

HARMONY EDUCATION AOTEAROA 2026

El Rancho, Waikanae
13-15th March

FRIDAY

7.00pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS – Pacific Connection:

The Bronze Breakthrough and the road ahead

Experience the journey of Pacific Connection as they carved their path to the International Contest. From pivotal wins to hard-earned lessons, this session reveals the heart, hustle, and harmony behind their success - and what comes next as they aim even higher.

SATURDAY

8.30am

VOCAL WARM-UPS

Coaching Faculty will take attendees through some effective vocal warmups

9.00am

EDUCATION CLASS 1

Unlock the Magic: Fundamentals and Foundations: Rachel Roberts

Whether you're brand new to the craft or a seasoned Barbershopper who loves to geek out on the mechanics, this session is for you. We're stripping back the layers to explore the techniques that turn four voices into one powerhouse sound. Expect a high-energy, hands-on workshop where we don't just talk about the basics- we sing them. Come ready to join-in, ring some chords, and find your "Aha!" moment.

What are the judges looking for? Trent Taylor

A clear breakdown of what judges are actually assessing in contest — across categories — and how that translates into rehearsal priorities. We'll connect score sheets to practical actions so singers leave knowing what to focus on and why.

10.00am

MORNING TEA

10.30am

EDUCATION CLASS 2

Neurodiversity in harmony Angie Schonegger

Join me for an interactive and insightful session exploring Neurodiversity in Harmony — a look into how our diverse brains experience music, sound, social connection, and group singing. As an Early Intervention Specialist, I'll unpack the science behind how neurodivergent brains

process sensory information differently from neurotypical brains, why certain behaviours occur, and how these behaviours serve as powerful forms of communication.

We'll also explore the incredibly positive role singing and group music can play in supporting regulation, connection, confidence, and wellbeing for neurodivergent people of all ages.

Whether you're a singer, director, section leader, educator, or simply passionate about creating inclusive, welcoming spaces in Harmony, this session will leave you with:

- *A clearer understanding of sensory needs*
- *Practical, compassion based strategies*
- *Tools to support neurodiverse singers in rehearsals and performances*
- *Insights into how music can become a bridge to belonging*

Be part of the movement toward creating rehearsals where everyone feels understood, comfortable, and able to shine.

A sequential process to learning music

Matt Barris

This class presents a structured, four-step process to help singers learn music thoroughly and efficiently. It begins with an open discussion exploring what "learning" really means, what makes a strong barbershop performance, and common obstacles that get in the way.

The four steps covered are:

1. Get an Overview

Singers examine the musical foundations of the song: tempo, key and time signatures, structure, potential challenges, chord roles, and embellishments. The focus is on recognising these elements and marking them clearly.

2. Map an Interpretation

This step shapes the artistic plan. Singers explore the song's message, emotional journey, musical style, and how dynamics, tempo, and articulation support the story.

3. Learn the Music

A vocal-health-centred method for learning notes, rhythms, and words:

- *Vocalise rhythms*
- *Apply diction freely*
- *Speak text in rhythm*
- *Layer in pitch using SOVT, vowels, and finally text*

This approach strengthens vocal technique and consistency from the start.

4. Map the Technique

Singers identify and annotate breath plans, address difficult passages, and resolve

	<p>vowel or tuning issues before entering the creative stage. The session emphasises how working systematically supports confident performance and more effective coaching.</p>
<p>11.30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION WORKSHOPS 3</p> <p>Performing with Purpose Trent Taylor <i>A practical, interactive session on turning lyrics into clear, authentic performance. We'll work on objective, subtext, emotional alignment, and ensemble unity so the audience understands exactly what you mean. Beginners will gain simple, repeatable tools. Experienced singers will refine nuance, cohesion, and depth.</i></p> <p>Coaching 101 featuring Noteifications Rachel Roberts <i>This session shares coaching wisdom from the best in NZ and across the ditch, featuring tried and tested tools to help singers unlock their potential! We'll explore the psychology of building an environment where singers feel empowered to play, stumble and succeed! Whether you're a musical director, an aspiring coach or someone who's brand new to barbershop, bring your ears and passion as we may even get to put our skills to action with a live quartet!</i></p>
<p>12.30pm</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>
<p>1.30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION WORKSHOPS 4</p> <p>Performance Preparation Kisena Asi <i>This course introduces participants to the art of visualisation as a core tool for building confidence and mental readiness. It explores how intentional preparation and effective management of distractions shape focus and resilience. Learners will develop practical skills to enhance their performance in high-pressure moments with clarity and consistency.</i></p> <p>Score Analysis when you don't read music Robyn Bryant <i>Do you read a bit of music? Do you not read it at all? Do you know the basics but not really what it means? Do you want to be able to pick apart musicality and deliver something at a higher level? Then this class is for you.</i></p> <p><i>A barbershopper doesn't have to be fluent in music reading to be fantastic at barbershop, though understanding what to look out for from what is in front of you certainly makes that easier. By learning and identifying patterns from the sheet music and the original song, using your eyes and ears, you will learn what musicality elements are buried in the songs you sing, and how you can execute them!</i></p>

<p>2.30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5th Melody Masterclass</p> <p>Join us for an inspiring session with <i>5th Melody</i>, a world-class barbershop quartet made up of four incredibly talented siblings. Formed during their high-school years, they have grown into one of the top quartets globally—most recently representing BHNZ in Charlotte, USA, where they achieved a remarkable top-20 finish on the international stage.</p> <p>Beyond their musical excellence, each member plays a significant leadership role within Pacific Connection. In this masterclass, they'll share their journey, the challenges and lessons that shaped them, and how their musical and leadership pathways continue to evolve.</p> <p>And of course—enjoy a special live performance from 5th Melody!</p>
<p>3.30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AFTERNOON TEA</p>
<p>3.45pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COACHING UNDER GLASS:</p> <p>A chance for all attendees to observe quartets or individuals being coached by faculty members. A chance to pick up some coaching skills in real time!</p>
<p>4.45pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHORUS SPLITS:</p> <p>Attendees turn to sing! The group will be split into 2 choruses to Sing and work through 2 Massed Songs which have been re-arranged into SATB. <i>“Pokarekare Ana”</i> and <i>“Better Be Home Soon”</i></p>
<p>5.30pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DINNER</p>
<p>7.00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday night live</p>
<p>9.00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TAG TIME / SUPPER</p>
<p>SUNDAY</p>	
<p>9.00am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">VOCAL WARM-UPS</p> <p>Coaching Faculty will take attendees through some effective vocal warmups</p>
<p>9.30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION CLASS 3</p> <p>Understanding Vocal Expression Alex Craig</p> <p><i>“It’s not just our face that can convey emotions, moods, and characters - the voice is a powerful tool for storytelling. Through proper technique, you can manipulate sound for deeper</i></p>

	<p><i>emotional impact and nuance in our craft. Let's explore it together!"</i></p> <p>Running effective sectionals Kisena Asi</p> <p><i>This workshop equips musical leaders with practical tools and strategies for running fun, focused, efficient, and musically productive sectionals. Participants explore how to set clear goals, structure rehearsal time, and create an environment where singers feel supported, confident, and engaged.</i></p>
10.30am	MORNING TEA
10.45am	Coaching under glass
11.30am	President's Forum: Qs and As
12.00pm	Wrap up and farewells, pack-down
12.30pm	LUNCH