



Ambassadors of Harmony

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2021



THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY

The Ambassadors of Harmony® (AOH) is the Saint Louis area's premier men's a cappella chorus of more than 100 voices known for powerful and musically masterful performances. Its repertoire includes Broadway classics, barbershop, jazz, pop, and a wide selection of holiday favorites.

AOH earned its fourth gold medal at the Barbershop Harmony Society's July 2016 international contest in Nashville. AOH has sung for audiences across the United States and has also performed in England, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Sweden.

The chorus represents the Saint Charles, MO, chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It was founded in 1963 in Saint Charles as the Daniel Boone Chorus.

As the chorus improved and began winning competitions, it rebranded itself in 1991 as the Ambassadors of Harmony.

Since then, the chorus has won dozens of competitions hosted by the Barbershop Harmony Society. Today, AOH puts on numerous shows including a popular holiday concert that fills the Touhill Performing Arts Center in Saint Louis each year.

The Ambassadors of Harmony chorus seeks to change the lives of audiences worldwide through artistic and emotionally-driven a cappella performances. AOH also strives for musical excellence and to promote the barbershop style.

As is true for all Arts organizations, 2021 provided several unique challenges. However, not to be beaten by world events, The Ambassadors of Harmony persevered. The pandemic proved to be a mighty foe, but thanks to technology, ingenuity and a lot of hard work, our organization found ways to reunite, rehearse and, eventually, deliver our first live performances in nearly two years.

While quarantined, we were able to use technology to conduct online rehearsals, providing our artists opportunities to sing, learn and just escape. As the weather improved, we brought teams together to rehearse in cars, outdoors and eventually as a chorus.

The pandemic receded a bit in late summer and we moved our rehearsals indoors, following all the appropriate guidelines for safety and we found a way to plan and deliver our holiday shows. While attendance was low, the shows were a hit and the morale of our organization was lifted.

The past couple of years have been financially difficult for all arts organizations, and The Ambassadors of Harmony is no exception. We've had to make difficult decisions along the way, but we remain cautiously optimistic in our goals for 2022.

Thank you for your interest in The Ambassadors of Harmony. Your support and encouragement is always most welcome.



TIM MYERS
PRESIDENT

**MESSAGE FROM
AOH PRESIDENT**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS



DR. JIM HENRY
CO-DIRECTOR



JONNY MORONI
CO-DIRECTOR



DAVID WRIGHT
ASSOC. DIRECTOR

We are pleased that the Ambassadors of Harmony weathered the second consecutive year marred by the Covid pandemic. In a time when many choral groups, barbershop and other, simply closed up shop, our desire to maintain our community and to keep singing even under less-than-optimal circumstances propelled us forward. The desire of our members to sing was reflected in the various ways we found to hear our voices. After the previous year of mostly Zoom meetings, where singing as an ensemble is impossible, we used Jamulus, a program that allows us to hear each other. Our tech gurus then found a way to use this concurrently with Zoom (we dubbed it Zamulus) enabling us to see each other while singing together, hindered somewhat by Zoom's latency.

As spring approached we commenced with drive-in rehearsals, whereby each member sat in his car with a microphone and the ensemble sound was transmitted via radio signal. This required quite a bit of equipment and time for setting up and disassembling. As weather permitted we began rehearsing outside, masked, then moved inside with the requirement that singers be vaccinated. As the pandemic subsided in the summer we took off the masks, but when it came roaring back with the delta variant we put them back on. We were the invited guests on the virtual show of the Coronet Club, the Sweet Adelines association of quartet Queens of Harmony. For this we edited together a number of epic past gold and silver medal performances.

To add a current touch to this we learned "The Impossible Dream" and video recorded the chorus singing it live at the Lee Theater in the Touhill Performing Arts Center, and this recording was included in the Coronet Club performance. We also learned our parts to an eight-part piece called "Happy Medley", arranged by former AOHer Adam Bock, which was assembled as a virtual choir with the Queens. On top of that a small group of Ambassadors consisting of music team members and a few others and a small group of Queens learned and recorded "I've Never Been In Love Before", from Guys and Dolls, and this too became a virtual choir performance for the show.

