

THE OFFICIAL PLAYER'S GUIDE



**CONVENTION & CONTESTS
MAY 1-3, 2026 • SYRACUSE, NY**



DOUBLETREE BY HILTON SYRACUSE

Welcome from the Area Director

It is my pleasure as your Area 3 Director to welcome all members and guests to our fun Family Game Night! and AC&C 2026, where you'll have the time of your LIFE in East Syracuse, NY!



Your Host Chapter, Northern Blend, has done a wonderful job in creating a memorable weekend. Make sure you stop by their hospitality room and tell them how their OPERATION is a CANDYLAND of treasures for everyone!

Don't take a RISK and miss out on the Moonglow at the DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse. The theme of "Family Game Night!" will be evident throughout the room. It will be so much fun you'll be wanting to applaud your fellow Area 3 members as they perform!

I am very thankful for these awesome WINNERS: Janine Schindler, ACCT Chair; Erin Cassidy, ACJC; Dene Day, ACCT Facilities; Michelle Buckenmeyer, Judges' Services Coordinator; Sharron Gilbert, Registration; Ann Christiano, Treasurer; and their dedicated Committees and all of the Area 3 Coordinators who have worked diligently on our behalf to ensure that AC&C 2026 is a great success. Through their teamwork and negotiating with the DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse, they have secured a great all-in-one location for us to celebrate our weekend.

You will note the great selection of craft classes organized by myself and Debbi Durfey. Education is a big part of what we do, so please take the time to attend at least one or more of the classes on Sunday morning and learn something new.

I hope that you will have a terrific and successful weekend with lots of fun and memories! Keep on singing!

Sarah Thorne-Miller, Area 3 Director

Message from the Area Contest & Judging Chair

AC&C weekend is here! It's your moment to step into the spotlight and share all the hard work and dedication you've poured into your contest sets and Area 3 is ready to celebrate and support you every step of the way.



I'm incredibly grateful to the ACCT for their collaboration, and to our volunteers whose efforts keep everything running seamlessly.

I'd also like to extend a special thank-you to the crew who make this contest look and sound its best: Terry Burke and Ken Ketchum running the lights and sound board, John Aviste capturing the video, the Mohawk Valley BHS Chorus for supplying the risers, and our fantastic stage manager, Teri Allred.

They've set the board, dealt the cards, and made sure everything is ready to play. Now it's your turn to bring your best game to the stage!

Erin Cassidy, Area Contest & Judging Chair

2026 AC&C Judging Panel

Panel Chair

Rachel McIntyre, Cambridge, ON,
(Area 5)

Administrative Judge

Steve Tremper, Greenville, SC
(BHS)

Musicality Category

Liz LeClair, Milton, NH (Area 2)

Alex deBruin, Fort Myers, FL (BHS)

Performance Category

Gene Spilker, Liverpool, NY (BHS)

Allen Otto, Houston, TX (BHS)

Singing Category

Lynn Randall, Yorkville, IL (Area 4)

John Ward, Commerce, GA (BHS)

Harmony Creed

G. Ruth Geils

Harmony from our hearts, as well as voices;
Affection for each other, oft expressed;
Radiant with our love of barbershop;
Mindful of our principles and ideals;
Outstretched hands to every race and creed;
Neatness in our dress and in our thinking;
Young in heart, for singing keeps us young;
Inspired with our desire to grow and flourish;
Nourished by devotion to our music;
Constructive in our work for Harmony, Inc.



Do you love
to sing?

Join the award-winning Liberty Belles Chorus

*Summer
Sing 2026*

 Mondays 7 - 8 pm
August 10 - 31

 700 North Broad St.
Lansdale, PA

 TheLibertyBellesChorus.com

Harmony, Inc. Events Code of Conduct

All participants—performers, judges, guests, volunteers, etc.—of Harmony, Inc. events are advised of the following code of conduct. We require cooperation from all participants to help ensure a safe and enjoyable convention environment for everybody.

Harmony, Inc. is dedicated to providing a harassment-free convention experience for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion, or other personal characteristics. We do not tolerate harassment of convention participants in any form, including on social media platforms.

Violations of this code of conduct may be reported to Chapter, Area or IBOD leadership by any attendee and may result in the violator's immediate removal from the event and further disciplinary action as outlined in Harmony, Inc's Corporate Manual.

