



Dear Parents and Educators:

We hope your children/students (ages 10 - 25) can join us for the 6th Annual "Shop for the Ring" a cappella harmony festival sponsored by The River Blenders Chorus ([www.riverblenders.org](http://www.riverblenders.org)), a 501c3 chapter of Sweet Adelines International.

### Important Facts About the Festival

**Date:** Sat, June 7, 2025

#### Where:

St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011-2330

**Check-in:** 9:00 AM

**Afternoon Show:** 4:30 PM

**Fee:** \$10.00

**Register:** [www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering](http://www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering)

#### What's Included:

- Learning Tracks (to be provided one week prior to event)
- Event T-Shirt
- Sheet Music
- Lunch
- Snacks & Beverages
- Morning & Afternoon clinics and rehearsals; small group and large group

**We welcome teachers and/or parents at the event to enjoy the music & observe rehearsals. However, parents and teachers are not required to attend.**

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please complete the Student Application and other forms along and mail with the \$10 registration fee in the form of a check, NO LATER THAN May 10, 2025 to:

**Lauren Schneider, 16316 Truman Road, Unit 5113, Ellisville, MO 63011**

**Online payments have been set up at: [www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering](http://www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering)**

*You and your family and friends are cordially invited to join the participants and the River Blenders Chorus for the afternoon performance at 4:30 PM, at St. Martin's. We look forward to receiving your application for this fun-filled, action-packed day!*

*In Harmony,*

**Lauren Schneider**  
**River Blenders Chorus Events Manager**  
[www.riverblenders.org](http://www.riverblenders.org)

*Enclosures: Application, Parental Consent/  
Medical Emergency Form*



**REGISTER**



## Introduction to Barbershop Harmony

June 7, 2025: "Shop For The Ring Festival"

**Presented by The River Blenders Chorus**  
[www.riverblenders.org](http://www.riverblenders.org)

**History:** The barbershop style of four-part a cappella singing is a uniquely American musical art form. It had its beginnings during the late 1800s, and enjoyed great popularity through Vaudeville and the mid-1920s. It originated prior to the advent of radio and television, a time in which people found ways of entertaining themselves by singing. The popular songs of that era were written to be sung by the common person, rather than the experienced musician. Barbershop melody lines were simple, and lyrics were "down to earth" and easy to understand and appreciate.

**Voicing:** In barbershop harmony, the four voice parts have different names and functions than in other vocal styles. Although the ranges for the four voice parts are similar to traditional music, the strength of the barbershop chord structure lies in its cone-shaped sound. The lightest production, without sacrificing clarity or brilliance, must come in the top part; each of the three lower voices sing with increased depth and intensity. The Tenor sings the highest note in a chord, the Bass sings the lowest, the Lead sings the melody, and the Baritone sings the all-important missing note to complete the chord.

### **Bass range – F below middle C to G above middle C**

- Strong harmony part at the bottom of the chord
- Sing with authority like a lead, forming an accurate relationship
- Provides a firm foundation for cone-shaped sound
- Usually sings root or the fifth of the chord

### **Baritone range – B flat below middle C to C an octave above**

- Same range as lead but as a harmony part
- Sings above and below the Lead
- Full, rich sound in lower range, lighter in the upper range
- Must be flexible and sing very accurately

### **Lead range – Middle C to D or E an octave above**

- Best suited to strong first alto or second soprano
- Sings the melody with authority, clarity, and consistent quality
- Responsible for interpretation, emotion, and inflections of the song

### **Tenor range- F above middle C to G above the staff**

- Harmony above the melody
- Light and clear, mostly in upper register
- No heavy sounds or constant vibrato
- Frequently chromatic

To maximize the effect of the natural overtone series, the roots and fifths of all chords are sung a little louder than the thirds and sevenths. In all cases, the melody is tuned to the tonal center, and the harmony parts are tuned to the melody part. Use of similar word sounds in good quality and balanced volume relationships by each of the voice parts reinforces the natural harmonic series (overtones) to produce the unique "ringing" sound characteristic of barbershop harmony.



