

# The Harmonizer

BRINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY TO LIFE • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019



*Signature*  
QUARTET

2019 International Quartet Champion



#### NOTEWORTHY

TWO GENERATIONS OF CHAMPS  
COMBINE FOR WORTHY CAUSE

#### TIP SHEET

SAY THE RIGHT WORDS  
WHEN YOU HAVE THE FLOOR

#### INSIDE

2019 INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION COVERAGE





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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019 • VOLUME LXXIV • NUMBER 5



The 2019 International Convention is history—and what a history. Performances never to be forgotten, new friendships to forever cherish, and education and outreach that will leave a lasting impact. Enjoy 15 pages recalling some of the best memories from Salt Lake City.

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**Invite your local students and music educators!**

**Varsity Quartet Contest**

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Registrations open **August 1 - December 1, 2019**

**Varsity Chorus Invitational**

2020 International - Los Angeles, CA  
Applications open **August 1 - December 1, 2019**

**Junior Quartet Contest**

2020 Midwinter - Jacksonville, FL  
Registrations closed

**Junior Chorus Invitational**

2021 Midwinter - New York, NY  
Applications open **Aug 1 - Feb 1, 2020**

**Barbershop.org/NextGen**



# The Harmonizer

**GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/EDITORIAL**

*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.

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# The newest BHS members always have a lot to teach us

TRY CROSSING A CROWDED CONVENTION LOBBY with Dick or Marty, constantly hailed by members for a quick idea, a quick tag, an occasional attaboy. While every Barbershopper has a story to tell the boss, we were curious: what are they learning from listening to the newest members of our Society?



Marty



Dick

**DICK:** The surest way to guarantee that you're always listening is to recognize when you're not listening, then deliberately put yourself back in the listening mode. It's easy to think, "I know where this is going, I know what this guy is saying, let's cut to the chase," and then jump right in with an answer. But you have stomped all over this person and made them feel like their feelings and insights don't matter. It's an amazing transformation in a relationship, when you actually listen

without trying to solve somebody else's problem, and just listen for what you can learn from them.

**MARTY:** When we deeply engage, it's like creating a wonderful four-part chord. It's that multiplier overtone. You can't listen just to listen, because then you become too passive, right? You need to listen to the music of what they're saying, not just the words. We really create harmony when we are totally in that super space of alignment.

**DICK:** The newbies are always full of excitement and wonder and full of questions. They just go out and sing, naturally and with excitement and with fun. Every time they ring a chord, it's like, "Wow, look what we just did!" It feels like the first chord rung anywhere ever. They'll tell us what they like and also what gets in the way of their happiness and fulfillment in barbershop.

**MARTY:** A new member had joined just a few months before International and his chorus was competing. He brought his wife, who had no clue what to expect. "As soon as I went to the chapter, I just had this welcoming experience," he told me. "This can't be real, I wish I would have heard about this decades ago." (That's usually the first thing, right?) What was fascinating was the



## Get in Touch

**Dick Powell, Society President** [leadsingerdpowell@gmail.com](mailto:leadsingerdpowell@gmail.com)

**Marty Monson, CEO/Executive Director** [CEO@barbershop.org](mailto:CEO@barbershop.org)

"EVERY TIME NEW MEMBERS RING A CHORD, IT FEELS LIKE THE FIRST CHORD EVER RUNG. THEY'RE FREE ABOUT WHAT THEY LIKE AND DON'T LIKE AND WHAT GETS IN THE WAY OF THEIR HAPPINESS."

conversation that took place after the convention, when I got a note from his wife: "I have to express my gratitude. I hadn't known that I could get as much out of this as my husband. I went to all the Harmony University educational classes and it wasn't all just barbershop. It was this totally immersive kind of educational experience. Now I can really understand and support his activity." Our barbershop experience goes beyond just the individual to their partner, their family—their impact when they come home. That's our promise, right?

Like many young singers, Marty's niece, Rachel Schoenecker, is wild about barbershop harmony. She is the second woman from the right with her Best Sellers quartet and 2015 champ Instant Classic.



**DICK:** My conversations with young Barbershoppers and even new Board members usually are not about why we can't do something, but rather, here's a way we could do something. Those are the conversations which lead to what I call "aha moments."

**MARTY:** I hope I always remember to say "Thank you for joining, I hope you're having a great time." I always want to make the connection back to their weekly experience. The real conversation has to continue back home.

**DICK:** I visited a chapter and the director introduced me to everybody and asked if they had any questions. Much to my surprise, they didn't have any questions about women in barbershop. That didn't light their radars at all. But they did have concerns about the International contest proposal. That turned out to be very interesting. They were unaware that it was just a proposal that was being shared for people to comment on. They thought we were telling them, "We're doing this, so just follow instructions," because that's the model we've had for 65 years—but



### HFI Board of Trustees

Dick, Sept 8, Nashville

### Society Board Meeting

Dick/Marty, Sept. 8-9, Nashville

### Patapsco Valley Chapter Quartet Contest

Dick in mixed/male groups, Sept. 10

### MAD District Conv.

Dick, Oct. 4-6, Reading, PA

### Midwinter Planning

Marty, NYC, Sept. 16-17

### SAI Convention

Marty, Sept. 17-20, New Orleans

### Dixie District

Marty, Oct. 4-6, Ringgold, GA

### LOL District

Marty, Oct. 24-17, Rochester, MN

### NAfME National Conference

Marty, Nov. 7-8, Orlando FL

### Marty is Learning

"Tonight," arr. J. Giallombardo

### Marty is Listening to

Simple Gifts, Instant Classic

### Marty is Reading

*The Will to Change*, Bell Hooks



## STARTING PITCH

A conversation with our President and CEO

"THE CONTEST PROPOSAL WAS A PROPOSAL ... MEMBERS WERE HAPPY TO BE ASKED FOR THEIR OPINIONS ... OUR COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY IS IMPORTANT IN OUR CREDIBILITY."

that's not the case here. They turned out to be very happy to be asked for their opinions. The big takeaway for me was that our commitment to transparency is important in our credibility as leaders of the organization.

**MARTY:** My niece's quartet are all members—they signed up when their high school was at the Next Generation Barbershop Junior Chorus Festival. I really catch fire from their exuberance, their excitement, their joy. They don't care about anything else but this quartet thing and that they're having fun every single time they get together. Now they're totally immersed. They're teaching tags in their high school. They got to meet **GQ**. They got to hang out with Theo Hicks. They can't wait to get some coaching. There's this total attitude of "can't wait, can't wait, can't wait!" They don't care about anything else, because they figured out what they want to do. They can't wait to get to Jacksonville. It makes me jealous!

**DICK:** We never want to forget what drew us to barbershop in the first place: the elixir that barbershop is for us in our life. These new members have that in abundance, whether they happen to be 50 years old, or 20 years old, or 10 years old. They're looking at barbershop with fresh eyes and fresh hearts and fresh minds. And that is so valuable to us all. ■



## Reader Feedback

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



### List of 70-year members corrected

Many, *many* readers contacted us to let us know that our list of 70+ year members in the July/August issue had the wrong home state or province for one or more members. It turns out that nearly all of that information was incorrect. Due to shifting cells in a spreadsheet used to create the list, most of the men's home states or provinces appeared with the name of the man beneath him. To honor our longest-serving members, the entire corrected list appears below.

#### 70

Roger Brooks (*Mass.*)  
Lane Bushong (*Ohio*)  
Harold Casselman (*Man.*)  
Donald Dobson (*N.C.*)  
Monty Duerksen (*Kan.*)  
Roger Eisenman (*Wis.*)  
John Glass (*N.M.*)  
Jules Kastens (*Ill.*)  
Don Lamont (*Wis.*)  
Clare McCreary (*Fla.*)

#### 71

Gerald Adams (*Tenn.*)  
Charles Brooks (*Calif.*)  
Dwayne De Long (*Calif.*)  
Allan Demorest (*Iowa*)  
Dennis Driscoll (*Texas*)  
Gordon Dubrul (*Mich*)  
J. Carl Hancuff (*Okla.*)  
Lyle Hanson (*Mich.*)  
Donald Lucas (*Mich.*)  
Oscar Palos (*Calif.*)  
Joseph Salz (*Ariz.*)  
Robert Tilton (*N.C.*)

#### 72

Bruce Bonnyman (*Ont.*)  
George Dieffenderfer (*Mich.*)  
Gareth Evans (*B.C.*)  
Donald Juillard (*Ohio*)  
Galen McClain (*Ariz.*)  
George O'Brien (*Ohio*)  
James Pojman (*Ohio*)

#### 73

Elmer Fairbanks (*Calif.*)  
John Haley (*Fla.*)  
Dick Johnson (*Mont.*)  
Jim Laverty (*Calif.*)

#### 74

Robert Marshall (*Mich.*)  
William Winterberg (*N.J.*)

#### 75

Freeman Groat (*Tenn.*)



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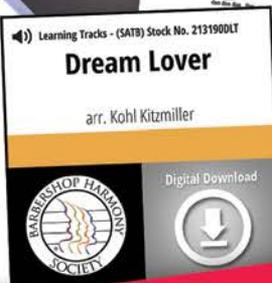


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**You've Got a Friend in Me**  
arr. Dan Wessler  
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**Swing Down Chariot**  
arr. The Vagabonds  
(SATB, SSAA)

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**South Rampart Street Parade**  
arr. David Wright  
(TTBB, SSAA)

**My Little Buttercup**  
arr. Dan Wessler  
(TTBB, SSAA)

**I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow**  
arr. Aaron Dale  
(TTBB)



● CHAMPS ACTING LIKE CHAMPS

# Junior and Senior champs fight hunger

They're generations apart in age, but champions Party of Five and Quin-Tones were both a draw at a South Brunswick, N.J., food pantry

Something old, something new. So what happens when two international champion quartets get together in the same room and they're generations apart?

