



2016

# ANNUAL REPORT

# ABOUT THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY



“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 several 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.

“Music has the power of producing a certain effect on the moral character of the soul, and if it has the power to do this, it is clear that the young must be directed to music and must be educated in it.”

-Aristotle

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a pleasure and a challenge to lead the Ambassadors of Harmony. The unwavering determination to share musical excellence and engage our audiences is an enormous responsibility and one that every member gladly accepts. The honor of knowing these men and their supporters is merely the beginning for what it means to be among them. This has been one of the busiest, and most successful, years in memory for the Ambassadors of Harmony. We began the year establishing a vision of excellence to expand our youth outreach and music education programs as well as build diversity within our ranks. We have very deliberately made decisions to impact the growth in each of these focus areas.

This report illustrates how that focus has driven most of our activities throughout the year. I'm sure the coming year will prove to be challenging but just as rewarding. We will refine many of the youth programs as well as build new opportunities to support music and diversity in our communities. The implementation of the Ambassadors of Harmony Foundation as the fund-raising arm of our organization with focus on our outreach programs is vital to our ongoing impact and success in bringing harmony to our world. We are one small part of this effort, but we believe music truly does bring harmony to those involved and those who hear it. Lives are changed daily through music and The Ambassadors of Harmony are proud to play a role in that change.

J. Timothy Myers



"There have been very few times where a concert has moved me in the way that I was moved at the Ambassadors of Harmony concert last night. From the beginning to end, I was enraptured. Ambassadors of Harmony and Crossroads Quartet, thank you for making my first barbershop concert an evening I will never forget"

- Brad Brauser June 19, 2016



# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

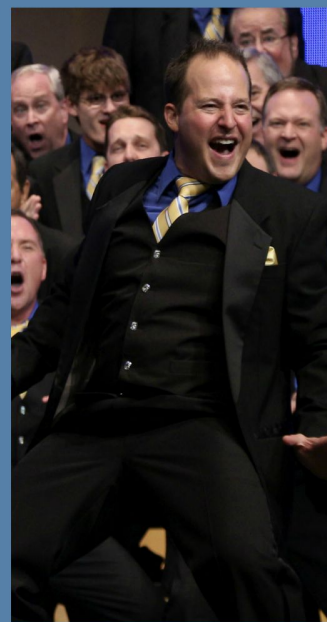
This year promises to be the most exciting yet for the Ambassadors of Harmony. Not only are we unveiling two new initiatives, our gala in February and our gospel concert "Then Sings My Soul" in March, but we are refining other events to be the best we've seen in our recent history. We've spent a lot of manpower and resources in recent years to develop music programs that inspire young singers throughout St. Louis and the world. We are proud to offer numerous educational opportunities for hundreds of music students across the St. Louis region. At a time of growing

discord in our nation, we believe choral music can bring people together and overcome age, gender, race or economic differences. We strive to engage younger generations to pursue music in their lives by enabling them to see, feel and know the unifying power of singing. Our hope is that we can build stronger communities by encouraging people to sing together in harmony for life. The stage is set. It's time to deliver!

Jonny Moroni & Jim Henry

"These guys are amazing vocalists! I was blown away by their excellent performance!"

- Justliz\_321 October 29, 2016



# REACHING OUT

## Performances

MMEA - Music Educators : 752  
Music Students : 581  
BinG! : 2,109  
SWACDA : 577  
AOH June Shows : 1,941  
Acappellooza Summer : 1,488  
BHS International: 8,007  
Acappellooza Fall : 611  
AcaFest : 685  
SLCC Event : 2,407  
AOH Christmas Shows : 7,349  
Attendance Total : 26,507

## Youth Impact

Acappellooza Summer 111  
Acappellooza Fall 1218  
AcaFest 116  
Recruits Chorus 33  
Project Harmony 39  
Scholarship 1  
Youth in AOH Programs : 1,518

## Video Views

Something Good : 10,845  
Something Good 2 : 30,194  
Top of the World Medley : 99,641  
Total Views : 140,680

## Social Media

New FaceBook fans : 3,830 - 58.9% increase  
New Twitter Followers : 409 - 15.5% increase

Lives Impacted

# 172,944

# MMEA - SWACDA

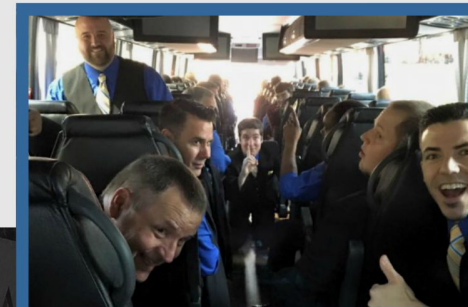
On January 27, AOH represented the Barbershop Harmony Society at the Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. MMEA's membership of more than 3,000 music educators encourages everyone to join together as advocates for music education in our schools. The Missouri Music Educators Association is a federated association of NAFME: The National Association for Music Education.

