

2019 ANNUAL REPORT





The Ambassadors of Harmony FOUNDATION

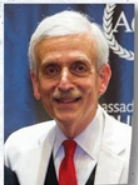
'Our mission is to educate our membership in order to continually improve in vocal quality, performance and personal fulfillment in a cappella singing. When we perform, our goal is to give a gift that will change the lives of the people in our audience.'

It's hard to believe that the Foundation, the sustainable fund-raising program first discussed in the 2014 Chapter installation banquet, is now in its fifth year, and we are holding our fourth fund-raising gala. Your response to our call for support has been most encouraging, and is making our mission successful.

In the past year there have been some changes that will make us stronger and more successful in executing our mission to support the Ambassadors of Harmony, given the changes in the way the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) now operates. Most significantly, the Foundation has a new President. In Spring of 2019 Alan Freed was invited to take over the leadership of the Foundation. Alan not only has a background in music, but also has experience in leadership roles on other non-profit boards. He is an attorney with Paule, Camazine and Blumenthal, and has been recognized as a 'top attorney' in his field of divorce and mediation. There are other changes happening with Board members and that information will be made available when completed.

Again this past year the Foundation participated in the funding of the Acappellooza Summer music camp to the tune of over \$22,000. The support for the registrations and other student-related needs for this event continues to be the primary expense for the Foundation. We are now also supporting the youth chorus (the Recruits) which is also part of the AOH chapter of the BHS. The Recruits have been very successful in their efforts to maintain the leadership of our chapter choruses, actually winning the Central States District Mixed Chorus competition their first time competing. They are currently preparing to go to Dortmund, Germany to the BinG! World Mixed Chorus competition in April, and thanks to your contributions, the Foundation is a big part of that.

A search is underway for additional resources for the Board, resources who can bring certain expertise to the table to help us ensure our viability going forward. Financial Planning expertise is among the most urgent needs. The Foundation is on sound footing, but needs to execute some leapfrog development objectives in order to continue to keep pace with the youth-oriented initiatives of the chapter, and to support all (both) the choruses of the chapter in maintaining their leadership roles within the Society.



Michael Rubin
Secretary/Treasurer
The Ambassadors of Harmony
Foundation

OUR 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 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

The Ambassadors of Harmony and our youth chorus, The Recruits, have had a truly exciting 2019. The Ambassadors had a full slate of shows and events with a highlight of participating on the International Stage. The Recruits, likewise, contested for the first time as a mixed chorus and qualified for the International Mixed Chorus championship in Germany in 2020. We are very excited about what they will bring to the stage in this first ever qualification.

In addition to The Recruits, we have had several other youth outreach experiences in 2019, not the least is our Acapellooza Summer Camp in partnership with UMSL. This event drew high school kids from across the region and across the United States to a truly spectacular learning experience. We were able to provide scholarships to many youth who found themselves in financial need. Many provided testimony that this was their only opportunity to sing as their schools no longer had music programs.

2019 found our organization stretching the boundaries of what it means to be a choral organization, bringing the art form to a new level of storytelling through our innovative approach to the Chaplin Set performed as part of our Spring Concert Series and our International Competition. Marrying the black and white setting of the early silent films with a heartfelt story of a boy and a man each finding themselves when the world was darkest, the chorus delivered a set that truly showed our audience the true colors of our message. We are very proud to have brought this unique way of storytelling to the stage, finding new and innovative way to deliver art to our audiences.

Finally, we are very proud to share that the Arts and Education Council of St. Louis has awarded the Excellence in the Arts award to The Ambassadors of Harmony. This prestigious award was given in January. Everyone associated with the chorus is humbled and proud to have been recognized in such a way.

We truly believe that Art changes lives. Art is needed for a full experience in this world. Art unifies. Art reveals. Art completes.

We are proud to be able to deliver Art as well as to experience it.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim".

Tim Myers, President
The Ambassadors of Harmony

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

The year 2019 was full of smashing artistic successes for the Ambassadors of Harmony, The Recruits Chorus and our many fine quartets. The Ambassadors joined our voices with the New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church Chancel Choir and the Community Gospel Choir for a rousing and inspirational Gospel Concert at Greater Grace Church in Ferguson, MO, on March 15.

Then the chorus embarked on a daring and unprecedented contest set that saw the entire ensemble appearing in monochrome costuming and make-up to perform "The Chaplin Medley" and "True Colors" for the Acapella Live! show in June and the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Competition held in Salt Lake City in July. Although the Ambassadors finished second in the competition, they were hailed as champions by those who saw the performance. Plaudits poured in from audience members and BHS officials alike.

Our Sounds of the Season shows in December treated audience members to a comic retelling of the Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life" as well as a second act full of beautiful arrangements of both traditional and modern holiday tunes.

While Chapter quartets Crossroads and Vocal Spectrum entertained audiences across the world during the year, 2018 Central District Champions Fleet Street and 2019 CSD Champions Spitfire moved up in the International rankings finishing 27th and 38th respectively.

