

Youth Barbershop in Schools

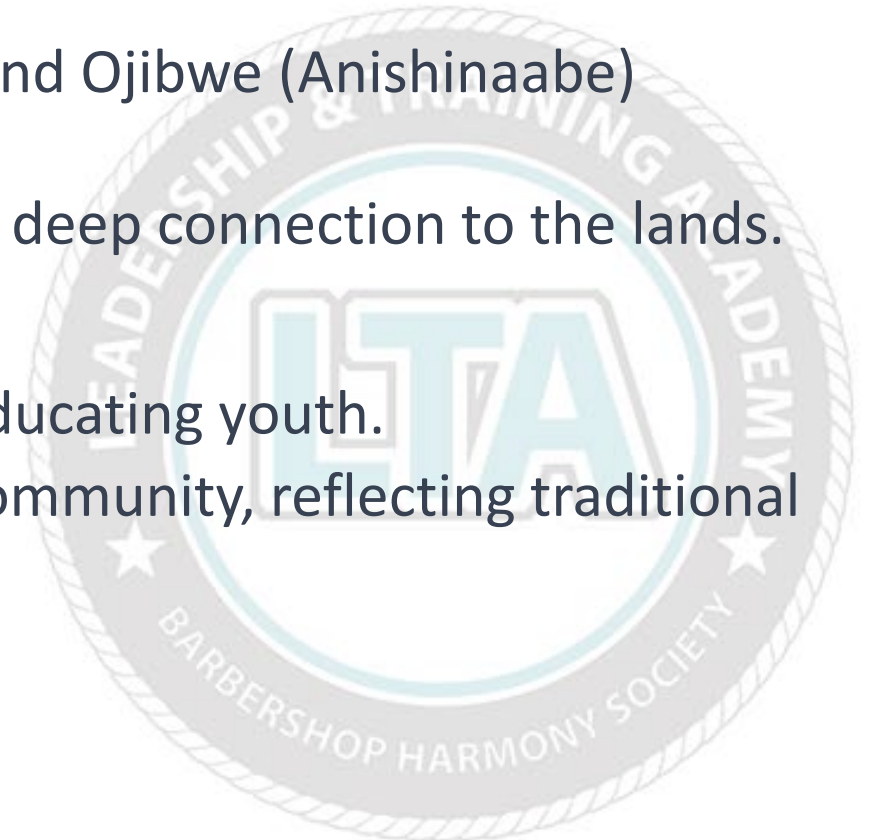
[Justin La](#) | Next Gen Barbershop Chair | justinla92@hotmail.com |



BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

Land Acknowledgment

- Acknowledgement of Traditional Land:
 - Recognizing the land as belonging to the Dakota and Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) peoples.
 - Showing respect for Indigenous peoples and their deep connection to the lands.
- Session Focus:
 - Exploring the role of barbershop in schools and educating youth.
 - Emphasizing the importance of storytelling and community, reflecting traditional values of the land.



Land Acknowledgment

- Integration of Values:
 - Blending respect for historical narratives with contemporary digital communication.
 - Using the session to respect the history of the land while discussing engaging youth into barbershop.
- Overall Aim:
 - To facilitate a journey of learning and sharing.
 - Inspired by a spirit of respect and unity throughout the session.



My Story

- Name: Justin La
- Where I Come From: Saskatoon, Canada
- Profession: Music educator (bands and choirs), Voice and piano instructor
- Education: Degrees in Music and Education
- Key Involvement in Barbershop:
 - Music Director of Youth Chorus "Acoustic Theory"
 - Chair of Next Gen Barbershop Committee
 - Sings lead in the barbershop quartet "Fourtet"
 - Sings bass in the international qualifying chorus "Prism" SWD
 - Quartet Coach - Sirena



My Story

- Name: Justin La
- Personal Interests:
 - Staying active
 - Reading
 - Enjoying humor
- Life Philosophy:
 - Seeking balance
 - Staying humble (I know nothing!)
 - Embracing every moment (like today!)
- Purpose Today: To learn and share, fostering connection and fun.



Overview

- **How Barbershop Will Improve Your School Choir**
- **Golden Chord Award**
- **University/College Aged Student Engagement**
- **Comparing Barbershop and “Classical” Choirs**
- **What Chapters Should/Should Not Do**
- **Resources**
- **Summary**



How Will Barbershop Improve Your School Choir

Overtones and Ringing Chords

- **Warm-Up Techniques**
 - [Westminster Chorus Warmup Video](#)
 - Can you hear the overtones?
- **Demonstration Through Performance**
 - [Lux Arumque](#)
 - [Theory Behind Overtones \(Just Intonation\)](#)



How Will Barbershop Improve Your School Choir

Tonal Memory from Singing Tags

- [You are So Beautiful Tag](#)
- **Auditory Learning:**
 - Sound before Sight
 - Promotes Aural Skills before Initial Sight Reading
- **Developmental Aspect:**
 - Auditory development supports the ability to learn and retain music
 - How this can be leveraged in a choir setting?
- **Enhancing Musical Memory:**
 - Reinforces tonal memory and pitch retention.
 - Improved tuning and internalize harmony.



