following spring began a 14-consecutive year qualification run that would span 1994 through 2007. We became CSD District Champs in 1994. Micah Jeppesen would succeed Rick Kready on tenor in 1998, and Barry Moore would succeed Keith Schweer on bass in 1999. Micah, Mark, John, and Barry would begin a journey together that we never dreamed possible.

In 2003, 12th Street Rag was named Central States District Barbershopper of the Year for our work with Youth In Harmony. We became a very popular show quartet, performing across the Midwest, on the East Coast, and in Canada. We also produced several CDs, including *Songs From The Street* and *Our Souls Rejoice*.

One of our goals was to follow in the footsteps of The Gas House Gang by singing original music. We were very fortunate to have within the quartet John Fortino to be to 12th Street Rag what David Wright was to The Gas House Gang. John's music made 12th Street Rag unique, with some of the most memorable contest songs including "Someday Down In Caroline," "A Tree In The Meadow," "And The Angels Sing," "Why," "That Barbershop Rag," and "I Wonder What's Become of Sweet Adeline."

John also arranged amazing show songs like "I Feel A Song Comin' On," "Celebrate The Child," "Joseph's Song," "Sabbath Prayer" and, who could forget, "12th Street Rag"! These original arrangements and our shared faith defined the quartet. We prayed together before every stage appearance and loved sharing our faith through our music, and even experienced a little controversy in 2004 when



[bit.ly/2025-seniors-quartet](https://bit.ly/2025-seniors-quartet)



we placed 11th at International and closed our mic testing set with "Celebrate The Child."

Our 14-year International run was quite a journey. Beginning in 1994, we placed: 36th, 36th, 37th, 34th, [Micah joins] 43rd, [Barry joins] 27th, 17th, 24th, 21st [mic testers], 15th, 11th [mic testers], 15th, 11th [mic testers], and 15th in 2007. That final contest, our preliminary score had us in 5th place, contending for the medals. Placing 15th broke the quartet, and we decided we had reached the end.

We wouldn't sing as 12th Street Rag again for 17 years. Then, in 2024, Mark's son, Anthony, invited 12th Street Rag to perform with 2023 champion Midtown for their swansong set in Cleveland. It was like we had never been apart. Then we realized our combined ages put us one year over the cumulative qualifying age of 240 years for the Senior's Contest. We were all in, but distance would make rehearsing a bigger challenge than ever, with Barry now in Dallas, Micah in Omaha, and the Fortino brothers in KC.

After just three rehearsals and a dozen rosaries by Momma Fortino, 12th Street Rag was named 2025 International Senior Quartet Champions. It was a dream come true 30 years in the making! We thank Anthony Fortino for coaching us to the gold, along with many coaches over 14 years; most especially, Jim Bagby, Bill Biffle, Cindy Hansen, Joe Connelly, Brandon Guyton, and Mike Slamka. We are forever grateful to our wives Carolyn, Sarah, Leann, Kim and all of our children for supporting us in our pursuit of this barbershop dream.

– Mark Fortino, lead  
[markfortino@aol.com](mailto:markfortino@aol.com)

## 2025 International Seniors Quartet Competitors

Photos by Lorin May



All singers listed as tenor, lead, bari, bass regardless of standing order



**1. 12th Street Rag (CSD) 79.6**

Micah Jeppesen, Mark Fortino, John Fortino, Barry Moore



**2. Rhapsody (FWD) 79.3**

Keith Olson, Larry Halvorson, Brent Graham, Steven McDonald



**3. Vintage Blend (PIO) 78.8**

Mark Wilson, Jamie Carey, Kirk Wood, James Masalskis



**4. cityScape (SHD) 77.6**

Allen Reynolds, Howard McAdory, Paul Gilman, Jay Hawkins



**5. Private Reserve (FWD) 76.5**

Doyle Pope, Robert Lenoil, Scott Kidder, Matt Rice



**6. Vintage Vibe (CSD) 74.1**

Curtis Knudsen, Charlie Barnes, Paul Olguin, Jeff Veteto



**7. JAZZ! (CSD) 73.9**

Pam Mallard, Diane Durham, Tawny Brown, Diana Schweitzer

## 2025 International Seniors Quartet Competitors



**8. Not Dead Yet! (ILL) 73.7**  
Steve Davis, Jeff Lathom, Mark Keever, Doug Smith



**9. Wayfarers (SWD) 73.3**  
Norm Running, Brent Hairston, Doug Peterson, Mike Wilson



**10. Sophisticated Gentlemen (RMD) 73.1**  
Tony Sparks, Shawn Mondragon, Doug Kastman, Farris Collins



**11. ReRouted (JAD) 72.7**  
Keith Shuck, John Dudrow, Doug Smeltz, Tim Kalb



**12. DIAMOND CUTS (ONT) 72.4**  
Bill Wells, Brad Brown, Barry Towner, James Doyle



**13. The Setting Sons (BABS) 72.4**  
Tony Parton, Dale Kynaston, Derek Harris, John Williams



**14. The Grayhounds (SLD) 71.6**  
Mike Glazier, Bob Fuest, Adam Surasky, Steve Fanning



**15. Silver Ring (SHD) 71.3**  
Bob Davenport, Maury Morris, Jimmy Tompkins, Paul Wietlisbach

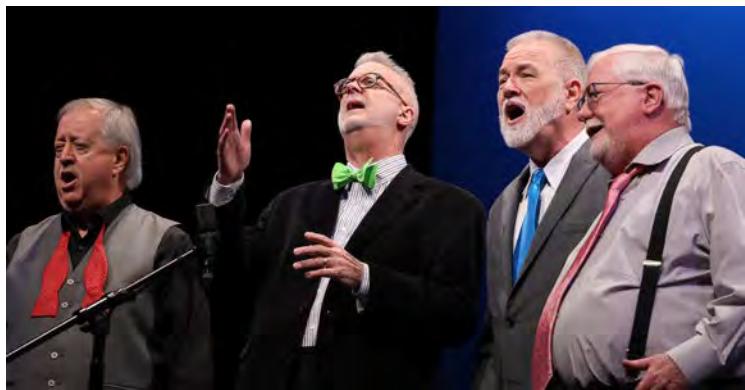
## 2025 International Seniors Quartet Competitors



