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Dear Prospective NEHB Participant:

We are delighted to learn of your interest in the New England Harmony Brigade!

Please carefully read the following description of the New England Harmony Brigade Weekend Rally for the dates, costs, expectations, criteria for participation, activities, etc.

After reading this description of the event, if it sounds like something you'd like to do **and it's something you feel confident you can do**, then please proceed to fill out the online application on our web site.

*(Please read this entire message carefully before applying)*

#### **About the Brigade Program:**

If, as a quartetter, you are passionate, ambitious, fast learning, experienced and you yearn for a lot of good, challenging quarteting with a network of solid, local, like-minded and accomplished guys, the New England Harmony Brigade may be for you.

More than one thousand men in North Carolina, Indiana, SenecaLand, High Sierra and the Mid Atlantic Districts (and now Europe and the U.K.!) have enjoyed these unique Brigade weekend Rallies in their regions, some for more than 20 years.

As an approved subsidiary of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the New England Harmony Brigade is proud to have earned the support of our Society and our District for this grassroots, quartet-oriented program.

## **What the Rally is about:**

This is an invitational weekend event of non-stop quartetting and quartet partner switching for experienced quartetters. Participants enjoy "singing around" all weekend in hundreds of quartet combinations. Up to 120 men will arrive at our hotel venue, solidly prepared (knowing their part perfectly on each of twelve great songs) and ready to spend the entire weekend formally and informally quartetting with each other.

In addition there will be two rounds of fun quartet competition. You will be paired up with three other randomly selected guys to form a quartet. Our guest headliner will serve as "judges". There is also a Saturday night show at the Algonquin High School which includes student singers and is open to the public. We encourage you to invite your friends and family. If you would like to be in a "step-out" quartet on the Saturday night show, you are welcome to audition on Saturday morning with any of the other attendees. In addition we will sing a subset of the 12 songs as a chorus. The cost for the weekend is all-inclusive, covering registration fees, hotel accommodations, meals, and all the learning materials.

## **The basic information is as follows:**

- 1) The event will take place from 3:00 PM on Friday, September 16, 2016, to Sunday morning, September 18, at the Marriott Courtyard in Marlborough, Mass. The last "official event" is around midnight on Saturday night, but almost everyone stays up late Saturday night quartetting. A Sunday morning breakfast is part of the package and will leave you going home with a glow.
- 2) The cost of the event is \$298 if your application and deposit are received by January 31, 2015. The cost includes a bound music book with twelve great songs and professionally recorded learning tracks for each one, a double occupancy room (for Friday night and Saturday night), and meals (Friday's and Saturday's dinner, Saturday's and Sunday's breakfast). **Due to our costs for food and rooms increasing, the cost of the weekend will increase for applications received after January 31, 2016.** Some limited financial assistance is available and may be requested by contacting Lee Daum ([president@nehb.net](mailto:president@nehb.net)) directly.
- 3) Everyone wishing to participate in the event will need to submit an application and a 50% deposit. Please use the online application form if at all possible, but if you cannot use it, call the NEHB President at the number above to arrange for a paper application. **Please note: If you are in need of financial aid, please contact our President, Lee Daum, at [president@nehb.net](mailto:president@nehb.net), to make a confidential financial aid request.**
  - Participation is limited to a maximum of 120 attendees and will be distributed as equally as possible among the four voice parts (30 men on each) on a "first to apply and qualify, first invited" basis

**All applications should be sent in right away to get the benefit of early reviews.**

Learning materials will be issued to all accepted applicants on or about April 15th, giving everyone almost 5 months to uncompromisingly learn all 12 songs. Deposits will be returned to those applicants who could not be accepted.