Contest Reminders

Photography and Recording

No unauthorized photography or recordings during any performance

Due to copyright laws, recording, or use of video or movie equipment during a contest session is prohibited

Contest Areas

No entering or exiting the contest venue during any performance

No food or beverage in the contest area

No talking or singing along with the contestants

This is a fragrance free and smoke free convention. Please refrain from wearing perfume, scented lotion, or or similar products inside contest areas.

Electronic Devices

Please turn off all cell phones, tablets, pagers, laptop computers, electronic devices and wristwatch alarms so they will not sound during a contestant's performance.

Access to the Judging Area

Unless authorized by the Administrative Panel Chair, no one is to enter the judging area during the contest, including intermissions.

















Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 30		
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
Friday, May 1		
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM	Area Quartet Rehearsal	Adams Basin
9:15 AM – 9:45 AM	Contestant Judges Briefing	Grand Ballroom
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Quartet On-stage Viewing (no singing)	Grand Ballroom
11:30 AM – 4:00 PM	Quartet Contest	Grand Ballroom
6:00 PM – 10:45 PM	Quartet Evaluations	TBA
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
Saturday, May 2		
8:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Hospitality	Champlain Room
8:00 AM – 8:50 AM	Chorus On-stage Viewing (no singing)	Grand Ballroom
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Area Chorus Rehearsal	Grand Ballroom
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Family Chorus Rehearsal	Grand Ballroom
10:00 AM – Noon	Registration	Grand Ballroom Foyer
Noon – 3:00 PM	Chorus Contest	Grand Ballroom
3:15 PM – 5:30 PM	Chorus Evaluations	TBA
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Cocktails/Dinner	Grand Ballroom
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Moonglow	Grand Ballroom
Sunday, May 3		
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Education Classes	Basin Rooms
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Hospitality	Champlain Room

We're Harmony, We're Strong

Words by Nancy Foris, Music by Beth Ramsson, Arrangement by Russ Foris

A blend with friendship is our creed, In Harmony we fill a need;
 Come lift your voices loud and long to celebrate with us in song!
 From all our hearts in Harmony with love that can't be bound,
 We're partners in Democracy, each woman's voice is found.
 The chords are close the feelings strong, our path is one that's clear;
 We give of talents, time and song to share what we hold dear.
 In barbershop our spirits raise, to Harmony we're true.
 In song and service, work and play, in everything we do.
 One voice, one vote that is the key, all women can belong;
 For what we are is Harmony, we celebrate in song
 We're Harmony, we're strong!
 (Come join our song!)

	MOVE FORWARD 3 SPACES 5		HERE AND NOW! 7		QUICK QUESTION! 9		QUICK QUESTION! 11	
	 							PLOT TWIST 12
ALCHEMY 2	<p>This weekend isn't just a roll of the die, it's the sound of preparation meeting opportunity.</p>							JAIL TIME! YOU LOSE A TURN
	<p>We know it's all Area 3 choruses and quartets putting heart, harmony, and hard work on the stage!</p>							
START!	FINISH	GO BACK THREE SPACES 20			QUICK QUESTION! 17		SIDE NOTES 15	

What A Dream Can Do

Words and Music by Christine Hayes, Arrangement by Steve Delahanty

Our voices one in song, Together proud and strong.
We stand as proof it's true of what a dream can do.
When ev'ry voice is heard, then miracles occur.
When friendship's bond holds true, See what a dream can do.
For Harmony's our gift to share
Because of dreamers who would dare
Make the world a place where a song's embrace
Holds us all, no matter who.
Join hands and hearts my friends,
This dream will never end.
We'll show the world anew, just what a dream,
A dream can do, a dream can do.

Available
to help with

**COACHING
CONDUCTING
LEARNING TRAX
VOICE LESSONS**

Contact

Katie Taylor

WWW.TaylorTrax.homestead.com

4-time
Harmony
Queen,
Music
Educator,
Gold
Medalist
Director



KTlovesHI@gmail.com

Quartet Contest

Friday, May 1 at 11:30 AM — Grand Ballroom

Welcome: Janine Schindler, Area 3 ACCT Chair

Presenter: Donna McKay, Director, Crystal Chords, International Quartet Champion, Harmony, Incorporated

