

The Keene, NH Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



The
Cheshiremen
CHORUS

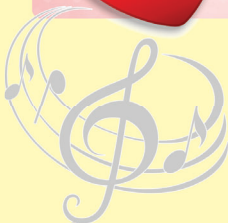


67th Annual Show

SONGS



we love to



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featuring the Chorus
under the direction of
Mark Brosseau
with chapter quartets
and featuring our
Special Guest Quartet

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Singing is Life...
the rest is just details.*

Please accept our warmest welcome to the 67th performance of the Keene Cheshiremen Chorus. This is the first of many events that we will perform throughout the area during spring and summer.

We love sharing our music with others. The smiles we see reflected back from audiences of all ages and the fellowship we experience through music renews and enhances our motivation to perform.

As an active Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, The Cheshiremen bring their "Four Part Harmony" to entertain and comfort many in hospitals and in long term care facilities throughout the year.

Also, in keeping with our goals in being community minded, we sponsor high school students to attend Harmony Explosion, a summer four-day event. Young people will experience top-notch vocal coaching as well as the life changing experience of working together intensely. Many of these young men and women will have met for the first time and will learn new musical and non-musical skills which result in some amazing musical performances after just a few days.

I invite you to come sing with us at our new home at Hannah Grimes Center on Roxbury Street in Keene.

Every Tuesday night at 6:30 throughout the year you will find us warming up, practicing our upcoming shows and just singing for fun! After practice, we share snacks, songs and comradery. It's a great fellowship.

Tonight, leave your cares and worries outside the door and tune in for some fun as we take you on another musical tour!

Dennis Hattie

Dennis Hattie - Chapter President

**TRY IT!
SEE PAGE 36**

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Welcome to our 67th annual show!

We're still that happy group of guys with a singing habit and are really pleased to share some time with you tonight.

This year our focus is on songs we love to sing. We've added selections from some of our past shows because they were too good to not perform again. And we added in some songs which have recently become our favorites. It's great fun to add a new verse or introduction and it is always great to find ways to revisit something we haven't done for a while and make it fresh again!

We've brought a great guest quartet to our stage in The Conmen. It has been a while since we've had such young gentlemen join us and we're very proud to present these collegiate International finalists. Please excuse us when we must leave the audience during their performance so we can get back to the stage together! Don't forget, you will be treated to even more of their harmony at the afterglow right after the show.

This year, the Cheshiremen have a new home and rehearsal venue at the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship and it's turning out to be amazing! The rehearsal room is big, comfy, and acoustically accommodating so I believe that we are harmonizing better than ever! We look forward to expanding our numbers and singing at a higher level and we are most excited about how this new association will help us build relationships and networking within our community.

So, you want to sing with us? You can! I encourage you to let us help you find your voice and a place on the risers with The Cheshiremen Chorus. We make our meetings inclusive, educational, and fun. Every Tuesday carries an open invitation for men that like to sing to join us for our chapter meeting and rehearsal and our commitment to keep the whole world singing!

Thank you for your past and continued support for the arts and specifically for the Cheshiremen. *Please enjoy the show!*



Mark A. Broseman

CHESHIREMEN 2019 PROGRAM



2019 CHESHIREMEN SPRING SHOW

Opening Remarks: Chapter President, Dennis Hattie

Acknowledgement: Barbershopper of the Year, John Devlin

The Cheshiremen Chorus Sings:

(Listed chronologically, songs will not be sung in this order)

I've Been Working on the Railroad

Sweet Roses of Morn

Everybody Loves a Lover

When You Wish Upon a Star

America the Beautiful w/Overlay

I Don't Know Why

Hallelujah

Shine on Me

Goodbye, My Coney Island Baby

Can You Feel the Love Tonight?

Chordbuster's March

Chapter Quartet Appearance: *Heads Up*

INTERMISSION

Guest Quartet Appearance: *The Con Men*

Finale *(Note: past and present barbershoppers in the audience are invited to the stage to sing "Keep the Whole World Singing")*

1-2-3 It's great to be a barbershopper!

