

The Key-Note



Harmony, Inc.

*Official Publication of Harmony, Incorporated
An International Organization of Women Barbershop Singers*

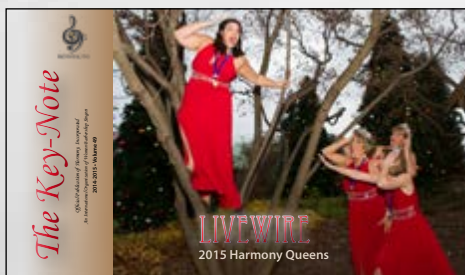
2015-2016 • Volume 50



LIVEWIRE

2015 Harmony Queens

ON THE COVER



2015 Quartet Champions
LiveWire celebrates
their new crowns and
medals.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Harmony, Inc. is a non-profit international organization whose purpose is to empower all women through education, friendship, and a *cappella* singing in the barbershop style.

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Crystal Clear

Beautiful chords ring at IC&C 2015 in Verona



LiveWire flies through Medalist Fanfare.

EDITOR'S NOTE: EVER WONDER WHAT AN "OUTSIDER" WOULD MAKE OF THE ACTIVITIES AT A HARMONY, INC. IC&C WEEK? TKN DECIDED TO ASK A HUSBAND WHAT STRUCK HIM AS NOTEWORTHY ABOUT OUR ANNUAL GATHERING. HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:

WOW! From start to finish this was a superb convention.

In November I joined my wife and the Bella Nova Chorus for my second Harmony International Convention and Contest experience at the Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, N.Y. And what a delightful experience it was! Trying to explain the warmth, the excitement, the encouragement, and the shared joy of old and new friends ringing chords at every opportunity to anyone who has not actually experienced the culture of Harmony is like trying to explain the mystery and majesty of the universe to a flatworm. It literally has to be experienced first-hand to fully grasp the experience. Here are just some of my impressions:

On Thursday, things kicked off with the Silver Division contest won by the Harmony Falls chorus who bested the second place St. Louis Chordinals, Inc. by three points! Yes, by three points. Not three percentages but just three points! And just two points

behind St. Louis the Shades of Harmony from London, Ontario stood in 3rd place.

I had never seen such a close finish in a chorus contest, but it turned out that close finishes would be a distinguishing feature of this IC&C. The quartet semi-finals were held on Friday and when the dust settled, ten quartets advanced to the finals – but then the score sheet was posted and we learned that just 11 points separated the 11th through 14th quartets with number 13 and 14 posting identical total scores.

Friday night saw ten quartets vying for medals. When the results were announced we learned that only seven points separated the top three finishers and only one point separated the Harmony Queens (LiveWire) and second place (Taken 4 Granite). Great Day took third place only six points back. Charisma (4th place), and FUSION (5th place) were tied in total score and filled out the medalist ranks. They were all wonderful and they are all queens in my book.

Saturday brought the chorus contest and 25 choruses from across Harmony took the stage to entertain a packed hall. There were so many fine performances with great singing and entertaining performances. In the end Village Vocal Chords took the

gold with an enchanting Wizard of OZ-themed performance that earned them an 80.6 score. A Cappella Showcase took the silver with a score of 79.5; Northern Blend was third with a score of 76.9; Sounds of the Seacoast was fourth with a score of 76.6 (just six points behind Northern Blend); and filling out the medalist ranks was Bella Nova in fifth place with a score of 75.6.

The venue

Picture a hotel with a casino – where folks are gambling and smoking. But also a hotel with lots of “function” space, conversational nooks, and pleasant and well appointed non-smoking rooms.

And there were lots of options for dining from fast food (well not too fast given some of the lines) to fine dining. We sampled the entire range of options and found the service and food quality to be just fine. I didn't even mind indulging my taste for late night sweets because walking from one end of the hotel to the other several times a day put me way over my Fitbit step target each day!

The auditorium was cool with lots of room, great sound, and unobstructed sight lines. I had to take someone's word for that

see CRYSTAL CLEAR, *continued on next page*

CRYSTAL CLEAR

continued from previous page

last comment because I was “drafted” to run the slide show of advertisements on the big screen during the contest session. I had a great time but only managed to see one contestant on stage until the Saturday night show. A great big “Thank You” to Wendy McCoolle for creating the slide show and letting me use her laptop to run it.

