



**WELCOME to THE LONGMONT CHAPTER
Of THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
And THE LONGS PEAK CHORUS**

The Longmont chapter is affiliated with the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). The performing chorus is known as the Longs Peak Chorus.

This booklet is designed to answer some of the questions you may have concerning this wonderful hobby of ours, the international organization in general, and the Longs Peak Chorus, as well as the barbershop style of singing.

Members of the Barbershop Harmony Society know that the joy and fellowship we get from joining our voices in song is a wonderful escape from the stresses of everyday life. It has been said that when one is singing, there is no hate! It is a lifelong hobby, there is no age limit on either end.

E-mail – longspeakchorus@gmail.com

Phone - 720-675-8247

Friend us on Facebook

Our website: www.longspeakchorus.org



What is Barbershop Harmony?

“Barbershop harmony” is a unique American art form of acapella four-part vocal harmony that hasn’t changed basically since the early 20th century. The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) was established in 1938. It was originally formed as the SPEBSQSA, the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, but is now known as the BHS.

The melody line is sung by the “lead” (second tenor in a men’s choral group or soprano in a mixed chorus) with the “bass” singing the notes below, the “baritone” singing both above and below the lead, and almost always above the bass, and the “tenor” singing the notes above the lead.

What makes barbershop harmony so enjoyable is that when four notes or tones are sung at or in perfect intervals, and the vowel being sung is the same in all four parts, a phenomenon known as “overtone” is produced. Overtones are the additional notes, or tones on the chromatic scale set up by sympathetic vibrations and can be clearly heard. Barbershoppers refer to this as “expanded sound” or “ringing” chords. Because four voices singing correctly and in perfect harmony can sound like many more than four, a volume of music is produced which is much greater than the sum of the four individual parts.

The most profound effect of this overtone phenomenon is upon the individual singers within the quartet or chorus. It is a physical effect that is felt, often causing odd reactions such as goose bumps, or hair standing on end. This is one of the greatest attractions of barbershop harmony.

About the Longs Peak Chorus

The Longs Peak Chorus is the performing unit of the Longmont Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, which is the largest singing organization in the world with more than 22,000 congenial men who love to sing four-part harmony in the barbershop style. The Longmont Chapter was chartered in 1948.

The Longmont Chapter is in the “Rocky Mountain District” one of 17 districts in the BHS. All districts have annual conventions, where choruses and quartets compete. Society certified judges score their performances based on criteria of vocal quality, music selection, and performance.

Our chapter board consists of the following positions: President, Music VP, Membership VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Marketing VP, and two At Large members.

Our Music team consists of the Directors, the Music VP, and the 4 section leaders. They are responsible for choosing and acquiring new music, planning show repertoire and show theme.

The Chorus produces several shows each year as well as other private and civic performances. A highlight of the year for the Longs Peak Chorus is the December caroling at senior residences and nursing homes. Annually, about 12 locations receive caroling sessions between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The caroling usually happens prior to our weekly rehearsals in December. Within the chorus, are several quartets that fill chapter obligations to civic and private performances in venues that would not normally accommodate the much larger chorus.

Every February since 1997, quartets of the chorus have sung to men and women in celebration of Valentine’s Day. These “Singing Valentines”, are a fund raiser for the chapter for continued growth and improvements needed to support our harmonious hobby. Quartets may be spontaneously put together just for Singing Valentines. Several of our quartets over the years have been top ten finalists at District conventions.

Individual members of the chorus have received several prestigious awards: A Silver Medal in the International Quartet competition. A Gold medal in the International Seniors Quartet competition. Several Top 5 medals in the International Chorus competition. Several 50 year members of the BHS. We have also had several members serving as District Officers.

Longs Peak Chorus Directors

Director Johnny Bugarin

A Colorado native, Johnny has been involved in barbershop since his sophomore year of high school. . He serves as the assistant director for the Sound of the Rockies as well as the Baritone section leader. Johnny was selected as the director of the 52eighty Youth Chorus in May of 2015, and was appointed the director of the Longs Peak Chorus in the summer of 2016.

Johnny has been a part of multiple vocal and instrumental ensembles ranging from the Laudamus Chorale to the Boulder Symphony Orchestra. In his time at the University of Northern Colorado, he was involved in the top mixed choir under the direction of Dr. Galen Darrough, and was also the principal bassoon in the UNC Symphonic Band. Johnny also had the privilege of singing in the Metro State Men's Choir under former Longs Peak Chorus director Dr. Jay Dougherty.

