

# Derbytown Chorus Membership Information

## WEBSITES

Chapter - [derbytownchorus.org](http://derbytownchorus.org)

District - [www.singjad.com](http://www.singjad.com)

Society - [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org)

## CODE OF ETHICS

The Society aspires to preserve for its members and for all future generations of prospective members the sacred right of men to seek haven from the burden of their daily cares through indulgence in old fashioned vocal quartet harmony, and to that end we do hereby pledge ourselves to abide by the precepts of this Code of Ethics:

1. We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society.
2. We shall deport ourselves and conduct the Society's functions in such a manner as to reflect credit upon the Society and its membership.
3. We shall conform in all respects to the bylaws of the Society and the rules from time to time promulgated by its international board of directors.
4. We shall accept for membership only congenial men of good character who love harmony in music or have a desire to harmonize.
5. We shall exhibit a spirit of good fellowship toward all members.
6. We shall refrain from forcing our songs upon unsympathetic ears.
7. We shall not use our membership in the Society for personal gain.
8. We shall not permit the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society.
9. We shall, by our stimulus to good music and vocal harmony, endeavor to spread the spirit of harmony throughout the world.
10. We shall render all possible altruistic service through the medium of barbershop harmony.

## FOREWORD

This booklet is intended to provide our guests and visitors with a profile of the Derbytown Chorus, a performing unit of the Akron Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Typical chapter meetings are usually so filled with singing and vocal exercises that visitors don't have the opportunity to ask questions concerning who we are and how we go about the business of enjoying our great hobby. We hope this booklet will answer many of those questions as well as provide an insight into the intrinsic appeal of four-part harmony.

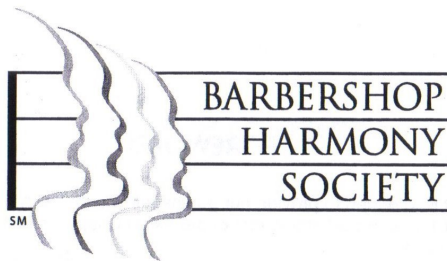
## WELCOME

Thanks for choosing to visit with the Derbytown Chorus; we sincerely hope you enjoy yourself. We are all members of the world's largest male singing society. We love to sing in four-part harmony while enjoying a fraternal environment.

Northeast Ohio is a hotbed of barbershop activity, with nine Society chapters: Cleveland West Suburban, Cleveland East, Independence, North Olmstead, North Coast, Lorain, Elyria, Canton, and Akron.

The Derbytown Chorus is a performing unit of the Akron Chapter, and meets every Tuesday at 7:30pm in the Fellowship Hall at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron.

As you will see in this booklet, the Derbytown Chorus has many and varied activities throughout the year. We welcome new members ... come join us in this great hobby. Barbershopping is something you and your family can enjoy for a lifetime.



Throughout the United States and Canada there are sixteen districts. Our district is the Johnny Appleseed District. JAD includes the states of Ohio, most of West Virginia, Western Pennsylvania and one chapter from Kentucky. The JAD has existed more than 50 years and is made up of over 2500 members in over 50 chapters. The JAD is divided into seven geographically-based associations of chapters called divisions. The seven JAD divisions are named after a type of apple. Akron is in the Melrose Division.



Other worldwide affiliations are:

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| AAMBS | Australian Association of Male Barbershop Singers |
| BABS  | British Association of Barbershop Singers         |
| BinG  | Barbershop in Germany                             |
| DABS  | Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers           |
| IABS  | Irish Association of Barbershop Singers           |
| NZABS | New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers     |
| SNOBS | Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers              |
| SPATS | Southern Parts of Africa Tonsorial Singers        |

## Our History

In 1938, O.C. Cash and Ruppert Hall held a singing get-together of local men who had an interest in barbershop harmony. They met at the Roof Garden of Tulsa Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma and when the singing started all activity in the downtown area stopped to listen, including traffic, much to the dismay of police. Thus, the Barbershop Harmony Society had its informal beginning. To those who might be wondering, the Society was originally called (and still is officially) the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America or SPEBSQSA.

The first meeting of the Akron Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society was held on March 9, 1939 at the Akron City Club. A quartet contest was sponsored on April 7 at the Akron Armory with a first prize of \$250. The prize money was applied to the expenses of the winning quartet at the annual convention held in Tulsa that year. There is no record of who the first winner was.

In July of 1945, the Akron Chapter was formally presented a charter by SPEBSQSA Vice-president Jim Knipe. Nelson Peter was the first president of the Akron chapter. The first chorus director was Earle Gardner.

Some of the first Chapter quartets included: The Akronaires, The Rubber City Four and The Atomic Four.

Akron's first annual show was held on May 21, 1948. Twenty-five men performed on stage with the chorus. Ed Duplaga was the

General Chairman. Some of the quartets performing were: the Rubber City Four, The Tiger Town Four, The Atomic Four, The Tom Cats, The Funmakers, and The Pitch Pipers. The Massillon Chorus also performed.