How Will Barbershop Improve Your School Choir

Genuine Emotion and Storytelling

- Signature Dance With My Father
- **Emotional Connection:**
 - Barbershop music often tells a story
 - Connecting with the emotional narrative of the song
 - Lead to more expressive and compelling performances in school choirs
- **Storytelling in Performance:**
 - Teach students to interpret and deliver the story within songs
 - Changes in volume, tone and pace for greater impact
 - Enhances the overall impact of the performance
 - Engages the audience on a deeper level



How Will Barbershop Improve Your School Choir

Balancing of Parts

Listening Skills:

- Barbershop music requires each singer to listen closely to the other parts,
- Especially the leads who carry the melody
- Helps choir members improve their listening skills
- Enhances overall ensemble cohesion

Adolescent Vocal Development:

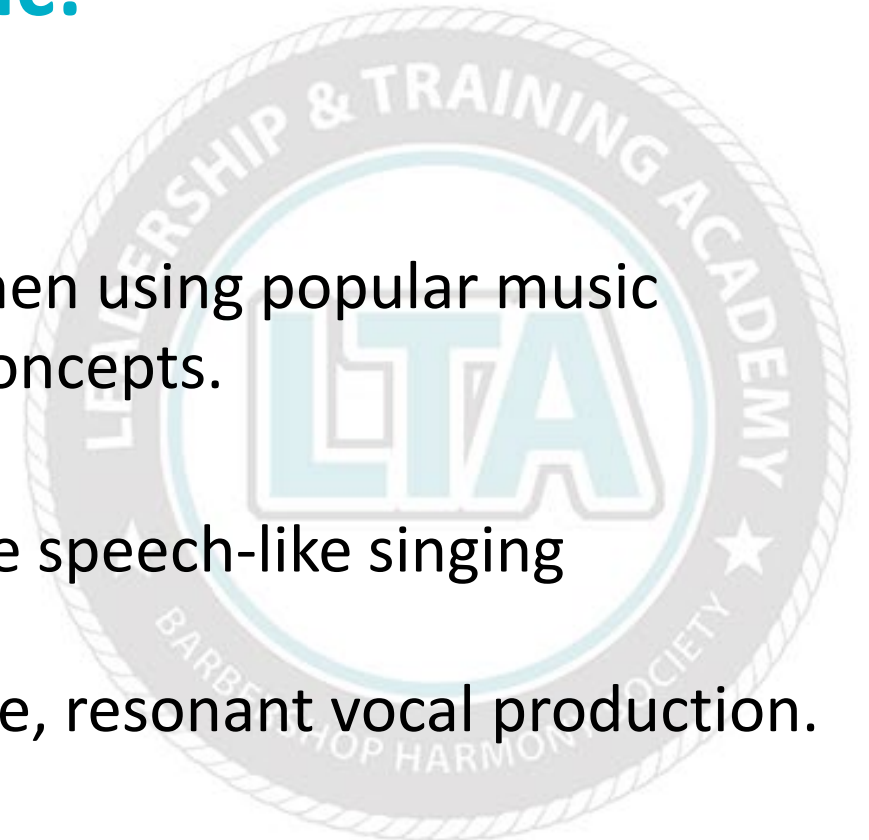
- Changes and challenges adolescent male singers face
- Helps them navigate these challenges by focusing on blending and tuning.



How Will Barbershop Improve Your School Choir

Teaching Nuances with Popular Music:

- Three and a Half Men – Over the Rainbow
- **Cultural Relevance:**
 - Teaching musical nuances is more relatable when using popular music
 - Facilitates a better understanding of musical concepts.
- **Speech-like Singing:**
 - Modern barbershop arrangements often utilize speech-like singing
 - Rather than overly tall vowels
 - More natural for students and encourage a free, resonant vocal production.



Varsity Aged Student Engagement

Inviting Faculty for Coaching:

- **Cross-Institutional Partnerships:**

- Foster relationships between barbershop chapters and academic
- Specialized workshops or regular coaching sessions.

- **Enhanced Learning Opportunities:**

- University faculty to provide students with advanced training in vocal technique, performance practice, and musical interpretation

- **Professional Development:**

- Offer professional development opportunities for faculty (Harmony University)
- Scholarships are available.



University/College Aged Student Engagement

Non-BHS Collegiate Affiliated College Contests:

- **Inclusive Competitions:**

- For college quartets that may not be affiliated with the Barbershop Harmony Society
- Increasing participation in barbershop music.

- **Faculty Involvement:**

- Engage university faculty in these contests as judges or coaches
- Bridge the gap between academic music education and the barbershop community.

