

Current

BHS Music Medics Guidebook



MUSIC MEDICS

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Barbershop Harmony Society Outreach

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1. Overview

Welcome to the *Music Medics* program! This initiative, organized by the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), sends quartets or small ensembles to perform uplifting songs at children's hospitals, hospice centers, and nursing homes. Dressed in medical scrubs, Music Medics bring joy through music, offering moments of relief and comfort for patients, families, and hospital staff.

This program is designed to be a permanent, ongoing effort that fosters meaningful connections with hospitals, young patients, and their families. This guide provides a **step-by-step** plan for creating and maintaining a successful *Music Medics* program in your community.



2. Background

The Music Medics program traces its origins to 2007, when a group from the Miamians Chorus performed at Miami Children's Hospital. Although the chorus brought joy to a small group gathered in the playroom, participant Ernie de la Fe left the event with a lingering sense that they had missed their true audience: the bed-bound children who couldn't attend. Years later, following the Miamians' merger with the Sunshine Chordsmen, Ernie shared his long-held vision with fellow singer David Hanser, whose immediate enthusiasm reignited the idea. That same week, David approached Ronald McDonald House with the concept, prompting Ernie to formally pitch the program to the Child Life Department at what is now Nicklaus Children's Hospital. With strong support from the hospital and chorus director Alex Rubin, the team assembled a child-friendly repertoire, qualified a group of dedicated singers, and began preparing for launch.

The group's playful and welcoming identity took shape during these early meetings, prompting a Child Life supervisor to suggest they call themselves the "Music Doctors." Ernie adapted the name to "Music Medics" to better fit the chorus's branding as the Miamians Music Medics. To strengthen their connection with hospital staff and ease the children's experience, performers began wearing hospital scrubs—an endearing detail that quickly became a signature look. The first official Music Medics performances took place in September 2013 at Nicklaus Children's Hospital and Broward Health's Chris Evert Children's Hospital, in Fort Lauderdale, followed by regular visits to Joe DiMaggio Children's in Hollywood, and St. Mary's in Palm Beach. For The Miamians, the third week of the month became known as Music Medics Week, and despite disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program has continued its outreach, most recently expanding to Holtz Children's Hospital at Jackson Memorial.

In 2018, Ernie and fellow chorus member Lew Geer traveled to Nashville to share the *Music Medics* program with the Barbershop Harmony Society. The meeting resulted in a groundswell of support, including a promotional video shoot at Baptist Children's Hospital and a featured moment at the 2018 International Convention in Orlando. Since then, *Music Medics* has grown not just in scope, but in impact—bringing joy, comfort, and human connection through song. One prominent *Music Medics* unit started up in Nashville under the leadership of Wayne Jackson. Between Wayne and Ernie's vision and guidance, the *Music Medics* program continues to grow to other Society chapters to inspire singers and serve as a model for musical outreach across the barbershop world.

Programs like this often grow beyond children's hospitals to include visits to veterans' nursing homes, hospice centers, and rehabilitation facilities. Each setting provides a unique opportunity to use music as a form of emotional and psychological support, making a direct impact on people facing challenging circumstances.



3. Benefits of the Program

There are three major beneficiaries of the Music Medics program: patients, hospitals, and singers. Music can relieve stress, boost morale, and build stronger community ties, which is why this initiative is worth pursuing.

For Patients & Families

Music Medics create a moment of happiness during a challenging time. Hospital stays, treatments, and medical procedures can be stressful, especially for children. The power of music allows patients to momentarily escape their worries and simply enjoy a joyful experience.

Music Medics provide stress relief and mental wellness benefits. Music has been proven to reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure, and stimulate the brain in ways that encourage healing and relaxation.

Music Medics engage children in a way that distracts from pain and medical treatments. Many children, especially long-term hospital patients, endure lengthy treatments. Interactive singing and clapping provide entertainment and a much-needed distraction from medical procedures.



For Hospitals & Staff

Music Medics boost morale among healthcare workers. Doctors, nurses, and staff work tirelessly under high-pressure conditions. Seeing patients smile and hearing beautiful harmonies provides them with a positive moment in their day.

Music Medics align with holistic care approaches. Many hospitals embrace music therapy as a key component of comprehensive patient care. Music Medics can enhance existing wellness programs by adding live, interactive performances.

