



Building a better Canada through the lifelong benefits of a cappella harmony singing

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Liaison Newsletter

12 Dec, 2016 in Liaison Newsletter by Sing Canada Harmony

This is a special e'Newsletter to the Chapter, Chorus or Choir Liaison to Sing Canada Harmony. It contains information that can assist Liaisons in helping Chorus members. If your Chapter has not yet identified an officer for this position, this correspondence is addressed to the Chapter President or Leadership Team. It is recommended that all Barbershop Choruses/Chapters and all community/school choirs have an appointed Liaison to Sing Canada to maintain currency in Canadian news and views and to share news with other Barbershop and choral singing groups across our nation. This special newsletter provides information on how to obtain funding for Chorus or Chapter projects, community outreach, the benefits of singing, some other research findings and general news items.

The Chapter, Chorus or Choir Liaison Officer [CLO] to Sing Canada Harmony

The CLO is a member of a choral performing group who is appointed or elected to the office. The main responsibilities of this position are:

- To recommend scholarship applications
- Any Canadian singer is eligible to apply. The Scholarship and Awards Committee must know that the application is authentic and the applicant is worthy. The CLO reviews and submits the application to the Committee.
- To inform the availability of scholarships and share news and information with members.

The CLO occupies an important position and is connected to the national network of men and women barbershoppers, community and school choirs, and, other singers.

Editor's Note

Please don't get upset at the amount of reading there is in this newsletter. I've been away for a while and things have stacked up. You are not expected to read everything at once. You may share any of this content in your chapter newsletters or put on your website. Remember that OUR newsletters will publish your articles and photos for all Canadian men and women Barbershoppers to read view. Photos of other youth, children's or community choirs that you perform with are especially welcome. If you would like to see an article on a subject related to what Chapters, Choruses, Choirs and quartets do or can do – on any subject – just ask.

Coffee Shop Outreach for Quartet Ambassadors for Performances

Dave Pearce, Board Member of Saskatchewan Choral Federation and Sing Canada Harmony reports that Sweet Adeline quartets in Regina are promoting their Christmas performance by dropping in to coffee shops and striking a chord or two. After singing a couple of songs they distribute post card size ads for their show. You might want to tell the coffee shoppers to present the card for a discount when purchasing tickets. Thanks, Dave, for the heads up!

Relationships with Quartets and Chapters

Singing organizations are reaching out to youth in schools and communities. At the same time, quartets and chapters are realizing the good that they can do for singing, particularly barbershop harmony. This has resulted in growing support for Sing Canada Harmony. This is important because Sing Canada Harmony needs that support to fulfil its mission to support vocal music across Canada.

Every quartet should establish a relationship with Sing Canada Harmony to share photos and articles about performances, sharing the stage and youth outreach. All men's and women's barbershop choruses and quartets are eligible to receive the Community Leadership Awards through a simple nomination process submitted by the Sing Canada Harmony Liaison, quartet contact person or singing group leader. Quartet, chorus and choir members can nominate a community, youth or children's choir, or other singing organization, for a community leadership award.

Community leadership awards are usually presented by an officer or VIP of a singing organization, such as a chapter President, district, area or region officer or an officer of the BHS, HI or SAI. If you would like to nominate for this award, simply let us know at info@singCanadaharmony.ca

Memorials and Keep A Melody Ringing

Through Sing Canada Harmony, more and more men and women Barbershoppers, or their spouses are being honoured through memorial donations across Canada. When a donation is made to Sing Canada Harmony to honour the memory of any person, whether he or she is a Barbershopper, a singer or not, that individual's name is posted to the *memoriam* list on the Sing Canada Harmony website. This "in memoriam" list is also published in the e'Newsletter or linked from the newsletter to the website. We invite you to visit our website to see those who have been honoured within the last year.

When the gifts received by sing Canada equal or exceed \$1000, the name, chapter name, years of birth and death, and, hometown are engraved on a plate, which is mounted on the Sing Canada Harmony, Keep a Melody Ringing plaque, in barbershop headquarters, in Nashville, Tennessee.

