



AMBASSADORS  
OF HARMONY

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015



## Letters From the Directors



First off, I want to say how much I appreciate the encouragement of every friend, fan and supporter of the Ambassadors of Harmony. A while back I received an email from a woman from Pittsburgh who discovered us on the internet and came to the International Convention to see us compete. She then traveled all the way to St. Louis to see our Christmas show. This is what we mean to people. This woman, who came all the way from Pittsburgh, PA just for the opportunity to see us live on stage, is only one of almost 22,000 people who entrust their time, money, and hearts to our care for our shows. Each of those 22,000 people has a story for why they are there. It is my supreme

honor to stand with you, my brothers and friends, and change every one of those lives for the better. What a blessing. What a responsibility! We ascended beyond the typical barbershop chorus paradigm a long time ago. We have striven to be an important voice in choral music even outside of barbershop. And our recent invitations to MMEA and SWACDA suggest that we are succeeding. Now, we are poised to take what we've built to the next level. I haven't felt so rejuvenated in a long time

-Jim Henry

Hello friends of AOH,

As I was lying in bed the other night trying to fall asleep, a million things were running through my mind... many of them involving AOH. I was reflecting on the tremendously successful Christmas Shows and the amazing stories and memories we ALL received and shared. Singing with the Children's Choir, singing for 5 SOLD OUT shows, the list goes on. After that, I began to look toward 2016. We have such a wonderful opportunity to share Barbershop with the world (Non-Barbershop folks). With our current singers, there is no doubt that this is one of the most EXCITING years in AOH history. The thing I LOVE about our chorus is.... we always keep our audience in mind.

When we look at our song selections, we ask, "what songs in our repertoire will change the lives of the people we sing for," for that's why we do what we do!!! I can't wait to see what 2016 holds!

-Jonny Moroni ®



# Letter From the Immediate Past President



When I first took office for the 2014 term, I identified three areas where I would be focusing my energy, and that of the Board: 1) implement a succession planning process that would allow for smooth transitions for every office; 2) establish a sustainable fund-raising process that would eliminate the financial risk of a serious December weather event; 3) improve the diversity levels within the membership. All of these seemed to be multi-year initiatives, and certainly are! **SUCCESSION PLANNING:** Regarding the succession planning issue, the Board reviewed, modified and accepted a proposed plan that would establish partnerships' between each of the members of the Executive Team and the at-large

members. Plans were put in place for a mentor-ship approach to running each team to provide the learning environment for the 'next gen' of leaders. **FUND RAISING:** Helping us in this is our 'outside the Board' advisor as part of the Society's 'Open Board' program. We implemented an online crowd-funding campaign in March of 2014, and developed a presentation that we could put in front of potential supporters to explain who we are, what we do and why we need their financial support. Through the GiveSTL Day program, the citywide coordination of efforts for all nonprofits that want to participate, we did establish another group of contributors. Our current plan is to look at the possibility of holding a gala fund-raising event along the lines of similar such events as held by the Bach Society and many other local nonprofits. **DIVERSITY:** We've improved the level of diversity in the chorus albeit modestly. With every new member, our network increases, and this will become more than a metric for us, it will become part of who we are. Being part of the Ambassadors of Harmony is wonderful in many ways, and it is our imperative to keep those ways vital and growing.

This is our self-sustenance program.

Michael Rubin  
Immediate Past-President



# Chorus History



The chapter was founded in 1963, when a call went forth with the colorful introductory statement: "Calling all bathtub baritones." The first meeting of the new Daniel Boone Chorus occurred January 22, 1963. The chorus began to compete in the annual Central States District Chorus Contest, typically finishing toward the bottom of the list, placing tenth in 1972, eleventh in 1973, ninth in 1975, and eleventh again in 1978 and 1979. The eleventh place finish in 1979 was last place. In 1981 a mathematics professor from Washington University in St. Louis, joined the chorus, became its director, and immediately began making changes. Jim Henry described what happened as a result: "Then something

