

## Strengthen & Grow Your Chapter: Host a "harmony cabaret"

### Alberta Harmony Cabaret Makes History



The Stampede City Chorus hosted an historical event on October 1, 2022, and invited singers, family members, and friends to spend a fun afternoon full of singing, visiting, good food, and tons of fun!

This first-of-its-kind event was a mash up of an Afterglow with a Harmony Platoon, activities that have been showing up in connection with more and more barbershop convention/contest weekends because of the informal camaraderie that is such an important part of our barbershop experience.

The basic idea is that ANYONE who wants to do MORE quartetting can sign up, learn several songs (3 this weekend) in one or more of the parts and be off music by the start of the event. When everyone arrives, their names are dropped in bowls for the part(s) they are ready to sing. Then a name from each bowl is pulled out and that becomes the quartet for Round 1. Drawings happen until all quartets are formed. Each quartet has a few minutes to get together, pick a quartet name, decide on which of the "platoon" songs they will perform, and sing through their song several times to lock those chords!

Then the Round 1 contest begins with judges (4 or so) picked from the audience... with the order of appearance randomly picked from the cards with the quartet names on them.



After all quartets have sung and received a wild applause from the audience, the judges select the top 3 quartets to move to the Final round (after dinner).



ROUND 2: After some visiting and nibbling time, singers are again picked for the new Round 2 quartets. They are again given a few minutes to become a new quartet with a new name. After Round 2 is finished, the judges again select three from this round to proceed to the Finals (after dinner).

Clearly, there will be singers in the Finals who are singing in several quartets ... and that's just part of the fun! During dinner, the six quartets somehow manage to get together individually to work on their song and develop some presentation plans for all to enjoy.

The order of appearance for the Finals is also a random draw of the quartet names that sang earlier. The top two quartets are recognized and awarded a little prize.



It is then time for all singers to get on the risers and sing the three songs together for the remaining audience! Everyone goes home a winner after a fantastic afternoon/evening full of singing and fun!

If you'd like more information about the day's agenda or how a Harmony Cabaret works, contact Greg Verhappen at [gverhappy@shaw.ca](mailto:gverhappy@shaw.ca) or 587-288-5226.

**Alberta Harmony Cabaret 2022**  
 For all BHS & SAI barbershoppers  
*A Multi-chorus Afterglow with a Harmony Platoon twist*  
 Experience barbershop community at its best!  
**Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022**  
**2:00 - 8:00 pm**  
**\$40.00**  
 Includes: music/vocal tracks & meal  
 Symons Valley United Church  
 38 Kincora Rise NW  
 Calgary, AB T3R 0A3

## **Alberta Harmony Cabaret Makes History - 2022**

The Stampede City Chorus hosted an historical event on October 1<sup>st</sup> and invited singers, family members, and friends to spend a fun afternoon full of singing, visiting, good food, and tons of fun!

Here's our notes from the Harmony Cabaret, which could help your chapter also host such an event – where everyone goes home a winner after a fantastic afternoon/evening full of singing and fun!

### **NOTES:**

- FIRST of it's kind anywhere as far as we can tell.
  - Resounding success!
- Approx 60 participants
- Mash up of an Afterglow and a Harmony Platoon for all SAI & BHS barbershoppers.
- Informal singing from 1 – 2 pm
- Event 2 pm – 8 pm
  - 2 mini-platoon rounds (top 3 move on to final round)
  - Dinner
  - Final round & mass chorus
  - Qtets & tags sang at breaks followed by social & platoon quartets practicing (~45 minutes each)
- Average satisfaction rating: 9.05/10
- 25 mini-platoon participants
- 3 simple SATB arrangements shortened to 2 minutes each:
  - Under the Boardwalk
  - Side by Side
  - Can You Feel the Love Tonight?
- Almost unanimous demand for another event
  - Plans for mixed planning committee from SAI/BHS
  - Preference is for another fall event (due to travel)
    - Winter is next most popular option.
- Cost
  - \$40 for participant: dinner, facility rental, music, learning tracks, & snacks.
  - \$20 for guest: dinner, facility rental, and snacks.

performances at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtVAtq4IRtdDoRoitEAKXCw>.

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