

THE Sunburst



TRIENNIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



Tribute
Sunshine District Quartet Champions
— Fall Convention, 2025 —



Tampa Chapter
Heralds of Harmony
Qualify for International 2026
— Fall Convention, 2025 —

President's Message



David Mills
Sunshine District President
president@sunshinedistrict.org

What an incredible weekend we had at our recent Fall Convention in beautiful St. Augustine! I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who made this convention such a success. Your behind-the-scenes efforts did not go unnoticed and helped everything run smoothly and joyfully from start to finish.

To everyone who attended—whether you were competing, cheering in the audience, or catching up with old friends—thank you for being there. Your presence is what brings our community to life. And of course, congratulations to all the outstanding competitors, both quartets and choruses. Your performances were inspiring reminders of the talent and dedication that thrive throughout our district.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for our **Spring 2026 Convention**, kicking off with the **SUN Harmony Platoon** on **Thursday, April 30**, followed by more activities and competitions **May 1–2**. Whether you plan to compete or simply come to soak up the harmonies, we want you there. Our conventions are always better when you're part of them—and frankly, we'll miss you if you're not!

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed so far to the **Sunshine District Endowment**. With the generous gift presented at our Fall Convention from the **Breedon family**, we have now surpassed the **\$25,000 threshold**—officially establishing this as a permanent fund that will provide ongoing support for district programs in perpetuity. I encourage everyone to consider including our SUN Endowment in your planned giving in the months and years ahead.

As we move into the holiday season, I wish each of you joy, good health, and harmony in the year to come. Thank you for all you do to keep our Sunshine family strong and singing. Let's keep the harmony going!



THE ASSOCIATION OF
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS
PRESENTS

THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON 2025

FOUR **WORLD CHAMPION** QUARTETS
SING HOLIDAY FAVORITES!

SUNDAY, DEC. 14TH
3PM & 7PM EST

LIVE FROM THE SHARON L. MORSE
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA



LEMON SQUEEZY



QUORUM



INSTANT CLASSIC



3 & A HALF MEN

TICKETS & LIVE STREAM
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT **AICGOLD.COM**



SUNSHINE CITY CHORUS MEN'S MINI BRIGADE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

9:00 AM UNTIL 6:00 PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL
1644 NURSERY RD, CLEARWATER, FL 33756

REGISTER - <https://sunshinecitychorus.com/>



Questions Call or Email Danny Glaser - 727-439-6777, dglaser76@gmail.com

- Full Registration - \$75 with Learning Tracks, Selected Voice Part, Full Mix and Sheet Music. Additional Parts \$10 each.
- Six Songs – Easy to Moderate
- Quartet Competition with Judges
- Pizza Lunch Included
- Show - Chorus Singing Five Songs, and winning quartet one song for the Venue's Patrons 5:00-6:00 pm. SCC chorus and quartets will also perform.

Songs Included:

- 1) I've Got the World on a String
- 2) Everybody Loves Somebody
- 3) Desperado
- 4) Dream a Little Dream of Me
- 5) It's a Most Unusual Day
- 6) Georgia on My Mind

See you there!

Congratulations David Mills

Recipient of the Contest & Judging Committee's
Award of Excellence for superior service and
personal dedication to contest and judging.





HERALDS OF HARMONY & TOAST OF TAMPA
PRESENT

Sounds of the Season

SUN, DEC 14
AT 3:00 PM

SUN CITY
CENTER UMC

VISIT HERALDSOFHARMONY.COM FOR TICKETS

Executive Vice President's Message

Rod Sgrignoli

Sunshine District Executive Vice President

evp@sunshinedistrict.org

Hello Sunshine!

Hope this finds all of you doing well and enjoying some great barbershop harmony experiences!

As we wrap up our last newsletter of 2025, we get an opportunity to reflect on an exciting year – two great conventions, some great learning experiences along the way, a highly successful Harmony Explosion camp in the Tampa area, great regional events in the Panhandle and other parts of the state (e.g., for youth camps) and yet another exciting Labor Day Jamboree with past district champs, current medalist quartets that are still aspiring to Gold and some of our past International Champs. We also had an exciting past champs' show at the Fall Convention including an inspired performance from Three and A Half Men and a fabulous and tear-jerking farewell performance from Signature. Finally, congratulations to our new District Quartet Champion, Tribute and our International Chorus Representative, Heralds of Harmony, hoping to bring home some Gold next summer in St. Louis, MO!

We hope that all of you have also had great barbershop experiences in your own backyards – with opportunities for singing around, serving in your communities and sharing our love of four-part harmony and close friendships in all of our neighborhoods!

We're also at that part of the year where we get to look forward to next year's horizon. We'll start with another online LeadAC led by our very own Jack Klotzbach and team. We'll be using the same format as last year where it's free for all of your chapter officers to attend.

