

barbershop harmony society winners

Barbershop Harmony Society winners have a special place in the world of a cappella singing. Celebrated for their unique harmonies and vocal techniques, these groups and individuals represent the pinnacle of achievement in the barbershop genre. Founded in 1938, the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) has fostered a vibrant community of singers who share a love for four-part harmony. This article delves into the significance of the BHS winners, the competitions they participate in, and how their voices contribute to the rich tapestry of American music.

The Barbershop Harmony Society: An Overview

The Barbershop Harmony Society is a nonprofit organization that promotes barbershop singing and harmonizing. With thousands of members across North America and beyond, the society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the art of barbershop music.

History and Evolution

The BHS originated from the desire to create a new style of music that combined traditional American folk songs with intricate vocal harmonies. Over the years, it has evolved into a respected institution that not only holds competitions but also provides educational resources for singers.

Mission and Vision

The mission of the BHS is to bring people together through the joy of singing. The organization aims to:

- Promote vocal harmony through education and performance.
- Encourage the formation of barbershop quartets and choruses.
- Provide resources for community outreach and music education.

Competitions: The Path to Becoming a Winner

The BHS hosts various competitions throughout the year, where singers can showcase their talents. These competitions are divided into several categories, including:

Chorus Competitions

Chorus competitions feature groups of singers who perform arranged pieces. The judging criteria include:

- Musicality

- Presentation
- Vocal quality

Choruses usually consist of a minimum of 12 singers and can include hundreds of members. The most successful choruses go on to compete at the international level.

Quartet Competitions

Quartet competitions focus on smaller groups of four singers. These competitions are often more intimate and allow for greater individual expression. The judging criteria for quartets are similar to those for choruses, with an emphasis on:

- Blend and balance
- Vocal technique
- Stage presence

Winning a quartet competition is a significant achievement and can lead to opportunities for professional gigs and recordings.

International Competitions

The pinnacle of competition within the BHS occurs at the International Convention. Here, the best choruses and quartets from around the world compete for prestigious titles. The competition features:

- Semifinals and finals for both choruses and quartets.
- A showcase of new talent and emerging groups.
- Opportunities for networking and collaboration among participants.

Notable Barbershop Harmony Society Winners

Throughout its history, the BHS has produced numerous winners who have made significant contributions to the barbershop genre. Here are some notable winners:

Quartet Champions

1. **The Vocal Majority:** Known for their powerful performances and intricate arrangements, The Vocal Majority is one of the most celebrated quartets in barbershop history. They have won numerous international titles and have influenced many aspiring singers.
2. **The Town Cryers:** This quartet gained fame for their entertaining performances and unique vocal stylings. Their ability to connect with audiences has made them a favorite in the barbershop community.
3. **Ringmasters:** Hailing from Sweden, Ringmasters is a contemporary quartet that has made waves internationally. Their innovative approach to barbershop music has garnered them multiple

championships.

Chorus Champions

1. The Westminster Chorus: This elite chorus has consistently won international titles, showcasing their exceptional vocal range and harmonization skills. Their performances are known for their emotional depth and technical precision.
2. The Ambassadors of Harmony: With a rich history of competition success, this chorus has become synonymous with excellence in barbershop harmony. They have a diverse repertoire that includes both traditional and modern songs.
3. The Toronto Northern Lights: This Canadian chorus has made its mark on the international stage, known for their engaging performances and commitment to the barbershop craft.

The Impact of Winning

Winning a competition within the Barbershop Harmony Society can have a profound impact on the lives of individuals and groups. Here are some ways in which winners influence the barbershop community:

Inspiration and Motivation

Successful quartets and choruses serve as role models for aspiring singers. Their achievements inspire others to pursue their passion for music, fostering a culture of excellence within the community.

Opportunities for Growth

Winning competitions often leads to increased visibility and opportunities for performances. Many winners receive invitations to sing at prestigious events, collaborate with other artists, and participate in workshops.

Community Building

Winners often engage with local communities through outreach programs and performances. Their involvement helps to promote barbershop music and encourages new singers to join the ranks.

Conclusion

The **Barbershop Harmony Society winners** play an essential role in the preservation and evolution of barbershop music. Through competitions, they showcase their incredible vocal talents and inspire the next generation of singers. The legacy of these winners is felt not only in their performances but also in the communities they build and the joy they spread through music. As barbershop harmony continues to thrive, the contributions of these remarkable individuals and groups will ensure that this unique art form remains vibrant for years to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Barbershop Harmony Society?

The Barbershop Harmony Society is an international organization dedicated to promoting and preserving the art of barbershop quartet and chorus singing, primarily in the United States, Canada, and beyond.

How are winners determined in Barbershop Harmony Society competitions?

Winners are determined through a panel of judges who evaluate performances based on criteria such as musicality, presentation, and vocal technique. Scores are awarded in various categories, and the highest overall score wins.

Who are the most recent winners of the Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Contest?

As of 2023, the most recent winners of the Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Contest are the 'The Vocal Majority', who have a long history of success in the competition.

What impact do Barbershop Harmony Society winners have on the community?

Winners often inspire local singing groups, promote barbershop music, and contribute to community events, fostering a greater appreciation for this unique musical style.

Are there categories for different types of performances in the Barbershop Harmony Society?

Yes, the Barbershop Harmony Society hosts various categories including quartet competitions, chorus competitions, and specific events for youth and seniors, allowing a diverse range of performances.

How can aspiring singers participate in the Barbershop Harmony Society competitions?

Aspiring singers can join local chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society, participate in rehearsals, and prepare for upcoming competitions by receiving coaching and feedback from experienced members.

What are some famous barbershop quartets that have won the Barbershop Harmony Society championship?

Famous barbershop quartets that have won championships include 'The Ringmasters', 'The Vocal Majority', and 'The Ambassadors of Harmony', each known for their exceptional harmony and performance skills.

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