



Harmony College Northeast (HCNE) 2009 Class Descriptions

TEN-OR Twelve Notes above the Bass - How to Be a Great Tenor - Friday evening (1 hour)

Instructor: Gene Cokecroft (Tenor, The SunTones)

We all know how important a great tenor is to barbershop. They add the sparkle! If you aspire to be a great tenor, come learn from one of the best.

Am I in the LEAD? How to Be a Great Lead - Friday evening (1 hour)

Instructor: Chris Vaughn (Lead, Gotcha!), John Ward (Lead, Bigtime!)

For most groups, so goes the Lead(s), so goes the group. Learn the secrets of what makes a great Lead singer.

BARI-ly We Roll Along - How to Be a Great Baritone - Friday evening (1 hour)

Instructor: Alan Gordon (Baritone, Gotcha!), Joe Hunter (Baritone, Bigtime!)

Most members of the Society can't imagine using "great" and "bari" together in the same sentence. The truly great baritones make themselves great by getting out of the way and making the chords ring. If you sing bari, this is the class for you.

The BASS-ics - How to Be a Great Bass - Friday evening (1 hour)

Instructor: Dr. Jim Kline (Bass, Gotcha!)

Every group needs a great foundation, which is provided by the bass. Get some tips on how to become the best bass you can be.

The Found Chord – Woodshedding - Friday evening (1 hour)

Instructor: Steve Delehanty (Music Judge)

When was the last time you actually woodshedded a song? Steve is one of the best at teaching how much fun it is to sing barbershop without written arrangements, just like they did in the old days.

Tag, You're It! Tag Singing – Friday evening (1 hour) & Saturday afternoon (1.5 hours)

Instructor: Eric Ruthenberg (Vocal Music Instructor and TagMeister)

Had enough learning for one day? Drop in learn and sing tags with one of NED's TagMeisters. Eric will teach all four parts to as many tags as you can get through in the time given.



Quartet Coaching - All Day (6 hours)

Instructor: Guest quartet members, District Singing A's team and other invited guests.

We will once again be coaching quartets using the POD method. This means four quartets of similar ability will be assigned to four coaches who will have responsibility for only these quartets. The coaches will listen to the quartets sing on Friday evening and will join together to come up with a coaching strategy for each quartet, then implement that strategy at all sessions on Saturday. You gain the benefit of consistency from coach to coach. Your coaching staff may include some members of the Gotcha-Tones quartet, the Bigtime! Quartet, or other district coaches from our Division Singing A's teams.

How Do They Do That Voodoo That They Do So Well? Follow a Coach – Choice: All Day (6 hours), Morning (3 hours) or Afternoon (3 hours)

Instructor: Jim Dodge and the quartet or chorus coaches

Here's your chance to learn some of the inside stuff that goes on in coaching sessions. If you sign up for this, you'll be attached to one of the coaching PODS and can be a fly-on-the-wall at coaching sessions. Plan to be an observer only but you'll come away knowing more about barbershop harmony than you ever thought existed. SIGN-UPS WILL BE LIMITED TO ONE PERSON PER POD

The Lone Arranger - Arranging From a Sheet of Music - All Day (6 hours)

Instructor: Steve Delehanty (Music Judge and noted Barbershop Arranger)

We first offered this course years ago and it was a winner! So we decided to bring it back with noted arranger Steve Delehanty as the teacher. Steve has done some great arrangements for many International competitors – you might have even sung one of his. If you have some basic musical skills, then this course could be your gateway to arranging. This is an interesting approach to arranging using the clues that appear on a piece of sheet music to guide you through the process. If you can identify the notes on the melody line and have a little understanding of the guitar symbols and/or the piano accompaniment, then come to this all day session of musical enlightenment. Plan to bring your own keyboard and headphones.

Singing A's Coach Training Workshop – All Day (6 hours) INVITATION ONLY

Instructors: Jim Dodge, Ray Johnson, Tony Nasto

Training for our District Singing A's program coaches. NOTE: THIS COURSE IS BY INVITATION ONLY. PLEASE CONTACT JIM DODGE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING PART OF OUR SINGING A'S PROGRAM.



Chorus Coaching – Choice: Morning (3 hours) or Afternoon (3 hours)

Instructor: Assigned coach(es)

Bring your chorus for a three-hour coaching session. You can request a single coach for three hours or two coaches for 1-1/2 hours each. Learn from some of the best! NOTE: SIGNUPS LIMITED TO ONE CHORUS EACH SESSION.

Watch Your Mouth! Releasing Tension to Free Your Voice - Choice: Morning (3 hours) or Afternoon (3 hours)

Instructor: Jennifer Wheaton (Senior Linguistics Major, Lead – Ringtones!, Singing Judge Applicant, Harmony, Inc.)

