



April 9, 2021

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Voices in Harmony Chorus celebrates National Barbershop Quartet Day with "Moment of Harmony" April 11

For more than 40 years, the **Voices in Harmony Chorus** of Platteville has been making sweet harmony in the Tri-County area. This year, the chapter celebrates the 81st anniversary of the [founding of the Barbershop Harmony Society](#).

A special songfest and birthday party will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2021, at the Platteville Performing Arts Center, 321 West Ford Parkway in Platteville. The public is invited for some cake and harmony featuring the chorus, quartets, and special guests **Meadowlarks** quartet from Platteville High School.

"We're going to celebrate the way our singing Society started," said chapter president Pete Patterson. "In April of 1938, a fellow named O.C. Cash in Tulsa, Oklahoma, invited a few friends to get together to sing one evening, and the idea blew up out of control overnight." Twenty-six men attended that first meeting; within a month, more than 100 men were gathering, and within a year, the idea had spread like wildfire to more than 2000 members from coast to coast and Canada.

Today, eight decades later, **more than 20,000 men and women of all ages** share fellowship and musical joy as members of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

In Platteville, that tradition continues with the Voices in Harmony Chorus. Founded in 1974 as The Chord Wrangler's men's chorus, the group recently expanded to include a new mixed-voice chorus in 2020, when chapter membership was extended to all people. "We love both our all-men's experience, and a new activity of men and women singing together in harmony," said Patterson. "The Society's vision of Everyone in Harmony gives us the flexibility to offer programming for families in new ways."

The Voices in Harmony Chorus plays an active role in the Tri-County arts community, staging annual performances that feature world-class guest talent. The group has been particularly involved in reaching out to support music education in the school system. “We’ve lived with this tremendous gift of music all our lives,” said Patterson. “We want to make sure every child gets to experience the thrill of raising his or her voice in harmony with others. It is a debt that we owe the future.”

The Meadowlarks quartet are a great example. “We heard about the youth contest from our teacher,” says Justin Thyme, lead singer. “We looked up a bunch of barbershop on YouTube and got hooked. The Voices in Harmony have been great in helping us get ready for the contest, finding us a coach, and helping us with travel expenses for the competition. I expect to sing barbershop the rest of my life -- it’s just so great to make those chords lock together. It’s like nothing else I’ve ever sung.”

National Barbershop Quartet Day will be celebrated across the continent on April 11, with choruses and quartets performing in civic locations everywhere. A proclamation commemorating Barbershop Harmony Week will be made by the city council on Thursday, with Voices in Harmony singing the National Anthem to start the meeting.

Full details on the history of the Barbershop Harmony Society, including vintage footage, photos, and history notes, can be found at www.barbershop.org or www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety