



# WHAT IS THE *HARMONY EXPLOSION* CAMP?

## 2005 HARMONY EXPLOSION: Youth A Cappella Camp

### LOCATION

For several years the camp has been held at Alfred University, in Alfred, NY – approximately one hour east of Buffalo, and one hour south of Rochester. This year it begins Thursday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, and ends Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. It occurs simultaneously with “POW-WOW” (a college-type program where adults from all over New York and Pennsylvania attend classes to improve their skills as a cappella singers). The camp is coordinated by members of the Seneca Land District – one of 16 districts which comprise the Barbershop Harmony Society (see also “*Sponsoring Organizations Information*”).

### PHILOSOPHY

The Harmony Explosion camp is an opportunity for students, male and female, and their teachers to experience four-part a cappella harmony in various educational settings including: classes, rehearsals, and performances, while at the same time creating a link to singing organizations who support it. Our camp has a particular connection with barbershop harmony groups: Barbershop Harmony Society (male), Harmony, Inc (female), and Sweet Adelines International (female).

### GOALS

- To assist the teacher in the performance of youth choral singing, including barbershop harmony
- To provide the student an educational and performance opportunity
- To create a performing ensemble for the community
- To establish a positive working relationship between singing organizations and the music teachers in their community
- To create a positive image in the community for singing organizations’ support of music education
- To increase participation in very important “youth harmony” projects

### OVERVIEW OF CURRICULUM

#### Teachers

A separate curriculum for the teachers was developed to encourage music educators’ participation in the camp. It includes time for the music educators to observe the camp rehearsals, as well as time in which each clinician (camp musical directors) works with the music educators as a separate group. The arrangements selected for the choruses can include traditional choral works familiar to the teachers, as well as barbershop music.

#### Students

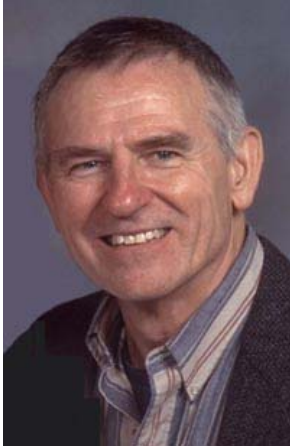
The student experience includes a curriculum involving rehearsals, vocal techniques, master classes, and opportunities to perform in quartets and ensembles.

The camp experience culminates with a concert at the conclusion of the weekend, open to the public.

# OUR FACULTY THIS YEAR...

## 2005 HARMONY EXPLOSION: Youth A Cappella Camp

**David Wright** – director, young male chorus



David, from St. Louis, Missouri, is an arranger and composer of vocal music. He specializes in vocal harmony, especially barbershop harmony, but his work often integrates the close harmony style with jazz, blues, gospel, country, doo-wop, and contemporary a cappella. He is musical advisor and two-time former director for the St. Charles Ambassadors of Harmony, a 100-voice male chorus which won the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Chorus Contest in 2004 and had ranked as a top five medalist nine out of the previous ten years. He has researched the origins of barbershop harmony and teaches a course on the history of the barbershop style at the Barbershop Harmony Society's Harmony College and at Sweet Adelines International's International Education Symposium.

Professionally, David is a mathematician. He received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Columbia University, New York City, and is now a Professor and Chair of the Department of Mathematics at Washington University in St. Louis. As a researcher he has been an invited speaker at a number of international mathematics conferences.

Visit <http://www.harmonize.ws/DavidWright/> for more information about David

**Sandi Wright** – director, young female chorus



Sandi Wright gets great reviews wherever she teaches. She has taken her "road show" from nearly every state in America to Canada to Sweden! She lives in the center of the USA (Saint Louis, Missouri) near an international airport where air fares are affordable and travel is convenient to your schedule.

Contemporary, honest and earthy, Sandi brings her 34-year love of barbershop harmony to members of Sweet Adelines International, SPEBSQSA and Harmony Incorporated as well as pageant participants, show choirs and a cappella jazz choirs in the USA, Canada and throughout Europe.

