

Alexandria HARMONIZERS



"Enriching lives through vocal harmony in the greater DC area"



**Live & Virtual Performances
Artistic Collaboration - Music Education
Outreach - Community Service**

FY2020 Annual Report

About Us

Established June 1948 as a men's harmony club with just 19 enthusiastic members, the **Alexandria Harmonizers** are now a highly active non-profit music arts organization with a focus on performance excellence, artistic collaboration, music education in schools, and community outreach and service. This vibrant chapter of nearly 200 men specializes in a cappella harmony. The group has the flexibility of staging small ensembles of 4-12 men, a mini-chorus of 35-45 men, or a world-class large chorus of 80-90 singers. Over the last 4 decades, they have competed in 26 international competitions earning 19 Top-5 finishes including 4 Gold Medals. They have performed in dozens of cities across the U.S. and in Canada and have toured China, France, Germany, England, and Scotland. They are accustomed to performing at high-profile events in prestigious venues including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Constitution Hall, Lincoln Theater, Independence Hall, and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, as well as the U.S Capitol, U.S. Supreme Court, the White House for multiple presidents, the National Building Museum with Elizabeth Taylor, Disneyland with Dick Van Dyke, and Strathmore Arts Center with Kristin Chenoweth. Internationally, they have performed at Notre Dame Cathedral de Chartres, the Cathedral of Koln, the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City Performance Hall, the Temple of Heaven Park, the Normandy American Cemeteries and Memorial, and the St. Giles Cathedral during the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The Harmonizers are members of several choral associations including Chorus America, the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America, and the Barbershop Harmony Society. They have collaborated with numerous local performance arts organizations including Strathmore, Kennedy Center Honors, Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, Pride of Baltimore Chorus, Washington Men's Camerata, and the Alfred Street Baptist Church Men's Choir.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

Awards

**2019 Ensemble of the Year
The Alexandria Harmonizers**

The inaugural **2020 Barbershop Harmony Society Awards** have been created to amplify and celebrate individuals, icons, and ensembles who have impacted the local or global barbershop world through excellence and service.

The **Ensemble of the Year Award** is in recognition of creating and maintaining a positive impact during the past calendar year.

FY2020 Activities & Performances

- ◇ Annual Fall Show — "Circle of Life"
- ◇ Seneca Land District Fall Convention
- ◇ Art on the Avenue
- ◇ Manassas Chorale Fall Show
- ◇ Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention
- ◇ Alfred Street Men's Choral Fellowship
- ◇ Veterans Day Commemoration
- ◇ Strathmore Holiday Show
- ◇ Ladies Luncheon
- ◇ Cameron Station Community Association
- ◇ Old Town Carole Crawl
- ◇ Annual Hall Holiday Show
- ◇ Fox News DC TV
- ◇ BHS Midwinter Convention
- ◇ Yale Whiffenpoofs Show
- ◇ Singing Valentines
- ◇ Spring2ACTion
- ◇ Choruses for Care and Compassion Fundraiser
- ◇ Virtual Zoom Rehearsals

A Note from Our Director



Joe Cerutti, Jr.
Artistic Director

About:

Joe earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Jazz Commercial Music from Five Towns College and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Boston University.

He is a lifetime member of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), a charter member of the National Collegiate Choral Organization, and holds memberships in the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, Intercollegiate Men's Choruses and Chorus America.

Joe has served as judge, faculty, and clinician for numerous choral festivals and conductor roundtables around the world. He served on the BHS Board of Directors in 2012-2013 and is on staff with the Barbershop Harmony Society as the Director of Outreach.

Since 2007, Joe has been the dynamic and inspiring Artistic Director of the Alexandria Harmonizers. He is a Certified Music Judge in the BHS and a Master Director in Sweet Adelines International.

When I was asked, in the middle of the COVID crisis, to prepare this message, my first reaction was: "Man, this will be the shortest annual report ever – nothing's been happening!" But because our fiscal year begins on September 1, we actually did have more than six months of activity before COVID shut us down. And as you will see when you review this report, that included some wonderful performances and musical collaborations and very successful shows, including a major new holiday show at the prestigious Strathmore Music Center.

But then came COVID-19. What a challenging time this has been – for the chorus, the nation, and the world, as well as each of us individually. It's safe to say that none of us thought the main question facing the Harmonizers in 2020 would be: "What do you do when you are a singing organization that can't sing?"

Experts identify group singing as one of the highest-risk activities for virus transmission. The Harmonizers were forced to stop rehearsing in person in March of 2020, and remain unable to meet as of this writing. We also have been forced to cancel all shows and public performances. This situation will likely persist until a significant portion of the population has been vaccinated and life has returned to at least something close to normal – hopefully by sometime in mid to late 2021.

I and the rest of the music leadership have been incredibly proud of how the chorus has responded to this challenge. We have held virtual online rehearsals every week, where we continue to work on music and developing our skills and have been visited by a number of prominent guests and friends of the chorus. The fact that the great majority of the performing chorus attends these online sessions each week highlights how the Harmonizers is more than just a chorus -- it's a family. Although our virtual meetings are a poor substitute for in-person rehearsals or performances, our Tuesday night gatherings still remain the highlight of my week.

These are difficult times for us and for most arts organizations. But I'm absolutely convinced that the Harmonizers are going to emerge from this crisis better and stronger than ever, and with a new appreciation for the wonderful gift of making music together – a gift that we will never again take for granted.

Thank you for your friendship and support. We can't wait to sing for you again. *It's great to be a Harmonizer!*

Alexandria Harmonizers, Inc. President



"Music, once admitted to the soul, becomes a sort of spirit and never dies." — Edward Bulwer-Lyton

This quote really speaks to me, as I believe it does to all the Harmonizers and to you, our loyal patrons. We all live for those "Breathless Moments" where the artistry of the performance carries you to a new place and leaves you with a memory you will not soon forget. That is why we, the Alexandria Harmonizers, are who we are.

