



Congratulations to *After Hours* & Bryan Ziegler

In record-setting style, **Bryan** and his gang from **After Hours** won the gold medal in Orlando at the International Barbershop Harmony Society's 2018 Quartet Contest.

First, let's read the scoring analysis by Jim Porter.

Best Year for Quartets of All Time – Barbershop Harmony website by Jim Porter, Overland Park, Kansas

No doubt about it -- 2018 was the best year for the quartets in all time! Consider the following:



After Hours scored 94.7%. The old record was set in 2000 by **Platinum**, who scored 93.92%.

Signature scored 93.8% for the silver medal. The old record was set in 2016 by **Lemon Squeezy** with 92.84%. Signature's score would have won gold every year except in 2000.

The average for the top 5 medalists was 91.95%. The old record was 91.76% in 2016.

The average for the top 10 quartets was 89.62%. The



old record was 89.59% in 2015.

The average for the top 20 quartets (each weighted equally) was 86.48%. The old record was 86.36% in 2016.

The average for the top 40 quartets (each weighted equally) was 83.14%. The old record was 82.82% in 2016.

Bryan in his own words (from July 8)

When I said I had been planning that speech since I was 8, I told the absolute truth. It still doesn't feel real, and I'm not sure it will really ever sink in, and I'm good with that. To achieve something that you've idealized since childhood and to be greeted by all your heroes in this new brotherhood is just beyond the words that I can describe.



As I talked to the other guys in the top quartets throughout the week, we all said the same thing - everyone sang REALLY well, and that's exactly what you want in an awesome contest! I have so much respect and admiration for the men in these quartets, that just to be considered among them is the honor of a lifetime, much less the blessing to be named the 2018 International Champion (I'm still tearing up as I write that). I'm so lucky to be able to watch my friends sing their hearts out and be passionately rewarded by the audience!

Tim, Dan, Drew, Ben, and Kevin: I love you guys more than you can imagine. I'm thankful every day that we GET to do this thing that we do. You have inspired and continue to inspire me to be the best that I can be every time we sing.



L-R: Tim Beutel, Drew Ochoa, Dan Wessler, & our own Bryan Ziegler

Tim, Theo, and Michael: I'm amazed at how you can always find the next level (new *///levels*) in what we do, and challenge us to achieve even more. We would not be where



we are without you; that's for sure.

So many messages of love and support, and I will try to respond to or like every one of them. In the meantime, I will be trying to convince every version of **Bryan** from 8-29 years old that this is really real -- it's not a dream, but a dream come true!!!

Congratulations to Midnight Croon

Featured on TV in Orlando (click <https://www.clickorlando.com/news/barbershop-harmony-to-visit-orlando-for-first-time-in-80-years> for a 3 minute video) **Midnight Croon** scores increased and they had a great time. See the video above and read two pieces "in their own words," below.

Josh Umhoefer in his own words

I got home from the 2018 International Men's Barbershop Contest today.

I've been to 16 BHS conventions - but this year ranks among the most fun and meaningful I've attended. I slept so much less, but enjoyed it more than I have before. Here's a few highlights (not in any particular order):

-My quartet Midnight Croon got to perform two brand new arrangements on the big stage (thank you Kohl Kitzmiller & **Patrick McAlexander!**), and we scored 1.1% higher than last year (a new Croon record at International)

-**Midnight Croon** partied with CHORD SMASH!
- our convention ritual

-I sang with my college quartet **Expose'**, from 2005 (2 of Croon and 2 of **CHORD SMASH**)

-Croon recorded a TV spot about the



barbershop contest for Orlando television

-I enjoyed some pool and sun time

-Midnight Croon spent some amazing time with each other and our extended quartet family

-I hugged and chatted with so many friends, as well as former quartet mates from

Voices Only and Skyline - and had the chance to get to know new friends, too!

-I got to see **Voctave** LIVE - they are unbelievable!

-I watched **After Hours** win a gold medal, posting a new record score in an amazing contest. It was awesome seeing fellow MVE-er **Bryan Ziegler** accomplish his dream.

-Witnessed an incredible Star Wars set during the chorus contest - thanks to **Music City Chorus!**

-Watched a friend bare his soul to the barbershop world with his quartet **The Committee**, while spreading the message that depression is nothing to be ashamed of.

-Sang a little women's bass with **Martini Quartet**, and then Croon got to sing our 8 part with them (we missed you Shannon) as we prepare to record it for our cd in a few weeks.

What a week! Now, back to real life.

Tim Zielke in his own words

Getting back to work after a normal vacation is hard enough... Coming back from a Barbershop convention week... It's like entering a different reality.

For the first time in a very long time - I allowed myself to be a barbershopper at this convention. I didn't stand in the background. I got out of our room.

I sang tags. I engaged with new amazing people. I learned a few things about our hobby...and about myself.