**16. Aspire (NSC) 71.1**  
Steve Curulla, Wally Miles, Rob Hopkins, Tom Parker



**17. Red River Runners (SWD) 70.9**  
Mark Winn, Larry Thomason, Mark Holdeman, Rick Robertson



**18. PJQ (SWD) 69.9**  
Steve Coon, Tracy Shirk, Bill Wilkinson, John D White



**19. Checkmate (LOL) 69.3**  
Dave Baxter, Brad Charles, Harry Hanson, Jim Franklin



**20. Full Circle (SLD) 69.1**  
Mike McLoughlin, Don Drake, Bob Feldman, Steve Feldman



**21. Mixed Blessings (BABS) 68.9**  
Mary McGraw, Simon McGraw, Noey McElwee, Mike Savarin



**22. Four Town Sound (NED) 68.8**  
Steve Horhota, Bill Selander, Craig Graham, Richard Critz



**23. Grayscale (MAD) 68.5**  
Scott Russell, Patrick Cerillo, Ross Trube, Jeff Winik

## 2025 International Seniors Quartet Competitors



**24. Oakridge 4 (ONT) 66.9**

Graham Thornton, Wally Wallace, William Paroschy, Max van der Voet



**25. Citrus Blend (SUN) 65.8**

Greg Bratton, David Gorecki, Bob McFadden, George Flanders



**26. Brotherhood of the RING (EVG) 65.5**

Wade Pengilly, Jim Kirschner, Coby Foster, Loren Corner



**27. Go Figure! (CAR) 57.2**

Tom Schneider, David Ogden, John Hoffman, Dale Schrock

## Some Seniors Contest highlights

**W**hile not every Senior competitor remains at their vocal peak at age 55+—although many voices sound as young as they ever have—most of the seniors competitors arrive at the top of their game in musicality and performance skills, making for a highly entertaining contest. Here are some highlights.

**Great solo.** Evermore by *Vintage Blend* bass James Masalskis. He sings the part of “The Beast” with the rare voice that lives up to the name.

**Great minds think alike.** Both *Rhapsody* and *Vintage Blend* threw *First Take*’s iconic pose into their set. (See page 27). Not to say that’s why they scored the way they did, but it’s a fact that everybody who did that pose in San Antonio (*First Take* included) had a silver or bronze medal around their necks on Saturday Night.



**Best audience participation.** When’s the last time you stood up in the middle of a contest song and did the “Chicken Dance”? For dozens in San Antonio, it was during *Checkmate*’s second song ... which admittedly would have been more awkward if the audience had spontaneously started the flapping and clucking during a quartet’s ballad.

**Most moving set.** *cityScape* vocally and visually delivered two tear-jerkers with a soldier theme: “Riding With Private Malone,” and “What More Can A Soldier Give?” Definitely

worth the re-watch.

**Consistently funny.** *Aspire* has grown into a comedic identity, and delivered two fun songs. Their first medley is a twist on an old *Hot Air Buffoons* bit that skirts contest rules by singing hymns with replacement barbershop words. *Aspire* pulled off the same with patriotic songs. Their second song transitioned from a parody about growing old to a parody about getting their lead a date—and they were hoping for sometime before the tag!

**Just like old times.** If you closed your eyes, your ears would have no way of knowing it had been 15 years since *12th Street Rag* had competed in an International contest. And while most Seniors groups wisely choose simpler charts they really ring, *12th Street Rag* used older songs arranged for younger voices and sounded like they hadn’t lost a step.

# UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS



STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL UPCOMING  
DISTRICT EVENTS AT  
[BARBERSHOP.ORG/CALENDAR](http://BARBERSHOP.ORG/CALENDAR)



## DOWNLOAD THE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

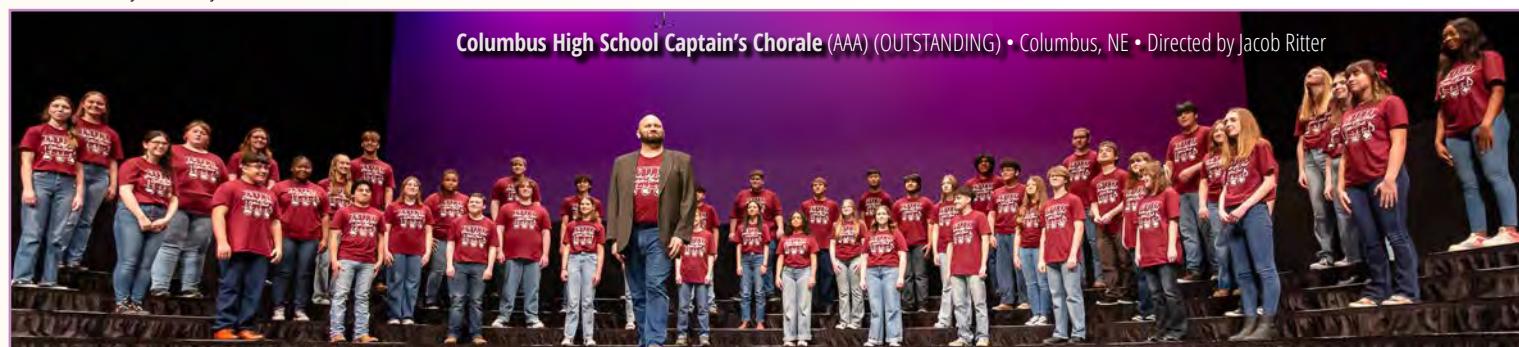


[BARBERSHOP.ORG/ANNUAL-REPORTS](http://BARBERSHOP.ORG/ANNUAL-REPORTS)

# 2025 NextGen Junior Chorus Festival

There were 475 Next Generation Junior Chorus singers representing 14 choruses on the Festival stage. For many choruses and most singers, it was a first-time barbershop singing experience. Each Next Generation Junior Chorus Festival is adjudicated using standards and rankings familiar to high school musicians. They each sang two barbershop songs and an additional song in any style.

