

PROGRESSIVE INSPIRATIONAL WORLD CLASS BREATH TAKING  
SYNERGY ONE VOICE FOCUSED  
WHOLE HEARTED MUSICALITY  
AWESOME MAGNIFICENT TIMELESS  
HARMONY RELIABLE JOYFUL  
HARMONY PASSIONATE  
TALENTED GIVING ARTISTIC  
MAGIC ENCOURAGING  
STRONG GRATIFYING HILARIOUS SERIOUSLY FUN!  
MOTIVATING  
HARMONY COMMITTED  
CARING ACCEPTANCE BLESSED  
MAJESTIC INSPIRING  
RESILIENT  
HOPE COMMUNITY PERFECT ENJOYABLE  
COMMITTED DEDICATED REWARDING  
CREATIVE UNITY SUPPORTIVE  
FULFILLING  
LIFE CHANGING

2017  
A&H  
ANNUAL REPORT

**"Our mission is to educate our membership in order to continually improve in vocal quality, performance and personal fulfillment in a cappella singing. When we perform, our goal is to give a gift that will change the lives of the people in our audience."**

The Ambassadors of Harmony (AOH) is one of the premier men's a cappella choruses in the world. Known for powerful and musically masterful performances, AOH offers diverse repertoire drawing from barbershop, jazz, pop, Broadway, folk, classical, and holiday favorites. Founded in 1963 by 26 members who called themselves the Daniel Boone Chorus, AOH has grown to more than 100 singers, has produced eight recordings, won numerous awards, and has entertained audiences across the United States and in Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the Netherlands. Every man in AOH seeks to change the lives of the people for whom they sing through artistic and emotionally-driven performances.



## ABOUT THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY



The chapter was founded in 1963, when a call went forth with the colorful introductory statement: "Calling all bathtub baritones." The first meeting of the new Daniel Boone Chorus occurred January 22, 1963. The chorus began competing in the annual Central States District Chorus Contest, typically finishing toward the bottom, placing tenth in 1972, eleventh in 1973, ninth in 1975, and eleventh again in 1978 and 1979. The eleventh-place finish in 1979 was last place. In 1981 a mathematics professor from Washington University in St. Louis joined the chorus, became its director, and promptly began making changes. Jim Henry described what happened as a result: "Then something incredible happened that changed everything. It stirred us like a tornado. Its name was David Wright." David came to us with a vision that the Daniel Boone Chorus could actually become a great singing ensemble, and



began to raise the level of expectations. Within two years the chorus had grown to 70 members. The change showed measurable results in 1982, with a second-place finish in the district contest. In 1989, the Daniel Boone Chorus made its International Barbershop Chorus Competition debut in Kansas City, Missouri, with 77 men



on the risers and finished in sixth place. Wright handed the directorship to Jim Henry in 1990. The chorus rebranded itself the Ambassadors of Harmony in 1991 and continued its march to excellence, placing fourth in 1994. The chorus won its first gold medal in 2004 then again in 2009 and 2012. In 2013 the chorus welcomed Jonny Moroni as co-director. Combined with a great leadership and dedication to excellence, the Ambassadors of Harmony brought home a fourth gold medal in 2016.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



2017 marked a year of firsts for the Ambassadors of Harmony. We held our very first gala to raise funds for the Ambassadors of Harmony Foundation in support of our youth outreach programs and the overall chorus. We also held our first gospel concert, 'Then Sings My Soul', in Ferguson, Missouri. This effort to unite our community through music has been a vision for our chorus for years and we were finally able to successfully execute on that vision, bringing together two outstanding choruses from the St. Louis community, In Unison and the Ambassadors of Harmony, as well as a legendary quartet, Fairfield Four. Finally, we hosted our first district convention for the Barbershop Harmony Society's Central States District at the St. Charles Convention Center. Looking forward to 2018, our vision builds on the firsts from 2017, including our now annual gala fundraiser, a concert with the fabulous Sweet Honey in the Rock gospel group, our first ever concert as part of the St. Louis Cathedral Series, a headlining show in Branson and a return of the district convention to St. Charles. The Ambassadors of Harmony continue to provide entertaining, meaningful and truly moving performances to our audiences across the globe, never missing the opportunity to share the experience with our fabulous audiences right here in the St. Louis area, including shows in June and December. We are constantly reminded of the power of music for our audiences and how that truly changes the lives of everyone associated with our organization. Thank you for another unforgettable year and we hope you continue on this journey with us in 2018.

