

THE Sunburst



TRIENNIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUNSHINE DISTRICT BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



Tampa Chapter | Heralds of Harmony

2026 International Bronze Medalists



TRILOGY

*2026 International NextGen
Bronze Medalists*



WAVES

2026 Sunshine District Youth Quartet Champions



TRIBUTE

*2026 International
Semifinalists*



IN THE GENES

*2026 International
Quarterfinalists*



NO CURFEW QUARTET

*2026 Sunshine District Seniors
Quartet Champions*



BIG ORANGE CHORUS

2026 Sunshine District Chorus Champions

President's Message



David Mills
Sunshine District President
president@sunshinedistrict.org

Dear Sunshine District Family,

What an exciting few months it has been for barbershop harmony in the Sunshine District!

First, I want to thank everyone who competed, volunteered, attended, and otherwise participated in our Spring Convention in St. Augustine. A successful district convention requires the work and commitment of many people—both onstage and behind the scenes—and I am grateful to everyone who helped make the weekend such a memorable experience.

To every quartet and chorus that crossed the contest stage: thank you for sharing your music, your hard work, and your love of barbershop with the rest of us. Whether you came home with a medal, a personal-best score, valuable feedback, or simply another great weekend of singing with friends, you contributed to the energy and spirit that make our Sunshine District conventions so special.

We also have much to celebrate following the recent BHS International Convention in St. Louis. The Sunshine District was represented exceptionally well, and I hope you will join me in congratulating all of our international participants.

Our chorus representative, the *Heralds of Harmony*, delivered another outstanding performance and earned a **third-place bronze medal** in the International Chorus Contest.



HERALDS OF HARMONY

Our quartet representatives also made us proud. **In The Genes** performed well in the quarterfinals, while **Tribute** earned a place in the semifinals among some of the finest quartets in the world.



IN THE GENES

Sunshine was also wonderfully represented in the NextGen quartet contest. **Trilogy** earned a **third-place bronze medal** and was also honored with the prestigious **139th Street Legacy Prize**.



TRIBUTE

Congratulations to every singer, director, coach, family member, and supporter who helped make these achievements possible. You represented the Sunshine District with excellence, and we are incredibly proud of you.



TRILOGY

Now, as we move through the summer, I hope you are making plans to join us for this year's **Labor Day Jamboree—LDJ**.

We have a new hotel for this year's event, and we are looking forward to everything



the weekend has to offer: great shows, plenty of singing, time with friends—and yes, the pool! LDJ is one of the best opportunities we have to build relationships across the district (and beyond), and enjoy the kind of informal singing and fellowship that remind us why we love this hobby uhm, I mean **pastime**.

It is also time to begin preparing for our **Fall Convention**, once again in beautiful St. Augustine.

Come to perform and share your music. Come to enjoy the quartet and chorus contests and the SDAQC show. Come to fellowship with longtime friends and make some new ones. Better yet, come for all of the above!

Our conventions are about much more than scores and placements. They are a celebration of everything that connects us: the music, the friendships, the laughter, the hallway tags, the encouragement we give one another, and the shared commitment to keeping barbershop harmony strong throughout the Sunshine District.

Finally, as we look ahead to January 2027, our district will welcome new Board members and begin an important new chapter in Sunshine leadership. Those new Directors will need the support of members from across the district who are willing to help carry out important programs, priorities, and initiatives.

You do not have to be a district board member to make a meaningful difference. We are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping in areas such as:

- Membership Growth and Retention
- Chapter Support and Development
- Member Experience and Engagement
- Marketing and Promotions
- The Standing Ovation Program

- The District Coaches Guild
- New Quartet and Chorus Development
- Performance Opportunities and Collaboration

Some of these opportunities will require leadership, while others may involve supporting a specific project, event, or initiative. Whether you have a great deal of experience or are simply willing to contribute your time, ideas, and enthusiasm, there is a place for you.

Please contact me or any member of the Sunshine District Board if you are willing to step forward and help.

Come on—you can make a difference in Sunshine!

Thank you for everything you continue to do for your chapters, quartets, choruses, communities, and the Sunshine District. I look forward to seeing many of you at LDJ and again at our fall convention in St. Augustine.

In harmony,

David Mills
President, Sunshine District
Barbershop Harmony Society



Together in Harmony

featuring the award winning
Orange Blossom Chorus



Suite Life Quartet
2-time International Next Gen Silver Medalists



Orlando Exchange
A reunion of a regional favorite!

Saturday, Sept. 26 - 3:00 pm
331 Lake Ave., Maitland
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd



Scan here for tickets!



Upcoming show? Quartet for hire?
Target your audience in the District program!



ADVERTISE
IN THE **FALL**
Convention Program!

**DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM
ADVERTISING IS
OCTOBER 1, 2026.**

Ad Size/Dimensions	Rate
Inside Cover (3.75" w x 10.5" h).....	\$200
Back Cover (3.75" w x 10.5" h).....	\$150
Full Page (3.75" w x 10.5" h).....	\$125
1/2 Page (3.75" w x 5.125" h).....	\$100
1/4 Page (3.75" w x 2.4375" h).....	\$ 75

All advertising is full color!!