Music Medics build a positive partnership with the community. Hospitals benefit from strong relationships with local organizations. A Music Medics group demonstrates that the hospital is part of a caring, vibrant community.



For Singers & Barbershop Chapters

Music Medics strengthen camaraderie and teamwork. Performing together in a hospital setting creates a strong sense of unity among singers, reinforcing the bonds of a musical family.

Music Medics offer a fulfilling performance opportunity. Unlike competitions or staged concerts, these performances have an immediate emotional impact, providing a deep sense of fulfillment for singers.

Music Medics increase awareness and appreciation of barbershop harmony. Music Medics performances introduce barbershop singing to new audiences, potentially inspiring future singers to join the art form.



4. Getting Started

To start your own *Music Medics* program, it is helpful to follow a step-by-step process, from gathering an initial group of singers to setting up the first hospital visit. This section lays the foundation for success by guiding organizers through early decision-making and logistical planning. The following is a suggested course for getting started for parties who are already associated with a barbershop ensemble. If you are not affiliated, the same may be accomplished without the organization of a local barbershop chapter.

1. **Form an Interest Group** – Gather at least 4–10 singers from your local BHS chapter. Start by gauging interest among members, explaining the mission of the program, and emphasizing the rewarding experience of bringing joy to hospital patients.
2. **Identify Target Hospitals** – Research local children’s hospitals, rehabilitation centers, or hospice care facilities. Contact hospital volunteer departments to inquire about existing music programs and determine where a Music Medics group would be most beneficial.
3. **Select a Repertoire** – Choose engaging, family-friendly songs that align with the joyful atmosphere of the program. Avoid songs with sad or somber themes (see Section 6 for details).
4. **Plan a Recruitment Strategy** – Focus on attracting dedicated singers who can commit to regular performances and rehearsals. Establish clear expectations for participation and reliability.
5. **Establish Contact with Hospitals** – Use provided templates for email outreach (see Section 8). Ensure that your communications emphasize the non-disruptive, volunteer-driven nature of the program.
6. **Schedule Rehearsals** – Set up a consistent rehearsal schedule to polish performances and ensure all singers are prepared for hospital visits. Incorporate practice sessions where members perform in a simulated hospital setting.
7. **Organize First Performance** – Coordinate with hospital staff to plan the first visit. Perform a dress rehearsal, confirm logistics, and ensure all singers understand the expectations for interacting with patients and staff.



5. Legal Considerations

Three aspects of running a *Music Medics* program need to be considered: insurance, performing rights, and taxes.

Insurance

A *Music Medics* ensemble that is associated with a BHS chapter is covered by the general liability policy. For inquiries about Accident and General Liability Insurance Certificates, see the BHS document center: barbershop.org/resources/document-center.

A *Music Medics* ensemble that is not associated with a local BHS chapter will need to contact chapters@barbershop.org to secure discuss their liability.

Performing Rights

Music Medic participants need to make sure that they own one legal copy of each piece of music they are singing. For example, if the Nashville Music Medics has 15 participants on their roster, even though they might field only six or seven at a time, they need to own 15 copies of each song.

It is the responsibility of all performing ensembles to ensure the processing required BMI/SESAC or SOCAN Show Clearance Application payments. In most BHS chapters, this is completed by the Chapter Secretary. Some important information:

- All United States (US) chapters are required to file an ASCAP report after their last show of the calendar year. The minimum amount (based on your annual gross ticket sales) is subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date rate, please refer to the ASCAP form for the respective year on the BHS Website: barbershop.org/resources/document-center.
- Any US chapter who does not produce shows throughout the year, will not be required to pay ASCAP fee, but must still complete the form.
- ASCAP form should be submitted with payment, payable to “BHS.” Send ASCAP form and applicable payment, to the Barbershop Harmony Society.
- Copy your chapter secretary for the chapter record to be kept for at least seven years.
- Canadian chapters: SOCAN/Entandem reporting requirements must be satisfied by your group for public performances. Do not utilize ASCAP or BMI/SESAC report forms for this.

A *Music Medics* ensemble not associated with a chapter will need to manage this process on their own. Most Music Medics programs do not charge tickets and may not need clearance. Contact library@barbershop.org for questions.