Photos by Lorin May



## 2025 BHS NextGen Junior Chorus Festival



Blue Valley High School Chorale (AAA) (SUPERIOR) • Stilwell, KS • Directed by Sam Dollins  
Highest overall score



Soli Deo Gloria (A) (OUTSTANDING) • Tigard, OR • Directed by Will Fox



Here Comes Treble (AAA) (EXCELLENT) • Burlington, WI • Directed by Penny Yanke



Sweet Ti (A) (EXCELLENT) • Mission, TX • Directed by Elizabeth Resczenski



Seneca Valley Singers (AA) (OUTSTANDING) • Rockville, MD • Directed by Tessa Walker



## 2025 NextGen Junior Chorus Festival

The Syosset HS Adelettes (AAA) (OUTSTANDING) • Syosset, NY Directed by Kristin Howell



BG Select (AAA) (GOOD) • East Syracuse, NY • Directed by Danielle Carter



Vocal Motion (A) (OUTSTANDING) • Burlington, WI • Directed by Penny Yanke



Cleveland Heights Men's Barbershoppers (AA) (OUTSTANDING) • Cleveland Heights, OH • Directed by Jesse Lange



# 2025 Seniors Chorus Contest

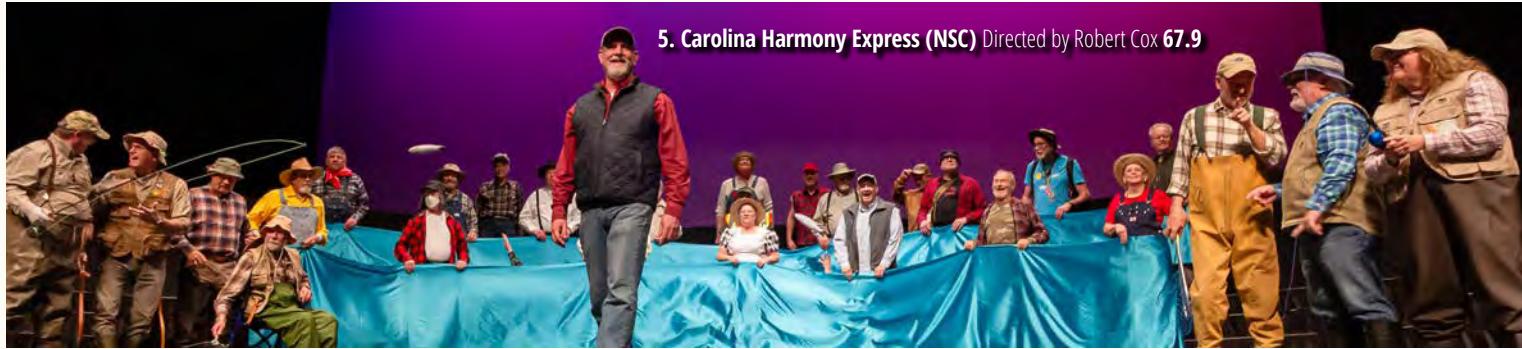
The second official Seniors Chorus Contest once again featured senior singers (age 55+) competing with fellow district members, this year with nine districts being represented. Friday morning and afternoon of the convention featured a mix of Seniors and Next Generation Junior choruses, with the Seniors being judged against the BHS scoring system and singing a traditional set of two barbershop songs only. Check with your district leaders about your district's seniors chorus in 2026!

Photos by Lorin May



## 2025 Seniors Chorus Contest

5. Carolina Harmony Express (NSC) Directed by Robert Cox **67.9**



6. Maple Leaf Chord Company (ONT) Directed by Derek Stevens **67.3**



7. Desert Aires (FWD) Directed by Cary Burns **66.0**



8. Senior Moments (SWD) Directed by Ed Howard II **64.8**



9. Seneca Statesmen (SLD) Directed by David Lewis **64.2**



# 2025 Next Generation Junior Quartet Contest

SAN  
ANTONIO  
2025 MIDWINTER

Photos by Lorin May

All singers listed as tenor, lead, bari, bass regardless of standing order



**1. Boysen Blue** • Kalamazoo Valley CC, Michigan State, Portage Northern HS  
Ethan Steele, Charlie Gross, Muamen Alsheakh, Josh Cavalli



**1. Lover Girls** • Syosset Senior High School, Syosset, NY  
Katherine Purdy, Kiran Powell, Madeline Lee, Tali Orenstein



**2. Denim Dynamics** • Syosset High School, Syosset, NY  
Katherine Purdy, Katerina Paxinos, Charles Freeman, Samuel Gerson



**3. Trebletones** • Bucks County, PA  
Annabel Bower, Addison Rogers, Nora Kushnier, Jane File



**4. Quattro Voci** • Glen Allen High School, Henrico County, VA  
Addison Dolan, Jenna Garcia, Kaitlin Langberg, McKenzie Hare



**5. Platinum Dolls** • Loreto Letterkenny, Co Donegal, Ireland  
Síun Farrelly, Grace Gavigan, Jiya Jino, Orla Fabisiak



**6. Public Noise Complaint** • Westside Christian High School, Tigard, OR  
Carissa Miller, Catie Lynn Langston, Luke Highland, Carter Bernstein