We'll be doing the sessions jointly with the Carolinas District (similar to last year's format) and possibly adding a third district with our fellow barbershoppers from the Southeastern Harmony District. In many cases, offerings are being expanded and including even more nuts-and-bolts training per request from last year's post-LeadAC reviews. We hope that you take every opportunity to be part of LeadAC weekend and please look for more details in the near future.

We'll also continue with exciting conventions in the Spring and Fall – same weekends as last year (1st weekend in May and the 3rd weekend in October) and same location (World Golf Village Renaissance Hotel in St. Augustine, FL). We plan to continue to expand educational opportunities and offer events such as Harmony Platoon at these events so please mark your calendars and plan to join us in person for those weekends. Our team is also looking for ideas to make these events all the more fun for attendees so please provide us with input on ways to continue to make our in-person events exciting and memorable – our goal is to make all of our events so irresistible that you'd be crazy to miss one!

We'll also be returning to the Tampa area for our annual District Harmony Explosion Camp next summer and hosting next year's Labor Day Jamboree in a new location that should hearken back to some of the great venues of yesteryear – can't wait to see you there!

Lastly, a great shout-out to all of our district chapters and volunteers – without you, we wouldn't be the same incredible district that

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we are – to that end, we will also be making visits to each and every chapter over the next couple of years to brainstorm our best ways to serve and tailor district offerings to maximize our value to each chapter – the team is looking forward to the opportunity to get to know you better and

continue in our journey to be the premier provider of barbershop harmony experiences in all of BHS – thanks for all you do and looking forward to an exciting 2026!

Keep The Sunshine Ringing!



Director of Finance Message

Chris Rodgers

Sunshine District Director of Finance

harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

As most of you heard at the Fall contest, we have an endowment! With the recent donation from the Breedon fund, the endowment has reached its initial funding goal. This is exciting news for the Sunshine District as it sets us up with income – forever. This is also something you can do for your own chapter. At least one chapter in the Sunshine District already has its own endowment. You may be asking “what is an endowment and how does it work?”

What is an endowment?

An endowment is a fund of donations, typically held permanently, that is invested to generate income. The principal of the fund is preserved, while a portion of the earnings is used to provide long-term support for a specific purpose.

How does it work in general?

Donations – Individuals or groups donate to the fund.

Investment – The donated principal (also known as the “corpus”) is invested in things like stocks and bonds. This is typically done by a management group that oversees the

endowment.

Spending – a portion of the investment earnings is withdrawn annually to fund the organization, while the principal remains intact (you can never spend the principal/corpus – it can only grow and/or earn interest).

Donor Intent – Donors can specify how their donated funds should be used, such as for youth activities, scholarships, or other specific programs, or they can leave it up to the organization’s governing board to decide.

How does the Sunshine District’s endowment work?

Basically, we had a donor in the past who donated a large sum of money (\$15,000) to an endowment for the Sunshine District. Harmony Foundation International (HFI) is managing the endowment for the Sunshine District – for free. They can manage your endowment for free as well. As the manager of the endowment, HFI will collect the donations, ensure that the endowment is properly invested and manage the spending/draws as well as the donor intent.

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To start an endowment with HFI, there is a minimum threshold to be invested: \$25,000. You can save it up for a few years with fundraising campaigns, etc. Once you reach the minimum threshold of \$25,000, the fund will officially become an endowment and be invested to grow. It will take 2-3 years of initial investing before you can draw from the growth, but typically you can get 4-5% annually from the endowment. So, for a new \$25,000 minimum, you would receive \$1,000 - \$1,250 annually - forever!

You should encourage more donors to continue to grow the endowment for more income every year. Folks can set up regular donations, one-time donations, donations from their estate, etc. With successful fundraising over the years, your endowment could easily grow to \$250,000 (or more) and be providing you with \$10,000 - \$12,500 income every year at that size. Quite often the annual investment could exceed the amount you are drawing out every year, and the excess would be reinvested, continuing to grow the corpus.

As the manager, HFI would ensure that you

know what % of the funds are designated to specific uses by the donor's intent. For example, if \$15,000 was donated with no direction, then the organization can spend it however they want. If an additional \$10,000 was donated for youth activities, then HFI will let you know that on a \$1000 draw, you must use \$400 for youth activities, and you can use the remaining \$600 for general use. This ensures that the wishes of the donors are upheld year after year.

An endowment can ensure that a chapter can continue existence for generations. This could pay for a director's position, annual youth camps, leadership training, competition costs, performance costs like risers and uniforms, etc. The possibilities are endless - and so is the income, unlike grants that vary in value and can dry up in some years.

For more information how an endowment works or how you can set one up, feel free to reach out to me and I can meet with you or your board.



Christmas Choral Extravaganza!



The Sarasota Chorus of the Keys invites you to join them for a heartwarming afternoon filled with the joyful sounds of the season...well-loved holiday favorites, fun-filled medleys and classic Christmas carols...a festive musical celebration for all ages that is sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit!

Saturday, December 13, 2025 | 2 pm

Harvest United Methodist Church
14305 Covenant Way in Lakewood Ranch

Tickets \$20
(\$10 for bussed groups of 6 or more)

Come early and check out our Silent Auction!

