



**Harmony, Inc.**

International Organization of Women Barbershop Singers

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Harmony, Inc. Members and Attendees

**FROM:** Harmony, Inc. Corporate Office

**DATE:** August 2025

**SUBJECT:** U.S. Border Crossing Information for Harmony, Inc. Activities

This memo provides guidance for crossing the U.S. border for Harmony, Inc. events. It is a general guide and not legal advice; consult professionals as needed.

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### Harmony, Inc. Events

Harmony, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit established to empower all women through singing, education, and friendship. Our conventions, contests, and education events welcome amateur singers and volunteers. No attendees, volunteers, faculty, adjudicators, or winners receive financial compensation for their participation.

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### Visa Classification

Per the U.S. Foreign Affairs Manual [\[9 FAM 402.2-4\(A\)\]](#): The following classes of applicants may be classified as B-2 visitors [Temporary Visitor for Pleasure] under the following special circumstances:

**(6) Short Course of Avocational/Recreational Study:** Applicants coming to the United States primarily for tourism, who also incidentally will engage in a short course of study during their visit; or, applicants whose primary purpose of travel is avocational/recreational study. See [9 FAM 402.2-4\(B\)\(9\)](#) and [9 FAM 402.5-5\(I\)\(3\)](#).

**(7) Amateur Entertainers and Athletes:** A person who is an amateur in an entertainment or athletic activity is, by definition, not a member of any of the profession associated with that activity. An amateur is someone who normally performs without remuneration (other than an allotment for expenses). A performer who is normally compensated for performing cannot qualify for a B-2 visa based on this note even if the performer does not make a living at performing or agrees to perform in the United States without compensation. Thus, an amateur (or group of amateurs) who will not be paid for performances and will perform in a social and/or charitable context or as a competitor in a talent show, contest, athletic event, or other similar activity is eligible for B-2 classification, even if the incidental expenses associated with the visit are reimbursed.

Participants in Harmony, Inc. events are considered “amateur entertainers” or travelers for avocational or recreational study and are not eligible for payment.

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## Traveler Notes

- **Canadian Citizens:** No visa or ESTA required, but you must present a valid passport or NEXUS card and explain the amateur nature of your trip.

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## Recommended Documents at Port-of-Entry

- Passport (valid through trip's end).
- Event registration confirmation and border-crossing letter from Harmony, Inc. This letter may include a statement affirming that only out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed.
- Proof of return/onward travel and sufficient funds.

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## Inspection Tips

- Answer all Customs & Border Patrol (CBP) questions truthfully and briefly.
- Keep responses focused on attending an amateur singing event.
- Decline to discuss personal political opinions. A polite "No comment" is fine.

To request a confirmation letter to help facilitate U.S. entry for a Harmony, Inc. event, complete the [Travel Letter Request form](#) or contact the Corporate Office at [info@harmonyinc.org](mailto:info@harmonyinc.org).

*This memorandum was adapted from the BHS publication, "Information about Crossing the U.S. Border for BHS Activities," published in April 2025.*