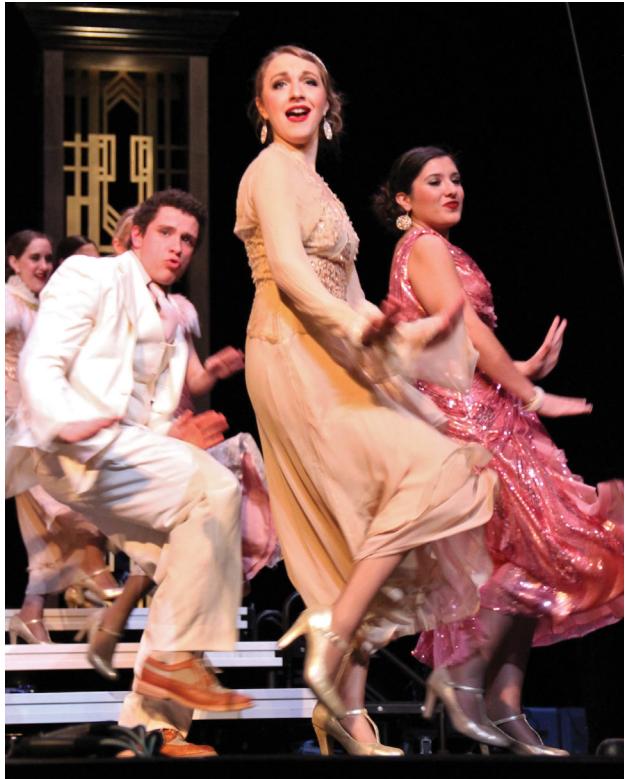


# **MOVING THE SHOW CHOIR WORLD FORWARD:** **CREATING ORIGINAL MUSIC**

by Jeffrey Bowen

There is a slight shift happening in show choir these days. It's a refreshing shift, in fact. It's regarding music selections for some competition groups. Over the past several years, there has been an increase of original music being written specifically for show choir. And it's moving the show choir world forward.





Being a judge at several competitions a year in different parts of the country, there were opportunities when I would hear a wonderful piece of music performed and wonder, "What show is that from?" or "Who is the artist that recorded that song?"

When inquiring with the director, I was very pleased to discover that someone had written that song just for their group. A few years ago, I even saw a show where the music was predominantly original. It was so creative and entertaining!

### Crafting Original Pieces

Over the years, I have offered creating original material for numerous directors, and what I discovered is that this concept is becoming more and more accepted.

Starting in 2006, I was selling about one original piece a year. At that time, I had created original arrangements for show choir and

advertised them to schools. By 2012, I was writing an original show for Crete-Monee High School in Illinois.

That was a first endeavor for writing an entire show. Later that year, a director needed an opener and could not get the licensing, so the offer was made to create something with the same theme and feel. I crafted a sample and the director liked it. I was thrilled.

Last school year provided the opportunity of writing four originals for various groups and this year, a whopping fourteen original pieces. The subjects of these vary greatly, including a Marie Antionette "let them eat cake" song, women super heroes, the attempt of rescuing Pinocchio, several for a sports themed show and all but two arrangements for a goddess show.

The biggest challenge was the latter, which included a great deal of research to ensure accuracy.



READY TO WEAR  
&  
CUSTOM DESIGN

dornink

men & women show choir apparel

[www.dorninkshowchoir.com](http://www.dorninkshowchoir.com)

515.255.7528



## Make the Leap: Commit to Original Show Choir Music

There are still many show choir directors who are hesitant to jump on the originals bandwagon. That is a decision that I fully respect because that director knows their show, students and programming better than anyone.

Some directors still feel it's too risky and judges may not be impressed or may score them lower since they don't recognize the material. I have always maintained that judges will always encounter music they are not familiar with and should score based solely on the group's performance.

When a director does make the decision to use original music, they are making a win-win-win-win choice.

First, the director gets a piece of music created with their specifications, so the song fits their show exactly.



# FUN PASTA FUNDRAISING



Over 100 shapes for all occasions!



**FREE Brochures**



**FREE Shipping**

**WWW.FUNPASTAFUNDRAISING.COM**

LEARN MORE  
OR SIGN UP NOW!  
1-800-247-0118

UP TO  
**50%**  
PROFIT



Second, licensing is (or should be) included with each original piece, which helps keep the cost down.

Third, there are no restrictions when the arranger/director needs to email scores back and forth. This is exceptionally helpful when making edits.

Finally, the writer gets to add a songwriting credit to her or his repertoire. From a songwriter standpoint, this is your work, your creation, your product. This relationship also adds value to the director as well because they have another credible and valuable member on their team.

If you get approached with the opportunity of original material, you may wish to consider the possibility. And the possibilities are endless.

---

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Jeffrey Bowen is Chairman of Music Arrangement Services, Inc. Contact him at [jeff@showchoirmusic.com](mailto:jeff@showchoirmusic.com).

**BREEZE TUNES PRODUCTIONS SHOW CHOIR ARRANGEMENTS**

NOW LOCATED IN NASHVILLE, TN

**WE OFFER:**

- New Arrangements
- Previously Used Arrangements
- Help with Show Design
- Rehearsal Clinics
- Show Band Workshops
- Judging at Competitions

We are proud to help show choir directors produce high quality shows while staying within their budget.