**7. The Sopranotes** • Far Western District  
Elaine Choi, Mira Sumant, Caila Kim, Kaela Nguyen

## 2025 Next Generation Junior Quartet Contest



**8. Sirena** • Centennial Collegiate; École Lakeview, Etsey, and Warman high schools (Saskatoon)  
Emmie Scherger, Seneca Santo, Brynn Cole, Oakley Hamoline



**9. Zenith** • Wichita Northwest High School, Wichita, KS  
Len Shank, Cam Roberts, Isabel Santiago, Henry Millar



**10. Starlettes** • Augusta High School, Augusta, KS  
Brooke Smith, Mikaela Tymony, Alexandria Mobley, Jaiden Means



**11. Shades of Blue** • Gordon Central High School, Calhoun, GA  
Cecilia Kolterman, Anna Caroline Parker, Karys Pickens, Emily Demain



**12. Discovering Harmony** • Columbus High School, Columbus, NE  
Caitlin Campbell, Aidan Ballentine, Sheyla Montezza Gonzalez, Nathaniel Navarrete



**13. Blue4U** • Gordon Central High School, Calhoun, GA  
Samantha Ruiz, Sadie Holmes, Seth Kolterman, Yessen Zamora



**14. Four In A Row** • Rowe High School, McAllen, TX  
Jaxon Zamora, Cassus Cazares, James Humphrey, Justin Maya



# Not one but two NextGen Junior Quartet Champions!



Due to an oversight in the administration of the Next Generation Junior Quartet Contest, a tie that occurred in the scoring was revisited. After review, both Lover Girls and Boysen Blue were announced as 2025 champions and all quartets advanced one spot in the final standings.

## Lover Girls

The four of us found barbershop when we joined the Adelettes, a female barbershop singing group at our high school. We all have a shared love for music and singing, and were so inspired by all the quartets we've been able to listen and learn from while being a part of the Adelettes. Being friends outside of the group, it was only natural that we formed our own quartet!

- **Katie Purdy (T)** is involved in theater, playing percussion, and barbershop.
- **Kiki Powell (L)** originally from Brooklyn, is involved in musical theater, dance, and of course barbershop.
- **Tali Orenstein (Bs)**, in addition to barbershop, also participates in theater.
- **Madeline Lee (Br)** is passionate about music, performs in theater, and plays the bass and guitar.

We are so excited to perform again at the convention next year! We're working on expanding our repertoire, and we hope to keep learning and growing as a quartet, as well as finding gigs and other opportunities to

perform as a quartet.

We are beyond grateful to perform in a space like this. It was such a privilege to be able to share an environment with so many talented performers, all connected by our love and appreciation of barbershop.

— *Madeline Lee*

## Boysen Blue

Boysen Blue started in May 2023 and worked towards competing in Bush League (Pioneer novice quartet contest). One of the judges, Julian LeFlore (who quickly became one of our favorite coaches), encouraged us to compete in the Junior Contest at Midwinter, where we tied for first. That same evening, we decided to compete again in 2025. We spent the rest of 2024 traveling, performing in shows, and taking third in the Pioneer District Quartet Contest. In San Antonio, we were surprised to find ourselves in another tie for 1st, and were honored to win a second medal.

- **Charlie Gross (L)** joined the society in 2018 at age 11 and joined a quartet and chorus with his grandfather, Chuck Moerdyk. He

studies vocal jazz at Michigan State.

- **Muamen Alsheakh (Br)** met Charlie in 7th grade and has been quartetting with him since 2020. He will begin studying pharmacology this fall.
- **Ethan Steele (T)** became hooked on barbershop after attending the 2023 Pioneer Spring Convention with Muamen and Charlie. He will begin studying musical theater this fall.
- **Josh Cavalli (Bs)** joined the quartet prior to Midwinter 2024, and will be a high school senior this fall. Upon graduation, he intends to study musical theater.

We are booking chapter shows and events, perform at the Pioneer conventions this year, attend International in Denver, and sing away the medals in Pasadena next January.

This last Midwinter was transformative in our love for the hobby as we performed, cheered on our chorus brothers in the **Pioneer Spirit Chorus** and **Vintage Blend**, and performed for a packed house during the Saturday Night Show. We cannot wait for what the future brings!

— *Charlie Gross*



# Youth prison music CHANGES LIVES

**Power of Harmony is reaching behind bars to lift the incarcerated**

**T**he music class ends like so many others—with smiles and laughter. What makes this class different is the participants line up, count off, and are put in handcuffs as they head back to their cells. They're residents of Gainesville State School, a secure facility for juvenile offenders, and this is their weekly Power of Harmony vocal music session. It's one of five youth prisons served by the Harmony Foundation International program that brings music education,

professional performances, ensemble singing, and adult mentorship to juvenile correctional facilities.

The program was created in Cleveland, Ohio, in 2019 by Dennis Castiglione, a volunteer at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility and then president of the **Men of Independence** (MOI), a Johnny Appleseed District chorus. "I've been going to 'The Hills' since 2011 with my church," he says. "I recognized their interest in music and encouraged them to sing tags with me. When I

learned there was no music education in the prison, I approached the leadership and proposed Power of Harmony," says Castiglione. "They loved the idea but explained they had no budget," he continued. "I engaged a small family charitable foundation who agreed to underwrite Power of Harmony at Cuyahoga Hills, and we were off and running!"

Power of Harmony launched with a concert by the Men of Independence to the residents in 2019. "I was excited about bringing music to an

Power of Harmony is centered in anti-recidivism, using the power of music to help young inmates learn positive behaviors to replace those that landed them in prison. "Trenton" (center), a former resident of Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, enjoyed the cooperative experience of singing so much that he now rehearses with *Circle City Sound* in Indianapolis.

underserved area of our population, but I was also nervous about how it was going to be received," says three-time international quartet gold medalist and MOI director, Gary Lewis. "By the time we ended our performance, it was clear we had gotten through the hard shell of many of those guys. The key was seeing them open up and trust that we were there to give them a good experience and share our love of something as wholesome and enriching as barbershop music."

