

# Scott Perau Honored with 2025 Golden Chord Award for Exceptional Leadership in Barbershop and Music Education

Red Wing, MN – May 28, 2025

At Red Wing High School's spring concert on May 28, something truly special happened. Right there in Hovde Hall, in front of his students, colleagues, and family, **Scott Perau** was surprised with the **2025 Golden Chord Award**, our district's highest honor for a music educator.

Scott's reaction was genuine, humble, and deeply moving, as you'd expect from someone who has always deflected praise and redirected the spotlight onto his students. But that night, it was his turn. Unbeknownst to him, Jay Althof, quietly slipped into the audience to witness the moment. It was a full-circle celebration of a man who has shaped so many voices, and so many lives.

The **Golden Chord Award**, presented by the **Land O' Lakes District of the Barbershop Harmony Society**, honors an outstanding educator who not only uplifts their school community, but also goes above and beyond to keep the art of barbershop harmony alive and thriving. Scott was nominated by his friend and quartet-mate **Jay Fahl**, and the committee's decision to honor him was unanimous. The award was presented to him by **Jay Althof**, close friend and past president of the Land O' Lakes district.

To further recognize Scott's impact, we're also proud to make a **\$500 contribution to Ovation**, Red Wing's extracurricular vocal ensemble under his leadership. This group has given so many young singers a platform to grow, perform, and connect, and we can't think of a better way to support the work Scott continues to do outside the school day.



If you know Scott, you know this award isn't just about one night or one concert. It's about a career spent **mentoring young singers**, fostering curiosity, building community, and reminding us that barbershop is about so much more than chords, it's about connection.

It's especially meaningful when you consider that **around one year ago**, Scott brought a high school quartet named **Core Four** to the Land O' Lakes District Convention for coaching. One of the singers? His own son, **Silas**. Watching Scott guide him into the barbershop world with the same care and enthusiasm he gives to every student, that's the legacy we're honoring.

Whether he's directing a concert, coaching a quartet, running warmups at district events, or building relationships with other educators, Scott brings heart, excellence, and joy into everything he touches. His influence ripples across classrooms, choruses, and communities—not just in Red Wing, but throughout the Land O' Lakes District and beyond.

From all of us on the **Next Gen team**, and from everyone whose life has been touched by Scott's music and mentorship: **thank you**. You've helped shape the future of barbershop in ways you may never fully realize.

**Congratulations, Scott.**

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*Justin La*

Chair, Land O' Lakes Next Gen Committee