

# MasterLine

periodic news from the masters of harmony

FEBRUARY 7, 2022

## The Masters Returned to Live Performances in December

### —Two Great Christmas Shows—

**Saturday, December 11, 2021**

The **Masters of Harmony** joined **Pacific Coast Harmony** in the sanctuary at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Cardiff-by-the-Sea as invited guests to perform another Christmas show, “Together Again—A Holiday Homecoming.” The first show at this church in 2019 was one of the last performances both choruses would have in front of a live audience due to the onset of COVID-19.



Recently-formed chapter quartet **Soundwave** with **Adam Marangakis** (tenor), **Tom Moore** (lead), **Peter Trist** (bari), and **Joe D’Amore** (bass) sang along with PCH, performed separately before joining the Masters of Harmony on stage for the finale, a medley of *Little Drummer Boy* and *Peace on Earth* arranged by **Grant Goldstein**. The audience rewarded this performance with a standing ovation.

Afterwards, both performers and audience members agreed that this show should be an annual event. The dome-shaped church with its remarkable acoustics and beautiful mosaics gave both audience and performers a thrill. It was a fitting way to break the bonds of isolation and return to in-person performances.

**Sunday, December 12, 2021**

The day after their dramatic return to a live performance in Cardiff, the Masters of Harmony had the opportunity to perform at The Well Foursquare Church in Artesia due to arrangements by Associate Pastor and fellow Masters member **Kevin Perales**. Afterwards, Kevin reported that parishioners told him that something magical had happened during the Christmas show. Singers and performers shared beautiful moments together. Even the following Sunday, people were still talking about the show. Maybe this could be an annual event!

## MEN WANTED WHO LOVE TO SING!

Auditions for new singers are being held at our new rehearsal home, La Mirada United Methodist Church at 15700 Rosecrans Ave., La Mirada. If you enjoy singing and are interested in auditioning to be part of the chorus, please plan to attend a rehearsal on any Wednesday at 7:30 pm. The chorus has purchased special singers’ masks to facilitate singing indoors. Guests are always welcome, but must wear masks at all times when indoors.

We are eager to grow the chorus and have new singers discover the harmony, fellowship and challenges of this wonderful hobby. Come sing with us!

## Chapter Quartets in Action

- **Six Feet Off Bass** with **Eric Emmons** (tenor), **Leonard Jensen** (lead), **Mark Travis** (bari) and **Willie Daw** (bass) has been keeping busy recording songs for Valentine’s Day, arranging music for Mother’s Day, and singing for a memorial service. On November 2nd, the quartet performed at a meeting of the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce,
- Last June, **The Velvet Frogs**, a chapter quartet featuring Masters of Harmony members – tenor **Craig Ewing**, lead **David Livingston** and bari **CJ Sams** – participated in a fundraiser to fight Alzheimer’s Disease.
- **Soundwave**, mentioned earlier, recently performed at the City of La Mirada’s annual “Salute to Veterans” at the La Mirada Theatre.

## Keeping Up with the Masters

- Last July, the Masters of Harmony released a virtual collaboration to honor Independence Day. A video of the chorus performing *Stars and Stripes Forever*, the most popular march of all time, was shared on Facebook and at the virtual international barbershop convention, and partially broadcast on KTLA Channel 5. If you missed it or want to see it again, it is available on the Masters of Harmony YouTube [channel](#).
- On August 28, the Masters of Harmony performed at the Celebration of Life for longtime member **Dan Place**. Dan was one of the few Masters who earned all international chorus medals the MOH earned from 1990-2017: Two bronze, one silver and nine gold. Because of Dan's love for the chorus, the Place family has established the Dan Place Memorial Fund. If you have been thinking about making a donation to the Masters of Harmony, visit the Masters of Harmony website, navigate to the [Donate](#) page, and select the Dan Place Memorial Fund. There you can choose to give through PayPal or with a credit card. If you prefer to give by check, please mail it to the address shown on the Donate page, write **Attn: Treasurer** on the envelope, and put Dan Place Fund on the memo line. Contributions of any size are a great way to honor this wonderful man, and they will help the Masters of Harmony continue to navigate through the challenges of the pandemic. Thank you!
- The Masters of Harmony co-hosted the International Midwinter Convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, January 11-16, 2022.
- The Masters of Harmony plan to defend their standing as one of the world's premier cappella choruses at the International Convention of the Barbershop Harmony Society in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 5-9, 2022. Special rehearsals and coaching sessions leading up to the return to international competition will occur throughout the spring. As a final step in preparation for the contest, the chorus will assemble June 3-8 for a retreat in Temecula. **Tony De Rosa**, multiple gold-medalist quartet singer, music director and much-sought-after vocal performance coach will share his talent with the MOH over the weekend, while **Erin Howden**, choreographer extraordinaire, will help the chorus ensure that our visual performance matches the feel and intent of the music in every passage. The Masters have earned 12 international medals in their history and will be working to earn a 10th gold medal.



## Members Honored at Annual Gala

The Masters of Harmony held their annual awards and installation of officers banquet in December at the Garden Room in La Habra. Over 100 Masters and guests enjoyed the buffet and entertainment, which included the 2018 Masters of Harmony Quartet of the Year Velvet Frogs and 2019 and 2021 Quartet of the Year Six Feet Off Bass, as well as newly-formed quartet Soundwave. Far Western District President **Bill Rosica** installed the new officers, moving outgoing president Joe D'Amore to vice president of music and performance, and promoting **Craig Hughes** to be our new president. Barbershop Harmony Society notable **Kevin Keller** gave an inspiring keynote speech remotely. A silent auction successfully raised money for chorus expenses. All-around go-getter **Larry Icenogle** took home the Doug Maddox Master of Harmony Award for Barbershopper of the Year. Last but not least, Director **Alan Gordon** inspired us with a speech about "Performance through Passion."

## With Sadness In Our Hearts



With deepest sorrow, the Masters of Harmony mourn the loss of **Dr. Greg Lyne**, one of the most influential choral directors and coaches in the history of the global barbershop community. Dr. Lyne led the Illinois-based **West Towns Chorus** to an international championship in 1987, then directed the Masters of Harmony to our first three consecutive international gold medals (1990, 1993, 1996).

Greg's contribution to the Masters of Harmony cannot be overstated. Under his leadership, the MOH attained a worldwide reputation that continues to this day. Thanks to the strong musical and administrative foundation established during Greg's tenure, our subsequent directors have taken the Masters of Harmony to even higher levels of musical excellence.