Why, *they sing*,

of course. That's what happened in June when 2017 International Senior Champion **Party of Five** and 2019 International Junior Champion **Quin-Tones** put on a joint concert for the benefit of the South Brunswick, N.J. food pantry.

"Both quartets are from New Jersey and I thought it would be a great idea to do something for my community," said Jeff Winik, bass of Party of Five. "So I made a phone call to the Quin-Tones and there was no hesitation on their part. We found a mutual date and put the word out to the community. Not one, but two international champs were donating time for the benefit of people in need."

Jeanne Wert, Director of Social Services for the township, arranged to have the concert at the local senior center and was excited to have international celebrities perform as fundraiser for area families and individuals in real need. "We were thrilled to have them. We have about



2017 International Seniors champ Party of Five: Dane Marble (T), Brad Brooks (L), Jeff Winik (Bs), Ross Trube (Br). 2019 International Junior Champ Quin-tones: Jake Lapp (T), Julian "LJ" LeFlore (L), Chris Crawford (Bs), Tommy Hunter (Br)

100 families every month who have a need. During the summer months, donations decline but the need remains." Admission to the event was only \$5 plus a donation of unexpired, non-perishable food. The event was successful, and about 100 township residents attended.

"We even had a radio personality from the local radio station come and emcee the event. And yes, he even 'attempted' to sing a tag with all of us," said Winik.

The best line was heard at the end of the evening during the final cleanup while the two quartets shared tags. "Do they ever stop singing!" someone yelled. Well, we know the answer.

– Jeff Winik, Party of Five

## The Harmonizer

### Be on the lookout!

We're moving up production of *The Harmonizer* beginning January 2020. Expect to receive your copy in the mail at the beginning of the month for each bi-monthly issue, and be on the lookout for the first ever "Yearbook" edition, coming Jan/Feb 2020.

### Music judging parameters change starting fall 2019 contests

The Contest and Judging Committee revised parts of the Music Category rules, although they will not likely affect competitor scores. These changes should (1) better help performers evaluate the suitability of material before reaching the contest stage; and (2) provide Music judges with a more natural way to assess style components that cannot easily be linked to performance elements. Go to [www.barbershop.org/harmonizer](http://www.barbershop.org/harmonizer) to read more details and view a video.



### Jeremy Brann, Blair Brown elected to BHS board of directors

At its July 2019 meeting, the BHS Board of Directors elected two new members-at-large: Jeremy Brann of the **Lexington Kentuckians Chorus** and Blair Brown of the **Pacific Coast Harmony** chorus. Both were selected following extensive interviews and active non-voting participation in Board discussions. When seated in January 2020, Brown will become the first woman to serve on the Society Board of Directors.



● SENTIMENTAL GENTLEMEN QUARTET

# Smack-talking quartet hits hard

There may be college football rivalries as intense as the Southeast Conference... but we can't think of any offhand. So when the **Sentimental Gentlemen** quartet was asked to appear in a comedy short previewing the coming season, they knew they were in for some big fun.

"Are you tired of sending the same old smack-talk texts the morning after?" asks the SEC Shorts website—and the Sentimental Gentlemen quartet from the **Birmingham, Alabama Chapter**, are the answer.

As timely as a Singing Valentine, but with a bit more twisting of the dagger, a Smack Talk-A-Pella Gram delivered by a poker-faced quartet (Keith Lowry, lead; Ed Wharton, bass; John Holladay, bari; Steve Callahan, tenor) is just the thing to beat down your best friend.

  
**WATCH ONLINE**  
Link to video of the "advertisement" at [www.barbershop.org/harmonizer](http://www.barbershop.org/harmonizer).

The producers met with the quartet in July to hear them sing through their repertoire, then came back a few weeks later with parody lyrics to songs such as "Happy Together," "Twelve Days of Christmas," and "Can You Feel The Love Tonight?"

Filmed in the Avondale community of Birmingham, the quartet segment was completed in about two hours. "The hardest part about the filming was that we had to stand there and put this bland look on our faces," Callahan added. "That was really hard, because we practice and practice being totally animated when we sing."

● ASK A CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

# Youth member procedures



**I HEARD WE HAVE SOME NEW PROCESSES FOR NEW YOUTH MEMBERS. WHAT DO YOU NEED FROM ME AND/OR MY CHAPTER?**

First, complete a Youth Membership Form in addition to the new member's application. Even you already added this new member online, send that form to [customerservice@barbershop.org](mailto:customerservice@barbershop.org). It identifies the member's parent or guardian (if under age 18) and which members will supervise at the chapter level until he/she is no longer a youth member. Chapter members who will interact with a youth member are invited to take our free Youth Protection Training—chapter leaders have already received their invitation. All members may take the training, and we especially invite musical leaders such as section leaders to do so. If you need help getting the training, please email us at [customerservice@barbershop.org](mailto:customerservice@barbershop.org), or give us a call!

– Rich Smith, Contact Center Success Manager



● YOU CAN DO THIS, TOO

## MUSIC MEDICS PERFORM WITH PRINCESSES

More and more registered and chapter quartets are singing in their local children's hospitals to help young patients have a positive experience with folks dressed as medical staff. It's a great cause supported even by royalty (of the Disney variety). From the **Miami, Fla. Chapter** are "doctors" Mike Verdesca (Br), Bill Winkleman (Bs), Arne Thermen (L), Ernie de la Fe (T), with Princess Anna, Olaf, and Belle.



**DOWNLOAD** Get the Music Medics Guidebook: <https://shop.barbershop.org/music-medics-guidebook-download>



## NOTEWORTHY

The latest in the world of Barbershop.



### ● NATIONAL ANTHEM GIGS

# Olympics begin with a B-Flat

So maybe it got one or two billion fewer viewers than some events that carry the Olympics moniker, but the Senior Olympics is a large, prestigious event that certainly knows how to pick music for its opening ceremony. Before a packed house in the famous "Pit" basketball arena in Albuquerque, **ABC Quartet** launched festivities with the BHS arrangement of "The Star-Spangled Banner" that never fails to thrill.

Made up of members of the **New Mexichords** and **Duke City Sound** choruses, ABC's audience represented all states and several other countries. Each state's delegation marched into the arena, preceded by their state flag which were then massed on stage to tumultuous applause from the stands.

Pictured are Hal Ratcliff (T), Richard Grady (Bs), Joe Vertrees (L), and Ron Randall (Br).

## LOOK FOR THE MEMBER INCLUSION SURVEY

Member input and participation is crucial to achieving the Society's strategic vision of Everyone in Harmony. Look in your inbox for the Member Inclusion Survey, which will run from Oct. 1 through Oct. 31, 2019. Answers will help us learn more about you, your self-identity, and your beliefs about inclusion. BHS partner Culture Shift Team will help us evaluate results, with findings to be shared in early 2020.

Through the end of 2019, we are also conducting focus groups led by BHS Inclusion Operations Project Team volunteers. This work will capture stories and narrative to accompany the data. If you wish to participate in an Inclusion focus group, contact [inclusion@barbershop.org](mailto:inclusion@barbershop.org).

## WHO BLESSES WHOM?

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas last year, my chorus (**Nor'easters** of Brunswick, Maine) and my quartet (**Porch Time**) combined for 23 gigs in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

My favorite visit was to a dementia unit, where a number of the folks seemed to awaken to the music. A geriatric RN told me that dementia does not affect parts of the brain that store and relate to music. Stimulating those areas stimulates the whole brain! This is why I sing barbershop (and also Gospel). I sing to bless people, and it does!

— Lew Flagg



### ● HONOR FLIGHTS

## BARBERSHOPPERS CAN ALSO BE THE HONOREES

We've covered a lot of chapters that greet Honor Flight Veterans in song as they depart to or arrive from Washington, D.C. to be honored for their service. Sometimes Barbershoppers are privileged to be on the receiving end of the honors. Such was the case for three active singers sent by the Renaissance, N.J. Veterans Club.

John Huetz, John Macchiaroli, and Alvin Furer (L-R in front of the WWII Memorial) were among those honored locally before their procession of buses received a police escort on the way out of New Jersey. They spent the day in Washington, D.C. and received further honors while they visited U.S. war memorials. The New Jersey entourage of about 300 received an even bigger reception upon their return, including songs by a Sweet Adelines group and school chorales.

"The entire event was memorable for us beyond words," said Huetz. "It became apparent to us veterans, a sense of our time served was not in vain."