Tim Myers  
President  
The Ambassadors of Harmony

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Having just finished the year out with our Christmas shows, I am invigorated. A show like the one we stage takes so many talented and selfless people that it boggles the mind. Even more astounding is the fact that nearly every one of those skilled and dedicated people come right out of our own Ambassadors family. Arrangers, script writers, costumers, set and prop builders, actors, soloists, stage managers, graphic designers, administrators, and on and on--all found within our organization. May we never cease to appreciate the abundance of riches with which we have been gifted. I started directing the Ambassadors over 25 years ago, and I shudder at some of the headstrong mistakes I've made over the years. But the chorus has always been quick to forgive and anxious to move on. That's what makes us so special. The heart of the individual members of our chorus is equal to the heart that we collectively bring to our music. It's not the chords, the vowels, the costumes, the script, the lighting, etc. that ultimately attracts 8,000 people to our show. It is the love that goes into those things that is so palpable to the audience as to compel them to want to experience that feeling year after year. And to invite their friends. As Mother Teresa is known for saying, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love."

To Jimmy's point, I can't remember a time feeling so excited about our future. Over the last 2-3 years, we've put a tremendous amount of focus on youth outreach and I've been so pleased with the success we've achieved from Acappellooza, AcaFest, Project Harmony, The Recruits Chorus etc... In closing, I am so proud of our organization and what it has become. If you really just sit back and think about what we do, it's pretty amazing. I can't wait to see what 2018 holds for this chorus!

Dr. Jim Henry & Jonny Moroni  
Co-Directors



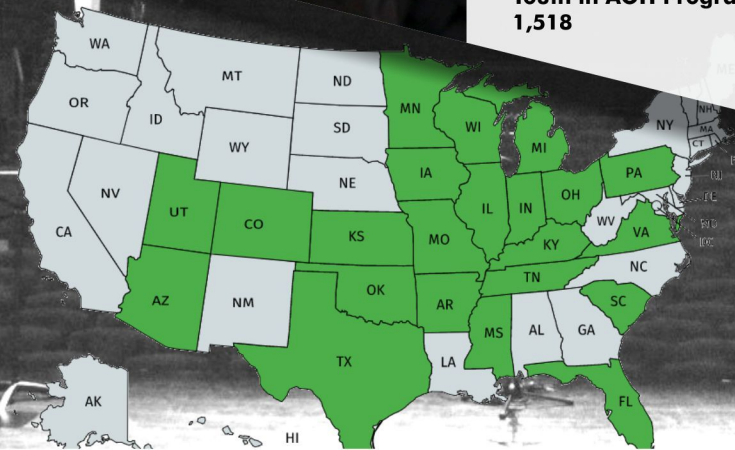


## Performances

AOH Foundation Gala :  
182  
Then Sings My Soul Gospel Concert :  
1,137  
June Show :  
2,047  
BHS International :  
5,079  
Acappellooza Summer :  
1,529  
St. Louis Harmony Festival :  
361  
Acappellooza Fall :  
554  
Central States District Convention :  
1,138  
AcaFest :  
332  
Sounds of the Season :  
7,155  
**Attendance Total :  
19,514**

## Youth Impact

Acappellooza Summer :  
170  
Acappellooza Fall :  
1,129  
AcaFest :  
126  
Recruits Chorus :  
48  
Project Harmony :  
44  
Scholarship :  
1  
**Youth in AOH Programs :  
1,518**



They came from  
far and wide to  
share in our love  
of harmony



"Music has enough of an impact to change lives in and of itself, we all know that. But when the Ambassadors of Harmony, IN UNISON, the Grammy Award-winning Fairfield Four and the 2009 BHS quartet champ Crossroads all perform at the same event—with that event being hosted by Owens—it's safe to say that impact can be accelerated."  
- Jeremy Gover, Harmonizer Magazine





## Acappellooza

Acappellooza Summer is an overnight a cappella music summer camp held at the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL) for students in grades 9-12. For four days students are immersed in singing led by some of the world's most prominent names in a cappella music, including four-time international champion chorus the Ambassadors of Harmony, and two-time gold medalists Dr. Jim Henry and Debbie Cleveland. In 2017, 170 coed students attended the 4th annual camp.



## Acappellooza

Acappellooza 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, and it is hosted at the University of Missouri St. Louis, with help from the University Singers. This year, more than 1,100 students participated.



## ACA FEST

In 2016, AOH launched AcaFest, a fall festival of high-school and college singers that gave local St. Louis groups opportunities to network and showcase their talents for an engaged audience. The event, which drew more than 150 singers, was streamed live on Facebook.