Minimum resolution
300 dpi
at print size.

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programs@sunshinedistrict.org

Email press quality pdf to programs@sunshinedistrict.org

Make check payable to Sunshine District and mail to:
Sunshine District Program Ads
c/o Dave Kannberg
13948 Sheffield Court, Wellington, FL 33414



FULL SCHEDULE FRI QUARTET SAT CHORUS SAT QUARTET



Sunshine District
of the
**BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY**
Presents the
**2026 Annual
Fall Convention**
Friday & Saturday
October 16 & 17, 2026
World Center

Reserve your ad
space here!



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/sunshine-district-convention-program-advertisements>

Will we see
you at the Fall
Convention?
You don't want
to miss it!
See page 10 for
more details.



Executive Vice President's Message



Rod Sgrignoli
Sunshine District Executive Vice President
evp@sunshinedistrict.org

Hello Sunshine!

Once again, I hope this finds you doing well and enjoying some awesome Barbershop Harmony events near your hometown!!

Highlights in this issue of the Sunburst:

Spring Convention highlights are included in this issue. **We congratulate the many fine Sunshine District quartets and choruses that competed at this year's International Convention** in St. Louis, MO including: **Trilogy** (this year's 3rd Place Bronze medalist in the Next Gen Varsity Quartet Contest and winner of the 2026 139th Street Legacy Prize Award), **Radiant** (our outgoing 2025 Next Gen Varsity Quartet Contest Gold Medal winner), **In The Genes** (2026 Quartet Quarterfinalists), **Tribute** (2026 Quartet Semifinalists who placed 16th this year with an overall score of 83.4%) and **Heralds of Harmony** (this year's 3rd Place Bronze medalist in the International Chorus Contest, tagging a new all-time high score of 94.7% and sharing what has been their most innovative and exciting contest set yet!!).

We also had an opportunity to hear from the **Miami, FL chapter's Golden Voices chorus**, under the direction of **Jason Fieler**, who sang in the **Varsity Chorus Invitational**. Also, a special thanks to **David Mills, SNG** and **Rod Sgrignoli, MUS**, who served on judging panels at this year's **International Convention** in St. Louis!

Lastly, a special acknowledgement to our own **Keepsake quartet** (**Roger Ross** (tenor), **Joe Connelly** (lead), **Don Barnick** (bass) and **Tony De Rosa** (baritone)) for their induction into the 2026 BHS Hall of Fame!! (NOTE: And we got to

hear from **Main Street** and **3 & A Half Men**, who performed on this year's **AIC Show!!**).

Don't miss the opportunity to attend this year's **Sunshine District Fall Convention** in St. Augustine (once again at the **World Golf Village Renaissance Hotel, October 16-17, 2026**), where you'll get to hear more from our international competitors as well as other district quartets and choruses that are sharing stage time, plus all of the fun opportunities you could hope for in reconnecting with other members of our great **SUN District!!**.

In other **Contest & Judging News**, **five BHS judges (from Sunshine District)**, just completed their **triennial recertification/initial certification at the 2026 Category School**:

Chris Rodgers, ADM
(first-time certification!!)



Chris Rodgers

Rod Sgrignoli, MUS
(celebrating 25 years of service)



Rod Sgrignoli

George Gipp, PER



George Gipp

Jake Pirner, PER



Jake Pirner

James Kastler, SNG

Among other exciting highlights from this year's **Category School**, the **Commencement Address** and **Keynote Speaker** for this year's **Harmony**



James Kastler



University was none other than our own **Tony De Rosa!!**

We also have some folks from Sunshine District that have been providing **ongoing support to the C&J program:**

Alexander Boltenko, Paul Agnew (SUN DRCJ), and David Mills, SNG

And last (but not least!), we have a recently retired judge that has provided many wonderful years of service to the BHS Contest & Judging Program: **Dave Fobart, PER**

Please join me in thanking and congratulating all of these folks on their achievements and years of service to Sunshine District and the Society!!

Philanthropic Giving is now centralized within BHS. Details are included in **Chris Rodgers'** article that follows. If you are someone that has been making ongoing donations historically through **Harmony Foundation International**, I recommend that you reach out to the BHS team to make sure that all of your donations are being distributed per your intentions.

There is a great article about this year's **Harmony Explosion Camp** – many thanks to our Team Lead, **Steve Cragg**, and to our many volunteers including **Debbie Cleveland, Alex Rubin, Suite Life!** and **Duly Noted** quartets and **Stephen Goldman** for their work in making this year's Camp a huge success!! This event doesn't just happen either without the financial support we receive from BHS, **Sing United International Region 9, Heralds of Harmony, Toast of Tampa, USF**, and of course the **Sunshine District!** If paying it forward for young singers is one of your callings, you can find details on how



Paul Agnew



David Mills



Dave Fobart

to support the Sunshine District's youth fund (you can learn more about that by contacting either our District Treasurer, **Dave Kannberg**, or Finance Director, **Chris Rodgers**).