There were 21,189 veterans honored in 2018 alone. For more information visit [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).



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● HARMONY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

# Audio recordings support NextGen

Barely out of the Next Generation Barbershop program himself, this young recording engineer is donating his professional services for a great cause

**J**oshua Arizmendi is a huge barbershop singing enthusiast and participant. He graduated in 2015 with a BA in Audio Arts & Acoustics from Columbia College Chicago, focusing on studio recording and sound for motion picture. After graduation, he started doing more live stereo recordings of orchestras, choirs, and barbershop quartets hoping to achieve the most “realistic” recordings possible.

In 2017, the Cardinal District hired Joshua to be their live sound engineer for District and Preliminary contests. His passion for the benefits of singing lead him to use his talents to produce audio recordings of barbershop quartets and make them available to purchase where proceeds are donated directly to Harmony Foundation!

Purchase great song files and support Harmony Foundation at the same time. Songs by **Rooftop Records Quartet**, **After Hours**, **Throwback**, **Signature** quartet, **Double Date** and more can be found at [recordingwithjosh.com](http://recordingwithjosh.com).

## Raising funds for the Next Generation

Joshua’s project mission is to raise scholarship money for the Next Generation Barbershop Quartet Program:

“The future of Barbershop is in our hands. Some perform in *The Music Man*, some are educators that are on



Josh recording his home chapter, The New Tradition Chorus.

the front lines, and some build lineage within the family. “Kicking Back To Barbershop” is trying to make sure that those who are interested in it, or might be trying it out for the first time, experience what it is like to have thousands of people cheering for you. That feeling lasts longer than the six minutes on stage, it can last a lifetime.”

“Each of the quartets on this album took time from the biggest competition of the year because they believe in the future of barbershop. They all believe that everyone should be singing in harmony. I borrowed each quartet for about 30 minutes to sing a song in front of two microphones in a hotel room at Salt Lake City. This is what we put together.”

## Membership renewal grace period is now 30 days

To align with association best practices and to better serve chapter needs, effective Dec. 1 the grace period length for renewing members, associates, and quartets will now be 30 days post-expiration. These changes will not impact the 5% early/on-time discount or the 5% discount for renewing online. There is still no late fee for renewing after your expiration date as long as it is within the grace period.

This change will reduce time and financial burdens on chapters, as well as ensure that members experience no lapse in benefits. This change means that any member or group that is more than 30 days past its expiration will move from “lapsed” status to “expired” status. They will need to reinstate in order to reactivate member or quartet benefits. Reinstatement rules remain the same, including a \$10 reinstatement fee.



## Automatic qualifying score for 2020 changed to 78%

Due to venue availability, the 2020 International Quartet Contest will have two rather than three quarterfinal sessions. The qualifying requirements have thus been changed for 2020. The automatic qualifying target score has been changed from 76% to 78%, or the highest scoring quartet in each District’s International preliminary contest. If needed, additional quartets (scoring less than 78%) will also be invited in May 2020 to reach the minimum target of 40 BHS quartets and 50 total quartets. ■



# What's Happening



## 2020 International June 28-July 5 Los Angeles

New schedule, new activities!  
Early Bird Registration is open  
• [www.barbershop.org/la2020](http://www.barbershop.org/la2020)

## Society Board Meeting Sept. 7-9 Nashville

## Sweet Adelines Convention Sept. 16-21 New Orleans

## District Fall Conventions Sept. 27-28

Illinois (ILL) *Bloomington, IL*  
Rocky Mountain (RMD) *Cheyenne, WY*  
Seneca Land (SLD) *Rochester, NY*

## Oct. 4-5

Cardinal (CAR) *Columbus, IN*  
Dixie (DIX) *Ringgold, GA*  
Mid-Atlantic (MAD) *Reading, PA*

## Oct. 11-12

Central States (CSD) *Lawrence, KS*  
Far Western (FWD) *Sacramento, CA*  
Southwestern (SWD) *Grapevine, TX*

## Oct. 18-19

Evergreen (EVG) *Spokane, WA*  
Johnny Appleseed (JAD) *Dayton, OH*  
Ontario (ONT) *Brantford, ON*  
Pioneer (PIO) *Muskegon, MI*

## Oct. 25-26

Land O' Lakes (LOL) *Rochester, MN*  
Northeastern (NED) *Westbrook, ME*  
Sunshine (SUN) *Orlando, FL*

## Nov. 8-9

Carolinas (NSC) *Charleston, SC*

## IABS Convention Oct. 3-6 Killarney, Ireland

## World Singing Day Oct. 19

## LABBS Convention Oct. 25-27 Llandudno

## Harmony, Inc. Convention Nov. 6-10 Sandusky, OH



## ▲2020 Midwinter Jacksonville Jan. 7-12



## ▲Harmony University 2020 Belmont U, Nashville July 26 - Aug. 2

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coaches and instructors  
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## ▼2021 International Cleveland 2022 International Charlotte 2023 International Louisville



## We are proud.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer barbershoppers are proud to serve as chorus singers, quartetters, administrators, coaches, teachers and judges throughout the Barbershop Harmony Society.

When the LDS Church refused to allow an LGBTQ-themed message of inclusion and goodwill to be displayed in their auditorium at this year's international convention, we were proud to be part of a Society that supported and fought for us.

Thank you for making us proud.

There are still many LGBTQ barbershoppers who cannot fully be themselves with their fellow singers. We ask you for your continued support of the Everyone In Harmony initiative and our ongoing efforts to achieve full inclusion and acceptance.

To LGBTQ barbershoppers looking for a supportive community, email us at [LGBTQ.barbershop@gmail.com](mailto:LGBTQ.barbershop@gmail.com).

In harmony,  
*The Rainbow Group*



## TIP SHEET

James Pennington, Chapter Success Manager  
✉ [jpennington@barbershop.org](mailto:jpennington@barbershop.org)

# Use the right words when you have the floor

While the musical skills of the director can have a lot of influence on who walks in the door, the words used by all chapters leaders heavily influence who decides to stay.

**T**hink about your chorus rehearsal. A director likely spends a lot of time speaking to the whole group. So do assistant directors, section leaders, the chapter president, maybe a chorus manager, show chairman, treasurer, membership vice president—you get it. A lot of voices regularly have the undivided attention of your membership.

I believe one of the most important things your chapter leaders can do to improve enthusiasm, performance, and retention in your organization is to ensure those *leaders are using the right words when they're given the floor.*

Think critically about the words you use. Positive and inclusive language shows people you care about them and believe in them. The opposite is language that's negative and exclusive, and in a volunteer organization, that's a quick way to show people that you think they aren't good enough and don't belong.

It sounds basic, but it's easy to take for granted. Say your chorus is rehearsing a new song. A few chords in the introduction don't quite line up, and the director stops. The director can say, "Baritones, you're flat. I think you can do better." An entire section is on the defensive, and the other sections are angry at the ones making them run another lap. The baritones have been excluded, and the director has put themselves above the group by saying, "I think you can do better."

YOU STAND TO BENEFIT IF YOU ACTIVELY TRY TO BE INCLUSIVE WHEN YOU SPEAK TO OTHERS. IT SHOWS YOU CARE AND BUILDS RAPPORT AND BUY-IN AMONG THOSE LISTENING.

The director can also say, "Good work. Let's sing that again and give ourselves another chance to tune some of those chords better." The director has given the same instruction but kept the outlook positive without belittling or elevating anyone. Everyone (including the director) now has an opportunity to earn and enjoy the success that will follow. And when that success comes, celebrate before you move on!

The morning I was writing this, a friend happened to send me the Style Guide published by the National Center on Disability and Journalism at Arizona State University. It's a guide for journalists and other communicators (e.g., chapter leaders) to help choose the right words when referring to people with disabilities.

The guide begins: "As language, perceptions and social mores change at a seemingly faster and faster rate,

it is becoming increasingly difficult for journalists and other communicators to figure out how to refer to people with disabilities." The guide has a section of general tips as well as an in-depth guide of over 200 terms, their background and if/how one should use them.

As I read the guide (found at [ncdj.org/style-guide](http://ncdj.org/style-guide)), I thought about the words I choose when I'm in front of people—both about people with disabilities and in a general sense. Even if none of those 200 terms were to come up in any meeting or rehearsal, you and those around you only stand to benefit if you are actively trying to be inclusive when you speak to others. It shows you care and builds rapport and buy-in among those listening. All of that goes without saying: It's also simply the right way to treat people.

Amy Silverman of the National Center on Disability and Journalism's board wrote the foreword to the guide and summed up the sentiment perfectly. I encourage you to think of her words the next time you step in front of your chapter, no matter the capacity:

"Do your best." ■



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# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY





## "Newest" quartet: Signature

No champ since **Acoustix** (1990) has won within a year after a part change. Paul Saca was new at tenor and Will Rodriguez switched to baritone, but something else was new about Signature. It was more than the five new songs that showed a different, often playful side of the quartet. Why were the men so much more relaxed and authentically dialed in this year? "This week, we're singing for our moms," a very relaxed Will told me Friday night.