Joining the Chorus are special guests, *The Magic of Manatee*, an award-winning chapter of Sweet Adelines International. This talented group will add a delightful flair to the concert, showcasing their signature blend of harmony and showmanship!



To order tickets or for more information, click on the QR Code or visit: www.chorusofthekeys.org



Congratulations Chad Bennet

2025 Sunshine District Hall of Fame Recipient



Message from the Director of Events

Chuck Steiner

Sunshine District Director of Events

events@sunshinedistrict.org

Fall Convention Delivers Record Energy in St. Augustine

Greetings from the **Sunshine District Events Team™**, a proud division of the Sunshine District Board (whether they claim us or not). We'd like to thank the Board for their support, especially **President David Mills and the lovely first lady of the Sunshine District, or "FLOSD", Linda Mills**, and especially **Executive VP Rod Scrigknowly** (*sound it out*), who brought new ideas, fresh eyes, and just enough patience to keep us between the guardrails- which are there for a reason! We have so many fun little traditions in the District...some of which Rod is learning about as he reads this very newsletter! Steve Creggie knows all about this one...(wink).

What a weekend we just had! Of course I'm talking about our Fall Convention, held October 17-18 at the World Golf Village Renaissance Resort in St. Augustine, reminded us what makes this District so very special: talent, teamwork, and a whole lot of heart.

Our choruses and quartets brought the house down, and it's safe to say the Sunshine spirit is alive and well. People were rushing up to me saying, "*Sir, this is the best convention we've ever been at.*" You wouldn't believe it. But we saw numbers we haven't seen in years... numbers people didn't even think were possible! But we did it. **YOU** did it! That kind of feedback says it all.

Congratulations to our **2025 District Quartet Champions, Tribute!!** These guys are bringing style, polish, and heart to every note, and we're excited about their future!

Your Chorus Representative to 2026

International: Tampa's Heralds of Harmony, who earned the right to represent the Sunshine District in St. Louis in 2026!

The Most Improved Chorus: The Coastmen from Palm Beach County, returning to competition for the first time in over a decade (!!) and walking away with the most-improved award. Talk about a comeback story! Don't make it another decade!

(For anyone newer to our events, the Quartet Champion is always crowned in the Fall, while the Chorus Champion is crowned in the Spring. Choruses competing in the Fall are performing to qualify for International, not for the District title itself.)

Now for a little extra applause, or even an unusually strong golf clap:

A huge shout-out goes to **Stephen Goldman**, your SUN Convention Chair, who stepped into the role with 100% with confidence, a vision, composure, and a steady hand. He's been shadowing various Events folks for a few cycles now, and this was his "sink or swim" convention...and do you know what? **HE SWUM!** Stephen not only oversaw every detail of the weekend, including securing the lighting and extending the stage to accommodate nine risers, but also managed to sing with his quartet Tonal Fusion as they competed and appeared on the Champions Show to quite literally sing their trophy away from last year.

Stephen's leadership and calm under pressure

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demeanor made the weekend run smoothly and set the tone for what's to come. As is the unwritten rule, 90% of this convention was planned and executed in advance, and about 80% of that was planned in the two weeks leading up to the weekend itself...which avid Sunburst readers will recall were spent by Stephen on a cruise ship last year, so he finally got to take it all in once onsite! Minor glitch here, minor glitch there....stuff most of y'all don't even notice, were handled in real time by a (now) pro. Everything that went right, we'll happily blame him for...and anything that went wrong, if noticed... let's give him a pass and blame me. Great job, Stephen!

A huge congratulations to **Chad Bennett**, who was inducted into the *Sunshine District Hall of Fame*. It was a very touching ceremony for a well-deserved honor. I'm proud of you, Chad!

And a big shout-out to **Alex Rubin** and the **Sunshine District Association of Quartet Champions (SDAQC)** for producing an absolute stunner of a Saturday night show! The lineup, featuring 2024 International Champions **3 1/2 Men**, 2024 SUN Champs **Tonal Fusion**, and 2016 gold-medalists **Signature** was one for the books! The SDAQC, which is an Association made up of past Sunshine District Quartet Champions (hence the name), continues to deliver world-class performances and uphold the very spirit of excellence our District is known for. They perform for us annually at each Fall Convention. Always a treat!

A Heartfelt Salute to Signature Quartet

This Convention also marked a special moment as our very own Signature Quartet took their final bow for their proud and appreciative District, as they retire from active duty. They've been trailblazers and heroes in ways they don't even know, setting the standard for artistry

and humanness that defines who we were, who we are, and what we can still become! Thank you, Signature, for representing the Sunshine District name over the years with such pride, uniqueness, inclusiveness, and heart. Your constant grace and leadership-by-example are a beacon for all who know you (including a first-month, first-year, keyboard-warrior District President!

Let's just say that the District's move to be one of the final conventions in Spring and (especially) Fall – rather than one of the first – can be partially attributed to this very quartet! Hats off, and in hand to y'all!