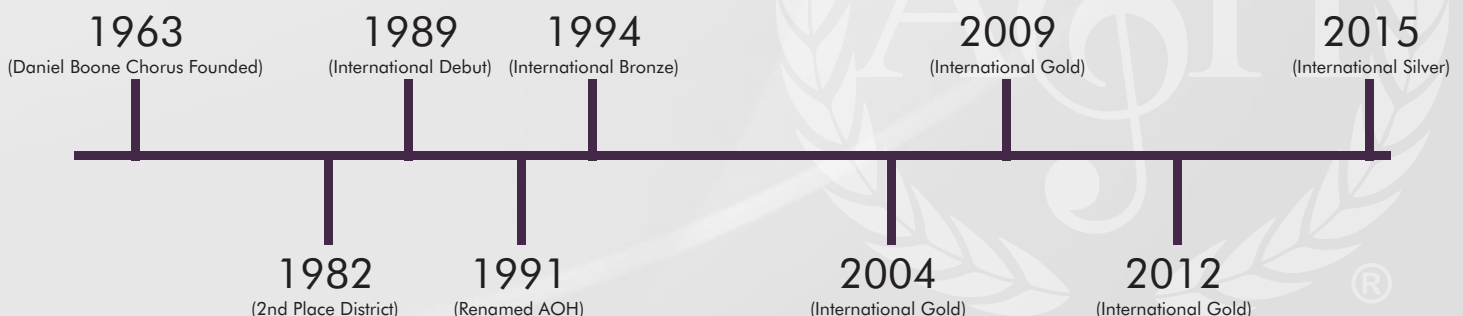
incredible happened that changed everything. It stirred us like a tornado. Its name was David Wright". David came to us with a vision that the Daniel Boone Chorus could actually become a great singing ensemble, and immediately began to raise the level of expectations.

Within two years the chorus had grown to seventy members.

The change showed immediate results in 1982, with a second place finish in the district contest. In 1989, the Daniel Boone Chorus made its International Barbershop Chorus Competition debut in Kansas City, Missouri, with seventy-seven men on the risers and finished in sixth place. Wright handed the directorship to Jim Henry in 1990. The Chorus re-branded itself

The Ambassadors of Harmony in 1991, and continued its march to excellence, placing 4th at the international contest in 1994.

The rest is history.



# Mission of Ambassadors of Harmony

Our mission is to educate our membership in order to continually improve in vocal quality, performance and personal fulfillment in a cappella singing. When we perform, our goal is to give a gift that will change the lives of the people in our audience. The Ambassadors of Harmony chorus seeks to change the lives of audiences worldwide through artistic and emotionally-driven a cappella performances. AOH also strives for musical excellence and to promote the barbershop style.



## Who We Are

The Ambassadors of Harmony is the St. Louis area's premier men's a cappella chorus of more than 140 voices known for powerful and musically masterful performances. Its repertoire includes Broadway classics, barbershop, jazz, pop and a wide selection of holiday favorites. The AOH chorus seeks to change the lives of audiences worldwide through artistic and emotionally-driven a cappella performances. AOH strives for musical excellence and promotes the barbershop style, and has done so by winning a gold medal three times at the Barbershop Harmony Society's international contest. AOH has sung for audiences throughout the United States and performed in England, Germany, Ireland, Sweden, and the Netherlands. The chorus represents the St. Charles, MO, chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Today, AOH puts on numerous shows per year including a popular holiday concert that fills Touhill Performing Arts Center in St. Louis each year.



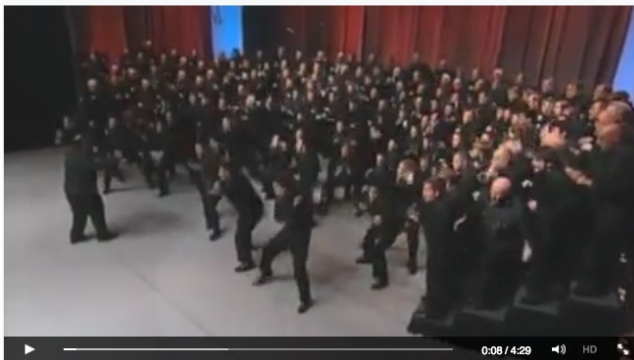
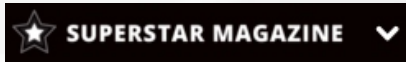
# Where We've Been...Where We're Going