- **Educational Synergy:**

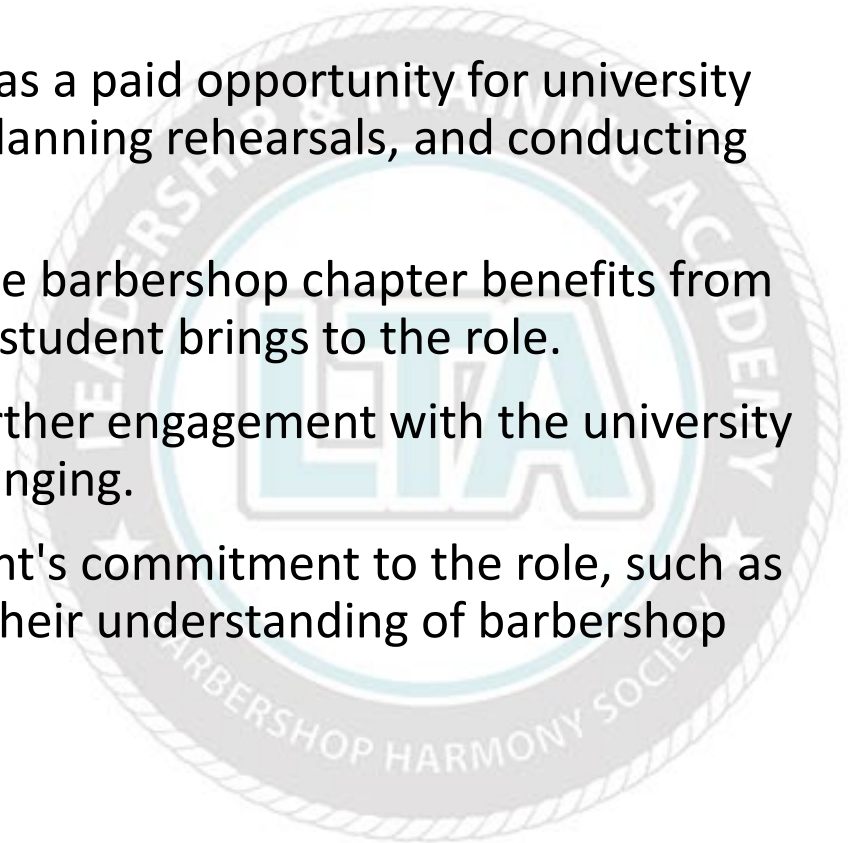
- By involving faculty, students gain a broader perspective on barbershop harmony



University/College Aged Student Engagement

Hiring Music Students as Assistant Directors:

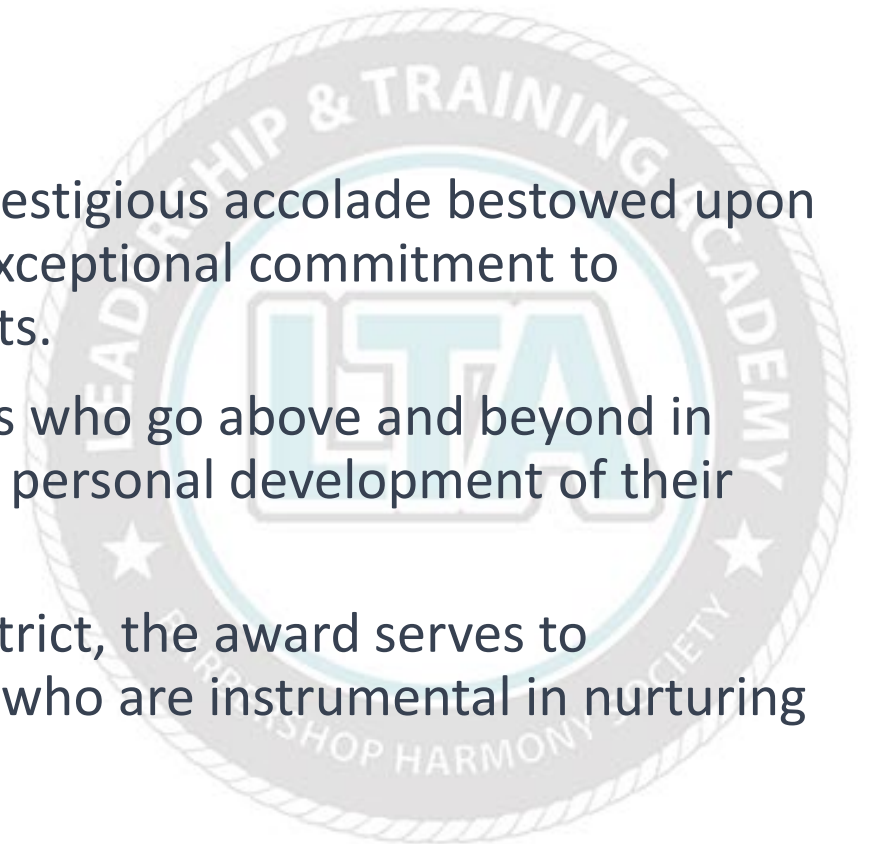
- **Real-World Experience:** Position the role of an assistant director as a paid opportunity for university music students to gain hands-on experience directing a chorus, planning rehearsals, and conducting performances.
- **Mutual Benefits:** While the student gains valuable experience, the barbershop chapter benefits from the fresh perspectives and current academic knowledge that the student brings to the role.
- **University Engagement:** This initiative can act as a catalyst for further engagement with the university community, potentially attracting more students to barbershop singing.
- **Long-Term Commitment:** Establish criteria that ensure the student's commitment to the role, such as a requirement to attend Harmony University, which can deepen their understanding of barbershop music and enhance their skills as a director.





What is the Golden Chord Award?

