

# 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**“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 (AOH) is one of the premier men's a cappella choruses in the world. Known for powerful and musically masterful performances, AOH offers a diverse repertoire drawing from barbershop, jazz, pop, Broadway, folk, classical, and holiday favorites. Founded in 1963 by 26 members who called themselves the Daniel Boone Chorus, AOH has grown to more than 100 singers, has produced eight recordings, won numerous awards, and has entertained audiences across the United States and in Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the Netherlands. Every man in AOH seeks to change the lives of the people for whom they sing through artistic and emotionally-driven performances.



# ABOUT THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY



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 competing in the annual Central States District Chorus Contest, typically finishing toward the bottom, 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 promptly 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



began to raise the level of expectations. Within two years the chorus had grown to 70 members. The change showed measurable 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 77 men on the risers and finished in sixth place.



Wright handed the directorship to Jim Henry in 1990. The chorus rebranded itself the Ambassadors of Harmony in 1991 and continued its march to excellence, placing fourth in 1994. The chorus won its first gold medal in 2004 then again in 2009 and 2012. In 2013 the chorus welcomed Jonny Moroni as co-director. Combined with a great leadership and dedication to excellence, the Ambassadors of Harmony brought home a fourth gold medal in 2016.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year was a tremendously rewarding time to be a part of the Ambassadors of Harmony family. We continue to raise our game as community leaders in providing music/arts education to the youth of St. Louis through learning and performance opportunities--via our various programs, scholarships for our music camp, and Acappellooza where nearly 200 youth participated.

Our work is far from finished as we continue to snowball these efforts into larger, more long-enduring programs that will continue to benefit our community for years to come.

The Ambassadors of Harmony have also embraced the vision of "Everyone in Harmony", a very deliberate vision to bringing all people, regardless of backgrounds, into the arts and making them available to all people. It's an ambitious vision, but one that means so much to our world. As our director Jim Henry likes to say, "Two people singing together cannot dislike each other". Harmony.

We thank everyone who helped contribute to our growing mission by providing charitable donations, attending one of our shows or supporting any of our youth outreach programs. We can not do it without you and we are truly grateful for all of the support over the years.

Everyone in Harmony truly means everyone and that includes you.  
Thank you.

Tim Myers  
President  
The Ambassadors of Harmony



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

What an amazing, busy, productive, wonderful year! A record Gala night; a performance at the Touhill Performing Arts Center with the legendary "Sweet Honey in the Rock;" our first ever concert -a sell out- at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica as part of the Cathedral Concert Series; our annual "A Cappella Live!" concerts for an audience of 2,000; the life changing "Acappellooza Summer" camp for high school students. And that was just the first six months!

The rest of the year found us performing at "Acappellooza Fall" for nearly 600 high school boys representing more than 20 schools; a Central States District Competition championship that earned us the right to return to the International Competition stage; our first invitation to appear as guest artists at the Sweet Adelines International Convention; a return invitation to sing at Powell Symphony Hall with our dear friends the St. Louis Children's Choirs; a whirlwind Holiday Concert weekend for nearly 7,000 people at the Touhill and countless others via a worldwide internet broadcast; and finally Christmas caroling on Main Street in our hometown of St. Charles.

Through it all our numbers have grown, our youth outreach initiatives continue to thrive, and our musical partnerships continue to expand. And 2019 promises more of the same. We're especially excited to partner with other choirs in presenting "Then Sings My Soul" an inspirational Gospel Concert to be presented in March, and to return to the International Competition stage in Salt Lake City, Utah in July. Our mixed youth chorus "The Recruits" is now an official chapter chorus thanks to the Barbershop Harmony Society's "Everyone in Harmony" initiative. The future may see us adding a women's chorus to our family as well. We are proud of how far we've come and can't wait to see what lies ahead. If you really just sit back and think about what we do, it's pretty amazing. We can't wait to see what 2019 holds for this chorus!

Dr. Jim Henry &  
Jonny Moroni  
Co-Directors



# THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY



The 2nd Annual Ambassadors of Harmony Foundation Gala was Feb. 17, 2018, and did it knock our socks off! We have been driving toward becoming a more arts-minded organization for several years, mostly by building connections with youth and schools in the St. Louis metro area. Our gala presented much of that story with an interactive video about some of the students who have benefitted from previous donations, and an appearance by the 2017 Acappellooza Summer Youth Chorus and the Recruits.