## 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 integrating 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

The Recruits chorus was formed in 2012 by AOH co-director Jonny Moroni to inspire, educate and provide choral opportunities for young men. Members benefit from performing before large audiences and receiving top-notch vocal instruction. In 2016, the chorus welcomed female members to its ranks. In 2017 it welcomed new director, Jason Martin.



# IT'S PRONOUNCED "GALA"



As the first fund-raising event in our chorus' history, we really didn't know what to expect. After adopting a vision from the Barbershop Harmony Society and our own leaders to become more of a community arts minded organization, our goals were clear: First, fill the room with patrons, community leaders, music-lovers, and people who've never even heard of us! Second, provide an evening filled with music featuring youth groups, the Ambassadors, Vocal Spectrum, The Recruits Chorus, and a moving video presentation in hopes of delivering our message. Third, to raise money for our worthy cause. As Dr. Jim Henry stated so eloquently, "With all the strife and discourse in our world, the mission of providing music education to our youth and communities has never been as important as it is right now."

Through the compassion and generosity of all who attended, we were able to do just that. Eighty-five scholarships were awarded to students for Acappellooza Summer camp totaling \$28,000 dollars. All other proceeds will ensure the further music education of youth in AOH programs for years to come. Thank you.

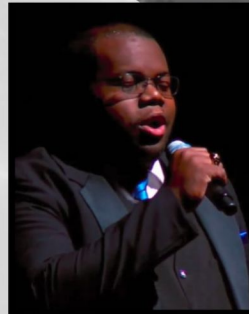


# VIVA LAS VEGAS!

# BE OUR GUEST



The Ambassadors arrived at the 2017 Barbershop Harmony Convention as reigning chorus champions, the fourth time our name was etched into the O.C. Cash trophy, which we brought to pass on to the next winners. We were slated to sing on the Saturday Night Spectacular, the biggest show of the week where all of the champions collaborated to put on a special show. At one point there were 300 men (and four women) on stage singing the David Wright arrangement of Ode to Joy in a massive combined chorus of AOH and the Vocal Majority from Dallas, Texas. As a matter of fact, Saturday in Vegas was a hugely busy day for AOH-- we had four separate performances between 9:30 am and midnight, ranging from an instructional master class, to the World Harmony Jamboree, the Spectacular, and then a nightcap at our joint afterglow with the VM. It was a fantastic week of music and friendship.



The Ambassador were thrilled to host eleven choruses and twenty-eight quartets for a convention and contest in St. Charles in October of 2017. 1,100 attendees made the event a great success, they loved St. Charles and had a lot of positive feedback. In 2018 the Ambassadors are again hosting and hope to make it an even bigger talent showcase. Missouri happens to be home to two of the top choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society, AOH and Central Standard, and they will be facing off in this contest. It will be a real treat for both our local audience and all the people traveling to St. Charles.

# HELPING MAKE IT POSSIBLE



**PLATINUM (\$2,000-\$4,999)**  
Sally Faith  
James D. & Carol Henry  
Allen Theiler  
Gale Wickham

**GOLD (\$1,000-\$1,999)**  
Willard Chamberlin  
Larry & Sue Hanebrink  
Catherine Jordan  
Linda Legg  
H. Rich & Marvis Meyers  
Phyllis Parsons  
Austin Veteto  
Dr. Martin Wice  
Scott Wilson

**SILVER (\$500-\$999)**  
Julie Bartch  
William & Evelyn Bevans  
Lynn Bultman  
Barb Carlisle  
Rose Carlisle  
John Castagno  
Robert & Emily Goerss  
Matt Hamilton  
Diane Harrell  
Roy & Carol Hillmann  
Jim & Jerilee Inghram  
John & Donna Kleinschmidt  
Rick Knight  
Dean & Mary Krogmeier  
Catherine Lammert  
Medtronics  
Monsanto  
J. Timothy & Janet Myers  
Ray Palmer  
Joe & Sue Rakers  
Jeff Cohen & Leah Rubin