I experienced amazing performances. I got caught up in the moment so many



times. I laughed so hard I snorted (loudly) during a chorus performance. I cried at several chorus and quartet performances.

I witnessed a friend achieve the goal of a lifetime through hard work, tenacity and maybe just a little bit of talent...(congrats Bryan Ziegler and **After Hours**).

I saw another friend tear open a wounded heart on stage and remind the world that silence is not an option when it comes to depression. Love you Michael. Thank you Brett, Matthew, and Kevin for being there for him and Carol.

I achieved some personal goals on stage this year, and I believe I pushed past some very well ingrained barriers. There is no going back now. The quartet averaged an 81.3 overall. Solid A Performance. Last year that would have put us in the top twenty, which we were just a bit outside. We averaged an 81.6% in performance and in singing we averaged an 82%... This is our new standard.

I love singing with these guys. They are part of my family, and I can't wait to sing again.

Congratulation also to Patrick McAlexander Sporting a New Medal



Besides being in **Midnight Croon**, Patrick also had a role in **Music City Chorus'** fifth place chorus medal for their **Star Wars Medley**, which he arranged, by the way.



If you don't quite recognize him, **Patrick** is **C-3PO** on the far right in photo above.

Congratulations to The Committee

Singing beautifully *Walkin' After Midnight* and *How it Ends*, **The Committee** moved the audience in its message to fight depression. The audience was clearly moved.





Messages from all over saying things like, "A great message, Mike." And it was. Kudos to **The Committee**.

On Being a Performance Judge in Orlando – Mike Lietke

Having just judged the **International Chorus Contest** for the first time, Dick Marcus asked me to put some thoughts on paper on things that I experienced - unexpected things for the non-judge. Here are a few:

- It is a lot easier to judge than a typical contest, because at this level the performances do not vary as much in level within the same performance. Typically, a 73 chorus shows some nearly-A moments mixed with some mid to low 60s moments. Not so with those 82+.
- All evals at this level are written, and only after the fact. The category specialist picks two of the five of us to write evals for any performer who requests the feedback. It used to be every judge had to respond to every request.
- Because you will have good video backup for anybody who asks for that eval, there is little reason to write much on your scoresheet other than the score. You see a lot more of the performances because of it.
- Many of my scoresheets only had four or six words written on them.
- The Performance Category had zero conferences to discuss possible rules violations.
- We receive a statistical analysis of every contest we judge, including graphs showing how much you helped the unanimity of the scoring. You will be happy to know my chart was full green, meaning I did my job very well. (*Editor's Comment: We knew you would, Mike.*)
- The Variance process was in full force, meaning if a person took a flyer and was statistically high or low against the category, anybody in the category has the opportunity to change scores. Score changes were made only 3 times over 60 songs in the chorus contest.
- Each of the two sessions was 15 choruses with an intermission in the middle. Despite this, at least one time a judge had to call a timeout for quick bio break.
- The judges seem a little less gregarious and chatty during the breaks than in a normal contest, most likely due to the gravity of the contest.



- An individual scoring judge really has no idea where the choruses come out until the scoresheets come out. You have an idea of level due to your score, but it would not have surprised me if Westminster won instead of the VM, for instance.
- Despite that, I had the top two in their finishing order. Then number 5, because of the incredible performance Music City put out as the entire Star Wars series came to life before us.

Hope you had some fun reading this. Happy to answer any other questions you have.

Why Are We Having a Video Shoot on Monday, August 27 at the Saber Center? – Jim Franklin – VP of Marketing and PR

What is one thing that will capture the hearts of new Christmas and Spring Show fans to want to come to our performances? What will help to make male singers (dudes) think "*I wanna do that!*"? What will make the MVE better known in our own communities?

VIDEO! Dynamic, engaging video of us doing what we do, grabbing our audience and telling our stories through song. To build an inventory of well-lit shots on a stage, where we can shoot in a variety of costumes, songs, settings, emotions, backdrops, we will do this at the beautiful **Saber Center stage at Franklin High School** on

Monday evening, **August 27** and be shot by a professional videographer and photographer. Leading up to that, Mike Lietke has committed to sharpening our visual performing skills to get us into full performance mode by then.

Greatness awaits! Let's go get it!

Address: Saber Center for the Performing Arts at Franklin High School, 8222 S 51st St, Franklin, WI 53132. Meet at the Saber Center that Monday, not at St. Luke's.



**After Hours
Celebration
Party at the
MVE**

It was a joy-filled celebration on Monday night, July 16, for the Gold Medal winning quartet at the International Barbershop Harmony contest "**After Hours.**"

Bryan Ziegler, the director of the Midwest Vocal Express, directs the party in a brand new song.



Congrats to **Tim Beutel**-tenor; **Drew Ochoa**-lead bringing his fork to the cake via Skype; **Bryan Ziegler**-baritone and MVE director; and to **Dan Wessler**-bass.



