

TAG WRITING TIPS

Grand Prize Winning Tag

of the *First Ever Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW Tag Writing Contest*

Have you downloaded or printed your copy of the **Award Winning Tags 2018** – results of the *First Ever Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW Tag Writing Contest*? It includes all 5 Award Winning Tags and is available for your personal use at www.harmonycollege.org and the **North by Northwest Region 13** web site.

The Grand Prize Winning Tag, *“I’m Alone and Blue”* shown below, was created and entered by Darwin Scheel. His award was first announced at the **North by Northwest Region 13 Convention and Competition** in Spokane, WA on April 6th, 2019. Then Darwin taught his **Grand Prize Winning Tag** to everyone attending the Opening Session for **Harmony College Northwest** on June 14th, 2019. Hear the final result at www.facebook.com/HarmonyCollegeNW/videos/447820315781850/?t=0

So what about Darwin’s tag did Judge Kevin Keller like so much that he chose it as the **Grand Prize Winning Tag**? Just how did it meet the Judging Criteria of (1) **Singability**, (2) **Creativity**, and (3) **WOW Factor**?

I'm Alone and Blue

Grand Prize Winning Tag

Winning Tag Category IV for Men's Voices
2018

Words and Music by Darwin Scheel

Arranged by Darwin Scheel

The musical score is written for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Tenor Lead part has a melody with lyrics: "I'm a - lone and blue please _____ come back home." The Bari Bass part provides harmonic support with chords. The score includes a copyright notice for Darwin Scheel, 2018, and contact information.

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(1) **Singability** – I think everyone at the first **HCNW** General Session can attest to how easy it is to learn and how fun it is to sing. It fits right into the voice ranges, usual vocal lines and barbershop chord vocabulary familiar to all Barbershoppers. And he helps the singer *feel* the message by choosing chords and voicings to suit the words – for instance, the “-lone” chord has a more empty, lonely sound while a different inversion of that same chord for “blue” sounds more melancholy – more bluesy.

(2) **Creativity** – His tag begins on a D Major chord and then ends on a B Major Chord. “How can this be?” you may ask. Well, Darwin very creatively used the music theory fact that the Key of B minor is the relative minor for the Key of D Major (they have the same key signatures). Using the chords common to both D Major and B minor his melody transitions to end, not on a B minor chord, but on a B Major chord (done by raising the third of the B minor chord to make it a B Major chord) thereby creating a

(3) **WOW Factor** – *Does it make the singer go, “Wow!”?* – The unique ending sound of his last two chords is both unexpected and exciting – a definite **“WOW!”** – accomplished with what is known as a “Picardy Cadence”.

You’ll find a complete tag analysis by  **‘Shop Class** at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mEzYI4JHzU&feature=youtu.be>