Looking Ahead

This was still our strongest quartet showing in years! We'd love to see that same energy continue with even more chorus participation this spring! Let's keep the momentum going: bring your chorus, form that quartet, step on stage, and be part of the District's resurgence.

To everyone who competed, cheered, or just showed up to reconnect, thank you. You made this convention what it was. Our seasoned volunteers and host Chapter (Jax Big O) did an awesome job—**Sobo** would be proud! If you couldn't make it this time, we'll see you in the spring. Sunshine's shining bright again, and it's all because of you! Make our convention weekends a “can't miss” time for you as a singer and member of this wonderful community!

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

Spring 2026: May 1-3

Fall 2026: October 16-18

Spring 2027: April 30 – May 2

Fall 2027: October 15-17



Message from the Director of Music and Education

Jack Klotzbach

Sunshine District Director of Music and Education

education@sunshinedistrict.org

Okay Sunshine District, breakout your reading glasses. Time to get serious about improving our chapters and district. First I would really like for someone with an itch to help improve our district musically and administratively by assisting chapters grow in these two areas, contact me about being the new Director of Music & Education for the district.

The board is looking for someone who would like to help mold the music support and education in the district into the future. The position's effort is not over taxing but does require attention to detail and understanding barbershop, the district and chapter structures, quartet support, barbershop music sources, coaching and arrangers. If you have a desire to support your barbershop friends in an administrative role, please contact me or our district president, Dave Mills.

Coaching Guild

Okay all you music specialists, judges, performance specialists, and music educators. Time to share your wealth of knowledge with the rest of the district chapters and quartets. Let's build a robust coaching guild which can

assist choruses, quartets or chapters. The current list has not been updated in years. I am requesting all district members who are qualified to coach, (judges – current and past), international qualified quartet members, international qualified chorus directors, district board members (current and past), music educators, and harmony university trained coaches. Please contact me to understand the requirements.

LEADAC

Leadership Academy will be via zoom meeting for the 2026 chapter boards and other support training. The sessions will be held January 31st all day and will probably include 2 districts. Please be ready to register. More information on classes and instructors to come. Be on the lookout for Constant Contact emails.

Other Information

If there is any chapter or chorus or quartet that would like any music or administrative assistance, please contact me, I will be happy to assist you.





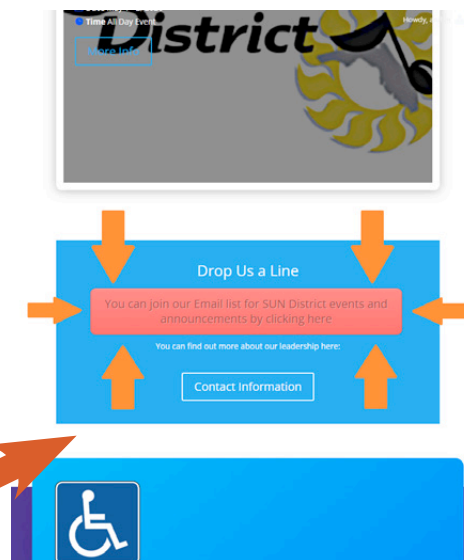
Message from SUN Communications

Jason Dearing
Sunshine District Director of Communications
 communications@sunshinedistrict.org

Ahh Fall. Coats come out of closets; contest costumes get put away; *ChristmasProgram.pub* files get opened again for the first time in 10 months in desktop publishing apps across the world... I hope the season treats you well. 😊

Since May, I've sent out more than 25 Constant Contact email and social blasts, with around 35k total sends and 12.5k total opens. For our "General Interest" campaigns (not targeted just to audiences of HX, HOD or the like), we're a couple points above the national average for click and open rates. I'm hoping that that's because our email list (like all of them) gets stale, and people simply don't check the email accounts that we're sending to as often as they once did. Hopefully you're still finding the info being sent out to be relevant and at a comfortable frequency.

If you have any suggestions on content or cadence of our emails and CC-generated social posts, please reach out to me at the email above. If you know someone who's not on our SUN mailing list and wants to join, please point them at the bottom of our [homepage](#). (Sorry, no – the arrows aren't on the real webpage):



On the subject of social posts, you'll find a lot of overlap between our FB and Insta posts, and CC emails. Most of the emails make it out to our social networks automatically. However, I want to give a big shout out to the SUN volunteers that are **constantly** updating our socials with real, relevant posts on a regular basis. David and Linda Mills, Stephen Goldman, Jack and Melissa Klotzbach, and even occasionally Chuck Steiner all pitch in and keep our socials active and in everyone's feeds. **THANK YOU!**

At the Spring 2025 convention, one of you suggested that "Next time, we should have some sort of display showing the convention program". That got my engineer wheels spinning... and I got to engineering. Some Raspberry Pi's, a couple of lightweight TVs, a speaker-pole mount and... I hope you enjoyed and got some use out of the new kiosk displays. Roxanne put a ton of work into making a beautiful program again this Fall, and it really did look nice on those screens, in my most humble opinion!