We have awarded a college scholarship for more than 20 years, and have run a fall music field trip called Acappellooza Fall since 2002. Since 2012, our youth outreach has grown exponentially with the creation of the youth chorus, The Recruits; a four-day summer camp, Acappellooza Summer; a quartet training program called Project Harmony; and most recently an a cappella festival called Acafest.

# ONY FOUNDATION ANNUAL GALA

Altogether in 2018, AOH had more than 1,180 young singers take part in our music education projects. The various programs led to the creation of a foundation to seek partnerships in the community to expand our impact on helping young singers who struggle financially to fulfill their musical dreams. The foundation seeks to enable young singers to experience the joy of music that we ourselves feel.

With that in mind, we hosted our inaugural gala in 2017 to support the foundation, raising more than \$36,000 from 180 guests. Those funds broadened AOH's community footprint and helped lessen the financial strains of some youngsters attending our immersive summer program. We are thrilled to report that our second gala surpassed the first, and with the help of 244 donors, we raised more than \$56,000! Donations came in the form of silent and live auction items/purchases, monetary donations, seat reservations, and a paddle auction for scholarship donations.



# INSPIRING YOUTH <sup>THE</sup> AMBASSADORS OF HA



## Acappellooza

Acappellooza Summer is an overnight a cappella music summer camp held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) for students in grades 9-12. During the four day camp, students are immersed in singing led by some of the world's most prominent names in a cappella music, including two-time gold medalists Dr. Jim Henry and Debbie Cleveland. In 2018, 167 coed students attended the 5th annual camp.



## Acappellooza

Acappellooza Fall is a two-day field trip for high-schoolers from all over Missouri and the Metro-East. Dr. Jim Henry and the Ambassadors of Harmony have been putting this together for 16 years, in partnership with the University of Missouri St. Louis, with help from the University Singers. This year, more than 1,100 students participated.



## ACA F E S T

In 2016, AOH launched AcaFest, a festival of high-school and college singers that gave local St. Louis groups opportunities to network and showcase their talents for an engaged audience. This year Acafest will be held on April 6th at Missouri Baptist University.



# HARMONY MUSIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Project Harmony

For several years, AOH has been working with students in various St. Louis-area schools to share our love of a cappella singing (primarily in the barbershop style) with students and teachers. Project Harmony takes contemporary a cappella music back to its roots by integrating tight harmonies and barbershop singing techniques into a year-long program in local schools.

## SCHOLARSHIP

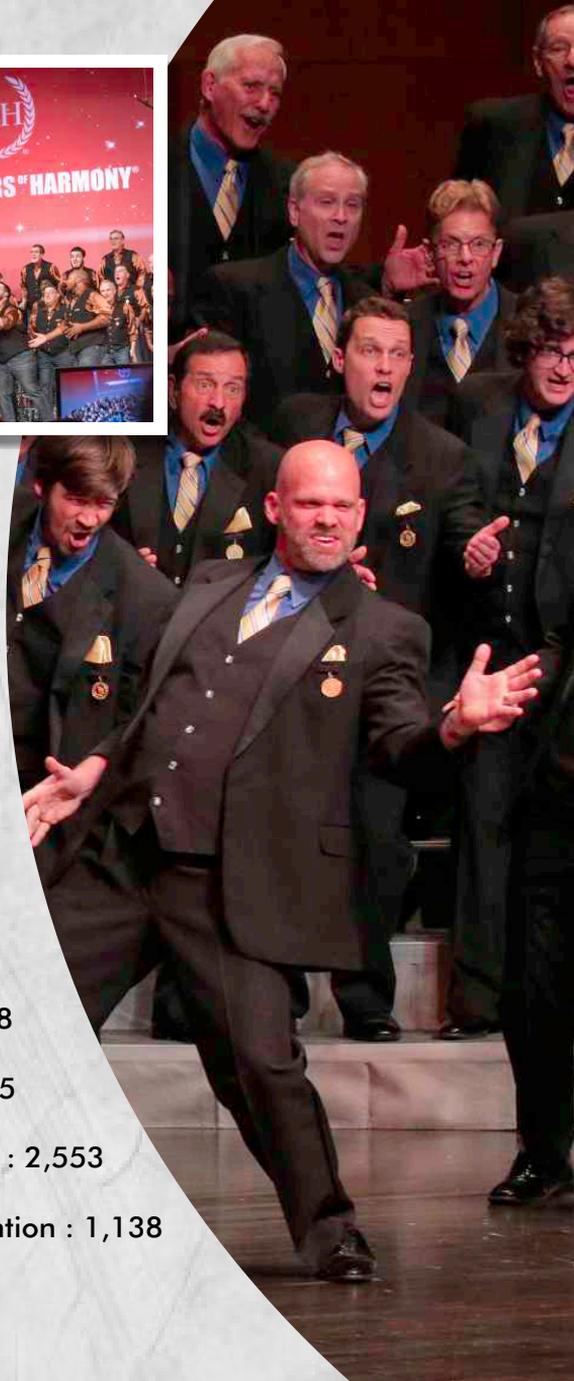
Since 1997, the Ambassadors of Harmony have provided an annual college scholarship to local high school seniors. The \$1,000 scholarship is designed to encourage singers to continue pursuing vocal music education and is presented at AOH's annual concert in June.