Contestants listed as Tenor, Lead, Baritone, Bass

Mic Testers — Terpsichord

Bella Nova

Amanda Cornaglia, Teri Allred, Nancy Taylor, Denise Maloney

Fringe Benefits

Harmony in Motion

Jeanne Elmuccio, Jessica Struble, Jeanne Viscito, Kathy Maroko

Lazy Susan

Area 3 Associates & New England Voices in Harmony

Kim Newcomb, Ali Hauger, Melody Hine, Samantha Tramack

Just Keep Ringing

Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association

Rachael Storey-Chase, Katie Reutemann, Kurt Hayes, Jim Friel

Legacy

Bella Nova & Area 3 Associates

Gaye LaCasce, Bryn Lewellen, Alexa Beal, Christina Lewellen

Sharp Attitude

Heart of Pennsylvania

Alyce Reavis, Karen Castle, Laurel Fox, Kevena Stoudt

Alchemy

Rochester Rhapsody

Cory Stiehl, Sarah Casper, Catherine Sessler, Debra Luna

Slide Hustle

Heart of Pennsylvania

Moria Chambers, Emily Heuer, Sarah Lower, Lauren Cohen

Lunch Break

Side Notes

Rochester Rhapsody

Letashia James, Joan Barnes, Sharon Bayer, Shannon Hillman

Angel's Envy

Atlanta Harmony Celebration! & Bella Nova

Judy Rector, Sharon Ehrisman, Amanda Cornaglia, Kristina Adams

Sassafras

Liberty Belles

Kristina Thompson, Anne Bureau, Monica Walsh, Linda Franco

Nexus

Crystal Chords & Area 6 Associate

Melody Hilliard, Chris Dunbar, Ann Wilcox, Iva Flewelling

Smitten

Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association

Kelly Peterson, Dan Signor, Richard Lewellen, Scott Risley

Mach 4

Crystal Chords

Becky LaBella, Brooke Robinson, Cathy Horein, Michelle Dunne

BACKSTAGE PASS

Northern Blend

Ali Bell, Jodi Gibson, Taralee Lashway, Kat Bell

Stretch Break

Plot Twist

Rochester Rhapsody & Area 3 Associates

Jenna Kellogg, Melzie Case, Teresa Colosanti, Sue Melvin

The Agency

Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association

Amanda Cornaglia, Kristina Adams, Rishabh Bajekal, Charlie Meininger

Here and Now!

Rochester Rhapsody

Wordene Day, Lisa Twitchell, Kathy Dickson, Heather Clarke

Vivàce

Northern Blend and Area 3 Associate

Meaghan Bell, Amy DePerna, Lorie Autote, Jessi Nasto

SōlFire

Bella Nova

Allyn Lloyd, Erin Cassidy, Rachael Storey-Chase, Emily Faalasli

Velvet Crush

Village Vocal Chords, Crystal Chords & Area 6 Associates

Michaela Medford, Jen Wheaton, Katy Galvin, Jessica Rhodes

Area Quarus

"Let The River Run"

Lyrics and Music by Carly Simon
Arrangement by Eric Ruthenberg

Directed by Anne Bureau, Director, The Liberty Belles Chorus

Presentation of Quartet Awards

MBHA Mixed Quartet Trophy

Awarded to the highest scoring MBHA quartet

Donated by Dick and Roxanne Powell in memory of Chuck Wert and "Compound W"
Presented by Mary Ann Wert, Katie Taylor and Lorie Autote

Quartet Qualifier Ribbons

Awarded to the quartets achieving a qualifying score to be eligible to compete
at international contest

Donated by Harmony, Inc., and Presented by Sarah Thorne-Miller, Area 3 Director

Novice Quartet Award

Awarded to the highest scoring quartet containing the least number of previous
contestants in a barbershop contest

Donated and Presented by For Heaven's Sake, 1996 International Quartet Champions

Cygnets Award

Awarded to the most improved quartet based on score from the previous contest

Donated and Presented by Karen Trotter, Four in Accord
1986 International Quartet Champions

Third Place Medals

Donated by Area 3 and Presented by Sarah Thorne-Miller, Area 3 Director

Second Place Medals

Donated by Area 3 and Presented by Janine Schindler, Area 3 ACCT Chair

Aspire Award and First Place Medals

Donated by Charisma, 2017 International Quartet Champions
Presented by Carol Zeffiro and Barbara Yendall