After the quartet's fifth contest, and its third with the added pressure of being the top qualifier, this iteration of Signature had the aura of a returning champion. Lead Daniel Cochran was in total command, and bass Dan Walz and the others moved like they had already won our love. (They had, years ago.) Considering their proclaimed audience of four, the relaxed attitude made sense. It was great to see the audience return some of that unconditional love as the eventual champs brought us to our feet six straight times.



Commentary and photos by Lorin May, Editor of *The Harmonizer*, except where noted. [harmonizer@barbershop.org](mailto:harmonizer@barbershop.org)

## Redefining "Best Ever": Westminster Chorus

It's hard to imagine a more heart-pounding performance this side of Broadway, and maybe not even then. In a California send-off ahead of Director Justin Miller's move to Oregon, past Westminster members from all over signed on to swell the ranks to 100. Sound and visuals never before seen, paired with Aaron Dale's show-stopper arrangement of "From Now On"/"Come Alive" from *The Greatest Showman*, led to what may be a record-setting ovation as well.

The set, including Justin's own ballad arrangement, set a scoring record that may stand for many years. (Justin directed Westminster to the previous scoring record in 2010 as well.) He'll direct Westminster's swan song in Los Angeles next year, and we can't wait to see what's next!



# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY



## Well played: Vocal Revolution

We've never been more moved by a set that was inspired by a proposed subway fare increase. Had there been any tea in sight (or a box of Boston subway tokens, at any rate), we'd have followed these New Englanders all the way to the Great Salt Lake to toss it in.

**Finally cracked the code: Saltaires** International mainstays since the 1990s, they've gotten some 11ths but last cracked the Top 10 in 2001. Nearly twice the size they were five years ago, they took ninth while serving as host chapter.



## Best chorus debut: Sounds of Tennessee

Man for man, some of the best singing of the contest, and all but four men were rookies to this stage. That's almost—almost—no surprise, considering they are under the tutelage of directors Brandon and Chad Guyton of **Four Voices** (2002 champ).



## Most vivid performance: Ambassadors of Harmony

The lights came on and we immediately thought to adjust our monitors. It took a few moments to remember that we were watching a live performance. Eliciting gasps before their first note, the Ambassadors of Harmony kept pouring it on in an amazing literal tribute to black and white movies. But their "True Colors" ballad transcended it. In a musical and emotional masterpiece, brilliant singing was upstaged by even more brilliant interactions between a street urchin and a Charlie Chaplin character. Each act of kindness revealed a tiny, piercing flash of color, and the entire set left an indelible mark in contest history.

## The big switcheroo of 2019

Both **The Newfangled Four** and **The Electric Barbercats** got a lot of laughs for their songs about the part and quartet switching among top groups. Indeed, half of this year's Top 10 quartets had a member who could look out among the other Finalists and point to someone with whom he'd won a medal in prior years. That sounds more chaotic than it is, considering six of the top 10 have never changed members. In fact, all the inter-quartet movement among Finalists was due to moves by **Signature** tenor Paul Saca (former tenor of **Throwback** and of **Category 4's** precursor **A Mighty Wind**) and **Midtown** tenor Nick Gordon (former baritone of **Quorum**).





### Most popular quartet: The Newfangled Four

“Best” quartet is subjective, but the popularity question isn’t up for debate. In Salt Lake, competitors brandished bananas, dug through magic boxes, imitated NF4 shtick, and got cheers when they directly referenced the quartet. NF4 is also king of online views by a mile. So when tenor Joey Buss read aloud some uncharitable online comments about their prior set, it was a good reminder that (A) they have day jobs and (B) maybe there are folks out there who could just chill and enjoy the show. The quartet possibly felt Rick-Rolled by another sixth-place finish, but they won Audience Favorite years ago.

**Where are the portraits of all the International Competitors?**  
 The 2019 BHS Yearbook will be mailed in January 2020. All Quartet and Chorus competitors from the International and Midwinter contests will appear in one convenient compilation, with plenty of additional content. Get links to Salt Lake 2019 videos, media coverage, portraits and candid photos for purchase, and other content at [www.barbershop.org/harmonizer](http://www.barbershop.org/harmonizer). Purchase 2019 competitor photos and more at [www.barbershop.org/photos](http://www.barbershop.org/photos).



### Most (in)effective lobbying: DoubleDouble

While 2019 Seniors Champion DoubleDouble entertained at the end of the Semifinals, I ducked behind a curtain to take a phone call. Seconds before reaching a backstage doorway, I heard this: “We’d like to dedicate this last song to Lorin May, Editor of *The Harmonizer* ...” I paused, delayed the call, then turned around and began to unpack my photo gear. From the wings, I watched Double-Double plead in song for what the open division champs always get: Their faces on the cover of *The Harmonizer*.

An unannounced response to their unannounced call-out seemed appropriate. As DoubleDouble took its bows, I walked onstage—visible to the audience but not to the quartet—and began to take pictures. The longer the unaware champs basked in the unexpectedly generous laughter and applause—almost 40 seconds according to my photo timestamps—the louder the audience hooted. Eventually, I moved into the quartet’s field of view to let them in on the joke and to capture the tiny little shot that appears at the bottom corner of this issue’s cover. It was the least I could do to grant their wish. (Literally: *The least*.)



### Dance-off winners: Category 4

The men in Category 4 have been big names for so long individually that some may forget that this team is putting up some 90%+ category scores and keeps getting better. And while we appreciated seeing bass Kirk Young and lead Tim Brooks (middle two) hoof it for laughs on “We the People,” it’s too bad we didn’t see more moves from tenor Tim Reynolds (right) or especially more from bari Clay Hine (left), the undisputed Fred Astaire of dorky dancing.



# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY



## Best collection of MVPs: second half of Next Generation Contest

After an already thrilling first half, **Wildfire** came out at slot 11 with a performance that was so rich, mature, and next-level that there was no doubt who would win. At least not until quartet 13, when fellow Dixie District quartet **Backline** delivered a fantastic performance that was next-level, rich, and mature. (What are they feeding basses in the Dixie District? Testosterone burgers?) Then came quartets 16-18, when **The Last Drop**, **City Limits**, and **Eclectones** hit the stage with performances that were maturely and next-levelishly rich. (Adjectives: The struggle is real.) Swap **City Limits** and **The Last Drop**, and that's also the order in which the five quartets medaled.

Other groups showed us humor that was richly next-level-ish but not "mature" mature. (Okay, we'll stop.) Special props to **On Point's** train parody, **Business Casual's** timing on "Redhead," **The Tune Squad's** Spongebob schtick, and **Midnight Brisket's** song about whatever that thing was on their shirts. Saying the Next Generation groups represent The Society's future is like saying Patrick Mahomes is a promising quarterback—they're already MVPs.

## Next Generation Varsity

1. Wildfire (DIX)	80.7%
2. Backline (DIX)	79.5%
3. City Limits (CSD)	78.6%
4. Eclectones (FWD)	77.7%
5. The Last Drop (ONT)	77.1%
6. On The Rocks (SWD)	75.7%
7. Stand-By (CSD)	75.5%
8. On Point (SUN)	74.1%
9. Gents and Tonic (RMD)	73.0%
10. Northern Quarter (BABS)	72.8%
11. One Eleven (SLD)	71.9%
12. Midnight Brisket (NED)	71.3%
13. Full Send (SLD)	71.2%
14. The Tune Squad (JAD)	70.8%
15. Kansas City Barber Q (CSD)	69.7%
16. Wing it (JAD)	69.6%
17. Discord (SWD)	69.3%
18. Sunday's Best (BHA)	69.1%
19. The PlayHouse Squares (JAD)	68.6%
20. Business Casual (FWD)	68.2%

## What's in a name?

**The Last Drop** quartet was named after a bar in Edinburgh, Scotland's Grassmarket square, an ancient site for public executions. Just a little gallows humor from the bottom three parts for **Yonge Guns** quartet (2019 Semifinalist), who substituted Matt Dolgin to win bronze in each man's last year of Next Generation eligibility. Only 30 more years until each can enter the Seniors contest, where morbid quartet names are the rule.





**Unexpected tears: The Marcsmen**  
 What does a musical form known for its juicy chords and overtones have to offer people who hear few or no tones at all? More than we thought. The Marcsmen decided to give a gift to the deaf community before they'd even decided on a song. What we got was a new way of interpreting "You Don't Know Me," with coaching from a local San Antonio community college teacher who specializes in reaching the deaf community via choirs. The performance looked as great as it sounded.



**Best transformation: Northwest Sound**

The chorus went to Harmony U instead of contest in 2018, and the coaching from Dave McEachern, Cindy Hansen Ellis, Tony Colosimo, and Steve Armstrong was transformative. For 2019, Director Ken Potter penned a moving arrangement of "Remember Me" (from Pixar's *Coco*), including a second verse sung in Spanish by the leads while the harmony parts sang a translation in English. Each member literally wrote his own story behind this song about music that connects us to those who have passed on. Chorus member Matt Astle's dazzling arrangement of "How Far I'll Go" from *Moana* had custom lyrics from chorus members Ira Allen and Dan Keating. It reflected a message our disparate chorus of varied ages feels deeply: When we embrace people for who they are, there are no limits to How Far We'll Go.