There's a great regional event coming up in the western part of the state: the **Joe Breedon Panhandle Regional Festival** is scheduled to take place the third weekend in September, **(Sept 18–20, Camp Timpoochee, Niceville, FL)**.

Jack Klotzbach, our Director, Music & Education, provides a couple of updates in his area including requests and information for those looking to participate in a district **Coaching Guild**. He also shares some highlights for classes that were offered at this year's Spring Convention in St. Augustine, FL. This is relatively new that we're offering educational classes for convention attendees, and we were excited to see so many folks taking advantage of this year's offerings!!

Jason Dearing, our Director, SUN Communications, has a great article detailing financial assistance that is available to chapters and quartets in the district. This includes details about **HFI Grants** that are available for new projects as well as a great summary of **free non-profit tech tools** that are available to all of us – be sure to see what all the buzz is about there!!

There are also updates from district chapters and quartets so don't forget to enjoy some of those articles and finally, don't forget to read **Chad Bennett's** article about this year's **Labor Day Jamboree**. We're excited about our new venue this year, which should be a little more intimate and in a great location for what we do, with registration information that will be up on the district website soon!!).

Thanks again to all of our district and chapter volunteers for the ongoing services you provide – you are what makes the Sunshine District as great as it can be!! Cheers!!



Congratulations to Keepsake on their Hall of Fame induction

Keepsake left an indelible mark on the barbershop world. Their impeccable singing, signature style, speech-like approach and incredible tags influenced generations, and much of their iconic repertoire — such as *Once Upon a Time*, *Make 'Em Laugh*, *Mona Lisa*, *Blue Skies*, and *Royal Garden Blues* — is still sung in contests and shows worldwide.

As a popular show quartet, Keepsake continued to grow after winning gold, releasing three albums, traveling internationally, and setting new standards for vocal excellence. Their legendary tags showcased some of the longest and most thrilling posts ever heard, helping shape the evolution of the style itself while continuing to inspire barbershoppers today.



With 13 gold medals between them, each member has made a lasting impact: Joe Connelly, the most decorated and influential lead in history; Tony De Rosa, a record-breaking five-time International Champion and incredible vocalist; Don Barnick, a legendary tag master, “barbershopper’s barbershopper,” and two-time champion; and Roger Ross, a two-time gold medalist, Dapper Dan at Disney World for over 40 years, and a major contributor to barbershop in Japan.

Perhaps Keepsake’s greatest contribution is their profound influence across multiple generations of barbershoppers. Nearly every International Quartet Champion of the last three decades credits Keepsake as one of their biggest inspirations. Their far-reaching impact has changed the game, propelled barbershop music forward, and continues to shape the style that defines our art form today.

Reprinted from the St Louis ‘26 Barbershop Harmony Society’s International Convention event program.



Message from the Director of Events



Chuck Steiner
Sunshine District Director of Events
events@sunshinedistrict.org

Spring Convention returned to the World Golf Village in St. Augustine May 1 through 3, and our host chapter, *Jacksonville's Big Orange Chorus*, did what they always do: made it look easy. Then they went one better and won the whole thing. Hosting a convention is thankless work. Hosting a convention and walking off with the trophy is just showing off, and we are here for it.

Big Orange, under **Chris Loomis**, took the District Chorus Championship with 860 points, with **Jason Fieler's Golden Voices** at 856 and **Sean Stork's Orange Blossom Chorus** at 855. Three choruses inside five points. Read that again. And take a long look at those *Golden Voices*, a pop-up chorus of young singers largely out of the University of Miami who came from essentially nowhere and finished four points off a district championship. South Florida is growing something down there, and the rest of us should be paying attention. *Orange Blossom* also took Most-Improved, and both *Orange Blossom* and the *Capital Chordsmen* earned Grade Improvement recognition, each climbing from a B- to a B. In the quartet prelims, **Tribute** won with 1996 points, **In The Genes** placed second at 1921, and **High and Tight** took third at 1809. And congratulations to **Lance Lubin**, our 2025 Barbershopper of the Year. As always, a standing ovation to the **Sunshine District Events Team and our volunteers**, who make a convention weekend look like a swan gliding across a lake. Underneath the waterline, those legs are churning like mad. You never see it. That is the entire point.

Then came St. Louis. Tampa's *Heralds of Harmony*, co-directed by **Tony De Rosa** and **Clay Hine** with 114 men on stage, took the bronze medal

with 2273 points and a 94.7%, the highest international score in chorus history. Compare that to the 2251 and 93.8% that earned them silver in Cleveland in 2024 and you see a chorus still climbing. Clay Hine arranged both contest songs on top of sharing the directing duties, which is the kind of week most people would need a nap after. For scale on how thin the air was up there: the *Ambassadors of Harmony* edged *Music City* by a single point, 2307 to 2306. Under the Arch, the margins were microscopic and the *Heralds* were right in the middle of it.

