



IC&C 2024 Instructor Bios

A Cappella Showcase

A Cappella Showcase is an International Championship women's chorus, chartered in Milton, ON. As an educational singing organization, the chorus teaches and trains women of all ages to sing and perform in a cappella harmony, at an award-winning level. A member of the larger organization, Harmony Inc., A Cappella Showcase is a hidden gem in the music world of Ontario

Our Vision – To express harmony through our singing and share it with the world.

Our Mission – We joyfully share our music; its passion, emotion and excitement fill our souls with harmony. A Cappella Showcase provides confidence in oneself, camaraderie, love, and optimism for singing. We are a driving force of women's barbershop harmony, providing professional training and education to each member which allow us to strive for excellence in our performance.

Angie Morton

Angie Morton is a Harmony, Inc. certified Administrative Judge. She is a 3rd generation barbershopper and has been around barbershop for most of her life. It is a passion for her but also a part of her current job as the Harmony, Inc. Administrative Coordinator. She is also a 250 Hr certified yoga instructor and Reiki Master. In her spare time, she loves to be outside in the sunshine, especially at Harmony Ranch, which is her happy place, reading a book and soaking in the sun, warmth and sounds of nature.

Brandon Hall

Brandon Hall has been a barbershopper for nearly 2 decades with many years of experience as a quartetter, coach, arranger/composer, director, and educator. He is also the baritone of the 2023 Cardinal District Quartet Champions "Bourbonaires." Brandon currently fills numerous leadership positions for his chorus, Great River Voices, such as Assistant Director and President. In addition to barbershop, Brandon loves singing and spending time with his beautiful wife Christine and their baby Callum!


David Wright

David Wright is a prolific arranger, having arranged over 100 charts sung in gold medal performances. He has studied the history of barbershop harmony and taught classes on that subject for many years. He has served on the faculty of the BHS Harmony University for the last 39 years. He is Associate Director of the five-time International champion chorus Ambassadors of Harmony.

Fierce

Fierce formed in 2018 when Susan Ives (lead) and Kelly Peterson (tenor) asked Joy Suellentrop (baritone) and Kris Wheaton (bass) about starting a quartet and competing in Harmony Inc.. Susan and Kelly had sung together in a Sweet Adeline Quartet and Kelly was in Susan's chorus at the time. Joy and Kris have been known to sing in quartets together – best known as the "Spot On" bass clef, 2013 Harmony Queens. Since that first meeting, they have all lived in different states (with a few moves sprinkled in), some of them have changed jobs, one has retired, and there are now 4 new Fierce littles with Joy adding 2 and Kris adding 2. With all that, there WAS a global pandemic thrown in to make things interesting.

The quartet had immediate success with Harmony, Inc., having qualified for the International Competition three times and finishing in the top 3 each time they competed. In 2023 Fierce won the International Competition and were named the 2023 Harmony Queens of Harmony, Incorporated. The motto of this quartet has always been: Be bold, be brave, be kind, be Fierce!





Gene "Doc" Spilker

Eugene (Doc) Spilker is a 3rd generation barbershopper with a diverse background. He has been a proud front row member of the Ambassadors of Harmony and part of the visual team for most of his barbershop endeavor. He is a certified Performance Judge with BHS and is an incoming Director At Large. He has coached and choreographed visual packages for men and women's chorus and quartet productions.

Gene's unique style and positive energy is intended to express the heart of the music to provide an experience for both the performer and the audience. He hopes to bring honesty, entertainment, and musicality out of every performance.

He recently completed a second doctorate in health profession education. Eugene is a chiropractor, a clinical educator, and Dean of the School of Chiropractic at Universidad Central del Caribe.

Dr. Jay Dougherty

Dr. Jay Dougherty, is an Associate Professor at Drury University in Springfield, MO and serves there as the Performing Arts Department Chair and Director of Choral Activities. He holds a DMA and MM in Choral Conducting from the University of Colorado Boulder and a BM in Choral Music Education from Brigham Young University, Provo. Jay is a published author, arranger, and composer and has given nearly 100 presentations at conferences and conventions around the world. Jay is a certified Musicality Judge for the BHS, a coach and clinician, and is a 10-year faculty member at Harmony University. Jay resides in Springfield, Missouri, with his wife and five daughters.

Joe Hunter

Joe is a born and raised New Yorker and has been singing and performing for as long as he can remember – and probably for quite some time prior to that.

Joe is a founding member of the Big Apple Chorus and was the Musical Director from 2000-2013. He directed the Long Island Twin Shores Chorus from 1994-2007. In 2013 he retired and was named as Director Emeritus. He and his wife Diane recently moved to Northern Kentucky and he is a proud member and Music VP of the Cincinnati Southern Gateway Chapter, and recently accepted the position of lead Musical Director for the Cincinnati Delta Kings Chorus.

He has been barbershopping for the last 50 years, and is a past BHS Presentation Category Specialist and 15-time PRS and PER Board of Review member and was the Project Manager and one of the architects for the development and implementation of the new Performance Category. Joe also serves as mentor for Harmony Inc's Performance Category. He is also a certified CDWI (chorus director workshop intensive) trainer and sought after coach. He has served multiple times as faculty at Harmony University and has also served at numerous regional schools, Top Guns and youth camps.