Have you ever wondered what makes vowels different and why it doesn't 'tune' when vowels are not matched? Have you ever thought to yourself, "Why is this word/phrase harder to sing?" or "How can I sing free and relaxed and still be able to articulate clearly?" Have you ever sung through or even just watched a performance and noticed that your jaw hurts by the end? In this class, we will learn how to enhance our personal resonance, match vowels and sing cleaner and clearer phrases using linguistic techniques. This will be accomplished by group work as well as individual attention. We will be experimenting with our voices and exploring the exciting sounds that we will unleash.

Circling the Fifths - Intro to the Theory of Barbershop Harmony - Morning (3 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Kathy Greason (Music Judge, Harmony Inc.)

We begin with "This is a G-clef" and quickly continue through basic music terms and symbols. Then we progress into scales, intervals, key signatures, basic barbershop chords, elementary chord analysis and very beginning circle-of-fifths theory.

The Road to Better Singing - Vocal Techniques - Morning (3 hours) ONLY

Instructor: David Patterson (Sound Judge Emeritus)

This class is ideal for those who have never had any individual voice instruction or are fairly new to singing, or those who realize they have more to learn about how to sing better. You'll learn techniques for proper posture, breath support and voice placement for the best resonance.

What Are Those Spots Before My Eyes? How to Read Music - Morning (3 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Eric Ruthenberg (Vocal Music Instructor)

Do you only hold the arrangement so you can read the words? Do your eyes glaze over at the mention of a quarter note? Do you think a rest is when you get coffee? Come to this class and take some of the mystery out of the piece of paper you hold in your hands. Eric will kindly and gently teach you how to make a little more sense of those lines, spots and symbols. We promise it won't hurt! NOTE: This is a beginner course aimed at those who have no real knowledge of reading music.



How Did We Get Here? The History of Barbershop - Morning (3 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Steve Plumb (Presentation Judge and 51-year Society Member)

In this course we will trace the roots and the evolution of barbershop harmony from well before the beginning of the Society up to the present. We will answer questions on the historical roots of the barbershop quartet, and what environment allowed this style of music to flourish. What were its musical forerunners? It's defining characteristics? How did the term "barbershop" arise? Recordings of pre-Society quartets through the present will be presented as demonstrations of the evolution of this folk art form. Guiding you through this historical background of our hobby will be Steve Plumb, who has been involved at many levels in his 51 years of Society membership.

Leading the Way - How to Be A Great Section Leader - Afternoon (3 hours) ONLY

Instructor: David Patterson (Singing Judge Emeritus)

A strong Musical Leadership involves a capable Director along with a strong, functional Music Team. Learn how being an effective Section Leader can help your chorus achieve its musical goals. This course is an open discussion on how to handle rehearsals, learn and teach vocal techniques and deal with problems. You'll learn ways to monitor your section and motivate your singers. Make your section "be all that they can be."

Mix and Match - How Voices Can Work Together (or Not!) - Afternoon (3 hours) ONLY

Instructors: Karen Rourke (Bass, Boston Accent, Director, Lowell Gentlemen Songsters)

Why do you sound great with one person and can't blend with another? Learn listening skills, vocal techniques and maybe even form a quartet in a fun, non-threatening environment. All attendees participate in numerous demos of combinations. It's fascinating to hear what works and what doesn't and how simple posture, resonance or standing position changes can lock in an ensemble. This is consistently one of Karen's most popular classes.

Do You See What I Hear? The Physics of Harmony - Afternoon (3 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Bill Degan (Physics Teacher, Church Choir Director and Organist, Chorus and Quartet man)

In this class, learn the physics definition of harmony and how that translates into both numbers and sonic experience. Learn two major obstacles to true musical harmony we constantly deal with. Equipment will include an electronic function generator, a speaker-vibrator, bungee string, calculators (some are provided), some recordings and our voices. Come enjoy this hands-on class!

Was I Ever That Young? Keeping Young People Interested and Involved – Choice: Morning (1.5 hours) or Afternoon (1.5 hours)

Instructors: Gaye Lacasce (Honeymooners Quartet)

Is your chapter youth-friendly? Find out what to do ... and what NOT to do... to be sure young singers want to sing with you. This practical class will guide your chapter to enjoy the great qualities young singers can contribute, as well as some other long-lasting positive side effects of having them involved! We will also help you to avoid some common pitfalls.

