

We're on track for a great convention

Hey barbershoppers, it's just a few months until Wellington will be buzzing as you beat a path to the capital looking for medals and memories to reward you for months of hard work and high hopes.

And come you will. So far, we've heard from 12 choruses and many quartets, amounting to about 420 singers keen to compete on what will be an exciting weekend. The city will be jam packed with fashionistas at the World of Wearable Arts, sports fans at the Bledisloe Cup, classical music lovers at an NZSO concert and among others enjoying other events. September in Wellington will be sensational.

Which of course means demand for accommodation is at a premium. If you've yet to book in, you should get on to it as soon as possible.

As host chorus, Harbour Capital Chorus is working real hard to make sure *Sing Wellington* will be an exceptional event both for performers and audiences. As I write this we're getting down into the organisational weeds, making sure all aspects of the convention will operate to create a seamless experience that will support you to do your very best.

And we'll let you know what's going on, step by step. This monthly newsletter will give you all the information you'll need to help make that come true – from registration through contest arrangements to merchandising and social events and much more, we'll send it to you towards the end of each month. We'll also soon create a contest website, which will be regularly updated with the latest information – more to come about that in a later edition and look out for social media.

This edition, among other things, covers our initial thinking on the convention programme, answers your questions, details our superb St James Theatre venue and announces the exciting Signature Quartet as headline act - all the way from the USA - in the Saturday show. I hope you enjoy it and find it useful.

Ngā mihi

Antony Currington
Chair, Host Management Committee, Sing Wellington



Draft convention programme

To help you plan, here's what you can expect at the convention – but note it's a **draft** programme, which is subject to change. We'll update it closer to the time.

Friday 27 September 2024		
Time	Activity	Location
9:00am	Registration opens	St James Theatre – upstairs foyer
10:00am	Opening welcome	St James Theatre
11-1:30am	Quartet contest session 1	St James Theatre
1-1:45pm	Lunch	
1:45-3:45pm	Quartet contest session 2	St James Theatre
4:00-4:15pm	Announce finalists	St James Theatre
Break		
4:15-6:30pm	Quartet evals – non-finalists	St James Theatre - backstage rooms
Dinner		
7:30pm	Quartet finals	St James Theatre
9:15pm	Medal presentation	St James Theatre
9:45pm	Afterglow	St James Theatre - upstairs foyer
Saturday 28 September 2024		
Time	Activity	Location
08:30am	Registration Desk opens	St James Theatre - upstairs foyer
11-11:30am-	Chorus contest -session 1	St James Theatre
Break		
11:30-12:30pm	Chorus contest- session 2	St James Theatre
12:30-1:00pm	Medal presentations	St James Theatre
Lunch		
2:00-3:30pm	Chorus evals	Three sessions St James Theatre - upstairs foyer
Break		
4:00-5:30pm	Quartet evals – finalists	St James Theatre - backstage rooms
4:00-4:30pm	Sing With the Champions	St James Theatre - upstairs foyer
6.00-7:00pm	BHNZ Presidents meeting	St James Theatre – upstairs foyer TBD
Dinner		
7:30pm	Show	St James Theatre
10:00-12:00pm	Afterglow	St James Theatre – upstairs/downstairs foyers
Sunday 29 September 2024		
10:00-10:45am	The Big Sing	TBD – Te Papa forecourt (inside if wet)
11:00-12:00pm	BHNZ AGM	St James Theatre - upstairs foyer
12:00-2:00pm	Closing lunch	St James Theatre – stage TBD
4:00pm	Signature/Judges depart	

Sing Wellington key details – questions and answers

When is it taking place?

Registration will open on Friday 27 September at 09:00am, followed by quartet and chorus competitions over the next two days, concluding with a closing lunch on Sunday September 29. See details of the draft programme in this newsletter.

Where is the venue?

St James Theatre, 77-87 Courtenay Place, Te Aro. See details of the venue in this newsletter.

Who can compete?

This is the national convention of Barbershop Harmony New Zealand, and is open to affiliated choruses and quartets, whether male, female or mixed.

How much will it cost?

Details on the cost of registration are not yet to hand but they will be announced through this newsletter as soon as they are available. As usual, we will be offering an early bird discount and a higher standard rate past the cut-off date, so be in quick for the best price.