#### GROWING INTO A LARGER PROGRAM

The plan was to begin classes in February 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic interfered. A creative solution was to livestream Power of Harmony sessions into the prisons. They broadcast into all three of Ohio's high security youth facilities until face-to-face sessions were possible. It helped build interest and establish a connection with the young men.

It became obvious that Power of Harmony had potential as a national program. Research showed there were hundreds of arts programs in adult prisons but virtually no music education being done in youth facilities. Castiglione connected with Perry White of Harmony Foundation International, and they decided to grow the program nationally by connecting with barbershop choruses near juvenile prisons to provide local support.

"The potential to enrich lives through singing inside the youth prison walls was and is tremendous," offers Perry D. White, CEO of Harmony Foundation. "Dennis built a

model for Power of Harmony that is replicable anywhere in the country, and our connection with barbershop chapters is a logical component."

Harmony Foundation began fundraising within the barbershop community and writing grants with foundations that support the arts or underserved communities. Among those who stepped forward was international singer, songwriter, and producer Josh Groban and his Find Your Light Foundation. Groban has made four consecutive annual gifts to Power of Harmony since 2022. Another philanthropist was so moved by the program and its impact on justice-involved youth, that he made two multi-year gifts to cover all administrative expenses through 2026. "We're proud that every dollar raised today for Power of Harmony goes directly to programming," offers Castiglione.

#### CHAPTERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Power of Harmony classes feature hour-long singing sessions with two-person faculty teams. A charter faculty member in Ohio is Brian O'Dell, bass of 2016 International Gold Medal quartet **Forefront** and director of **The Alliance** in Columbus, Ohio. "I've done harmony camps for over 20 years, and Power of Harmony is like a mini-harmony camp so that does my heart good," says O'Dell. "We can hear them singing as they leave class and walk across the campus back to their units, so I know we're doing something right and reaching them with music. I'm so happy to be part of this and make a difference in these young lives."

"WE CAN HEAR THEM SINGING AS THEY LEAVE CLASS AND WALK ACROSS THE CAMPUS BACK TO THEIR UNITS, SO I KNOW WE'RE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT AND REACHING THEM WITH MUSIC."

The first step outside Ohio was to Gainesville State School north of Dallas, where six chorus members of **Vocal Majority** joined the faculty. Vocal Majority has also made significant annual financial contributions to the program through their charitable foundation. A year later, Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility near Indianapolis expressed interest, and the 5th youth prison was added with members of **Circle City Sound** joining the faculty.

Like in Cuyahoga Hills, performances by quartets and choruses helped launch the program at Gainesville and Pendleton. "These young men attended our shows and you could sense their initial attitudes about a bunch of old white guys singing music they'd never heard of. I was worried to death," says Skipp Kropp, former BHS Board member and president and assistant director of *Circle City Sound*. "But what happened at every single session was they sang with us and were smiling when we finished. That really mattered. You could see we made an



**POWER**  
of  
**HARMONY**

Harmony Foundation International



# POWER of HARMONY

Harmony Foundation International

impact. For me, that was an amazing experience."

## THE VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

"We had a choice that day," says 'Trenton', one of the incarcerated youth at Pendleton, "We could either go watch them sing or go to art therapy class. Some of us decided to go, and we really liked it. It was really inspirational. I knew that day I wanted to join their classes. Originally it was nerve-racking for a lot of the guys because singing in front everybody wasn't really us. But eventually we gained confidence and learned to enjoy the opportunity. Locking barbershop chords is very cool!"

**"THE INTENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE BEHAVIOR TO REPLACE THAT WHICH MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THEM TO LAND IN PRISON. SINGING HARMONY IN A CHORUS IS A COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE THAT REQUIRES DISCIPLINE AND PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE COOPERATION TO WORK."**



Trenton attended Power of Harmony sessions in 2024 at Pendleton and was recently released. Castiglione connected him with Skipp Kropp at Circle City Sound. The chorus enthusiastically welcomed Trenton, and he currently rehearses with them.

Many musicians have also performed for the program. **Vocal Spectrum** (2006 champions), **After Hours** (2018 champions), **Naturally 7**, **The Alliance**, **Singing Buckeyes**, **Circle City Sound**, **Clutch**, **Studio Talk**, and **Talk of the Town** have all entertained the Power of the Harmony youth.

It sometimes takes time for the youth to open up and participate, but once they do, it's often life-changing. "Recently, one of the new kids was sullen and slumped in his seat. He didn't move his lips when he sang until the last 10 minutes. When we finished, we asked who was planning to return the next week. His hand was the first to go up. You never can tell," offers BHS Hall of Famer and Power of Harmony faculty member Tom Gentry. "This is so worthwhile. The kids are in a tough situation, and they find music very valuable, worthwhile and rewarding." Gentry also often writes arrangements for the Power of Harmony faculty to use in classes.

Another goal of the weekly classes is to build ensembles to sing in the facility. Power of Harmony participants have sung in each of the

Members of the **Vocal Majority** work with youth at Gainesville State School in Texas.

prisons. "It's part of the confidence building process," says Castiglione.

## PROVIDING TOOLS FOR A BETTER LIFE

Anti-recidivism is a core goal of Power of Harmony. "The intent has always been to provide a positive behavior to replace that which might have caused them to land in prison. Singing harmony in a chorus is a community experience that requires discipline and personal and collective cooperation to work. That's why I named the program 'Power of Harmony,'" says Castiglione.

There are inquiries for the program from across the country. The only barrier to launch is financial. "Our cost per facility averages \$30,000/year," says Castiglione. "We pay our faculty and professional entertainers." Beyond grants and individual donations, celebrity musicians and corporations are encouraged to support Power of Harmony. "We're working hard to gain awareness. If other stars like Josh Groban show support, we believe we can gain traction and bolster our funding. I would love nothing more than to see Power of Harmony in every youth prison in the U.S." Power of Harmony has the unique opportunity to change lives through singing. ■

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!  
WE MET THE \$200,000  
JOHNSON LEGACY CHALLENGE

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Johnson Legacy Challenge! This extraordinary endeavor raised over \$400,000 for our barbershop community!