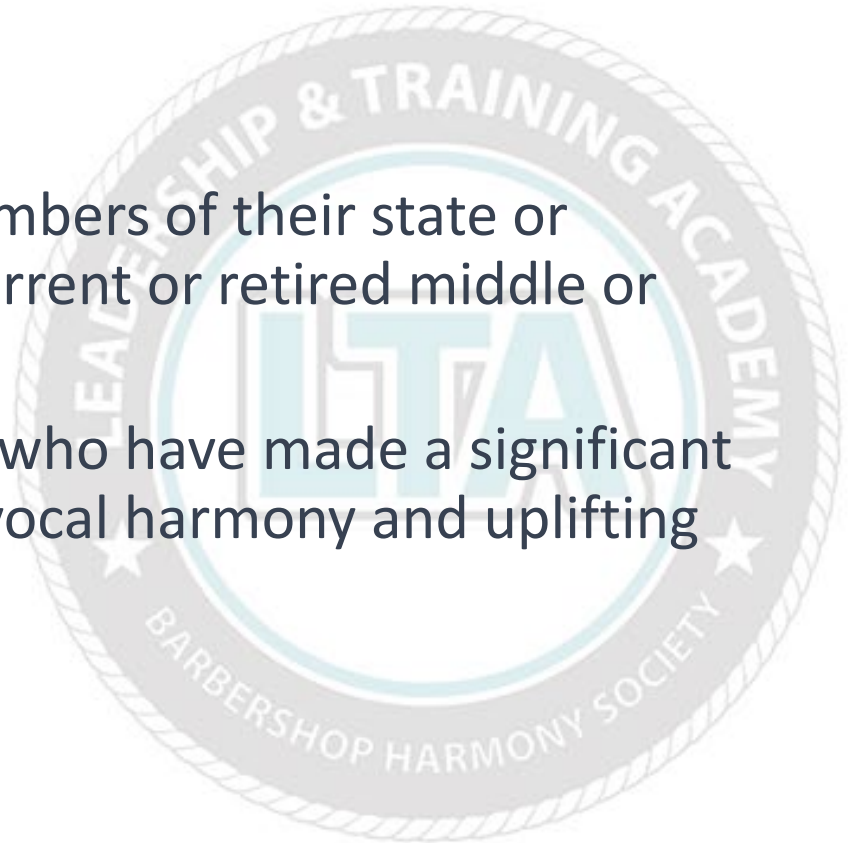
- **Recognition of Excellence:** The Golden Chord Award is a prestigious accolade bestowed upon outstanding music educators who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to fostering a love for barbershop-style singing among students.
- **Celebrating Contributions:** This award celebrates educators who go above and beyond in their teaching, contributing significantly to the musical and personal development of their students and promoting the art of barbershop harmony.
- **Annual Honor:** Presented annually by the Land O Lakes District, the award serves to acknowledge the hard work and passion of music teachers who are instrumental in nurturing new talent in the field of barbershop music.





Criteria for Award

- **Professional Membership:** Nominees are typically members of their state or provincial music education associations and may be current or retired middle or secondary-level music educators.
- **Inspirational Impact:** The award seeks to honor those who have made a significant impact on their students' lives, instilling a passion for vocal harmony and uplifting spirits through their teaching.





Importance and “Value” for Award

- **Highlighting Barbershop in Education:** The Golden Chord Award emphasizes the value of barbershop music within the educational system and its role in enriching the school music curriculum.
- **Encouraging Musical Growth:** By recognizing exceptional educators, the award aims to encourage music educators to incorporate barbershop music into their teaching, thereby expanding the reach and appreciation of this unique musical style.



2023 Award Recipient: Penny Yanke

- **Dedicated Educator:** Penny Yanke, a music teacher at Burlington High School, has been recognized for her remarkable dedication to barbershop harmony and her ability to inspire her students.
- **Choral Leadership:** Under her guidance, her chorus "[Here Comes Treble](#)" has delivered captivating performances, showcasing their skills and the emotional depth of barbershop music. She plans on bringing a Mixed and a Treble Chorus to Midwinter next week!
- **Quartet Success:** Penny's quartet, "[YTBN](#)," has achieved notable success, winning the Junior Varsity contest at the Midwinter Convention, an accomplishment highlighting her exceptional mentorship.
- **Award Presentation:** In a heartwarming ceremony, Penny was honored with the Golden Chord Award, receiving a plaque and a monetary prize, which was presented during a spring music concert, further celebrating her contributions in front of her peers and students.

