

TAG WRITING TIPS

Excerpts from the **2018 Region 13 Arrangers Workshop at HCNW** session
“The Art of Writing Tags” by Paul Olguin

Stand-alone tags are a great way to share your love of Barbershop with Barbershop Friends and also for outreach to the general public as part of a community singing program to encourage new and old friends to become Barbershop Friends.

Are you thinking about entering a tag in the **First Ever Region 13 Arrangers Workshop at HCNW Tag Writing Contest**? Here’s your 1st set of Tips from Paul Olguin to help you on your way:

(1) Tags are symmetrical – they are an even number of measures usually divisible by 4. Lots of good tags are just 4 measures long!

(2) A tag usually conveys a universal message of love, fellowship, wonder or other emotion.

(3) A tag is fun to sing for the singer and often contains a “tiddlie” that features a particular part.

Here’s an example of a 4-measure tag that shares a parent’s thoughts of a son or daughter away from home in service to our country that ends with a Tenor tiddlie, arranged for women’s voices:

Where Are You Tonight?

Words and Music by Janice Wheeler

Arranged by Janice Wheeler

The musical score is for a 4-measure tag in 3/4 time, key of D major. It features two parts: Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. The lyrics are: "Litt - tle boy, (girl) where are you to - night?". The Tenor Lead part has a tiddlie in the fourth measure. The Bari Bass part provides a harmonic accompaniment. The score is numbered 1 through 4 above the Tenor Lead staff.

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Are you “hearing” a tag of your own? Your Barbershop Friends would love to sing it with you!