— Dan Keating



**Warped geniuses: Music City Chorus**  
 What, the costumes for last year's Star Wars set didn't break the bank? Noah's Ark, another themed comedy set from the fevered imaginations of Eddie Holt and Rich Smith (not shown) had many of the week's best laughs, not to mention more cameo appearances than some choruses had singers.

Chorus	
1. The Westminster Chorus (FWD)	97.9%
2. Ambassadors of Harmony (CSD)	96.5%
3. Zero8 (SNOBS)	95.6%
4. Central Standard (CSD)	93.0%
5. Toronto Northern Lights (ONT)	92.6%
6. Sound of The Rockies (RMD)	92.5%
7. Music City Chorus (DIX)	92.1%
8. Heralds of Harmony (SUN)	86.3%
9. Saltaires (RMD)	85.7%
10. Southern Gateway Chorus (JAD)	85.5%
11. The Marcsmen (SWD)	85.2%
12. Northwest Sound (EVG)	85.1%
13. The Men of Independence (JAD)	84.2%
14. Voices of Gotham (MAD)	84.2%
15. Singing Buckeyes (JAD)	83.6%
16. Space City Sound (SWD)	83.1%
17. Sound of Tennessee (DIX)	82.6%
18. Circle City Sound (CAR)	82.6%
19. Voices of California (FWD)	82.3%
20. Harmonic Collective (SLD)	82.2%
21. SmorgasChorus (CSD)	81.2%
22. Midwest Vocal Express (LOL)	80.7%
23. New Tradition (ILL)	80.3%
24. Vocal Revolution (NED)	80.0%
25. Palmetto Vocal Project (NSC)	79.4%
26. Pathfinder Chorus (CSD)	79.3%
27. Sound of Illinois (ILL)	77.7%

# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY



**Storm Front (2010)**



**Father and Daughter  
Clay and Melody Hine**

Rip our hearts out: The AIC Show “Once again, the kid was the best part of the act.” **Storm Front** (2010 champ) lead Jim Clark said that after his quartet’s “Bullfrog” set with 5-year-old Cole Guyton. It might as well have been said about the AIC Show finale, when the International Champs were joined onstage by their singing children and grandchildren, many of whom have also made names for themselves in the barbershop world. It would take an emotional hook that big to upstage the singing brilliance of the preceding two hours.

Some of the show’s best moments came from 1994 champ **Joker’s Wild**, a sentiment not at all influenced by the fact that this writer’s quartet joined the BHS in 1994 and immediately began ripping off *Joker’s Wild* repertoire. With David Zimmerman of **Instant Classic** substituting at tenor, *Joker’s Wild* dove right in with its toughest (and admittedly best) repertoire, nailing “South Rampart Street Parade” and “Rhythm of Life” as if 25 years hadn’t passed.

**Best Score: Jim Henry**  
The bass of **Crossroads** (2009 champ), backed by his solemn-faced quartet, got serious and even a little uncomfortable as he discussed the ravages of years, of voices that couldn’t do what they used to, and the difficulty of coming to the realization that one’s time had come. Then after 90 seconds of letting us dread what he was about to say, Jim dropped the bomb: That *Crossroads* had reached the conclusion that it was time for 2006 champ **Vocal Spectrum** to retire. It was the biggest laugh line of a night filled with them, in no small part because *Vocal Spectrum*’s superhuman rendition of “Bye-Bye Blues” made it easier to wonder why they still haven’t gone pro. (A lot of other champs left us wondering that, too, particularly **Instant Classic**.)



**Joker’s Wild (1994)**



**Vocal Spectrum (2006)**



**Crossroads (2009)**



**Instant Classic (2015)**



**Forefront (2016)**



**After Hours (2018)**



## Best change you didn’t notice: Registration

What’s the most delightful way to start out each convention? “Standing in line to get a badge!” said literally no one. New tech helped volunteers with iPads and thermal printers make the process so brief in Salt Lake that, for many, registration barely registered. That sentence technically made sense. The tech made sense, too. Kudos!



**He’s got rhythm: Will Downey**  
One of the brightest sounding basses since Greg Hollander (2001 champ **Michigan Jake**) is Will Downey of **Gimme Four**. Will’s quartet also happens to be one of the best rhythm quartets since, well, *Michigan Jake*. That can’t be a coincidence, can it?





### Sickest debut: Dan Rubín

Dan (left) was **Throwback's** original bari from 2012-2013, so his silver-medal tenor debut was more of a homecoming. Few knew that the quartet actually abandoned two new charts that exceeded Dan's game-day tenor range. (If that's what "under the weather" sounds like, can we catch that bug?) Even more than last year, "Run Away With Me" had fans ready to do just that. Dan will probably be at full health next year, but expect the quartet to be even more "sick."

### Biggest overhaul: Studio 4

2018 Quartet Finalist **Studio 4** added a new tenor and bass (Eddie Mejia and Dan VanWetering) and in a 13th place finish in Salt Lake kept



the quartet's "radio hits" identity with rock-a-billy and power ballads from the '80s and '90s.

It's asking a lot to take on two new guys and return to the Finals, although **Throwback** did it in 2014. While **Throwback** is back to having three out of four original members, only lead Sean Devine is the same voice part as their 2012 debut configuration. The six current or former **Throwback** members account for one lead, two basses, two baritones, and three tenors!

### Quartet

1. Signature (SUN)	93.8%
2. Throwback (SUN)	93.0%
3. Quorum (JAD)	92.3%
4. Rooftop Records (SUN)	90.7%
5. Midtown (MAD)	90.1%
6. The Newfangled Four (FWD)	89.7%
7. Category 4 (DIX)	89.7%
8. Pratt Street Power (MAD)	87.3%
9. 'Round Midnight (MAD)	86.4%
10. The Core (JAD)	86.3%
11. Clutch (SWD)	85.8%
12. Artistic License (FWD)	85.8%
13. Studio 4 (MAD)	85.4%
14. Gimme Four (MAD)	85.1%
15. Trocadero (SNOBS)	84.7%
16. Rawsundah (SNOBS)	84.0%
17. Yonge Guns (ONT)	84.0%
18. Frontier (PIO)	83.9%
19. Momma's Boys (EVG)	83.7%
20. Maelstrom (RMD)	83.3%
21. Legacy Road (SWD)	82.2%
22. Finest Hour (BABS)	82.2%
23. Western Addition (FWD)	81.7%
24. Suit Up! (FWD)	81.4%
25. Prime Time (MAD)	81.3%
26. Entourage (DIX)	81.1%
27. Fleet Street (CSD)	80.8%
28. BoomTown (CSD)	80.6%
29. Playback (ONT)	80.6%
30. Harmonic Thunder (JAD)	80.5%
31. Mic'd Up (JAD)	80.1%
32. Interlude (ILL)	80.0%
33. The Con Men (JAD)	80.0%
34. Showpiece (SWD)	79.8%
35. High Life (EVG)	79.3%
36. Trademark (JAD)	79.2%
37. Playlist (CAR)	79.1%
38. Spitfire (CAR)	78.9%
39. Capitol Ring (FWD)	78.6%
40. Daily Special (NED)	78.5%
41. IFK Barbershop (SNOBS)	78.3%
42. Electric Barbecats (BHA)	78.3%
43. Impact (EVG)	78.3%
44. Average Joes (RMD)	78.1%
45. Rocky Toppers (DIX)	77.8%
46. Harmonium (CSD)	77.8%
47. Supertonic (ONT)	77.7%
48. Let's Sing! (NSC)	77.6%
49. Drive (NED)	77.5%
50. Hemidemisemiquaver 4 (PIO)	77.5%
51. Mojo (JAD)	77.2%
52. Forecast (MAD)	77.2%
53. Greenlight (NED)	77.0%
54. Tempest (SWD)	76.8%
55. Hi-Mark (LOL)	76.1%
56. All In (SLD)	75.7%
57. Seventh Degree (CAR)	75.4%

Get detailed scoresheets of 2019 and past contests at [www.barbershop.org/scores](http://www.barbershop.org/scores)

# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY



Attendees enjoyed taking a quick moment to add their mark on the community art project stationed outside in the exhibit area.



Nearly 40 people gathered to talk about diversity, inclusion, and equity at the Inclusion Salon. Robert Wilson from Culture Shift Team joined BHS staff and Inclusion Operations Project Team as attendees participated in a thoughtful and engaging reflective dialogue session to help BHS develop and inform our next steps toward Everyone in Harmony.



The Ladies quartet performed at Sofie's Place at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, a music therapy facility for young people suffering from pain, chronic illness, and serious injury. Many quartets, including Signature (2019 champ), After Hours (2018 champ) and Studio 4 (2019 Semifinalist) participated in community outreach and media events throughout the week.



## Profound, silence: Heralds of Harmony

In lesser hands it may not have been so effective, but a set inspired by the memory of Shane Scott's recently departed wife, Kristi, was enough to draw real tears—from the risers and from the seats. And how did Heralds director Tony DeRosa pull off not just that set but the entire week without uttering a sound? On 100% vocal rest due to surgery, Tony directed the Heralds, co-directed the AIC Chorus, and coached all week.