She has a rare gift and ability to communicate with every member -- the brand new member, as well as the most seasoned member. Her presentations are interesting, different and full of audio-visuals, audience participation and (yes, even) singing! And no matter how hard the schedule, or how long the day, she is usually the one singing (or leading) tags with the general membership until 3 a.m.!



When not performing, directing, judging, teaching or coaching, Sandi is an account manager for KLOU-FM radio, the "oldies" radio station in St. Louis. She is married to an accomplished singer, coach, chorus director and world-famous arranger, David Wright. The Wrights have three grown children and four grandchildren. They live in a big home built in 1904, in the Central West End neighborhood of St. Louis, MO.

Visit <http://www.sandiwright.com> for more information about Sandi

# Karaoke Contest/Party



Date: Friday night—July 22nd

Time: 9:00pm

Location: TBA

Take a shot at singing the music  
YOU want to sing!

Select your song from a book of  
thousands of contemporary pop  
songs, spanning all genres and  
styles.

Enter the contest and win some  
great prizes!

**IT'S ALFRED IDOL!**

# FOR THE TEACHERS...

2005 HARMONY EXPLOSION: Youth A Cappella Camp

## Looking At Barbershop Through A High School Choral Director's Eyes

What does a music educator see as appealing in barbershop harmony?

*It would be difficult to find a music educator more supportive of barbershop harmony than Sherri A. Matthews, choral director at Mills E. Godwin High School in Richmond, Va. She wrote her master's thesis about barbershop harmony's place in the secondary music curriculum and has included barbershop music in her own curriculum for 13 years. Several of her students have won medals in the MBNA America Collegiate Quartet Competition—some while still in high school. Here are some of her—and some of her colleague's—views on barbershop harmony.*

I chose to make barbershop a priority only after I had had it in my program for a few years. It takes up a lot of my time and money, but I am willing to do this because I have learned its value. Some Barbershoppers come up to me and say, "Thank you for helping to keep barbershop alive." While I value the Barbershop Harmony Society, the values of its members, and the opportunities it offers my students, I do this because I think it makes my kids better singers and musicians, not because I want to "keep it alive."

It took me a good five years to fully understand the style, so be patient. It also took me five years to get my best friend and colleague to start a barbershop quartet. If it took me that long, how long will it take a Barbershopper? Don't give up, but don't be pushy!

### What a teacher can look forward to from a relationship with the *Barbershop Harmony Society*:

- Free tickets to barbershop concerts
- Free coaching for students by qualified coaches, if desired by educator
- Invitation for school group(s) to perform at chapter shows or rehearsals
- High-level and accomplished quartets performing for students
- Qualified coaches working with students on "hip" music, NOT just Barberpole Cat tunes
- Adjudications and festivals instead of contests
- Invitations to attend district HEP Schools, e.g., Harmony College East/Northeast/Pow-wow/Sizzle, etc.
- Inviting the girls' quartets and ensembles to participate in adjudications and festivals
- Friendly Barbershoppers who engage the students and tell them they are good and ask to sing a tag with them
- The Harmony Explosion music series and other more "youthful" arrangements, i.e., arrangements of old and new songs that are attractive to young people
- Scholarships to Harmony College/Directors College and traditional summer music educator continuing education workshops
- Society arrangers who are eager to work with educators and respond promptly to requests for assistance with arrangements
- Financial assistance for school choral programs and activities
- Barbershoppers who attend school concerts, fundraisers and support school music programs in any way they can
- Well-planned visits by Society music specialists

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## Four Ways To Add Barbershop To An Already Over-Burdened Schedule

Bring barbershop to your school music program without creating more work for yourself.

*By Eric Ruthenberg, Music Educator at Newport High School-Newport, NH*

Music educators at all levels, in all disciplines, are already busy. There are multiple ensembles to rehearse, private lessons, trips to plan, etc.

So while you may be interested in barbershop harmony, how can you possibly fit it into your schedule? Try these perspectives.

### **Don't add – integrate instead**

Rather than attempt to launch a new ensemble or teaching unit, use barbershop music as part of your existing concert programming and pedagogical methods.

