



Prospective Member
Information
2017

The Music City Chorus

Thank you so much for visiting with us! We wanted to give you a little more information about our chorus.

What is “Barbershop”?

Barbershop harmony is four-part close harmony singing, using only the human voice. It can be sung by a quartet or by a chorus, such as the Music City Chorus. It gets its name from the origins of this kind of singing, as men would gather in barbershops or taverns or just about anywhere and improvise harmonies to a familiar melody.

The Barbershop Harmony Society

The Music City Chorus is the Nashville chapter of the *Barbershop Harmony Society*. The Barbershop Harmony Society is a 26,000 man singing organization, with over 800 chapters in North America. In addition, there are affiliate barbershop singing organizations around the world. The headquarters of the Barbershop Harmony Society relocated to Nashville in 2007.

The Dixie District



The Barbershop Harmony Society is organized into seventeen districts. We are members of the Dixie District, which includes Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and part of Arkansas.

Chorus Audition, Activities and Expectations

The Music City Chorus is a brotherhood of singers committed to enriching our community through the joyful pursuit of musical excellence in the barbershop style of music. We are thrilled that you are interested in joining us.

Audition Information

You may audition on or after your third visit to our rehearsal. Just let one of our Music Team members know you would like to audition. Our audition process is very simple. It consists of a vocal component and a visual component. The vocal component involves singing your part to the song *I'd Love to Live in Loveland* in a quartet consisting of members of the Music Team. The visual component involves working with one of our visual coaches on some basic choreography moves. The sheet music and learning tracks for our audition song can be found on our website – musiccitychorus.org. After your initial audition the Music Team may ask you to work on the song a little more and re-audition.

Activities

The Music City Chorus has a very busy schedule of activities:

- *Weekly Rehearsals*. We rehearse every Tuesday night from 7-10 pm. Occasionally we have early rehearsals which start at 6pm. We take off a couple of weeks during the summer and during the holidays.
- *Shows*. We have two major shows each year, one in the spring and one in December. Each show consists of a matinee and evening performance.
- *Competitions*. Each summer (the week of July 4th) we typically compete in the Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Contest. We compete each fall in a qualifying contest for the right to go to international contest. We compete every third spring in our Dixie District Chorus contest.
- *Coaching Retreats*. Once a year we spend a weekend working in an intensive coaching session to prepare for contest.

Expectations

Members are expected to come to rehearsals prepared and ready to sing. Our rehearsals are so much fun we do not have a formal attendance policy. We certainly understand that family and work commitments are a part of life. Members are expected to be respectful of those who stand in front of the chorus as directors and coaches, and most of all, to have a blast!

Dues, Fees and Expenses

Dues

Once you pass your audition, you will need to complete a Membership Application and make arrangements to pay membership dues. This can be done by check (made out to *Nashville Chapter BHS*) or by monthly electronic debit. See our Chapter Secretary, Josh Moore for the Membership application and to get information on a variety of payment options.

The regular dues for joining the Music City Chorus are \$205. For those age 25 and younger, the dues are free for the first year (except for a \$10 enrollment fee).

	Regular	Youth year 1
Chapter Dues	\$60	Free
District Dues	\$34	Free
Society Dues	\$115	Free
Enrollment Fee	\$10	\$10
Total	\$215	\$10

Subsequent yearly renewal of dues falls into two basic categories:

- Regular - \$205
- Youth (25 and younger) - \$99.50 (Dixie District renewal is only \$12)

The most current dues rates are available at Barbershop.org

Fees

To become a performing member of the chorus you will need to purchase our formal uniform and our casual uniform. The chorus pays for half of each uniform. We will get you more information about each uniform once you become a member, but here is an estimate of uniform expenses:

- Formal uniform = approximately \$320, member pays 50% , around \$160.
- Casual uniform = chorus pays for shirt, member pays for pants, approximately \$25.

Expenses

The chorus travels to compete in district contests once or twice a year, and in the international contest most summers. Expenses include a convention registration fee as well as travel, lodging, and food. Members are responsible to take care of all expenses.