**Structure and Notation:** The barbershop style primarily uses major chords, minor chords, dominant seventh chords, minor seventh chords, half-diminished seventh chords, and fully diminished seventh chords. A good barbershop arrangement should use the "barbershop seventh" (a dominant-quality seventh chord that occurs on any degree of the scale) for at least one-third of its chords. The chord progressions used in the barbershop style rely on the classical "Circle of Fifths" - with a few interesting embellishments thrown in along the way. Songs with that type of harmonic variation easily lend themselves to the barbershop style.

The written form of barbershop style uses much of the same notation as other forms of music. A grand staff comprised of two staves is used to notate the music. The Tenor and Lead parts are notated on the treble staff. The Baritone and Bass parts are notated on the bass staff and are sung an octave higher than written.

**Benefits of Barbershop Singing:** Barbershop music is easy to learn and fun to sing. Singing in a barbershop quartet can help your singers develop and refine their tuning and performance skills, self-confidence, and a sense of teamwork. You can use barbershop singing to achieve a "quick success" for your singers, and as another tool to teach good vocal production techniques. In addition to singing in a quartet, a chorus of many singers on the same voice part can be used to produce a very satisfying barbershop sound, while providing a highly supportive environment for weaker singers.

### Festival Clinicians: Another Round



## Another Round

**Tenor: Abby Gatzke**  
**Bass: Kim Webster**  
**Lead: Jen Heffern**  
**Baritone: Stephanie Brennan**

Another Round is a competing barbershop quartet in the Spirit of the Midwest Region 5 of Sweet Adelines International.

Each member has various amounts of experience singing from the chorus risers to competing quartet.



Mark your calendars for The River Blenders Chorus 6th annual "Shop For The Ring Festival" on June 7, 2025. Visit [www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering](http://www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering) for location details and to learn how you can register your students and/or daughters for this exciting day of singing, dancing, and fun!

**Questions? Contact Lauren Schneider at [events@riverblenders.org](mailto:events@riverblenders.org)**



The River Blenders Chorus ([www.riverblenders.org](http://www.riverblenders.org)) presents  
**6th Annual Shop for the Ring Festival - June 7, 2025**  
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011-2330  
**STUDENT APPLICATION FORM**

**\*\*\* Action required\*\*\*** Please complete this form (including the Parental Permission/Emergency section) and mail to Lauren Schneider (see below for mailing address).

The fee for attending the "Shop for the Ring" Festival is \$10 per student. Although this fee is non-refundable should the student not be able to attend the day of the festival, it is transferable.

To register, visit: [www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering](http://www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering)

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Participant's Parent or Guardian Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip Code

Home phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (required to send registration information) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ T-Shirt size (included in registration price): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Vocal Part (circle one): Tenor Baritone Lead Bass

**PARENTAL PERMISSION & EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM**

In case of emergency, please contact:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Emergency Contact Relationship Phone Number

Medical Information: Please inform us of any special medical conditions: (Attach additional pages as needed)

Medication/Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Food/Allergies/Special Dietary Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

The participant will be traveling to and from the event at St. Martin's Episcopal Church with (check one):

- Parent or Guardian
- Other Adult Supervision (Specify \_\_\_\_\_)
- Student is authorized to drive by herself

Photo/Video Authorization:

I hereby authorize the Festival coordinators to photograph and/or film my child(ren) for Publicity in group activities related to the program.

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in **The River Blenders Chorus 6th Annual "Shop for the Ring Festival" on June 7, 2025** and I hereby authorize the Festival coordinators to arrange for any necessary medical treatment in the event of a medical emergency.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: Includes online access to music and learning tracks, vocal instruction, lunch, snacks & beverages during breaks and an event t-shirt.

- Online Registration: [www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering](http://www.riverblenders.org/shopforthering)
- Checks: Make check payable to: "River Blenders Chorus"
- Return Student Application/Emergency forms to: