

2015 Youth Barbershop Jamboree

On April 25, 2015, sixty-five young men representing nine high schools in the Greater Portland, Oregon area gathered at Rex Putnam High School for the third annual Youth Barbershop Jamboree. Directed by the energetic and multi-talented Paul Olguin and assisted by fellow members of the quartet Coda and the very gifted and award-winning quartet Momma's Boys, the attendees enjoyed learning two spirited songs and a few tags.

The Youth Barbershop Jamboree is the main focus of the Young Men in Harmony outreach of the Portland Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and its Bridge Town Sound Chorus. It is headed up by Youth Outreach Coordinator, Doug Watson, but involves the efforts of almost every member both in the musical element and the behind-the-scenes activity.

The boys came with varying degrees of exposure to the barbershop style, but they soon warmed to the task of learning Tom Gentry's lively *Sound Celebration* and Adam Scott's arrangement of Pharrell Williams's very spirited *Happy*. They also learned tags taught by tagmeisters Paul Olguin and Darwin Scheel.

The training was sometimes intense, but the participants could not get enough of it and even some choreography was worked into the songs. The hard work was broken up by listening to the sweet harmony of Momma's Boys, who demonstrated just how good four-part barbershop can be. The session ended with a final warm-up on the auditorium stage followed by a robust pizza feed and a time of fellowship.

The vast majority of the lads accepted the invitation to join in a mass chorus to sing on Portland Metro chapter's spring evening show, themed Real Men Sing, and they acquitted themselves amazingly well.

Doug Watson, Coordinator

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May 8, 2015