

DIRECTING THE HEART OF FLORIDA CHORUS

Music Director - Chris Barthauer

Chris Barthauer is an accomplished musician and dedicated barbershop chorus director. With a passion for music that spans over two decades, Chris has made significant contributions to the world of barbershop harmony. As the musical director of the Heart of Florida Chorus, he is committed to fostering a supportive atmosphere that encourages the musical growth and enrichment of each member.

Chris's musical journey began in the late 1990s when he became a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). Since then, he has been intermittently involved with the society, honing his craft and enriching his musical knowledge. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Performance & Conducting from Indiana University, which provided him with a solid foundation in music theory and conducting techniques.

Chris served as the Music Director for the Hernando Harmonizers Barbershop Chorus from 2018 to 2019, leaving an indelible mark on the chorus's artistic direction. Additionally, he has been an active member of the Heralds of Harmony, a distinguished barbershop chorus known for its exceptional performances and its ranking in the top 10 choruses internationally.

Committed to constant growth and improvement, Chris maintains an ongoing private voice study with St. Pete Opera tenor, Chris Romeo. This dedicated pursuit of vocal excellence allows him to bring fresh perspectives and refined techniques to his role as a director.

Outside of the barbershop world, Chris's musical talents have also been recognized in various other settings. He has previously served as a Church Choir Director at Lakeside Community Chapel in Clearwater, FL, and Fellowship Baptist Church in Thonotosassa, FL. Furthermore, his experience extends to the education sector, where he worked as a K-12 Music Teacher at Lakeside Christian School, nurturing young musical talents and fostering a love for music.

Chris Barthauer's dedication, musical experience, and ability to inspire and lead have made him an exceptional barbershop chorus director. Through his passion for barbershop harmony and his unwavering commitment to musical excellence, he continues to make a significant impact on the world of music.

Chris resides in Zephyrhills, FL, with his wife, Marti, and their two children, Lucy and Patrick. Their family is completed by their loyal and beloved dog, Sam, who would happily trade them all for a plate of sizzling bacon.

Associate Music Director - Michael Testa

Michael started his barbershop experience in 2019 with the St. Charles, MO chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. There he served on the Chapter Administrative Board and was voted their *Barbershopper of the Year* in 2020. In addition, he sang Lead with the multiple gold medal chorus, the Ambassadors of Harmony.

After relocating for business, Michael joined the Central Florida Chapter of BHS in 2022 where he serves on the Administrative Board and sings with the Heart of Florida Chorus. He began his pursuit of musical direction at *Harmony University*, sponsored by the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Director Emeritus - Scott Werner

Scott is one of only two men in Barbershop Harmony Society history to win a gold medal in the Society International Quartet Competition and as the director of a Society International Chorus Champion in the same year.

In all, chorus and quartet, Scott has earned 19 medals (including 5 gold medals) in International competition. For his efforts within the Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society he was elected to the Honors Chapter and was inducted into the District Hall of Honor.

Scott retired from the *Alexandria Harmonizers* in 2002, when he and his wife Linda moved to The Villages. He became a founder and charter member of the Heart of Florida Chorus in 2003.