Joe has sung with many different quartets, most notably 4 Under Par (International finalists and all around wild and crazy guys), Reveille (7-time International Competitors), and he currently sings baritone with Up All Night (8 Time International Competitors and current Seniors silver medalists). All these quartets are known as original, entertaining groups that have looked to push the creative envelope and develop a varied and proprietary repertoire.

In the real world, Joe was an SVP of Technology, where he managed teams of software developers. Ironically, in this role he also focused on performance!





Nate Ogg

Nathan is an experienced choral professional that has been singing barbershop since 2000 when his high school quartet was fostered by a local barbershop chapter. He is the lead singer of Harmonic Thunder (2018 Johnny Appleseed District Champion quartet and recent International semifinalist, finishing 18th in Charlotte). He is a Certified Master Director in SAI and the Artistic Director for the Greater Cleveland Chorus.

Nathan attended Capital University and The Ohio State University for degrees in Vocal Music Performance and Choral Conducting specializing in Vocal Health. He is a BHS certified singing judge, an active coach and clinician for youth and adult events, and his experience as a contracted choralist around Ohio includes 20 years with the professional chamber ensemble, LancasterChorale.

Robert Mance

Robert Mance has been the artistic director of BHS medalist chorus Central Standard since 2011. In 2016, he became the founding artistic director of SAI international chorus competitor Vocal Standard.

Robert has completed the coursework for a doctoral degree in choral conducting at the University of Kansas. He most recently served as Director of Music at Shawnee Presbyterian Church where he also maintained a private voice studio. Now, he spends the rest of his week as a full-time coach of choruses and quartets.

He previously served as interim Director of Choral Activities and interim Voice Area Director at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO. Robert has also sung professionally with such groups as the Kansas City Chorale and the Westminster Symphonic Choir and Westminster Choir.

He is an active clinician for high school vocal ensembles, maintains a recording studio, and serves as a BHS judge in the singing category (2016-present), and formerly in the music category (2001-2016).

Robert completed his undergraduate studies in voice performance at McGill University in Montreal and completed his graduate studies in choral conducting and voice pedagogy at Westminster Choir College in Princeton.


Most importantly, he is married to Kristin Drummond, baritone of 2022 Harmony Queens Take 4!

Sandi Wright

Sandi Wright brings her lifelong love of barbershop harmony to members of barbershop organizations (Sweet Adelines International, the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Incorporated) as well as pageant participants, youth harmony festivals, show choirs and acappella jazz choirs.

Sandi is a member of Sweet Adelines International, Harmony Incorporated, the Barbershop Harmony Society and the Missouri Pageant Alumnae Club. She retired as the director (at the master level) of the St. Louis Harmony Chorus, and currently directs the Area 4 Championship St. Louis Vocal Project. As a baritone singer she has earned two international quartet gold medals and six regional quartet championships in Sweet Adelines and two silvers and one bronze medal in Harmony, Incorporated international competitions.

Sandi is the only person in the world certified as a competition judge in every North American barbershop organization. She is certified in the Visual Communication Category with Sweet Adelines International and the Performance Category in Harmony Incorporated and Barbershop Harmony Society. In other words, she is qualified to judge any barbershop contest anywhere in the world. She is a certified international faculty member of Sweet Adelines International and is a busy and sought-after coach.





Steve Tramack

Steve is a 42 year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, who proves the adage that barbershopping runs in the blood. Great-grandfather Frank Barker started a chapter in 1946; his father, Dave was a 40+-year member of BHS. and his son Joshua, wife Renee, and daughters Christina and Samantha are all active barbershoppers, and involved in quartetting, chorus directing, judging, teaching and coaching.

Steve is actively involved in several facets of barbershopping, including:

- 10-time International chorus director
- 5-time International quartet competitor
- Certified Musicality Judge (2010), and current BHS Musicality Category Specialist
- Over 300 commissioned arrangements, ranging from International champions (BHS, Harmony, Inc. and SAI) to chapter quartets and choruses
- Lead editor and contributor to the four-volume "Arranging Barbershop" series, published by Hal Leonard and the Barbershop Harmony Society
- Active coach of men's, women's and mixed ensembles worldwide
- 19-year Harmony University faculty member and chair of the Arranging Track

During the day, Steve works for Hewlett Packard Enterprise as a Senior Director of Engineering.

Tessa Walker

Tessa Walker is the choir director at Seneca Valley High School in Germantown, Maryland. There, she music directs 4 choirs and the musical theatre productions. She is also proud to have created a special education adaptive music curriculum at her school. Though she now resides in Maryland, she grew up in Georgia, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Choral Music Education with a History Minor from Kennesaw State University. Tessa has been a barbershopper since 2010 (joining at age 14) with many contests, camps, and conventions under her belt. She is a proud member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Sweet Adelines International, and Harmony, Inc. In recent years, she won the Sweet Adelines International Rising Star 2018 Competition and the 2019 Harmony Incorporated International Quartet Contest with her quartet, Hot Pursuit! Through her decade plus in the barbershop world, she has competed as the lead in 7 different quartets, Song of Atlanta Show Chorus, and Northern Blend Chorus. Her passion is diverse youth involvement and she strives to bring her love of barbershop to the young people she meets. She is overjoyed to be bringing her knowledge and expertise from her own experience as a youth member and music educator to Harmony.

