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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MASTERS OF HARMONY WINS INTERNATIONAL BARBERSHOP CHORUS CONTEST**

**Nashville, Tenn.** (July 4, 2008) --- In what was an extremely close competition, the Masters of Harmony from Santa Fe Springs, Calif. bested the St. Charles, Mo.-based Ambassadors of Harmony by a mere seven points to win the gold medal in the 2008 International Barbershop Chorus Competition at Sommet Center this evening.

The Masters of Harmony accumulated 2,849 out of a possible 3,000 points, while the Ambassadors of Harmony scored 2,842 points. Both high-energy choruses had the musical chops and dynamic choreography that would lend itself well to a Broadway production, but the Masters were vocally more precise.

Since their creation in 1985, the Masters of Harmony have won seven international chorus championships and numerous other awards. The 140-plus member chorus sang with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir after winning the 1996 chorus championship in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Rounding out the five medalist positions were the Bay Area, Calif.-based Voices in Harmony, third place bronze medal with 2,695 points; the Denver-based Sound of the Rockies, fourth place bronze medal with 2,649 points; and the Northbrook, Ill.-based New Tradition Chorus, fifth place bronze medal with 2,631 points.

Twenty-eight choruses – with over 2,000 total barbershop singers from Canada, Sweden and the United States – competed in this year’s competition, which marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The competitions continue tomorrow with the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest and the International Quartet Finals.

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*About the Barbershop Harmony Society:* Founded in 1938 in Tulsa, Okla., the Barbershop Harmony Society is the largest all-male singing organization in the world with nearly 30,000 members including 1,500 quartets in over 800 chapters. There are also eight official foreign affiliates of the Society.

*About barbershop-style a cappella music:* Barbershop harmony is a uniquely American musical art form. It is known for its four-part harmony and the “expanded sound” created by its unique chord structure.

For more information about the Barbershop Harmony Society, visit [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org) and access the news room, or call 615.823.3993 ext. 4119.

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