~~Currently, there are 65 names engraved on the plaque, which is mounted on the same wall, in barbershop headquarters, where the photographs of the reigning champion quartet, college, quartet, chorus and senior's quartet are displayed. More Canadians and more men and women Barbershoppers, than can be imagined, will see the names of loved ones who loved and/or sang, barbershop harmony. This is a great honour, particularly for Barbershoppers, and a great way to memorialize a loved one, while helping Sing Canada Harmony accomplish its mission to support vocal music in the schools and communities of Canada.~~

20 Important Benefits of Music in Our Schools

Sing Canada Harmony and other singing organizations are advocates for music in schools and communities. Through personal experience or learning, their members know the importance of music in human development. Why we should support singing is information we should all know and share. Music benefits everyone. The following article tells why.

From: <http://www.bachelorsdegree.org/> – March 10th, 2011

Nearly everyone enjoys music, whether by listening to it, singing, or playing an instrument. But despite this almost universal interest, many schools are having to do away with their music education programs. This is a mistake, with schools losing not only an enjoyable subject, but a subject that can enrich students' lives and education. Read on to learn why music education is so important, and how it offers benefits even beyond itself.

Musical training helps develop language and reasoning: Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.

A mastery of memorization: Even when performing with sheet music, student musicians are constantly using their memory to perform. The skill of memorization can serve students well in education and beyond.

Students learn to improve their work: Learning music promotes craftsmanship, and students learn to want to create good work instead of mediocre work. This desire can be applied to all subjects of study.

Increased coordination: Students who practice with musical instruments can improve their hand-eye coordination. Just like playing sports, children can develop motor skills when playing music.

A sense of achievement: Learning to play pieces of music on a new instrument can be a challenging, but achievable goal. Students who master even the smallest goal in music will be able to feel proud of their achievement.

Kids stay engaged in school: An enjoyable subject like music can keep kids interested and engaged in school. Student musicians are likely to stay in school to achieve in other subjects.

Success in society: Music is the fabric of our society, and music can shape abilities and character. Students in band or orchestra are less likely to abuse substances over their lifetime. Musical education can greatly contribute to children's intellectual development as well.

Emotional development: Students of music can be more emotionally developed, with empathy towards other cultures. They also tend to have higher self esteem and are better at coping with anxiety.

Students learn pattern recognition: Children can develop their math and pattern-recognition skills with the help of musical education. Playing music offers repetition in a fun format.

Better SAT scores: Students who have experience with music performance or appreciation score higher on the SAT. One report indicates 63 points higher on verbal and 44 points higher on math for students in music appreciation courses.

Fine-tuned auditory skills: Musicians can better detect meaningful, information-bearing elements in sounds, like the emotional meaning in a baby's cry. Students who practice music can have better auditory attention, and pick out predictable patterns from surrounding noise.

Music builds imagination and intellectual curiosity: Introducing music in the early childhood years can help foster a positive attitude toward learning and curiosity. Artistic education develops the whole brain and develops a child's imagination.

Music can be relaxing: Students can fight stress by learning to play music. Soothing music is especially helpful in helping kids relax.

Musical instruments can teach discipline: Kids who learn to play an instrument can learn a valuable lesson in discipline. They will have to set time aside to practice and rise to the challenge of learning with discipline to master playing their instrument.

Preparation for the creative economy: Investing in creative education can prepare students for the 21st century workforce. The new economy has created more artistic careers, and these jobs may grow faster than others in the future.

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Development in creative thinking: Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer.

Music can develop spatial intelligence: Students who study music can improve the development of spatial intelligence which allows them to perceive the world accurately and form mental pictures. Spatial intelligence is helpful for advanced mathematics and more.

Kids can learn teamwork: Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.

Responsible risk-taking: Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential.

Better self-confidence: With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students.

Funding for Special Projects and Youth Outreach

As it should be for every choir and barbershop harmony chorus, youth outreach is a high priority for Sing Canada Harmony. When you find youth singing organizations, you also find projects and youth that require financial assistance. Sing Canada Harmony can provide financial support for purchasing sheet music and coaching for choruses, quartets, choirs and individual singers. There is no greater call to be answered for a singing group or chorus than to support singing in their community. After all, if people are not singing, it is highly unlikely that they will ever join a singing group. When you grow singing in your community, you grow outreach for youth and children and that itself makes singers available to sing your genre of music in your chorus or choir. When your barbershop harmony chorus or school/community choir is planning for 2017 and beyond, remember to include a plan to help other local singers who may not be as fortunate as you.