“I just watched the best choral group I've ever seen in my life. The Ambassadors of Harmony left me speechless.”

- Natalie Leathers January 27, 2016



AOH performed for the Southwestern American Choral Directors Association (SWACDA) at their annual conference at the Kauffman Center in Kansas City on March 9, 2016. SWACDA is a division of the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) which was founded in 1959 and has about 22,000 members. SWACDA comprises seven states, Missouri, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and New Mexico. The mission of ACDA is to inspire excellence in choral music through education, performance composition and advocacy. The performance was highlighted by a group-sing led by Dr. Weston Noble along with 2016 Grammy winners, the Kansas City Chorale.





## 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 2016, 111 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 15 years, and it is hosted at the University of Missouri St. Louis, with help from the University Singers. This year, more than 1,200 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 100 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 boys and young men aged 9-25. Members benefit from performing before large audiences and receiving top-notch vocal instruction. In 2016, the chorus welcomed female members to its ranks and a new director, Charlie Kinnison.



# BING!



BinG! organizes a music festival every other year which attracts more than 5,000 attendees. Singers from all over Germany gather to compete at the highest level. The main events are the German quartet and chorus contests, along with the World Mixed competition. The pinnacle of the festival is the "Show of Champions" featuring champion choruses and quartets from various countries from around the globe. In 2016, AOH was honored with an invitation to sing at this event which was broadcast on Bavarian Public TV (Bayerischen Rundfunks), as well as many other European public television stations.



"When the Ambassadors of Harmony sing Music of the Night, you don't listen... you experience."

- Maggie Lea  
June 18, 2016



# NASHVILLE, HERE WE COME!

The Barbershop Harmony Society has been holding chorus championships since 1953 to encourage singers to master the craft. The contest ranks groups not just by how beautifully they sing, but also on their showmanship and technique. On July 8, 2016, AOH presented its set to the 15-judge panel and 8,000 audience members at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee, taking first place over 28 other choruses and bringing home its fourth gold medal.



"Heard audible sighs all around during your ballad & uptune. It was the cleanest, most dynamic performance of the day!!!"

- Gina Mercier July 8, 2016



# CHORUS HISTORY

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 and again in 2009 and 2012. In 2013 the chorus welcomed Jonny Moroni as co-director.



1963 (Daniel Boone Chorus Founded)	1982 (2nd Place District)	1989 (International Debut)	1991 (Renamed AOH)	1994 (International Bronze)	2004 (International Gold)	2009 (International Gold)	2012 (International Gold)	2016 (International Gold)
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# IN THE MEDIA

**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
St. Louis singers win international a cappella competition

**Umsl Daily**  
Forefront, Ambassadors take Nashville gold  
Patt Street Power takes first in Youth Contest in a week that saw 8,000+ peak attendance

**GodTube!**  
What incredible harmonies!

**Social Buzz**

**5 On Your Side**

**10 SCHOOLS**  
Singers win international A Cappella competition

**RIVERS NEWSMAGAZINE**  
World... a medley combining "Sitting Top of the World" and the Carpenters

**RFT**  
Song and Dance Men

**NewsRadio 1120**  
The Voice of St. Louis

**GodVine**

**LOCAL CHORUS IS WINNING AND INSPIRING**  
HONORING GARRY MARSHALL OLYMPIC HOPEFUL

**"One of the most remarkable, if not the most remarkable, vocal presentations I've ever seen!"**  
- Harry Hamm, KMOX 1120am December 11, 2016

**"Nothing we do is designed to underwhelm. Our entire goal is to change lives through music."**

# HELPING MAKE IT POSSIBLE



**ARTS AND  
EDUCATION  
COUNCIL**

KeepArtHappening.org



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AJ Theiler

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Rose Carlisle  
St. Louis Children's Choirs

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Jon Nunn  
Judith Barrett  
Mrs. David W. Tucker  
Diane Harrell  
Dr. Martin Wice  
Rich & Marvis Meyers

## **BRONZE** (\$250-\$499)

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Matthew and Rosemarie  
Hamilton  
David Revelle  
Roger Schneider  
Steven A. Schum  
Marlene M. Schum  
Coleen Estep  
Christine Schum  
Kevin Schum