Our quartets held their own against the world. **Tribute (Brian Lindvall, Ryan Killeen, Marshall Crowl, Sam Rinkenbaugh)** finished 16th overall with 4003 points across three rounds. **In The Genes** came by that name honestly. **Chris De Rosa** and **Drew Kirkman** took the stage with their daughter **Kylie** and their niece **Sophia De Rosa**, and between the two parents sit gold medals from both of barbershop's major organizations: Drew sang tenor with **Michigan Jake**, the 2001 Barbershop Harmony Society International Champions, and Chris sang baritone with **Viva!**, crowned Sweet Adelines International Queens of Harmony in New Orleans. Four singers, one family tree, one international stage. And the headline our Next Gen singers earned: **Trilogy (Jesus Pacheco, Bryan Adames, Kevin Osano, Ben Anderson)** took bronze in the International NextGen Varsity Quartet Contest with 1448 points, one single point out of second and seven off the gold, and carried home the 139th Street Legacy Prize Award. One point, gentlemen. We noticed.

Which brings it home. Society Hall of Famer **Tony De Rosa** delivered the opening keynote at



Harmony University 2026, and he went well past forty-five minutes while looking down at his notes exactly twice. Anyone who has ever stood in front of a room knows what that takes. The clip making the rounds is only his closing couple of minutes, and even that much lands: *"Family is not perfect. Our Barbershop family is not perfect. But family works together."* He talked about living through things together and walking through life together, and if you followed any of the above, you already know he was describing us. [Watch the closing here.](#) Then come be part of

it at **Labor Day Jamboree**, which has a brand new home at the DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Theme Park Resort, walking distance from SeaWorld with shuttles to the other parks. Ride the coasters, absolutely. But the real reason we go is the other thing: tags at the pool, tags in the lobby, tags until somebody's spouse says enough. The room block closes August 13, and there is no guarantee of a live stream this year, so if you want to see it, be in the room. Details at sunshinedistrict.org/ldj. Barbershop is thriving. Come be part of the reason.

Director of Finance Message



Chris Rodgers
Sunshine District Director of Finance
harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

Well, it has been a little while now since BHS and Harmony Foundation (HFI) got back together. HFI is still doing a lot of fundraising for BHS and continues to manage the large endowment (as well as several other endowments – more on that later). BHS has contacted many folks who direct their donations to HFI to redirect those donations to BHS. This change will improve the flow of donations in line with the new cooperation between BHS and HFI. If you want to continue the benefits of donation-level giving, like Presidents Club, you will need to change your donations from HFI to BHS. BHS is still working on the adjustments to the levels of giving, but for now the levels are still the same (as many people saw at International this year).

Donation Matches – please check with your employer to see if they match your donations to non-profit organizations. If they do, please consider submitting for matches of your donations to your chapter, the district, or BHS.

Sunshine District has an endowment now funded by several families and barbershoppers. It is managed by HFI and is growing. The Sunshine District endowment is expected to start funding youth activities such as the Harmony Explosion Camp as well as regional youth workshops. Please consider giving to the Sunshine District endowment to help us continue these great youth efforts in the future. You can contact our treasurer, Dave Kannberg, for more information about donating to the endowment. The Sunshine District endowment is part of the district, so it may also qualify for donation matching from your employer. Please check on a match to help the endowment grow even faster.

If you would like more information on how to start an endowment for your chapter, please check out the information available on the [HFI website: www.harmonyfoundation.org/endowment-giving](http://www.harmonyfoundation.org/endowment-giving).





**Sunshine
District**

of the



Invites You!
**2026 Annual Fall
Convention**

October 16-17

**World Golf Village Resort Renaissance
500 S Legacy Trail, St Augustine, FL 32092**

**Sunshine District Quartet Championship
BHS Seniors Quartet Preliminary
BHS Chorus Preliminary
Harmony Platoon
Harmony Brigade
SDAQC Show**

REGISTER AND RESERVE:
[https://www.sunshinedistrict.org/event-
calendar/sun-fall-convention-2026/](https://www.sunshinedistrict.org/event-calendar/sun-fall-convention-2026/)

See you there!



Harmony Explosion Camp 2026

Harmony Explosion Camp 2026 (HX26) was a great success this year. From June 4 through June 6, we had over 100 campers on the USF School of Music campus. The clinician for the upper voices was **Debbie Cleveland** and **Alex Rubin** was the clinician for the lower voices. We had **Suite Life!** as the lower voices teaching quartet and **Duly Noted** was our upper voices teaching quartet. **Stephen Goldman** was our Camp Tag Master. We were very blessed to have such talented musical staff!



The theme this year was Harmony In Living Color. The campers

learned

songs for their upper or lower voice part as well as one joint song that the whole camp

sang together as a mixed chorus. There were several days of not only learning the songs but also learning many finer points of the artistry that pull the songs together for that barbershop ring. Many of the skills the campers learned helped them shape the songs for the camp and will also help them in their future singing journey.

A fun time was had by all – from the clinician sessions for the camp music, to the meals in the cafeteria, to the talent show, to tagging, to just hanging out together during free time. This all led to the Harmony in Living Color Show Spectacular on Saturday night featuring the whole

HX26 chorus, Suite Life!, Duly Noted, and some of the talent show winners. Lots of parents came out to watch as did some of the locals from Toast of Tampa and Heralds of Harmony.

Special thanks to the staff of chaperones and helpers, and especially to the camp director **Steve Cragg**. Steve has been running this camp for the past several years and works on setting up the camp well in advance. We receive support and funding from BHS, Sing United International Region 9, Heralds of Harmony, Toast of Tampa, USF, and of course the Sunshine District. The Sunshine District has a youth fund that helps support the camp and keep the costs low for





the campers. Campers pay less than half of the actual cost of the camp. This is possible through the funding we receive from these organizations. Many kids cannot afford the low cost of the camp, but thanks to several chapters, many campers were able to attend on scholarships. If you or your chapter would like to support these annual efforts, please consider student scholarships or donating to the youth fund in the Sunshine District. You can contact the district treasurer, Dave Kannberg, for more information on how to support the camp.

[For more information about the 2026 Harmony Explosion Camp, please visit \[www.sunshinehx.org\]\(http://www.sunshinehx.org\).](http://www.sunshinehx.org) There you will find information about the clinicians, teaching quartets, and more. This is also where you would check next spring for information on the 2027 Harmony Explosion Camp.



Message from the Director of Music and Education

Jack Klotzbach

Sunshine District Director of Music and Education

education@sunshinedistrict.org

Hot in Sunshine District! It is a slow process but I am working the class material into video classes available to watch anytime and coaches that would be available to answer questions year-round. This change allows the D of M&E to utilize the LEADAC as a forum to assist new and current officers to discuss issues, recommendation, and new ideas.

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. I have started the new list, but 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, harmony university trained coaches and LEADAC instructor to please contact me to participate on the Coach's Guild.

Convention Classes

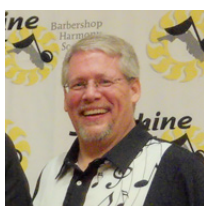
We held some interesting training events at the Spring convention. Quartet Coaching under Glass, where one of the judges coached the mic tester quartet for finals prior to singing at the finals. Also we had a stage positioning class for quartets, also presented by a judge to help quartets understand how critical it is to be in the proper position to sing on stage and produce their best sound. Finally, there was an open rehearsal with the *Heralds of Harmony* to get an idea the work that they put in to get their great performance.

We look forward to providing similar classes at each convention. So review the program carefully for the upcoming convention.

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

Happy Summer, Sunshine District! I hope your chapters are beating the Florida heat and enjoying a fantastic season of music, rehearsals, and summer performances.

Funding Opportunity: Harmony Foundation Grants

Just in case you haven't seen it – The Barbershop Harmony Society recently announced that Harmony Foundation International is investing \$50,000 in grants to help districts, chapters, quartets, and individual members grow barbershop and strengthen their local communities.

Key details for chapters and quartets looking to fund a project:

- ♪ **Grant Amounts:** Up to \$5,000 per project, with a 1:1 matching funds requirement.
- ♪ **Eligibility:** Open to districts, chapters, quartets, and individual BHS members.
- ♪ **Deadlines:** Applications are due November 1, 2026. Awards will be announced on December 15, 2026, with funding distributed in 2027.
- ♪ **Frequency:** Recipients can apply once every three years.

If you have a project in mind—whether it's a youth outreach program, a community workshop, or a new show initiative—now is the time to start planning. You can submit your application directly through the [Harmony Foundation Grant Application Form](#).

Free Non-Profit Tech Tools for Your Chorus

Managing chapter operations on a budget is much easier when you leverage free tiers designed specifically for 501(c)(3) organizations. If your chapter isn't already taking advantage of these three platforms, I highly encourage your board to take a look:

1. **Zeffy (Zero-Fee Payment Processing):** As mentioned in our last issue, Zeffy allows non-profits to process credit card payments, sell show tickets, and run donation campaigns with zero processing fees. If your chapter is interested in setting up an account, please use our [SUN District Zeffy Referral Link](#). Zeffy kicks back \$0.25 per transaction to Sunshine District at no cost to you or your buyers!

2. **Canva for Nonprofits:**

Canva offers its Premium Pro features completely free to registered non-profits. It is hands-down the easiest way for non-designers on your team to create professional show flyers, social media graphics, and program layouts.

3. **Google Workspace for Nonprofits:**

Get custom domain email addresses (e.g., info@yourchorus.org), shared Google Drive storage, and collaborative Docs/Sheets for your board and team at no charge.

4. **Band.us (Band App for Non-Profits):** If your chorus is struggling to keep member communications organized



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/register/referral/method-choice?referredByOrganizationId=39d6f48f-fb4b-4362-a615-b2af38717f7c>

across long email threads or scattered text groups, Band is an excellent, free option designed for groups. It gives your chapter a private hub for rehearsal schedules, attendance polling, file/sheet music sharing, and section leader announcements, keeping everything in one easy-to-find place for your singers.

5. **Google Ad Grants:** Access up to \$10,000 per month in free Google search advertising to promote your chapter's upcoming shows and recruit new singers.
6. **TechSoup:** Register your 501(c)(3) to access huge non-profit discounts on software like Adobe Creative Cloud, QuickBooks Online, and Microsoft products.