In the years since that first show, the Akron Chapter has continued a tradition of providing top quality shows for local barbershop fans. The shows have included these International Champions along the way: The Pittsburghers, Buffalo Bills, The Schmitt Brothers, Mid States Four, Four Pitchikers, Suntones, Gala Lads, Four Renegades, Auto Towners, Four Statesmen, Western Continentals, Mark IV, Oriole Four, Gentlemen's Agreement, Golden Staters, Dealer's Choice, Innsiders, Bluegrass Student Union, Boston Common, Grandma's Boys, Chicago News, Classic Collection, Most Happy Fellows, The Ritz, Rural Route Four, Second Edition, Keepsake, Chiefs of Staff, Marquis, Revival, Yesteryear, Acoustix, Gas House Gang, Joker's Wild, Nightlife, Fred, Platinum, Michigan Jake, Four Voices, Power Play, Gotcha!, and many other medal winners too numerous to mention.

The purpose of this document is not only to highlight our illustrious past but also to instill a sense of pride in hopes that it will provide us with the impetus to plan and prepare for a successful future.

## **THE DERBYTOWN CHORUS TODAY**

The Chorus' prime objective is to have fun singing together. Our strong camaraderie pulls our members into many different group projects. Some of these include:

- An annual show – in the spring, usually early April, at the Cuyahoga Falls High School Theater
- Paid Chorus performances to help defray our expenses
- Holiday singing - A community service project
- Singing Valentines - A wonderful experience for both the singers and the recipients
- The Akron Chapter Corn Roast - A district-wide stag event held on a Tuesday evening in September
- Contests

**We are a diverse and talented mix of singers who appreciate each other... an active chorus and proud of what we do. We want to grow, both in quantity and quality.**

## **Mission Statement and Goals**

**Our Mission is to...**

**Enrich lives through singing. We perpetuate and celebrate the barbershop harmony style of singing.**

### **Goals**

- Full support of quartets and VLQ's (Very Large Quartets) wishing to form to expand the vocal harmony experience of its members.
- Achieve and maintain at least two registered active quartets in the Chapter.
- Secure additional members (3-5 increase per year).
- Provide time for fun singing each meeting night.

**We support vocal music education. We strive to provide quality musical entertainment.**

### **Goals**

- Maintain an active Youth Outreach effort.
- Initiate, promote, and participate in charitable projects.
- Effectively promote the Chapter at every opportunity.

**We serve our members by sharing fellowship, promoting skills and leadership development.**

## Goals

- Provide section rehearsal time in weekly meetings as appropriate.
- Provide time for needed additional work before scheduled rehearsal.
- Introduce techniques for improving singing and stage presentation.
  - Develop/obtain coaching expertise in these areas.
  - Reinforce key techniques regularly.

We build better communities as we "Keep the Whole World Singing."

## Vision Statement

We are dedicated to providing each member active support, respect, fellowship and friendship through cooperation, sharing, leadership, and maintenance of high ethical standards.

## MEETING NIGHT (TUESDAYS)

7:30 to 10:00 pm

We open each week with warm-up exercises to make sure that we are ready to sing. The director often uses that time for instruction in holding pitch, matching vowel sounds and other points that help to improve the overall choral sound. About midway through the meeting we usually stop for a break and a brief discussion of chapter business.

We try to get in as much chorus singing as we can during the meeting. You can be sure there is ample opportunity for that and for pickup quartet singing during the meeting each week.

After each meeting, we have an informal, social "Afterglow", with impromptu singing, fellowship, and refreshments.

## Suggestions for Guests and New Members

- Be considerate of others, arrive on time, we start at 7:30pm.
- During warm-up, give full attention to the director.
- While on the risers, please no talking. 25 or 30 men can make quite a buzz.
- Ask questions before 7:30, during break, or after the meeting (check the table up front for any instructions or directions).
- Any questions during the business meeting should be short and relevant. Check and read the "High Notes" when you arrive each week.

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Each year, our quartets deliver **SINGING VALENTINES** to lucky women (and men) throughout the Akron area. This includes a quartet singing two love songs, a red rose, a box of chocolates, and a card. You must be qualified to sing in this program, but the songs come from the Barberpole Cat Song Book and are not difficult to learn. You will gain many memorable experiences.

In the summer we have several performances. We sing at some Aero's games, Copley Circle, and a few other places around the area. This is a wonderful way in which to serve our community.

Our **ANNUAL SHOW** is the premiere activity of the Derbytown Chorus. Each year we present a wonderful show of musical talent from around the Society. It is a full stage production that requires considerable effort from many of our members. The show is presented at the Cuyahoga Falls High School Theater in the spring, usually early April. In addition to being a lot of fun, it is a major fund producer for the Chapter.

