

He Awa Whiria - 2025 BHNZ National Convention

NEWSLETTER 4 - The River's Bend

August 10 2025



Kia Ora Koutou Katoa,

We are coming to the final bend in the river. It won't be long until the day we have all been waiting for is in full view. I know we are all excited to see what the 15 choruses and 21 quartets have created this year. This year we have in total 436 registered delegates so we are in for a treat.

It is still possible to register until **17th of August!** Please register early as it allows us to organise a great convention. Also, a reminder that you have to be a **current** financial member of BHNZ to perform at the Convention. Here is the latest version of the Programme for Convention. Changes may occur, so keep an eye on the Website for the latest version.

In this newsletter, you'll find:

- ✓ Convention Programme**
- ✓ Quartet and Chorus Contest Performance Orders**
- ✓ Some Updates from our Friendly Contest Administrators**
- ✓ Friends and Family Activities** - An update on the last newsletter!
- ✓ Massed Sing** - An update on the last newsletter!
- ✓ Transport in Christchurch** - Advice on how to get around!

Convention Programme

This is the current version of the programme. However it is still being updated so please check the website for the most recent version of the programme!

Website: <https://convention.barbershopharmony.nz/>

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2025				
Time		Activity	Time/Hr	Location
8.00 am		Registration Desk Opens	All day	James Hay Theatre, Town Hall
9.30am	to 10.20am	Opening Ceremony	0.40	Start 30 min earlier
10.30am	to 12.25pm	Quartet Contest Session 1 = 10 Mins x 10	1.55	10 Quartets
12.25pm	to 1.15pm	Lunch Break == 50 mins	0.50	
1.15pm	to 3.05pm	Quartet Contest Session 2 = 10 Mins x 11	1.50	11 Quartets
3.05pm	to 3.20pm	BREAK == 15 Mins	0.15	TAG Time
3.20pm	to 3.35pm	Announce Finalists	0.15	
3.40pm	to 5.10pm	Quartet Evaluations - Non Finalists	1.30	11 Quartets - 2 x 45 min sessions
5.10pm	to 7.00pm	Dinner Break = 1.50 hrs	1.50	
7.00pm	to 9.00pm	Quartet Finals = 10 x 10 min	2.00	
9.00pm	to 9.15pm	Special Item	0.15	
9.15pm	to 9.30pm	Quartet Medal Presentations	0.15	
9.30pm	to 11.45pm	Afterglow = Catered = PYO Alcohol Crown P	2.15	
SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2025				
Time		Activity	Time/Hr	Location
8.30am		Registration Desk Opens	All Day	James Hay Theatre, Town Hall
10.00am	to 11.25am	Chorus Contest Session 1 = 10 Mins x 8	1.25	8 Choruses
11.25am	to 11.45am	Break Special Item	0.20	
11.45am	to 12.55pm	Chorus Contest Session 2 = 10 Mins x 7	1.10	7 Choruses
12.55pm	to 1.05pm	BH NZ Member Recognition	0.10	
1.05pm	to 1.15pm	Swang Song Set == Pacific Connection	0.10	
1.15pm	to 1.35pm	Chorus Medal Presentations	0.20	
1.35pm	to 2.00pm	Lunch Break = 25 minutes	0.25	
1.40pm	to 3.10pm	Quartet Evaluations - Finalists	1.30	
2.00pm	to 2.40pm	Mass Sing	0.40	Bridge of Remembrance = Cashel Street
3.00pm	to 3.30pm	Sing With The Champs == 30.00 minutes	0.30	
3.30pm	to 5.30pm	Chorus Evaluations	2.00	2 Sessions = 8 then 7 Choruses
5.30pm	to 7.00pm	Dinner Break = 1.30 hrs	1.30	
5.30pm	to 6.30pm	BH NZ Presidents' = BBShop Foundation Meeting	1.00	1851 Bar = Crowne Plaza
7.00pm	to 9.30pm	A Confluence of Harmony Convention Show	1.30	
9.30pm	to 11.45pm	Afterglow = Catered = PYO Alcohol Limes Room	2.15	
SUNDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2025				
Time		Activity	Time/Hr	Location
10.00am	to 10.55am	BH NZ AGM	0.55	Wakefield Room = The Court
11.00am	to 11.55am	Education Session - Under Glass	0.55	Wakefield Room = The Court
12.00pm	to 2.00pm	Closing Lunch	2.00	Golden Fleece Rm = Crown Plaza