Thank you to all the quartets and volunteers that participated in this Fall contest's afterglow event. I hope the quartet sign-up process was easy and that you found the food and drinks party-worthy! If your quartet is around at convention, please do consider signing up for the glow, singing, and staying to watch someone else. And huge thanks to Rick Morin from the BigO, who managed all Host Chapter activities and helped keep the event running as smoothly as it did!

Please keep sending in your suggestions, and submissions for the Sunburst! As always, we would love to hear about your chapter events and goings-on at **any** time of year, but please do consider sending us at least a few lines and a picture about what your chapter is up to for the March and November issues. Ads for your chapter shows are reasonably-priced as well!

Thanks, and Happy Holidays!

Joe Breedon Panhandle Festival

By Jack Klotzbach

The Panhandle Festival was held late this year, second weekend October right before Fall Convention. We had six choruses and seven quartets from across panhandle. We were honored to have Cindy Hansen and David Ellis as our coaches and judges for the weekend. Once everyone realized who they were, they could not get enough coaching from them. They were gracious with their time even until the wee hours in the morning. Every chorus and quartet went away with whole new techniques and understanding of how to develop their branding to improve their performance process. We highly recommend soliciting them for your group. The weekend includes coaching for each group, practice on

songs for combined groups (women's group, men's group), a crazy quartet contest (random names drawn from a hat, and actual quartet contest (with Nota Bene from Tallahassee winning the contest). The Saturday night show consisted of a friendly chorus contest with Emerald Coast Chorus winning the plaque and bragging rights for a year, following by the top three quartets from the earlier contest and finishing with the combined choruses. We did miss having our local barbershop boys group from Niceville High School this year. Here are a few pictures from our weekend. We invite any and all barbershoppers to join us next year, the third weekend in September 2026 at the Joe Breedon Panhandle Regional Festival at Camp Timpoochee, Niceville, Florida.



Cindy and Dave



Men's Combined Chorus



Nota Bene



Women's Combined Chorus



Quartet & Chapter Happenings

Orange Blossom Chorus – Orlando chapter

The Orange Blossom Chorus has been busy over the past several months!



Orange Blossom Chorus

We were proud to participate in the Sunshine District convention. Our chorus placed 5th with 13 singers on stage, and we earned a grade improvement award. Our new chapter quartet, Flat Out, placed 9th in the quartet contest and were the mic testers for the quartet finals. As the mic testers, they had the chance to participate in a transformative “Coaching Under Glass” session with Kevin Keller. The convention inspired lots of conversations in our chorus about quartets, and we hope to bring more of them to future contests!

Our chorus has been working hard to grow our singing community. In November, we will have an interactive booth at the Fall Fiesta in the Park in downtown Orlando where we are excited to engage with visitors and sing some tags. We will be singing at a Mission BBQ for Veterans Day to honor our military veterans. In February, we will have a booth at Immerse 2026, one of the preeminent art festivals in central Florida.

We had a Guest Night earlier this year that brought 20 guests through our doors for the



Flat Out | Bethany Rowlings, Olivia Hemmings, Adrien David-Sivelle, Jim Caudill

first time, and we will be having another one on November 19. Everyone is welcome to join us that day (or any Tuesday) at our new rehearsal location: Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd at 331 Lake Ave. in Maitland from 7 pm to 9 pm. Hang around afterward to sing some tags... you might end up on our socials singing our “Tag of the Week!”

Finally, we are excited to share that we will be releasing an album early next year! It will be the first in the history of our chorus, and will include some of our favorite songs spanning the decades. We know you will enjoy listening to it as much as we enjoyed recording it. Keep an eye on our socials and our website at www.orlandobarbershopchorus.com for more information!

Quartet & Chapter Happenings

Venice Chapter Florida Gondoliers

by Lee Frayer

Interesting Barbershop cost details.

We are losing potential members because they say the dues is too high. The initial amount makes it look worse than it really is. Because in our chapter when you look at it per week, it's only \$ 5.09 per week. Where can you find any other type of entertainment as low as \$5.09 a week. One of our norther snowbird members says that's barely two cups of coffee. And I say it's a lot less expensive than going to bar to sing Karaoke.

If you are a new member under 75 years of age a combination of international dues. District dues, and chapter dues equals \$265.00 per year. Divided by 52 weeks in a year = \$5.09 per week.

If you are a member over the age of 75 you get a discount down to \$213.00 per year. Or only \$4.10 per week.

Now, I'm paying almost nothing because I have more than 50 years of membership in the society.

So if someone complains to you about the price of barber-shopping you need to compare it to the weekly amount similar to what I showed you here. The average person you will be speaking with will spend more money than this per week just on junk food or mics. nothings.

Add this to your arsenal of sales talk. It just might turn a potential member into a full active member.

Note: These numbers may vary slightly due to other districts and chapter dues amounts.