The momentous events

Harmony not only holds singing contests at IC&C, they hold meetings, and meetings, and meetings and still find time for lots of interesting education classes. The dedicated leaders of Harmony arrived several days before the rest of us and then spent their time working hard to help Harmony grow and give every woman the opportunity to share the special love of four-part barbershop harmony.

There really is a lot to do to make sure conventions and contests go smoothly, judges are trained and available to adjudicate, directors are skilled and motivated, chorus leaders have what they need to overcome any challenge that may arise, and Harmony is fulfilling its vision as one of the premier a cappella singing organizations in the world.

This year there were a lot of education classes and seminars covering a wide range of topics so there was something to interest everyone. I sat in on the “Leadership Ninja” class moderated by **Steve Denino**, had a fabulous time and learned a lot from Steve and the other folks in the class – as apparently did everyone else. These classes were definitely a great idea that added a lot of value to attendance.

The Saturday Night Dinner & Show

Oh, my gosh, the show! For those who may never have been to an IC&C, there is a big dinner on Saturday night in the hall where the contest was held. They just set out round tables and every one finds a seat, has a great meal, and then all the quartets and choruses who medaled step up and perform for everyone. It is a true celebration of harmony and accomplishment. At one point four different choruses were clustered together singing Skyfall and they were having so much fun they didn’t want to stop.

Every day I wake up smiling and recalling even more snippets from my time in Verona but I think you get the idea by now. It was a wonderful experience and I can’t wait until November 2016 to see you all in Providence.

— Dick Powell, Bella Nova cheerleader



FROM THE RIDICULOUS TO THE SUBLIME — Many sights burned themselves into our mind’s eye at the 2015 IC&C in Verona, N.Y. Among them, 2000 Harmony Queens After Hours in crowns and sunglasses, Taken 4 Granite in big grins and red ribbons, Acappella 4 in bathrobes lamenting the pain of “six-minute shoes,” Four Eyes reinventing the dance from Fantasia and Bella Nova Director Richard Lewellen and President Christina Lewellen accepting the applause for their chorus’ fifth-place finish at their first International contest.



MEET LIVEWIRE TENOR LYNN BLAKENEY



Exciting, wonderful and crazy seem to be the words I have used most to describe LiveWire being named 2015 Harmony Queens. What an amazing and overwhelming moment it was.

As I begin my 27th year in Harmony, Inc., I can't help but reflect on how blessed I have been and how much my life has changed. I was lucky to be singing lead with **Upstate Rhythm** when we won in 2001 and had the opportunity to write my first article for **The Key-Note**. At that time my son was 10 years old and my whole life was changing.

Since then I have lived in Chicago, sung with the **Village Vocal Chords**, won an International Gold medal with **Northern Blend Chorus**, and married the love of my life. Oh, and my son is now 24 and lives in Michigan.

I am the only child of Marcia and Roger Trick. I grew up in a tiny little town called Van Hornesville, N.Y., riding my horse and helping on my grandfather's farm. I was always singing and some of my best memories are of Mom, Dad, and me harmonizing at the piano. I attended a small K-12 school where my mom taught English and even accompanied the choruses.

I began playing saxophone in second grade and taught myself the flute in fifth grade. Band and chorus were my life. Every free minute was spent in the music room.

I went on to receive an Associate's Degree in Music as well as a couple of non-music degrees. For a few years due to health issues, singing seemed to be a thing of the past. Slowly, however, my voice began to return.

I followed my parents up to Watertown, N.Y., after college. My mom told me about a women's barbershop chorus that she wanted to check out. To say I was reluctant is a bit of an understatement. My godparents, Jan and Nan Muddle did that "Barbershop" thing, but I was sure I would not like it.

Wow, I didn't just like it; I LOVED it!

I am so grateful to my mom for "dragging" me to NBC and so very blessed that I get to continue sharing this all with her.

During my time as a member of Northern Blend I have sung every part, well, only bits and pieces of the tenor part. I have been President three times, part of the choreography team, as well as both Lead and Bass section leader. I have also sung in several quartets.

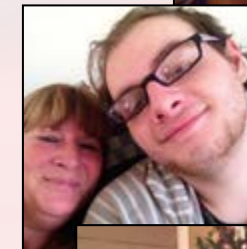
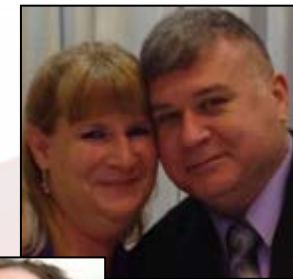
And in 1999 I began singing with **Upstate Rhythm**. It was a dream come true when we won in 2001. We retired in 2004 when I moved to Chicago. While my time there was not very long, I did have the chance to compete at Area with the amazing Village Vocal Chords. Life's journey eventually brought me back home. In 2009 I began singing with **Mary Ann Wert, Lorie Autote** and **Kari Robertson** in **Stardust!** We had a great three-year run and in 2012, after their lead **Laurie Shepherd**, got married and moved, I was asked to sing lead with 1996 Harmony Queens **For Heaven's Sake**. I was overjoyed to say yes because I was such a fan, and they were all like family to me. We do lots of local performances, shows, and youth camps.

This brings me to more present time.....

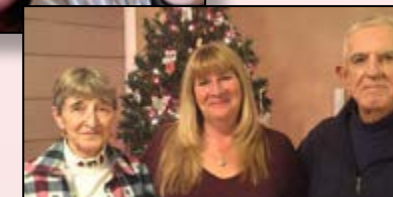
I really missed competing and wanted to sing bass in a quartet. Lorie said she wanted to sing Bari and Katie really wanted to sing Lead. Perfect, we just needed to find a tenor. HA! Instead we found the most amazing bass in our own chorus and up to tenor I went. (Yes girls, I am publicly admitting that I whine about it a lot!) I am

still learning all I can about being a tenor, and I am so glad that I have three incredible singers with which to do it. My Mother always says, "All things happen for a reason." Yes, yes they do!

On the personal side of my world, while working for the Army, I met the love of my life before moving to Chicago. That was 12 years ago and many Skype sessions from the other side of the world; however on December 28, 2013, we were married! He truly is my best friend and supports me with love and a gentle push when I am too scared to "go for it." He gave me that push for singing tenor with LiveWire and again last year when I began my journey to becoming a Presentation Judge. I am so grateful for all the things he brings to my life!



LYNN'S
CHEERLEADERS —
**Jim, Joshua, Mom
(Marcia), and Dad
(Roger).**



So what do I do when not singing with the chorus and quartets? Currently, I am a substitute teacher at Alexandria Bay Central School and I work part time as a receptionist for Jackson Hewitt Tax Service. I also enjoy coaching choruses and quartets as well as giving private voice lessons via Skype.

I couldn't do any of this without the love and support of my family and friends!

Thank you, Mom, Dad, Jim, and Joshua for being my best cheerleaders and sounding boards.

To **Anne Leinen, Donna McKay** and Kari Robertson, my Upstate Rhythm sisters; thank you for all of the music, the experience, and the support that I carry with me to this day!

Mary Ann Wert, what can I say? You are always there as a friend, sister and awesome Baritone. I love you and I am so grateful that I get to sing with you.

Northern Blend Chorus.....you rock....every single one of you. Thank you for supporting LiveWire right from the beginning. We are part of you and you are a part of us. It is great to be a Blender!

Thank you to Harmony, Inc. for your love and support. We promise to always represent you all proudly.

Finally, Katie, Lorie, and Jess: I love you! I love the music we make and the laughter we share. I am so blessed that I get to sing with such amazingly talented women and I can't wait to see where our journey takes us!



MEET LIVEWIRE LEAD KATIE TAYLOR

Barbershop. A hobby to some, a way of life for me!

At a goal setting session with **Bev Jackson** and **Wendy Pegg** for **Northern Blend Chorus** in 1989 (when I was 13), I said that my goal was to "get a crown!"

There were lots of giggles from the adults, but I never forgot that moment.

Fast forward 26 years and now I have three. How did that happen?!

First off, I was fortunate enough to belong to a barbershop family. My dad joined BHS when I was 8. My mom chartered with Northern Blend when I was 10. Mom, dad, sister **Lorie** and I even started singing as a quartet, **Compound W**, (the Wert remover?!?) and still sing together whenever we all get together.

