

GETTING STARTED

Many of our quartets and Chapter choruses are eager to engage music educators to get involved in a barbershop outreach program in their local schools. This is a good thing!

That said, it's critical to the success of our outreach efforts that we always leave the music educator with the best possible impression of the barbershop art form and how it can enhance/augment the teacher's music education program.

Music educators serving in the schools in our District, and across the world (!), are predominantly smart, well-educated teachers AND musicians. They know good quality music and performance skills when they experience them. To enhance and augment their music education programs they are often eager to expose their students to music-based performances from various genres of music (rock, a cappella, classical, barbershop, etc.) that demonstrate good quality singing and performance skills.

But they are also appropriately cautious in inviting people they may not know to address their students! Quality musical performances by outside groups can serve as valuable role-model experiences for new, young musicians who are just building their skills through their school's music program. They can also turn off young people! We need to be realistic in our approaches to our music educators, who are our partners in reaching young people to sharing our love for lifelong singing!

Gary Phlaag established a firm guideline for Mid-Atlantic District YIH efforts.

“Only groups (quartets, ensembles, choruses) that perform/score in the 65% or above range at our BHS contests should be visiting schools. ...[because] “teachers know what's good and what's not. If we show them weak performances that would score less than a 65% in a BHS contest it is likely they will not be interested in having that group coach the school groups OR even trying barbershop in the first place. Many music educators have told me this over the 20 years I've been working with them and their groups.”

We will not set that kind of guideline here in the LO'L, but we do encourage Chapters to use very good judgment in sending quartets into schools who will represent our hobby well!

In the pages that follow, we have included information we hope will prove helpful to our barbershop brothers in the appropriate sharing of our hobby with a new generation. Please read carefully:

- **“The ABC's of Engaging with Music Educators”** >> a very helpful reprint from the Harmonizer of insights from Kirk Young, Donny Rose and Marty Monson about strategies to Music Educators and ways of thinking about our outreach to youth.
- **Organizing a Youth in Harmony Festival** >> a detailed, step-by-step description of how to organize a YIH workshop in your area.
- **Free Educator's Resources** >> points you toward the FREE resources available to your music educators from our Barbershop Harmony Society
- **2019 LTA YIH Presentation** >> the class offered at the LO'L Leadership Training Academy in River Valls, January 11-12, 2019.