**BRONZE (\$250-\$499)**  
Rudy Beck  
Howard & Barbara Berner  
Rosemary Boustany

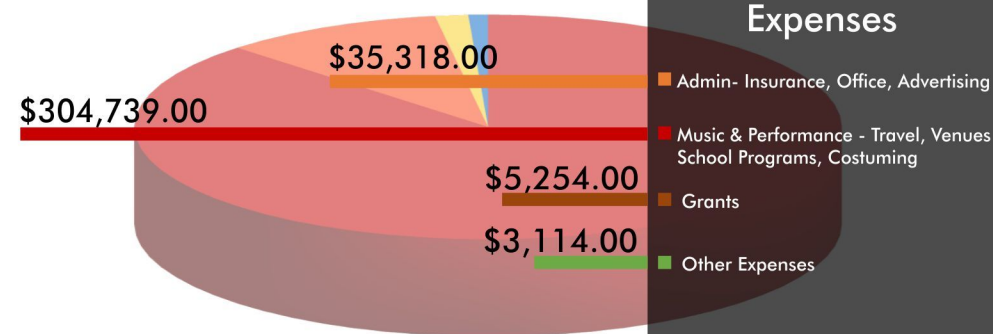
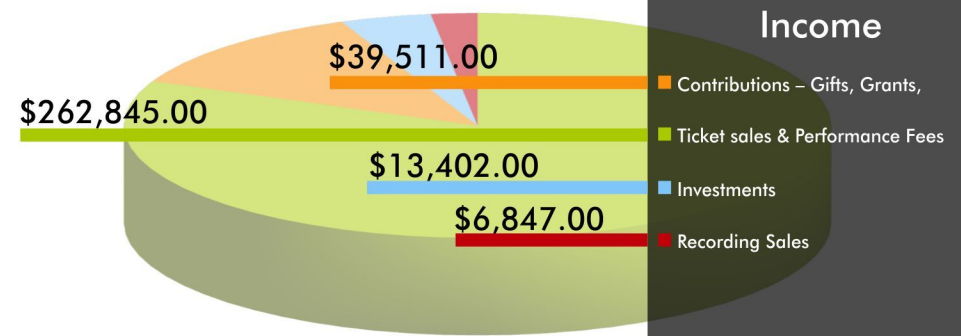
Scott Edwards  
Dave Giffin  
Ron & Betty Grooters  
Kathryn Sue Hood  
Harriet Kettenhoffen  
Steve Layer  
Ray LeBlanc  
Peggy Leon  
Vince Lopiccolo  
Jeanne Luther  
J. Bruce & Frani Melton  
Ron Mercer  
Rita Mosley  
Donna Murphy  
Leslie Myers  
Michael & Deann Rubin  
Carey Suellentrop  
Kristin Suellentrop  
Randy Suellentrop  
Ramona Taylor  
David & Barb Warmbrodt  
Ed & Janet Watkins  
Mary West  
Herb & Mary Beth Westhoff  
David Wright  
Karen Zerr

**PARTNER (\$100-\$249)**  
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Bill Gilbert  
John Herndon  
Martha Hitchcock  
Jerry Hoover  
The Holtzschers  
Laurie Jacoby  
David Johnson  
Rik Johnson  
Paula Kraft  
Dan Layer  
Byron Lester  
Mike Maskus  
Tim Mickelson

Hallie Moon  
Taylor Moon  
Lexi Moroni  
Melody Moroni  
Eleanor Mullin  
Kenneth Murphy  
Sandy Ostermeyer  
Richard & Laura Powell  
Larry Rathsam  
Dave Revelle  
Bridget Collins Sullivan  
Andrew Wendler  
Kenneth White  
Dan Yankley

**PATRON (up to \$99)**  
Eva Black  
Carole Blaser  
Louise Blew  
Mary Bultman  
Terry Carlisle  
Laurie Connelly  
Katie Coyle  
Joel Currier  
Emerson Charitable Trust  
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Elizabeth Sharpe  
David & Kayla Stadelman  
Diane Staebel  
Judith M. Unger  
Cynthia Wagner  
Watchtower Security Inc.  
Bob and Judy Wegner

# INCOME AND EXPENSE



Information from 2016 AOH form 990 tax return





## **2018 Board of Directors:**

J. Timothy Myers - President  
Nate McKie – Executive Vice President  
Mike Rubin – Immediate Past President  
Steve Knese – V.P. of Chapter Development  
Matt Hamilton – V.P. of Music & Performance  
David Revelle – V.P. of PR & Communications  
Justin Watkins – Secretary  
Chris Pingel – Treasurer  
Stan Johnson – Member at Large  
John Hessling – Member at Large  
Dennis “Mac” McFarland – Member at Large  
J.T. Reid – Member at Large

## **Music Directors:**

Jim Henry – Co-Director  
Jonny Moroni – Co-Director  
David Wright – Associate Director



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