

THE
Vocal Federation
Barbershop Chorus

OF THE STRATHROY CHAPTER OF THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY



**Invites You to Join Them
In a Song**

WE MEET EVERY
WEDNESDAY EVENING
AT

ST. ANDREWS
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

corner of

Albert & Richmond
Streets

in Strathroy, Ontario

At 7:00 pm

Enter at the back



Vision Statement

The Strathroy Chapter will provide the opportunity to men and women of all ages to blend their voices in the unique style of barbershop harmony singing and will provide wholesome entertainment for people of all ages through this and neighbouring communities wherever our services may be desired.

Mission Statement

To realize our Vision, the Strathroy Chapter will:

- provide the means for men and women to participate in and enjoy the singing of barbershop-style harmony both in chorus and quartet singing.
- provide for its membership an organized process to learn and sing barbershop-style harmony from written arrangements or by “ear singing”
- develop members’ vocal talents and performance abilities so that each time they sing together, they perform to the best level possible.
- provide an atmosphere and programs that result in a high level of camaraderie and social benefit to members.
- be a community leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music at schools, churches and social events.
- enrich the lives of the less fortunate people in our communities by singing barbershop music for senior citizen homes, nursing homes and hospitals.

- initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects, especially those projects which will benefit the Ontario District's barbershop charities.

Who are we?

The Vocal Federation is a group of men and women who sing four part "a cappella" (unaccompanied) music for our own pleasure and that of our audiences. We are members of the Strathroy Chapter formed in the fall of 1995. The Strathroy Chapter is a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a 24,000 member international organization dedicated to preserving "Barbershop Harmony".

We meet every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:30 pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in Strathroy. We invite men and women of all ages to join us and experience the fun and enjoyment of four part harmony in the "Barbershop" style. Members come from a large geographic area, both rural and urban localities including Strathroy, Appin, Glencoe, Melbourne, Mount Brydges, Newbury, Parkhill, Wardsville, Embro and London.

What is Barbershop Harmony?

"Barbershop Harmony", sung a cappella by four voices singing four part harmony, consists mainly of major and 7th chords. The TENOR sings mostly above the melody; the LEAD usually sings the melody; the BASS sings the lower notes and the BARITONE sings either below or above the melody to supply the 4th note in the chord.

Barbershop Harmony became popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and was widely

performed in Vaudeville shows as they travelled across North America. Today, a cappella singing has regained popularity especially with younger groups. We have a music to be enjoyed by all age groups for both listening and singing.

What do we do?

We:

- sing for our pleasure
- strive to improve our vocal techniques, our interpretation of songs and our showmanship to enhance our performance
- perform for a variety of audiences throughout our entire membership area
- produce an annual show
- compete with our chorus and quartets at contests sponsored by the society
- support Harmonize for Speech and Sing Canada, our society service projects
- promote other forms of barbershopping (example, quartets, octets, etc.)

STRATHROY CHAPTER AFFILIATIONS

The members of the Strathroy Chapter are members of the Ontario District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The Barbershop Harmony Society has its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee and is made up of 17 districts across the United States and Canada.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be a professional singer?

If you like to sing in the shower or croon along with the radio and can carry a tune, we welcome you. If you've had some experience in a glee club at school or in a church choir, so much the better.

Must I be able to read music?

Reading music is certainly an advantage but we will provide you with several methods of learning music. There will be plenty of opportunity to learn to read music as you go along.

Are there age restrictions?

We welcome men and women of any age.

Will I have to pass a test to be able to join?

Most people have enough musical ability to be accepted into our society, however, you will have to demonstrate to us that you are able to sing our repertoire in order to participate in a performance.

How much time will it take?

We meet one night for rehearsal and chapter meetings with an occasional night or day for performances, but you can get as involved as

you wish by singing in a quartet or other performing group or by becoming a member of an administrative committee.

How much will it cost?

Like most organizations, we do charge annual dues. For about \$5.00 per week you can be a member of the Strathroy Chapter and the Vocal Federation Chorus.

Will I have to sing in a quartet?

You may enjoy our hobby by singing solely in the chorus, but we encourage all members, even new ones, to participate in quartet activities whenever possible.

Will there be activities for my family?

We welcome family members to several special meeting nights throughout the year. We also organize several family events each year such as a Christmas Party, a Golf Tournament and barbeques, etc. Although it is certainly not a prerequisite for membership, the wives, husbands and significant others of Vocal Federation members, can often be found assisting in chapter fund raisers and social events.

Visit our website at

www.strathroyvocalfederation.com



For more information call Orval at 519-
246-1234, or the following member of the
Strathroy Chapter:

