Inspiration for Arranging "It's Been a Long, Long Time"

Q. What was your inspiration to do the arrangement?

Rob: I watched the Marvel series of movies and noted the prominent placement of the song at the end of the last movie, when Captain America is dancing with his wife. It struck me that, in addition to being a great song, it could be used as the perfect song to sing when Barbershoppers are able to be together again in person to harmonize with one another. A simple change makes a big difference: "**Sing** it once, then **sing** it twice, then **sing** it once again, it's been a long, long time." Much of the rest of the lyrics work great in that context.

Q. Did you have other word changes in mind?

Rob: Yes, my good friend Eric Jackson worked on some simple lyrical alterations. The next line of the chorus could be "Haven't harmonized like this, since can't remember when, it's been a long, long time. You'll never know how many times I thought about you, and just how lonely it all seemed without you." And in the bridge of the arrangement, these are Eric's words: "It's so good to hear that sound, the music all around, as we laugh or shed a tear; at last my friends are here!" Then at the end of the song the words would be: "Let us sing a long, long time!" We have a lot of singing to do to make up for all those months of not being together!

Q. Did the Barbershop Harmony Society request permission for the parody words?

Rob: Yes, but the copyright owner only approved the use of the original words for publication. But that shouldn't stand in the way of Barbershoppers singing alternate words to get the most out of singing with each other after a long, long time. Just do not write the words into the published music.

Q. Are learning tracks available for the arrangement?

Rob: Yes, Tony DeRosa made learning tracks that are available from BHS. I hope a lot of Barbershoppers learn the music and enjoy both the original version and the version with alternate words that celebrate our return to harmonizing together in person.