- 2002- Wichita, KS  
Portland, OR
- 2003- Montreal, Canada  
Cedar Rapids, IA  
Dortmund, Germany  
Leiden, Holland  
Stockholm, Sweden
- 2004- Louisville, KY
- 2005- Godfrey, IL  
Salt Lake City, UT
- 2006- Harrogate, United Kingdom
- 2007- Kansas City, MO  
Denver, CO
- 2008- Nashville, TN  
Cedar Rapids, IA
- 2009- Anaheim, CA
- 2010- Philadelphia, PA
- 2011- Kansas City, MO
- 2012- Belleville, IL  
Godfrey, IL  
Portland, OR
- 2013- Toronto, Canada  
Lebanon, IL
- 2014- Cedar Rapids, IA  
Fairfax, VA
- 2015- Godfrey, IL  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Overland Park, KS
- 2016- Osage Beach, MO  
Munich, Germany  
Kansas City, MO  
Nashville, TN



# Ambassadors of Harmony Go Viral

AOH performed 76 Trombones in 2009, however, 2015 was the year that it picked up some viral steam. In its first six years, the video had about 2 million views and in the last half of 2015 it picked up another 500,000 due these articles. It even went international with Worldtop (French), MuyGenial (Spanish) & Doily (Hungarian)



클래식에 미치다  
지금까지 당신이 알고 있던  
합창에 대한 선입관을 버려라!  
이 영상이 합창에 대한 당신의 생각을  
자정임화시킬 것이다!  
2009 국제 비버산 합창 경연대회 영상!

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Unlike · Comment · Share · Buffer · December 13, 2013

You, Jonny Moroni, Jan Alexandersson and 12,575 others like this.

58,361 shares 1.7k comments

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Get ready to get chills bumps.  
And have your jaw hit the floor! 😱

I Thought The Harmonies Were Amazing Enough. And Then They Did THIS And My Jaw Hit The Floor!

Get ready for your jaw to hit the floor when you hear the Ambassadors of Harmony's INCREDIBLE performance of 'Seventy-Six Trombones'. As if their...

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6,084 people like this. Top Comments -

3,891 shares 422 comments



# Who's Talking About AOH

Gorgeous singing and clever productions join to make a unique and always entertaining musical experience.

- Amy Kaiser, Director  
St. Louis Symphony Chorus



The Ambassadors of Harmony continue to be one of St. Louis' premier men's ensembles. They electrify audiences with fresh and creative arrangements, sung with amazing precision and clarity.

- Kevin McBeth, Assoc. Conductor  
St. Louis Symphony Orchestra



Reading about the Ambassadors of Harmony won't do a thing for you. You've got to hear and see them to believe it can be so good.

- Dennis Sparger, Director, Bach Society





# Impact

The Ambassadors are always excited to perform in front of an audience, and 2015 offered plenty of opportunity to share our craft! Our goal when we take the stage is to provide an experience to each and every audience member that will live beyond the hour or two they spend with us. Sometimes it is the shared experience of love lost or found, or the knock-your-socks-off wow factor of a big song with grand moves—whatever it is, we seek to embody our music to the fullest, so our audience is transported to a magical place filled with song.

