

He Awa Whiria - 2025 BHNZ National Convention

# NEWSLETTER 3 - The Tributaries

July 7 2025



## Kia Ora Koutou Katoa,

I'm Carl McGregor, the new Chair of the 2025 Barbershop Harmony New Zealand ("BHNZ") Convention.

I am saddened to say that Lynn Humphrey, our Convention Chairman, passed away on Thursday, 3rd of July, 3 weeks after being diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. It is a tragic loss for his family, and for Harmony Waitaha. He was a visionary man, who changed our organisation from a single, male chorus to 3 Choruses; The Plainsmen, Quantum Acoustics and OMC, our new "open mixed chorus". His presence is missed already.

I have been singing Baritone with The Plainsmen since 2006. Apart from 5 years away at University in Dunedin, 1 year in Wellington, and 5 years overseas, I have lived in Christchurch.

We are now heading to the Tributaries of He Awa Whiria – the Braided River. Many things are starting to come together in Harmony.



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## **In this newsletter, you'll find:**

- ✓ **Convention Registration**—our Refund Policy and a reminder that EARLY BIRD IS CLOSING SOON!
- ✓ **An Introduction to our Administrative Judges**—the wonderful people who make it all possible
- ✓ **A Closer Look at our Guest Quartet**—get to know the members of Three and a Half Men!
- ✓ **Friends and Family Activities**—what to do when not ringing those barbershop chords...

## **Convention Registration**

***Reminder: Early-Bird Registration closes on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July at 11.59pm.***

If you are having trouble registering for the convention, please contact your chorus/chapter president. They have been provided with a flow-chart which may make the process easier.

## **Refund Policy**

If you are no longer able to attend convention, the following refunds will apply:

*Note: In the event of special circumstances, consideration will be given on a case by case basis.*

<b><i>When Refund Requested</i></b>	<b><i>Last Date</i></b>	<b><i>Refund Amount</i></b>
Before Early-Bird Registration Closes	Monday, July 21st	100%
Between Early-Bird Closing and Standard Registration Closing	Sunday, August 17th	75%
Between Standard Registration Closing and Two Weeks Before Convention	Thursday, September 4th	50%
Less than Two Weeks Before Convention	N/A	None

Our Refund Policy is also available at the bottom of the [Convention Webpage](#), under “Quick Links”

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## **Meet The Administrative Judges!**

The Administrative Judges are responsible for *managing* every aspect of the contest, from calculating competition results to making sure the judges are playing nicely!

### **Aaron Hewitt** - *Perth, Australia*

Aaron has over 20 years' experience in Sports and Event administration including 12 years as President of Special Olympics WA, before becoming involved with the Barbershop artform. Aaron supported in the pit at the BHA Nationals in 2015 and Pan Pac in 2017, certifying as an ADM judge for AGBJ in the same year. Since certifying, Aaron has been one of the ADM judges for the 2023 Pan Pac, 2024, 2022 and 2018 BHA Nationals as well as several regional contests.



### **Angie Schonegger** - *Aotearoa, New Zealand*

Angie Schonegger holds a Master's degree in Musicology and postgraduate qualifications in teaching and early intervention. She is a certified Contest Administrator Judge (CAJ) for Barbershop Harmony Australia (BHA) and Barbershop Harmony New Zealand (BHNZ), where she plays a key role in supporting fair and effective competitions. Angie is also a member of Pacific Connection, a Wellington-based barbershop chorus. Her work reflects a deep commitment to music, education, and community development.



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## Get to Know Three and a Half Men!



Three and a Half Men are a dynamic vocal quartet from Central Florida. They bring a variety of musical styles to the scene, with backgrounds in barbershop, doo-wop, vocal jazz, and gospel music, the quartet enjoys a diverse repertoire and delivery. That said, Three and a Half Men are honoured to be the 2024 Barbershop Harmony Society International Quartet Champions. Always looking for ways to enjoy harmony, the group is thrilled to have the opportunity to share their voices with us.

From their name, you might be wondering where the other ‘half’ went. Don’t worry, they are wondering the same thing!

🎥 Check out some of their performances here: [threeandahalfmen.com/videos](https://threeandahalfmen.com/videos)



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**Joseph DeRosa - Tenor**

Joseph was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. He has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society since 2010, joining when he was seven years old. He began his journey singing tenor with the Big Orange Chorus, and then joined the Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony when his Dad became their director in 2012. His wide vocal range has helped to propel him into professional entertainment performing at Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, and multiple cruise lines. He is a worship leader at Villagepoint Church and continues to create audio and video content for His World Studios. Currently, Joseph lives in Winter Garden, Florida, with his Dad (Tony), Mom (Jodi), sister (Sophia), and dog (Toby).