“Classical Choirs” and Barbershop (A Comparison)

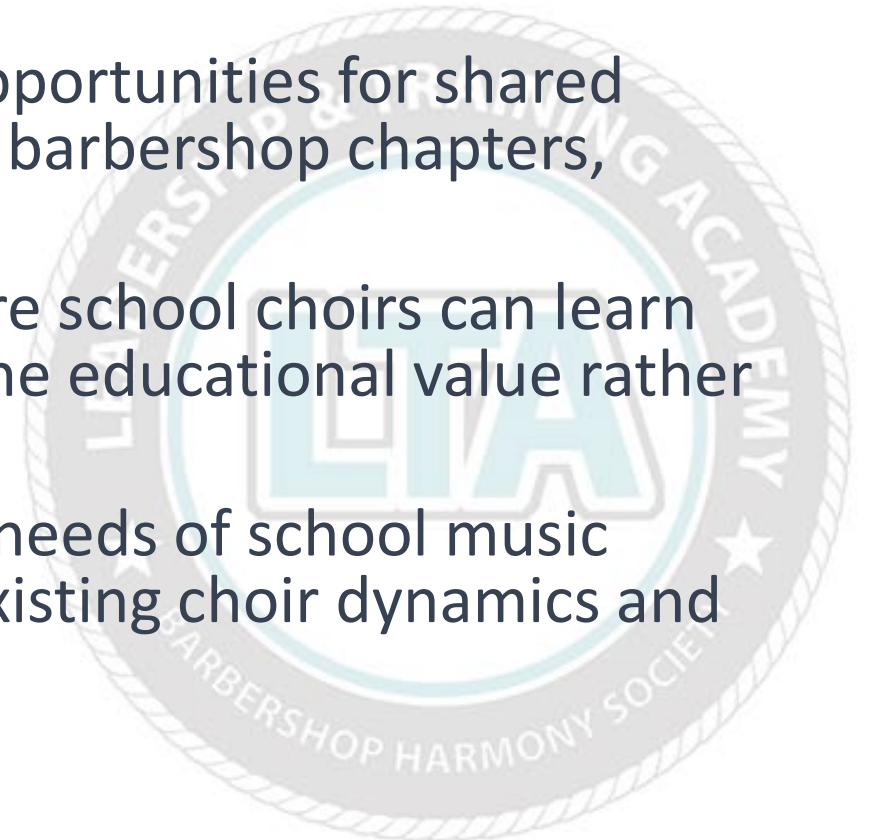
Song	Barbershop Arrangers	Choral
1. Seize the Day (from Newsies)	Rowdy Rhythm (Midwinter Convention 2020) https://youtu.be/sNyyOs37DW8?si=HlehfoMirbmltsbj	Lake Park Choir (2017) https://youtu.be/W4h7Nj73bV8?si=AAAF0tnqzSr_PANw
2. The Greatest Show/Come Alive (from the Greatest Showman)	Hurricane of Harmony (Midwinter Convention 2019) https://youtu.be/IV0T_NdzM-o?si=Dq0cipTEeOU2EeIV	Lake High School Choir (2018) https://youtu.be/pWmsN1ecp8A?si=cOc1PAu0aquF7nOf
3. Can't Buy Me Love Beatles Cover	Chandler High School Treblemakers (Midwinter Convention 2020) https://youtu.be/702ThkIt9K4?si=cajCeeSDM8xFb0Vi	Palo Verde High School Choir https://youtu.be/_j9mHoMnXSk?si=3qbUGX-iNF-AIxcA
4. I'm Sitting On Top of The World	Chandler High School Men's Choir (Midwinter Convention 2020) https://youtu.be/hhAd4BFMsZE?si=cHPROaLcJC-ef7hC	Sauk Rapids- Rice High School Choir https://youtu.be/yyOkY8bx7tA?si=J40Chzmb6-tLbM5t
5. You're 16, You're Beautiful & You're Mine	Grandview High School Superwomen Chorus (Midwinter Convention 2018) https://youtu.be/bKvjvE_-Dmo?si=CGt7iilFCeSXIag1	South Portland High AND Middle School Chorus High School Chamber Singers (2015) https://youtu.be/PxLtSlcHQQU?si=LRD-nKOegZniRfg



What should/shouldn't Chapters Do??

Engagement vs. Recruitment:

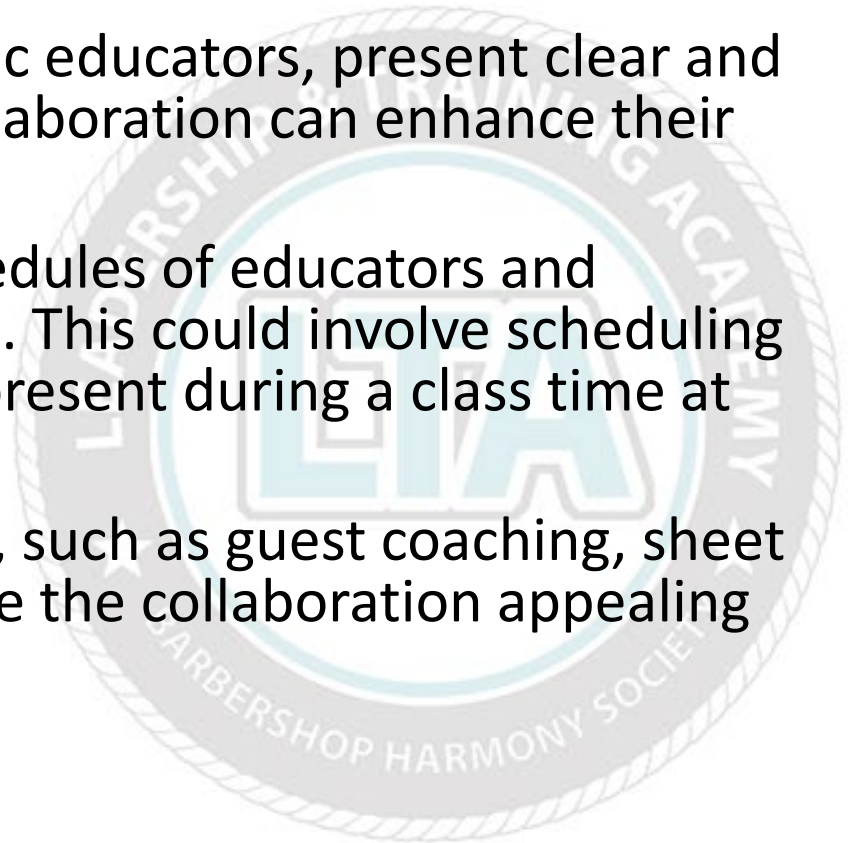
- **Collaborative Performances:** Focus on creating opportunities for shared performances that benefit both school choirs and barbershop chapters, fostering a sense of partnership.
- **Mutual Educational Events:** Organize events where school choirs can learn from experienced barbershoppers, emphasizing the educational value rather than solely recruitment.
- **Respect Boundaries:** Be mindful of the goals and needs of school music programs. Support their efforts and respect the existing choir dynamics and commitments of student singers.