Greater Alton Concert Association at  
Lewis and Clark Community College in Alton, IL

**851**

**2,878**

AOH Spring Show at the Touhill  
Performing Arts Center in St. Louis, MO

BHS International Competition at the  
CONSOL Energy Center in Pittsburgh, PA

**5,985**

**1,012**

Central States District Contest at the  
Sheraton Hotel in Overland Park, KS

AOH Christmas Show at the Touhill  
Performing Arts Center in St. Louis, MO

**7,607**

**2,179**

Main Street Parade & Caroling  
in St. Charles, MO

Acappelloza Summer and Fall Concerts

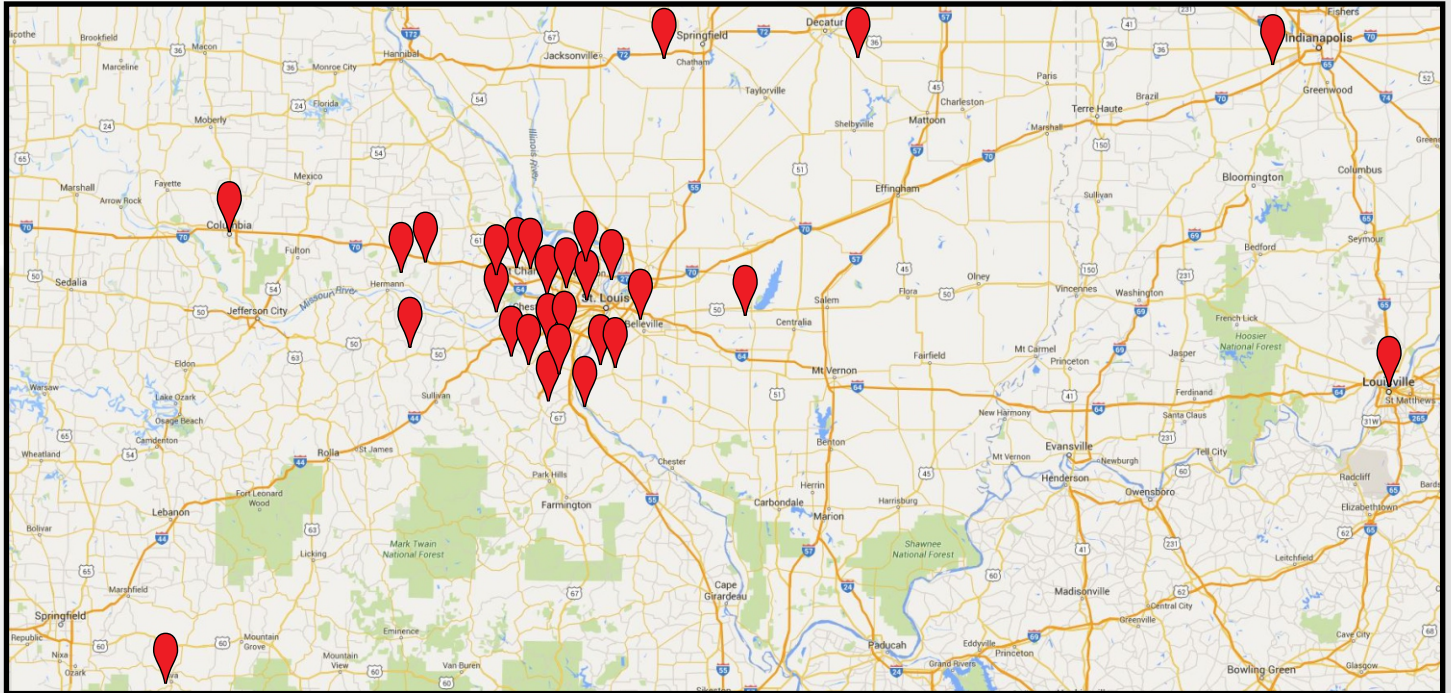
**1,214**

**21,762**



# From Whence They Came

Being a member of AOH is hard to describe. If anything, "Synergy" is the word. The members of the Ambassadors are by and large average or maybe a bit above-average singers. We are not one hundred Pavarottis, but, when we come together and rehearse to master a song, the sound that crosses the footlights is truly beyond anything that any one of us can imagine creating on our own. AOH provides the average guy the opportunity to be among the best in the world. Perhaps that's why so many drive so far every week to be a part of it!



