

“It’s The Music That Brings Us Together”

Words, Music, and Arrangement by Clay Hine, copyright Clayton B. Hine, May 2020

Introduction by Clay Hine

“It’s the Music That Brings Us Together” is something we’ve all probably thought about during the last few weeks of craziness. With that in mind, I got an idea for an original song that I thought might capture the sentiments of barbershoppers from all walks of life. Whatever country you call home, whatever organization you’re a member of, and whatever group of folks you like to sing tags with, we all love barbershop, and right now, we all love and miss the same things. Please enjoy this song, share it with friends, try it on for size, and hopefully, sing it one day soon with the people who “fill your heart with song.”

Special thanks to Tony DeRosa and Michaela Johnston for donating their time and amazing talents to create wonderful learning media!

Notes of Gratitude

From Michaela Johnston, tenor of 2019 International Champion Quartet, ClassRing

This beautiful original song by the incredible Clay Hine perfectly describes all the amazing things about being involved in our barbershop community! We are brought together by our common love of music, but it’s the lifelong friendships made here that keep us going through the good times and the bad! I hope everyone takes some time to learn this song while we’re apart because I can’t wait to sing it in person with my barbershop family when we can all finally be together again!

Please note, a link to Michaela’s website will be available upon release.

From Tony DeRosa, Director of Toast of Tampa Show Chorus

As a barbershop and professional singer as well as a vocal music director, I have been blessed to be a part of amazing music all of my life. That said, having a chance to connect with barbershop fans is a true joy of my life. One of the most treasured relationships I have is with Clay Hine. Having a chance to connect with Clay through the years on countless musical endeavors has been a gift. But as his song says, while we come together to make music and harmony, it is the bonds we weave as people that make the real difference in our lives. Thank you, Clay, for writing something simple yet filled with deep meaning at a time that we all need it. Thank you also for allowing me to be a part of bringing it to life so others might enjoy it as well.

For additional tracks and recordings, please visit Tony’s website: www.advocals.com

Meet Clay Hine

Clay is a third-generation barbershopper and joined the Barbershop Harmony Society (then SPEBSQSA) in 1978 — as soon as his dad (director of the Detroit #1 Chapter) would let him. He became the director of the Big Chicken Chorus in 1989, competing in 15 consecutive BHS international competitions, placing as high as third. He's been the director for the Atlanta Vocal Project since 2005, competing in 11 BHS international chorus competitions. Clay has won three district quartet championships and eight quartet medals at BHS international competitions, including gold with FRED in 1999. Over their 25 years together, FRED performed in every US state and over 15 countries. Clay currently sings with Category 4, 2019 BHS 7th place finalists. He's arranged for and coached choruses and quartets around the world and has been a certified BHS Music judge since 1990.

Clay's wife (Becki) and daughter (Melody) are at least as obsessed with barbershop as he is (and fortunately, more talented). Clay's son, Camden, also loves barbershop, and has been busy earning as many college degrees as he can before he turns 25. Clay has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and during the day is a regional sales manager for Nordic Semiconductor.

For additional information, please visit Clay's website: www.clayhine.com