



Mixed Harmony Brigade of New England (MHBNE)

Prospectus for the 2020 Rally

Dear Prospective Mixed Harmony Brigade Participant:

Please read this document carefully and understand the commitment you are making when you apply to attend the Brigade.

The object of the Brigade is to encourage quartet singing, to provide an exciting venue and a large network of strongly committed singers and to create a fertile environment for the development of high-level quartet singing.

The Mixed Harmony Brigade is not for everyone. It requires dedication, lots of preparation, endurance and a fair amount of faith that the work you do to prepare will be matched by the other people that will attend the Rally. The key binding ethic of the MHBNE is that every person comes completely prepared on ALL the songs, 100%, words and notes. We seek musicians willing to come together to make quality music. We seek quartet singers who have the ability to learn and retain a challenging set of songs, who can hold their own part in any quartet setting, who can hear and make the fine tuning adjustments to lock chords.

After reading the description of the event, if it sounds like something you'd like to do and it's something you feel confident you can do, you should complete the application form.

About the Brigade Program:

The Harmony Brigades started in North Carolina over 25 years ago, and over time additional Brigades were established in Indiana, New York/New Jersey, New England, Texas, Nevada, Minnesota and Michigan, and more recently in Germany and the UK. The Harmony Brigades are subsidiaries of BHS or the local Barbershop societies in the other countries, and are affiliated through the Association of Extreme Quartetting Harmony Brigades (AXQHB). The AXQHB provides for common structures, a shared repertoire of high-level arrangements (that changes each calendar year), and a calendar of Brigade rallies that make it possible to attend more than one in a year.

What the Rally is about:

This is an invitational weekend event of non-stop quartet singing and quartet partner switching. Participants can sing in hundreds of quartet combinations. Many Brigades have attendance of around 100 people or more (this can vary between about 60 and 140 people, depending on venue capacity and other factors) Apart from free quartet singing that dominates the weekend, there are two rounds of quartet competition (with randomly selected quartet members and a randomly assigned song). There is also a Saturday Night show open to the public. The cost for the weekend is all-inclusive, covering registration fees, hotel accommodations, meals, and all the learning materials. The basic information specific to our 2019 Rally:

- 1) The Rally will take place from 3:00 PM on Friday, March 20, 2019, to Sunday morning, March 22, at the designated hotel in Bedford, Massachusetts (about 25 miles from Boston's Logan Airport. The event ends with Sunday morning breakfast.
- 2) The cost of the event is about \$350.00* and includes legal music and professionally recorded learning tracks for twelve great songs, a shared double occupancy room for Friday and Saturday night, and most meals (dinner Friday, breakfast and dinner Saturday, breakfast Sunday).
***this a provisional fee amount. The actual final amount will be posted on our website. You will pay more if you select optional extras.**
- 3) Everyone wishing to participate in the event must submit an online application and \$150.00 deposit. Participation is limited to a maximum of 100 qualified singers and we aim to accept people in the

four voice parts to have (very) roughly equal numbers in each. Use the Online Application process found at <https://www.mhbne.org/apply.html>. The deadline for all applications is Nov. 30th, 2019, or earlier if the maximum number is reached. Learning materials will be provided (once copyright approval has been obtained) to people whose applications have been accepted and deposit has been received of the deposit. Music will not be distributed until the deposit is received. If an application is not accepted for any reason, the deposit will be returned.

- 4) All participants will be required to learn their part on all of the designated songs. Prior to the event, singers are encouraged to arrange run-through rehearsals with others in their area.
- 5) For new applicants, the Membership committee will review your musical experience and will contact your references to verify the level of your quartet singing ability and your learning ability.
- 6) You may withdraw from the Rally at any time. Your fee may be partially refundable (see cancelation policy) if you cancel early. If you find that you are unable to devote sufficient time and energy to learning the repertoire thoroughly, it is recommended that you withdraw. Coming to the rally less than fully prepared is not an option.
- 7) Early arrival on Thursday is an option. Those with long travel distances may want to arrive a day early and meet other participants (and begin singing?)
- 8) A schedule of Friday morning performances by volunteer quartets is organized in the local community (schools, residential homes etc.). If you arrive Thursday or early Friday, you can volunteer for these singouts, and gain the experience of performing for live audiences. (Participants will be contacted for this close to the time of the rally).

Typical Schedule:

Early Arrivals

- Singing
- Friday daytime singing at arranged venues (for a small number of quartets)

Friday afternoon arrivals:

- Registration and check-in (and payment of any open balance);
- Free Quartet Singing
- Dinner
- Welcome and assignment of random quartets
- Rehearsal with your quartet
- First round of Quartet Contest
- Top Quartets announced (for entry to second round competition)
- Free quartet singing with as many different combinations as possible.

Saturday:

- Breakfast
- Checking continued
- Brigade business meeting
- Lunch
- Run-through of repertoire in chorus formation (preparation for show)
- Final Round of contest for top scoring quartets
- More singing
- Dinner
- Get ready (dressed) for show
- Brigade Show (Public Invited)
- More singing, a late snack, and more Singing!

Sunday Morning:

- Breakfast and good-byes, maybe a bit MORE singing
- Hotel Checkout