**E-MAIL:** [breezetunesproductions@gmail.com](mailto:breezetunesproductions@gmail.com)

**WEBSITE:** [breezetunes.com](http://breezetunes.com)

## **NEW SHOW CHOIR EVENT REVENUE OPPORTUNITY**

Turn Your Logo into a Collectable Pin



Actual size is 1.25" square

Learn how at  
[www.ShowChoirCollectables.com](http://www.ShowChoirCollectables.com)

**SHOW CHOIR COLLECTABLES**

[ShowChoirCollectables@gmail.com](mailto>ShowChoirCollectables@gmail.com)

440.488.1481

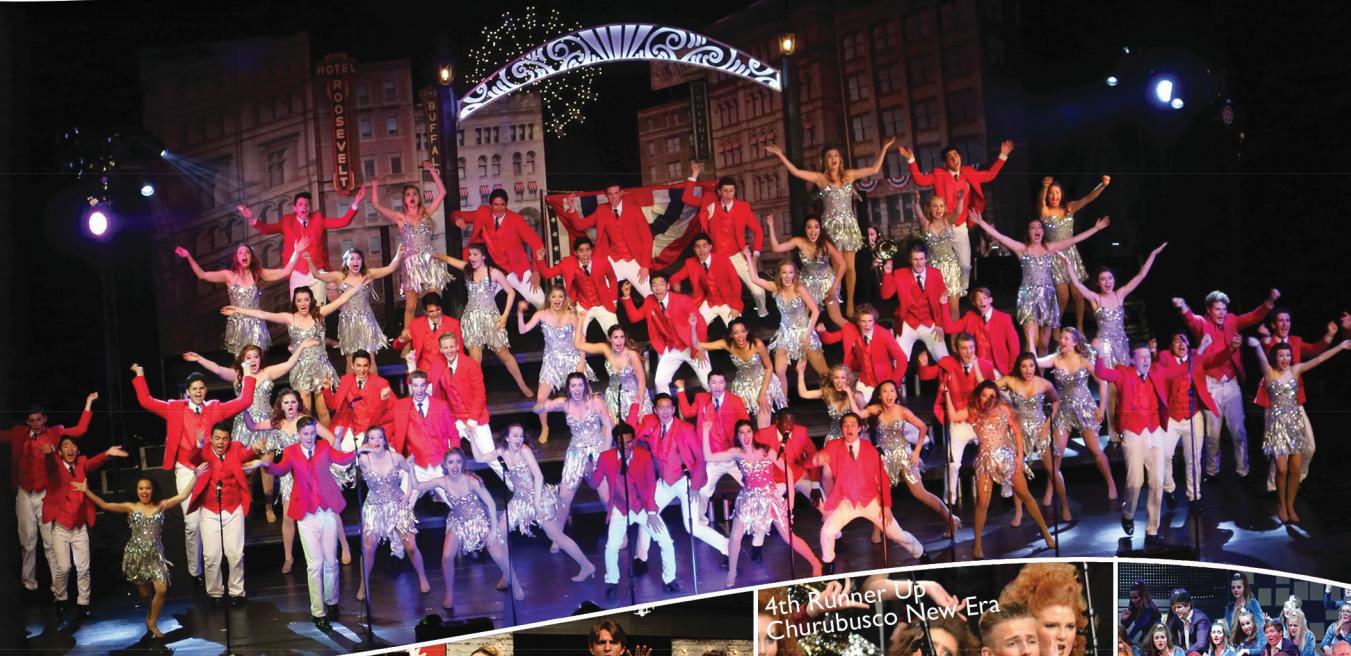


The top show choir competition in the nation for the nation's top show choirs!

# 2017 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

LOS ALAMITOS HIGH SCHOOL SOUND FX & LOS ALAMITOS HIGH SCHOOL SOUND TRAX

# FAME



The **Show Choir National Finals**, held April 22, 2017 at the Arie Crown Theater in Chicago, presented the annual **Aspire Awards** to the following industry professionals:

Lifetime Achievement Award  
Vocal Vanguard  
Visual Vanguard  
Best New Director  
Best New Choreographer  
Best Arranger  
Best Costumer  
Spirit of Service  
Most Promising New Program  
Best Regional Competition

Bob Anderson  
David Moellenkamp  
Kevin Chase  
Megan Tantillo (Millard North HS)  
Nicholas Quamme  
Brock Keiper  
Gail McInnis Productions  
Clover Hill High School (Sandra Thomas, Dir.)  
Broken Arrow Tiger Rhythm (Justin Rosser)  
Supernova! Linn-Mar High School, IA

Be sure and submit your vote for the 2018 Aspire Nominees beginning Jan. 11. Log onto [www.showchoirs.org](http://www.showchoirs.org) and select ASPIRE to vote.

## 2018 DATES & LOCATIONS

**FAME New York**

**March 8-11**

**FAME Orlando**

**March 15-18**

**FAME Chicago**

**March 22-25**

**FAME Branson**

**April 5-8**

**FAME Hollywood**

**April 12-15**

**Show Choir National Finals**

**April 27-28**

[www.fameproductions.com](http://www.fameproductions.com)

A special thank you to our sponsors:

**Wenger®**

**PRODUCTIONS**  
Show Choir Products and News

**Gail M. Dennis Productions**

**ejudgeator**