

Barbershop Vocabulary & Acronyms

Afterglow	Party after a chapter meeting or show.
Barber Polecat songs	The 12 songs every Barbershopper should know. See the Barber Polecat songbook in your new member kit.
Barbershop seventh	The cornerstone chord of the barbershop style, consisting of the root, the Major third above, the perfect fifth above, and the minor seventh above, as in a chord consisting of F, A, C, E-flat.
Bell chord	A musical arranging device in which a chord is sung as a succession of notes by each voice in turn – a vocal arpeggio.
BOTY/BOTM	Barbershopper of the Year/Month—award presented by many chapters and districts recognizing outstanding efforts.
C&J	Contest & Judging program, which trains judges for singing competitions.
District	One of the 17 geographic and administrative regions of the Society.
Evaluation	Analysis and recommendation session—the post-competition performance review provided by the judges.
Fifth-wheeling	Joining in without invitation when a quartet is singing; a breach of manners. Wait for the quartet to finish, then ask if you can sing along.
Frank H. Thorne Chapter-at-Large	An “international” chapter for men who are not active in a Barbershop Harmony Society chapter.
Gang singing	Informal group singing.
Harmony University	Week-long summer educational program for Barbershoppers and music educators held at Belmont University, Nashville, TN.
Harmony Hall	Barbershop Harmony Society headquarters, located in Nashville, Tennessee

Harmony Foundation	A separate, but related, organization to the Society, the Foundation raises funds for Society programs, seeks grants and sponsorships for worthwhile barbershop projects; and maintains an endowment fund for the Society.
HX	Harmony Explosion Camps for high school and college singers.
Lead	The man who sings the melody part. The lead line is the melody of a song.
Overtones	Tones of higher pitch that are present in every musical sound and whose presence determines the quality of the musical sound. Chords locked in tune and proper volume relationship "ring" with reinforced overtones.
PROBE	A Barbershop Harmony Society subsidiary organization of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. See www.harmonize.com/probe/
Registered quartet	A quartet whose name and personnel have been catalogued at Harmony Hall. Registration gives the quartet exclusive use of its name. Only registered quartets may sing in competition. Collegiate quartets are not required to be registered quartets.
Swipe	A progression of two or more chords sung on a single word or syllable; hallmark of the barbershop style.
Tag	A coda; the ending of a song, often repeating the final words and designed to make a complete and satisfying arrangement.
Tune	As a noun, the melody of a song; as a verb, to blend and make a more accurate or pleasing sound.
Woodshedding	Impromptu quartet singing without arrangements; singing by ear.

Acronyms

The alphabet soup of initials which form the Society's legal name—SPEBSQSA— were founder O.C. Cash's way of poking fun at the numerous initialed agencies of FDR's New Deal. The Society continues the tradition of obfuscatory fun by perpetuating numerous abbreviated designations.

ACDA	American Choral Directors Association
ACDP	Archives Collection and Display Project
AHSOW	Ancient And Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders—Barbershop Harmony Society subsidiary devoted to preserving the practice of harmonizing without arrangements; see woodshedding.
AIC	Association of International Champions.
AIQC	Association of International Seniors Quartets Champions
ASCAP	American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers
BHS	Barbershop Harmony Society
BMAL	Board Member-At-Large
BMC	Board Management Council
BMI	Broadcast Music, Inc.
C&J	Contest and Judging
CAPAC	Canadian Association of Publishers, Arrangers, and Composers
CAR	Cardinal District
CBQC	Harmony Foundation Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest.
CDD	Chorus Director Development

CDDC	Chorus Director Development Committee
CDWI	Chorus Director Workshop Intensive
COTS	Chapter Operations Training Seminar (now known as Leadership Academy)
CBQC	Harmony Foundation Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest.
CSD	Central States District
CSLT	Chapter Support and Leadership Training
CVP	Chapter Vice President
DACJC	District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman
DIX	Dixie District
DP	District President
DVP	District Vice President
DVP-CDD	District Vice President for Chorus Director Development
DVP-CSLT	District Vice President for Chapter Support and Leadership Training
DVP-CJ	District Vice President for Contest and Judging
DVP-MP	District Vice President for Music and Performance
DVP-MS	District Vice President for Member Services
DVP-YMH	District Vice President for Youth In Harmony
EVG	Evergreen District

EVP	Executive Vice President
FWD	Far Western District
HEP	Harmony Education Program
HF	Harmony Foundation, the Society's charitable arm
HOD	House of Delegates
IPP	Immediate Past President
IPT	Integrated Product Team
ILL	Illinois District
JAD	Johnny Appleseed District
L&R	Laws and Regulations
LOL	Land O'Lakes District
M&PR	Marketing and Public Relations
M-AD	Mid-Atlantic District
MENC	Formerly Music Educators National Conference. Now known as MENC:The National Association for Music Education
NED	Northeastern District
NSC	Carolinas District
ONT	Ontario District
OT	Operations Team

PIO	Pioneer District
PPDG	Planning and Program Development Group
PR	Public Relations
PROBE	Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors
RMD	Rocky Mountain District
SCJC	Society Contest and Judging Committee
SLD	Seneca Land District
SPEBSQSA	Legal name for the Barbershop Harmony Society. Stands for Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing In America, Inc.
SUN	Sunshine District
SWD	Southwestern District
WHC	World Harmony Council
WHJ	World Harmony Jamboree
WP	Work Plan
XQ	eXtreme Quartetting, also known as Harmony Brigade
YIH	Youth in Harmony