Quartet & Chapter Happenings

Tampa Chapter

Heralds of Harmony Reach New Heights in Competition and Community



The Heralds of Harmony are riding a wave of excitement and accomplishment following an extraordinary showing at the 2025 Sunshine District Fall Convention. The chorus captured first place and earned the honor of representing the Sunshine District at the **2026 Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Contest in St. Louis**—with a record-breaking **92.1% qualifying score**, the highest in the chapter's proud history.

This year's contest also showcased the depth of talent within the Tampa chapter, as **seven quartets affiliated with the Heralds** took the stage—and remarkably, **all seven advanced to the finals**. Leading the way was **Dynasty**,

which earned the title of Sunshine District Quartet Champion with an impressive **82.4%** score. The strong representation of Heralds voices across the quartet field highlights the chapter's ongoing commitment to excellence, mentorship, and harmony at every level.

With competition season complete, the Heralds are now turning their focus to a thrilling schedule of performances. Chief among them is an upcoming **joint concert with the newly crowned International Champion Sweet Adelines chorus, *The Toast of Tampa***—a collaboration that promises to be a celebration of world-class harmony, energy, and artistry. That show will be Sunday December 14th at 3pm at Sun City Center United Methodist Church.

As always, the Heralds continue to share their love of music through community outreach, youth education, and inspiring performances that bring audiences together in song.

For details on upcoming shows, tickets, and ways to support the Heralds of Harmony, visit heraldsofharmony.com.

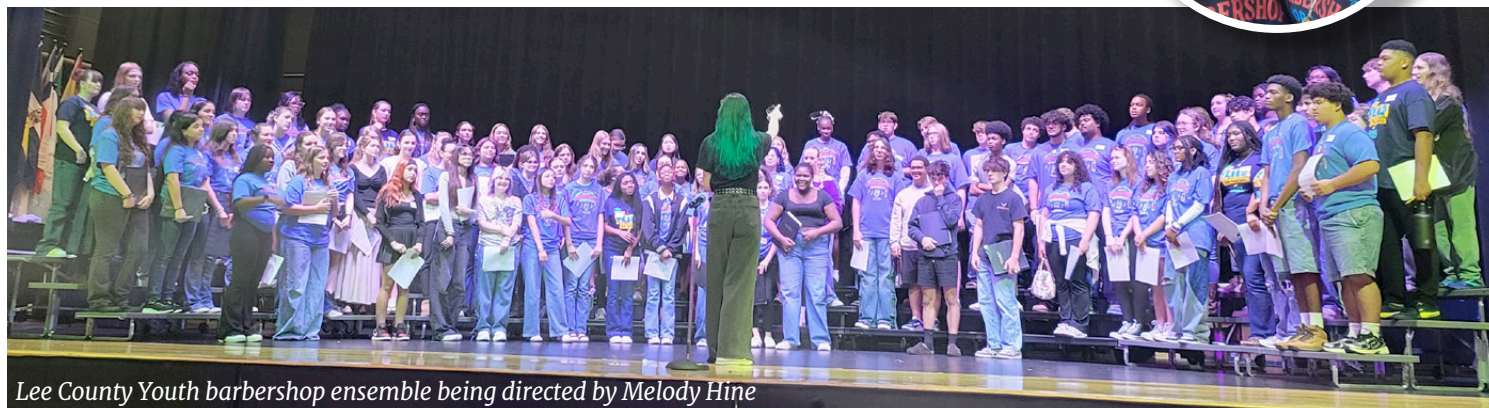


Youth Barbershop Workshop

By Tara and Saurin Shah



Saurin and Tara Shah



Lee County Youth barbershop ensemble being directed by Melody Hine

Fort Myers, FL – On the bright Friday of September 12, the halls of Fort Myers High School were filled with ringing chords, smiling faces, and the joy of barbershop harmony. A remarkable 115 students from five different Lee County schools came together for a one-day workshop that showcased the best of barbershop singing, learning, and camaraderie.

This was the first of its kind in Lee County. Principal **Chris Engelhart** stated “Fort Myers High School was honored to host the Barbershop Harmony Workshop on September 12. This event gave our students, along with others from the community, a unique and unforgettable experience. Both the instructors and the students did an outstanding job, and we couldn’t be prouder!”



Clay Hine working with the chorus



The talented Melody, Clay and Becki Hine

The workshop was spearheaded by **Tara Shah**, a talented junior in the IB program Fort Myers High, whose passion for sharing harmony inspired the project from its earliest planning stages. Backed by a generous grant from Harmony Foundation International and with additional support from the Gulfcoast Harmonizers, Tara and her team made this vision a reality. The team included her barbershopper Dad, **Saurin Shah, M.D**, Leaders of the Music Department at FMHS **Lederian Townsend** and **Angelie Agramonte**, and Head of Lee County Fine and Performing Arts, **Dr. Jason Thomashefsky**.



Students were treated to world-class instruction led by two internationally renowned clinicians, **Melody** and **Clay Hine**, who brought their energy, expertise, and heartfelt love for the barbershop art form to Fort Myers. The teaching quartet, **Tonal Fusion**, provided both inspiration and guidance, modeling the unique blend of precision and fun that makes our hobby so special.