What should/shouldn't Chapters Do??

Approaching Music Educators:

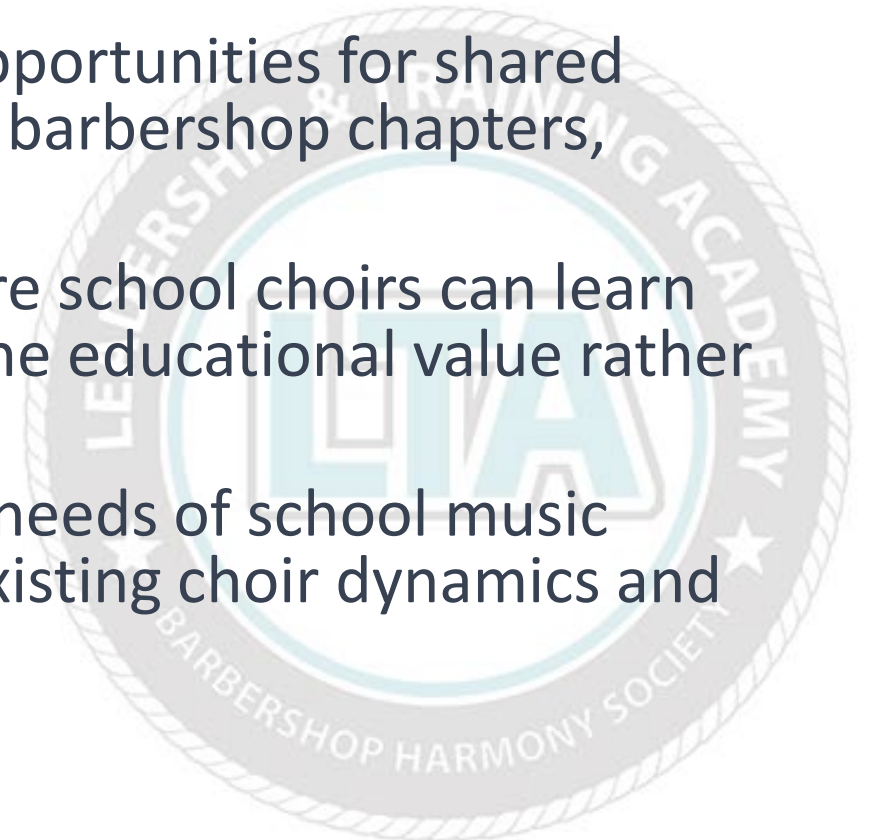
- **Constructive Engagement:** When reaching out to music educators, present clear and mutually beneficial proposals that outline how the collaboration can enhance their choir's experience and education.
- **Respectful Communication:** Understand the busy schedules of educators and approach them in a way that is respectful of their time. This could involve scheduling meetings during their planning periods or offering to present during a class time at their convenience.
- **Offer Resources:** Bring valuable resources to the table, such as guest coaching, sheet music, or access to barbershop learning tracks, to make the collaboration appealing and beneficial.



What should/shouldn't Chapters Do??

Engagement vs. Recruitment:

