



Explaining the language of barbershopping

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Explaining the language of barbershopping

You may well be puzzled at first by some of the terms that are used - here is a guide to the barbershop language.

Risers

These are the tiered staging on which we stand to sing in our allocated places – called a chorus stack.

Riser Discipline

This means complete focus on the job in hand and on the risers when the pitch pipe sounds.

Pitch Pipe

A small blown pipe or electronic instrument which sounds the key note for any song we sing.

Polecats

These are the simple and traditional songs which form the basic barbershop repertoire. Every barbershopper knows them, so you may find yourself singing them with barbershoppers you met ten seconds ago - a great way to make friends at an afterglow.

Afterglow

An informal get-together after a competition or a sing out, usually held in a pub or hotel bar and accompanied by the odd pint or two! Whenever barbershoppers get together they try to finish the evening off in this way.

sing out

A performance or concert. Most choruses perform for a wide variety of audiences, from a small audience at a village hall to well over two thousand at our annual convention!

Dots

Another name for notes in music - we all sometimes struggle to learn our dots!

The Edge

Another name for the very start of the song.

Tag

The final bars of a song, the same as a coda in classical music. These are sometimes sung by themselves, just to ring the chords.

SING BARBERSHOP

It's the Harmony that makes the difference

The British Association of Barbershop Singers

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