

Benefits of Membership



Benefit Summary

This 501(c)(3) non-profit organization was founded in 1938 and is the hub that links 17 districts, over 800 chapters, thousands of quartets and nearly 25,000 individuals throughout North America. Membership in the world's largest all-male singing society provides many benefits: A dynamic website, bi-monthly magazine, weekly and monthly electronic newsletters, how-to publications, and electronic messaging keep members abreast of news and current developments. Society and district conventions, district schools, Leadership Academies, and the highly successful Harmony University provide opportunities for leadership, musical, membership and performance development and a forum for the exchange of new ideas. Encouraging vocal music in our schools and committees is a fundamental ideal of the Society and keeps music and the arts more relevant in these times of diminished focus and funding. Musical directors, administrators, arrangers, composers, music educators, singers, and fans of barbershop harmony can stay current with the latest news and information in this field through the benefits of membership.

Purpose

- Perpetuates and celebrates harmony in the barbershop style
- Promotes fellowship and friendship among men of good will
- Provides the opportunity to experience the joy of four-part a cappella singing
- Introduces and sustains music in the lives of people everywhere

Values

- The joy of singing and ringing chords in four-part barbershop harmony
- Fellowship and friendship
- Service to others through our music

Publications

Subscription to The Harmonizer Magazine – The Barbershop Harmony Society's bi-monthly magazine, *The Harmonizer*, features interviews and profiles; chapter, chorus, quartet and affiliate organizational news and activities; opinion and commentary; coverage of the International and Midwinter Conventions; leadership strategies; marketing, membership, performance development and meeting programming techniques; advice on artistic issues; and free music in the form of a new "tag" in each issue.

Subscription to Livewire – The Barbershop Harmony Society's weekly electronic newsletter, with timely news; links to important sources of information; training program updates; and tools you can put to immediate use.

Subscription to Directly Involved – The Barbershop Harmony Society’s electronic newsletter, published quarterly, with timely news; links to important sources of information; training program updates; and tools to help chorus directors improve their skills and the enjoyment of their singers.

Subscription to On the QT – The Barbershop Harmony Society’s electronic newsletter, published quarterly, brings quartet singers great ideas on performance, singing skills and programs of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Online Resources

Society Website (www.barbershop.org)

Free Music – Over 100 titles available for free download for your quartet and chorus to enjoy.

Resources to Better Run Your Chapter – Access to virtually anything from marketing and membership development tools, to fundraising and musical skills development.

Historical Resources – Read past issues of The Harmonizer Magazine, watch videos of the Society’s history, learn about what the Society is doing to preserve its musical past and propagate its future.

Society Blog (www.barbershophq.org)

Stay connected with Society leadership; learn what’s happening before it happens and be part of the ongoing discussion on how to Keep the Whole World Singing. Some topics will be purely informational, some intended to open a serious dialog, some late-breaking news, and some just plain fun.

Members-Only Website (<https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/>)

Member Information – The members only Ebiz site makes it easy for you to manage your records, renew your membership, register a quartet, subscribe and unsubscribe to mailing lists, access FAQs and more.

Chapter Information – Access chapter rosters and supplemental information, ASCAP reports, register your show, list chapter officers, view chapter member dues information, view suspended members, report chapter officers, view dues for chapters and view chapters with milestone anniversaries.

District Information – Access membership summaries, list all chapter officers / district directory data, district quartet list, chapter officer email finder, district-wide suspended member list, member lookup by occupation code.

Society Information and Services – Find another member, a quartet, a chapter, and Society & District officers.

Contest and Judging Information – Access contest entry and judging availability forms, judge’s roster, quartet details, contest registration logs, contest scores and the Contest Administrators handbook.

Conferences

Annual International Summer Convention and Contest – A week-long International Convention held in attractive locations throughout North America, designed to bring barbershop harmony enthusiasts from around the world together in one place and to witness 2,000 competitors in the top choruses and quartets compete, participate in educational workshops, seminars, attend concerts, group meetings, a meeting of the Society Board of Directors and enjoy countless networking opportunities with nearly 8000 Barbershoppers from around the world.

Annual International Midwinter Convention and Contest – A week-long convention held in attractive locations throughout North America, designed to bring barbershop harmony enthusiasts from around the world together in one place to attend concerts featuring the current top five medalist quartets, contests featuring the top seniors quartet competitors and the International Youth Chorus Festival. Attendees can also participate in educational workshops, seminars, group meetings, a meeting of the Society Board of Directors and enjoy countless networking opportunities with over 2000 Barbershoppers.

District Conventions – Each of our 17 Districts hosts a weekend convention each spring and fall. These weekends offer the opportunity for singing and socializing with singers from across the district, as well as group meetings and

meetings of the district leadership teams. Competitions are also held to determine Quartet and Chorus Champions as well as International Contest representatives.

Professional Development and Educational Offerings

Society-Level

Harmony University – With a world-class faculty of 60, Harmony University is an intensive week-long educational offering with the aim of helping members enjoy their hobby more, share that joy with others, and continually experience growth. This event includes:

Harmony College – A “general studies” educational offering in all areas of musical performance such as: vocal production, arranging and songwriting, performance, history, tag singing and more.