How do we pay?

Registration and payment will be made through the convention website, which we are in the process of developing, and more details on the process will come soon. The site will be launched in June and will be a one stop shop for all information on Sing Wellington.

Is the cost of the Saturday Show included in registration?

Yes, but not for guests. Make sure you buy tickets for friends and family.

Are the contest sessions open to audiences?

Yes, both performers and the public can see you perform, at a nominal cost yet to be determined.

Are there any associated events?

New Zealand's "Young Singers in Harmony", mainly comprised of choruses and quartets from secondary schools around the country, will be holding their annual convention at the St James Theatre on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 September.

Who are the contest judges?

We have a great team of Australasian judges lined up. We'll provide details about them in a later edition of this newsletter.



Signature Quartet confirmed for Saturday show

We're really pleased to announce that the exciting USA quartet **Signature** has signed up as the headline act for the *Sing Wellington* show on Saturday 28 September.

Their smoky R&B songs and a passionate, crowd-pleasing delivery have propelled them to the pinnacle of a cappella singing, capturing the 2019 international quartet championship of the Barbershop Harmony Society following two second places and a fourth in 2018, 2017 and 2016.

Quartets can win the International Championship only once, though up to two members may appear together in another quartet and compete again.

We're looking forward to hosting the quartet, which is known for singing a funky and soulful range of songs including the Creedence Clearwater Revival classic "Proud Mary," Aretha Franklin's "Think" and a heart wrenching rendition of "Dance with My Father" by Luther Vandross.

Be sure not to miss them – and make sure everyone you know is ready to get tickets for the show.

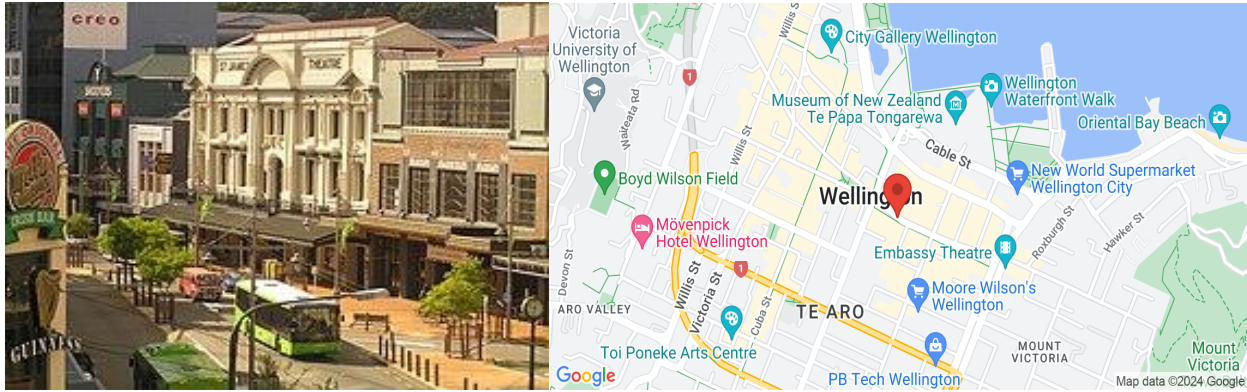


Signature from left to right – Tenor: Paul Saca, Lead: Daniel Cochran, Bass: Dan Walz, Baritone: Will Rodriguez



Fantastic venue will be a convention highlight

We've secured the superb St James Theatre as the venue for *Sing Wellington*, and we're confident that it will really add to the experience. Situated on Courtenay Place at the heart of Wellington's entertainment district, the theatre is classified as a heritage building by Heritage New Zealand. It boasts a beautiful proscenium stage and a classic, highly embellished auditorium which seats 1500, and delivers on all the facilities you'd expect given its \$17.7 million restoration and refurbishment.



St James Theatre is within an easy stroll of hotel accommodation, great restaurants, quirky cafes, boutique shopping and Wellington's arts, culture and entertainment precinct. Photos courtesy of Wellington City Council.

For more information: <https://www.onlynz.co.nz/st-james-theatre-wellington>

Stay in touch!

Want to know more about convention as the information comes out?

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonynz>

Follow the Facebook event -



<https://www.facebook.com/events/1223781575673110>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/barbershopharmonynewzealand/>