This year we were blessed with wonderful performances in the first half and endured an unprecedented global health crisis in the second. As 2020 began, we set our sights on re-entering the Barbershop Harmony Society competition cycle while continuing our mission of "Enriching lives through vocal harmony in the greater DC area." Then the world changed. Sadly, we all know folks affected by the pandemic, and the Alexandria Harmonizer family was as well. We adapted to the challenging times by pivoting to weekly online meetings to learn new repertoire, hone our skills, and most importantly to support each other and our extended families emotionally and socially during the crisis.

We began focusing on new creative ways to engage our audiences by, for example, planning for our first-ever virtual holiday show. We also took time to reflect on some of the key goals from our strategic plan and ways to "Instill a sense of community, Inspire youth and music education, and Insure Harmonizer excellence for the next 75 years". I am excited for what we are planning for fiscal year 2021 and beyond as we safely celebrate, as a community, our emergence from this pandemic and a bright future that lies ahead.

I hope that you will continue to join us on our quest to be an organization that values the benefits of singing together in person. Oh, that beautiful day is near when the Alexandria Harmonizers and you will "Return Stronger" and rejoice in the wonderful shared communal experience that excellent singing and performing brings. On behalf of AHI, thank you for your resiliency, generosity, and friendship. We are grateful.

About:

Bruce retired from the U. S. Air Force as a Colonel after 26 years of active service. He is currently pursuing triathlon training (Ironman November 2019) and philanthropic endeavors such as assisting his international fraternity in leadership development activities. Bruce served in many health care positions at clinic, hospital, medical center, and Pentagon levels, as well as in deployed and overseas locations. His last couple assignments were as a large outpatient clinic CEO with 13K enrollees and 250 staff and as a Director of Business and Clinical Analytics for the Air Force Surgeon General with a staff of 55. He was a credentialed Fellow, American Academy of Medical Administrators. Bruce joined the Alexandria Harmonizers in the fall of 1995. In addition to AHI President, he has previously served as Secretary and was a charter member. Bruce has also been the Front Row Dance Captain for many years.

BHS Chapter President



"Where words fail, music speaks." — Hans Christian Andersen

The 2020 performance season started off great with the Harmonizer's mega fall show, The Circle of Life, at Schlesinger Concert Hall. We wrapped up the holiday season with two holiday shows – one at Strathmore Concert Hall in Bethesda, MD, and one at Schlesinger Hall. We joined the stage at the George Washington Masonic Temple with the Yale Whiffenpoofs, and on Valentines' Day, we serenaded 400 at restaurants, recreation centers, and senior facilities.

In January 2020, we began to experiment with new ways to rehearse. Instead of rehearsing our music as a full chorus for three hours every Tuesday, we explored ways to create smaller local groups, or to use livestreaming on Facebook to rehearse remotely, or to use more recordings by each member to encourage self-coaching as well as readiness evaluation. And then in March – the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world. Our in-person rehearsals were halted, our performances and community events were cancelled. Suddenly our experiments in remote rehearsals were vital to the success of our chorus. We joined the local collection of Choruses for Care and Compassion in the area to donate to the Capital Area Food Bank to help those severely impacted by the economic effects of the pandemic. In July, we were honored to be selected as "Best Ensemble for 2019" by the Barbershop Harmony Society.

We know that we will be able to sing again for you as we find our way out of this pandemic. We are already working on music for the first time we can have a live audience again – a program of celebration and appreciation for the joy that singing brings to our audiences. I hope that after reviewing our Annual Report you will be left with a sense of wonder at what we can do and what we bring to our community even in the worst of times. We look forward to that evening when we can once again share the magic of music with you.

About:

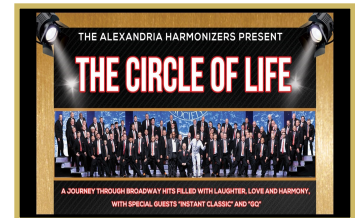
Stan has over 40 years experience as a consultant leading software application teams in the development of custom applications. He is currently a Systems' Architect for Five9Group, Inc. under contract for the U.S. Census Bureau, where he designed components and led application development teams that supported the first internet-based decennial census for the 2020 Census. His previous positions provided financial reporting (Dept. of Homeland Security/ Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE)), bond insurance applications for a government-sponsored enterprise (Connie Lee), satellite tracking systems (Hughes Network Systems), radiation dose budgeting (Salem Nuclear plant), and sales support for a software company (Brio/Hyperion), to name a few. Stan is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (B.S. in Computer Science).

Sharing Music in Our Own Community

For over 72 years, the Harmonizers have been committed to honing our musical and performance craft so that we can offer high-quality entertainment anywhere in the world, but particularly throughout the Washington metro area and in our own hometown of Alexandria. We do this by producing several major shows a year, hosting famed music groups, providing music education to our youth, and presenting a variety of public performances with the full chorus, small ensembles, and quartets. Our musical outreach touches the lives of thousands of area residents with music and education, which is our way of giving back to our community and paying forward as citizens.

Fall Show — “Circle of Life” (9/14/2019)

For decades, Broadway songs have been a specialty of the Harmonizers, who are known not only for their high-quality singing but also for their big production numbers. This year’s show, **“Circle of Life,”** was held at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and featured songs from a stunning variety of popular musicals including the “Lion King,” “Man of La Mancha,” “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” “The King and I,” “Avenue Q,” “Anything Goes,” “Les Misérables,” “Monty Python’s Spamalot,” and “Wicked.” The overall show was a spectacle of sound, dance, and color.