## Missouri

Afton  
Ballwin  
Bridgeton  
Cedar Hill  
Chesterfield  
Columbia  
Creve Coeur  
DeSoto  
Ellisville  
Eureka  
Fenton  
Festus  
Florissant  
High Ridge  
Ladue  
Lake Sherwood

Lake St. Louis  
Manchester  
Maryland Heights  
O'Fallon  
Overland  
Rock Hill  
St. Charles  
St. Louis  
St. Peters  
Theodosia  
University City  
Webster Groves  
Weldon Spring  
Wentzville  
Wildwood  
Wright City

## Illinois

Alton  
Belleville  
Chatham  
Decatur  
Germantown  
Waterloo

## Kentucky

Louisville

## Indiana

Indianapolis

# Community Outreach

The Ambassadors of Harmony chorus has worked hard over the years to engage youth singers in the craft of a cappella. The chorus has hosted numerous events for students throughout the St. Louis region with the mission of educating and inspiring newcomers to a capella singing in the barbershop style. Acappellooza Fall is a two-day, annual program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis--one for boys, the other for girls--that has consistently drawn more than 1,000 students per year from dozens of high schools in the St. Louis area. Acappellooza Summer is an overnight camp for four days in the Summer at UMSL that AOH helps to staff and we also perform at the concert with the kids. Another program is a mentoring effort for teenage boys who want to sing in a quartet--we send out a coach to their school to mentor them and provide sheet music--that's Project Harmony. New for 2016 is AcaFest which will be an annual harmony festival in late October as a Saturday performance experience for high-schoolers.

## Acappellooza

SUMMER

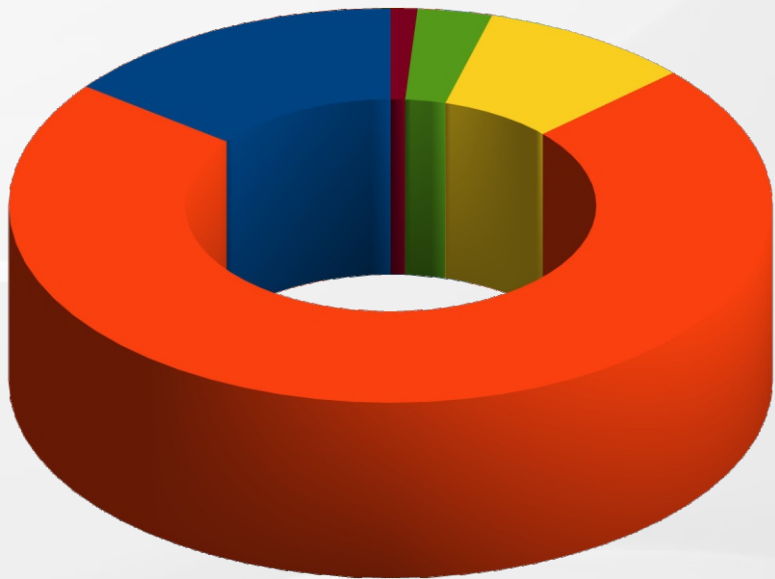


**Project Harmony**  
A Barbershop Harmony Experience

# Income and Expenses

## 2014 Income

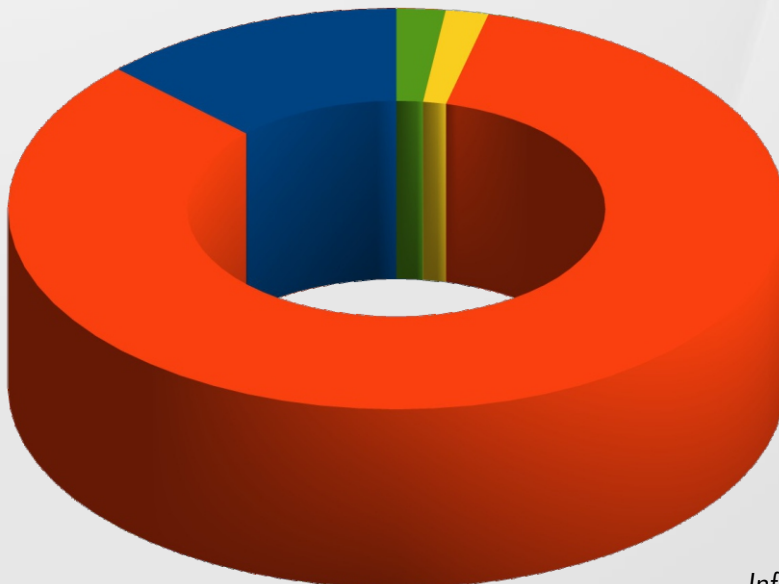
Contributions – Gifts, Grants, Dues	\$43,530.00
Ticket sales & Performance Fees	\$213,298.00
Investments	\$26,549.00
Recording Sales	\$9,349.00
Other Income	\$3,320.00
	<b>\$296,046.00</b>