If a U.S.-based *Music Medics* ensemble is invited by a hospital, et al, to come and sing, even regularly, the ensemble is **not** responsible for public performance licensing (ASCAP/BMI/SESAC); in this case, they are

considered a work-for-hire, even if singing for free. However, if the ensemble on their own accord, comes to a hospital, et al, and asks permission to sing, they or their associated chapter would be responsible for licensing and would need to file show reports with Harmony Hall. Canada-based *Music Medics* ensembles should contact SOCAN or licensing@entandem.com for current policies on this type of public performance activity.

Taxes

Music Medics associated with local BHS chapters are under the umbrella of the tax exemption of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA, Inc.) which entitles them to an exemption from paying federal income taxes on earnings. The chapter still must file necessary federally required forms. Failure to file could result in the loss of the chapter's tax-exempt status.

The chapter tax-exempt status may also entitle you to an exemption from income and/or sales taxes if your state/province has those taxes. While a chapter may be exempt from paying sales, it may still be required to collect sales tax on chapter sales. Check with the state/province to verify requirements.

Some states/provinces require that nonprofits register if they are soliciting charitable contributions. In some cases, this registration needs to happen annually. Check with your state/province or other appropriate agency for information about this registration requirement.

A *Music Medics* ensemble not associated with a chapter will need to manage these processes on their own. Contact chapters@barbershop.org for more information.

Conclusion

It is the responsibility of the chapter secretary to properly store and protect all chapter records until they are legally destroyed or discarded. A *Music Medics* ensemble not associated with a chapter will need to manage this storage. The documents may be stored as hard copy or electronically. It is strongly recommended that a copy of all records and documents be stored in a location that will protect the documents from all catastrophes such as a fireproof or fire resistant file, a home safe, or safety deposit box in a bank.



6. Music Selection

Choosing the right songs is critical to ensuring a positive and uplifting experience for patients. Songs are listed with BHS catalog numbers. See the [BHS catalog](#) to purchase selected songs. Many of these songs also have digital learning media associated with them. Note, that it is against copyright law to share copies of sheet music. Be sure that there is a legal copy for each *Music Medics* participant.

Recommended Songs

- **“You’ve Got a Friend in Me” (Dan Wessler)** – A playful, familiar tune that resonates with children and reminds them of the power of friendship.
 - TTBB: 209111
 - SSAA: 213206
 - SATB: 213208
- **“I’m Sitting on Top of the World” (Boston Consort)** – Energetic tune with opportunities for word changes to match the audience you sing for.
 - TTBB: 8627

- SSAA: 213466
- SATB: 213476
- **“A Spoonful of Sugar” (Russ Foris)** – Upbeat and engaging, this classic song from *Mary Poppins* brings energy and smiles to young audiences.
 - TTBB: 7678
- **“A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes” (Gene Cokeroff)** – A soothing and inspiring song that encourages children to stay hopeful and positive.
 - TTBB: 212203
- **“Over the Rainbow” (Ed Waesche)** – A timeless melody that offers comfort and a sense of wonder.
 - TTBB: 8837
 - SSAA: 213506
 - SATB: 213508
- **“Name Song” (Floyd Connett)** – A simple song wherein a patient’s name can be easily inserted.
 - TTBB: 8524

Variations

For hospice visits, a wider repertoire can be appropriate. Consider songs of faith or with uplifting messages.

- **“When I Lift Up My Head” (David Wright)**
 - TTBB: 208700
 - SSAA: 210111
 - SATB: 213203
- **“It Is Well With My Soul” (Joe Liles)**
 - TTBB: 113391
 - SSAA: 114153
- **“Irish Blessing” (Don Gray)**
 - TTBB: 200384
 - SSAA: 200385
 - SATB: 200386
- Amazing Grace –
- How Great Thou Art – Workman
- The Lord’s Prayer –

For VAs

- **“Battle Hymn of the Republic” (Joe Liles)**
 - TTBB: 7687
- **“God Bless America” (Greg Lyne)**
 - TTBB: 204428
 - SSAA: 204151

- SATB: 213399
- America, the Beautiful
- Star Spangled Banner (Val Hicks)
- Armed Forces Medley

Songs to Avoid

- **Any song with themes of loss, sadness, or illness.** It's essential to maintain a positive, uplifting atmosphere. Even songs with beautiful melodies may carry unintended emotional weight.
- **Songs with complex lyrics that may be difficult for children to understand.** Simple, familiar songs encourage participation and engagement.