As well as chapter contributions, it is worthwhile to encourage choir and chapter members to support Sing Canada Harmony. With individual and organizational support Sing Canada Harmony will be in a position to assist you in your funding of special projects and youth outreach.

Liaison with Choral Canada, Provincial Choral Associations and the Coalition for Music Education in Canada

Founding Chair of Sing Canada Harmony, Digger MacDougall, has corresponded with the general manager, Meghan Hila, of Choral Canada and introduced her to the Ontario District's Fall Convention where she attended chorus rehearsals and the chorus competition. Choral Canada is reaching out to Canadian men's and women's barbershop choruses to ensure that Canadian barbershop harmony singers and their singing organizations receive support and communications from this national group, whose provincial associations include: BC choral Federation; Choir, Alberta; Saskatchewan Choral Federation; Manitoba Choral Association; Choirs Ontario; Alliance de Chorales du Quebec; New Brunswick Choral Federation; and, Nova Scotia, choral Federation.

Sing Canada Harmony recommends that not only community and school choirs, but also men's and women's Canadian barbershop chapters and choruses, align themselves with their respective provincial choral Association. Here are some facts about choral Canada:

Founded in 1980, Choral Canada (formerly known as the Association of Canadian Choral Communities/Association des communautés chorales canadiennes (ACCC) is Canada's only non-profit professional service organization for choral musicians and administrators. A national voice for over 1100 conductors, a network of 42,000 singers, and with a broad membership of choral composers, choristers, publishers and administrators, Choral Canada promotes its art form at all levels throughout Canada, and supports and encourages the writing and performance of Canadian choral music.

Mission Statement:

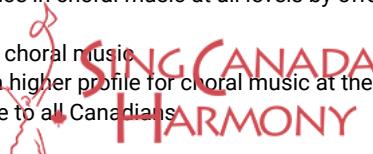
Choral Canada exists to celebrate and champion choral music for all Canadians.

Advocacy Statement:

Choral singing, an integral part of the Canadian cultural experience, has the power to build communities and transform lives.

Choral Canada's Goals:

- Support and encourage participation and excellence in choral music at all levels by offering training, resources, and forums for the exchange of information
- Foster the creation and performance of Canadian choral music
- Partner with like-minded organizations to create a higher profile for choral music at the provincial, national, and international levels
- Help make choral singing available and accessible to all Canadians



MUSIC MONDAY and the Coalition for Music Education in Canada

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Sing Canada Harmony shares common values with the Coalition for Music Education in Canada. The Founding Chair and former CEO of Sing Canada Harmony is, and has been for 3 years, a member of the Board of Directors for the Coalition and has participated in Music Monday programs in the National Capital Region during that time.

Every Canadian men's and women's barbershop harmony chorus should consider participating with the children or youth of their own communities' choirs and schools on Music Monday, the first Monday in May every year. There is no greater opportunity to show your support for music and singing, for children and youth, for Barbershop Harmony and Canada. Music Monday events are both televised and webcast across the nation. It is anticipated that over 1,000,000 children, youth and adult singers and musicians will participate in music Monday May 1, 2017.

Here is a quick overview of the Coalition for Music Education in Canada:

Mission:

To raise the awareness and understanding of the role that music education plays in Canadian culture, and to promote the benefits that music education brings to young people.

Vision:

We envision Canada as a country where the lines of all children are enriched by the quality school music programs, and where their active participation in music is valued and supported in our communities.

History

The coalition for music education was founded in 1992, when representatives of more than 20 music education organizations came together to share ideas to improve the state of music education in Canada. The coalition quickly began working with parents and other concerned citizens to address concerns about music in schools.

We Celebrate our Ambassadors of Song Donors

Ambassadors of Song are regular donors who have made a commitment "to keep the whole world singing". They are the lifeblood of Sing Canada Harmony and Harmony Foundation International who believe in the power of song. They want to see barbershop harmony grow and they realize that the only way it can happen is through the support of vocal music in the communities and schools throughout North America. Sing Canada Harmony is united with the Barbershop Harmony Society, Harmony Foundation International, Harmony, Inc., and Sweet Adeline's International in the belief that there can be growth and expansion in barbershop harmony through outreach to youth and other singers in our communities. Ambassadors of Song help our 3 singing organizations in carrying the barbershop message to all.

