



Youth in Harmony Week

October 22–29, 2011

*WHEREAS, barbershop singing is a true American art form, the creation of which was influenced by African American musical traditions, formal church hymns, and recreational songs; and,*

*WHEREAS, barbershop's unique musical style – melodic, a cappella singing with special emphasis upon the dominant seventh chord — regained popularity in the 1940s; and,*

*WHEREAS, barbershop music continues to be widely-practiced and loved today, with hundreds of thousands of people participating in barbershop organizations, such as the Barbershop Harmony Society and its affiliates; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Barbershop Harmony Society unites those with a similar passion for singing, hosting conventions and competitions for the purposes of learning and building friendships; and,*

*WHEREAS, the organization has provided an often cherished service to their communities as well, with their harmonic performances, singing valentines, and educational programs for youths and adults; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Barbershop Harmony Society's national headquarters sponsors a youth outreach program called Youth in Harmony, with the purpose to expose young men and women to the barbershop harmony art form; and,*

*WHEREAS, in our state, the Sound of Illinois Barbershop Chorus located in Bloomington, sponsors a day-long music festival in October of each year that draws nearly 500 high school students from 15-20 Central Illinois schools to the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts; and,*

*WHEREAS, during the festival students learn a few songs to sing in an evening show, and quartets and ensembles have the opportunity to get qualified coaching from experienced clinicians from the Barbershop Harmony Society and Sweet Adelines International, the organization for women dedicated to the barbershop harmony art form; and,*

*WHEREAS, most barbershop organizations are composed mainly of older individuals and few youth, thus there is a need for increased public interest and education as well as encouragement of youth interested in the barbershop harmony art form so that this time-honored tradition continues on:*

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 22–29, 2011 as BARBERSHOP YOUTH IN HARMONY WEEK in Illinois, and encourage all young people interested in the melodic performances of this unique, American tradition to continue to pursue their interest.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol in the city of Springfield this second day of August in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and eleven, and of the State of Illinois one hundred and ninety-third.*

*Jose White*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*  
GOVERNOR