Before each performance, review the audience demographics and hospital policies to ensure your repertoire aligns with the setting.



7. Recruiting & Organizing Members

A successful *Music Medics* program requires dedicated and enthusiastic singers. Here are ten effective recruitment strategies, discusses how to organize leadership roles, and provides guidance on maintaining an engaged and committed team.

10 Ways to Recruit Music Medics Singers

1. **Invite Current BHS Members** – Announce the Music Medics program at chapter meetings and encourage existing members to get involved. Many singers are looking for meaningful ways to use their talents beyond competitions.
2. **Leverage Social Media** – Post engaging content showcasing past performances and testimonials from hospital staff. Encourage members to share the program with their networks.
3. **Create a Fun Video** – Record a short video highlighting the purpose of Music Medics and why singers should get involved. Personal stories from existing members can be particularly persuasive.
4. **Host an Interest Meeting** – Organize an informational session to discuss the goals, schedule, and expectations for the program. Offer refreshments and an informal Q&A to make it welcoming.
5. **Partner with Local Choirs** – Collaborate with community choirs, church groups, and school ensembles to recruit singers who may be interested in this unique outreach opportunity.
6. **Encourage Family Involvement** – Many singers have family members who also enjoy singing. Inviting spouses, children, or close friends to participate (if they meet the musical requirements) can strengthen the group and expand your recruitment pool.
7. **Offer Leadership Roles** – People are more likely to stay engaged when they have responsibilities. Assign roles such as program coordinator, music director, or hospital liaison to distribute leadership and sustain commitment.
8. **Highlight the Impact** – Share success stories from past hospital visits. Whether through testimonials, photos (with permission), or personal accounts, show prospective members how meaningful this experience can be.
9. **Make It Social** – Organize occasional group outings, potlucks, or post-performance celebrations to build camaraderie among members. Strong friendships within the group contribute to long-term commitment.
10. **Word of Mouth** – Encourage active members to invite a friend. Personal invitations are often the most effective way to bring in new recruits.



Member Organization

- **Director / Coordinator** – Oversees the program, maintains contact with hospitals, schedules visits, and ensures all administrative aspects run smoothly.

- **Music Director** – Selects appropriate repertoire, leads rehearsals, and ensures musical quality.
- **Membership Chair** – Manages recruitment, keeps track of member participation, and fosters a welcoming environment.
- **Performance Coordinator** – Handles on-site logistics, ensuring performers know where to go and how to interact appropriately with hospital staff and patients.

Certainly more roles than these can exist in a Music Medics unit, depending on the needs of the organization. Adapt these suggestions to yours.

8. Contacting Hospitals & Community Partners

Building strong relationships with hospitals and care facilities is essential for long-term success. This section provides instructions on identifying key contacts, crafting compelling outreach messages, and handling follow-up communications.

How to Approach Hospitals

Research Potential Hospitals & Facilities – Identify local children’s hospitals, hospice centers, and veteran care homes that might welcome live performances. Check their websites for volunteer or community outreach programs.

Determine the Right Contact Person – Hospitals often have volunteer coordinators, community outreach managers, or Child Life Specialists who handle these types of programs. Call or email to find the best point of contact.

Prepare a Professional Introduction – Clearly explain who you are, what *Music Medics* offers, and how the program benefits patients and staff.



Sample Email for Initial Contact

Subject: Partnership Opportunity – *Music Medics* Volunteer Singing Program

Dear [Hospital Volunteer Coordinator],

I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am reaching out on behalf of *Music Medics*, a volunteer singing ensemble affiliated with the Barbershop Harmony Society [or chapter within the BHS].

Our group provides **free live performances** for pediatric patients, their families, and hospital staff. We specialize in uplifting, fun, and interactive musical experiences designed to bring smiles and comfort.

We would love the opportunity to discuss how *Music Medics* could contribute to your hospital's programming. Please let me know a convenient time to connect.