## The RECRUITS

The Recruits chorus was formed in 2012 by AOH co-director Jonny Moroni to inspire, educate and provide choral opportunities for youth. Members benefit from performing before large audiences and receiving top-notch vocal instruction. In 2018 it welcomed new director, Eric Dalbey. In early 2019 the chorus became the first official BHS mixed chorus.



# SHARING THE LOVE OF HARMONY



## Performances

June Show : 1,845

Acappellooza Fall : 537

AOH Foundation Gala : 230

Sounds of the Season : 6,548

Acappellooza Summer : 1,478

Sweet Honey in the Rock : 905

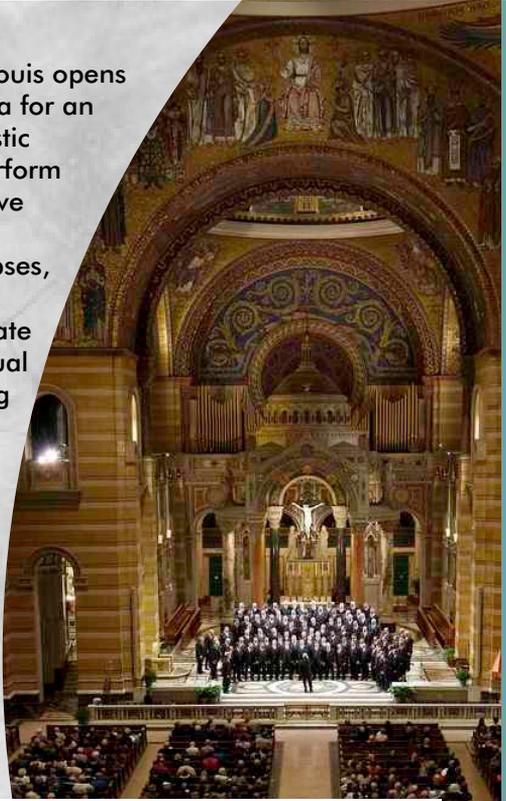
Sweet Adelines Coronet Club : 2,553

Central States District Convention : 1,138

**Attendance Total :**  
**15,234**

# BLESS MY SOUL

Every year, the Archdiocese of St. Louis opens up the magnificent Cathedral Basilica for an evening of community concerts. Artistic ensembles from across the world perform and revel in the cathedral's impressive six-second reverberation. The sound shimmers through the arches and apses, returning with a softened character. In 2018, AOH was proud to participate in the Cathedral Basilica's 25th annual concert series for the first time during a wonderful evening in March.



# IT'S WHAT WE DO



In June, AOH presents "ACAPPELLA LIVE!" an exciting summer concert at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. The annual show highlights various songs in AOH's diverse repertoire and often gives the chorus a chance to debut its two-song contest set before traveling to compete.

For the second year in a row, AOH hosted the Central States District contest in October right here in St. Charles, MO. Fortunately, we had ample preparation having hosted the district contest in 2017 as well. This year provided a new challenge for the chorus: hosting AND competing! Ultimately, 23 quartets



crossed the stage this year including six with members of the Ambassadors of Harmony. Fleet Street, whose members all have sung in AOH, took district gold. Three more AOH-bred quartets finished in the top 10.

More than a dozen talented choruses also took part in the contest as well. AOH took first place, earning the society's No. 1 seed and a chance to represent the district at the 2019 international contest in Salt Lake City.

We were offered a unique opportunity to perform on a gospel-style concert with Sweet Honey in the Rock, a well-known African-American women's singing ensemble. When the internationally acclaimed, three-time Grammy winners visited our home venue in March, AOH was honored to open the show with our own gospel and a cappella style.