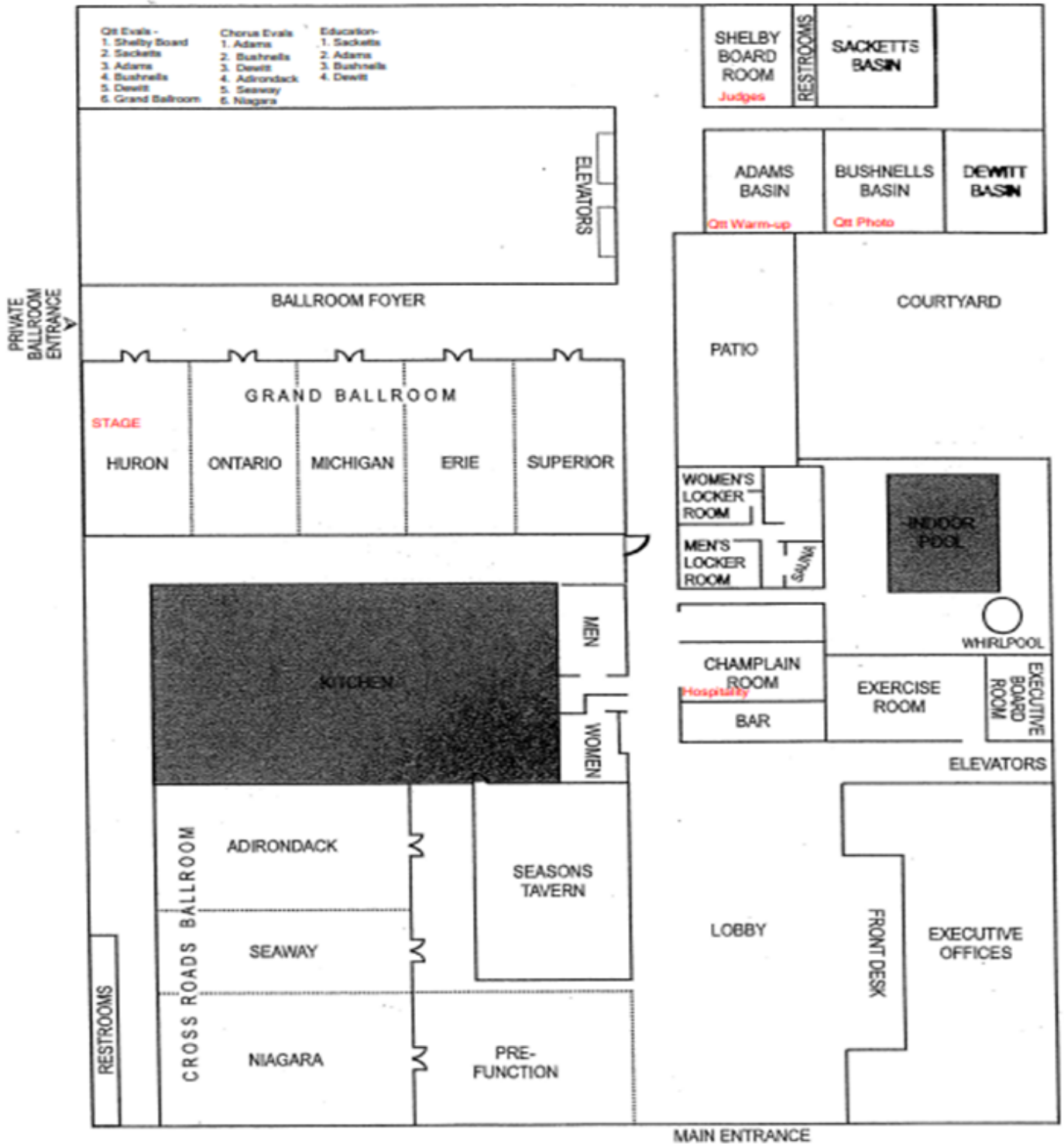
Song by First Place Quartet

We're Harmony, We're Strong

Directed by Katie Taylor, Director, Northern Blend



Hotel/Convention Center Layout



HARMONY HAPPENS HERE

www.area3harmony.org

Join Us!