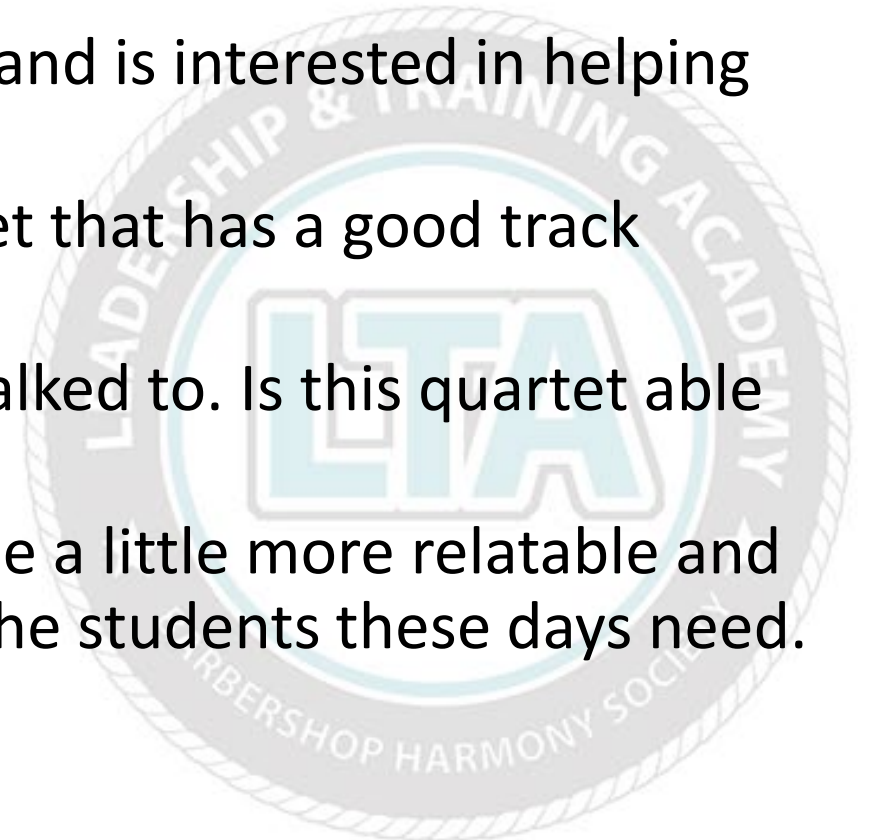
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What should/shouldn't Chapters Do??

Teaching Tags in Schools with a LEER Quartet

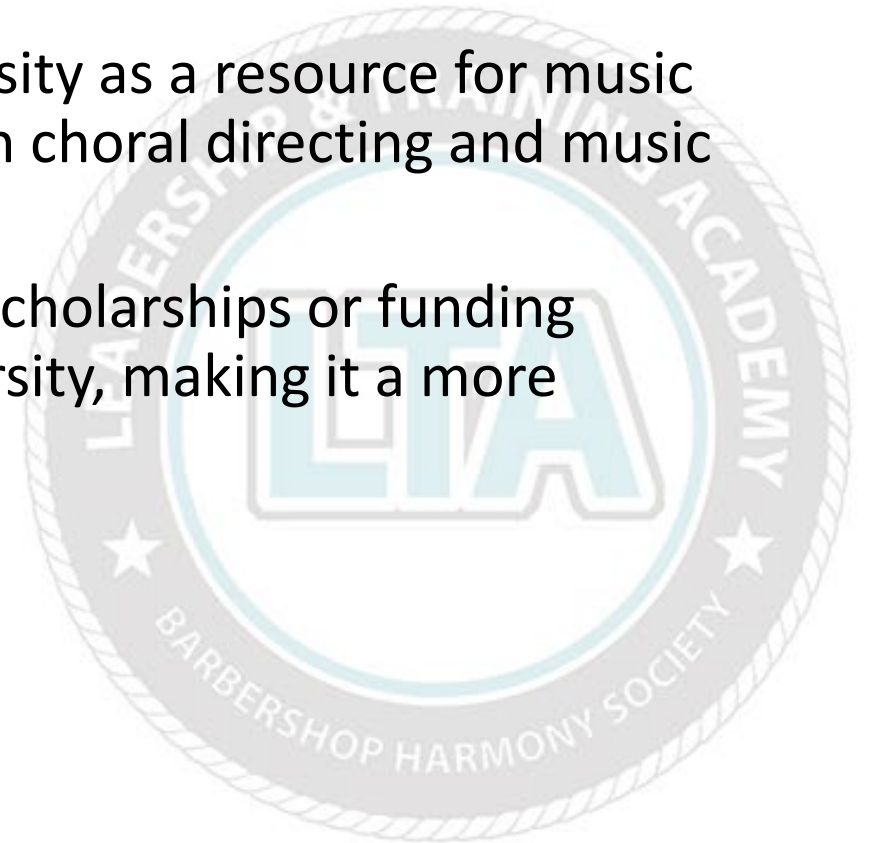
- L - Local - The quartet should try to be nearby and is interested in helping out youth endeavors.
- E- Established - The quartet should be a quartet that has a good track record (District Champs? International?)
- E - Engaging - No student wants to be simply talked to. Is this quartet able to engage the students?
- R – Relatable- The quartet should attempt to be a little more relatable and have somewhat of an understanding of what the students these days need.



What should/shouldn't Chapters Do??