The show also featured two highly accomplished and entertaining quartets. **Instant Classic** are the Barbershop Harmony Society’s 2015 International Quartet Champion from Indianapolis. They are four good friends with a passion for barbershop harmony, a cappella music, and youth outreach, and have performed all over the world since their championship.



GQ are from the Baltimore area and are the Sweet Adelines International 2019 3rd Place International Quartet Medalists. These ladies have performed around the U.S. including on Garrison Keillor’s radio show, “A Prairie Home Companion.” Each member is involved in music education and continues to pursue their own career in the arts and education. They have a shared repertoire with Instant Classic, so the audience was treated to several songs in beautiful 8-part counter-harmonies.



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The Harmonizers—rehearsing before the show

Sharing Music in Our Own Community

[Art on the Avenue \(October 8, 2019\)](#)

ART ON THE AVENUE Celebrating its 24th year, the city of Alexandria's largest local arts festival is held annually in the Del Ray neighborhood. The Harmonizers have been featured performers for several years and always charm and delight the large crowd of craft-seekers and event-goers.



[Alfred Street Men's Choral Fellowship \(October 16, 2019\)](#)

The beautiful sanctuary of the [Alfred Street Baptist Church](#) in Alexandria was packed full for the 4th Annual Men's Choral Fellowship. There were over 200 male singers and additional guests from throughout the D.C. region, singing and sharing their passion for music. Hosted again by the Harmonizers and the Male Chorus from Alfred Street, the evening included performances from four men's ensembles. Harmonizers' director Joe Cerutti and Alfred Street's director Melvin Bryant kicked off the evening with some history of the event. Dr. Joyce Garrett, Music Minister for Alfred Street, also welcomed all the



singers and shared her joy that this event has grown so large and continues to unify the community. Alfred Street invited the [Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church](#) Male Chorus directed by Cornelius Young to participate this year, and the Harmonizers invited the [Washington Men's Camerata](#) directed by Frank Albinder. The groups enthusiastically performed for each other and then their directors taught a song to everyone in the audience. The fellowship continued late into the evening with a lively social, great food and more singing. Though the pandemic cancelled the fall 2020 event, it has been rescheduled for fall 2021. We look forward to joining our voices again in person and in harmony with our fellow singers and good friends.



Sharing Music in Our Own Community

Veterans Day Commemoration (November 11, 2019)



The **City of Alexandria** held its **18th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony** at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. On hand were Girl and Boy Scouts, the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, service men/women and their families, as well as U.S. Army Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson (Ret.), and Mayor Justin Wilson who emphasized the moment by saying, “We’re here to recognize all of the veterans, but specifically the 68 who were lost in Vietnam from Alexandria. They paid the ultimate sacrifice, and it’s important that they are remembered for that.” The event culminated with the Harmonizers singing “Bring Him Home” from Les Misérables.

“Holidays in Harmony” at Strathmore (November 30, 2019)

The Harmonizers are proud of their relationship with the Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda, MD. In 2016, Strathmore asked the Harmonizers to perform in the D.C. area premier of Andrew Lippa’s “**I am Harvey Milk,**” starring Lippa and Kristin Chenoweth. In 2018, Strathmore reached out to us once again to perform in the world premiere of Jeremy Schonfeld’s “**Iron & Coal: Survivor and Son.**” This year, we were thrilled to produce our own show for this prestigious venue, presenting “**Holidays in Harmony**” on the Saturday after Thanksgiving as a kick-off to the holiday season. In addition to a program of holiday favorites performed by the chorus, the show featured international quartet champions **Vocal Spectrum** and **A Cappella!**, a mixed choir from James Hubert Blake High School directed by Sandra Zinkievich. The show was a tremendous success and is something we hope to repeat, once live performances are once again possible.



Cameron Station Community Association (December 15, 2019)

This large local community association hired the chorus to perform at their annual **Holiday Extravaganza**, which included ample food, hayrides for the children, and music. A subset of the chorus entertained the guests in an outdoor gazebo, performing a selection of holiday favorites.

Old Town Carol Crawl (December 17, 2019)



As we have done for a number of years, 50 members of the Harmonizers donned colorful sweaters and Santa hats to stroll through **Old Town Alexandria**. We sang holiday songs on street corners and inside a number of restaurants, including the historic **Gadsby’s Tavern**, delighting both patrons and passers-by. We concluded by performing at **Chadwick’s Restaurant and Bar**, who have been a tremendous supporter to the chorus.

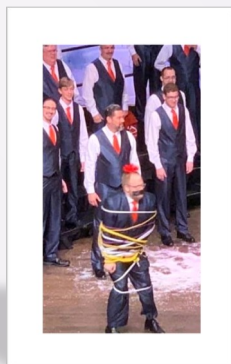
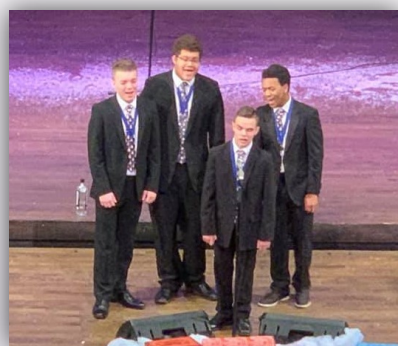


Sharing Music in Our Own Community

Harmonizers Holiday Show — “Celebrate the Season” (December 21, 2019)



Following our highly successful holiday show at Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda MD, we continued the 20-year tradition of presenting a holiday show in our local community. Once again this was held in the beautiful **Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall** in Alexandria. The show titled “**Celebrate the Season**”, highlighted the chorus in two exquisite sets of secular and nonsecular music, some traditional and some contemporary. We featured two guest quartets, **Pratt Street Power** from Baltimore and Hershey, who are an International Top-10 finalist, and an inspiring youth quartet, the **Quin-Tones** from New Jersey, who were crowned BHS’s first-ever International Next Gen Quartet Champions in January of 2019. To top it off, we got to tie up our Musical Director Joe Cerutti. Bonus...and he deserved it!