- Contributions – Gifts, Grants, Dues
- Ticket sales & Performance Fees
- Investments
- Recording Sales
- Other Income

## 2014 Expenses

Administrative – Insurance, Office, Advertising	\$38,614.00
Music & Performance Expenses – Venues, Travel, School Programs, etc.	\$253,277.00
Fundraising	\$5,435.00
Other Expenses	\$6,180.00
	<b>\$303,506.00</b>



- Administrative – Insurance, Office, Advertising
- Music & Performance Expenses – Venues, Travel, School Programs, etc.
- Fundraising
- Other Expenses

Information from 2014 AOH Form 990 Tax Return

# Donations

## Corporate

\$5,000 +



## Platinum

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Ben & Carole Blanton

## Gold

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Kay Ramsey  
Dr. Martin Wice  
Roy & Carol Hillman  
John Galvin

## Silver

\$500 - \$999

Kay Tucker  
Judith Barrett

## Bronze

\$250 - \$499

Keith Hazelwood  
John Herndon  
Larry & Sue Hanebrink  
Matthew Hamilton  
Monsanto Fund

## Partner

\$100 - \$249

Barbara Berner  
Susan Hanebrink  
Arthur Minor  
Karen House  
J. Bruce Melton  
John Groth  
Serena Hempen  
David Sida  
Michael Rubin  
Nancy Azerolo  
Keith Bozler  
Andy Isbell  
Lyda Krewson  
Judy Rauh  
Matthew & Phyllis Parsons

## Patron

Up to \$99

*Thank you*  
to those who  
continue to  
support our vision

Marie Kavanagh  
Stephen Grund  
Gary Stocker  
Judith Packer  
Mary Ellen Koch  
Robert Scala  
Leah Rubin  
Barbara Fuhrmann  
Todd Johnson  
Edward Svoboda  
Larry Miller  
Robert & Jerri Jordan  
Patrick Horvath  
Anonymous Gift  
David Revelle  
Melissa Payton  
Harriet Ritter  
Mark Merritt  
Barbara Mottin  
Tim Myers  
David Stookesberry  
Jim Hood  
Jacque Dickherber & Family  
Anonymous Gift  
Barb Mahon  
Bill Turpin  
Nathan McKie  
Graeme Allen  
David Jobe  
Gloria Scheinkman  
Peter Jordan  
Anonymous Gift



# **2016 Board & Directors**

## **2016 Board of Directors:**

J. Timothy Myers - President  
Bill McLaurine - Executive Vice President  
Mike Rubin - Immediate Past President  
Kelly White - V.P. of Chapter Development  
Matt Hamilton - V.P. of Music & Performance  
Dave Revelle - V.P. of Public Relations & Marketing  
Paul Tate - Secretary  
Ross Brickleymer - Treasurer  
Dennis McFarland - Member at Large  
Jim Mathis - Member at Large  
Mark Merritt - Member at Large  
Bob Griesedieck - Member at Large

## **Directors:**

Jim Henry - Co-Director  
Jonny Moroni - Co-Director  
David Wright - Associate Director

## **Section Leaders:**

Bass: Andy Isbell, Jim Henry, Rik Johnson  
Baritone: Mark Keever, Jonny Moroni, David Wright, Drew Osterhout  
Lead: Eric Dalbey, Rick Knight  
Tenor: Tim Waurick, Chris Thomas