ABOUT OUR DIRECTOR

Our Director – Mark R. Brosseau

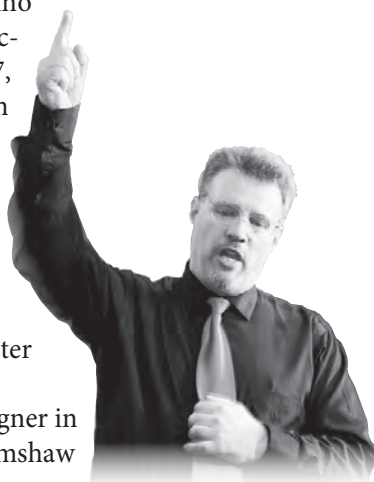
Mark began his performing career when he played the master of ceremonies for a three-ring circus in first grade. He comes from a musically-inclined family and at first self-taught, learned to play a number of instruments early on, finally settling on the saxophone in fourth grade. Mark played in the Monadnock Regional High School Marching Band and Jazz Band and sang in the school chorus and Polyphonic Choir, making All-State chorus for three years. He sang and danced, acted, and played his way through many concerts and shows and was perpetually in front of the curtain as MC for many variety shows and local productions in and out of school.

Mark was class president grade 7-12 and he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in his senior year by hosting a variety show to benefit the Cedarcrest Center for Children with Disabilities which was in Westmoreland NH at that time. He was featured in the Keene Sentinel's Monadnock Profile in 1980 highlighting his show, music, and a very busy year. Mark began singing barbershop in a quartet in high school after discovering some old music lining the bottom of a band cabinet and gave it a try. He walked a few miles from home to play in the community band at the annual Swanzey Old Homestead production and most recently for over 25 years annually sang barbershop with the farmer's group in the show. He studied Music Education at Keene State College where he played baritone sax in a saxophone quartet and the college Jazz Ensemble.

Mark finally joined the Cheshiremen in 2000 after being an audience member at the chapter annual shows with his family since the age of six. He had the privilege to sing as a guest under the direction of Dino Houppis, sang and conducted as the Assistant Director under Jim Flanders and as of December 2017, Mark R. Brosseau assumed the honorable position of the sole, front-line director of the Cheshiremen. After nearly 9 years of co-directorship with Jim Kirschner, "The Dynamic Harmonic Duo" has officially retired.

Mark has been singing baritone in the chapter quartet "Heart's Accord" for over 13 years, has quartetted for over 40 years, and was named chapter Barbershopper of the Year in both 2004 and 2015.

Mark lives in Sullivan, NH and works as a designer in the Kitchen, Bath, and Flooring department at Hamshaw Lumber in Keene.



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Men from all over the world and from all walks of life and all ages can come together and share in this truly American art form and find common ground through self expression in song. The friendships forged through barbershop harmony bridge gaps that no other hobby is capable of doing, and for many devotees, barbershop is far more than a hobby. It's a passion.

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CHAPTER CHARITABLE MISSION

The Keene Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., usually referred to as The Cheshiremen Chorus, has as its mission to promote the habit of lifelong singing to young and old alike especially in the a cappella, barbershop style. SPEBSQSA, Inc. is also known as the Barbershop Harmony Society.

To accomplish that mission we reach out to assisted living and skilled nursing facilities within Cheshire County in the Holiday and winter months with brief programs of song as a chorus and as quartets. We also sponsor local high school students to attend the Northeastern District's Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast (HXNE) in the summer and try to work with high school and regional choral groups to educate them in the a cappella style known as Barbershop.

We regularly sing for other local charitable organizations to aid them in their community work and events.

We have made selected donations to local musical organizations to aid in special music projects. Our biggest contribution is to bring smiles to the faces of people in our community. The ability to provide these services to the community is assisted by: (1) you, our fans and friends when you purchase admission to our events; (2) the men and women of our community who step up and place paid advertising for their businesses or services in our event programs or yearbooks; (3) your direct charitable donations to our chapter: and finally (4) member dues.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Cheshiremen made a big change this year. We moved from our home of many years, the UCC Church in Keene, to the Hannah Grimes Center. We have been at the UCC church more years than most of us have been Cheshiremen. It was both sad and happy. We want to heartily thank the United Church of Christ in Keene for many, many years of warmth and collaboration. The parishioners, the pastors and staff through the years and especially Rev. Cindy Bagley and Julie White, their administrator, these last few years have been wonderful!