## Second-best stage: Marketplace

There was more than great products, music to sing, and high-end recordings. There were high-end live singers, too!



## Most improved: The Core

For a five-time Semifinalist, that's saying a lot. Deep preparation for their moving anthem to Barber-shoppers, "Mr. Tanner," transformed their view on contests: Not as a reason for their music but a place to connect with audiences. "Our focus was on how the music we wanted to share would have an impact on the audience," said bass Steve Denino. "That drove different choices in how we approached storytelling." It also took The Core to its first Finals appearance. Abandoning contest placement in favor of audience connection—that transformed 2018 champ After Hours, too. Hmmm ...





2016 champ **Forefront**



**Boise Chordsmen**



**Clutch**

**Best Mic Tests:**

**The champs, Boise Chordsmen, Clutch**

Four thoughts, after hearing the Quarterfinals mic tests by champs **After Hours** (2018), **Forefront** (2016), and **Instant Classic** (2015): (1) "Wow!" (2) "Those poor quartets that have to follow this." (3) "WOW!!!" (4) "Could some AIC quartets start testing the mics in the middle of the rounds, too?"

Say it out loud: "Boise." If it sounded like "Boy-Zee," get on YouTube and let the **Boise Chordsmen** correct their one peeve about their lovely

city. If you said "Boy-See," watch the set anyway—that's entertainment! How were they not singing for score?

**Clutch's** Saturday night mic test pulled a fast one on Livestream viewers: Singing didn't always sync with the visuals, audio cut in and out intermittently, and a "frozen" connection eventually skipped straight to the end of a tag. Kudos to Anthony and Stephanie Bartholomew and to Shane Scott, who helped Clutch create the set onsite. We haven't laughed that hard since ... last year's Finals mic test with Clutch.

**Best anniversary: Voices of Gotham**

Ten years after forming, Voices of Gotham had founding director Larry Bomback returning to the helm—if you could spot him. There were no onstage cues to distract from the ambitious, high octane *Newsies* uptunes. The onstage reveal of the chapter motto, "Live in the Seventh," was a message that Gotham is back better than ever.



**Best Harmony University cameo: Chuck Olsen, The Aliens**

Among dozens of great Harmony University sessions, Shane Scott's "Make 'Em Laugh" class is always a highlight. It ends with video of the funniest barbershop performance of all time: When The Aliens comedy quartet lip-synced a **Boston Common** song in a EVG district contest—record skips, slowdowns and all. Aliens member Chuck Olsen was in attendance this time. "We got disqualified for lip syncing, but we didn't care," Chuck said. "It was by far my favorite barbershop memory of all time." Link to the performance at [www.barbershop.org/harmonizer](http://www.barbershop.org/harmonizer).



**Group you have to hear live: Central Standard**

Their singing is a live version of the first time you ever put on high-end headphones and didn't realize what your ears had been missing. An edge-of-your-seat clinic on how the quietest parts of a song can be the most powerful—musically and sonically. The upper limit for pristine, high-definition sound. Director Rob Mance is putting that Ph.D. to great use.

**Showing what matters:**

**Mark Dickhaus, Brian Sagrestano**

Not in spite of but because of their respective cancer diagnoses, these two chose to spend the week singing with their brothers. Mark passed away eight days after appearing on the front row of the **Music City Chorus Noah's Ark** set. Brian was grateful and a little surprised to be singing lead with **All-In** quartet (SLD) for a second straight year following his diagnosis with a rare form of cancer.

New **Sound of the Rockies** member Jason Jodlich died unexpectedly from pneumonia and sepsis on June 8. To honor Jason, the Rockies' rookie class of 2019 named itself "Modlich's 13" or "m13." The m13 did their chorus proud in arguably the Rockies' best performance ever.

# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY



Signing up for Sing with the Champs



## Last-minute champs: Harmony Platoon

These eight barely knew the names of their fellow champion quartet mates, but showed up knowing their four-song repertoire cold. With a little prep after a random draw, each singer left Salt Lake City with just a little bigger smile than the average convention-goer. (Catch the next convention Platoon! [harmonyplatoon.org](http://harmonyplatoon.org))



## Moving up the ladder: Rooftop Records

What's the difference between lead Dustin Guyton (left) and most professional male soloists? Two things: Most pros only wish they had a backing trio like Dustin has, and few singers at his level know squat about running a roofing company. The quartet name is a reference to the Tulsa Club rooftop where 26 men held the first BHS chapter meeting in 1938, *not* to Dustin's profession. So we'll decline to joke about Rooftop Records' week in the sun or new heights or some other corny reference. Just know that their huge leap in scoring, their exciting performances, and original repertoire will have them flying up the competitive ladder should they continue to hammer home every shingle song like they did in Salt Lake City. (Forgive us.)



## Most auspicious debut: Midtown

Midtown is one of only five quartets since 2000 to win a medal in its debut. The other four: **Max Q** (2007 champ), **Crossroads** (2009 champ), **Old School** (2011 champ), and **Main Street** (2017 champ). Unlike Midtown, members of the other four quartets each debuted with enough past international medals to stuff a full-size carry-on bag. But after hearing superstar lead Anthony Fortino (second from left) nail every ridiculous note while backed by that electric ensemble sound, does anybody doubt that Midtown could go the distance? The above four groups required four, two, four, and seven tries respectively before winning. If that's bad news to Midtown, it's great news to their huge new fanbase!

## Most momentum: Quorum

Easily the most exciting quartet of the Finals round, Quorum finished with some of the best tags of all time. (Nathan Johnston—far right—is key, with the most powerful bari posts since Tony De Rosa.) But the quartet is killing it in the quiet parts as well: Their "As Long As You're Mine" rendered anyone who has a daughter into a blubbling wreck. Quorum's applause meter was stuck on "champion" for the final two rounds. Look out, Los Angeles!





**Best argument against amplification: Salt Lake Tabernacle**

Experts say the Tabernacle acoustics are nearly perfect, but wow, are they sensitive when paired with a sound system. The aural experience varied widely depending on where you sat, the song type, the relative humidity, whether the performers buttoned their jackets, and which direction the people behind you parted their hair. Then **Trocaadero**, **IFK Barbershop**, and **Rawsundah** opened the third Quarterfinals session with the Swedish National Anthem. As they stood away from the mics and let the Tabernacle acoustics do the work, the heavenly sounds had some wondering why the Quarterfinals hadn't been mic free.



**Lightning rod performance: "Time Warp"**

Melody Hine's arrangement was tight and ringy, and **Frontier** nailed the wild, rangy anthem from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. No matter: It was a *barbershop performance of "Time Warp."* That fact alone had to get tongues wagging, and it did. However, the Frontier performance everyone should be talking about was the much calmer "I Thought She Knew," which showed just how high the ceiling for this Semifinalist might be.



**Unsung performers: HU Instructors**

Many will tell you that some of the most inspiring performances in Salt Lake City came not on the stages but at Harmony University classes. Top-level instructors provided 80 hours of musical and leadership instruction, although you would have needed Hermione Granger's time-turner to catch every concurrent class throughout the week. Scheduling challenges for the 2020 Convention have put most Harmony U-related activities on a glorious all-day Tuesday marathon. Be sure you're in LA by then for your HU fix! (Tag Zones and Everyone in Harmony Chorus rehearsals can help ease some of your HU Class withdrawal.)



**Clone her already: Sky Harris**

The director of Syracuse, N.Y.-based **Harmonic Collective** started by introducing barbershop into her school music program, making the boys (later co-ed) Next Generation Chorus competitors, which led to a bona fide BHS chapter open to all ages, which quickly became the Seneca Land District's best chorus. Sky also had current and past students in Next Generation quartets, sings in a mixed quartet, and is a barbershop evangelist extraordinaire.

# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY



## Most ironic funnyman: Jackson Niebruegge

International's longest comedic home run streak belongs to a man with a career .000 batting average in delivering punchlines. His best bit in Salt Lake City came several minutes after the cameo of his quartet, **The Newfangled Four**, on the **Music City Chorus** "Noah's Ark" set. After two **Main Street** "storks" got laughs with some corny jokes, NF4 lead Jackson excitedly returned from backstage to take over the mics. "Okay," said the giddy "mandrill" as he set up an impossible-to-botch joke, "What was the name of Noah's wife?" The same joke had been delivered earlier in the set, and the chorus boomed the punchline: "Joan! Joan of Ark!" A crestfallen Jackson absorbed the cheers for his latest strike-out, then got even bigger laughs as he stormed back to the wings and shouted a perfectly timed "Dang it!"



## Quiet influencers: 'Round Midnight

Our longest-tenured International quartet competitor has long coattails. When 'Round Midnight arrived on the scene in 2009, they picked up the "super-cool innovators" mantle from 2008 champ **OC Times** and took it in new directions. Back then, nobody sounded like 'Round Midnight. And while the quartet still stands out, the gap is not nearly so wide these days. (Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.) Particular credit for that goes to lead/arranger Wayne Grimmer (second from left) who has subtly influenced other group's song choices, arranging techniques, and vocal stylings.