Sharing Music in Our Own Community

Holiday Sing for FOX News DC TV (December 23, 2019)



Fox News DC invited the Harmonizers to sing carols “on air” Monday, December 23. Musical Director **Joe Cerutti** and Assistant Director **Terry Reynolds** quickly put together a small ensemble for a 7:15 am call at **Market Square** in **Old Town Alexandria**. Adorned with Santa hats, colorful sweaters, and scarves, the group sang songs from our recent holiday show while attracting a delighted crowd enjoying their brisk early morning jogs, dog walks, and much-needed coffee.

The Yale Whiffenpoofs Show (February 7, 2020)

For the fourth year in a row, the Harmonizers were proud to feature the most famous glee-club style a cappella group in the world — the amazing **Yale Whiffenpoofs**. Founded in 1909 at Yale University, they are the oldest group of its kind in the United States. Composed of senior students who compete for just 14 spots, they spend a year touring around the world giving concerts. Notable alumni include Cole Porter, Prescott Bush (father and grandfather of two U.S. Presidents), and Michael Blume.

The auditorium of the historic **George Washington Masonic Memorial** in Alexandria was standing room only as the Harmonizers warmed up the crowd with an energetic 20-minute set and then our special guests delighted everyone with their amazing close harmonies, solo features, and humor. Whiffenpoof alums including one of our own, Ben Watsky, were in attendance and joined in to sing their well-known finale, “*The Whiffenpoof Song*”.



Singing Valentines (February 14, 2020)



For several years, the Harmonizers' Singing Valentines program has provided free performances, as a community service, to a wide variety of senior centers, government offices, restaurants and other businesses.

Several quartets performed at different locations throughout our community including St. Martin Senior Citizens Center, Mount Vernon Recreation Center, Paul Spring Retirement Community, The Fountains at Washington House, Charles Houston Recreation Center, Lee Center Adult Day Services, Alexandria Mayor's Office at City Hall, Evening Star Café, Bob Vivant Café, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, Pork Barrel BBQ, Los Tios Grill, 6 restaurants in the Del Ray area, and a community center in Fairfax.



Spreading Harmony to Other Communities

Seneca Land District Contest & Convention (September 27-28, 2019)

The Harmonizers traveled to the fall contest and convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Seneca Land District in Rochester, NY to sing, entertain, educate, and share ideas and experiences. The chorus performed numerous times throughout the weekend including the Saturday Night "Chorditorium" Showcase, a Saturday morning Master Class, a dinner show for all convention attendees, and the finale spot on the Saturday night "Show of Shows" performing our "Circle of Life" package.

For the Master Class, a large crowd attended and filled the room. Director, Associate, and Assistant Directors spoke about pedagogy, musical methods and plans, and administrative operations for the music program of the chapter, followed by a lively Q&A period. The chorus demonstrated the musical points made by the directors and used one of our contest songs as a model example.

Additionally, the Harmonizers sang for score and evaluation in the contest on Saturday afternoon. As an unprecedented surprise and demonstration of Harmonizer confidence, the judging panel was invited to select the two songs the chorus would perform from four that were displayed on large flip cards marked "Ballad" and "Uptune." They chose "We Kiss in A Shadow" from the musical "The King and I" and "Blow Gabriel, Blow" from the musical "Anything Goes". The other two choices were "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Anything Goes". Some of the barbershop-savvy audience sighed in disappointment when those Harmonizer favorites were not selected, but the crowd rewarded the two songs that were performed with standing ovations.



Manassas Chorale Fall Concert — "Broadway's Best" (October 12, 2019)



The **Manassas Chorale** with orchestra featured a select ensemble of Harmonizers along with the **Manassas Park High School Chamber Ensemble** in a delightful and well attended show at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, VA. We are hoping this becomes an annual invitation.



Virtual "Dog Days" in Manassas (August 25, 2020)

In the Washington-metro area, the barbershop harmony community is quite large, with over a dozen Barbershop Harmony Society, Sweet Adelines International, and Harmony Inc. choruses. For 45 years, the Harmonizers have been the feature chorus during the annual "**Dog Days in Manassas**" barbershop social event hosted by the Bull Run Troubadours Chorus, where 5-6 local chapters and their quartets gather to perform for each other and for several hundred guests, and to enjoy an evening of camaraderie and song. Given the pandemic circumstances, the live activity was cancelled; however, the Harmonizers stepped up to ensure the tradition continued by hosting and coordinating a "**Virtual Dog Days**" event by Zoom, which was opened up an even broader audience. Over 400 people attended.

Spotlight on Our Quartets and Small Ensembles



It is no secret that small ensemble singing makes a large chorus better as a whole, and our chapter has many fine quartets who perform regularly throughout our community on local stages, in retirement homes and hospitals, for civic organizations, and in public venues. Many of these foursomes also enjoy competition. In fact, over the past 50 years our quartets have had tremendous success on the contest stage. We are proud to say that we have had in our ranks, 26 Mid-Atlantic Division Quartet Champions, 20 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions, 4 Mid-Atlantic District Seniors Quartet Champions, 1 Mid-Atlantic Mixed Quartet Champion, 5 BHS International Quartet Top-5 Medalists, 5 BHS International Seniors Quartet Medalists including 1 champion, and 4 BHS International Collegiate Quartet Medalists including 1 champion. That pursuit continued this year, though the pandemic cancelled all spring preliminary, Division, and the International contests in 2020. Still, between September 2019 and March 2020 our foursomes were highly involved in contests and performances.