Thanks to Steve Salamin and Mike Guyette for expertise in public relations and design.

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The ladies and gentlemen, the wives, friends and family of Cheshiremen who assist with the promotion, box office, ticket sales, reservations, ushering and program distribution. Our sincere apologies to anyone who we may have overlooked while compiling this listing. We thank YOU too!

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CHESHIREMEN MISSION STATEMENT

The Cheshiremen Chorus is one of the Monadnock Region's original choral organizations and the oldest chapter in New Hampshire of the international Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). We preserve the vision of a singing fraternity that is drawn together by the love of the four-part, a cappella, close-harmony style of music known as "Barbershop."

Our chapter endeavors to promote the joy of singing by harmonizing in schools, worship halls, and throughout our community. We share a collaborative music experience through a strong, ever-improving music program that blends together fellowship, ensemble singing, quarteting, and performing. Divisional and district contests quantify our progress and encourage musical improvement.

We engage our members and welcomed guests in dynamic rehearsals and entertaining performances wherever the opportunity exists for wholesome, unplugged vocal harmony. The men of **The Cheshiremen Chorus** help perpetuate the barbershop style of vocal music and contribute to the growth of our chapter by embracing these goals: to sing well, have fun, and serve others.

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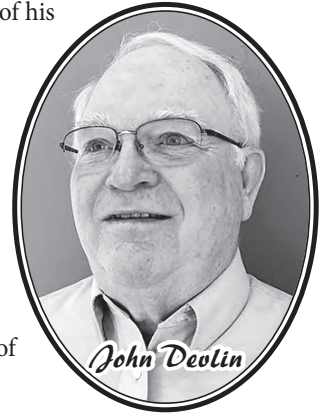
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2018 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR

John Devlin was chosen as Cheshiremen of the year as a result of his contribution to the group throughout the year.

John has the experience of teaching music and shares that with the Cheshiremen. He has provided timely tips on how to improve our rehearsal performance, and has re-introduced singing of TAGS.

He is able to help “warm up” the members voices at the beginning of rehearsals, and volunteers without asking. John joined the music committee and played a pivotal part in the selection of music. He was shortly thereafter suggested by several members to be considered for a Board position of “VP of Music and Performance” – Which he graciously accepted.



John began his musical career in school by playing tenor sax. He sang in the chorus and performed in the All State Chorus. After graduating from Keene State College with a music degree he began his teaching career in northern Massachusetts at seven different school districts. A year later he returned to Peterborough and taught middle school instrumental music. After nine years of teaching he and his wife decided to ditch the snow and move to Florida. Arriving in the south, John found a job as a career firefighter, but his love for music continued by playing in a wind ensemble.

Now moved to South Carolina he worked at a golf course when a member asked if he could sing and invited him to visit a Barbershop group. John started singing in the chorus and joined not one but two quartets. He was often the only tenor in the chorus. One summer he attended Barbershop University at Belmont College in Nashville, TN with one of his quartets and found it to be a most amazing experience. Yet, his northern roots kept calling him. It was time to enjoy the snow in New Hampshire with its four seasons – Yes, time to move back!

Now living in Dublin, his family friend, Linda, ran into a tall gentleman at a grocery store wearing a red shirt with “Barbershop” written on it. Yes – fate struck again. Dennis, President of the Keene Cheshiremen was fishing and caught a big one. Now you have the rest of the story.