We could not be more proud of our Recruits Chorus. The Recruits became the first Mixed Chorus admitted to the Barbershop Harmony Society in January, 2019, and stunned the Central States District by finishing second in the Fall Chorus Contest behind only Central Standard, the International fourth place medal winner in Salt Lake City. Congratulations to The Recruits and their Director, Eric Dalbey.

The end of 2019 saw the chorus beginning preparations for the World Choir Games to be held in Belgium in July, 2020. The Ambassadors of Harmony are singing better than at any time in their history and our optimism about the future is boundless.

Dr. Jim Henry
Jonny Moroni
Co-Directors





The Ambassadors of Harmony
FOUNDATION



The 3rd Annual Ambassadors of Harmony Foundation Gala was Saturday, February 16, 2019, at the St. Charles Convention Center Grand Ballrooms. Our goal to become a fully realized arts organization became clear that evening. Our gala presented the story in a grand fashion and culminated with a dramatic video presentation featuring some of the groups and students who have benefitted from the donations so kindly given to our foundation by our patrons and corporate contributors. The evenings entertainment featured the Ambassadors of Harmony, Vocal Spectrum, The Recruits Chorus and our very special guests, Vintage Mix.

Portions of the evening highlighted our Youth Outreach Initiatives, some of which have been giving back to the students and schools in the St. Louis metro area for over 20 years. Our programs include college scholarship awards, Acappellooza Summer and Fall, The Recruits Chorus, Project Harmony and Acafest.

In 2019, AOH had more than 1,264 young singers take part in our music education projects. The various programs were guided by the Ambassadors of Harmony Foundation which was founded to foster partnerships in the community. By seeking partnerships and expanding our impact in the community, it helps the singers who struggle financially to fulfill their musical dreams. The foundation seeks to enable these amazing individuals to experience the joy of music that we ourselves feel.

We've come a quite a way from the inaugural gala in 2017! In that time we've broadened AOH's footprint in the greater St. Louis community and helped lessen the financial strains of some of the youngsters attending our immersive Summer programs. Tonight, we are thrilled to tell you that our third gala evening was a resounding success, and with the help of over 193 donors, we raised more than \$50,190! Donations came in the form of silent and live auction purchases, monetary donations, seat reservations, and a paddle auction for scholarship donations. Thanks to all of you for your ongoing support.

The Ambassadors of Harmony 2020 Excellence in the Arts Honoree



The Ambassadors work hard to make an impact in our community and beyond through our concerts & appearances, our recordings & videos, and most importantly through our service to youth. We have established a foundation to increase and perpetuate those impacts, and we take pride in the various ways we have managed to encourage teens to explore their artistic side through vocal harmony. We engage hundreds of youth through Acappellooza Summer & Acappellooza Fall, the Recruits Chorus, Project Harmony St. Louis, and increasingly through participation in the chorus itself.

The St. Louis Arts Awards honors the artists, educators, philanthropists, corporate citizens, and arts organizations that make our region so vibrant. The Ambassadors of Harmony join the esteemed ranks of honorees of this award, including the St. Louis Symphony, Dance St. Louis, COCA, and the Repertory Theater. The honor has been bestowed annually since 1992 when the first honorees were Leonard Slatkin, Robert McFerrin (Bobby's father), & Webster University. The award was presented at a grand gala awards ceremony on January 27th at the Chase Park Plaza Hotel.



THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY YOUTH OUTREACH INITIATIVES & MUSIC EDUCATION



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 2019, 148 coed students attended the 6th 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 17 years, in partnership with the University of Missouri-St. Louis, with help from the University Singers. This year, more than 1,041 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 in April. Stay tuned for details!



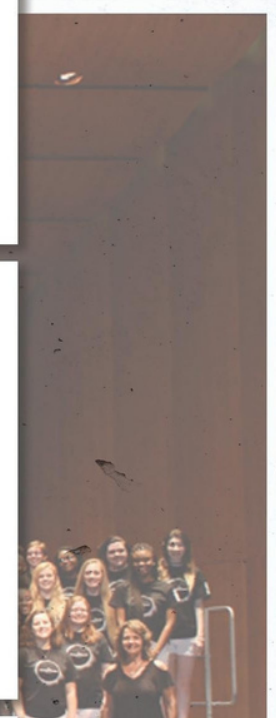
For several years, AOH has been working with students in various St. Louis-area schools to share our love of a cappella singing [primarily in the barbershop style] with students and teachers. Project Harmony takes contemporary a cappella music back to its roots by integrating tight harmonies and barbershop 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 to pursue vocal education and is presented at AOH's annual concert in June.

The RECRUITS Chorus

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 and plans to represent the society in Gemany this March.