#### **Thematic uses**

- American musical history: When programming a concert of American or folk music, use barbershop harmony to illustrate music of an era -- the 1890s-1920s. Songs like “Sweet Adeline” or “Coney Island Baby” are accessible and might work well with an American theme. Irving Berlin and Stephen Foster wrote countless songs that would add to an “All-American” program.
- Patriotic themes: The barbershop repertoire bursts with patriotism, songs of freedom and love of country. “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “O, Canada,” and “America the Beautiful” are all easily performed by young men.
- Holiday themes: Many well known carols have been arranged in 4-parts for young men to sing at your holiday concert. “Jingle Bells,” “Angels We Have Heard on High,” and “Silent Night” are but a few.

#### **Pedagogical uses**

- Barbershop harmony helps sight reading and intonation skills, and encourages students to sing independently on their own voice part.
- For a warm-up technique emphasizing listening for good intonation, try teaching a tag. Encourage the singers to compare the ringing effects of the tempered scale versus just intonation. Try these tags suited to younger voices.
- Four-part harmony that can help with interval singing, vertical intonation, and vowel matching across the ensemble.

Most states have a barbershop quartet category. Male ensembles seeking unique literature or entry into under-represented categories, will find great performance opportunities with barbershop harmony. Many arrangements are listed in the NYSSMA manual.

### **Use barbershop to help meet the National Standards for the Arts**

Barbershop harmony is yet another way to challenge your students. Here is another opportunity for your students to sing in multiple parts, in small ensembles. It's also a great way to understand music as it relates to history and culture.

### **Quickly add new repertoire**

Barbershop learning tapes make it easy to quickly add repertoire. All of the songs available through the Barbershop Harmony Society also have part-predominant learning tapes available. This means you can hand a student a tape and sheet music, and they can go work on their own! The tapes are recorded so that the individual voice part is on the left channel, and the other 3 parts are on the right channel. By adjusting the balance, one can easily practice with just one part, all four parts, or just the other three!

### **Raise funds for other programs**

Singing Valentines are a fun way for your singers to share music with others, and raise funds for the music program. (And incidentally, learn some new barbershop music.) Give a quartet or small ensemble their music and learning tapes for “I Love You Truly” or “Let Me Call You Sweetheart;” sell Singing Valentines during lunch for a week or two and deliver them in style on Valentine's Day! Your students will be the talk of the school!

# SPONSORING ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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## The Barbershop Harmony Society

As much a part of American culture as Old Glory, Mom and apple pie, barbershop quartet singing is an original American musical art form. It thrives today through the efforts of an organization originally named the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, now known as the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Though the roots of four-part harmony go back more than a century, it was not until the near-accidental formation of the Society that barbershop quartet music was actively promoted. The Society's founding was whimsical, but it takes its mission to "Keep The Whole World Singing" very seriously indeed.

## Harmony, Inc



**Harmony, Inc.** is a vibrant international singing organization of women who are dedicated to the performance, promotion and preservation of four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style, the celebration of friendship, personal growth and development through music and leadership education, and the practice of democratic principles.

## Sweet Adelines International



Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performances. This independent, nonprofit music education association is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women. "Harmonize the World" is the organization's motto.

The international membership of nearly 30,000 women, all singing in English, includes choruses in most of the fifty United States as well as in Australia, Canada, England, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden, Wales and the Netherlands. There are also prospective choruses in Denmark, Greece and United Arab Emirates. The organization encompasses more than 1,200 registered quartets and 600 choruses.

## TRANSPORTATION, TUITION & SCHOLARSHIPS

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Because the camp occurs at the same time/place as the adult school, we do our best to find people attending the adult camp who live near you to provide transportation for your child to and from the camp. Of course we **strongly** encourage parents to travel and watch the performance Saturday night, and your child can then return with you.

Historically, 100% of the attendees at our camp are financially sponsored by one of several groups – typically chapters of the camp’s sponsoring organizations, and sometimes by the students’/teacher’s school. WE WILL BE SECURING SCHOLARSHIPS OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS – YOU DO NOT NECESSARILY NEED TO DO THIS YOURSELF. If you do happen to secure financing for yourself, we would appreciate you letting us know right away. We will notify each registrant as scholarships are secured.

The cost of the camp per student/teacher is \$150. This covers three nights in the dormitories of Alfred University, and all meals beginning with dinner Thursday night and ending with breakfast Sunday morning.

