



The Central States District of the
Barbershop Harmony Society

The Serenade

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Manhattan Chapter earns 2025 Best of Kansas Award

The Manhattan, Kansas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is celebrating a proud achievement: its annual holiday program, Holiday Harmonies, has been awarded 2nd Place in the 2025 Best of Kansas Holiday Contest, presented by the Kansas Press Association and Kansas Newspapers.

This inaugural statewide competition recognizes outstanding holiday performances, displays, and community celebrations across Kansas. In the Christmas Concert / Holiday Performance category, Manhattan's barbershop chapter stood among exceptional company:

- 1st Place: 1st Infantry Division Band Holiday Concert – C.L. Hoover Opera House
- 2nd Place: Holiday Harmonies – Manhattan,

Kansas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

- 3rd Place: Salina Symphony Christmas Festival

The award highlights the chapter's dedication to musical excellence, community connection, and the joy they bring to Manhattan each holiday season. Holiday Harmonies blends classic barbershop sound with festive favorites, creating a performance that resonates with audiences of all ages.

"We're honored to be recognized at the state level," said chapter leadership. "Holiday Harmonies is our gift to the community each year, and this award reflects the passion of our singers and the support of our Manhattan friends and neighbors."



The Little Apple Chorus is joined on stage by the Heartland Harmony Chorus for a combined performance during their joint Christmas show on December 14, 2025 at the Kansas State University Student Union Forum Hall.

Kudos to CSD Events Team and CSD Convention Team



Brett Randolph

CSD President

Barbershop singing is more than just a musical art form; it is an embodiment of harmony, collaboration, and community spirit. At the heart of any successful barbershop singing organization lies a dedicated team of volunteers whose collective efforts ensure that the experience of each and every member is

memorable and life-changing.

There is no better example of this spirit, than the work the CSD Events Team, CSD Conventions Team, and volunteers did for the most recent spring convention. They encountered numerous obstacles and overcame those obstacles with teamwork and collaboration and were able to put on a wonderful spring convention!

I wish to give them the kudos they deserve and to encourage all CSD members to, as you read the rest of this article, consider how you can volunteer in your chapter or even at the district, to assist others to have the best barbershop experience possible.

Volunteers are the backbone of any successful barbershop organization. The fact of the matter is, our chapters and district could not operate without the help of volunteers. Their commitment and passion drive the operations behind the scenes, ensuring that everything runs smoothly. Volunteers bring a diverse set of skills and perspectives that enrich the organization. From organizing events and managing finances to marketing and community outreach, volunteers handle a myriad of tasks that are crucial to the group's success. Their dedication allows singers to focus on what they do best: delivering captivating performances.

Volunteering is not just about giving; it also offers a platform for personal and professional growth. Volunteers develop new skills, expand their networks, and gain a sense of fulfillment from contributing to a cause they love. Their involvement also inspires others to engage, fostering a culture of active participation and collaboration.

I am incredibly thankful to be able to work with such dedicated and passionate volunteers in my chapter and as President of the Central States District. The teamwork and the dedication of volunteers are what make the CSD the "Heartland of Harmony" To all of those who volunteer in your chapter and in the district, thanks for your time, talent, and commitment. Your contribution is needed and appreciated.

Clinic Planning and Anniversary Celebrations in S.D.



Cliff Huot

South Dakota State VP

South Dakota continues the planning for a Barbershop Clinic Aug 1 st in Viborg, SD with Matt Webber (Director of the SmorgasChorus out of Wichita, Kan.) as the clinician.

The Glacial Lakes Harmonizers celebrated their 35th anniversary April 12. Congratulations!

Tri Valley celebrated their 75th show on April 18 featuring Storm Front and 3 and ½ Men.

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Getting to know Project Ring Quartet

Project Ring officially began in Fall 2024, bringing together four singers (and two families) on one shared adventure.

Our children attend every rehearsal, which definitely comes with its challenges! We've learned quickly that family needs come first, and sometimes the best music-making happens only when everyone is happy, healthy, and well-snacked (including Reed and Arlen).

As a quartet, we love leaning into love songs, poking fun at each other, and embracing the unique emotional connection that comes from singing alongside your spouse. There's something truly special about telling these stories with the people you love most.

Project Ring is exactly what our name suggests; a joyful work in progress and a passion project rolled into one. We are excited to continue growing, learning, and competing in CSD as this adventure unfolds.

We can't wait to see where the ringing takes us next! Let's sing a tag at the next convention (Becky won't give you a choice anyway).

Get to know the members of Project Ring:



Becky Pattee (Lead)

My barbershop journey began in 2015 thanks to my husband, Reed, who introduced me to this incredible hobby. After attending just a few rehearsals with the Kansas City Chorus, I was completely hooked. The

ringing chords, the sisterhood, and the pure joy of singing captured my heart right away.