In October, Sweet Adelines, the largest women's barbershop society, descended on the Gateway City for its international competition. Thousands of incredible women's choruses and quartets competed for gold at the Dome at the America's Center. AOH was the invited featured guest chorus and the only men's group to sing at the Sweet Adeline's Coronet Club show, an annual concert that showcases champion barbershop quartets and choruses.



# GENEROUS HEARTS



## **PLATINUM (\$2,000-\$4,999)**

Rose Carlisle  
Narasimha Gondi  
A.J. Theiler

## **GOLD (\$1,000-\$1,999)**

Terry & Barbara Carlisle  
Lawrence & Stephanie Dobrosky  
Ed & Julie Glotzback  
Robert & Emily Goerss  
James & Carol Henry  
Roy & Carol Hillmann  
Linda S. Legg  
Vincent & Susan Lopiccolo  
Monsanto  
Austin Veteto  
Gale & Chris Wickham  
Dr. Martin Wice

## **SILVER (\$500-\$999)**

Anonymous  
Julie Barch  
Rudy Beck Family  
David Brewer  
Rosemary Boustancy  
Ross & Alicia Bricklemeyer  
Lynn & Mary Bultman  
Sally Faith  
Kenneth & Barb Fritz  
Paul & BJ Fuhrmann  
Matthew & Rosemarie Hamilton  
Diane Harrell  
Barry & Deborah  
Koenemann  
Win & Dawn Latham  
Tim & Janet Myers  
Rich & Marvis Meyers  
Jeff Noble  
Raymond & Kathy Palmer  
Kay Tucker  
Scott Wilson

## **BRONZE (\$250-\$499)**

Brett Balasky  
Jeffrey Cohen  
Laurie & Tom Connelly  
Nancy & Dave Giffin  
Lynne Glickert  
Ron & Betty Grooters  
Jim & Jerilee Inghram  
Kim & Jeanne Luther  
Jason Martin  
Mike Maskus / Cathy  
Augustin  
Jason McNiel  
Aaron & Renee Mercer  
Marty & Amy Monson  
Fred & Melody Moroni  
Jonny & Lexi Moroni  
Dave & Rita Mosley  
Kenneth & Donna Murphy  
Jeffrey & Cheryl Murphy  
Phyllis Parsons  
Michael Piskulic  
George & Jan Rugge  
Linda Schlueter  
David & Sandi Wright  
John & Karen Zerr

## **PARTNER (\$100-\$249)**

Ken & Michelle Alldredge  
Howard & Barbara Berner  
Steve & Tracy Brokaw  
Double Date Quartet  
Ken & Karla Gerke  
Jane Gilbert  
William Gilbert  
Mary M. Gosney  
John & Marsha Green  
Martha Hitchcock  
Pam & Jeffrey Jones  
Betty J. Kagan  
Gene Kiernan  
Jane Kostelc

Paula Kraft  
Charles & Cathi Lammert  
Tim & Lindsey Luby  
Karen McAtee  
Jessica Mertz  
Kenneth & Donna Murphy  
Niki Murphy  
Kathryn Myers  
Tim & Leslie Myers  
Otto Construction Inc.  
Larry & Sharon Rathsam  
David & Michelle Revelle  
Michael & Deann Rubin  
Rachel Sabina  
Sheila Sheley  
John Steffen  
James Toeniskoetter  
Dave & Barbara Warmbrodt  
Herb & Mary Beth Westhoff  
Andy Wendler  
Terry Wieland

## **PATRON (up to \$99)**

Anonymous  
Ellen Boone  
David Cade  
Ed Coco  
Tom Connelly  
Linda Harr  
Mike Hellebusch  
Jeff & Harriet Kopolow  
Robert & Christine Lewis  
Ben & Mary McReynolds  
Judith Unger

# FINANCIALS



Information from 2017 AOH form 990 tax return



## **2019 Board of Directors:**

J. Timothy Myers - President  
Nate McKie – Executive Vice President  
Mike Rubin – Immediate Past President  
Steve Knese – V.P. of Chapter Development  
Rich Meyers – V.P. of Music & Performance  
David Revelle – V.P. of PR & Communications  
Justin Watkins – Secretary  
Chris Pingel – Treasurer  
Stan Johnson – Member at Large  
Dennis “Mac” McFarland – Member at Large  
J.T. Reid – Member at Large  
Michael Bass - Member at Large

## **Music Directors:**

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



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