

## **Paying it Forward**

When I was 20 years old, I was given a great gift; the chance to go to Harmony College in St. Joseph, MO. I was told by a member of my chorus (the Garden City Chorus of San Jose at the time) by the name of Chuck Sherwood that he would personally finance my tuition to Harmony College, and that the chorus would pay for my flight. The expectation was that I would bring what I learned back to my chorus, and share my new knowledge with my brothers. His personal requirement for me was that I would someday pay this good deed forward, and help some other barbershopper in his journey to become a better singer.

Flash forward to 20 years later, and I was on staff with our Harmony College Northwest school as a quartet coach. I was working with a quartet, and in particular the lead who had a very unique and memorable voice. Something about his face struck me as familiar as well, though I couldn't put my finger on it. After a minute of getting to know him better, I found out his last name was Sherwood, and in fact his first name was Chuck. I told him that I once knew a Chuck Sherwood in San Jose, to which he replied, "Yeah, that was my Dad."

What were the chances that one good deed done by a man could wind up randomly helping his own son, twenty years later and two states away? While Chuck Sr. is no longer with us, I'm honored to be able to share with Chuck Jr. the knowledge made possible by his father so long ago. The Barbershop Family is a mysterious and wonderful thing indeed.

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