## Missed naming opportunity

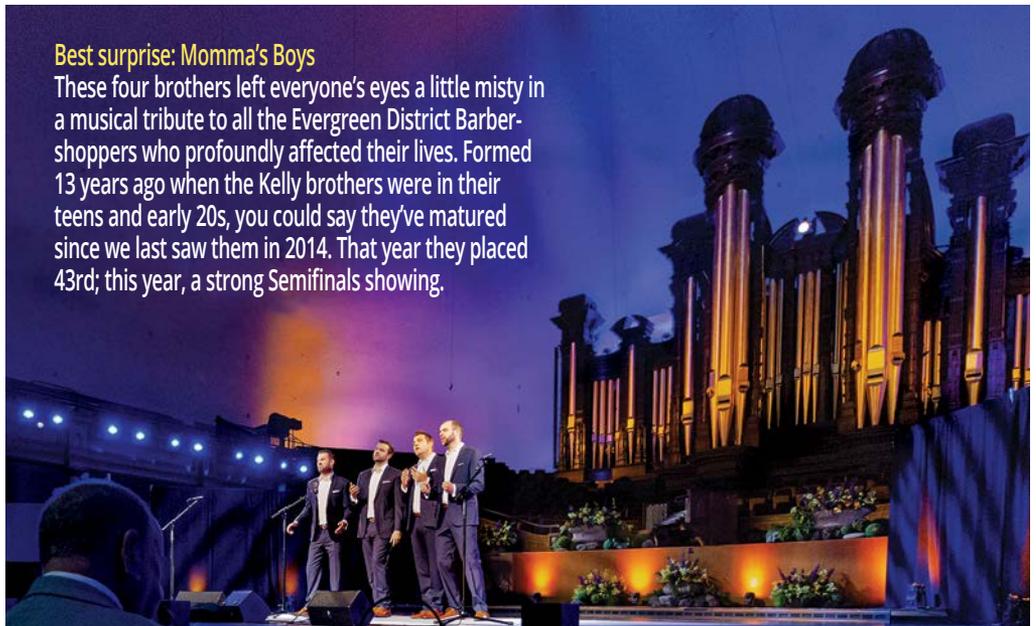
What do you get when Matthew Fellows, Wil Matthews, and MATTHEW Herweyer join odd man out Jamie Bedford in a quartet? The most obvious name of all time: **Western Addition**. They're a great Semifinals-worthy group, but the name could have been punnier.

## Most dangerous fad: Electric scooters

It was tough to catch photos of the swarms of Barbershoppers buzzing around downtown on rental scooters ... but apparently easy to find some at nearby emergency rooms. A lot of spills were reported, including a quartetter who broke both arms after competing and a chorus singer who missed the contest after he broke his leg. Take this as a cautionary tale for L.A., assuming that a year from now there are enough uninjured customers left to keep the fad alive.

## Best surprise: Momma's Boys

These four brothers left everyone's eyes a little misty in a musical tribute to all the Evergreen District Barbershoppers who profoundly affected their lives. Formed 13 years ago when the Kelly brothers were in their teens and early 20s, you could say they've matured since we last saw them in 2014. That year they placed 43rd; this year, a strong Semifinals showing.



### Biggest trend: A new generation of arrangers

We've come a long way since the "same 10 songs" conundrum of decades past. Out of 268 scored performances in Salt Lake City, three arrangements saw a single repeat. That's it. There were 61 listed arrangers used by the 84 open division chorus and quartet competitors alone. (Varsity score sheets don't list arrangers.) Dozens of new arrangements debuted, and the rest of what we heard was mostly new-ish. All but maybe two of 2019's listed arrangers are still living, and they skew quite young. (That leads to great discoveries like "My Shiny Teeth and Me," a 2004 Nickelodeon cartoon music video that aired when *Daily Special* arranger and bari Ben Lewin was 11.)

Of course, the above is a snapshot and not necessarily a trajectory. If it worked for *Old School* (2011 champ), more up-and-coming groups could discover the treasure trove found in our historical gold mines. And while a lot of today's aspiring arrangers are clearly inspired by living giants like Aaron Dale and David Wright, the rising generation might try to stand out by becoming more fluent in the work of Lou Perry, Ed Waeche, Renee Craig, Walter Latzko, Val Hicks, Earl Moon, Bill Busby—the list goes on for 80 years.



### Most improved, part 2. Pratt Street Power

The quartet saw a lot of growth following its great 2016 youth championship, but since last year the quartet has moved from "mature beyond its years" to leapfrog several quartets and make a roaring move into "those medalists better watch their backs" territory. Their first two rounds (mostly new charts) were a revelation. The quartet saved its winning set from 2016 for the Finals. "Cry Me a River" scored 82% in 2016 and got 90.1% in the Singing category this year. Do you know how hard it is to improve that much on an older song?



Sound of the Rockies



Toronto Northern Lights

### Most binge-worthy online event: Chorus contest

Block out a lot of time to re-watch the whole thing. We didn't promote this as the most epic chorus contest of all time, but it topped all the others just the same. YouTube was made for this, although it can't hold a candle to the live version. If you go online for *Westminster Chorus* and *Ambassadors of*

*Harmony*, stay for *zero8*, *Central Standard*, and *Toronto Northern Lights*. Each set would have won gold in prior decades, as would those for non-medalists *Sound of the Rockies* and *Music City Chorus*, both of which scored in the 90s. The A-level scores and entertainment continued on through nearly the entire field.

### Born in the wrong era: Legacy Road

That's high praise for a great quartet that is officially the best Quarterfinalist ever. Their record-setting 82.2% 21st-place performance would have been right at home in the Finals 15 years ago. (See the chart.) This is the most competitive quartetting era ever—by a long way. Listening to performances from past decades will confirm this is not due to score inflation.



### More high-scoring groups than ever

Score	2004	2019
80%+	14 quartets	32 quartets
<sup>A</sup> 78%+	26 quartets	44 quartets
<sup>B</sup> 82.2%	9th place	21st place
<sup>C</sup> 85.8%	5th place	11th place
92.7%	Chorus gold	5th place

<sup>A</sup> 2020 automatic qualifying score (was 76%)

<sup>B</sup> Legacy Road, 2019 Semifinals mic tester

<sup>C</sup> Clutch, 2019 Finals mic tester

# THE BEST OF SALT LAKE CITY



Putting "Spectacular" in the Spectacular  
Our ears are all in on mixed barbershop. We're not just talking about the mixed **Everyone in Harmony Chorus** or mixed quartets **Double Date** and **Half and Half**, although each was great on the Saturday Night Spectacular (SNS). It was the sound we got when both the men's and women's quartets from the SNS came together with some of their significant others. We individually loved 2019 Sweet Adelines Queens **Class Ring**, 2016 BHS champ **Forefront**, 2016 Rising Star Champ **The Ladies**, and 2015 BHS champ **Instant Classic**. Put them together in eight-part barbershop harmony? Get them a tour bus.



## Biggest presumed sleep deficit: Rasmus Krigström

It might take less time to name the Swedish groups he's *not* involved with. The bari of 2019 Semifinalist **Rawsunduh** is also director of 2019 bronze medal chorus **zero8**, tenor of 2018 bronze medalist quartet **Stockholm Syndrome**, lead of 2012 champ **Ringmasters**, and tenor of 2011 Youth champ **Swedish Match**. That's just our big stages. He also directs a Sweet Adelines chorus, a mixed chorus, sings in prominent mixed quartets, and does a lot of coaching, arranging, and judging. As they say way up north (according to Google Translate), "*Sätt ner noterna och få lite sömn!*"



**Catch all the Salt Lake City performances on the BHS YouTube channel: [youtube.com/barbershoparmony38](https://youtube.com/barbershoparmony38)**



## Champions champion: The Vocal Majority

Friday night's swan song presentation encapsulated much of how the VM's nearly 50-year-old championship legacy is burning as bright as ever. It's hard to pick a highlight. Was it the song with organ? The "Nearer My God to Thee" with nine International champion singers? We're going with "Hymn to Freedom," where the VM turned the spotlight outward.

Every year after a championship, the VM has sent representatives to the competitors' rehearsals with a gift. This year, the gift was a legal copy of the above Oscar Peterson civil rights anthem for each singer. More than a thousand chorus competitors stood and performed it just before the chorus medalists were announced, driving home the point that contest scores run a distant second behind the thrill of music and friendships with fellow singers.

On Sunday morning, the VM continued its nearly 40-year-old relationship with the world-famous **Tabernacle Choir** by performing solo and combined with the choir on *Music and the Spoken Word*, which is both a popular live TV broadcast and also the longest-running radio program in the world. A spoken segment heard by millions told a truth describing all Barbershoppers: "The music is only part of the experience. Relationships, to them, are inseparable from the sound. It's friendship, as much as music, that keeps them singing." ■

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# Life-changing!

Here's what a few music educators said about their experience at HU this summer.

"I can't wait to introduce barbershop music to my kids and **I feel a renewed excitement for the upcoming school year.** I am forever grateful and forever changed by this experience."

Michela Gardner  
Middle School Choir Director  
New Bedford, MA

"I found Harmony University to be **one of the best music education experiences** that I have ever attended. I look forward to being able to take those concepts and using them in my classroom."

