

He Awa Whiria - 2025 BHNZ National Convention

NEWSLETTER 1 Glacial Melt

May 16 2025



He Awa Whiria

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa,

I'm Lynn Humphrey (he/him), Chair of the 2025 Barbershop Harmony New Zealand ("BHNZ") Convention.

I've been singing Lead with The Plainsmen since 2018. Although I've lived throughout New Zealand, Canterbury has always felt like home—so I'm especially proud to welcome you to Ōtautahi Christchurch.



Welcome from Harmony Waitaha

Harmony Waitaha is honoured to host the 2025 Convention. In recent years, our Chapter has grown in both membership and musical quality. Alongside The Plainsmen, our men's chorus, we now have Quantum Acoustics (our youth chorus) and a newly launched open mixed chorus (yet to be named!). With over 100 members, we're thrilled to welcome you to Christchurch.

I'm proud of the mahi already completed by our Convention Hosting Team and excited about what's to come.

He Awa Whiria – A Braided River



Our convention is named *He Awa Whiria*, or “A Braided River.” This rare geographic feature is prominent in Canterbury and symbolises the interweaving of individual streams—much like our diverse choruses coming together as a unified Barbershop community.

Barbershop itself is a blend of four voices intertwining in harmony, making the metaphor especially fitting. A special thank you to Will Harris (tenor of Promenade Quartet) for designing our beautiful logo.

Programme & Venue



Dates: Friday 19 – Sunday 21 September 2025



Venue: James Hay Theatre, Christchurch Town Hall



Draft Programme: [View here](#)

We'll perform in the James Hay Theatre—one of Aotearoa's premier concert venues, equipped with world-class sound and lighting.

The Christchurch Town Hall sits in the Performing Arts Precinct, close to the Isaac Theatre Royal, The Court Theatre, The Piano, and some of the city's best restaurants, shops, parks, and attractions.

Accommodation

We've compiled a list of accommodation options within walking distance of the venue. (Details available [Here](#))

Introducing the HEADLINE QUARTET...



Three and a Half Men

Left to right: Joseph DeRosa, Josh Szolomayer, Chris Keough, Tony DeRosa

If you've followed the BHS International Quartet competitions, you've likely been captivated by the vibrant and heartfelt performances of **Three and a Half Men**, the 2024 International Quartet Champions.

We're thrilled to announce they'll be headlining our Saturday night show on **20 September 2025!**

Based in Central Florida, this quartet blends barbershop, doo-wop, vocal jazz, and gospel. They're especially known for their imaginative *Wizard of Oz* sets—*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead*, and *Ease on Down the Road/Bran' New Day*—all arranged by their coach, Clay Hine.

🎬 Get to know their sound: threeandahalfmen.com/videos

Individual Registration Details

If you're excited to join us, we'd love you to register.

 **Register here** <https://convention.barbershopharmony.nz/register>

We've worked hard to keep fees affordable and have **maintained the same pricing as 2024**. A *Friends and Family* package will be available at a discounted rate, providing access to all the quartet and chorus competitions and the Saturday concert.

The **"My Chorus Will Pay"** option will continue for Chapters who want to apply for charitable support.

Please advise Allan Marsh convreg@barbershopharmony.nz as soon as possible if your Chorus wishes to use this facility.

Please note: payment must be made by **21 July 2025** to enable us to match registrants to payments.

If you require an invoice to apply for funding, please email Barbershop Convention Ltd Director, Michael Markham (mikejohnmarkham@gmail.com) with

- The name of your chorus,
- Treasurer's name and email address
- Number of members (youth and full)

Michael will then send you an invoice.

Key Dates

Event	Opens	Closes
General Registration	17 May 2025	17 Aug 2025
Early Bird Discount	17 May 2025	21 July 2025
"My Chorus Will Pay" Option	17 May 2025	21 July 2025
Friends & Family Package	17 May 2025	17 Aug 2025

Registration Costs

Category	Early Bird (by 21 July)	Standard (by 17 August)
Over 25 (as at 1 Jan 2025)	\$380	\$450
Youth (25 or under)	\$228	\$270
Exclusive Friends & Family Ticket Package	N/A	\$55

Sunday Lunch

Our traditional Closing Lunch will be held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Sunday 21st September at noon.

💰 The cost will be \$45 per head.

📌 Please book and pay on the Registration page.

Merchandise!

When registering, consider purchasing a memento of our community and event. Check it out here [BHNZ Convention Merchandise](#) This year we're offering

- T-Shirts
- Polos
- Hoodies
- Caps

🛒 Available on the Registration Page until **17th August** (to allow for manufacture)

Chorus and Quartet Contest Entry Details

Choruses and Quartets must enter at

🔗 <https://contests.barbershopharmony.nz/>

📅 Deadline 21 July 2025.

📌 Please note there are new competition rules. As previously indicated by the Board there will be no gender based contest categories. Further the Board is proposing a

Senior Chorus Category and are developing a qualifying definition. We will advise Musical Directors and Chapter Chairs when the rules are finalised and how they can enter the Senior Chorus Contest.

Competition and Concert Tickets

After August 17th tickets for Concert and Competition Attendance will be available on Humanitix at the following Prices:

Quartet Competition: \$15

Chorus Competition: \$15




Saturday night Concert (featuring Three and a Half Men): \$35


Rehearsal Space


We've booked the Aldersgate Centre 300 metres from the venue from 9am on Friday 19th September to 11:30 am Saturday 20th September. The Centre contains 3 different spaces suitable for Chorus rehearsals - The Great Hall, The Chapel and the Wananga Room [See here](#) We plan to open a booking system after the Contest Draw has been made and to charge users on a cost recovery basis. Meanwhile you can express your interest in utilising the Centre by emailing Lynn Humphrey on chmanconv25@gmail.com

Communication Channels

We'll be sharing updates through the following platforms:

-  [Convention Website](#)
-  [Facebook Event Page](#)
-  [Instagram](#)

 Regular email newsletters will keep BHNZ members informed. You'll find back issues archived on the website.

 Our FAQ page will be regularly updated to answer your questions.

'Til next time!

Thank you for your enthusiasm and support—we can't wait to see you all in Ōtautahi Christchurch for **He Awa Whiria 2025!**

Ngā mihi,
Lynn Humphrey (he/him)
Chair – 2025 BHNZ Convention