Chorus Contest

Saturday, May 2 at 12 PM – Grand Ballroom

Welcome: Janine Schindler, Area 3 ACCT Chair

Presenter: Jen Wheaton, International Quartet Champion, Harmony, Incorporated

Bella Nova Chorus

Herndon, VA

Richard Lewellen, Director

Liberty Belles Chorus

Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Anne Bureau, Director

Crystal Chords

Corning/Elmira, New York

Donna McKay, Director

Niagara Frontier Chord Authority

Amherst, New York

Ron Mason and Carol Zeffiro, Directors

Heart of Pennsylvania

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania

Dee Casteel, Director

Intermission

Harmony in Motion

Sussex, New Jersey
Jeanne Viscito, Director

Rochester Rhapsody

Rochester, New York
Sue Melvin, Director

Harmony Falls Chorus

Trumansburg, New York
Karen Trotter and Nancy Oliver, Directors

Northern Blend

Watertown, New York
Katie Taylor, Director

Area 3 Family Chorus

“When There’s Love at Home”

Words and Music by J.H. McNaughton
Arrangement by Tom Gentry

Directed by Bryn Lewellen, Bella Nova Chorus

Area 3 Chorus

“Come the Wild, Wild Weather”

Words and Music by Noël Coward
Arrangement by Steve Tramack

Directed by Richard Lewellen, Director, Bella Nova Chorus

Presentation of Chorus Awards

Chorus Qualifier Ribbons

Awarded to the choruses achieving a qualifying score to be eligible to compete at international contest

Donated by Harmony, Inc., and Presented by Sarah Thorne-Miller, Area 3 Director

Peg Duclos Award

Awarded to the highest scoring chorus with 30 or fewer chapter members

Donated in memory of Peg Duclos by Kath Morgan
and Presented by Janine Schindler, Area 3 ACCT Chair

Most Improved Chorus Award

Awarded to the most improved chorus based on rank from the previous contest

Donated by Heart of Pennsylvania and Presented by Emily Heuer, Chapter President

Jean Linn Award

Awarded to the most improved chorus based on score from the previous contest

Donated by Harmony Falls and Presented by Sherie Carroll, Chapter President

Rising Star Award

Awarded to the most improved chorus based on performance score

Donated by Rochester Rhapsody and
Presented by co-presidents Dene Day and Jenn Montgomery

Third Place Ribbons

Donated by Area 3 and Presented by Sarah Thorne-Miller, Area 3 Director

Second Place Ribbons

Donated by Area 3 and Presented by Kat Bell, President
Northern Blend

First Place Medals

Donated by Area 3 and Presented by Rochester Rhapsody

First Place Chorus Trophy

Donated by the Crystal Chords and Presented by Anne Leinen, Chapter Representative

Song by First Place Chorus

We're Harmony, We're Strong

Directed by the First Place Chorus Director



Moonglow – “Family Game Night!”

Saturday, May 2 – Grand Ballroom
Cocktails 6:00 PM – Dinner 7:00 PM
Moonglow program will follow dinner at 8:00 PM

“Family Game Night!” Buffet

DOMINOS DECONSTRUCTED SALAD

Mixed greens, Cherry tomatoes, Red grapes, Cucumber, Golden raisins, Feta, Candied walnuts – choice of 2 dressings (gluten free, vegetarian, vegan)

BATTLESHIPS Broccoli Slaw Salad (gluten free, vegetarian, vegan)

READING RAILROAD Rolls and Butter

MR. GREENS Glazed Parisian Carrots (vegetarian)

R1 Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes (vegetarian)

ST. CHARLES PLACE Cheese Lasagna Rollatini with Marinara (vegetarian)

CHESS Chicken Francoise/French classic with a delicate Lemon Beurre Blanc

BOARDWALK Bourbon Glazed Ham (gluten free)

FUNNY BONE Fresh Atlantic Cod with a Lemon Dill Beurre Blanc

CANDYLAND Chocolate Mousse Bomb

Coffee and Tea

CASH BAR

DEALERS CHOICE: Cranberry, OJ & Vodka or Sangria

Along with a variety of beers, wines, cocktails and mocktails

Moonglow

Carol McDonnell Membership Award ♦ Quartet and Chorus Performances

“Pass the Hat” for Youth Outreach

**** Due to Game Room policy, no food is allowed in moonglow/afterparty rooms; drinks allowed if purchased from the hotel ****

**BEST WISHES FOR AN AMAZING
WEEKEND FROM YOUR FRIENDS IN**



**BREAK A LIP
TO OUR
"BLENDER"
QUARTETS!**



**WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR
OUR ANNUAL SHOW,**

"Sing Fling"

**ON OCTOBER 17TH IN WATERTOWN, NY!
CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR MORE INFORMATION!**



AC&C 2026 Education Classes

Sunday, May 3 from 9:00 AM to 12:20 PM

Session 1

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Class 1: Interpreting a song: Using ALL the stuff! with Liz LeClair (Certified Musicality Judge)

Location: Adams Basin

Join Liz as we explore the how's and why's of the songs we choose to perform. Do the research, delve into the music to really see what it has to offer you, so you can bring it to life! We'll be viewing varied performances of our sample songs.