- 4) All participants will be required to learn their part on all 12 songs. ***Everyone is required to have their music and the interpretation completely memorized*** and be 100% prepared when they arrive at the rally. This is the key binding ethic of the Brigade. Your singing partners will have invested a good deal of time and effort to be completely prepared, and they will expect you to be similarly 100% ready. *“Coming unprepared is not an option.”*
  
- 5) In reviewing the applications, the application review team will be looking for individuals with significant quartetting experience or special musical and performance ability and experience that shows that the individual has the ability to thoroughly learn 12 medium to highly challenging songs with 100% accuracy on notes, words and interpretation. Please note that you do not need to be a District Champ, a top-10 competitor or any particular level of singer to enjoy a Brigade weekend. You need to be able to hold your own in a quartet with three guys you've never sung with before on some pretty challenging arrangements.

### **The Provisos:**

As you can see, *a Brigade is not for everyone*. It is an event for highly motivated, reasonably experienced quartetters. It is not the place to see if quartetting might be for you. The object of the Brigade is to provide an exciting venue and a large network of strongly committed local singers and create a fertile environment for the development of new quartets.

Some participants will be looking to form a quartet. Others will be looking to fill existing quartet vacancies, while some are simply looking forward to a weekend of enjoyable quartetting. Everyone will be there to have a great time singing great songs with comparably solid singers! Your job will be to come so well prepared that everyone will be glad they sang with you. They'll be counting on you to make them look good, and you can be sure they'll be prepared to do the same for you. ***You want to be the guy everyone was glad to sing with!***

**The approximate schedule** of events (this is subject to change until finalized):

#### Friday:

3:00- 6:00	Register and check-in (balance due, plus any additional if you requested a single room), begin getting checked out on your "preparedness pass."
6:00 - 7:00	Dinner at the hotel.
7:00 – 7:30	Receive assignment to randomly generated quartet partners and randomly drawn song (out of the 12 prepared for the event). Come up with a name for your quartet; take about one hour to rehearse together.
8:30 - 10:30	1 <sup>st</sup> round of Quartet Contest (great fun – folks have come up with some great "shtick" in the past). At conclusion, the top 10 Quartets for Saturday night contest round are announced
10:45 - Late	Sing with as many different combinations as possible. The payoff for all of your hard work!

Saturday:

7:30 - 9:00	Breakfast in the Hotel
9:00 - 10:30	General meeting and all business disposed of.
10:30 - 11:30	Auditions for "step-out" quartets
10:30 - 1:00	"Free Time" - Remember to sing with more foursomes. Lunch is "on your own" but people usually get together and go out.
12:30 - 1:00	Travel (carpool) to show venue (Algonquin Regional HS).
1:00 - 3:00	Rehearsal for show. We will put on a public show featuring some auditioned (step-out) quartets from our attendees, our "Quartetters Chorus" (all of us) singing our 12 great songs, and of course our headliner quartet, plus a group from the school.
3:00 - 3:05	Names of men in "Wild Card" quartet (drawn at random from all men not singing in a top-10 quartet) will be announced at end of rehearsal.
3:15 - 4:00	Return to hotel. "Free Time" (Count on a lot more singing going on!)
4:00 - 5:00	Dinner at the Hotel
5:00 - 5:30	Get ready (dressed) for show and travel to show venue (school)
6:30 - 9:00	Curtain for The Big Saturday Night Show! (Public Invited)
9:00 - 9:30	Strike stage and return to conference center
10:00 - 11:00	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round of Quartet Contest. Public welcome! "Wild Card" quartet will sing twice (first and last).
11:00	Winners announced and certificates awarded
Into wee hours	Snacks (Pizza by donation), Refreshments, and more Singing!

Sunday Morning:

8:00 - 10:30	Breakfast and good-byes to many new friends and great quartet partners!
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If you have ever attended Harmony College, Harmony College North East, or an International or District convention, where you have stayed up well beyond your bedtime singing with other guys for the fun of it, then you will be able to relate to the Brigade experience. *The difference is: instead of trying to figure out what songs you all know, or what three of you know and one of you can try to "woodshed" their way through, you will all have 12 great songs in common - and you have more time to do it!*

Thank you again for your interest. If you have read the above Prospectus carefully and think that this experience is something you are ready to commit to 100%, please fill out and submit the online form to start the application process.