Best regards,
[Your Name]
[Your Email]
[Your Phone Number]

Follow-Up Steps:

If you don't receive a response within a week, send a polite follow-up email or make a phone call. Our experience tells us that in a formal situation like this, a phone call is better. Be prepared to answer questions about safety, scheduling, and the nature of your performances. Offer to meet in person or via video call to further discuss the program. Most importantly, don't give up! This program is powerful and can positively impact the lives of so many.



9. Preparing for a Visit

Proper preparation ensures a smooth and impactful performance. Consider confirming hospital requirements, finalizing song selections, rehearsing effectively, and addressing logistical concerns before each visit.

Checklist Before Each Visit:

- **Certify *Music Medics* unit participation** – The varied nature of scheduling performances can mean a highly elastic participant list. Be flexible.
- **Confirm hospital guidelines** – Each hospital has its own policies regarding visitor protocols, background checks, and dress codes. Ensure your group complies with all requirements.
- **Finalize the performance setlist** – Rehearse the exact order of songs, keeping transitions smooth and engaging.
- **Prepare scrubs and name tags** – A uniform look creates professionalism and helps staff and patients identify your group easily.
- **Conduct a final rehearsal** – Run through the setlist in a simulated hospital setting to ensure confidence and preparedness.

After the visit, be sure to coordinate with your hospital handler regarding the visit, any feedback, and potential future visits.

Important Considerations:

- Keep performances **short and engaging**, typically 20-30 minutes for the whole hospital visit.
- Have **backup plans** in case a singer cannot attend last-minute.
- Assign one member to **communicate with hospital staff** upon arrival.



10. What to Expect During a Visit

Performing in a hospital environment is different from singing on a traditional stage. Your *Music Medics* ensemble will need to be aware of the typical flow of a visit, have guidance on interacting with patients and staff, and consider strategies for adapting performances to different situations.

It is important to understand that certain areas you may enter, such as a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, an Emergency Department, or an Oncology Ward may be intense. Be mindful of patient reaction. Even though you may see a positive transformation on their faces, there may be times when someone, for whatever reason, may react in an unexpected manner to your visit and you will have to cut the song and visit short.

Typical Visit Structure:

1. **Arrival & Check-in** – Arrive early to meet hospital staff and review any last-minute details. Ensure all singers sign in and follow hospital entry procedures.
2. **Meet with the Hospital Liaison** – This person will guide your group to performance locations and provide any necessary updates on patient conditions.
3. **Performance Locations** – You may perform in common areas such as lobbies, playrooms, or even go room-to-room for individual visits. Adapt your energy level accordingly.

4. **Engagement with Patients & Families** – Encourage light participation, such as clapping, singing along, or simple movements. Always be respectful of patients' energy levels.
5. **Hospital Staff Interaction** – Thank the staff for their time and encourage feedback on how the program can be improved.
6. **Departure & Debrief** – Gather outside the hospital for a quick reflection session. Discuss what went well and any adjustments needed for future visits.



11. Quality Control & Performance Excellence

To maintain the highest standards of musical excellence and engagement, groups must focus on rehearsal techniques, vocal health, and audience-appropriate delivery.

- **Rehearse expressively and engagingly** – Hospital performances should feel vibrant and interactive rather than overly formal. Engage your audience as appropriate.
 - **Maintain vocal health and stamina** – Hydrate and warm up properly before each visit. Hospitals can have dry air that may affect singing. Wear comfortable shoes.
 - **Adapt to different audiences** – Be flexible in your delivery, adjusting for the energy levels and age groups of patients. Respond with kindness and understanding to needs and requests.
-

12. Apparel & Presentation

A cohesive and professional appearance enhances the program's credibility and ensures performers are easily recognizable. Consider:

- **Attire:**
 - **Medical scrubs** – Wearing coordinated scrubs reinforces the hospital-friendly theme and makes the group easily identifiable.
 - **Polos** – Note that some hospitals prefer volunteers not to wear scrubs. In this case, a semi-informal polo is suggested. Polos are a great selection for hospice or VA visits.
- **Name tags** – Clearly printed name tags help personalize interactions with patients if it is not embroidered on your shirt.
- **Comfortable shoes** – Expect to walk throughout hospital corridors. Supportive footwear is a must.
- **Masks** – Some hospitals will ask you to wear a mask while singing. This guideline should always be followed when asked.