In 1986 **Black Magic** came to sing on the NBC show and I saw my first glimpse of the beautiful glass hats! OMG! I joined NBC in the spring of 1988 at age 12 and began my quest for a sparkly hat.

As I went on to college to major in Music Education (inspired, of course, by my love of barbershop) I continued sharing my love of music, starting an all-girls a cappella group at SUNY Potsdam called **A# Arrangement**.

After college I continued singing with NBC and got together with my mom (Mary Ann Wert), sister (Lorie Autote), and our original lead, (Laurie (Shepherd) O'Donnell) to form **For Heaven's Sake**. Two years later, I was blessed to win my first crown as bass. We celebrate the 20th anniversary of our win this year, the last four of which have been with Lynn as our lead.

In 2007, I was asked by **Jeanne O'Conner**, **Lynn Randall**, and **Lauren Lindeman** to sing in a quartet with them as their tenor. **U4X** had our first rehearsal in January 2008 and went on to win the crowns that fall. Distance has kept me from continuing to



sing with my buddies but I'm grateful **Jen Wheaton** stepped in on tenor so they can continue making awesome music!

In the years that followed, my learning tracks business has picked up (www.TaylorTrax.homestead.com). I started coaching more, being part of various youth camps as clinician and/or teaching quartet, and I was honored to be invited to be on staff at BHS's Harmony University in 2015 teaching Conducting & Fundamentals of Music.

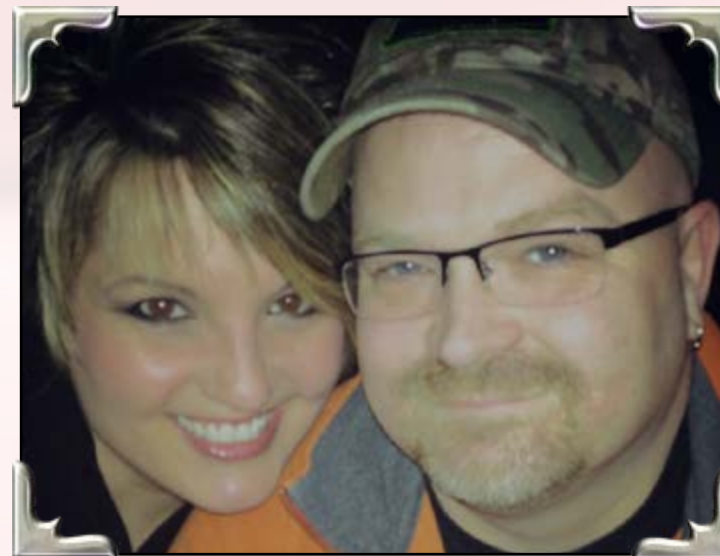
LiveWire officially formed In January of 2015. Lorie, Lynn, and I all wanted the challenge of trying a new part and we were so fortunate to have the amazing talent that is **Jess Dunn** join us. Singing lead for me has been the biggest challenge and most demanding role in a quartet that I've had to date. I struggled with vocal fatigue over the summer of 2015 and was put on vocal rest from Sept 14-Oct 28. The girls worked so hard and were so patient with me!

We considered scratching from the contest as we had very little combined time leading up to contest, but figured we'd give it our best. Going in with no expectations certainly made the thrill of winning so incredible! We are soooo incredibly grateful and humbled.

Behind the scenes at home are my three guys: My patient and loving husband of 20 years, **Ricky** (thank you for being supportive of my "hobby" honey!); my oldest son, **Gavin**, 17, who loves barbershop and a cappella like his momma (and was there in Verona for our win!); and my youngest, **Zach**, 15, who loves music (not BBS, but he loves music!) and is my hoopster. I am blessed to have such a wonderful family. Special thanks to my mom and dad for introducing Lorie and me to barbershop and for giving us the most incredible family bond.

Thank you to my wonderful sisters in Northern Blend (especially my momma!) and to all of those in HI, BHS and SAI that I have formed friendships with and who have touched my life. If I named names, I'd need three more pages! You ALL are so special to me!

Last but not least, thank you to Lorie, Lynn, and Jess for the opportunity not only to try a new part, but push myself more than I ever have as a singer and performer! You girls are awesome, talented, fun, dedicated, and such a blast to sing with! I'm truly blessed!



