

Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival (WYHF)

The Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival (WYHF) began in 2014 when co-founders Bill Schmidt (Green Bay), Jack Ryback (West Allis) and Bob Brey (Manitowoc) submitted a grant to the Barbershop Harmony Society. Their vision was to identify the best high school barbershop quartets (men's and treble) in Wisconsin. They were successful in funding the festival with BHS grants the first two years, but the Festival now depends on corporate, individual, quartet and chorus donors to continue.



Invitations to participate in the Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival are sent to all high school quartets in the men's and treble (girls or mixed) barbershop categories who score either a *1 or *2 at Wisconsin Solo and Ensemble Festivals. There is no cost to the quartets for the day and each participant receives a commemorative medal. Trophies are presented to the top three finishers in each category and a cash prize is given to the schools represented by those quartets.

The day begins with students engaged in harmony classes taught by experienced coaches from the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony, Inc. The participants learn a bit more about our singing style and ways to improve their vocal production and performance skills.

After a provided lunch, each quartet presents one song to the audience in the auditorium. A triple panel of judges/coaches from the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony, Inc. is on hand to provide formal BHS scoring and detailed feedback before the day's events are completed.

In 2019 the Wisconsin Youth Harmony Festival will move from its previous location at Silver Lake College in Manitowoc to its new home at Pacelli High School in Steven Points, WI.

The 2019 WYHF Planning Team is composed of: Norm Barnard, Ken Bester, Bob Brey, Richard Kirwin, Christian Kocinski, Sheila Koplitz, Jim Rasmus, Jack Ryback, Bill Schmitt, and John White. Music Educators who serve as advisors are: Gustavo Chaviano, Brent Johnson and Chris Vander Pas. The Stevens Point logistics committee is: Mark Barnard, Jack Edgerton, and Dale Kluetz and Tim Kunze.

For more information and details about the Festival, go to:

<http://youthharmonyfest.org/>

Tune into their YouTube Channel for videos of the 2018 Festival and interviews with participants in the 2018 event:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYcrfeJqe6wR-YIB1oXgUkQ/videos>