

BARBERSHOP HARMONY AUSTRALIA
REMARKS BY
HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA,
BALL ROOM, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

Good evening and welcome to this reception for members of Barbershop Harmony Australia, in Hobart for the 2019 Festival of Barbershop.

I begin by paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land: the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

May I acknowledge among you:

- Dan Millgate, BHA President;
- Trevor Rootes, Secretary;
- Festival Committee members and Judges;
- Club Presidents;
- and the Signature Quartet visiting from the US.

As you are at the halfway point of the Festival, it's our pleasure to be able to offer you this social reception in the Government House Ball Room, which is renowned for its wonderful acoustic.

Indeed the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra records here from time to time, as do other Tasmanian ensembles.

And in May this year Dick and I hosted a reception to mark the 2019 Sweet Adelines Australia Regional Chorus and Quartet Competition, at which a fabulous demonstration of those singing talents were heard.

The challenge is to those who we'll hear shortly to match the Adelines!

We're told that this room's distinctive acoustic is partly due to its shape, the German Barrel-Vault design being somewhat narrow relative to its height; that the

floor, walls and ceiling are all made of wood; and an opera singer told us once that she believed that the three great chandeliers may have played a part in amplifying her voice.

Be that as it may, it's great to have so many barbershop singers from across Australia here in Hobart.

And I do like your vision statement, "Enriching Australia Through Harmony" – we could all do with a lot more harmony in this day and age.

No doubt some of you have had an opportunity to see some of our island's wonderful sights. And while you are here this evening you're most welcome to take a look at our State Rooms, which are on this floor in the immediate vicinity of the Ball Room.

We now look forward to some beautiful singing. Thank you and do enjoy the hospitality of Government House.