Harmony University Promotion:

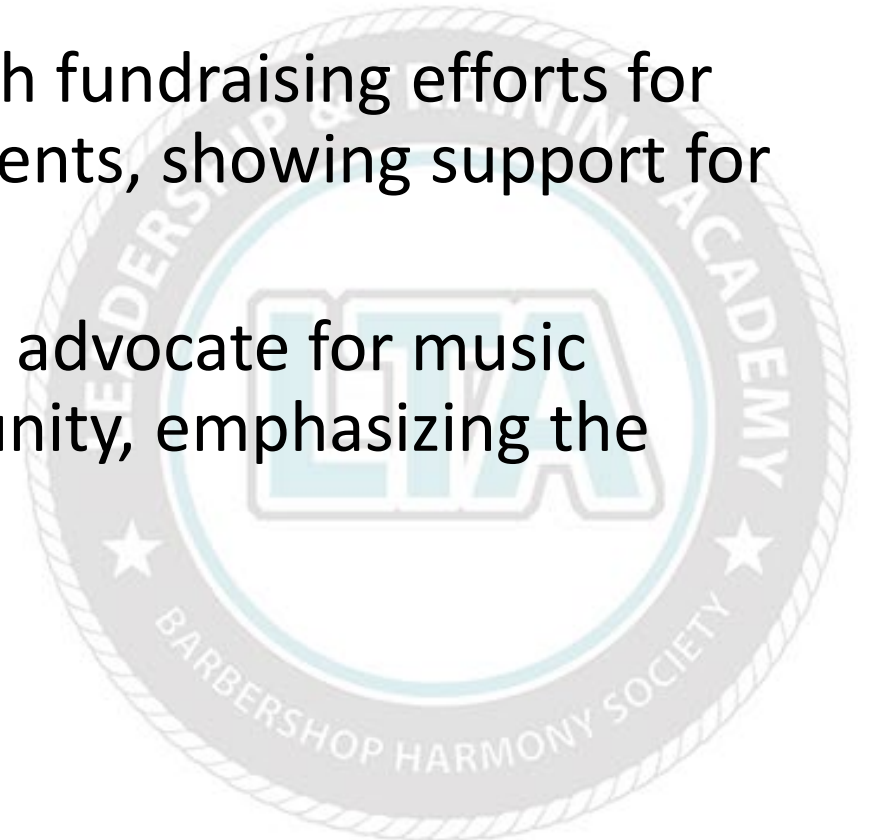
- **Professional Development:** Promote Harmony University as a resource for music educators to further their professional development in choral directing and music education with a focus on barbershop harmony.
- **Scholarships and Incentives:** Provide information on scholarships or funding opportunities for educators to attend Harmony University, making it a more accessible option for professional growth.



What should/shouldn't Chapters Do??

Support for Music Education:

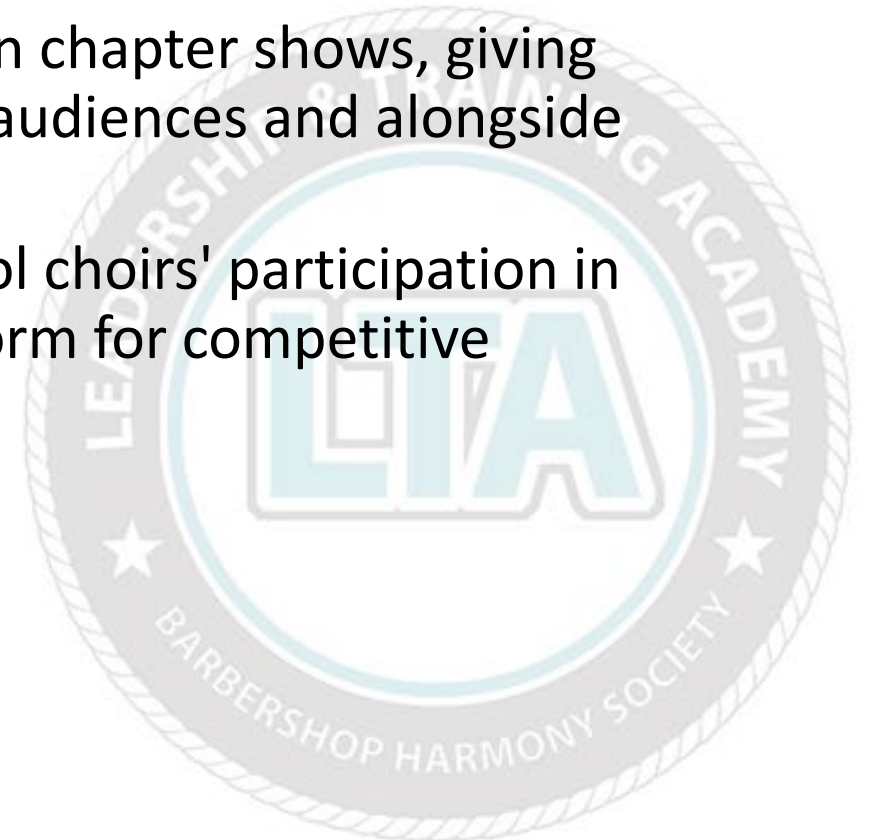
- **Fundraising Assistance:** Help school choirs with fundraising efforts for their programs or for attending barbershop events, showing support for their overall musical journey.
- **Music Advocacy:** Work alongside educators to advocate for music education within the school and wider community, emphasizing the importance of arts in education.



What should/shouldn't Chapters Do??

- **Providing Performance Opportunities:**

- **Joint Concerts:** Invite school choirs to participate in chapter shows, giving students the opportunity to perform for different audiences and alongside experienced barbershoppers.
- **Contest Participation:** Facilitate and support school choirs' participation in barbershop contests or festivals, providing a platform for competitive performance and feedback.



Thank You!