Katie says her husband Ricky is incredibly patient and supportive.



MEET LIVEWIRE BARI LORIE AUTOTE

I can barely remember my life before barbershop.

My parents have been barbershoppers since I was a young girl, and I loved watching and listening to their quartets. Dad sang bass for many years with Cornerstone, and mom sang baritone in **Fortunes of Harmony**, which later evolved into **Seventh Heaven**.

I sang tenor in our family quartet (**Compound W**) when I was about 9, and finally got to join Northern Blend when I was 12. I had my first official quartet experience in the fall of 1994 when Seventh Heaven's bass, **Bonnie Gill**, couldn't make it to NBC's show. Katie filled in for Bonnie and I filled in for Katie on tenor. The show went well and, with Bonnie's blessing, **For Heaven's Sake** was born. Two years later, I won my first crown at the age of 18. Like **LiveWire's** win, it was totally unexpected and I was beyond thrilled!

I enjoyed the many years singing with FHS with mom, Katie, and Laurie, and I'm so glad that we are still going strong with Lynn on lead. I also had a three-year stint singing tenor in **Stardust** with mom, Lynn, and **Kari Robertson**. After 20 years of singing tenor, I'm so excited to finally be giving baritone a try! I want to give a huge thank you to my mama for showing me the ropes and being such a wonderful example (not just on how to sing baritone, but how to live life in general). Love you, mom!

As much as I adore singing, my greatest love is spending time with my wonderful husband **Chris** and our terrific sons **Drew**, 12, and **Evan**, 9. I'm very blessed that my husband is a music teacher and musician (we met through Katie 20 years ago), and is a huge supporter of my 'hobby'.

Our boys are very musical, too. Drew sings and plays piano and trumpet. A huge thrill for me was taking him to his first a cappella camp at age 10 and watching him light up on stage! Both Drew and Evan have been involved in musical theatre, and they played brothers Friedrich and Kurt last fall in the



Sound of Music.

My second job after being wife and mom is teaching middle school math. I am also very involved with my church, serving as a deacon and singing in the choir. God certainly has blessed me in so many ways!

Although LiveWire has only been in existence for a little over a year, we have had some great times singing, shopping, and laughing together. I'm looking forward to learning lots of new music and working to be the best baritone I can be. Most of all, I am excited to sing with these three awesome, talented, and super fun women that are like sisters to me (okay, one actually is)!

LiveWire hopes to spread our love of a cappella music wherever we go, and we will do our best to represent our amazing organization, Harmony Incorporated. Thank you all for your constant love and support. I can't imagine my life without you all in it!

'I can't imagine my life without you all in it!'



Lorie's greatest love is spending time with her husband Chris and their sons Drew, 12, and Evan, 9.



MEET LIVEWIRE BASS JESSICA DUNN

When Lynn, Katie, and Lorie wanted to try their chops at other voice parts, I was happy to fill their bass void! The music we made from the first moment was magical. I am lucky to sing next to three of the most talented, supportive, and crazy women I know. This journey has been so unexpected and thrilling, I am revved to find out just where we can go next. I am honored to be a part of LiveWire and to represent Harmony, Inc. I hope to honor this association with humor, humility, a hint of hubris, honesty, and above all, true harmony.

So, let's take a look at the beginning of this journey.

I had a gypsy childhood, growing up all over New York State. I never lived anywhere more than five years. I sang everywhere I landed. For me, home was where the music was.

My family instilled that love of music in me from the start. Mom was always in choirs and Dad was a bluegrass singing, banjo pickin' bandit. My parents and their three girls, Eliesha, Jessi(me!), and Gretchen would belt out Swing Low, Sweet Chariot in parts of our own creation at any social gathering that wanted to hear us.

To this day, before meal grace often ends up a three- to four-part harmony celebration and in those moments, I feel where my love of music was born. My parents are truly amazing. They are a source of strength and support and without them I never would have been on that competition stage in 2015.

And the love of music is continuing into the next generation. I have the absolute pleasure of raising my daughter, **Nova**, whose first IC&C was Hershey 2011 at the age of 8 weeks! She is my everything. She is sassy, sweet, thoughtful, hilarious, and honestly my favorite person in the whole world. We are working on harmony right now; she pretty much has it nailed



down and aspires to be a tenor. She always picks the high harmony!

