

# CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



Harmony, Inc.

*Harmony, Inc. and its chapters are doing their part to help flatten the curve and fight Covid-19. We will keep everyone updated on which events are cancelled and which are being changed, but we urge everyone to check with event planners of individual activities to confirm their status before attending. This includes rehearsals, performances, fundraisers, contests, etc.*

May 15, 2020

To Our Members,

No doubt many of you are still processing the sobering news shared in last week's webinar, "What do Science and Data Say About the Near-Term Future of Singing?" If you have not watched the webinar or would like to review sections of particular interest, the Barbershop Harmony Society has edited the webinar into several digestible sections, and the videos are available [HERE](#). A written summary of the webinar can be found [HERE](#).

The organizations that hosted the May 5 webinar – National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), Chorus America, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), and Performing Arts Medicine Association (PAMA) – continue to converse with researchers to gain additional knowledge on this topic. Stay tuned for follow up conversations by these organizations.

## **Singers are "super spreaders"**

Experts say that singing in an enclosed space with recirculated air is one of the most dangerous activities for spreading COVID-19. The deep breathing and loud sounds singers produce during rehearsals project disease particles into the air at a much higher rate than normal speech. Although wearing masks, screening chorus members, and social distancing during rehearsals, can help reduce the risk of chorus members spreading the virus, singing comes with significant risks. A May 12 report published by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) outlines how transmission of COVID-19 occurred at a community choir rehearsal. The full report can be found [HERE](#).

## **Impact on your chapter rehearsals**

You may be wondering what this means for your chapter. As always, the health and safety of our members is our highest priority. **Based on the information provided to date, returning to traditional chorus rehearsals and performances at this time is extremely risky and not advised.** Even with health screening prior to the rehearsal, wearing masks, and practicing proper social distancing, there is no guarantee that the virus will not infect chapter members and audiences. Of course, we are devastated by this news, but we feel you need to be informed. For the time being, we urge you to be safe and continue using Zoom or other creative ways to stay connected. As stated in the May 5 webinar, this is a marathon, not a sprint. Patience is the key to keeping all members healthy.

Please see these [FAQs](#) with information about receiving refunds for contest entry fees and AEPs and answers to other questions we have received. If you have more questions that have not been addressed, please contact [president@harmonyinc.org](mailto:president@harmonyinc.org).

**Together we are HARMONY. STRONGER.**

Yours in Harmony,

Donna McKay, International President  
and your International Board of Directors  
[president@harmonyinc.org](mailto:president@harmonyinc.org)