

After Hours confirmed for 2019 Convention



2018 BHS International Gold Medal Quartet

After Hours began at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois in 2007. Peoria natives Tim Beutel (tenor) and Dan Wessler (bass) sang in a quartet with two college friends, and proceeded to capture the 2010 Illinois District Quartet Championship.

Over the proceeding years, as they began to excel in the BHS International Quartet Contest, their membership changed, as they picked up Wisconsin native Bryan Ziegler (baritone) and Ohio native Drew Ochoa (lead). They have since placed in the top ten in the International Quartet Contest multiple times, finally achieving the gold medal and winning the BHS International Quartet Championship in 2018 in Orlando, Florida.

After Hours has performed for a variety of barber-shop and non-barbershop shows across the USA, bringing joy to all audiences through their music.

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Key Convention Information:

Fri 13 Sept to Sun 15 Sept
Christchurch (Isaac Theatre Royal)
website: aftershock.org.nz





Isaac Theatre Royal restored

The ITR sustained considerable damage in the 22 Feb 2011 Christchurch earthquake and its subsequent aftershocks. The Back of House and Stage House, which were newly built in 2004/05, suffered only moderate damage and were repaired, but the 1908 auditorium and 1928 foyer spaces were not considered repairable in their original form, due to the dangerous nature of the original un-reinforced masonry walls.

Interestingly the structural earthquake strengthening carried out in 1999/2000 prevented a complete collapse of the theatre and enabled the retrieval and salvage of key heritage items and stabilisation of the Edwardian façade prior to deconstruction. All heritage fabric was retained, restored and/or reinstated.

The re-constructed building design achieved 100% of the new earthquake building code, with the original style and finesse of the original “Grand Old Lady” of Canterbury theatre being maintained throughout. Various technical and design enhancements were made to provide Christchurch with a world-class theatrical experience for future decades in the strongest and safest performance venue in New Zealand.

The Theatre re-opened on 17 November 2014. The project was significantly more elaborate in design and complexity of construction than originally estimated, with the Theatre essentially being rebuilt from Façade to Proscenium Arch. The rebuild and restoration had significant challenges throughout, making it one of the most intricate building projects in the earthquake damaged Christchurch CBD with an overall rebuild cost of \$40m.

Greetings from the CPG... from Edwin Lewis (Chair CPG)

What an enthusiastic team we have in Christchurch for the Aftershock Convention 2019.

Members of the CPG (Convention Planning Group) have met with the Plainsmen CMC (Convention Management Committee) and inspected the venue and facilities. The Isaac Theatre Royal is one of the finest venues you could find anywhere for a Barbershop Convention.

Guess what your first entry in your 2019 should be...Aftershock Convention 13-15 Sept 2019.

This will be a must attend event for the 2019 calendar year.

And who will be there to greet you? One of the best quartets that the Barbershop world has ever produced. 2018 International Champion Quartet "After Hours".

Dan Wessler (bass) from Freeport, Illinois.

Bryan Ziegler (baritone) from Maddison, Wisconsin.

Tim Beutel (tenor) from Tremont, Illinois.

Drew Ochoa (lead) from Windermere, Florida.

Have a great Christmas everyone but remember to start the new year right and listen to the musical message from After Hours (attached to this newsletter) as you say farewell to 2018 and get ready for the exciting events that will unfold in 2019.

CONTEST CORNER...from Bridget Bryne (CPG Contest)

Hello to all of you who are thinking about competing in Christchurch next year - jump in and join the fun! It will be a great convention in a fabulous venue in which you will not want to miss the opportunity to perform. Until a "contest area" is established on the website, this is the place to look for all information relating to contest. I will endeavour to provide all the information you need in a timely manner, but if there is something you want to know that has not been covered, please email me (bridgetbyrne2018@gmail.com), text me (021525318), or use messenger (Bridget Bryne) and I will provide the answers as soon as I can. This would help the CPG hugely as we endeavour to create a timeline of useful information for the future. If you have a question, chances are there are other people out there wanting the same information. I will then include that info in the next newsletter for everyone.

We are told the BHNZ Contest Rules are being revised, and should be available for perusal by the end of the year. Any important changes will be promulgated in the next newsletter.

For Quartets

There have been some changes afoot in the BHNZ organisation and although the information was not available at the time this was submitted, information regarding the Quartet Qualification process will be promulgated soonest. With the HEAs being much earlier this year - the Regional Comps are scheduled for the Saturday night - we understand those who are unable to be there will be anxious to know if there will be an opportunity for video qualification. Rest assured that information will be available shortly.

We can, however, give you some initial information about the venue in Christchurch if you are one of the successful qualifiers.

1. The Isaac Theatre Royal has a normal theatre stage set up
2. The Traffic Pattern will all be backstage so no long distances to walk
3. You will enter Stage Left and exit Stage Right as in Tauranga.

For Choruses

It would be REALLY helpful if you could let me know if you have already made a decision NOT to compete in Christchurch. We are picking this could be a big contest and it will help with our scheduling to know potentially how many choruses we might have competing. A quick email to bridgetbyrne2018@gmail.com would be appreciated.

Initial information about the venue for you:

1. The Isaac Theatre Royal has a normal theatre stage set up
2. The backstage area has adequate warm ups rooms so the Traffic Pattern will all be back stage
3. We will be using a curtain, so you will be able to load the risers out of view of the audience.
4. Enter Stage Left, exit Stage Right.

Accommodation

Ken Francis [kenf@maxnet.co.nz] has done a lot of leg work identifying a range of accommodation options. Please contact Ken if you need advice on where to stay. Book early though and preferably close to the Theatre.

The CMC has also negotiated some very favourable hotel rates. Further information can again be obtained from Ken.

What time should we arrive?

Please aim to arrive by lunchtime Friday 13 Sept. Big Sing lunchtime Friday in central Christchurch. The Registration Desk will open 9am, Friday 13 Sept. The YSIH Parade of Champions Concert is on Thursday evening 12 Sept and will also be held at the ITR. Please consider arriving on Thursday to attend this event. The Sunday lunch will be finished by 1.30pm to allow you to book mid-afternoon flights home. A bus may be available to meet flights and do dropoffs.