His most recent accomplishment has been with his quartet, "One 'N Dun", which placed 5th in the 2018 Youth Quartet Contest at the International Convention. Prior to that, an earlier quartet "The Pine", took first place in the 2016 Rocky Mountain District Contest! The Pine has represented the Rocky Mountain District twice in the Youth Barbershop Quartet International Contest where the quartet placed as high as 17th.

Johnny is currently a candidate in the BHS Contest and Judging Program where he hopes to become certified in 2019 as a judge in the Music Category.

Assistant Director Ron Black

Ron attended both Immaculate Heart and Occidental Colleges in Los Angeles, majoring in Renaissance vocal and instrumental performance. Ron sang bass in the Great Western Timbre Company, 1986 Far Western District quartet champion and 1988 15th-place international semifinalist, and currently 4th place Senior Quartet. He also sang bass with Rhythm and Rhyme, which took 14th place in the 1997 international competition. He has directed the Fresno Gold Note Chorus, seventh-place international competitor in 1984.

Ron moved to Texas in 2003 to direct the Heart of Texas Chorus in San Marcos, which has competed as a SWD representative six times, and placed as high as 9th in the International Chorus contest in 2008 in Nashville. In addition, he coaches many quartets and choruses in the U.S. and abroad. Ron has been a part time faculty at Texas State University, San Marcos, where he conducted the Men's Chorus. In 2009 moved with his wife Jo to Rocklin, California to be near their grandchildren. He was an Associate Director of Voices of California, a Barbershop Harmony Society chorus of international caliber from 2010 to 2017. In 2011 Ron was inducted into the Far Western District Hall Of Fame.

Ron recently retired from the BHS Judging Program after serving for 30 years in both the Music and Singing Categories. He has been on the Harmony University faculty for 34 years. He is included in the recent publication "Visions Of Excellence", as one of 25 finest directors in the Barbershop Harmony Society. In his infrequent spare time he eats, sleeps, and writes computer accounting software.

Membership

There are a few basic facts of life for our chorus:

1. This is a hobby and volunteer organization, but....
2. The chorus is only as good as the individual singers (and its administration).
3. The chapter has established itself as one of the premier chapters within the district.
4. Continually improving; "Most Improved Chorus" in 2004 and 2005 against 16 other district choruses. Second in the district in 2009. Most Improved award in 2014.

Specific requirements for membership:

- Be assigned a specific section (voice part) employing the vocal/voice profile check, which will be made to establish your musical ability and the comfort range of your voice.
- Attend at least three (3) consecutive meetings (more if needed to grasp our style of singing).
- Have the recommendations of the Music Committee and Membership VP ratified by the Board of Directors.
- Submit a membership application and a check for membership dues to the Membership Vice President.
- Be approved as a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society by BHS headquarters

What is the cost of being a member?

Dues: Initial dues are \$193 including International, District, and Chapter dues and initiation fee. Annual renewal is \$183. New members 25 years old or less pay only the initiation fee (\$10) the first year. Deferred or monthly payments are available. Credit cards may be used.

Uniforms: A formal uniform and a casual chorus polo shirt are issued to each member. You will be expected to return the formal uniform in good condition if you leave the chapter. Each member is required to provide their own pair of black patent leather shoes.

What ongoing expenses will there be as a member?

- Annual dues are currently \$183.00/yr. (includes Society, District & Chapter)
- Housing and registration costs associated with attending our District contests or other district functions.
- Expenses of attending International Conventions (optional)
- Cleaning and any repair of your uniform.
- Voluntary contributions to the Harmony Foundation.
- Any barbershop items you elect to purchase from the "Harmony Marketplace".
- Any food purchased at our weekly "afterglow".

You can see that regular attendance at all rehearsals and other chapter activities is essential and is expected of all members, both old and new, if the chorus is to continue as a leader in the Rocky Mountain District.

Although no fixed rules have been set regarding attendance, each member is expected to be conscientious in participation in regular rehearsals, chapter administration, and the learning of songs. Should a member become lax in any one of these areas, he can expect a gentle reminder of his obligations as a member of the Long Peaks Chorus.

The chorus music repertoire is quite large and could seem insurmountable to the new member. To speed the learning process, sheet music, learning tracks (MP3 files), and CDs (on request) are available. The learning tracks, which we download from the chapter website, are part-predominant. Once you become a member you will be given access to the website and can then avail yourself of this valuable learning tool. Many members make their own CDs to practice with by downloading the practice tracks from our web site. Our music and learning tracks are copyrighted and are for use ONLY by our members.

As a new member, you will be assigned a “Buddy”, someone to whom you can ask any questions and who will help you get oriented.

Voice Profile

Unless you have experience with barbershop singing and/or choral singing (and know which part you would like to sing), a voice profile will be done at your earliest convenience to determine which part you should be singing. If you are a casual visitor with no real intentions of repeat visits or joining, the voice profile check will not be required.