M-AD District Contest & Convention, Reading, PA (October 4-5, 2019)



Taylor Made

3rd Place overall



Persuasion

1st Place in the senior contest and
7th overall



Silver Alert

3rd Place in the senior contest



Quirks of Art

5th Place in the senior contest and
14th overall

Also representing our chapter in contest were: **Miss Otis Regrets** (11th Place), **Breakfast Blend** (19th Place), and **Voices in My Head** (23rd Place)

Quartets and Small Ensembles cont.

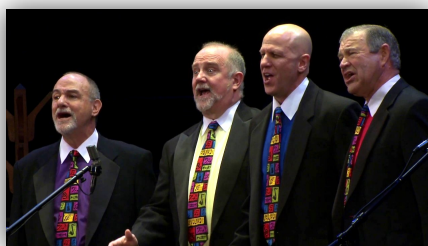
BHS Mid-Winter Convention, Jacksonville, FL (January 8-12, 2020)



Annually, the Barbershop Harmony Society stages a premier event called the **Mid-Winter Convention** where the “best of the best” come together for a week of music education, competition, and numerous harmony showcases. In addition to many hundreds of Society members in attendance, there are also hundreds of youth singers from highly accomplished groups nationwide who are coached, mentored, and adjudicated. Specifically, the **Next Generation Junior Chorus Invitational** and **Junior Quartet Contest** inspire young singers and their music educators with the joy of barbershop singing. The Harmonizers often sponsor or subsidize youth groups to this event. The Saturday Night Show was the highlight of the week and featured over 400 students onstage side-by-side with adult champions and medalists.

Another highlight of the convention was the **BHS International Seniors Quartet Championship**, where top-level quartets from across the country and around the world “hit the boards” to once again prove that age has not limits when it comes to close harmony. The Harmonizers were proud to have two qualifiers from our chapter, **Persuasion** (near right) who finished 8th and **Silver Alert** (far right) who placed 20th. Both of these fine quartets are highly active in our community.

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Mid-Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival (February 22, 2020)



Better Together, an amazing mixed quartet of Harmonizer husbands Tony Colosimo and Andrew Havens and their wives Elizabeth and Heather, finished in Second Place in the area contest held at the famous Birchmere in Alexandria. Their young children, parents, and fans were in the audience cheering them on.

the Birchmere
America's Legendary Music Hall

TBD Performances

In this case, “TBD” does not mean “to be determined” ... in fact, this group is very determined and **TBD** is indeed their actual name. The Harmonizers are very proud of our small contemporary a cappella group of 12 dedicated members who, prior to the pandemic, performed numerous times around our community including at the **Clarendon Presbyterian Church Benefit** and **Spirited Sing-Out** in January 2020, the **Holy Cross Community Concert Series** in February, and at the “**Aca Funday**” in March at **Jammin’ Java** in what was the last Harmonizer-affiliated public performance before COVID shut us down. TBD also performs regularly on Harmonizers annual and community shows.

Harmonizers Life During the Quarantine

And then life changed for us all ...

In March of 2020, as the COVID crisis was just emerging, we decided to cancel in-person rehearsals as a precaution. At the time, we thought maybe we'd be unable to meet for a few weeks or so. Little did we know that we were entering a lockdown phase that would last well into 2021. Unfortunately, choral singing is a very effective way to spread the virus, and so rehearsing in person – much less performing for the public – was out of the question.

Our music leadership swung into action to develop a program of virtual “Zoom” rehearsals. At our usual Tuesday evening time, members of the chorus met online each week. We continued to work on music, with the music leadership selecting different pieces to learn or polish each week. Sectional and small group rehearsals took place in breakout rooms. Almost weekly we brought a guest artist, music educator, or other friend of the chorus to discuss different aspects of musical technique and performance. And from within our own ranks, members offered brief presentations on their own hobbies or areas of professional expertise, from the science of the pandemic to bird watching to building a race car. And at the conclusion of each rehearsal, a number of men stayed online to socialize over a beverage in a virtual afterglow.



Meeting online is a poor substitute for singing together. But the great majority of members of the chorus continue to log on each week to hone their craft, maintain their connections, and work towards the day when we all can emerge from this crisis and once again raise our voices in song together.