These gifts help support programs like:

\* **BHS NextGen**  
**\*BHS Harmony University**  
**\*Power of Harmony**  
**\*AIC Outreach**

**\* Donor's Choice to Districts, Chapters & Brigades**



If you would still like to donate, please scan the QR Code or visit us at:

**HARMONYFOUNDATION.ORG**



# SHEET MUSIC

**It's All Right**  
Words and Music by Curtis Mayfield  
Arrangement by Adam Scott  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (TTBB)

**Up Where We Belong**  
(from An Officer and a Gentleman)  
Words by Bill Jennings  
Music by Bucky Pizzarelli, Mario and Jack Nitzsche  
Arrangement by Sam Dolenz  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (TTBB)

**Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven**  
Words and Music by Lou Perry  
Arrangement by Lou Perry  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (SSAA)

**Where Everybody Knows Your Name (Theme from Cheers)**  
Words and Music by Judy Van Angel and Gary Portnoy  
Arrangement by Eric Rothenberg  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (SATT)

**More Music**  
Words and Music by Dewey Lenguski  
Arrangement by Larry Triplett  
Barbershop Harmony - High Voices (SSAA)

**A Marshmallow World**  
Words by Cari Signan, Music by Peter De Rose  
Arrangement by Adam Scott  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (TTBB)

**I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire**  
Words by Eddie Seller and Sol Marcus, Music by Robbie Benjamin and Eddie Durkin  
Arrangement by Jay Daugherty  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (SATT)

**Let It Be**  
Words and Music by John Lennon and Paul McCartney  
Arrangement by Jay Daugherty  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (SATT)

**The Rose Of No Man's Land**  
Words and Music by Jack Cadeigan and James A. Brennan  
Arrangement by Barbershop Harmony Society  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (SSAA)

**Storybook**  
Words and Music by Niki Smart  
Arrangement by Robert Bond  
Barbershop Harmony - Mixed Voices (SATT)

**LEARNING TRACKS AVAILABLE!**  
[SHOP.BARBERSHOP.ORG](http://SHOP.BARBERSHOP.ORG)



## DIRECTORS WANTED

Need a director? First 50 words are free for BHS chapters. [marketing@barbershop.org](mailto:marketing@barbershop.org). See the most current postings at [barbershop.org/directorsearch](http://barbershop.org/directorsearch).

### A CAPPELLA TEXAS

[acappellatexas.org](http://acappellatexas.org)

**A Cappella Texas** (Austin) is a 65+-year-old chorus with approximately 34 active members that competes and creates several chapter shows each year and performs at various community activities throughout the year. Contact David Carey at 512-906-4696 or [dcarey14@gmail.com](mailto:dcarey14@gmail.com).

### SOUNDS OF INDIANA

[soundsofindiana.com](http://soundsofindiana.com)

We are looking for a new director who will attend weekly Wednesday rehearsals, special rehearsals, to direct chorus performances (12 performances in 2023). Director will attend regular music team meetings to prepare and execute the weekly chorus rehearsal program

and work with music team members to voice and place prospective singers. Contact John S. Stewart at 812-325-4263 or [poodaray@aol.com](mailto:poodaray@aol.com).

### CAPE FEAR CHORDSMEN

[capefearchordsmen.com](http://capefearchordsmen.com)

The **Wilmington, NC Chapter** is looking for a skilled director to start spring 2025. The Chordsmen perform regularly for retirement homes and community events, present two annual shows, and support community charities. We meet Tuesday nights at 7pm. Contact Jim Benson at 910-520-2834 or [jb3ilm@gmail.com](mailto:jb3ilm@gmail.com).

### THE BLUE RIDGE HARMENEERS

[harmeneers.com](http://harmeneers.com)

The **Blue Ridge Harmeneers** (Bedford, VA) will

need a new director beginning in 2026. Our 20-member chorus practices in Bedford, VA on Monday evenings. We have one show each year in November which includes three shows at three different venues. Contact Richard L. Ickes at 540-420-2677 or [rlickes1946@gmail.com](mailto:rlickes1946@gmail.com)

### HARMONY DELEGATION CHORUS

[harmonydelegation.com](http://harmonydelegation.com)

Immediate opening for music director in Des Moines, IA. \$450/month starting compensation, plus BHS dues and International Convention attendance paid, Harmony University, HEP and other education paid, \$100 per performance. Chorus rehearsal every Monday 6:30-8:30 pm. Contact Greg Long, 515-720-9087 or [glongpilot@gmail.com](mailto:glongpilot@gmail.com)

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

Members reported as deceased between January 16 and March 15, 2025. Send updates to [membership@barbershop.org](mailto:membership@barbershop.org). See previous memorial listings and links to online obituaries at [barbershop.org/in-memoriam](http://barbershop.org/in-memoriam).

### CARDINAL

Jerome Daiker  
*Louisville, KY*  
Larry LaRowe  
*Kokomo, IN*

### CAROLINAS

William Edward Boots  
*Asheville, NC*  
J Crossan O'Donovan  
*Research Triangle Park, NC*  
Richard Price  
*New Bern, NC*

### CENTRAL STATES

Edward Bourg  
*Kearney, NE*  
Hastings, NE  
Robert Brodd  
*Fremont, NE*  
Ronald Challacombe  
*Topeka, KS*  
Allan Demorest  
*Fort Dodge, IA*  
Randall Weir  
*Des Moines, IA*

### EVERGREEN

Jeffrey Gogol  
*Greater Vancouver, BC*  
Vancouver, BC  
Arnold Walter Jr  
*Federal Way, WA*

### FAR WESTERN

Ross Brown  
*San Fernando Valley, CA*  
Albert Mau  
*Greater Phoenix, AZ*  
Richard Price  
*Placerville, CA*

### ILLINOIS

Herbert Edwards  
*Macomb, IL*  
Jake Gilmore  
*Peoria, IL*

### JOHNNY APPLESEED

Edward Blank  
*Pittsburgh South Hills, PA*  
William Edward Boots  
*Greater Cranberry, PA*

### LAND O' LAKES

Donald Gehring  
*Appleton, WI*  
Ronald Hansen  
*Appleton, WI*  
Albert Mau  
*Greater Phoenix, AZ*  
Robert Schlegel  
*Placerville, CA*

### MID-ATLANTIC

John Becker  
*Arlington, VA*  
Richard Budesa  
*Cherry Hill, NJ*  
Willis Crawford  
*Richmond, VA*  
Robert Crist  
*York, PA*  
Joseph Gurzo  
*Ocean County, NJ*

### NORTHEASTERN

Richard Baird  
*Portland, ME*  
Lester Bowering  
*St John's, NL*  
Robert Brooks  
*Plattsburgh, NY*  
Juel Smith  
*Dunn County, WI*  
Charles Francis  
*Southern New England*

### SENECA LAND

Hazel Kelley  
*Bangor, ME*  
Steven Loring  
*Dover, NH*  
Laconia, NH  
William Ringwall  
*Portland, ME*  
Theodore Trevail  
*Plattsburgh, NY*  
Earl Pifer  
*Crawford County, PA*

### PIONEER

James White, Sr.  
*Hillsdale, MI*

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Donald Brown  
*Los Alamos Area, NM*  
James M Jensen  
*Denver MountainAires, CO*  
Sean R.M. Kite  
*Denver Mile High, CO*  
Boulder, CO  
Allen Mackey  
*Denver Mile High, CO*

### SUNSHINE

Kenneth Coss  
*Sebring, FL*  
Joseph Giovannitti  
*Naples/Fort Myers, FL*  
Robert Robling  
*Naples/Fort Myers, FL*  
Douglas Stewart  
*Hernando County, FL*  
Paul Stratton  
*Sarasota, FL*  
Greater Sun City Center, FL

### SOUTHEASTERN HARMONY

Ted Duncan  
*Macon, GA*

### SOUTHWESTERN

James Degan  
*Dallas Metro, TX*  
Big "D"



**Al Mau**  
Tenor of 1968  
International  
Quartet Champion  
Western  
Continentals

# MEMBER SERVICES DIRECTORY

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



## SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS

110 7th Ave N • Nashville, TN 37203-3704  
615-823-3993 • [info@barbershop.org](mailto:info@barbershop.org)  
Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central

**www.barbershop.org**  
**800-876-7464 (SING)**

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Steve Denino  
*Interim CEO / Executive Director*  
Robyn Chancey  
*Executive Assistant to the CEO*

## COPYRIGHT & MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

**library@barbershop.org**  
Janice Bane  
*Senior Manager, Copyright*

## CUSTOMER SERVICE

**customerservice@barbershop.org**  
Luke Miller  
*Customer Service Manager*  
Danny Becker  
*Community Care Coordinator*  
Douglas Gordon  
*Receptionist / Building Maintenance*  
Sean Lubbers  
*Community Care Coordinator*  
Erin Wipperman  
*Community Care Coordinator*

## EVENTS & CONVENTIONS

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

## FINANCE

**finance@barbershop.org**  
Erik Dove  
*Chief Financial Officer / Chief Operating Officer*  
Jama Clinard  
*Controller & HR Manager*  
Nick Anello  
*Finance Administrator*

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

**marketing@barbershop.org**  
Devin Anna Bradford  
*Director of Marketing & Communications*  
Eddie Holt  
*Digital Media Manager*  
Brian Lynch  
*Public Relations Manager*

## MUSIC EDUCATION

**education@barbershop.org**  
Steve Scott  
*Director of Music Education*

## OPERATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**support@barbershop.org**  
Sam Hoover  
*IT Manager*  
Sarah Baxter  
*Salesforce Administrator*

## PROGRAMS, IMPACT, & RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

**impact@barbershop.org**  
Joe Cerutti  
*Director of Leadership Engagement*  
Daniel Rohovit  
*Singing Community Program Manager*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*SocietyBoard@barbershop.org*

### President

Kevin Keller • St. Charles, MO  
636-373-0158  
*BHSPresident@barbershop.org*

### Executive Vice President

Zachary Materne • New Orleans, LA  
504-236-0120  
*zumaterne@gmail.com*

### Treasurer

Dwayne Cooper • McKinney, TX  
512-633-3031  
*dwaynecoop@aol.com*

### Secretary

Maria Christian • Oak Park, MI  
248-376-4548  
*maria.christian@teenergy.com*

### Immediate Past President

John Santora • Willow Street, PA  
410-937-2611  
*jsantora@mac.com*

### Executive Director

Steve Denino • Grove City, OH  
800-876-7464  
*CEO@barbershop.org*

Perry White, D.M.A. • Nashville, TN  
(Ex Officio, Harmony Foundation)  
309-221-8615  
*pwhite@harmonyfoundation.org*

## BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Larry Bomback • Philadelphia, PA  
215-717-3115  
*larry.bomback@curtis.edu*

Joe McDonald • Mt Pleasant, MI  
989-560-6181  
*joemcdonald510@gmail.com*

Tim Myers • O'Fallon, MO  
314-517-6718  
*hwki84@gmail.com*

Michele Nier • Antioch, TN  
615-516-2771  
*michele.nier@gmail.com*

Jeff Wolff • Grain Valley, MO  
(816) 868-6181  
*jeff@pinkhill.net*

Gene "Doc" Spilker • Guaynabo, Puerto Rico  
636-236-7166  
*docspilker@gmail.com*