Barbershop began for me when I landed in upstate N.Y. in 2002 after attending The Boston Conservatory and Crane School of Music for vocal performance as a mezzo soprano. Even though I didn't continue on the professional path, I continued with singing in Watertown through community theatre, local chorales, the female vocalist with local noted big band The Frank Sacci Band, and at weddings.

And karaoke.

Does karaoke count? I think it does.

Then, the incomparable **Katie Taylor**, with whom I did community theatre, asked me to check out Northern Blend in 2006. And there you have it!

Hooked.

Almost.

I sang for a season as a baritone then departed on my gypsy ways. When I returned to the area I settled in Ithaca and began work as a leasing consultant. One day, the fantabulous **Lorie Autote** spotted me in the grocery store. She threatened me, saying I had to come back to Northern Blend. I had no choice. For my own safety, I returned to the ranks of Northern Blend, this time as lead. And that was the year Northern Blend earned our gold medal! What a feeling, what a joy, what a blessing of singing sisters!

After that, I traveled the path down to Bass Town. I competed with **Pitch, Please** for four years and learned so much with those amazing ladies, **Dorene Dickerson**, **Cait Schadock**, and **Corri Willis**. They helped to shape me into the barbershopper I am today. I loved every minute with them.

But one quartet wasn't enough for me, no siree. So now I get to sing with LiveWire.

And wear a shiny crown.

And call myself a Harmony Queen.

Lucky me!



Jess hugs her daughter Nova, 4. Nova already shows signs she'll sing tenor.





LIVEWIRE SCRAPBOOK



Katie's son Gavin sings a solo at the HXNE Camp last summer.



Family of Lovell-ies! Gretchen Lovell (sis), Jess, Eliesha Lovell (sis), her husband Daniel, niece Aria Luna, SuperNova, Jeff Lovell (Papa Dukes), and Nancy Lovell (Mama).

Jess's sister-friends, Gretchen and Eliesha, have always been a source of great joy (read hilarity) and support.



Zach Taylor likes both basketball and music.



LiveWire debuts at 2015 Area 3 HELP Day.



Compound W sings at an after-glow.



2015 Parade of Champions



Epic • 2012



Association of Harmony Queens Chorus



Moonstruck • 2014



Spot On • 2013



Synchronicity • 2004



First Class • 1990



New England Voices in Harmony • 2014



Foreign Exchange • 2011



After Hours • 2000



U4X • 2008



Ringtones! • 2010



CONGRATULATIONS, 2015 Quartet Medalists

2nd Place Taken for Granite



3rd Place Great Day



4th Place Charisma



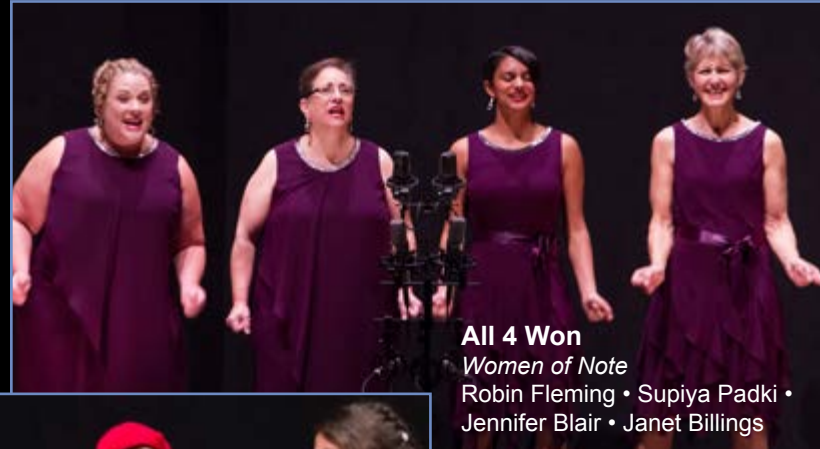
5th Place Fusion



For 2015 Quartet Finals Scoring Summaries, please visit www.harmonymembers.org/docs/scores/ICC/2015ICCQuartetFinal.pdf