Congratulations After Hours and Bryan Ziegler





Calendar

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|--------------------|--|---|
| Monday, August 6 | Rehearsal | St. Luke's at 7:00 pm |
| Monday, August 13 | Rehearsal | St. Luke's at 7:00 pm for the Gazebo |
| Monday, August 20 | Rehearsal | St. Luke's at 7:00 pm |
| Monday, August 27 | <u>Video Session</u> | at the <u>Franklin Saber Center</u> at 7:00 pm |
| Tuesday, August 28 | MVE Board Meeting – all welcome – 7pm @ St. Luke's | |

MVE Happenings – President Derek Balke

Video & Advertising shoot - August 27th - Rehearsal at Franklin Saber Center. Exciting event to help us all! Jim Franklin and the marketing team set this up. VERY nice job! "Be prepared to perform the way we know how. Yes, you're gonna be a star!"

Brewers National Anthem: Sept 8th- game is at 6pm. Scott is taking money for this!

MVE Sing-out - Sept. 15th. Muskego.

District contest: Oct 26-27. Rochester.

Christmas show: December 8th. Franklin Saber Center.

Two Great Links to After Hours BHS Videos from Orlando

The Next Ten Minutes - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgwuDAvLxNE>
 Bring Me Sunshine - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p40IeYCeRmY>

Who Sang in Which Quartet? Match 8 singers with their quartets, both current or past quartets. One point for each correct match. Data based on BHS reports of years as members of quartets. All errors are Dick Marcus' fault for omission, but many of these dudes had lots of quartets in their past.

1. **Bo Gibson** (Match 2 over past 25 years)
2. **Mike Lietke** (Match 3 since 1998*)
3. **Bryan Ziegler** (Match 3 since 2013)
4. **Darryl Cremer** (Match 2 since 1969*)
5. **Patrick McAlexander** (Match 4 since 2014*)
6. **Derek Balke** (Match 3 since 2015*)
7. **Niel Johnson** (Match 3 since 2007*)
8. **Josh Umhoefer** (Match 3 since 2008*)

- A. **Midnight Croon** (2 guys on list matches)
- B. **Ten Minute Intermission** (only 1 match)
- C. **Locked and Loaded** (only 1 match)
- D. **The Committee** (only 1 match)
- E. **Easy Days** (only 1 match)
- F. **After Hours** (only 1 match)
- G. **MC4** (only 1 match, pretty hard one to get)
- H. **Chord-tastrophe** (only 1 match)
- I. **Shear Delight** (only 1 match)
- J. **7th Sons** (only 1 match)
- K. **Ohana Means Family** (only 1 match)
- L. **The New Edition** (only 1 match)
- M. **Jackpot!** (only 1 match)
- N. **Highpoint** (only 1 match)
- O. **Magnum** (only 1 match)
- P. **Four in Accord** (only 1 match)
- Q. **Brew City Harmony** (only 1 match)
- R. **S'No Problem** (only 1 match)
- S. **Skyline** (only 1 match)
- T. **Brew City Buzz** (only 1 match)
- U. **Voices Only** (only 1 match)
- V. **One Minute to Midnight** (only 1 match)

Are you a [Quartet Super Nerd?](#)

* means that there are other quartets that are not listed in this period as well.

Answers - no peeking

1. E and I
2. D, M, and O
3. B, F, and L
4. N and P
5. A, G, H, and K
6. J, T, and V
7. C, Q, and R
8. A, S, and U

Maximum Points = 23

17 to 23 You are "**Quartet Super Nerd.**"

10 to 16 You know your quartets, dude - good job "**Quartet Nerd.**"

6 to 9 You are "**Pretty Good at Guessing**" - ok job

4 to 5 You are "**Just a Newbie**" - you'll catch on

0 to 3 Well, you "**Didn't Have a Clue**, did you? - sorry



Singing Together Brings Heartbeats Into Harmony

The neuroscience of singing shows that when we sing our neurotransmitters connect in new and different ways. It fires up the right temporal lobe of our brain, releasing endorphins that make us smarter, healthier, happier and more creative. When we sing with other people this effect is amplified.

The science is in. Singing is really good for you and the most recent research suggests that group singing is the most exhilarating and transformative of all. The good feelings we get from singing in a group are a kind of evolutionary reward for coming together cooperatively.

The research suggests that creating music together evolved as a tool of social living. Groups and tribes sang and danced together to build loyalty, transmit vital information and ward off enemies.

What has not been understood until recently is that singing in groups triggers the communal release of serotonin and oxytocin, the bonding hormone, and even synchronizes our heart beats.

Group singing literally incentivized *community* over an “each cave dweller for themselves” approach. Those who sang together were strongly bonded and survived.

In her book *Imperfect Harmony: Finding Happiness Singing with Others*, Stacy Horn calls singing: “An infusion of the perfect tranquilizer – the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirit.” For more, go to the source in Uplift:
https://upliftconnect.com/neuroscience-of-singing/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=uplift