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2017	Scott Madden*	2005	Jeff Incandella	1992	Jim Flanders
2017	Tom Rowett*	2004	Mark Brosseau	1991	Norm Dumais
2016	Craig Fisher	2003	Steve Salamin	1990	Jim Kirschner
2015	Mark Brosseau	2002	Bob Meissner, Jr.	1989	Casper Bemis
2014	Dennis Hattie	2001	Allan Treadwell	1988	Art Holtoroff
2013	Michael Little	2000	Jim Flanders	1987	David Peirce
2012	Bob Trombi	1999	Don Bennett	1986	Roger Martin
2011	Stan Hutchings	1998	Bob Lafond	1985	Dick Neilsen
2010	Richard Quintal	1997	Robert Whitney	1984	Carl Hansen
2009	Leif Arvidson	1996	Peter Ketcham	1983	Roland Lindahl
2008	Wayne Miller	1995	Dino Houpis	1982	Jack Kelly
2007	Lewis LaClair	1994	Roger Martin	1981	Bob Whitney
2006	Norm Bergeron	1993	Dave Bemis	1980	Dino Houpis

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Casper Bemis
Scott Bergeron
Dennis Hattie
Dennis Jacob
Ron Kovalchick
Robert Meissner, Jr.

LEADS

Dick Newton
Richard Norkun
Jonathan Ray
Tom Rowett
Stephen Salamin
Robert Tarbox
Robert Trombi

BASSES

Michael Beadle
Andrew Cooke
Tony D'Alessio
Craig Fisher
Lawrence Graves
Robert Lafond
Chris Shepard

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John Devlin
Mike Little
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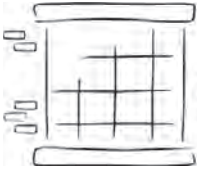
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Thank you Mary Ann and Shannon!



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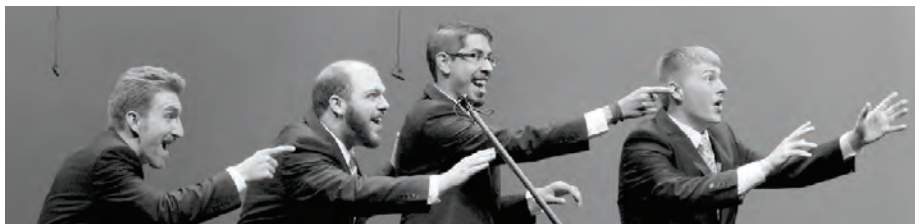
(Honestly.)

How & Why *The Con Men*? (it's about barbershop harmony community!)

In 2014, while attending the Society's *Harmony University (HU)* at *Belmont University* in Nashville, Tennessee, current Cheshiremen member *John Devlin* met and heard *The Con Men* for the first time. They very quickly stood out as one of the premier quartets. John learned that these four college "kids" were medalists on the International stage. John (living in Beaufort, SC at that time)

and his quartet, *Eu-4-ia*, received coaching from *The Con Men* at HU. It was clear their enthusiasm for singing, coupled with their vibrant personalities and willingness to share their knowledge - made for an impressive and memorable experience.

Upon returning to Beaufort, John recommended that his local chapter chorus, *The Harbormasters*, bring *The Con Men* in for their spring show as the guest quartet. (Now, twice!) John moved back to New Hampshire recently, made the same high recommendation to us and was excited to have *The Con Men* accept our invitation to entertain you today. Enjoy!





About... **The Con Men** (those early days)

The Con Men have been stealing the show ever since they started singing together back in 2008. All four of them enrolled at *Capital University* the same semester, lived on the same floor of their freshmen dormitory, and studied music together at the *Conservatory of Music*. During college these four young men were all members of the *Capital University Chapel Choir*, the *Capital Chordsmen*, and *Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia*. Outside of work and school they also found time to be leading members of *The Alliance Chorus of Greater Central Ohio*, a championship barbershop chorus.

In the spring of 2010, this foursome competed in their first district competition. While not quite able to make the cut, they came back in the fall to win a fifth place bronze medal in the 2010 Johnny Appleseed District (JAD) Quartet Competition. From there



the quartet went on to qualify for the 2011 BHS International Collegiate Quartet Competition. In the fall of 2012 The Con Men had the honor of being named JAD Quartet Champions. For each of the next three years, 2012, 2013, and 2014 they took home third place bronze medals at the BHS International Collegiate Quartet Competitions and a spot among the greatest college quartets in the world.

