



**North Carolina Harmony Brigade**

**Chuck Greene Youth Scholarship**

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Dear Prospective NCHB Scholarship Recipient:

We are delighted to learn of your interest in the North Carolina Harmony Brigade and the scholarships we are offering to qualified, young men singers from ages of 18-28.

The North Carolina Harmony Brigade, held each January since 1992 in Pinehurst, is a weekend where about 100 men participate in non-stop, intense quartet singing. We sing arrangements made popular by all-time leading quartets. We form and reform quartets all weekend long, as well as give 20 performances at local area schools, run a couple of quartet contests, and perform a full-length concert by all of us, as a chorus, for the community. Sleep is entirely optional! Everyone agrees that is the hands-down best quartet singing experience that can be imagined. The harmony brigade concept has proven so popular that there are now eight other locations in North America with annual harmony brigades, plus two brigades in Europe.

At NCHB, Brigade participants come not just from North Carolina, but from many other states, Canada, and overseas, because of the incredible reputation of this unique experience. For January 2018, participants will once again convene in Pinehurst, NC, to participate in our 26th Annual rally.

Because we are excited about getting more young men to join in this musical challenge, the group has endowed around 10 scholarships to cover about 90% of the cost of attendance, which includes music, hotel, meals, and Brigade uniform shirt. Actual cost to you would be the cost of your transportation and Saturday lunch. If you love quartet singing, and would like a challenging singing experience, the NCHB may be for you.

## The Brigade Rally

The NCHB Rally is an invitational weekend event of non-stop quartetting. Participants sing in many, many quartet combinations. Anywhere from 100 to 130 men will arrive in Pinehurst, NC, fully prepared (*knowing their part on twelve great songs*) and ready to spend the entire weekend quartetting!

### Before the weekend ever begins:

Sheet music and part-predominant CDs of the 12 songs are shipped to each participant in late summer. You have at least 4 months to learn these songs "cold". Many guys located in various towns host Brigade practice sessions at their homes in the weekends late Fall to help get comfortable and confident with the music. You will be notified of all such "run-throughs" that are taking place. If this is your first Brigade, then there will be an experienced "Brigade buddy" assigned to help you get prepared so that by January, you no longer need your sheet music!

### Optional Friday Morning School Performances

The official weekend events begin at 3pm on Friday; however, a number of singers participate in the optional Friday school performances, traveling to nearby schools for short performances. Those wishing to be in a school quartet usually arrive in Pinehurst on Thursday evening.

### Friday afternoon

Official start to the Harmony Brigade weekend is Friday, January 12, 2018 at 3pm.

After arrival, registration, and checking into in your hotel room, join the throng, meet new people, and let the singing begin. Your badge will indicate your voice part and name, so you will quickly be drawn into quartets. Your Brigade buddy will help you get connected and keep singing.

### Friday Evening

Friday night dinner starts around 5:30. The Carolina Inn at the Pinehurst resort sure knows how to put on a great meal. After dinner, learn which quartet you're assigned to for the Friday night contest, get together to practice your assigned song, then participate in the evening contest. The top 10 quartets are announced, for the final contest on Saturday. After the contest, we sing in quartets as long as we can stay awake.

### Saturday Morning

You'll enjoy the great Carolina Inn breakfast: pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, grits, and more. Auditions for Saturday night show quartets are held at this time. Then follows a general business meeting. During the meeting, all newcomers leave to practice a couple of the songs, then they return to perform as a chorus for the brigade membership. Then the members return the favor!

### Saturday afternoon

Saturday lunch in the village is on your own, followed by practice as a 100-man chorus on the weekend's repertoire. After the practice, we enjoy hearing the top 10 quartets compete, then we all get back to non-stop quartet singing.

## Saturday Evening

Another fabulous dinner at the Carolina Inn is followed by our 2-hour show for the community, which includes the chorus, plus other quartets and groups. After the show, the party begins: pizza, beverages, and quartet singing until you give out.

## Sunday Morning

After breakfast, say your good-byes and you're on your way home, worn out, but, we hope, as glad to have attended this Brigade as we are to have hosted you.

## ***Next Steps***

If this kind of singing weekend appeals to you, and you are under 28 years of age, then after reading this entire brochure, send an email with your name and phone number to NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com.

We will contact you to help lead you through the rest of the application process. If you would like to participate in the Brigade, but you are not in need of financial assistance, then call us anyway, and we will give you instructions on the regular application process.

## ***Now All the Details***

### Scholarship Details:

1. Scholarships for the weekend covers 90% of registration fees, hotel accommodations, meals, and all the learning materials. Saturday lunch in town and travelling expenses are not covered.
2. This office will send out Applications immediately to anyone who confirms his interest via email or phone, sending his name, address, phone number, voice part, and e-mail address. If a current Brigade member is encouraging you to apply, be sure to list his name as your sponsor.
3. Apply for the scholarship as soon as possible; scholarships are awarded as we receive and approve them. Scholarships are usually awarded without regard to voice part. In any case, please apply no later than August 21, 2017.
4. Since Scholarship applicants are usually fairly new to quartet singing, your other singing experience is important to the Scholarship committee. Your sponsor's recommendation is also very important. Part of the scholarship application process is to provide good references of your singing ability from church or school choirs, or theater group, and the like. Formal musical training is not required.

5. Scholarship Applicants are not required to be members of the Barbershop Harmony Society.
6. Scholarship applicants must be not older than 28 years old as of January 12, 2017.
7. Those who can memorize their part in all 12 repertoire songs and can sing them in tune in a quartet are the ones who will enjoy the Brigade experience.
8. If your application is accepted, you will receive additional event information, sheet music, and a CD with part-predominant learning tracks for the 12 songs in the repertoire, no later than early September, giving you at least 16 weeks to learn all 12 songs. At this time, you will be assigned a "Brigade buddy" to answer your questions and encourage you in preparing. The buddy will be one who sings the same part as you.

### General Program Details:

9. The events will take place from 3:00 PM on Friday, January 12, 2018, to Sunday morning, January 14th, in Pinehurst, NC. The last "official event" is around midnight on Saturday night, but almost everyone stays up late Saturday night quartetting. Sunday morning's breakfast is part of the package.
10. Most Important: Come fully prepared! It makes the weekend great for you and for the other guys who sing with you. This is the binding ethic of the Brigade. All participants invest a good deal of time and effort to be completely prepared, knowing that everyone else in attendance will do the same.
11. All Scholarship members and general membership are encouraged to attend one or two regional practices with others in the area. Your Brigade buddy may contact you about them or any other techniques for getting fully prepared.

### Reminder

The Brigade is not for everyone. This is for highly motivated, intermediate (and above) singers who love 4-part A Cappella harmony. Everyone will be there to have a great time singing with prepared singers! *COMING UNPREPARED IS NOT AN OPTION*. The weekend is not a time for learning.

Thank you again for your interest!

Harmoniously,  
Nic Cols

Scholarship Chairman  
NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com



Dedicated to the memory of **Chuck Greene**. Chuck was a founding member of the North Carolina Harmony Brigade in 1992. He epitomized the Brigade spirit, and was for so many "*the man I came to sing with*". We gratefully honor his memory by naming the Scholarship program after him.