GOOOOAL! Achieve More Than You Ever Thought Possible - Choice: Morning (1.5 hours) or Afternoon (1.5 hours)

Instructor: Jeanne Swanson (Bass, Synchronicity, 2004 Harmony Inc. Queens; Chairman of Judges Applicant)

Achievement and success, in barbershopping or in life, are not accidental. Talent and hard work are important ingredients to success, but your own mind also has a big influence on what you can achieve. Explore how proper goal setting and positive affirmation techniques can align your brain with your goals to help you become a better singer than you ever thought possible. You can even apply the techniques you will learn beyond our hobby to your personal and professional life.

Don't be an American Idle! Get Stuff Done - Choice: Morning (1.5 hours) or Afternoon (1.5 hours)

Instructor: Jeanne Swanson (Bass, Synchronicity, 2004 Harmony Inc. Queens; Chairman of Judges Applicant)

Have you been to rehearsals that take up a lot of time but don't seem to get anything accomplished? Are you on committees with members that never remember what they agreed to do? Does a year float by and you wonder where it went? Maybe you just need some help getting organized! Join this discussion to explore ways to Get Stuff Done.

Keep 'Em Hooked! Effective Performance Planning - Choice: Morning (1.5 hours) or Afternoon (1.5 hours)

Instructor: Diane Coates (Presentation Judge, Harmony, Inc.)

Have you ever gotten less audience reaction from a performance than you would like? Maybe it's not your singing – maybe you just need a better show flow to guide the audience's reaction. In this course we will talk about the planning and pacing of performances of various lengths and How can your group give a more polished and professional performance by making effective transitions from one song to the next.

Don't Lose Your Balance! Making Chapter Meetings Work – Choice: Morning (1.5 hours) or Afternoon (1.5 hours)

Instructors: Steve Isherwood (NED DVP Financial Development)

How effectively your chapter meetings meet the need of your members can make or break your chorus. In this class we will look at many ways we can make sure that you chapter meetings balance chorus rehearsal time and other activities to make sure that everyone goes away satisfied and can't wait to come back to the next meeting. We will all share experiences, good or bad, and will explore options to make our members feel that they don't want to miss a single meeting!

Hey, Come Back Here! How to Keep Members – Choice: Morning (1.5 hours) or Afternoon (1.5 hours)

Instructors: Steve Isherwood (NED DVP Financial Development)

You've gotten a new recruit in the door, and maybe he's even signed up already. But how can you make sure he doesn't drop out after a few rehearsals? In this course we will look at tips and techniques for orienting a new member, getting him up to speed on all the things he needs to learn, managing expectations, avoiding surprises and making sure his initial experience is a positive one. If you don't do this effectively, chances are a lot of new or potential members will fall by the wayside with the first few months of coming in the door.



To Fourth Wall or Not To Fourth Wall – What is the Question? - Morning (1.5 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Diane Coates (Presentation Judge, Harmony, Inc.)

The use of the imaginary Fourth Wall is a performance technique that is as old as the performing arts themselves. However, many barbershop groups have yet to discover the power of this valuable technique. Come to this class to learn what the Fourth Wall is all about, what's involved in using this technique, when it might be appropriate (and when not), and to see examples of the Fourth Wall technique in use in barbershop performances.

Herding Cats, aka Show Production - Morning (1.5 hours) ONLY

Instructors: Gaye Lacasce and Lisa Henderson (Honeymooners Quartet)

If your chapter puts on shows, or would like to know how to get started, this is the interactive class for you. Learn new ideas (and share your good ones) about: Keeping a show to a manageable length, providing entertainment for an audience of both "kibbers" and kids, agreeing on show themes, staging, Emcee techniques, scripting, venues, ticketing, working with guest quartets and ensuring the highest quality performances. Your next Standing Ovation reviews will be glowing!

NED's Got Talent! Developing Vocal Skills Workshop - Morning (Two 1.5 hour sessions) ONLY

Instructors: Karen Rourke (Bass, Boston Accent, Director, Lowell Gentlemen Songsters)

In this class we will all work on our listening and analyzing skills. Each individual will come up in front of the class and sing, while Karen guides the class in hearing and analyzing what could be improved. She will make suggestions and demonstrate techniques for improvements and the class will analyze the results. Great for those who want to not only sing better themselves but be able to help others as well.

I Can Sing Forever - Vocal Health - Afternoon (1.5 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Eric Ruthenberg (Vocal Music Instructor)

Vocal health refers to the practice of caring appropriately for the vocal mechanism, including good vocal management during performances. This course will discuss measures to ensure overall good health as well as specific ways to care for parts of the vocal system. Careful attention to good vocal health can make a significant positive impact on vocal performance and vocal stamina, regardless of the level of demand on the voice.



Who's on Third? Knowing What Part of a Chord You're On - Afternoon (1.5 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Kathy Greason (Music Judge, Harmony Inc.)