Quartet College – A week of intensive coaching for quartets. Curriculum varies from year to year but often includes classes such as The Quartet Experience; Sight Singing For Beginners; Emcee/Spokesman For Quartets; Creative Interpretation; How To Be A Great Tenor, Lead, Baritone, and Bass; Vocal Techniques; Seniors Quartet Experience; Effective Quartet Warm-ups; Rehearsal Techniques For Quartets

Next Generation – Young Singers from 13-25 have a special place to have fun and learn skills to make them better singers and performers.

Music Educators Track – Special topics for the professional musician wishing to bring barbershop harmony to the classroom.

Directors College – Develop as a musician, leader, and passionate advocate for barbershop harmony. Participate in the acclaimed “Directors College Chorus.” Curriculum varies from year to year but often includes classes such as: Directing Techniques; Sound Management; Music Theory, How To Teach What You Know; Leadership; Effective Choral Warm-ups; Teaching Pedagogy; Habits Of Successful Chorus Directors; Music Team Development; Class Voice For Directors.

District-Level

Leadership Academy – These regional weekend schools and workshops offer leadership development training and education for members and chapter leaders

District Music Schools – Known as Mini-Harmony Education Programs, these weekend schools are held to provide education and coaching for quartets and choruses.

Top Gun Schools – Schools are geared towards the top quartets in each district (handled on a “by invitation” only basis).

Pop Gun Schools – Schools are geared towards the top senior quartets in each district.

Programs

Standing Ovation Program – designed to utilize Standing Ovation Reviewers in each district trained to find the elements of a performance that leads to standing ovations and provides constructive and confidential feedback to the chapter to help make their next show better, making that product more attractive to prospective members.

Music Mentor Program – designed as an “internal vehicle” to provide Chapter Choruses with strong, skilled guidance to dramatically improve their performance level, thereby enhancing individual members’ experiences and prompting increased member retention.

Quartet Development & Services Program – designed to provide better tools and increased skill to quartet singers, thereby encouraging both member satisfaction and attraction of new members through high-quality public performance levels.

Chorus Director Workshop Intensive Programs – CDWI-1 – a day long program designed for two full sessions with five invited directors and the two CDWI trainers meeting privately to discuss the challenges and successes of their cho-

rus programs. These discussions include identifying the motivations and challenges of the director and the members and reviewing options available to overcome those challenges, including methods to create more successful rehearsals and performances. Directors then have the opportunity to direct a live chorus implementing the solutions chosen by the director during the morning session. Video and live feedback is provided to help directors gain command of their skills. CDWI-2 is also a day long program, but gets even more in-depth and allows directors to develop newer skills and solutions. CDWI-Next Level program is an even more focused, in-depth look at the director and his/her chorus, and takes place during a regular chorus rehearsal.

Outstanding in Front Program – a one day workshop designed for section leaders, warm-up leaders, chorus vocal coaches, assistant directors interested in the prospect of directing some day, or any group of directors wishing useful basic information about the challenging job of directing a chorus, leading singers and the development of a music team.

Music Publication Program – designed to provide members (and, therefore, prospective members who hear the product) with the highest-quality songs, arrangements and learning media possible for execution by members of quartets and choruses, thus enhancing member retention.

Chapter Counselor/CSR Program – uses volunteer leaders to help chapters deal with director issues; to help chapter leaders develop ideas to keep them on task; to help chapters grow and retain members; enhance enjoyment and fun at chapter meetings; develop strategies to create more community awareness.

Merchandising

Members can receive member pricing at The Harmony Marketplace, which stocks over 1,700 different music-related items, including a wide variety of audio and video recordings, apparel, gift items, and music education materials. The Harmony Marketplace also distributes over 5,000 vocal arrangements for men and over 400 vocal arrangements for women. Part-predominant learning media is available for over 500 of these vocal arrangements. Members can shop via the catalog, online at www.harmonymarketplace.com, at the Society's Midwinter and International Conventions, at Harmony University, and at the retail store at the Society's headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee.

Assistance from Headquarters Staff

- Advice on shows and scripts
- Advice on music arrangements
- Assistance with securing copyright clearances on sheet music, including securing permission to arrange a song
- Distribution of published and unpublished arrangements from over 800 vocal arrangers
- Assistance with securing mechanical and synchronization licenses for audio and video recordings
- Feedback and evaluation of directing skills via video submission
- General information and records research
- Interpretation of rules and regulations
- Interpretation of bylaws and statements of policy
- Reservation of a quartet's name in the Quartet Registry
- Staff visitations to chapters and districts
- Access The Old Songs Library
- Processing of chapter and district dues
- Marketing and PR help: media lists, brochure and poster design, news release samples

Member Pricing

- Harmony University
- International Convention Registrations
- For exhibitors at the International Convention
- Music sold at Harmony Marketplace

Competition

Enter Barbershop Harmony Society-sanctioned district and international contests or festivals for quartets and choruses geared to a variety of performers, including:

- International Chorus Championship
- International Quartet Championship
- International Seniors Quartet Championship
- International Youth Festival
- Harmony Foundation International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest

Protection and Use of the Name and Logo

The Society allocates resources to the protection of our name and logo not only in North America, but around the world. Members may use the Barbershop Harmony Society name and “signature” logo to identify affiliation with the world’s largest all-male singing organization.

Other Benefits

- Chapter insurance and bonding at a fraction of normal cost (including providing certificate(s) to third parties as requested)
- Non-profit classification under section 501(c)(3) of US tax code
- ASCAP/BMI/SOCAN performance license clearance(s) on behalf of chapters
- Membership development assistance
- Access to patron lists and former singers
- Special member pricing from Hertz