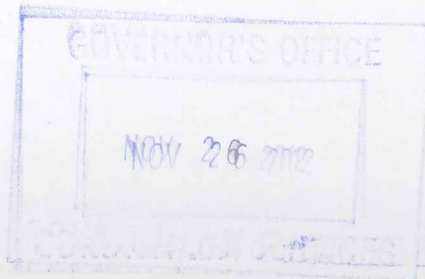




November 1, 2012



Your Excellency, the Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts
Office of the Governor, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

On April 11, 2013, the Barbershop Harmony Society (formerly known as SPEBSQSA, Inc.) will celebrate its 75th anniversary as an organization. From a start of 26 men at a meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1938, the Society has grown to include nearly 25,000 members in 800 chapters in all fifty of the United States and ten provinces of Canada. Additionally, there are 4,000 affiliate members in ten other countries. As one of only three truly American musical art forms, we celebrate music in our homes, in our schools and in our communities, and we encourage men and women both young and old to make singing an integral part of their lives.

Our own state has a significant heritage in the barbershop world. In addition to having nearly 450 Society members in Massachusetts, our state can be proud that it has produced two International Quartet Champions, a Society President, and has hosted a past International Convention, which brought millions of tourism dollars to the state .

Because of our love of barbershop harmony and the strong ties that the Barbershop Harmony Society has had with the great State of Massachusetts, we respectfully ask you to proclaim the week of April 7-13, 2013 BARBERSHOP HARMONY WEEK.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to celebrating BARBERSHOP HARMONY WEEK throughout the State of Massachusetts, the United States, Canada and the entire world.

Yours in Harmony,

Doug Peterson
30 Brainard Avenue #409
Medford, MA 02155

Alan F. Lamson
President
Barbershop Harmony Society

Martin L. "Marty" Monson
CEO/Executive Director
Barbershop Harmony Society

Enc: 2

Proclamation

Whereas The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA)—known now as The Barbershop Harmony Society—was officially organized April 11, 1938 in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and

Whereas What began as a small group has steadily blossomed into the world's largest all-male singing organization, an international organization of men from all stations of life; and

Whereas The Barbershop Harmony Society is dedicated to the spread of harmony for the enjoyment of all people of the world through organizing and encouraging close-harmony singing groups; and

Whereas The Barbershop Harmony Society encourages harmony amongst all people of the world through the universal language of music; and

Whereas The Barbershop Harmony Society has actively preserved and presented a distinct style of vocal music that originated in North America; and

Whereas The Barbershop Harmony Society is dedicated to sustaining and preserving an American tradition, the barbershop quartet; and

Whereas The Barbershop Harmony Society promotes musical education through music scholarships and other means, and supports charitable foundations; and

