

Essence of Barbershop for Newbies

Ted Chamberlain
253-414-2267
ted@nwvoicestudio.com

This course is designed for people new to singing barbershop harmony, or who feel they need a better overall understanding of what this style of music is – whether with the Barbershop Harmony Society (men) or Sweet Adelines Incorporated (Women), or Harmony Incorporated (also Women, in other areas of the country). What are some of the primary aspects of Barbershop to be aware of and/or focus on? What skills should one focus on first? What are some of the common terms that barbershop singers use...and what do they mean?

The scope of this class is NOT focused on the organizational structures and membership information, but rather, how to start progressing on the journey of enjoyment of singing/performing in the barbershop style.

While some of the class time will be open to letting the information follow the interest of the class, here are some basic things participants should expect to learn.

1. What is the style called Barbershop and some of the Hallmarks of the Barbershop style
2. Vocal Technique basics for Barbershoppers - How to sing so that chords RING
3. Stage Presence and Performance basics for Barbershoppers
4. What do contests judges JUDGE?

Of course, in our short 90 minutes, we won't be able to get very deep into anything...it is more of a brief overview so the participant can start thinking about what development/learning/skill might be their next step

It is my philosophy that all barbershop singers are on their own unique place on the path of learning and excellence. No two people are at the same place on all the myriad of skills and understanding. AND Barbershop is a style for "everyone" – not just an elite few. Anyone with the desire can learn to sing barbershop...and to sing/perform it well!! Be patient, however, as skills can take time to develop!!

Resources

- Being active in your local chapter/chorus
- Getting involved in quartetting
- Harmony Schools such as this! (SET, Harmony University)
- Attending conventions
 - Men: division, district, international.
 - Women: Regional and International
- Barbershop Organizational Websites and Marketplace
- YouTube
- Spotify, Pandora
- International Contest Webcasts.

Bookmark these!

Men

- <http://www.barbershop.org>
- <http://evgsings.org>

Women

- <http://www.sweetadelineintl.org>
- <http://www.sairegion13.org>