13. Administration & Scheduling

Effective organization keeps the program running smoothly and ensures all members are informed and prepared. For long-term sustainability, consider:

- **Maintaining a shared Google Calendar** – This keeps all members informed of upcoming performances and rehearsals.
- **Assigning members for attendance tracking** – Keeping records helps ensure reliable participation. Keep your members engaged!

- **Holding monthly meetings** – Regular check-ins allow for feedback, planning, and addressing any logistical concerns. These can be done in person or through video conferencing.
-

14. Marketing & Public Relations

Sharing the success and impact of Music Medics helps build community support and attract new members. Consider:

- **Using social media** – Post about performances, share testimonials, and engage with hospital social media accounts.
- **Engaging local news outlets** – Pitch a heartwarming story to local newspapers and TV stations. The Nashville Music Medics have several news stories about their efforts that you can find on YouTube.
- **Creating a website or landing page** – A simple webpage can showcase your mission, performance videos, and ways to get involved.



Please do not take pictures unless you have signed authorization from the hospital and the child's parent or guardian. Some hospitals have a public relations person who may accompany you on your first few visits. They may be a good source for those pictures and necessary authorizations.

15. Safety & Security Considerations

Ensuring patient safety and respecting hospital policies are top priorities. To that end, each Music Medics ensemble member must be aware of the following:

- **Background checks** – Many hospitals require volunteers to undergo screenings.

- **Infection control** – Follow hospital protocols for hygiene, such as hand sanitizing before and after performances.
 - **Patient confidentiality** – Never take photos or videos of patients unless explicitly permitted by hospital staff.
-

16. Conclusion & Next Steps

Thank you for your dedication to spreading joy through song! By following this guide, you will create a thriving *Music Medics* program that enriches lives and strengthens your community.

For questions or support, contact outreach@barbershop.org.



Tab 1

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Summary

Welcome to the Music Medics Program! This initiative, sponsored by a local Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) chapter, sends quartets or small groups to perform uplifting songs at children's hospitals in your community. This program is designed to be a permanent, ongoing effort that fosters meaningful connections with hospitals, young patients, and their families.

Music Medics participants, dressed in medical scrubs, bring joy to hospital rooms with fun, uplifting songs, offering moments of relief and comfort during challenging times. Hospital staff also deeply appreciate these musical visits, which add a unique and uplifting element to their work environment. Nothing fosters camaraderie among singers better than sharing this profoundly fulfilling experience.

Overview / Background

The Music Medics program originated in Miami, Florida, in 2013 with the Miamians Music Medics, founded by former director Gene Cokerof. With no clear roadmap, the Miamians approached Miami Children's Hospital's Volunteer Office, which introduced them to the Child Life Department. The staff embraced the idea, and within three months, the Miamians prepared a new children's repertoire and performed their first show. Today, they have performed for nearly 2,700 children across six hospitals in South Florida.

Inspired by the Miamians' performance at the 2018 International Convention, the Nashville Music Medics launched their own program in 2019. Starting at Centennial Children's Hospital, they have since expanded to include 17 active singers and multiple venues. Programs like these often evolve to serve other organizations, such as hospice centers and veterans' nursing homes, providing additional opportunities for meaningful outreach.

Benefits

1. **Impact on Patients and Families:** Music Medics create memorable moments, lifting spirits through song and humor.
2. **Community Outreach:** This program promotes barbershop singing and offers a positive public image of your chapter.
3. **Recruitment:** The joy and purpose of this program is to attract new members and encourage quartet singing.
4. **Personal Fulfillment:** Participants often describe this as the most rewarding experience in their barbershop journey.

Music

The cornerstone of the Music Medics program is selecting appropriate and engaging repertoire.

Suggested Repertoire:

- **"You've Got A Friend In Me"** (arr. Dan Wessler)
- **"A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes"** (arr. Gene Cokerof)
- **"Over The Rainbow"** (arr. Ed Waesche)
- **"When You Wish Upon A Star"** (arr. SPEBSQSA, Inc.)
- **"A Spoonful of Sugar"** (arr. Russ Foris)
- **"Brahms' Lullaby"**

Songs to Avoid: Avoid songs with lyrics that may be misinterpreted or inappropriate for children and families. Examples include "Danny Boy," "Coney Island Baby," and "Goodbye World, Goodbye."