We Want to Feature Your Chapter

The Sunburst is at its best when it reflects the amazing work happening in chapters across Florida. Got a big late-summer show coming up? A milestone anniversary? A cool community performance? Send a short writeup and a few high-res photos our way!

- **Questions or tech advice:** Reach out anytime at communications@SunshineDistrict.org.
- **November issue deadline:** Consider sending your chapter show ads and end-of-year reports early so we can save a spot for you.

Thank you to all our volunteers, directors, and singers who keep our district vibrant and connected!

Jason Dearing

communications@SunshineDistrict.org

Congratulations
2025 Sunshine
District
B.O.T.Y.
Lance Lubin



Quartet & Chapter Happenings

Orange Blossom Chorus Orlando chapter

by Michael Testa

Chorus Manager, Orange Blossom Chorus

The Orange Blossom Chorus has had a busy spring and summer so far! We were proud to participate in the Spring convention with 18 members on the risers. We scored a 71.3%, which earned us 3rd place and the Most Improved Chorus award! After some research, we learned that this was our chorus' highest score in over 40 years. We are also proud of our chapter quartet "Flat Out" who earned their highest score to date and earned a spot in the quartet finals!

We participated in several community events in April and May. We were proud to support the City of Longwood Walk for Autism Awareness and Inclusion, a cause that is very important to our chorus. We sang the national anthem and performed other songs around the event. On Armed Forces Day, our chorus continued its annual tradition of performing the national anthem and a medley dedicated to our Armed

Forces at Mission BBQ. Finally, we were invited by the City of Minneola for the first time to sing the national anthem at their Memorial Day Observance where they dedicated a new city park.

In June, our chorus held our Concert Season Kickoff and Guest Night. Since then, nine new members have joined our ranks! They are having fun, learning each week, and getting up to speed quickly. We can't wait for them to experience their first Sunshine District convention. Please say hi and give them a warm welcome when you see them at LDJ or in St. Augustine!

Our concert season will culminate with our chapter show, "*Together in Harmony*" on Saturday, September 26 at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Maitland. We are excited to perform our favorite songs for you! We will also be joined by several quartets including **Flat Out**, a reunion of regional favorite **Orlando Exchange**, and our featured guest: the 2024 and 2025 Next Generation International Silver Medalist quartet **Suite Life!** [See our ad in this edition of the Sunburst for the link to get tickets!](#)



Orange Blossom Chorus



Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



SUNSHINE DISTRICT CHORUS CHAMPIONS

BIG ORANGE CHORUS

Jacksonville Big O

Dir: Chris Loomis

Total: 860 Points



GOLDEN VOICES

Miami, FL

Dir: Jason Fieler

Total: 856 Points



SUNSHINE DISTRICT MOST-IMPROVED CHORUS AWARD & SUNSHINE DISTRICT CHORUS GRADE IMPROVEMENT AWARD

ORANGE BLOSSOM CHORUS

Orlando, FL)

Dir: Sean Stork

Total: 855 Points



Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



SUNSHINE DISTRICT CHORUS GRADE IMPROVEMENT AWARD

CAPITAL CHORDSMEN

Tallahassee, FL

Dir: Norman Young

Total: 847 Points



ORLANDO HARMONY

Winter Park, FL

Dir: Marshall Webb

Total: 827 Points



CHORUS OF THE KEYS

Sarasota, FL

Dir: Drew Kirkman

Total: 826 Points



Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



EMERALD COAST CHORUS

Fort Walton Beach, FL

Dir: Lucas Lord

Total: 808 Points



HERNANDO HARMONIZERS

Hernando County, FL

Dir: Bob McFadden

Total: 784 Points



GULF COAST HARMONIZERS

Cape Coral, FL

Dir: Joshua Nieves

Total: 779 Points

B

Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



HEART OF FLORIDA

Central Florida (1, 2, 3, 4)

Dir: Chris Barthauer

Total: 767 Points



BARBERGATORS

Gainesville, FL

Dir: Mark Slamka

Total: 736 Points



HARBOR CITY HARMONIZERS

Melbourne, FL

Dir: Justin Walker

Total: 724 Points



Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



International
Prelim
Quartet Qualifier

TRIBUTE

Tampa, FL

Brian Lindvall, Ryan Killeen, Marshall Crowl, Sam Rinkenbaugh

Total: 1996 Points

Finals: 1004 Points; Semi-Finals: 992 Points



HIGH AND TIGHT

Tampa, FL

Casey Jones, Jeremy Hemphill, Tyler Dvorak, Dustin Wells

Total: 1809 Points

Finals: 901 Points; Semi-Finals: 908 Points



IN THE GENES

Tampa, FL, Heralds of Harmony; Sarasota Chapter; Frank Thorne

Sophia De Rosa, Kylie Kirkman, Chris De Rosa, Drew Kirkman

Total: 1921 Points

Finals: 961 Points; Semi-Finals: 960 Points



RIGHT ON Q

Tampa, FL

Paul Carter, Tim Perenich, David Mills, Bryan Hevel

Total: 1795 Points

Finals: 892 Points; Semi-Finals: 903 Points

Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



LIMITLESS

Sarasota, FL; Frank Thorne

Kristen Bringham, Britney Spears, Juliet Collins, Nick Collins

Total: 1794 Points

Finals: 905 Points; Semi-Finals: 889 Points



SMASH HIT!

