

Got Questions?

Here are a number of frequently-asked questions that we get from new or prospective members.

How much personal time will it take?

In addition to weekly evening rehearsals throughout the year, there are 2 annual shows in spring and fall. We also participate in a BHS regional competition in March or April each year, and have an annual weekend retreat to focus on preparing for competition. We tend to perform in and around our area about 6-8 times per year for local festivals, business and charity occasions, and participating in Christmas and arts festival events.

What is the cost?

New member annual fees:	Enrollment fee (one time)	\$10
	Barbershop Harmony Society	120
	Sunshine (FL) District	25
	Chapter (Cape Coral)	<u>15</u>
	Total	170

For new members choosing our EZDues Payment Plan, the first year fees are half price. Thus the BHS, District and Chapter fees, normally \$160 are just \$80.

New members age 26 and under get a big discount on this. The BHS dues are waived for the first year, and cut in half for subsequent years while you are 26 or under. Sunshine district dues are also cut in half. That means a total of \$37.50 for first year members, and \$87.50 thereafter.

What is the audition procedure?

After the third rehearsal visit, you are eligible to submit your application and request for audition. You will have already received a learning CD and sheet music for the audition song "Keep the Whole World Singing". When you feel you are ready and know the words and music by heart, the Membership VP will schedule your audition.

The director will confirm your voice range for the part you are singing. He may ask you to repeat back to him a note he sings. He may also ask you to sing a note that harmonizes with a note he sings. Finally, you'll be asked to sing your part in a quartet made up of the appropriate section leaders. Your readiness for membership in the choral ranks will then be determined.

Do I have to be a great singer?

Not at all. Actually, the best choral singers are those who blend well with the ensemble, not "great singers" who may stick out. However, you do need to be able to carry a tune and enjoy singing.

How do I learn the songs?

We have learning MP3's, CDs and sheet music for all the songs in our repertoire--about twenty numbers. This allows us to learn the words and music through practice at home, in the car, etc. Our weekly rehearsals are then devoted to singing exercises, section reviews and then full chorus integration.