It is easy to become an Ambassador of Song. Read about Patricia and Frank Belchamber and what they do to be recognized as Ambassadors of Song:

Once a month, every month, Patricia and Frank help strengthen youth music education by giving to Ambassadors of Song. And because their gifts are in the form of automatic monthly deductions, Patricia and Frank can focus their considerable energies on singing with in a quartet, a chorus and do everything else in their day-to-day schedules.

"It's \$10 each, that would otherwise go towards eating out," they say. "So why not invest it instead in something that really matters to us? When we think about everything the barbershop community has given us —including the fellowship and fun, we enjoy — we are glad to give something back."

Pat and Frank have firsthand knowledge of the importance of gifts like his: they know individuals who have benefited from Director's College scholarships and Leadership Academy scholarships. "In both cases, after that training was received by our colleagues, a lightbulb went on," they say. "We understood immediately how we could help to ensure that someone will sing tomorrow and that there would be music and administrative leaders to help them. That was a turning point in our lives." Donors to Ambassadors of Song can arrange for automatic monthly deductions at any level, starting at just \$10 per month. It's easy to begin investing in the future of barbershop—and surprisingly rewarding.

Sponsor – an advocate of harmony

Membership with a gift of \$10-\$29 per month

Coach – a pledge of dedication

Membership with a gift of \$30-49 per month

**Mentor – an advanced level of involvement**

Membership with a gift of \$50 or more per month

Champions of Tomorrow – a quartet's active support of the future

Quartet's joint membership with a gift of \$404 per month (i.e. \$10 each per month)

Together, we as Ambassadors of Song can change lives.

We can inspire interest in young singers. We can turn interest into skill, skill into aspiration, aspiration into achievement. What will your gift to Sing Canada Harmony programs mean?

Music: You can help fund the supply of licensed barbershop music to school music programs.

Exposure: You can support barbershop harmony singing demonstrations in schools. You can even keep your impact local, because Sing Canada Harmony allows you to designate your gift to support youth initiatives in your Canadian home community, province, or district

Excitement: You can help underwrite men's and women's barbershop harmony singing organizations (BHS, HI and SAI) Youth Harmony Workshops (one-day festivals) and Harmony Explosion Camps (multi-day events), bringing students and educators together to meet new friends, hear demonstrations, and learn to produce thrilling harmonies.

Development: You can help turn raw talent and enthusiasm into competition-ready skill and lifelong enjoyment for young people. Youth chorus competitions, collegiate quarter contests, Harmony University, HI and SAI training days, seminars and workshops, Leadership Academies and Director's/Conductors training for chorus/choir directors are just some of the ways your gifts can support tomorrow's singers and singing leaders

Donors to Ambassadors of Song...

...can arrange for automatic monthly deductions at any level, starting at just \$10 per month. It's rewarding and easy to begin investing in the future of singing in Canada, particularly barbershop harmony

SCH Chapter Liaisons Information Required at SCH

Every men's and women's barbershop chorus/chapter, and every choir and singing group in Canada should have a Sing Canada Harmony Liaison for the purpose of ensuring the free flow communications among Canadian choruses and choirs, the singing organizations that support them and Sing Canada Harmony.

The Sing Canada Harmony Liaison is recognized as a special individual who can provide a service and leadership to a chorus or singing group; and recommend scholarships and awards on behalf of chorus members, or members of non-Barbershop singing organizations in the community, as a means of endorsing and expediting applications.

This Liaison Officer can also assist in outreach to the community by sharing knowledge of chapter/chorus/choir events and the availability of financial assistance from organizations like Sing Canada Harmony.

Within the BHS, Sing Canada Harmony Chapter Liaisons are listed on the BHS website/e-biz page. For the 2 women singing organizations, HI and SAI, their choruses liaisons are listed on chorus websites and/or the Sing Canada Harmony distribution list.

Sing Canada Harmony Liaisons, like other Barbershoppers and singers, are eligible for financial support through scholarships and awards that enable attendance at organizational training programs such as Leadership Academies, Harmony University, workshops, seminars and individual training.

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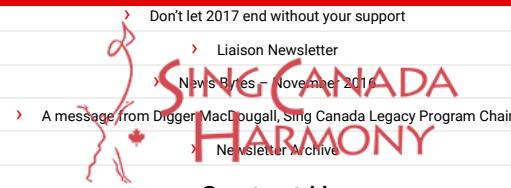
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