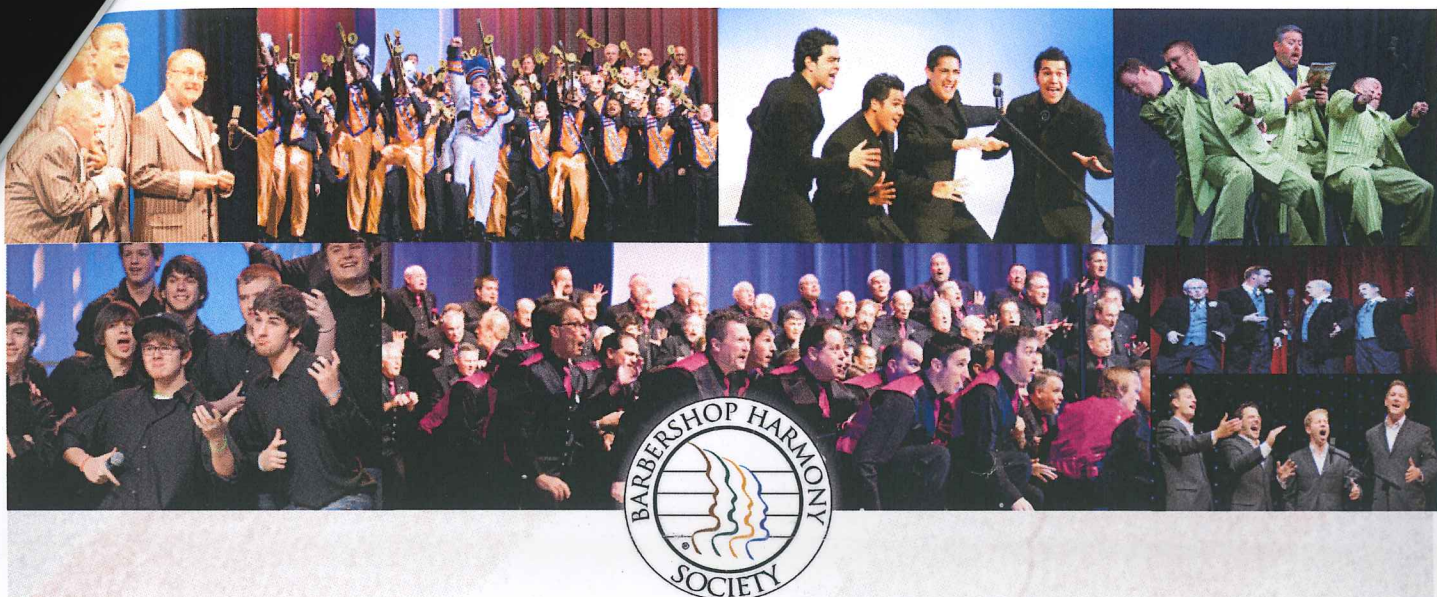
Whereas Barbershoppers are engaged in laudable civic service and enrichment of our cultural life through the fostering of traditional values in entertainment and community endeavors;

Now, therefore, I, _____, Governor of the State of _____, do hereby proclaim the week of April 7 – 13, 2013 as

Barbershop Harmony Week

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State to be affixed.

Done this _____ *day of* _____.



What is the Barbershop Harmony Society?

The Barbershop Harmony Society is the modern name for the "Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA)," the world's largest all-male singing society. As the name indicates, the Society exists for the purpose of promoting barbershop harmony, a uniquely American a cappella musical genre with roots in African/American and early European hymnody styles. Since its inception in 1938, the Society has grown to include:

- 25,000 members in the U.S. and Canada, with an additional 4,000 members in official affiliates in nine other countries, plus active barbershoppers all over the world. We truly live up to our motto: "Keep the Whole World Singing!" All men of good character are invited to join!
- 800 chapters in 17 districts in the U.S. and Canada, ranging in membership from 12 to 160 or more. 2,000 registered quartets, and an estimated additional 1,000 unregistered, most of whom also sing in a chorus
- Headquarters staff of 30 professionals, based in Nashville, TN. Staff music educators travel frequently to conduct workshops and clinics throughout North America. Also based in Nashville is Harmony Marketplace, a street-front and on-line store grossing over \$1 million annually
- Two annual conventions and competitions: International in July, and Midwinter in January. International includes quartets, choruses and collegiate quartets; Midwinter includes senior quartets and our annual Youth Festival, the most recent of which drew a record 576 teens and young men in 19 choruses
- The Old Songs Library, the second largest collection of turn-of-the-century sheet music (after the Library of Congress), housing more than 750,000 sheets and 125,000 original songs from the heyday of Tin Pan Alley
- Music publishing, to include over 1,000 titles arranged in the barbershop style, as well as distribution of videos for entertainment and education purposes
- Harmony University, an annual week-long school which includes Director's College, Quartet College and other classes taught by a world-class faculty of vocal coaches, arrangers, choreographers and educators
- Publication of bi-monthly full-color magazine, *The Harmonizer*, and weekly e-newsletter, *LiveWire*

Do you like to sing? Find a chorus near you!

Contact: Melanie Chapman • 615-673-4137 • mchapman@barbershop.org • www.barbershop.org

Barbershop Harmony Society • 110 7th Avenue North • Nashville, TN 37203