The quartet is a huge supporter of Society and District **Youth In Harmony**



programs, and they volunteer their time for many youth choruses and music camps. The Con Men love to share their passion for singing, performing, and the barbershop style more than anything in the world. They look forward to entertaining audiences with their humor and harmony for many more years to come.

The Con Men quartet is:

David Strasser, the tenor, hails from Pickerington, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. Over the course of his life he has had the opportunity to live in seven different states, and spent 4th and 5th grade living in Mannheim, Germany. David majored in Music Education at *Capital University*, studying voice. Although he sings the tenor part in barbershop, David was actually a member of the bass section in *The Chordsmen* and *Chapel Choir*. He currently lives in German Village, OH and works in fine dining as a bartender.



Matthew Hopper, the lead, was born and raised in Newark, Ohio. In May 2011 he received a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a minor in History from *Capital University*, studying voice. From July of 2015 to November of 2018, Matthew also directed the *Land of Legend Barbershop Chorus* (Newark, OH chapter). Matthew made the move from Columbus, OH to Nashville, TN in the Fall of 2018 to work as a fundraiser in the Donor Care Center at *Harmony Foundation International*. He loves barbershop harmony, shooting pool, and spending time with friends.



Russell Watterson, the baritone, got hooked on barbershop in high school and has been singing ever since. He graduated with a degree in Computer Science from *Capital University* in 2011. While at Capital, Russell studied voice and was a leading member of many vocal ensembles. He now works in the I.T. department at State Auto Insurance as a Systems Administrator.



Brent Suver, the bass, is a graduate of *Capital University* achieving a BA in Music Industry with a minor in World History. While at Capital, Brent worked as a Stage Manager, Lighting Designer, Audio Engineer and Production Manager. In addition to production, Brent sang with *The Chapel Choir* and *Chordsmen* in the Capital Conservatory of Music. Since graduation Brent has worked as a Lighting Designer and Master Electrician at the Lincoln Theatre in Columbus. He does production work for the Columbus Museum of Art, and other Central Ohio organizations. He is currently employed at the *Barbershop Harmony Society* as the Education Department Admin and lives in Nashville with his wife Alissa.



Thank you
Dave, Matt, Russ & Brent
for sharing your Harmony
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-The Cheshiremen



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John Devlin-tenor and Chorus VP of Music from Dublin, NH singing the high notes.

Craig Fisher, our booming base and Assistant to the Chorus Director from Surry, NH.

Dennis Hattie, lead, Chapter President from Peterborough and surrounded with “The Experienced Ones”.

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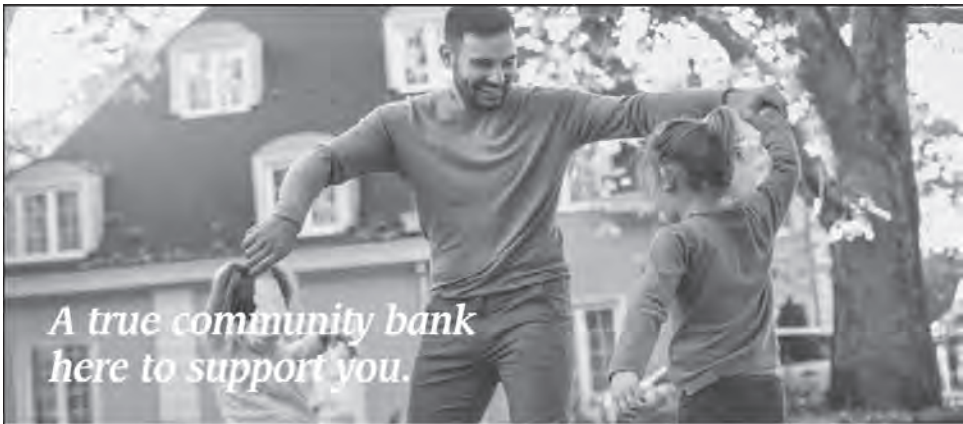


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