I sang with KCC for about two years before becoming one of the founding members of Vocal Standard in 2016.

Not long after discovering barbershop, I joined



my first female quartet, Flourish Quartet. For ten years we sang and competed in SAI Region 5, and along the way we had amazing opportunities.

In the final years of our journey, Flourish crossed over into CSD, where we placed 6th overall at one contest. After experiencing BHS contests, I knew I was ready for a new adventure: a mixed quartet. Reed and I had always dreamed of singing in a quartet together, and we finally reached a season of life where it felt possible. We just needed to find another couple.



Reed Pattee (Bass)

My barbershopping career started early in my college years. I joined the chorus, Central Standard, in the spring of 2010. I sang with them for 15 years, and served as their Associate Director from 2020-2025.

While attending Northwest Missouri State University, I qualified for the Collegiate Quartet Contest with my quartet Vintage Stock. We competed in Kansas City in 2011, and Portland in 2012. After some time off, Vintage Stock sang for a few more years and won the CSD Quartet Championship and compete at international in 2017. My next quartet, Union Station, was a perennial 2nd place finisher at the CSD Fall Conventions from 2019-2023. We were also fortunate enough to compete on the international stage in 2022 and 2023 to compete.

Being able to share this hobby that we love has been a blast so far. To be able to do it with another couple that also has a family of their own, makes it even better. Turning rehearsals into playdates may not always be productive, but it can be entertaining! Being able to include the whole family in our hobby with this quartet has been one of the highlights of my time as a barbershopper!



Aria Burroughs (Tenor)

My singing experience consists of 6th grade choir, church choir, singing along with the radio, teaching myself harmony on my long drives to and from college, and eventually singing harmony on the worship team and then becoming a worship leader at

my church. If I had not gained confidence through leading worship at church then there is no way I'd be able to do what I do now with Project Ring!

My husband, Arlen, officially introduced me to the world of barbershop in June of 2019 when we first met. Prior to him, my only experience with barbershop was my little sister's middle school all women quartet. I loved watching her perform! So once I met Arlen, I got the full picture of what barbershop music really is. It truly is incredible! It's competitive, it's precise, it's highly technical but it's also art.

When Becky first approached Arlen back in 2024 about singing in a mixed quartet, she asked him "Your wife sings, right?" His response was "She's never sang barbershop but she's a smart singer with a great ear for harmony." When Arlen first asked me about it I was flabbergasted. Me? Sing barbershop? Are you sure? But after much encouragement I said "Let's give it a shot!" And Project Ring was born!

I enjoy making music with other talented musicians. My favorite place to sing is still at church but this is such a different style of singing that uses lots of parts of my brain. I find the challenge enjoyable.

I'm so glad to be part of a group with another married couple with kids. This gives us common ground and unifies us as a quartet. It helps us draw on our inner feelings and experiences to deliver the messages of our songs to the best of our ability.



Arlen Burroughs (Baritone)

I began singing barbershop after a friend told me to go check out Central Standard. Before that I was a huge band nerd, playing the tuba in Iowa State marching and concert bands. I've previously crossed the CSD stage with Share the Load and On Tap, and I currently sing lead

with Fountain City Four.

Project Ring is my first time performing in a mixed quartet and my first time singing a harmony part! I am grateful that I can rehearse the "duet of death" with my wife at home and that I can witness her excelling at something she is so new to!

Little Apple Chorus Celebrates 50-Year Members



Left: Manhattan Chapter's Membership VP Keith Eyestone, left, presents Ken Lang, right, with his BHS membership card during an April 2026 meeting of the Little Apple Chorus in recognition of his 50 years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Right: Gary Mott, left, is presented with his BHS membership card during an April 2026 meeting of the Little Apple Chorus in recognition of his 50 years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society by Manhattan Chapter's Membership VP Keith Eyestone, right.

A chapter representative said, "the chapter is fortunate to benefit from the experience, leadership, and fellowship these two remarkable members have shared throughout the years. Their commitment continues to shape the chorus and inspire singers across generations."

A promotional graphic for the Flint Hills Four. At the top, the website "www.flinthillsfourqt.com" is listed. Below it, the group's name "FLINT HILLS FOUR" is written in large, bold, black letters. The background features a sunset over a field with a treble clef and musical notes. Four men in suits and ties are shown singing. A yellow banner across the bottom reads "NOW BOOKING! TAKING SHOWS FOR 2026 & BEYOND". Below the banner, the phone number "785-550-6274" and email "flinthillsfourqt@gmail.com" are provided.

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