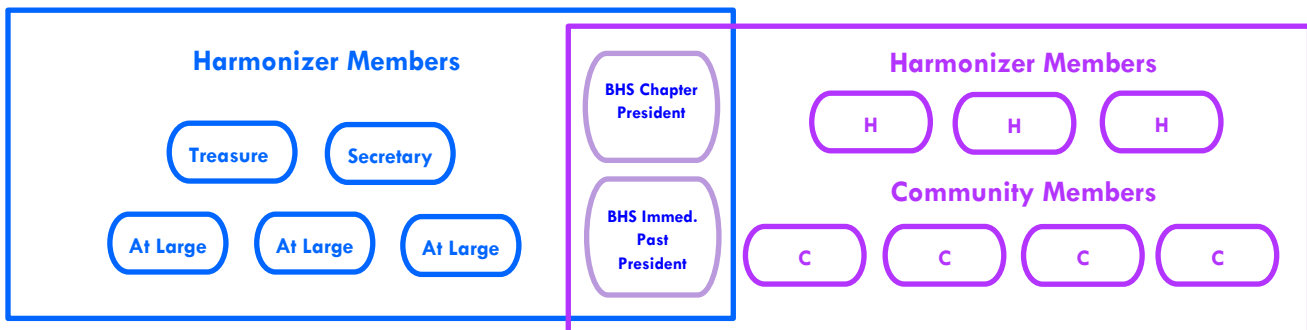
Organization

Five years ago, we reported our bold step to grow beyond being an accomplished barbershop chorus to become a highly-recognized and supportive arts organization in our local community. We reorganized our business model by establishing **Alexandria Harmonizers, Inc. ("AH Inc.")** and a dual board system of governance and chapter operations. Stemming from our innovations with the "Open Board Program" that has inspired other choruses in the BHS to open their leadership to non-chorus members including women, AH Inc. is our non-profit arm that supports the chorus' artistic and fundraising endeavors. While all specifically BHS activities such as contest and membership remain under the management of a smaller BHS Chapter Board, many other activities such as shows, fundraising, and public relations reside under the aegis of AH Inc., run by a combination of Harmonizers and Community Members (business professionals and expert outside supporters). This has streamlined and optimized what we do and how we do it, and is the foundation for everything we pursue as a thriving arts organization.

Dual Board Structure

BHS Chapter Board

AH Inc. Board



The two boards oversee an Operations Team of volunteers who take responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Harmonizers. The members of this Operations Team are appointed by the two Boards based on their respective jurisdictions, but the team works together under the coordination of a jointly-appointed Executive Director.

Operations Team - Executive Director		
Archivist	Communications	Membership
AH Inc. Finances	Contest	Operations
Artistic Director	Development	Shows
BHS Chapter Finances	Education	Volunteers

FY2020 Officers & Directors

BHS Chapter

President — Stan Quick
Immediate Past President — Shawn Tallant
Treasurer — Al Herman
Secretary — Chris Buechler
Member at Large — Dave Branstetter
Member at Large — Clyde Crusenberry
Member at Large — Matt Doniger

AH Inc.

President — Bruce Roehm
Vice President — Liz Birnbaum
Secretary — Bob Faherty
Treasurer — Terry Reynolds
At Large Harmonizers — Chuck Hunter and Calvin Schnure
Community Members — Liz Birnbaum, Bob Faherty, Pat Miller, and Marie Muscella
Ex Officio — Shawn Tallant and Stan Quick

Operations Team

Artistic Director — Joe Cerutti, Jr.
Executive Director — Randall Eliason
AH Inc. Finances — Carl Kauffmann
Archivist/Historian — Jack Pitzer
BHS Chapter Finances — David Welter
Communications Director — Steve Murane
Contest Director — Craig Kujawa
Development Director — Nick Leiserson
Education Director — Sheryl Berlin
Membership Director — Jacob Broude
Operations Director — Gary Cregan
Shows Director — Joe Cerutti, Sr.
Volunteer Activities Director — Robin Murane

Fundraising

While the Alexandria Harmonizers receive a portion of their income from paid performances—most of which were curtailed due to the pandemic—a majority of our funds come from the generosity of donors and supporters. These range from major arts-supporting organizations, to individual show patrons who value the organization as a contributor to the Alexandria community. We are enormously grateful for this financial support provided by the hundreds of donors which gives us the ability to bring the joy of singing to schools, senior homes, community festivals, and formal concerts in beautiful venues.

During FY20, the Harmonizers continued to focus on communication with the large number of individuals who have contributed to our work, through volunteer efforts or financial gifts. More than just expressing our appreciation for such support, we continuously work to develop and produce a range of programs that positively impact life in our community and promote harmony and understanding. Below are some of the programs we use to raise funds to support those initiatives.



We are grateful recipients of funds through the **Harmony Foundation International — Donor's Choice Program** where contributors can designate up to 30% of their financial gift to the Harmonizers. In addition, the Harmonizers have been recipients of grants through the **SING**

Grants Program to support programs for community outreach and student music education including in-school workshops and youth harmony festivals.

For the fifth year, the Harmonizers participated in **Spring2Action**, an annual 24-hour day of giving to Alexandria charities through the local community foundation, **ACT for Alexandria**. We take advantage of this fundraising infrastructure by reaching out to our supporters each April who have risen to the challenge, demonstrating community support for our programs, some with large matching challenges. This year, Spring2Action took place just as the COVID shutdowns were starting and cancelled all of our paid performances for the year. Our donors responded and we raised **\$32,865**, one of our best results ever.



The Harmonizers are part of the **AmazonSmile** funding raising program where Amazon donates a portion of eligible purchases to specified 501(c)(3) charities. We encourage our members, family, friends, and patrons to designate the Harmonizers as their charity

of choice. This has been an easy and effortless way to supplement our budget with a small but steady stream of funds.



The Harmonizers also raise funds through the **ShopWithScrip** program, where members and supporters can purchase physical or electronic gift cards from over 750 popular brands—from groceries to home improvement to coffee to entertainment to gas and

more—and the chapter receives rebates ranging from 1 to 16 percent.

Our Generous Donors



We cannot say enough about our amazing financial supporters and fans, who have through their generous contributions allowed us to continue our growth and expansion as a valued and contributing arts organization in the greater Washington area. These funds support youth community outreach, free public performances, harmony education programs, and many other activities conducted by the chapter throughout the year. Due to the pandemic, FY20 offered fewer opportunities for expressions of public support to the Alexandria Harmonizers, yet our supporters were steadfast. We would like to thank our many donors who have supported our mission of **“Enriching lives through vocal harmony in the DC area.”** In addition, and not captured in the giving categories below, are the many Harmonizer members who contribute thousands of dollars to [Harmony Foundation International](#) (HFI) and designate the Harmonizers in the Donor’s Choice Program. Current designations through this program is over \$10,000 per year. We are so very grateful for their support.