Scott Houchins  
Palm Beach Central High School  
Wellington, FL

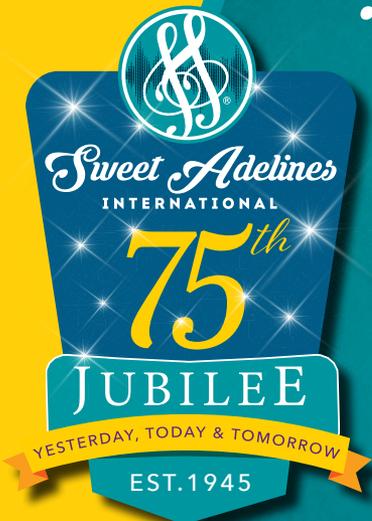
"The knowledge and skills I learned at Harmony University has **forever changed my perspective** on teaching and singing a capella music."

Taylor Rodgers  
Director of Choral Activities  
Dunwoody High School  
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Invest in the lives of music educators and students in your home town. Make plans to send your local music educator to HU next summer!

[Barbershop.org/hu](http://Barbershop.org/hu)

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The **Hanover Barbershop Chorus** (Hanover, PA) meets Mondays and seeks director for performances in the Hanover area and our annual show. Salary and training are available. [www.hanoverbarbershopchorus.org](http://www.hanoverbarbershopchorus.org). [contact@hanoverbarbershopchorus.org](mailto:contact@hanoverbarbershopchorus.org). (717) 316-0035

**Par For The Chorus**, Greater Sun City FL Chapter, seeks an experienced director for a small, noncompetitive chorus. Contact Joseph Epstein, [epsteinjoe4@gmail.com](mailto:epsteinjoe4@gmail.com) or 813-634-3907 for more information.

The **Upper Chesapeake Chorus** (Aberdeen, MD) seeks a front-line director to take us to the next level. An SAI chorus central to Baltimore, Philadelphia and Wilmington, we rehearse

on Monday evenings. We are past Region 19 champions (2011, 2013 and placed 7th and 9th in Regionals the past two years). Send resume to Pat Keen at [pke50879@aol.com](mailto:pke50879@aol.com); 443-309-2026; [www.uccsai.com](http://www.uccsai.com)

The **Crystalaires**, Palm Harbor, FL chapter, seeks an experienced director for a small noncompetitive mixed chorus. Contact Jim Eustice, [eusticejim@msn.com](mailto:eusticejim@msn.com) or 727-255-3777.

The **Village Vocal Chords**, a 34-member women's chorus from Glen Ellyn, IL, are the current Harmony, Inc. silver medalists. Founded in 1960, we have had only three directors. Jeanne O'Connor is retiring as of January 2020. Contact: Jacquie Jensen, 708-



328-5021 or [VCDirectorSearch@villagevocalchords.org](mailto:VCDirectorSearch@villagevocalchords.org).

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Marty Monson  
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Megan Henderson  
*Executive Assistant to the CEO*

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**finance@barbershop.org**  
Erik Dove  
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Jama Clinard  
*Controller / Human Resources*  
Nick Anello  
*Finance Administrator*

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**events@barbershop.org**  
Dusty Schleier  
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### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**support@barbershop.org**  
Jaime Man  
*Solutions Architect*  
Sam Hoover  
*Systems Administrator*

### HARMONY MARKETPLACE

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Mark Morgan  
*Director of Marketplace and Retail Ops.*  
Justin Gray  
*Warehouse Manager*  
Krystie Mitchell  
*Warehouse Coordinator*  
Raphael Llana  
*Marketplace eCommerce Assistant*

### STRATEGY

**strategy@barbershop.org**  
Kevin Lynch  
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### MARKETING

**marketing@barbershop.org**  
Holly J. Kellar  
*Chief Marketing Officer*  
Chris Bernstein  
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800-876-7464  
CEO@barbershop.org

Dr. Perry White • Nashville, TN  
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615-823-5611  
pwhite@harmonyfoundation.org

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jeremy Albright • Haslet, Texas  
620-249-1605  
jeremy.albright@gmail.com

Steve Denino • Grove City, Ohio  
614-875-7211  
steve.denino@gmail.com

John Donehower • Monroe, WI  
563-599-8565  
johndonehower@charter.net

David Haedtler • Mountain View, Calif.  
650-465-2848  
davidhaedtler@gmail.com

Randy Loos • Lecanto, Fla.  
727-510-5901  
RandyLoos@gmail.com

Bernard Priceman • Palm Desert, Calif.  
818-625-2832  
bpriceman@sbcglobal.net



110 Seventh Avenue North, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37203  
866-706-8021 (toll free), 615-823-5611, hf@harmonyfoundation.org

#### STAFF

**Dr. Perry White** \*\* \*\*\*  
*President/CEO*  
pwhite@harmonyfoundation.org

**Jim Clark**  
*Regional Director*  
3042 • jclark@harmonyfoundation.org

**Sean Devine**  
*Planned Giving Manager*  
3054 • sdevine@harmonyfoundation.org

**Carolyn Faulkenberry**  
*Chief Financial Officer*  
3041 • cfaulkenberry@harmonyfoundation.org

**J.J. Hawkins**  
*Donor Care Center Associate*  
3045 • jhawkins@harmonyfoundation.org

**Matt Hopper**  
*Donor Care Center Associate*  
3049 • mhopper@harmonyfoundation.org

**Jim Johnson**  
*Director of Communications*  
3053 • jjohnson@harmonyfoundation.org

**Brian Nelson**  
*Donor Care Center Associate*  
3051 • bnelson@harmonyfoundation.org

**Sarah Ogiba**  
*Donor Care Center Manager*  
3040 • ogiba@harmonyfoundation.org

**Dixie Semich**  
*Development Operations Manager*  
3047 • dsemich@harmonyfoundation.org

**Kyle Snook**  
*Regional Director*  
3050 • ksnook@harmonyfoundation.org

**Jan Stinson**  
*Financial Associate*  
3040 • jstinson@harmonyfoundation.org

**Rick Taylor**  
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3046 • rtaylor@harmonyfoundation.org

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rhoda297@aol.com

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mikedeputy@utility-trailer.com

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850-240-5952  
lambertDL@cox.net

**Sherri Matthews**  
804-938-1611  
smattsing@gmail.com

**Mike Moio**  
775-580-7395  
mike.moio@rhacp.com

**Kendall Williams**  
206-949-7464  
kendall.a.williams@frontier.com

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- 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
- National Association for Music Education • nafme.org
- Chorus America • chorusamerica.org
- Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers • labbs.org.uk



#### OFFICIAL ALLIANCES

- Barbershop Harmony Australia  
barbershop.org.au • Dan Millgate: dan.millgate@yahoo.com.au
- BHNZ (Barbershop Harmony New Zealand)  
barbershopharmony.nz • John Denton: johndandchrisd@gmail.com
- BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)  
singbarbershop.com • Peter Cookson: chairman@singbarbershop.com
- BinG! (Barbershop in Germany)  
barbershop-in-germany.de • Renate Klocke: renete.klocke@gmail.com
- Holland Harmony  
hollandharmony.dse.nl • Nelleke Dorrestijn: nellekedorrestijn@gmail.com
- FABS (Finnish Association of Barbershop Singers)  
fabs.fi • Jan-Erik Krusberg: jan-erik.krusberg@arcada.fi
- IABS (Irish Association of Barbershop Singers)  
irishbarbershop.org • Liz Nolan: iabsexecutive@gmail.com
- MBHA (Mixed Barbershop Harmony Assoc.)  
mixedbarbershop.org • Roxanne Powell: powellrx@gmail.com
- SABS (Spanish Association of Barbershop Singers)  
sabs.es • Lyn Baines: president@sabs.es
- SNOBS (Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers)  
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spats.co.za • Mark Jensen van Rensburg: president@spats.co.za

## The Harmonizer

#### GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE/EDITORIAL

harmonizer@barbershop.org

#### EDITORIAL BOARD

Holly J. Kellar, Brian Lynch, Amy Rose, Sarah Brown,  
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#### EDITOR

Lorin May

#### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Amy Rose, Brian Lynch



## THE TAG

Joe Liles, Tagmaster  
✉ JoeLilesMusic@gmail.com

# Square tag still has a surprise

The last several *Harmonizer* tags had some challenges, so I thought we might present you with a more typically square, solid barbershop tag. That said ... measure 7

offers a little aural treat that's a bit out of character with what preceded it in the first six measures. I hope you'll enjoy working this out. It should be well-worth the effort. Grab three other voices and ring some chords!

On this page are the male and mixed-voiced versions. Check out our free tag collection at [www.barbershop.org/tags](http://www.barbershop.org/tags) for all three adaptations for this tag: male, female and mixed-voice. ■

## LIFT UP YOUR VOICE

*for mens voices*

Tag by JOE LILES

Musical score for mens voices (Tenor Lead and Bari Bass) in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-8. The lyrics are: "Lift up your voice in joy - ful song and get the whole world to sing right a - long!"

*for mixed voices*

Tag by JOE LILES

Musical score for mixed voices (Tenor Lead and Bari Bass) in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-8. The lyrics are: "Lift up your voice in joy - ful song and get the whole world to sing right a - long!"

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