

Roots of Barbershop - 2017

The Fairfield Four Levert Allison, Bobbye Sherrell, Larrice Byrd, Joseph Thompson



In 2017 the Alexandria Harmonizers began a multi-year focus on diversity, inclusion, and improving ties to the local community in Alexandria. Related to that effort, we also devoted a considerable amount of time to exploring the roots of barbershop harmony, a uniquely American art form that shares a common musical heritage with the African American spiritual.

We co-hosted a two-day festival called Music through the Ages: Gospel and Barbershop with several local gospel groups and the award-winning gospel quartet The Fairfield Four. The Harmonizers Fall Show, Rock My Soul, featured The Fairfield Four and the Howard University Gospel Choir.

One of the most recognized choral directors in the Washington, D.C. region, Dr. Joyce Garrett was instrumental in forging our new and continuing musical relationship with the renowned Men's Choir at Alexandria's historic Alfred Street Baptist Church. We held workshops with Dr. Sheila Peters, a consultant from Fisk University, and Dr. Ysaÿe Barnwell, a renowned African American music teacher and clinician best known for being part of the group "Honey in the Rock."

Harmonious Tagline.

2018 Alexandria Harmonizers develop a four year strategic plan to focus itself outward, engaging more in service and celebration with the local community while still sustaining our historic connection to the international barbershop world, In 2022 we hire our first paid staff, General Manager Susan Fitzpatrick.

2018 The BHS announces that all people, regardless of gender, are now welcome as full members of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The fraternal nature of the organization will be preserved for all chapters that desire it, but many chapters may opt to add mixed and women's options under their charter umbrella.

2019 Alexandria Harmonizers conduct their 11th Youth Harmony Festival with Anthony Colosimo, Katie Taylor, Sheryl Berlin and quartets - Signature, Hot Pursuit, Quin-Tones.

2022 At Charlotte, NC, the mixed harmony quartet Better Together opens the first BHS International Contest to welcome all competitors' classes - men's, women's, and mixed harmony group's - for all quartets and choruses.

2022 The Alexandria Chapter adds Metro Voices, a high-voiced SSAA ensemble, under its charter umbrella as the next step in our ongoing mission to share the joys of vocal harmony with a wider variety of singers and audiences.