Over the course of the day, the students experienced the thrill of four-part harmony—learning tags, ensemble techniques, and the magic of locking and ringing chords together. For many, it was their very first taste of barbershop singing, and the excitement was contagious. By the end of the day, the massed chorus of 115 young voices brought down the house with a showcase performance that filled the auditorium with energy and applause.

“I’m so glad that this workshop was successful,” said organizer Tara Shah, reflecting on the day. “I wanted my classmates and friends from across the county to feel what I felt when I first sang barbershop—how fun it is, how welcoming the community is, and how powerful the music can be when we sing together. I’m thankful that the HFI grant helped make this event happen.”

Events like this underscore the vital role youth outreach plays in the future of our Society. Thanks to partnerships between Harmony Foundation International, local chapters like the Gulfcoast Harmonizers, and visionary young leaders like Tara, the barbershop style continues to reach new ears and hearts.



Tonal Fusion
 Tenor – Raegan Stauffer
 Lead – KaleyAnna Raabe
 Baritone – Joseph De Rosa
 Bass – Stephen Goldman



Melody working with the chorus



The participants from the host school Fort Myers High

The Sunshine District celebrates this successful workshop as a shining example of what can happen when passion, mentorship, and support come together in harmony.



Chapter Eternal

Daniel Martin Brinkmann

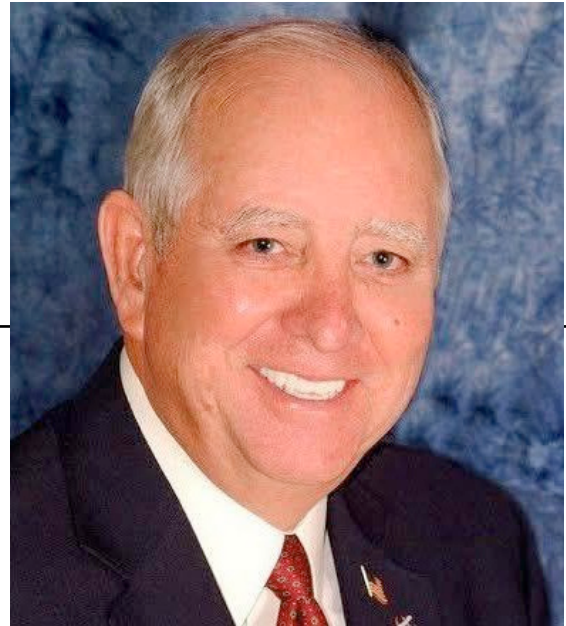
SEPTEMBER 27, 1940 – SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Daniel Martin Brinkmann, Major, United States Air Force (retired), passed away peacefully at the age of 84, surrounded by his family, at his home in Melbourne, Florida, on September 23, 2025, after a brief illness.

Dan is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Barbara (Beicher); his sister, Bonnie (Gease) of Rapid City, South Dakota; and his four children: Denise Breitweiser (Jeff) of Melbourne, Brian Brinkmann (Jennifer) of Weatherford, Texas, Theresa Carney (Tim) of Melbourne, and Debbie Finsted (Charlie) of West Melbourne. He is also survived by fourteen grandchildren, eighteen great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by two beloved granddaughters, Jaclyn (Finsted) of West Melbourne and Sarah (Brinkmann) of Weatherford, Texas; his parents, Martin and Sylvia (Slaasted); his sister Donna (Peters) of Racine, Wisconsin; and his brother Robert Brinkmann of The Villages, Florida.

Dan enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1960, received his officer's commission in 1971, and proudly served his country for twenty-six years, retiring in 1986. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from San Diego State University in 1971 and a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1975.



Dan Brinkmann

Music was one of Dan's greatest passions. In 1992, he joined the Harbor City Harmonizers, a local chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society in Melbourne. Over thirty-three years of membership, he served in numerous leadership roles, including President of the local chapter, President of the Sunshine District, and as a member of the International Board of Directors.

Dan's deep faith guided his life. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus for over fifty-five years and a devoted member of Ascension Catholic Community in Melbourne for more than four decades. He was also a proud twenty-year member of the American Legion (Post FL-0163).

Dan's ashes were laid to rest after a short service of committal with military honors at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Harmony Foundation International in Dan's honor at www.harmonyfoundation.org/donate

Fall Convention



Score sheets for the competitions are available [HERE](#).



Brian Wunderlin and David Mills



Harmony Platoon Chorus Fall25



Harmony Platoon Quartet

Thank you to the photographers, **Emily Dearing**, **Andrew Borts**, and **Scott Hershey**

Fall 2025 Convention Competitors



TRIBUTE

Tampa, FL

Brian Lindvall, Ryan Killeen,
Marshall Crawl, Sam Rinkenbaugh

Total: 1977 Points
Finals: 998 Points



TRILOGY

Orlando FL

Jesus Pacheco, Bryan Adames,
Kevin Osano, Ben Anderson

Total: 1843 Points
Finals: 927 Points



NEAT!