The Chapter has a daytime Chorus, **THE MATINEE SINGERS**, that sing at such places as church meetings, assisted living homes, nursing homes, community groups, etc. We practice at 1pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, at the First Congregational Church of Tallmadge, 85 Heritage Drive, just north of the Circle.

## CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Our membership criteria is simply that a prospective member shall have a love for music harmony, a desire to sing, and is a congenial man of good character.

At each visit to the weekly meeting, a guest will be greeted by the Chapter Development VP and asked to sign a guest register. As soon as is practicable he will be introduced to the members and asked to tell us a few things about himself (marital status, number of children, work place, how he found out about us, and any previous musical experience, etc.). He will be seated in a section in the Chorus that would seem to be compatible with his voice range as determined by the Music Director. He will be given a guest music book and seated next to a buddy in that section who will answer questions and provide assistance.

After the third visit, the Chapter Development VP will discuss membership with the guest and an application will be offered.

From there on the actual membership process is up to you. You are encouraged to become a member, and to continue to enjoy the benefits of our program. Once your completed application has been submitted, along with the necessary dues, it is presented to the Chapter Board for formal acceptance. You will also need to pass a voice placement test. It will then take approximately 3-4 weeks for the Society processing before your membership card and related materials are available for presentation.

### DUES

|  | <b>Adult</b> | <b>Student</b> | <b>Senior</b> |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| International Dues                         | \$101.00     | \$ 50.50       | \$ 50.50      |
| Enrollment Fee (1 <sup>st</sup> year only) | \$ 10.00     | \$ 10.00       | \$ 10.00      |
| District Dues                              | \$ 25.00     | \$ 12.50       | \$ 12.50      |
| Chapter Dues                               | \$ 5.00      | \$ 2.50        | \$ 2.50       |
| <br>Total                                  | <br>\$141.00 | <br>\$ 75.50   | <br>\$ 75.50  |

**Payment plans are available. If interested, please ask the secretary for details.**

### NOW THAT YOU ARE A MEMBER . . .

. . . there are a few details that you will want to address.

Before singing at your **FIRST PERFORMANCE**, you will need to be qualified. That is, you must know words, notes and choreography (movements and expressions) with a voice quality at an acceptable level. This is not a particularly difficult procedure, as you will be provided stereo **LEARNING TRACKS** on which your part is predominant on one channel and the other 3 parts on the other. Our Music Librarian will assign a permanent **MUSIC BOOK** to you with all of our recent songs including our current repertoire. Your Section Leader and Music Director will provide assistance and determine when you are ready to perform with the chorus.

Once you have qualified to perform, you will be issued a UNIFORM set, which will consist of the current required clothing. A small deposit will be required which will be returned when you return the uniform if you ever leave the chorus

Once a uniform has been issued, you are qualified to sing at all public performances unless your Section Leader or Chorus Director feel that additional qualifications are required. All of our members are encouraged to use good judgment and common sense in determining their readiness to perform. The best way to ensure your readiness to perform is to attend practice. Performing well

with confidence comes from regular practice.

**Uniforms and Music Books are the property of the Akron Chapter and are to be returned to the Chapter if membership is terminated. Be sure you comply with all copyright laws.**

### **BARBERPOLE CAT PROGRAM**

A Barberpole Cat book was provided in the membership materials you received from the Society headquarters. This a Society program launched in 1971. Each member is encouraged to learn the 12 old favorites, which are sung wherever barbershoppers gather. These songs are also used for warm-up by the chorus. Learning tracks are available for the 12 songs. Once you have successfully learned your part to these songs, awards are provided (6 songs earns a certificate, learning all 12 songs earns a tie tack).

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Six times a year you will receive the **HARMONIZER** magazine published by the Society in Nashville, TN. It keeps you up-to-date about happenings on the national scene and is full of useful articles and discussions of interest to barbershoppers everywhere. Six times a year you will receive the **CIDER PRESS**, which is the Johnny Appleseed newspaper. These publications are mailed to your home address and the subscriptions are included in your annual dues. In addition, the chapter has local communications that you will receive or be able to access online.

### **LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

There are ample opportunities to serve the Chapter. The Akron Chapter has a rich history of being a 'can-do' organization and we want to keep it that way. Every one of our Chapter officers is dedicated to doing the best possible job he can but, needless to say, they cannot do it alone. They each can use help, and depending on the season or the program in progress, they can use a lot of help. So don't be bashful; be proactive by volunteering your services. We are a volunteer organization, so don't wait to be asked. Nothing gets done unless someone volunteers to do it. The chapter can only be as good as its enthusiastic members choose to make it.

You will find that making yourself available to help existing officers or committee chairmen is a sure-fire way of being asked to serve in office or chair a committee yourself. We encourage new members to participate in leadership positions and/or use any special talents they may have.