Contest Performance Orders

Quartet Order of Appearance

Order	Ensemble Name	Contests	Report	On Stage
Session Nbr 1 - 19 Sep 2025, 10:30				
0	Three and a Half Men			10:30
1	Mixolydian	Open, Senior	10:23	10:45
2	Chordiality	Open	10:33	10:55
3	Promenade	Open	10:43	11:05
4	Resonation	Open	10:53	11:15
5	Phase 4	Senior	11:03	11:25
6	Magnetic	Open, Novice	11:13	11:35
7	Young at Heart	Open, Senior	11:23	11:45
8	The Usual Suspects	Open	11:33	11:55
9	REDemption	Open	11:43	12:05
10	Cheesy Peasy	Open, Novice	11:53	12:15
Session Nbr 2 - 19 Sep 2025, 13:15				
11	The Note-ifications	Open	12:53	13:15
12	The People's Quartet	Open	13:03	13:25
13	Four Square	Open, Novice	13:13	13:35
14	Double Bass	Open	13:23	13:45
15	Piwakawaka	Open	13:33	13:55
16	Nor'Westers	Open	13:43	14:05
17	The B Flat - 52's	Open, Novice	13:53	14:15
18	Q4	Open, Senior	14:03	14:25
19	Block of Flats	Open	14:13	14:35
20	Centreplace	Open	14:23	14:45
21	The Remarkables	Open	14:33	14:55

Chorus Order of Appearance

Note: There will be a curtain raised/lowered between performances.

Order	Ensemble Name	Contests	Report	On Stage
Session Nbr 1 - 20 Sep 2025, 10:00				
0	Announcements			10:00
1	City of Sails Chorus	Open, Small Chapter	09:40	10:05
2	Marlborough Sounds	Open, Small Chapter	09:50	10:15
3	Mighty River Harmony	Open	10:00	10:25
4	Manawatunes	Open, Small Chapter	10:10	10:35
5	The Plainsmen	Open	10:20	10:45
6	Tasmonics	Open	10:30	10:55
7	Harbour Capital Chorus	Open, Small Chapter	10:40	11:05
8	Auckland Mixed Barbershop Chorus	Open, Small Chapter	10:50	11:15
Session Nbr 2 - 20 Sep 2025, 11:45				
9	Quantum Acoustics	Open	11:20	11:45
10	Height of Harmony	Open	11:30	11:55
11	Sounds of the Shore	Open	11:40	12:05
12	Top of the South	Invitation	11:50	12:15
13	Manu Mātātahi	Open	12:00	12:25
14	Open Mixed Chorus	Open	12:10	12:35
15	Vocal FX	Open	12:20	12:45

Risers:

There will be 7 Risers set up, with an inverter in the middle.

Distance from front of middle riser to front of Stage - 6 Meters.

There is a DROP DOWN curtain.

Chorus Competition BHNZ Rules Eligibility Summary

Article I: pages 2 to 5

- a. Open Chorus - Any chorus regardless of classification.
 - b. A Senior Chorus - Any chorus where at least 80% of the performers on stage are aged 55 or older as of the day of the BHNZ Seniors Chorus contest.
 - c. Small Chapter Chorus - Any chorus representing a Chapter that has no more than 25 members regardless of classification
5. Multiple Choruses, One Chapter. Chapters may enter more than one chorus in any BHNZ Chorus Contest. However, to maintain fairness, one chorus may not be comprised of more than 75% of the same members on stage as another chorus from the same chapter competing in the same contest. In that case, the percentage threshold is calculated against the smaller chorus.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY NEW ZEALAND Contest Rules – Updated July 2025 for full details.

Performing Rights Licence - Chapter Membership of NZ

As it pertains to the Choral Federation

The Convention is obtaining a Performing Rights Licence to allow us to honour our Rights to Perform our music. This is covered under a Performing Rights Licence to APRA AMCOS - Te Tautawhinga. Membership of The New Zealand Choral Federation can offset this. You will be asked to indicate if your Chorus is a Member of NZCF as you sign in at the Competition Registration Desk on Contest day, Saturday 20th September.

This relates to your Chorus only.

Conference Administrator Information for Chorus and Quartets

Chorus Members and Chorus Song Lists

Contest Date: Saturday 20 September 2025

Initial chorus entries can be submitted without the chorus list being finalised. However, entries must include at least an indicative chorus list and song list by the contest entry closing date.

Final song lists must be submitted no later than 14 days before the contest.

Final chorus lists must be submitted no later than 7 days before the contest.

On contest day, all registered singers in the competing chorus must be confirmed as present when you report in. The chorus contact will be asked to verify the administrator's copy of the entry documents (the same documents you received when you entered online).

If a chorus has members in another ensemble, they must ensure members have enough time to join after their previous performance. Please advise the conference administrators as soon as the order of appearance is posted if you have members competing in another chorus with a potential time clash.

For choruses, final amendments to singer lists can be made at this time. However, it is easier to remove names than to add them, and adding singers could reduce chorus preparation time. The number of singers on the list at the reporting point should match the number on stage; otherwise, an administrative judge will discuss this with you after the chorus's package.

Quartet Members and Song Lists

Contest Date: Friday 19 September 2025

Quartets may not be able to complete their entry until all four members are registered and full members of BHNZ. For national contests, BHNZ requires all singers to be delegates to the convention.

Final song lists must be submitted no later than 14 days before the contest.

Final quartet singer lists must be submitted no later than 7 days before the contest.

The quartet contact will be asked to verify the administrator's copy of the entry documents (the same documents you received when you entered online).