Members

Music Medics are typically current or former BHS members. Some are recruited from church choirs or other music communities. While retirees often form the core, flexible scheduling ensures participation from working members.

Community / Hospital Contact

Most children's hospitals have a Child Life Department, responsible for enhancing patients' quality of life. This department often includes music therapists who can help coordinate your visits. Upon approval, staff will guide you through the hospital, introduce you to patients, and ensure all necessary permissions are obtained.

Preparation

Warm up and rehearse your repertoire before each visit. If possible, meet in a designated area within or near the hospital. Ensure all singers are familiar with the setlist and performance expectations. Adjust volume and maintain a polished, professional demeanor.

Next Steps

Alternatively

Launching a Music Medics program requires thoughtful planning and organization. Here are the key steps to get started:

1. Identify Local Opportunities:
 - Research children's hospitals or similar organizations in your area.
 - Contact their Volunteer or Child Life Departments to discuss the concept and gauge interest.
2. Build Your Team:
 - Recruit a core group of enthusiastic and capable singers from your BHS chapter or local community.
 - Ensure your group includes singers who can commit to learning the repertoire and attending visits.
3. Develop a Repertoire:
 - Start with a small setlist of four to five songs tailored to children and families.
 - Expand your repertoire over time as your team becomes more comfortable with performances.
4. Plan Initial Outreach:
 - Set up a meeting with hospital staff to explain the program's goals and logistics.
 - Discuss scheduling, guidelines, and any required training or immunizations for participants.
5. Organize Rehearsals:
 - Hold regular rehearsals to ensure all members are confident with the music.
 - Use warm-up sessions before each visit to polish your performance.
6. Coordinate Logistics:
 - Assign an administrator to manage scheduling, communications, and coordination with the hospital.
 - Create a rotating schedule to ensure consistent coverage for performances.
7. Prepare for Your First Visit:
 - Meet with hospital staff to finalize details and receive any additional instructions.
 - Conduct a practice run to simulate the experience and address any concerns.
8. Evaluate and Adjust:
 - After your first visit, gather feedback from participants and hospital staff.
 - Identify areas for improvement and adjust your approach as needed.
9. Promote Your Program:
 - Share your group's successes on social media using #BHSMusicMedics.
 - Reach out to local media for coverage to raise awareness and attract more participants.
10. Stay Committed:
 - Maintain consistent communication with hospital staff to nurture relationships.
 - Encourage participants to stay engaged and committed to the program's mission.

By following these steps, your group can establish a thriving Music Medics program that brings joy and comfort to your community.

What to Expect

Most visits are joyous occasions, filled with smiles and laughter. However, some visits may involve gravely ill children. In these cases, your presence can provide solace and hope to families. Be prepared for emotional moments and maintain your composure to offer comfort.

Quality Control

High-quality singing is essential to the program's success. Participants must commit to learning the repertoire thoroughly. Start with a small setlist and gradually expand as the program grows. Focus on recruiting skilled singers to maintain high standards.

Apparel

Medical scrubs are the preferred attire, as they help children feel at ease. Alternatively, consider matching polos or shirts featuring your chorus logo. For guidance on purchasing scrubs, contact the BHS Music Medics office.

Administration

Organize visits during weekdays, as weekends often see lower hospital occupancy. Effective communication and scheduling are vital. Consider assigning permanent quartets to specific hospitals or using a rotating roster to ensure coverage.

Publicity / Marketing

Encourage parents to share videos of your performances on social media, but avoid taking photos or videos yourself without proper authorization. Use hashtags like #BHSMusicMedics to amplify your impact. Establish a social media presence and connect with local media for human-interest stories.

Safety and Security

Hospitals may require participants to have annual flu vaccinations or other immunizations. Avoid visiting if you are unwell. Follow hospital guidelines, which may include singing outside patient rooms or wearing masks in certain areas.

Conclusion / Outlook

The Music Medics program offers a profoundly rewarding way to serve your community through song. By lifting the spirits of children and their families, you embody the true spirit of barbershop harmony. Join the growing network of Music Medics and help bring smiles and comfort to those in need.

For support and resources, contact **bhsmusicmedics@gmail.com**. Together, we can make a difference, one song at a time.