**Josh Szolomayer - Lead**

Josh began his musical journey in Anaheim, California at age 9. Raised in a musical family, he started on piano and added several instruments in his younger years. This led him to pursuing a Vocal Performance degree from Fullerton College in CA. His professional singing career debuted with the Voices of Liberty at Disneyland in 2012. Josh is the owner / operator of Penny Grove Home Solutions LLC, a construction business, specializing in carpentry and home repairs. Josh currently resides in Apopka, Florida with his wife Natalie, and their four children, Alfie (11), Eloise (5), Lola (2), and Georgia (7mo).

**Chris Keough - Bass**

Chris was raised in Columbus, GA, where he attended Columbus State University. At the age of 19, Chris was hired by The Walt Disney Company to sing with The Voices of Liberty in EPCOT's Candlelight Processional. At the time, he was in school pursuing a degree in Pre-Dentistry, but the move solidified his desire to become a professional singer. Since moving to Orlando, Chris has had the opportunity to perform at every major theme park. In addition to performing, Chris works as a commercial and fashion model; he has been featured by clients such as Champs Sports, Planet Hollywood & The Walt Disney Company. In 2017, he started Resolve, an A Cappella jazz quartet. His immediate family includes his Mother (Torri), Dad (Ronald), and brother (Cameron).

**Tony DeRosa - Baritone**

Tony has lived in Central Florida for most of his life. Starting in barbershop at 7 years old, tight vocal harmony principles and musical development have been a joyous, daily part of his journey. Starting as a performer, Tony has worked for the Walt Disney Company for more than 25 years and currently serves as a Music Director for the Voices of Liberty, the Dapper Dans, and Finding Nemo The Musical. In addition, he has been a studio recording artist outsourcing as both vocal talent and vocal contractor for projects including those produced by his own company, ADVocals. His time in barbershop has allowed him to hit a new record; being the first person to win the International Quartet Contest five times! He currently lives in Winter Garden, FL, with his wife (Jodi), son (Joseph), daughter (Sophia), and dog (Toby).



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## **Friends and Family Activities**

Christchurch is home to several fun opportunities to pass the time between the wonderful barbershop events at convention! We are currently planning some activities for both convention attendees and your friends and family to enjoy during your stay. For the moment, here are a couple suggestions!

### **Visit the Beautiful Court Theatre!**

We are currently organising a Guided tour of the Court Theatre - final details will be revealed in next month's newsletter!

Check out their website for more information: <https://courttheatre.org.nz/>

### **Indulge at the Riverside Market!**

Sample local artisan foods at Christchurch's favourite lunch spot!

### **Take a trip around central Christchurch on the tram!**

Check out their website here: <https://www.christchurchattractions.nz/christchurch-tram/>



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## Key Convention Dates

### **Detailed Convention Programme information is available here**

*(Please note: this will change from time to time – please check it regularly)*

[He Awa Whiria 2025 Programme \(PDF\)](#)

Here's a handy summary to help you stay on track as we approach convention weekend:

### **Event Dates**

- **Convention:** Friday 19 – Sunday 21 September 2025
- **Saturday Night Concert:** Saturday 20 September 2025  
*(featuring Three and a Half Men)*
- **Closing Lunch:** Sunday 21 September 2025 (*noon*)

### **Registration Deadlines**

- **General Registration:** *Opens Sat 17 May 2025 – Closes Sun 17 August 2025*
- **Early Bird Discount:** *Available Sat 17 May – Mon 21 July 2025*
- **"My Chorus Will Pay" Option:** *Available Sat 17 May – Mon 21 July 2025*
- **Friends & Family Package:** *Opens Sat 17 May – Closes Sun 17 August 2025*

### **Contest Entry**

- **Opens:** Tue 17 June 2025
- **Deadline:** Mon 21 July 2025

### **Merchandise Deadline**

- **Merch Orders Close:** Sun 17 August 2025

### **Ticket Sales**

- **Concert & Competition Tickets:** *Available after Sun 17 August 2025*

### **Rehearsal Space Booking**

- **Spaces Available:**  
Friday 19 September (from 9:00am) – Saturday 20 September (until 11:30am)
- **Booking System:** *Opens once the Contest Draw is released*

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## **‘Til next time!**

Only 11 weeks to go! Make sure to make the most of each practice and appreciate the people you sing with! Harmony Waitaha can't wait to have you all in Ōtautahi (Christchurch) for **He Awa Whiria 2025!**

Ngā mihi,

**Carl McGregor (he/him)**

Barbershop Harmony New Zealand 2025 He Awa Whiria Convention Chair

 [Convention Website](#)

 [Facebook Event Page](#)

 [Instagram](#)