The Membership VP or greeter will put you in touch with one of our voice profile men who will take you aside and have you sing a chromatic scale (or reasonable facsimile) from the bottom to the top of your range. From this simple exercise (done in private) he will determine in which of the parts he feels you will be most comfortable, and place you accordingly.

If you read music (it is not a requisite to joining the chorus), you may have noticed that the barbershop arrangements are scored (written) a little differently than ordinary music. In the treble clef, middle C on our sheet music is the C below middle C. We place it within the clef for ease of reading and writing only...it sure sounds strange if played on the piano as it's written.

Barbershop Harmony Society

Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the society is composed of 17 districts, 820+ chapters and 22,000 members. The society sponsors, among other activities, the following events of interest:

- The International Convention is held annually in July. This convention features Quartet (approx. 50) and Chorus (approx. 28) contests, as well as the annual Youth Quartet Contest (Under age 25). This contest is hosted at different locations each year. Attendance is usually in the range of 7,000. .
- An annual Mid-Winter convention (usually in a warm place). This convention features the International Seniors Quartet Contest (25 quartets), and the Youth Chorus Festival, which includes men and women under 25 years of age, as well as shows by the previous summer's top 5 quartets, and special guests. Attendance is usually around 2,500.
- A full week of Harmony University annually in August held at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Classes on a myriad of musical topics We call this “barbershop by immersion”. A real blast.
- Leadership Training Seminar for new officers once a year.
- A bi-monthly publication called “The Harmonizer”.
- Chapter visitations by society music educators and other staff members.
- Organizing and running the BHS judging program which is comprised of 160 judges (Music, Performance & Singing) and Contest Administrators.

There are affiliates of the BHS around the world who frequently send competitors to our two annual contests. Quartets from Sweden and New Zealand have recently won the International Quartet Contest. Other affiliates include England, Germany, Holland, Australia, Ireland, Finland, Spain and South Africa. It has been said that one is not truly a barbershopper until one has attended an international event.

It would be well worth your while to check out the BHS website at: www.barbershop.org

Rocky Mountain District (RMD)

One of 17 districts in the BHS, the RMD sponsors the following events annually:

- A fall district convention at which quartet and chorus contests are held. This includes qualifying contests to compete at the annual BHS International Contests.
- A spring school with classes on many music and barbershop related subjects.
- A leadership school to train new chapter officers.

Harmony Foundation

The Harmony Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, was incorporated in 1959 as the charitable arm of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The foundation helps in preserving the musical legacy of the Barbershop Harmony Society through support of vocal music education in our schools and communities. The foundation raises financial support for the society's programs.

Some examples are:

- Provides Harmony Explosion Music Camps for youth throughout the country.
- Sends BHS chorus directors and other music educators to Director's College
- Subsidizes convention expenses for youth choruses to attend the annual Youth Chorus Festival held at the Mid-Winter Convention.
- Collaborates with the ACDA (American Choral Directors Assn) and NAFME (National Assn for Music Education) to provide music and support materials for middle school, high school, and college music educators
- Provides convention scholarships to collegiate quartets.

The Longmont Chapter and the Rocky Mountain District are among the most generous contributors in the BHS.

To find out more go to: www.harmonyfoundation.org

What is required of a member to belong to the Longs Peak Chorus?

- To be able to sing and carry a melody, but it is not necessary for you to be able to read music.
- That you make the commitment to support the chapter with your presence and your time whenever possible.

How much time will be required?

- To learn new music and to acquire a polished performance, it is necessary that you attend all practices if you are able. We practice on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:30 PM.
- In addition, you will be expected (and it is necessary for all of us) to spend some time on your own to learn new pieces, since we perform without sheet music in hand. Learning CDs and MP3 files are available to aid in learning. Listening to our learning tracks in the car is an easy way to learn the music.
- You will also be expected to participate in any scheduled LPC performance.
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How will I know what part I sing?

The voice profile mentioned earlier will determine your recommended part. Some leeway is given for personal preferences, and previous experience.

Am I required to join a quartet?

You are not required to join a quartet, but if you do, quartet singing will greatly improve your singing ability and confidence.

Are there any social and/or family activities?

The chorus has many “fun” activities during the year, such as:

- “Afterglow” parties following annual shows and competitions at conventions.
- Picnics
- In addition, you are encouraged to bring your spouse & family to conventions and contests.
- An annual awards and officer installation banquet.

If you have additional questions that were not answered here, please feel free to ask anyone in the chorus.

Thanks for your interest in the Long’s Peak Chorus