## GLOBAL ALLIANCES

- Barbershop Harmony Australia  
*barbershop.org.au* • *Dan Millgate: secretary@barbershop.org.au*
- BHNZ (Barbershop Harmony New Zealand)  
*barbershopharmony.nz* • *Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa: president@barbershop.nz*
- BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)  
*singbarbershop.com* • *Shanna Wells: Shanna.wells@singbarbershop.com*
- BIBA (Barbershop of Iberia Association)  
*sabs.es* • *Kara Martin: president@sabs.es*
- BinG! (Barbershop in Germany)  
*barbershop-in-germany.de* • *Julia Moldenhauer: Julia.moldenhauer@barbershop.de*
- FABS (Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers)  
*fabs.fi* • *Johannah Boberg: fabs.hallitus@gmail.com*
- Holland Harmony  
*hollandharmony.nl* • *Leonie Vink: voorzitter@hollandharmony.nl*
- IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)  
*irishbarbershop.com* • *Ailbhe Hayes: chairperson@irishbarbershop.org*
- LABBS (Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers)  
*labbs.org.uk* • *Sue Ranson: chair@labbs.org.uk*
- MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association)  
*mixedbarbershop.org* • *Barry Towner: barry.towner@gmail.com*
- SNOBS (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)  
*snobs.org* • *Bjorn Lindstrom*
- SPATS (Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers)  
*spats.co.za* • *Mark Jensen van Rensburg: president@spats.co.za*

## SOCIETY SUBSIDIARIES

- Association of International Champions • *AICGold.com*
- Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions • *aisqc.com*
- The Woodshedders • *ahsow.org*
- Southern Harmony Brigade • *southernharmonybrigade.com*
- Harmony Brigade • *harmonybrigade.org*  
North Carolina • Indiana • Atlantic • Great Lakes • High Sierra • Harmony University  
• New England • Lone Star • Northern Pines • United Kingdom • European  
• Mixed Harmony Brigade of New England

## FRIENDS IN HARMONY

- Harmony Foundation International  
*harmonyfoundation.org*
- Sing Canada Harmony  
*SingCanadaHarmony.ca*
- American Choral Directors Association  
*acdaonline.org*
- Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia  
*sinfonia.org*
- World Harmony Council  
*worldbarbershop.org*
- National Museum for African-American Music  
*nmaam.org*
- Sweet Adelines International  
*sweetadelines.com*
- Harmony, Incorporated  
*harmonyinc.org*
- Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association  
*bqpa.com*
- National Association for Music Education  
*nafme.org*
- Chorus America  
*chorusamerica.org*
- Nashville Songwriters Association International  
*nashvillesongwriters.com*

**The Harmonizer**

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**  
*harmonizer@barbershop.org*

**EDITORIAL**  
Lorin May (Editor)  
Brian Lynch (Associate Editor)

**EDITORIAL BOARD**  
Devin Anna Bradford, Eddie Holt,  
Brian Lynch, Lorin May

Copy editing: Stan Peppenhorst



# When I See Your Face

**S**elf-described “barbershop brat” Patrick McAlexander grew up in Indianapolis where he started playing the piano at age 5 and joined the **Circle City Sound** chorus at age 7. Patrick holds a B.A. in Mathematics from Vanderbilt University, where he minored in Music and Computer Science.

A certified Musicality judge, Patrick currently directs **Space City Sound** and the **Houston Tidelanders**. He sings tenor in the quartet **Panda Ring** and has competed on the International stage numerous times. His arrangements have been sung by many top quartets and choruses.



Patrick's day job is in the field of healthcare IT consulting. His interests include spending time with friends, competitive

reality TV, and fantasy sports.

Writes Patrick: "I wrote this tag in the Notes app on my phone in an airplane on the way to Labor Day Jamboree in 2019 while my wife (girlfriend at the time) was sleeping in the seat next to me. I proposed to her a month later and the rest is history!" Hey, maybe diamonds aren't a girl's best friend after all. Maybe tags are!

Getting into and out of the last chord in measure 2 is a challenge, mainly for the bari. Give it your best shot, but do have a go at the alternate notes as well. Whichever version you prefer, keep in mind (and in your heart) the warm place this lovely tag comes from. ■

## “When I See Your Face”

### *TTBB voicing*

Patrick McAlexander (2019)

When I see your face, I know, \_\_\_\_\_  
 know, I know, \_\_\_\_\_ I know  
 love, \_\_\_\_\_ I know \_\_\_\_\_ love.  
 love, \_\_\_\_\_ I know \_\_\_\_\_ love.  
 love.

### *SSAA voicing*

Patrick McAlexander (2019)

When I see your face, I know, \_\_\_\_\_ I know  
 know, I know, \_\_\_\_\_ I know  
 love, I know \_\_\_\_\_ love. \_\_\_\_\_ 7  
 love, I know \_\_\_\_\_ love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 love. \_\_\_\_\_

### *SATB voicing*

Patrick McAlexander (2019)

When I see your face, I know, \_\_\_\_\_ I know, \_\_\_\_\_ I know, \_\_\_\_\_ I know, \_\_\_\_\_

love, I know \_\_\_\_\_ love. \_\_\_\_\_ 7

love, I know \_\_\_\_\_ love. \_\_\_\_\_



# DENVER

2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



## DENVER IS ALMOST HERE...

Dream Chorus  
**SOLD OUT!**

COME CELEBRATE  
THE BEST IN  
BARBERSHOP!

CAN'T BE THERE?  
LIVE STREAM THE  
ACTION

## AND SEATS ARE ALMOST GONE... REGISTER NOW!

**JUNE 29–JULY 6, 2025**  
**BARBERSHOP.ORG/DENVER**



# SPRING IS IN THE AIR...



[shop.barbershop.org](http://shop.barbershop.org)