The crowning achievement for 2021 was the revival of our holiday show, Sounds of the Season, which had been cancelled in 2020 (for the first time since the 1980s). With some trepidation about putting on a show in Covid times,

we decided to go forward, with protocols for both singers and audience. With a magnificent script by Adam Jurotich and a plethora of music to learn or relearn, we pulled off a successful event, singing five performances and selling some 4000 tickets. Amazingly, during the pandemic, ten new singers auditioned and joined the Ambassadors, all of whom learned the mountain of music performed on the holiday show. We welcome and applaud these new members.

We are happy to report that our youth mixed-gender chorus, The Recruits, directed by Eric Dalbey, also survived the pandemic, and will be competing in the International Chorus Contest in Charlotte, NC, this summer, as will the Ambassadors. We also look forward to our summer youth camp, Acappellooza, which will resume in June after two years of cancellation. We are truly excited about the coming year.



The Ambassadors of Harmony FOUNDATION ANNUAL GALA



2020 — The Coronado

The 2020 AOH Foundation Gala was the last live event before the lockdown, taking place in early March. It was an elegant evening featuring Vocal Spectrum, The Recruits Chorus, and the AOH Chorus, in addition to AOH.



2021 — The Palladium (Virtual)

In 2021, the Foundation Gala was fully virtual, leveraging our Ambassadors doing what we do best--performing live music. This year was paired with a live element with Jonny and Jimmy emceed, David Wright, Alan Freed and Tim Myers. The response was incredible, 2,000 people tuned in and we had more donors than ever.



2022 — The Palladium (Hybrid)

For 2022, we are having both an in-person event with live entertainment, but also a virtual element where people can watch from across the globe to further the mission of the Foundation. We will live out their best life with the inclusion of vocal music.





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the Acappelloza Summer Chorus

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Acappelloza

Acappelloza Summer is an overnight music summer camp held at the University of Missouri-St Louis (UMSL) for grades 9-12. During the four-day camp, students are immersed in singing led by some of the world's most prominent names in a cappella music, including two-time gold medalist Dr. Jim Henry and Debbie Cleveland.



Acappelloza

Acappelloza Fall is a two-day field trip for high schoolers from all over Missouri and the Metro-East. Dr. Jim Henry and the Ambassadors of Harmony have been putting this together for 16 years, in partnership with UMSL and University Singers.



AcaFEST

In 2016, AOH launched AcaFest, a festival of high-school and college singers that gave local St. Louis groups opportunities to network and showcase their talents for an engaged audience.

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Project Harmony

For several years, AOH has been working with students in various St. Louis area schools to share our love of a cappella singing (primarily in the barbershop style) with students and teachers. Project Harmony takes contemporary a cappella music back to its roots by intergrating tight harmonies and barbershop singing techniques into a year-long program in local schools.

SCHOLARSHIP

Since 1997, the Ambassadors of Harmony have provided an annual college scholarship to local high school seniors. The \$1,000 scholarship is designed to encourage singers to continue pursuing vocal music education and is presented at AOH's annual concert in June.

The RECRUITS Chorus

The Recruits chorus was formed in 2012 by AOH co-director Jonny Moroni to inspire, educate and provide choral opportunities for youth. Members benefit from performing before large audiences and receiving top-notch vocal instruction. In 2018, it welcomed new director, Eric Dalbey. In early 2019, the chorus became the first official BHS mixed chorus.



Honor Roll *of Donors*

CORPORATE

(\$5,000-\$9,999)

James and Carol Henry

PLATINUM (\$2,000-\$4,999)

AJ Theiler

GOLD (\$1,000-\$1,999)

Terry Carlisle

Philip Carter

Diane Harrell

Phyllis Parsons

Dr. Martin Wice

Jeanne Wikete

SILVER (\$500-\$999)

Vincent & Jennifer Baker

Rudy & Sandy Beck

Lynn Bultman

Karen Burton

Rick Kern

Nicholas Mass

Tim Myers

Roger & Deb Schneider

Kay Tucker

Barbara Tuckett

David & Sandra Wright

John Zerr

BRONZE (\$250-\$499)

