

# *The Baritones*

## Draft 3

**Scene One:** [Curtain opens. Scene is a shopping mall. People milling around. Cell phone rings.]

**Baritone 1:** “Hello, this is Mike. Oh, hi Fred. Yes, I’m on my way to the meeting. Just picking up something at the mall. Be there in 5 minutes.”

[Pitch pipe sounds. Chorus sings Down on the Corner as a flashmob. Baritone 1 looks on horrified.]

**Chorus member:** “Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. We are The Peninsulaires barbershop chorus and we have one more song for you today.”

[Baritone 1 looks stunned by the statement that this is a barbershop group. Chorus begins Way Down Yonder in New Orleans. Baritone 1 shakes his head in disgust and storms off Stage Right.

After the song, crowd disburses & chorus goes to risers. Set changes to Baritone meeting room. Lights up on meeting room and down on chorus.]

**Scene Two:** [In a private room. Barber pole spinning. 3 guys looking like mafia types. Baritone 1 enters.]

**Baritone 1:** “You guys won’t believe what I just saw. I was...”

**Baritone Leader:** “Hold on Mike. We need to officially start the meeting.”

[They all sing the baritone part of the 1<sup>st</sup> phrase of Wild Irish Rose. Complement each other as to how sweet it is.]

**Baritone Leader:** “So, Mike. What happened?”

**Baritone 1:** Well, I was at the mall and all of the sudden these guys started singing an old rock and roll tune. I didn’t think much of it at first but when they were done one of them claimed they are a barbershop chorus!

**All others:** What! Barbershop chorus singing rock & roll. Impossible! Can’t be! Who are these people?

**Baritone 1:** They claim to be a barbershop chorus called The Peninsulaires.

**Baritone Leader:** This is outrageous! As the safe keepers of tradition, we need to investigate and nip this in the bud.

**Baritone 3:** [Looking at this tablet PC.] It says here they have a performance at the farmers market tomorrow at noon.

**Baritone Leader:** OK. Mike & Fred, go check it out and let’s see what these hooligans are up to!

[Mike and Fred exit. Rest of the Baritones huddle together mumbling. Set change to farmers market. Peninsulaires on the risers.]

**Chorus rep:** Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

[Mike & Fred enter from stage left and observe.]

**Chorus rep:** We're sure you will enjoy these next two songs.

[Chorus sings Hey Good Lookin'. Baritone 1 & 3 visually show they're displeased.]

Chorus sings 409. Baritone 1 & 3 are shocked and dismayed at what they hear. Trudge off stage.]

**Chorus rep:** As you can see, we love performing different styles of music. This next song is a bit more traditional barbershop.

[Chorus sings Unchained Melody.]

**Scene Four:** [Back at the Baritone meeting room. 3 men talking among themselves. Baritone 1 & 3 storm in.]

**Baritone 1:** It's worse than we thought. I...

**Baritone Leader:** Wait! Protocol! We must start the meeting.

[Group sings opening baritone line to Irish Rose.]

**Baritone Leader:** Now, proceed.

**Baritone 1:** Like I started to say, it's worse than we thought. They actually did a song by Hank Williams and had the audacity to call it barbershop.

**All others:** [Rapid, loud intake of breath and shocked look.] Nooo!

**Baritone 1 & 3:** Yes. [in unison]

**Baritone 3:** And then something from The Beach Boys!

**All others:** [Totally distraught.] This can't be true!!!

**Baritone Leader:** Well, I think it's about time we take matters into our own hands and teach these rascals a lesson.

**All others:** Yeah! I agree! Absolutely!

**Baritone 3:** It says on their web site they have open rehearsals. And it's tonight. Let's get the rest of the club members together and crash their rehearsal!

**Scene Five:** [Scene change: Chorus rehearsing. Sign posted that says "Open Rehearsal. Public Welcome."]

**Chorus Director:** OK. Good work on that last number. Let's run it once from the top.

[Chorus sings Gang that Sang Heart of My Heart as Baris & others enter and take seats. Baris et al show pleasure.]

**Chorus Director:** That was pretty good. Leads, make sure to come out just a little more on the tag. Alright, Bare Necessities.

[Baris look at each other quizzically. Mumble. Scratch heads.  
Chorus sings Bare Necessities. Baris et al are less impressed.]

**Chorus Director:** Great job. That's what it should sound like.

[Baris are shaking their heads.]

**Chorus Director:** OK. Let's do Shut up and Dance. This can be our signature song.

[Chorus sings Shut Up and Dance. Baris et al can't stand it anymore.]

**Baritone Leader:** That's enough. You call that barbershop? We are the Baritones – the keepers of all things barbershop and that's not barbershop.

**Chorus Director:** Oh, come on. It's four part men's harmony and you have to admit we sound pretty darn good!

[Chorus members show agreement.]

**Baritone Leader:** But that's not traditional!

[Baritones show agreement.]

**Baritone Leader:** If you want true barbershop, this is how you do it.

[Baris et al sing Wild Irish Rose.]

**Chorus person:** "Not bad. Maybe we could do something together."

[Baritone Leader turns to his group. They look at each other. Mumble. Shake heads in agreement. Baritone Leader turns back to the Chorus person.]

**Baritone Leader:** Bari says "How about this one"

[Baris et al start Sweet Adeline. Chorus joins in.]

**Chorus person:** “Hey, that was really nice. You guys know how to sing. How about another. Do you know Bye Bye Blues?”

**Baris as a group:** Of course we do!

[All sing Bye, Bye Blues. After the song chorus and baris congratulate each other.]

[Chorus Person and Bari look at each other and say “Coney Island Baby” at the same time. Baris mix in with chorus on the risers. All sing.]

**Chorus Director:** Know that’s what it’s all about. Singing together. Sharing the joy of music.

**Baritone Leader:** I couldn’t agree more. You guys aren’t so bad after all.

[Baritone Leader and Chorus Director shake hands.]

**Curtain closes.**