Tampa, FL

Shaymus Dugan, Gabe Maldonado, Nick Gonzalez, Jordan James

Total: 1779 Points

Finals: 879 Points; Semi-Finals: 900 Points



NEAT!

Frank Thorne; Central Florida; Hernando Cty, FL; Tampa, FL

Jamie Lynn Gilliam, Jack Voorhies, Josh Gilliam, Chris Barthauer

Total: 1771 Points

Finals: 896 Points; Semi-Finals: 875 Points



NEWBIES

Tallahassee, FL; Frank Thorne

Sarah Hardgrave, Kayla Pawlik, Timothy Yu, Nico Repiedad

Total: 1766 Points

Finals: 899 Points; Semi-Finals: 867 Points

Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



TIME OF OUR LIVES

Gainesville, FL

Dave Jacobs, Mark Slamka, John Dew, Tyson Adams

Total: 1766 Points

Finals: 887 Points; Semi-Finals: 879 Points



FLAT OUT

Orlando, FL

Bethany Rowlings, Olivia Hemmings, Adrien David, Jim Caudill

Total: 1705 Points

Finals: 849 Points; Semi-Finals: 856 Points



Sunshine District
Youth Quartet
Champions

WAVES

Miami, FL; Frank Thorne

Amanda Bencomo, Jason Fieler, Rex Roche, Fritz Sullivan

Total: 856 Points



FRIENDS OF FRIENDS

Tallahassee, FL; Frank Thorne

Timothy Yu, Norman Young, Chris Martinez, Troy Sleeman

Total: 847 Points

Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



Sunshine District
Seniors Quartet
Champion

NO CURFEW QUARTET

Frank Thorne

Donna Adams, Shamane Fernandez, Kelli Chou,
Su Hallenbeck

Total: 841 Points



JUSTIN TONATION

Frank Thorne; Miami, FL

Sara DeSimone, Jacob Dern, Vincent Casal,
Jason Fieler

Total: 829 Points



NOTA BENE

Tallahassee FL; Frank Thorne

Miriam Hall, Norman Young, Timothy Hughes,
Jon Hall

Total: 822 Points



THE CUT

Heralds of Harmony; Suncoast Statesmen

Bill Colleran, Chad Shreffler, Chris Owens,
Rob Hargen

Total: 816 Points



Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



THE EBB TIDES

Jacksonville, FL

Terry Ezell, Brad May, Brian Kerr, Nathan Ward

Total: 789 Points



NOTABLES

Cape Coral, FL

Geno Woolwine, Glenn Siebert, Josh Nieves, Allan Engler

Total: 778 Points



FOUR MORE GUYS

Jacksonville Big O

Dan Kulik, Scott Hershey, Jason Dearing, John Alexander

Total: 777 Points



THE LORDS OF THE RING

Fort Walton Chapter, Frank Thorne

Lil Nicky Firth, Shelby Stevenson, Jackson Killgore, Noah Van Camp

Total: 776 Points



Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



THE CHORDFISH

Frank Thorne; Miami, FL

Jason Fieler, Benji Tanner, Jack Holmer, Max Calamia

Total: 770 Points



DEWEY, SINGUM, AND HOWE

St. Petersburg, FL

Greg Bratton, Kurt Popp, Paul McGraw, Lance Lubin

Total: 764 Points



FRIDGE CONTROL

Miami, FL; Frank Thorne

James Hudson, Jason Fieler, Alec Windmiller, Jacques Yarris

Total: 728 Points



SLAIDROC

Cape Coral, FL

Bob Ramsey, Randy Parrish, Frank Broen, Steve Lawson

Total: 679 Points



Spring 2026 Convention Competitors



GET ALL THE DETAILS FROM THE SPRING
CONVENTION ON THE SUN WEBSITE

[Spring 26 convention page](#)

Including SCORE SHEETS!

[Friday Quartet Prelims](#)

[Chorus](#)

[Quartet Finals](#)

TONAL ANNIHILATION

Miami, FL; Frank Thorne

Connor Brennan, Jason Fieler, Jacques Yarris,
Jayden Cohen

Total: 649 Points

**JOIN US FOR THE
FALL CONVENTION!
OCTOBER 16-17
SEE PAGE 10 FOR MORE INFO!**



Come Home to Harmony: Join Us at LDJ 2026

by Chad Bennett

Labor Day Jamboree Chair

There are weekends we enjoy, and then there are weekends we carry with us for the rest of our lives.

Labor Day Jamboree is one of those weekends.

It begins with a familiar face across a hotel lobby. Maybe a hug from a friend you haven't seen in a year. The unmistakable sound of four voices locking into a tag somewhere around the corner. Before you've even checked in, you're smiling.

You're home.

For decades, Labor Day Jamboree has been the place where the barbershop family gathers—not because anyone has to, but because there is simply nowhere else they'd rather spend Labor Day weekend.

The performances are unforgettable. The talent on stage is extraordinary. You'll hear International Champion quartets, inspiring singers from around the Society, and performers who remind us why we fell in love with this art form in the first place.