## **PARTNER** (\$100-\$249)

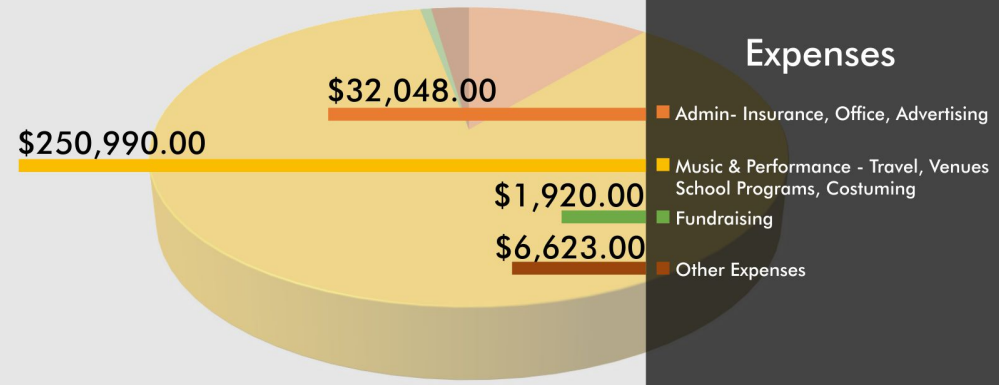
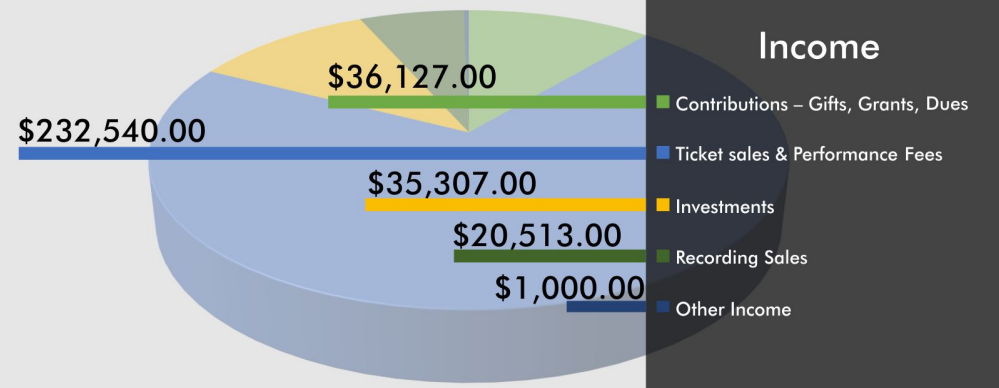
Barbara and Howard Berner  
Phyllis Parsons  
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Terry Carlisle  
Michael Rubin  
James Turpin  
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Chris and Kathy Busch  
Bob Cearnal  
Mark Friz  
James Holterman  
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## **PATRON** (up to \$99)

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David Whitney  
Sean Stewart  
Adam Gold



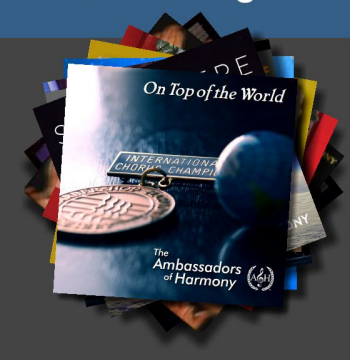
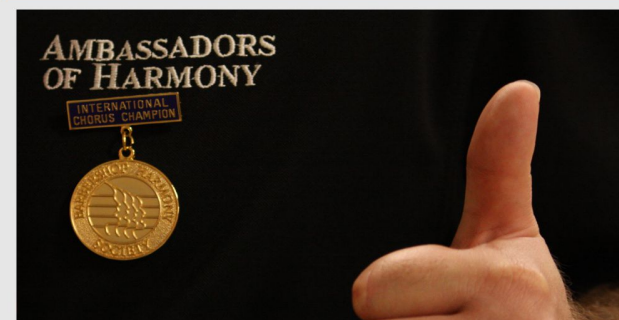
# INCOME AND EXPENSE



“Being blown away by the sound at the Ambassadors of Harmony show! OMG it's fabulous! So glad we drove the 5 1/2 hours to get here.”

- Diana Latch June 18, 2016

**Celebrating  
our 8th  
recording!**





## **2017 Board of Directors:**

J. Timothy Myers - President  
Denny Wofford – Executive Vice President  
Mike Rubin – Immediate Past President  
Matt Suellentrop – V.P. of Chapter Development  
Matt Hamilton – V.P. of Music & Performance  
David Revelle – V.P. of PR & Communications  
Paul Tate – Secretary  
Ross Bricklemyer – Treasurer  
Stan Johnson – Member at Large  
John Hessling – Member at Large  
Mark Merritt – Member at Large  
Jim Mathis – Member at Large

## **Music Directors:**

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



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