

## **A Cappella < 25 Barbershop Style - Marsha Kelly and Will Fox, instructors**

We are excited to introduce you to the four-part a cappella barbershop style. In the beginning class, we will teach you about the vocal basics of balance, blend, breath support, phrasing and how to ring chords! We will begin using our skills with a tag or two and a chosen song. Class 2 will continue what we started in class one, ending with a solid song and tags that you can take home and perform for your friends and family!

### **Class 1**

#### **Warm-ups:**

1. Siren/Sighs/Ooohs - slide up and down: 1 - 5 - 1; 1 - 8 - 1
2. We-Ooo-We-Ooo - smooth slurs between intervals, changing keys by moving starting pitch up a half step each time: 5-3-4-2-3-1-2-7-1
3. Breathing/Hissing/Lip and Tongue Trills -
  - Tsss, Tsss, Tsss, TSSSSSSSSSS until out of breath
  - Count to 15 3x, then to 16 final time and hold until out of breath. Object of this exercise is to slow down your counting, thus being able to sing longer phrases.
4. Numbers:  
1,  
1-2-1,  
1-2-3-2-1,  
1-2-3-4-3-2-1,  
1-2-3-4-5-4-3-2-1,  
1-2-3-4-5-6-5-4-3-2-1,  
Then reverse 8 down to 1

#### For added challenges:

- leave out a number or two, replacing it with silence.
  - Split the ensemble in half and have one side start on 1 and the other side on 8.
  - Have half of the ensemble begin and then have the other half start on 1 when the first half is on 3.
5. ½ Step in 8 counts - Try to advance a half step in equal increments over eight beats of counting. Don't advance a half step up or down too early or too late. This helps you with some intense listening for pitch!
  6. Set the barbershop chord - unified vowels in a descending scale then descending again to a tonic barbershop voiced chord followed by a basic authentic cadence chord progression.

#### **Tags:** I Love You Tag

Sleepy Time Down South Tag

Mickey Mouse March Tag

Wakin' Up Is Hard To Do Tag

\*\*\* Be sure to refer to our handout of **Darwin Scheel's Barbershop Tag Teaching Guidelines**

## What is Barbershop?

### History:

The **Barbershop Harmony Society** all started with 26 men on a roof in 1938. Several men formed a songfest. A club was formed. One singer began singing a tune and the others began singing harmonies. This is called "woodshedding". Out of this practice, quartets and choruses were formed into an International organization currently called the The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A), today more simply called the Barbershop Harmony Society.

**Sweet Adelines International** was established in 1945 by Edna Mae Anderson of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The aim was to teach and train its members in music and to create and promote barbershop quartets and other musical groups.... Today, Sweet Adelines International has a very diverse membership that spans the globe.

**Barbershop Youth Organizations** are found in both the Men's and Women's organizations called Harmony Explosion, Harmony Rendezvous, Young Women In Harmony and other camps and workshops. Quartets and choruses compete worldwide.

### Terminology:

**Cone** - Low, medium and high voicings balanced in volume in the shape of a cone or pyramid. The lowest part is the Bass voice which should sound louder than the lead. The lead is a mid-ranged voice that sings predominantly melody. The baritone part harmonizes above and below the lead and adjusts volume according to where the note that is being sung relates to the other three parts. The tenor voice part is a high harmony that is written above the lead. If the voices achieve balance in a cone relationship, the notes that are sung combine together to create overtones.

**Overtones** - Notes that sound in the air above the singers, but are not sung by the singers. When overtones are created, they "ring" or "ping" the chord. Ringing overtones is the main goal of barbershop cone-ing.

#### **Chords** -

- 4 parts - Bass, Baritone, Lead, Tenor
- Kinds of Chords - (Google for definitions and examples)
  - Major Triad, Minor Triad, Major and Minor 7ths, Dominant 7th, Diminished, Half Diminished, Chopsticking (Chinese 7th)

### Intro to Waking Up is Hard to Do

### Class 2 -

*Practical Singing Time* - song: Waking Up Is Hard To Do.

*Sing Your Part Smart in the Song(s)* - implementation of concepts and techniques covered in Class 1 with basic choreography and vocal expression and showmanship.

## **Links to Tags**

1. [dnstags.com](http://dnstags.com)
2. [barbershoptags.com](http://barbershoptags.com)
3. <http://www.barbershop.org/resources/get-music/tags/>

## **Youth Events - workshops and camps**

HX - Harmony Explosion

PLU campus, Tacoma, Washington

July 27-29, 2017

<http://harmonyexplosion.com>

Big Sky Harmony Rendezvous

Bozeman, Montana

June 21-25, 2017

<https://www.harmonyrendezvous.com>

## **Barbershop Harmony Organizations**

### **Sweet Adelines International (SAI)**

<https://sweetadelines.com>

### **Sweet Adelines Region 13 Women's Choruses:**

#### **Oregon**

Pride of Portland Chorus

Portland, OR

[Prideofportland.org](http://Prideofportland.org)

Cascade Harmony Chorus

West Linn, OR

[cascadearmonychorus.com](http://cascadearmonychorus.com)

#### **Washington**

NW Harmony Chorus

Vancouver, WA

<http://www.northwestharmony.com/>

Columbia River Chorus

Vancouver, WA

<http://www.columbiariverchorus.com/>

Olympia Chorus

Olympia, WA

<https://olympiachorus.org/>

Jet Cities Chorus

Federal Way, WA

<http://www.jetcities.org/>

Pacific Sound Chorus

Bellevue, WA

<http://www.pacificsound.org/>

Song of Seattle Chorus

Seattle, WA

<https://www.facebook.com/SongofSeattle/>

Sound Harmony Chorus

Seattle, WA

<https://soundharmony.org/>

Seattle Shores Chorus

Seattle, WA

<http://www.seattleshores.org/>

a cappella Joy Chorus

Kirkland, WA

<https://acappellajoy.groupanizer.com/>

For a full list of SAI Region 13 Choruses and Quartets - WA, OR, ID, MT, AK: <https://sairegion13.org/choruses>

**Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS)** - headquarters and website for men's barbershop  
<http://www.barbershop.org>

**Evergreen District Men's Choruses:**

**Oregon**

Oregon SenateAires

Salem, Oregon

<http://www.senateaires.org>

Bridgetown Sound

Portland, Oregon

<http://www.bridgetownsound.org>

Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters

Forest Grove, OR

<https://www.tualatinvalley.com>

Oregon Trail Pitchpipers

Canby, OR

<http://www.pitchpipers.org>

Cascade Chorus

Eugene, OR

<http://cascadechorus.org>

**Washington**

Totemaires Chorus

Tacoma, WA

<http://totemaires.com>

NW Sound Chorus

Bellevue, WA

<http://northwestsound.org>

Voices Incorporated

Rehearsals in Kirkland, WA

[info@voicesincorporated.org](mailto:info@voicesincorporated.org)

Kitsap Chordsmen

Poulsbo, WA

<https://singkitsap.org/>

Mt. Baker Toppers

Bellingham, WA

<https://topperschorus.org>

Search for other Men's choruses in the Northwest:

<http://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/Public/ChapterProximitySearch2.aspx>

If you ever need any help with anything barbershop, feel free to contact us:

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