Class 2: Conflict! with Doc Spilker (Certified Performance Judge)

Location: Bushnells Basin

In this class, we look for and exploit the one thing most of us avoid, conflict. Utilization of the story's conflict has the potential of increasing the emotional range a performer has to generate a more relatable connection with the audience. Lets get beyond the superficial and explore the dirty areas of what is really at stake in the message of the song.

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Class 3: Quartet Coaching with John Ward (Certified Singing Judge)

Location: Sacketts Basin

In this class, we will go over basic techniques for diagnosing singing issues in a quartet setting and tools to help resolve issues and make fast improvements in how the quartet sings and performs.

Session 2 – 10:10 AM to 11:10 AM

Class 1: Singing with Emotion with Lynn Randall (Certified Singing Judge)

Location: Adams Basin

This one-hour class introduces the essentials of singing with emotion in the Barbershop style. Participants will explore how to connect with lyrics, shape phrases, and use vocal color and dynamics to tell a clear, compelling story, leaving with practical tools they can apply immediately in rehearsal and performance.

Class 2: Embellishments and how to get the most from them with Alex deBruin (Certified Musicality Judge)

Location: Bushnells Basin

Of course we know personal practice is important, but is there a 'right' way or a 'wrong' way to practice? We'll share ideas and strategies for practicing that will help you feel better prepared and more confident for your next quartet or chorus rehearsal.

Session 3 – 11:20 AM to 12:20 PM

Class 1: Vocal Warmups with John Ward (Certified Singing Judge)

Location: Adams Basin

In this class you will learn the daily exercises that can be used to expand range, strengthen the vocal apparatus, and care for the voice. When learned and utilized, these techniques will help you sing with more control and allow singing for a lifetime with good quality.

Class 2: Listening to music with a barbershop ear with Alex deBruin (Certified Musicality Judge)

Location: Bushnells Basin

We all have a wide variety of musical interests and experiences, but how can we use those to make our barbershop better? In this session, we will talk about an approach to actively learning from a variety of genres and listen to some fantastic music!

Class 3: Chorus Director Development Class with Jim O’Neill (Harmony, Inc. Chorus Director Development Coordinator)

Location: Sacketts Basin

This class is for all Directors, Assistant Directors and anyone that would be interested. It will be an interactive class addressing issues and collaborative solutions.



v o l u n t e e r

**Ready to mix passion with purpose?
Join us!**

We're on the lookout for passionate volunteers to step into key roles on the Area Council and help us spread the joy of barbershop singing!

If you're ready to jump in, we have exciting opportunities for **Youth Outreach Coordinator and **Area Convention and Contest Team Chair**.**

Join the Area 3 Council and show why Area 3 is The Place to Be!

Contact Area 3 Director Sarah Thorne-Miller for info on how to apply

Area 3 Convention Team

Area 3 Director	<i>Sarah Thorne-Miller</i>
Area Convention and Contests Team Chair	<i>Janine Schindler</i>
Area Contest and Judging Chair	<i>Erin Cassidy</i>
Facilities Coordinator	<i>Dene Day</i>
Judges' Services Coordinator	<i>Michelle Buckenmeyer</i>
Registration Coordinator	<i>Sharron Gilbert</i>
Public Relations Coordinator	<i>Anita Prather Harvell</i>
Treasurer	<i>Ann Christiano</i>
Host Chapter	<i>Northern Blend</i>

Support Team

Stage Manager	<i>Teri Allred</i>
Sound/Lighting	<i>Terry Burke & Ken Ketchum</i>
Photographer	<i>Deb Marwood</i>
Videographer	<i>John Aviste</i>

We Are Thankful

Words and Music by Tom Gentry, Arrangement by Harmony, Inc. Music Judges

We are thankful for the friends beside us.

We are thankful for the songs we share.

We are thankful for the love around us.

we've rehearsed....

we've prepared....

NOW IT'S TIME TO **SHINE!**

WISHING THE BEST
TO ALL CONTESTANTS
IN AREA 3

GOOD LUCK!!

FROM YOUR SISTERS

*Harmony
Falls*