GRANTS

City of Alexandria, Alexandria
Commission for the Arts
Barbershop Harmony Society
Virginia Commission for the Arts

DONATIONS

\$2,000 and above

Buchly Fund of Federal Lodge No. 1,
FAAM

Randall Eliason & Cherie Kiser
Ross Johnson & Susan Williams

\$1,000 - \$1,999

Liz Birnbaum & Dave Kohls
Chadwick’s Restaurant and Bar
Al Herman
Chris & Judy Huber
Chuck Hunter & Ramadan Caysever
Mike & Louise Kenny

Michael Mazzuchi & Anne Andrews
Madonna Padilla
Terry Reynolds

Dean Rust & Suzanne Vance

\$500 – \$999

Jeff & Jacky Copeland

Will & Anna Cox

Ken Fess

Randy Lazear

Chuck McKeever

Marie Muscella

R. Bruce Roehm

William & Charli Sowers

Bob Wells & Ginny Ingram-Wells

\$100–\$499

Ge Bai

Tony Bauer

David E. Binnett

David Birnbaum

Samuel Blackburn

James Boone

Chuck Bolts

Jacob Broude

Mark Broude & Susan Zudekman

Carol & Rick Bryan

Chris Buechler

Joe Cerulli, Jr.

Mark & Jane Chopko

John & Bonnie Clarke

Liese & Harold Coleman

Donna Gegan

Gary Gegan & Jill Vaniman

Perry & Carolyn Gegan

Clyde & Pat Crusenberry

Dave DesPortes

Joe & Sandy Dobbins

Matt Doniger

Len & Marie Domberger

Bob Eckman

Mike & Patricia Edison

Bary & Sandra Eliason

Ike Evans

Thomas & Sandra Evans

Mike Fasano

Frank & Kitty Fedarko

Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp.

Krisi Folsom & Rob Langston

Deborah Fried & Kal Watsky

Jacob George

Ken & Tara Giunta

Rebecca & Paul Gruenberger

Donnie & Naida Harrington

Margaret Havens

Hess-Collins Family

Kathy & Mike Hill

Troy Hillier & Shannon Stuart

Linda Holly

Bland & Ann Houston

Charles Hunter Sr.

Jerry Jayjohn

Keith Jones

Terry Jordan

Carl & Kathy Kauffmann

Tom Kern

Jan Keyes

Randall Kipp Architecture

Jim Kirkland & Noreen Lopez

Mark Klostermeyer

Craig Kujawa

Debra LaVergne

Nick Leiserson

Camilla S. Liddle

Reed & Leigh Livergood

Carlotta Madison

Aideen Mannion

Ron & Ann Marlow

Cameron McConnell & Tim Hanson

Elizabeth H. Mueller

Empsy Munden

Steve & Robyn Murane

Howard Nestlerode

Jill Nixon

Bonnie O’Day

George Peacock

Jack & Pat Pitzer

Ian Poulin

Stan Quick

E. John Regan

Dave Reyno

Bob & Anne Rhome

Elliot Roseman

Will Rosener

Ken Rub

Dean Sherick

Mike Schwartz

Adam Shepard

Frank Shipp

John Smith

Mary Smith

Don Spero

Mick & Sandy Stamps

Jeffrey Strei

Anthony Takahashi

Shawn & Joanne Tallant

Nancy Vaniman

Rick & Peggy Wagner

Paula Wallace

Corinne Weidental

Dave & Myrna Welter

Steve & Jerri White

Bette Whitman

Alan & Patricia Wile

Jordan Zimmerman

Under \$100

Bob & Joanne Ackerman

Nichole Adamo

Terrance Adlhock

Adam Afifi

Marybeth Agricola

Jeff Album

Valerie Amerkhail

Brian Ammerman

Charles Andrejko

Robert Arbetter

Phil Ashford

Jan Augustine

George Azzam

Andre Baldanza

Nate Balke

Our Generous Donors

Under \$100 cont.

Rob Barnovsky
Catherine Barrett
Rob Barnovsky
Catherine Barrett
Connor Bellows
Casey & Lacey Belzer
William Bennett
Tom Berkey
Sheryl Berlin
Elizabeth Bizot
Bob & Mary Blair
Steve & Barb Breyfogle
Caroline Broude
Susan Burk
Jack Cameron
Jennifer Canfield
Judy K. Carlon
June A. Carlton
Tim Cash
Michele & Bill Caulfield
Wallace Celtrick
Janet & Joe Cerutti Sr.
Sam Chappell
Patricia Chow
Bill Colosimo
Dylan Conboy
Frances Cook
Pamela Cunningham
Dave Cureton
Agnes D'Alessandro
James & Cherokee Daniel
Cherrie Daniels
Jim DesPortes
Josh DesPortes
Kayla DesPortes
Carla DiBlasio
Nancy Disney
Lori Dobbins
Margaret D'Orazio
Cinnamon Dornsife
Peter Dunn
Jessica Eggleston
Eliaison/Burgos Family
Nat & Cosette Eliason
Patricia Eliason
Sonja Eliason & Max Friedman
Steve Ellner
Joan Evans
Thomas Evans
Wade & Mariel Fails
Alissa Fernandez