Ask any longtime attendee what they remember most, and chances are they won't mention a standing ovation.

They'll remember singing tags in the hallway until two in the morning.

They'll remember laughing with friends over breakfast.

They'll remember meeting someone who was a stranger on Friday and felt like family by Monday.

Those are the moments that

define Labor Day Jamboree.

There's something magical about a hotel filled with people who all speak the same language—not just the language of music, but the language of fellowship. Everywhere you turn, someone is singing. Someone is teaching. Someone is encouraging a new singer to join a tag. Someone is creating a memory they'll treasure for years.

You don't have to be on stage to feel like you're part of something special.

Whether you're a first-time attendee or you've been coming for decades, LDJ has a remarkable way of reminding you why barbershop is more than a hobby. It's a community. It's a tradition. It's a place where generations sing together, friendships deepen, and the music becomes the soundtrack to lives well lived.

For newcomers, Labor Day Jamboree is an eye-opening experience. You'll quickly discover that barbershoppers are among the warmest, most welcoming people you'll ever meet. Don't be surprised if you're invited into your first tag within minutes of arriving. Don't be surprised if you leave with new friends from across the country. And don't be surprised if you find yourself planning next year's trip before this one is over.

For returning attendees, LDJ is a reunion.

It's the annual gathering where cherished traditions continue, new memories are made, and familiar faces remind us how fortunate we are to belong to this remarkable family.

In a world that moves faster every year, weekends like this have become rare.

A place where people put down their phones and lift their voices.



Where conversations matter.

Where laughter echoes through
the hallways.

Where harmony isn't just
sung—it is lived.

Labor Day Jamboree is more
than an event on the calendar.
It is a celebration of everything
that makes our Society unique:
the joy of singing, the power
of friendship, and the simple
truth that life is richer when it's
shared in harmony.

So this Labor Day weekend,
make the choice to be where the
music is.

Be where the laughter is.

Be where lifelong friendships are
renewed.

Be where new singers discover
what this wonderful hobby is all
about.

Come for the shows.

Stay for the tags.

Leave with memories that will
stay with you long after the final
chord has faded.

We'll be saving a place for you.

We'll see you at Labor Day
Jamboree 2026.

Because some places you visit...
...and some places feel
like home.



September 4-7, 2026

**DoubleTree by Hilton
Orlando Theme Park
Resort**

10100 International Drive
Orlando, Florida 32821

The LDJ room block closes on August 13th.

Get your reservation now to enjoy perks like waived resort fees,
complimentary self parking, access to resort Family Games, and more.

For registration, schedule events, and more, visit:
<https://www.sunshinedistrict.org/ldj/>

The Sunshine District's Labor Day Jamboree is a fun-filled event
where your family and closest friends can enjoy a long weekend
together full of music. Not just any music though, but the sweet
sounds of Barbershop Harmony! Over the weekend you choose
to participate as much or as little as you'd like. A weekend that
you and your family will enjoy floating in the pool, playing mini
golf together, taking some time to visit one of the many nearby
attractions, tags, tags, and more tags, and of course – live shows
on Saturday and Sunday featuring your favorite quartets!

Whether you want to sing tags in the pools all day or visit local
attractions with the family, LDJ 2026 is the place for you! Just
make sure you're back in time for the amazing evening shows.
Speaking of shows, we'll be joined this year by Gimme Four,
Three and a Half Men, Radiant, Brouhaha, and SO many more
amazing quartets that you don't want to miss.

Conveniently located in the heart of Central Florida's
attractions, the DoubleTree is within walking distance of
SeaWorld and offers shuttle service to the other major theme
parks.

The Labor Day Jamboree has been a Barbershop tradition
in Florida (also known as the Sunshine District to us
Barbershoppers) for more than 50 years. LDJ is an amazing
weekend and those of us who make the annual pilgrimage
thoroughly enjoy adding our shared experiences to that legacy.

Please plan on joining us. You'll be glad you did.

2026 Sunshine District Board of Directors

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president@sunshinedistrict.org

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evp@sunshinedistrict.org

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secretary@sunshinedistrict.org

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treasurer@sunshinedistrict.org

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ipp@sunshinedistrict.org

Director of Events
Chuck Steiner
events@sunshinedistrict.org

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leadac@sunshinedistrict.org

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Chris Rodgers
harmonyfoundation@sunshinedistrict.org

Director of Communications
Jason Dearing
communications@sunshinedistrict.org

ICYMI Sunshine District Secretary Mailing Address Update

Hello Sunshine District
Chapter Leaders!

Juliet Collins has assumed
the role of SUN Secretary, and
anything you need to mail via
post to the District should go to
her.

The new address for SUN
paperwork submissions is:

Juliet Collins
P.O. Box 1048
Seffner, FL 33583-1048



District Committee Chairs & Convention Committee Members

www.sunshinedistrict.org/home/leadership/

Sunburst Editor
Roxanne Clapp
editor@sunshinedistrict.org



UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

**Fall 2026:
October 16-17**

SAVE THE DATES!!

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



SUNBURST ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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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.