You might know that you should sing roots and fifths louder and thirds and sevenths softer, but that doesn't help you if you can't figure out which is which. In this course we will learn how to look at the notes on the page and figure out what part of the chord each note is for many common (and some not-so-common) barbershop chords. You should know how to read music before taking this course.

What's That I'm Hearing? Identifying Intervals By Ear – Afternoon (1.5 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Kathy Greason (Music Judge, Harmony Inc.)

Do you marvel at other folks' ability to listen to two notes and know that they're a fourth or a fifth apart? Would you like to be able to do that yourself? This is a trainable skill. Using some familiar (and some not so familiar) tunes as examples, Kathy will take you through many exercises that will allow you to recognize and identify intervals. This is a very interesting and informative class.

MysteryBusters - What Are the Judges Looking For? - Afternoon (1.5 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Steve Plumb (Presentation Judge)

Have you ever wanted to know how the judges arrive at their scores? In this class you'll learn about the Category Description for each scoring category. Score sheets from each category will be given out and reviewed. You'll see some example performances and discuss the strengths and weaknesses from the perspective of each category.

See Spots, Sing! Sight Singing/Sight Reading – Afternoon (1.5 hours) ONLY

Instructor: Steve Plumb (Presentation Judge)

Steve will teach you how to sight-sing barbershop songs more quickly and accurately. The course includes basic interval training, scale work and lots of singing of barbershop songs. This course has been very popular in recent years at HCNE. Make an investment that will add to your enjoyment of our hobby by making quick sense of those spots so you can more quickly find the music in every song. NOTE: This course requires that you already know how to read music.



Directors' College Northeast (DCNE) 2009 Class Descriptions

Friday Night

Director's Roundtable (moderated by Steve Tramack) ASK THE EXPERTS! Come and interact with International Chorus Competition Directors and Director's College Faculty in a "round table" discussion format. Moderated by Steve Tramack, come and learn some of the tricks of the trade from Mike O'Neill, Chris Arnold, Kirk Young, Todd Lamson and Larry Bean. Discussions about rehearsal techniques used (or not used) and shared stories of proven successes will be included.

Saturday

For front line directors, pick two from the following course offerings:

Half-Day sessions (morning and afternoon):

Directing Techniques (Larry Bean) (x2) ADD TO YOUR TOOLBAG WITH HANDS-ON TRAINING! 6 students max. Make a difference with your chorus by learning about body language, conducting techniques, beat readability, and nuances within the pattern. Go back to your chorus better prepared to lead them musically. Larry Bean, who has his degree in choral conducting and is teaching the advanced directing techniques class at Harmony University this summer, will cater the specific course content and level to the needs of the students.

Rehearsal Techniques (Mike O'Neill) (x2) RUN MORE EFFECTIVE, PRODUCTIVE, FUN AND COMPELLING REHEARSALS! This course will delve into things from basic sound production to more advanced topics such as using motivational techniques, improving your chorus culture, planning an effective rehearsal and using your section leaders better. Learn how you can take methods used by championship choruses and make them work in your own.

Building a Better Choral Sound (Chris Arnold) (x2) LEARN FROM ONE OF THE BEST! Chris Arnold, one of the founding directors of Toronto Northern Lights and current director of Toronto MegaCity Chorus, will cover the fundamentals of individual and choral tone production, vowels, breath management, and tuning. Aimed at front-line chorus directors, you will gain insights into how to address ensemble issues, identify the good, the bad, and the not-so-good vocal sounds of your chorus and then demonstrate the proper vocal solutions for the problems identified.

Use of Gestures to Enhance Musicality (Steve Tramack) (x2) WHAT THEY SEE IS WHAT YOU GET! When gestures and words are in conflict, the gesture always wins! Many musical and tonal aspects of a chorus performance can be dramatically influenced by the gestures used by the person out in front. In this class, directors, assistant directors, section leaders and anyone interested in learning the "hows and whys" of effective use of gestures, and body language can bring your music to life. Learn the building blocks of a non-verbal language that allows you to communicate with your chorus during a performance! We'll focus on the top 5 challenges that all choruses (to some extent) face, and provide some practical examples / approaches to improving these areas through the use of gesture.



For assistant directors / section leaders (full day):

Outstanding in Front (Todd Lamson) WANNA DIRECT? LEAD WARM-UPS? BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN FRONT OF YOUR SECTION? Whether you are a novice director and need to hone some basic skills, or someone who has never been in front of a chorus and think directing just might be something you could do, but haven't a clue how to begin, this class is for you. Outstanding In Front also focuses on the leadership skills of section leaders and music team members who are interested in supporting the success of the music program during your weekly chapter meeting. Led by certified CDWI and Outstanding in Front instructor (and the NED's own) Todd Lamson!