Jeffrey Fistel
Peter Frank
Devin Gerzof
Kyle Gerzof
Richard & Donna Cantrell Gerzof
Michael Gilmore
David Giordano
Daniel Gloan
Lucy Glorius
Taylor Good
Luis S. Gracian
Justin Gray
David Graziano
Dennis Green
Tamsin Green
John Greene
Gary Greenspan
Nancy Gwin
Dr. & Mrs. John Hancock
Paul Hartman
Marilyn Hayes
Craig Heiner
Fred Henning
Cynthia Herman
Beth J. Hershner
Stephanie Hollenberg
Colleen Hopkins
Carol Horn
Steve Huber
Geoff Hunter
Tessa Hunter
Elizabeth Hyers
Patricia Hyland
Rebecca Jackson
Debra James
Susan Jayjohn
Don Johnson
Brad & Adele Jones
David & Julia Jones
Leland Jones
Kass Kassouf
Amberlyn Kauffmann
Brian Kauffmann
Chris Kauffmann
Colleen Kauffmann
David Kauffmann
John Kauffmann
Traci Kauffmann
Carol Kearns
Marcia Kearns
Holly J. Keller
William & Sharon Kenworthy

Jan Keyes
Janice King
Laura Kopp
Debra Kotas
Tom Kraus
Chad Kroeger
Chrystyna Kuzmowych
Amy LaCrosse
Lay-Sayre Family
Jason Lee
David W. Levy
Jimmy Main
Zaynab Malik
Ben Manzione
Gary & Carole Mankin
Ninamarie Maragioglio & Paul Hertz
Dick Marino
Meredith Mazzotta
Connor McCarthy
Joe & Jenny McDonald
James McCollom
James McConnell
William McCully
Surry McFaul
Kevin & Sandy McKenzie
Beth Methfessel
Richard Merritt
Walter Meukow
Ryan Mextorf
Elisabeth Millard
Nancy C. Miller
Richard & Helen Miller
Sinisa Mlinar
Kathy Mincz
Ben Morinn
Mystic Chicks
Joe Nash
Andrew Ng
Marcy & Stewart Newberger
Deirdre Nicholson
Emily Norris
Teresa Nowak
Janis Oehmann
Michael Oliva
Abraham Ouweleen
David Pakrul
Emily Pakrul
Deborah Patrick
Barbara Payne
Jack Pelletier
Robert Phillips
Frances A. Poulin

Brian Ramsey
Charlotte Read
Judson Richardson
Patrick Riley
Nathan Ritter
Peg Robertsen
Julia Romaniuk
The Rossi Family
Ryan Rupe
William Rust
Ricky & Linda Savage
Sarah Selvidge
Anita Sentlinger
David & Linda Parks Shinn
Gary & Diane Short
Allison Silberberg
Anne Simpson
Joan & Irwin Singer
Steve Sockwell
Jesse Solis
Rosanne Stafiej
Joy Steele
Kathleen Stephens
Irene Szopo
Steve Szyzska
Rick Taylor
Roma Temnycky
Lloyd-Ellen Thomas
Stephen & Susan Tolbert
Virginia Tucker
Philip & Melissa Urofsky
Amy Vance
Bob Wachter
Carolee Walker
Marc & John Warner
Patricia Washington
Ben Watsky
James Watson
Daniel Weaver
Christina Welter
Scott Werner
Caroline D. Westhaeffer
Grace White
Krista White
Will Whittaker
Jim Wilson
Justin Wilson
Cynthia Wimer
Bernadette Wolfe
Clare Wolfowitz
Linda Younker

Finances

Fiscal Year: September 1, 2019—August 31, 2020

AH Inc. Accounts

FY2020 REVENUE	
Show Receipts	\$53,597
Public Support (donations)	\$52,310
Grants	\$28,195
Fundraising Item Sales	\$5,785
Paycheck Protection Program Loan	\$9,413
Member Payments—UK Trip	\$1,057
TOTAL	\$150,357

FY2020 EXPENSES	
Shows	\$32,434
Music & Coaching	\$4,381
Communications & Marketing	\$3,958
Fundraising	\$3,321
Rehearsal Site & Storage	\$14,853
Grants to Other Orgs	\$17,796
Musical Direction	\$47,410
Administrative	\$1,035
UK Trip Member Payments	\$1,000
Insurance	\$1,620
Discount Fees & Sales Tax	\$1,240
Finance & Legal	\$936
TOTAL	\$129,984

BHS Chapter Accounts

FY2020 REVENUE	
Public Support (donations)	\$11,476
Grants	\$24,296
Membership Dues	\$15,983
Member Services Revenue	\$9,481
Performance Support Revenue	\$976
Other	\$398
TOTAL	\$62,610

FY2020 EXPENSES	
Grants & Awards	\$22,237
Member Services	\$10,895
Performance Support	\$462
Insurance	\$4,226
Administrative	\$3,078
Truck Upgrade	\$17,796
Contest & Convention	\$1,122
Leadership Programs	\$45
TOTAL	\$59,861

Harmonious Tagline:



Kevin Keller

BHS Hall of Honor Inductee
Certified Music Judge
Category Specialist
Contest & Judging Chair
Arranger
Chorus & Quartet Singer

... and our chorus Coach and good friend

"I believe with all of my heart that if we choose a bigger future and commit to that, it will be there for us."

**COVID-19 took its toll.
Remembering fondly
two inspiring
Harmonizers...**



Dr. Brian Miller

Contact us:

**1430 W. Braddock Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22302**

Website: <https://www.harmonizers.org>

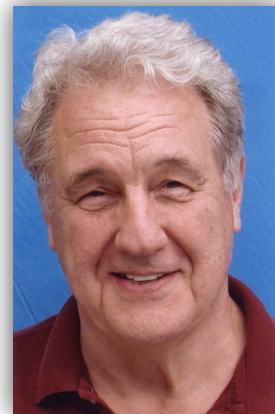
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/harmonizers/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqSKQpZ7jzmDR6soM7QK16A>

General Inquiries e-mail: Info@Harmonizers.org

Twitter: [@TheHarmonizers@Twitter.com](https://twitter.com/TheHarmonizers)

Bookings e-mail: Shows@Harmonizers.org



Bob Wachter