Susan Bachmann

Eva & Bryan Black

Stephan & Tracy Brokaw

Laura Chamberlain

Jim Inghram

Andy Isbell

Charles & Catherine Lammert

Rich Meyers

Alfred Moroni

Ravi Raghuram

Herb Westhoff

PARTNER (\$100-\$249)

Sonja Acosta

Shayne Barr

Howard Berner

Tim Boeddeker

Joseph Brown

Dustin Burton

David & Annie Cade

Willard Chamberlin

Tom Connelly

Karen Czernel

Mark Friz

Susan Gallagher

Karla Gerke

Bill Gilbert

Rafi Hasib

Michael Hazlett

John Heibel

Carol Hillmann

David C. Johnson

Norman Josephson

Betty Kagan

Mark Keever

Ann Keller

Donna Kleinschmidt

Roy Kramer

Peggy Leon

Christine Lewis

Kay Love

Kathy Lucken

Justin Marty

Michael McKenna

Linda Noble

Eileen Pacino

Jim Prince

David Revelle

Barbara Rolison

Deann Rubin

Michael Rubin

Dennis & Helene Sparger

David Stookesberry

Nancy Sullivan

Ramona Taylor

Jefferson Veteto

Herb & Mary Beth Westhoff

Larry & Judy White

Jay Williams

PATRON (up to \$99)

Geraldine Alexander

Stephen Baker

Tom Bates

Francis Beecher

Renee Beers

Bryan Black

Ross Bricklemeyer

Christina Calandro

Megan Callier

Mary Cantrell

David Carlisle

Katie Coyle

Joel Currier

Eric Dalbey

Lee Daum

Judy Dawson

Stephen Day

Eric Drennen

Because of supporters like you the Ambassadors of Harmony continue to be of the highest quality and most entertaining choral organization in the Saint Louis metropolitan area and Barbershop Harmony Society.

Carla Dubbelde
Twillia Duvall
Thomas Elliott
Margaret Elliott
Bonnie Fisk
Barbara Fuhrmann
Dennis Gallagher
Mollie Garrett
Matthew Goodspeed
Marion Graff
Sandra Graves
Donn Gunter
James Haessig
Bart Halberstadt
Glenda Hares
Rachel Hearn
John Herndon
Martha Hitchcock
Kathleen Horton
Amy Humbert
Sherree Hutcherson
Will Jarrett
Tracy Jarrett

Donna Johnson
Wayne Johnson
Thomas Jones
Peter Jordan
Kelly Jurotich
Kevin Kieffer
Charlie Kinnison
Ira Kroll
Gene & Norma Kuhlmann
Pat Lary
Karen LeBeau
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James Mathis
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Nathan McKie
Arlene Miller
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J. Timothy Myers

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Bill Rinkenbaugh
Harold Sanger
Jeff Seeley
Nancy Senter
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Thomas Smith
Pete Stephens-Brown
Jeff Stone
Laurel Strielkauskas
Michael & Heather Testa
Susan Thompson
Marilyn Turner
Judith M. Unger
Niki Wakefield
Thomas & Ruby Wegener
Robert White
Leah Williams

The logo for ITC (International Technology Conference) features the lowercase letters 'itc' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. To the right of 'itc' is the lowercase letter 'xp' in a smaller, orange, sans-serif font. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

WE CREATE EXPERIENCES
THAT FEEL LIKE DISCOVERIES

itc.xp.com

The Ambassadors of Harmony would like to extend a special recognition to ITC and CTI. Thank you for your great generosity.

Your support helps to further our mission to provide professional quality performances that change the lives of the people in our audience. ITC and CTI truly makes the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!

The logo for CTI (Conference Technology International) features the letters 'CTI' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The 'C' and 'T' are connected. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

CREATING A VISION FOR
TECHNOLOGY

conferencetech.com

The CORONET CLUB

The Ambassadors were invited to join the Coronet Club performance for a second consecutive appearance, as the Sweet Adelines convention was meant to be in St. Louis, MO again this year. We had a blast in 2018 when we were able to perform live on this show at America's Center. The virtual show this year was so popular they held delayed viewing events and had a total viewership of over 20,000. One of the highlights for us was the opportunity to do a virtual mixed choir with women's champions across the years.





ALAN FREED
PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE AOH FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

The past couple of years have been quiet for the Foundation just as they have been for the rest of society as we wait for the pandemic to retreat. The good news is that we have taken advantage of the pause in normal activities to accomplish some back-of-house objectives.