As the start of the camp draws nearer, should the number of registrations outnumber scholarships, notifications will be made ASAP so that registrants may decide whether or not they will attend through other financing. As stated above, our goal each year is to finance 100% of camp attendees.

## FOR THE PARENTS...

### 2005 HARMONY EXPLOSION: Youth A Cappella Camp

Please rest assured we hold the safety and well-being of your son/daughter in the absolute highest regard.

We assign one (1) adult chaperone for every ten (10) students. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's chaperone at the camp registration/check-in the day of arrival.

The following is an excerpt from the Barbershop Harmony Society's youth outreach policy (also the female organization's youth policies are directly in line with the following):

#### **BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY, YOUTH POLICY STATEMENT**

*... it is the Vision of the [Barbershop Harmony] Society "to be an ever-growing fraternity of barbershop-style singers, leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities." In fulfilling that Vision, the Society, its subsidiaries, districts, chapters, and members sponsor and/or participate in a wide range of activities involving young persons...*

*...In keeping with the Society's commitment to maintain high standards of personal conduct by its members and to provide a wholesome environment in which the activities of the Society and its subordinate units take place, and in order to support and sustain the Society's good name and reputation in the communities that it serves, the Society Board of Directors has adopted this Youth Policy Statement...*

The complete statement can be found on the Society's website, at

[http://www.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub\\_youth\\_home.hcsp](http://www.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_youth_home.hcsp)

The Society's mission:

#### **We enrich lives through singing.**

- We perpetuate and celebrate the barbershop harmony style.
- We serve each new generation of singers through support of vocal music education.
- We serve audiences through an uplifting, wholesome variety of a cappella musical entertainment.
- We serve our members by sharing fellowship, performance skills, and leadership development.
- We help build better communities and a better world, bonding diverse people through the pure fun of a cappella harmony as we "Keep the Whole World Singing!"

# REGISTRATION FORM

## 2005 HARMONY EXPLOSION: Youth A Cappella Camp

Name (last, first) \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname? \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Part (see sheet for details)      Tenor      Lead      Baritone      Bass

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ Sex      male      female

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/PC \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ (school) \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt size      S      M      L      XL      XXL

High School \_\_\_\_\_

You are a (circle one):      Teacher      Student

Have you attended a HARMONY EXPLOSION camp before?      YES      NO

### STUDENTS

Parent's/Guardian's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Have you sung Barbershop Harmony before?      YES      NO

### TEACHERS

Have you taught Barbershop Harmony before?      YES      NO

Sponsoring Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

- If you have not been contacted by a local chapter, or have not acquired sponsorship, please call Pete Frank @ 724-612-6102 for scholarship information

Return all required forms to your sponsoring chapter, or:

Steve Feldman  
PO Box 485  
West Winfield, NY 13491

If sending payment, please make checks/money orders payable to "Seneca Land District".

Any questions regarding registration process, please call Steve @ 315-822-5137. Questions regarding the camp in general, please call Pete Frank @ 724-612-6102, or email [peter\\_leland@email.com](mailto:peter_leland@email.com)

**CONSENT FOR TREATMENT FORM**  
2005 HARMONY EXPLOSION: Youth A Cappella Camp

I hereby authorize medical personnel to administer treatment or procedures, which in their judgment may be necessary, for:

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE OF BIRTH** \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE** \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent, guardian, etc)

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDARY PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

You will be notified immediately should it become necessary to refer the above named to a medical facility.

**HELPFUL INFORMATION**

**FAMILY PHYSICIAN:**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY THAT INSURES ABOVE NAMED:**

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU'VE REGISTERED

2005 HARMONY EXPLOSION: Youth A Cappella Camp

Upon receiving your registration form, we will mail you with the following:

- Confirmation letter
- Sheet music for the songs you will be rehearsing/performing
- Learning recordings for the songs you will be rehearsing/performing
- **TEACHERS ONLY** - CD-ROM of over 20 barbershop songs – recordings plus printable sheet music
- Camp itinerary
- Information sheet for Alfred University, including “What To Bring With You”
- Map of the Campus
- Directions to Alfred University
- Any other pertinent information as it becomes known