

Why Join?



"Experience with barbershop music has some wonderful benefits for students – from building fabulous aural skills, great intonation, a sense of true harmonic structure to outstanding poise and expressive, engaged faces!" Dr. Lynne Gackle, Baylor University School of Music, past ACDA National President.

What is barbershop harmony?

In simple terms, barbershop harmony is an American art form featuring vocal harmony produced by four parts: tenor, lead, baritone, and bass.

- ❖ Tenor – sings the harmony above the lead. Although tenor is the highest voice in barbershop harmony, it should not be confused with the soprano of traditional choral singing. Tenor voice should have a sweet, pure tone that will compliment, but not overpower the lead voice.
- ❖ Lead – often the melody and has a range from A below middle C, to the C above middle C.
- ❖ Baritone – sings in harmony with a range similar to the lead.
- ❖ Bass – should have a rich, resonant sound and be able to comfortably sing pitches as low as E ♭ below middle C.

Youth Affiliate Chorus:

The Youth Affiliate Chorus program specifically fulfills SingUnited's guiding principles of Outreach and Musical Excellence, as it provides educational resources, including a lesson plan, and opportunities for to receive feedback from professional judges, while actively promoting the barbershop style into high school communities. The program is designed to allow developed high school choral programs to affiliate with SingUnited, and to experience the benefits of SingUnited membership without requiring each student to pay the yearly membership dues that regular members of SingUnited pay. Instead, the school would maintain the charter, and be responsible for the charter fee of \$125 USD a year. Liability insurance is available and required if the school does not have this.

Benefits:

- ❖ One free director affiliate membership. This will allow the choral director to have access to our full library of educational tools and resources.
- ❖ A four-part lesson plan that introduces youth singers to the ins and outs of singing in the barbershop style.
- ❖ Complimentary piece of music for each student in the Youth Affiliate Chorus, with learning tracks.
- ❖ Access to academic scholarship opportunities, which are only available to SingUnited members.
- ❖ Opportunity to perform for Evaluation at your local regional competition and convention, including a waived competition entry fee. **Note that any regional fees will still be applicable.*

Why Become a Youth Affiliate Chorus?

- ❖ Receive access to educational resources for your singers to learn four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style, to elevate the musical abilities, experiences, and achievements of your chorus members.
- ❖ Promote interest, and enhance, your community's awareness of barbershop and a cappella music and SingUnited.
- ❖ Facilitate a cultural and recreational outlet for your chorus through rehearsal and performance of music.
- ❖ Encourage the participation of youth in a cappella performances and foster a lifelong pursuit of involvement in the arts.

How does Barbershop Harmony instruction benefit young singers?

- ❖ “I’ve seen immediate growth in tuning and intonation throughout my entire program. The way that my singers, and particularly altos, now sing with a little bit more moxie, more resonance and intonation in a sense of tuning fifths, thirds...all of that is permeating my program because of barbershop harmony.” - Darin Drown, Choral Director and current Master Director of Velvet Hills Chorus
- ❖ “I love their ability to communicate and I really do attribute that to their singing barbershop.” - Lori Lyford, former Choral Director and current Master 700 Director of Scottsdale Chorus

Former student perspectives

- ❖ “Being introduced to barbershop led to me joining a chorus, becoming passionate about vocal music and ultimately becoming a music educator myself!”
- ❖ “Even though barbershop as a genre sometimes seems really niche, it is actually really accessible and relatable to many kinds of students.”
- ❖ “I learned so much about barbershop, singing, and performing. Personally, it helped me develop confidence as a young student, and gave me friends and a sense of community.”
- ❖ “Being in barbershop has helped me a lot with my musicianship skills like reading music and theory.”



To fill out an application to become a Youth Affiliate Chorus, please visit www.singunited.org or contact membership@singunited.org to request an application today!