*Central Florida; Frank Thorne;
Hernando County, FL; Tampa, FL*
Jamie Lynn Gilliam, Jack Voorhies,
Josh Gilliam, Chris Barthauer

Total: 1804 Points
Finals: 909 Points



LIMITLESS

*Frank Thorne; Sarasota, FL Chorus of the Keys;
Orlando, FL Orange Blossom Chorus*
Gayle Burton, Britney Spears,
Juliet Collins, Nick Collins

Total: 1784 Points
Finals: 892 Points



Fall 2025 Convention Competitors



RIGHT ON Q

Tampa, FL; Frank Thorne

Paul Carter, Tim Perenich, David Mills,
Bryan Hevel

Total: 1772 Points
Finals: 892 Points



HIGH AND TIGHT

Tampa, FL

Casey Jones, Jeremy Hemphill,
Tyler Dvorak, Dustin Wells

Total: 1757 Points
Finals: 892 Points



SMASH HIT!

Tampa, FL

Shaymus Dugan, Gabe Maldonado,
Nick Gonzalez, Jordan James

Total: 1741 Points
Finals: 870 Points



FAMILY MATTERS

Tampa, FL

Mike Cross, Dave Cross, Mike Sellers,
Dean Sellers

Total: 1722 Points
Finals: 859 Points



Fall 2025 Convention Competitors



FLAT OUT

Orlando, FL

Bethany Rowlings, Olivia Hemmings,
Adrien David-Sivelle, Jim Caudill
842 Points



JUSTIN TONATION

Miami, FL; Frank Thorne

Sara DeSimone, Jacob Dern, Vincent
Casal, Jason Fieler
825 Points



THE CHORDFISH

Miami, FL; Frank Thorne

Jason Fieler, Benji Tanner, Jack Holmer,
Max Calamia
811 Points



SUNBURST

St. Petersburg, FL

Bill Leavengood, Danny Glaser, Jay Da-
cres, Kurt Popp
810 Points



Fall 2025 Convention Competitors



DEWEY, SINGUM, AND HOWE

St. Petersburg, FL

Paul McGraw, Danny Glaser, Kurt Popp,
Lance Lubin
797 Points



FOUR MORE GUYS

Jacksonville Big O

Dan Kulik, Kenneth Moyer,
Jason Dearing, John Alexander
783 Points



GEEZAIRES

*La Crosse, WI; Miami, FL;
Palm Beach County, FL*

Andy Plotkin, Jim Gammon, Randy Harner,
Don Knieriem
639 Points



SUN FIENDS

Greater Pinellas, FL

Megan Clark, Elizabeth Jay, Gary Raulerson, John Germain



TONACITY

Atlanta Metro, GA; Greater Atlanta, GA; Marietta, GA

José Salgado Torres, Ken Weil, Soor Vora, Spencer Hamilton



Fall 2025 Convention Competitors



HERALDS OF HARMONY

Tampa
Director: Tony DeRosa and
Clay Hine
1105 Points

Score
sheets for
the chorus
competition
are available
HERE.



ORLANDO HARMONY

Winter Park
Director: Marshall Webb
895 Points



6. BIG ORANGE CHORUS

Jacksonville Big O
Director: Daniel Pesante
845 Points



Fall 2025 Convention Competitors



THE COASTMEN

Palm Beach County

Director: Mike O'Connell

818 Points

Score
sheets for
the chorus
competition
are available
HERE.



ORANGE BLOSSOM CHORUS

Orlando

Director: Sean Stork

798 Points



BARBERGATORS

Gainesville

Director: Mark Slamka

759 Points



2025 Sunshine District Board of Directors

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www.sunshinedistrict.org/home/leadership/

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editor@sunshinedistrict.org



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

SAVE THE DATES!! UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

**Spring 2026:
May 1-3**

Fall 2026: October 16-18

Spring 2027: April 30 – May 2

Fall 2027: October 15-17





Sunshine District

Barbershop
Harmony
Society



Please send photos, articles, and other interesting tidbits
for inclusion in future publications of

The Sunburst.

Send to Editor@sunshinedistrict.org



Sunburst Deadlines

Mar 1 • July 15 • Nov 1



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Ad Size/Dimensions	District Member Rates		Corporate rates
	Rate per issue . . .	Annual rate (3 issues)	Per issue/Annual
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1/8 Page (3.75"w x 2.3125"h)	\$25	\$70	\$50/\$140
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Send payment to:

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13948 Sheffield Court, Wellington, FL 33414

Keep your personal information, home address, email address, telephone (home & cell) up-to-date in
the Society database. Check with your chapter secretary if help is required.

DO NOT send personal changes to District staff or *The Sunburst* Editor.



The Sunshine District wants to ensure our performances and programming are accessible to everyone.
Should you require a special accommodation, please contact us, and we will be happy to help you.