If a quartet has a member in another ensemble, they must ensure the member has enough time to join after their previous performance. Please advise the conference administrators as soon as the order of appearance is posted if you have members competing in another quartet with a potential time clash.

Quartets must indicate which two of their four songs they will sing in the semi-finals and confirm that the other two will be sung in the finals. You cannot repeat a song from the semi-finals in the finals.

Personnel Change in Qualifying Quartets

After qualifying for the BHNZ National Competition, a quartet may replace up to one member and still be eligible to compete. If two or more personnel changes occur between qualifying and the national competition, the quartet becomes ineligible to compete. BHNZ must be notified of any personnel changes so the quartet register can be updated.

Awards

Category	Award	Recognition
Quartets	BHNZ Novice Quartet	<i>Certificate</i>
	BHNZ Most Improved Quartet	<i>Bronze, Silver Gold</i>
	BHNZ Senior Quartet	<i>John Buckley Award</i>
	BHNZ Audience Favourite	<i>Iraia Te Whaiti Trophy</i>
	BHNZ Open Quartet	<i>5th, 4th, 3rd Bronze, Silver, Gold</i>
Chorus	BHNZ Small Chapter Chorus	<i>Bronze, Silver, Gold + Trophy</i>
	BHNZ Most Improved Chorus	<i>Trophy</i>
	BHNZ Senior Chorus	<i>Bronze, Silver, Gold</i>
	BHNZ Outstanding Contribution	<i>Graeme Bates Memorial Trophy</i>
	BHNZ Audience Favourite Chorus	<i>Harper Cup</i>
	BHNZ Open Chorus	<i>Bronze, Silver, Gold + Trophy</i>

Saturday Night Concert

The highlight of the Saturday Night Concert will be 3 and a Half Men: International Quartet Champions 2024.



James Hay Theatre has 750 seats. With approximately 450 delegates, including friends and family tickets, VIP seats, there will be approximately 250 general public seats available. These go on sale after registration closes on **17th August**.

If you want to be guaranteed a seat, can I suggest that you book a Friends and Family Seat, for **\$55**, as this will also give access to the Quartet semi-finals and finals on Friday, plus Chorus competition on Saturday morning.

Massed Sing

The massed sing will be on **Saturday** afternoon from **2.00pm** until **2.40pm**, at the **Bridge of Remembrance**. This is a gentle 15 minutes walk from the James Hay Theatre, in the heart of Christchurch!

In case of **bad weather**, the Massed Sing will be at Tūranga Library, by Cathedral Square. 6 Minutes walk.

Transport Tips

Christchurch has a bus system. Specifically, there is a bus service from the airport to the Central Bus exchange running on a regular basis.

Applicable routes: Route 8, Route 29 (You can pay by Credit card on this route) or route 3. See www.metroinfo.co.nz for further details.

Friends and Family Activities

Things to do

- The Court Theatre: Christchurch's professional theatre in their new building www.courttheatre.co.nz
- Lumiere Cinema: art cinema at its best, and most comfortable www.lumierecinemas.co.nz
- Hoyts Movies: Action aplenty www.hoyts.co.nz
- Elsewhere www.christchurchNZ.com

Associated with The Convention.

- We are planning to offer a visit to The Court Theatre's new building, getting a "Behinds the scene" tour. Please reply to ***chmanconv25@gmail.com*** to indicate if you are interested. Tickets will be limited.
- Ko Tane: experience Ko Tane Waka Paddle on the Otakare Avon River. Book Directly www.kotare.co.nz.

Where to eat:

- Rollickin Gelato: <https://www.rollickin.co.nz/>
- Riverside Market: [Riverside](#)
- Little High Eatery: [Little High Eatery | International Cuisines | Christchurch](#)
- New Regent Street: [Soul of the City | New Regent Street | New Regent Quarter](#)
- The Terrace area: [The Terrace | Christchurch](#)

Farewell!

Only 6 weeks to go, the current is building with anticipation! 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](#)

Late Additon:

If you have any further question or enquiries, please email me and I will do my best to answer the questions and inform all Registrants. chmanconv25@gmail.com

Friend and Family Tickets for Convention:

The Friends and Family ticket will give access to ALL Competition sessions, the Quartet finals, the Saturday concert, and the Afterglows.

They can be bought from the Convention Website: [CLICK LINK ABOVE](#) = Convention Website

[GOTO Info](#) >> [Friends & Family Booking](#) >> [Click Box](#) = Friends and Family of BHNZ - NZ\$55.00

Enter your Details.

The Ticket will be available at The Registration Desk at The James Hay Theatre.

These tickets are available until a new date:: Sunday 24th August, 2024.

GENERAL ADMISSION

Tickets to the Quartet and Chorus Sessions, The Quartet Finals will be available for the James Hay on competition day = \$ 15 PER SESSION.

General Admission Tickets to the Saturday Concert = A Confluence of Harmony, will be available on HUM/ booking site from 1st September. There will be only about 200 tickets available. Cost is \$35.