SHARING THE LOVE OF HARMONY



PERFORMANCES

- Gospel Show - 791
- AOH Foundation Gala - 193
- June Show - 1,819
- Acapellooza Summer - 148
- BHS International Contest - 6,829
- Greater Alton Show - 478
- Acappelloza Fall - 1,041
- Sounds of the Season - 6,247

ATTENDANCE TOTAL

17,546



TRUE COLORS SHINING THROUGH



The following is an excerpt from the Barbershop Harmony Society's monthly magazine, *The Harmonizer*, written following our silver medal-winning performance in Salt Lake City, Utah.

'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.'

-Lorin May
Editor, *The Harmonizer*
August/ September issue



IT'S WHAT WE DO

We started the year in March with a collaborative gospel concert at Greater Grace Church, that included some amazing local choirs. The sanctuary was overflowing with hundreds of gospel music fans.

Taking the stage were The New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church Chancel Choir, The Community Gospel Choir and The Ambassadors of Harmony with special guest soloist, Brian Owens. To say, 'The house rocked!', would be an extreme understatement. This biennial concert has become a 'must see' for all those who've attended.



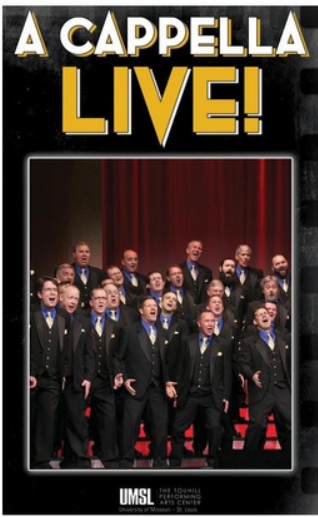
The month of July brought us to the Barbershop Harmony Society's annual international convention in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. We were both excited and privileged to perform our unique set in front of thousands of barbershop harmony enthusiasts at the LDS Convention Center. In a story set on a sound stage to re-enact the golden era of silent films, our Chaplin meets a boy and both are changed forever. All in black and white!

It was a performance for the ages. All the hundreds of hours that went in to making this performance possible still astounds us. When the evening was complete and the scores tabulated, we took home the silver medal...and the hearts of the entire worldwide audience. Our true colors were on display and we've never felt more proud.



Our annual Christmas shows titled, 'Sounds of the Season', have been entertaining and thrilling audiences for decades. And, as in years past, we dedicated this year's first half of the show to a light-hearted retelling of the classic Christmas tale... 'It's a Wonderful Life'. Audiences were treated to endless laughs by the masterfully spoofed characters, as well as our talented cast of angels...with wings!

The seamless transition to our sacred portion of the program was deftly handled by none other than the stunning voices of the St. Louis Children's Choirs, conducted by Artistic Director, Barbara Berner. Master storyteller, Joneal Joplin joined us again this year to give the evening's performance just the right emotional tone. This year's shows were seen by over 6,000 guests at the Touhill PAC. It's our favorite time of the year.



Every June, AOH presents 'A CAPPELLA 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 the Ambassadors repertoire and gives the chorus a chance to debut its two-song contest set before traveling to compete in the Barbershop Harmony Society's International contest.

GENEROUS HEARTS



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

Rose Carlisle
Narasimha Gondi
A.J. Theiler

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

Ross & Alicia Bricklemeyer
Terry & Barbara Carlisle
Lawrence & Stephanie Dobrosky
Ted and Beth Dunn
Ed & Julie Glotzback
Robert & Emily Goerss
James & Carol Henry
Roy & Carol Hillmann
Linda S. Legg
Vincent & Susan Lopiccolo
Mike and Lee Moio
Austin Veteto
Martin Wice
Gale & Chris Wickham
Dr. Martin Wice

SILVER (\$500-\$999)

Barbershop Harmony Society
Julie Barch
Rudy & Sandy Beck
David Brewer
Rosemary Boustancy
Lynn & Mary Bultman
Sally Faith
Kenneth & Barb Fritz
Paul & BJ Fuhrmann
Matthew & Rosemarie Hamilton
Diane Harrell
Barry & Deborah Koenemann
Win & Dawn Latham
Rich & Marvis Meyers
Tim & Leslie Myers
Jeff Noble

Raymond & Kathy Palmer
David Tucker
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
Mike Maskus / Cathy Augustin
Jason McNeil
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 Ruge
Linda Schlueter
Paul Tate
David & Sandi Wright
John & Karen Zerr

PARTNER (\$100-\$249)

Ching Family
Ken & Michelle Allredge
Howard & Barbara Berner
Steve & Tracy Brokaw
Double Date Quartet
Ken & Karla Gerke
Jane Gilbert

FINANCIALS



Income

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



Expenses

- Music & Performance - Travel, Venues, School Programs
- Other Expenses
- Administrative - Insurance, Office, Advertising



Information from 2018 AOH Form 990 Income Tax

2020 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
Nick Maas - Secretary
Chris Pingel - Treasurer
Stan Johnson - Member at Large
Dennis 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

Photo Credits - Sean Himmel, Josh Marino, Sue Rakers, Lorin May
Suzy Gorman, Read Photography and Dave Revelle

Report Design/ Layout - Todd Johnson, J.T. Reid and David Revelle