After careful review, we realized that the Foundation's by-laws needed to be updated. With the generous pro bono review provided by a colleague of our Foundation President, the by-laws were updated to eliminate some ambiguities and correct some inconsistencies. The revised by-laws were adopted by the Board earlier this year.

With Dr. Henry moving to an ex officio, non-voting status on the Board, we were in the market for additional leadership on the Board. In February, Ray Palmer joined us. Ray is experienced with non-profit management with expertise in the area of Financial Investments. While the search for experienced, talented, dedicated Board candidates never stops, we are in a good place at this point. The clock (or more accurately, the calendar) for the Directors' terms is now reset.

Any new opportunities for the Ambassadors of Harmony Foundation to help the chorus be successful are always welcomed. We have a couple of irons in the fire in that regard, and we look forward to telling you all about them when they are fully fleshed out.

CHARLOTTE BARBERSHOP REUNION 2022

BHS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

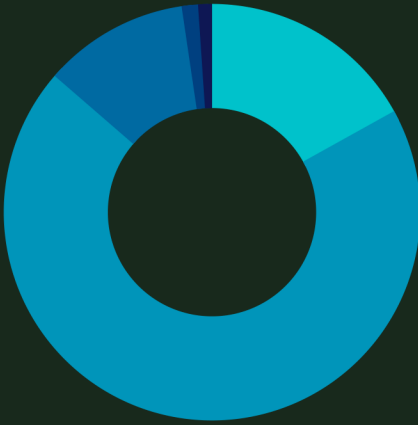


On February 7, 2022, the Barbershop Harmony Society Board of Directors voted unanimously in a historic decision to open its annual international contest to all quartets and choruses, without gender distinctions. The vote followed more than eight months of engagement with members and barbershop leaders.

AOH and the Recruits are performing in the chorus competition at the 2022 BHS International Convention in Charlotte, NC. The chorus competition will take place on Friday, July 8th and Saturday, July 9th. The Recruits will compete on Friday. AOH will compete on Saturday morning. There will be 44 choruses competing.

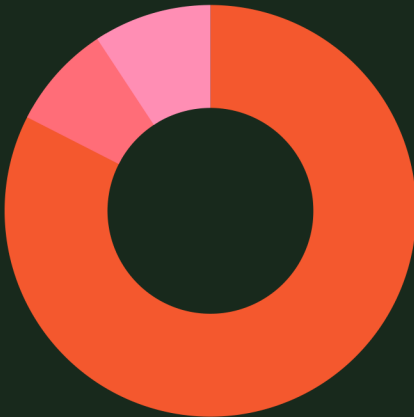


FINANCIALS



Revenue

Ticket Sales & Performance Fees	\$137,729.00
Contributions, Gifts, Grants	\$33,587.00
Investments	\$22,419.00
Recording Sales	\$2,508.00
Other Income	\$2,123.00



Expenses

Music & Performance - Travel, Venues, School Programs, Costuming	\$100,722.00
Admin-Insurance, Office, Advertising	\$12,438.00
Other Expenses	\$11,032.00

Information from 2020 AOH form 990 tax return



Lives Impacted

AOH Gala	2,173
The Coronet Club	20,000+
AOH Christmas Show	3,657

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: J. Timothy Myers

Executive VP: Rich Meyers

Immediate Past President: Michael Rubin

Secretary: Denny Gallagher

Treasurer: Ross Bricklemyer

VP Chapter Development: Nate McKie

VP Music & Performance: Matt Suellentrop

VP Communications, Marketing & PR: Dave Revelle

Member at Large (2022-2023): Ryan Smith

Member at Large (2022-2023): Denny Wofford

Member at Large (2022): Drew McKeown

Member at Large (2022): Stan Johnson

MUSIC DIRECTORS

Co-Director: Dr. Jim Henry

Co-Director: Jonny Moroni

Associate Director: David Wright



Images courtesy of Allison Conn, Dave Revelle, Mike Schoen, Tom Connelly, Michael Martinez, Paul Schulte, The Coronet Club, Read Photography

Report Design & Layout: Michael Martinez & David Revelle