Kismet, Sounds of the Seacoast, New England Voices in Harmony
Wendi-Lee Bailey • Susan Prescott • Elizabeth LeClair • Debbie Barol



All 4 Won
Women of Note
Robin Fleming • Supiya Padki •
Jennifer Blair • Janet Billings

Nuance
Area 3 Associates
Dawn Crane • Andrea Binnington •
Jen Ieluzzi • Su Canning



Upscale
Barre-Tones, Inc.
April Knight • Carolynn O'Donnell • Trecia
Pallman-Hamilton • Carol Hollenbeck



Taken 4 Granite
New England Voices in Harmony
Katrine Dickau • Samantha
Tramack • Christine Tramack •
Renee Tramack



Vibe!
Sounds of the Seacoast
Wendy McCoolle • Camille Duffy •
Becky Christie • D Dyer



Group Therapy
Capital Chordettes
Mary Joan Dunn • Kim Vronick • Denise Belanger • Louise Donohue



BaSINGa!
A Cappella Showcase & Montreal City Voices
Theresa Major • Kelly Thomas •
Stacy Hugman-Frenette • Sandy McCreary



Aged to Perfection, Area 2 Associates
 Gaye LaCasce • Alexa Beal • Ellie Pomer • Kathy Pomer



Fusion
Rochester Rhapsody & Associates
 Charlene Sudore • Amy DePerna •
 Kathy Dickson • Sue Melvin

LiveWire
Northern Blend Chorus
 Lynn Blakeney • Katie Taylor •
 Lorie Autote • Jessica Dunn



Meadowlarks
Elm City Echoes & Associate
 Jill Woodley • Deborah Smith • Janet
 Johnson • Chris Freeman



Shirahz
Lake County Harmony
 & Associates
 Gayle Haley • Mary Allin •
 Judi Johnston • Charlann
 Lamb



High Five
A Cappella Showcase, Associate
 Denise Keleher • Karen Hosler • Julie Rushton • Julia McGregor



Great Day
St Louis Chordinals and Associate
 Algrim-Bellandi • Bonnie Burke • Sandi Wright •
 Roseann Haven



Tonic
ScotianAires Chorus
 Mary Gareau • Marion Fraser-Pritchard • Cathy Hunter • Adele
 Merritt

Charisma
Niagara Frontier
 Chord Authority
 Kate Kreinheder • Carol Zeffiro • Barb Yendall • Karin Kirkham



MAKE'
Atlanta Harmony Celebration!
 Amanda Nance • Ellen Messer • Elie Stone • Meg Westover

ReVoiced
Bella Nova
 Christina Lewellen
 * Grace Shields • Susan Shields • Kristina Adams



Halo
Bella Nova and Associates
 Shana Oshiro • Nadira France • Niambi Powell • Jasmine Barnes

Pitch Please
Northern Blend & Associates
 Corri Dartnell • Dorene Dickerson • Cait Schaddock • Jessica Dunnr

Happy Hour
New England Voices in Harmony
 Lianne Ianuzzo • Kathleen Macdonald • Donna Clarkson • Deb Green



Acappella 4
Silk 'n Sounds, NoteAble Blend, Sounds of the Seacoast
 Angie Dolber • Chris Hayes • Annette Bliss • Deb Stoll



On the Rocks
Nickel City Sound
 Janet Dakins • Claire McMartin • Wanda Olsen • Barb Edwards

For 2015 quartet contest scoring summaries, go to www.harmonymembers.org/docs/scores/



Four Eyes
Village Vocal Chords
 Leslie Knopoff • Betty Gunterman • Debbie Genovese • Robin Gould



2015 CHAMPION CHORUS
Village Vocal Chords
Area 4 • Glenn Ellyn, Illinois
Director - Jeanne O'Connor



**2015 SILVER
MEDALIST CHORUS**
**A Cappella
Showcase**
Area 3 • Milton,
Ontario
Director - Jordan Travis



3rd PLACE MEDALIST
Northern Blend
Area 3
Watertown, New York
Director - Katie Taylor

4th PLACE MEDALIST
Sounds of the Seacoast
Area 2
Newington, New Hampshire
Director - Wendy McCoolle



16



5th PLACE MEDALIST
Bella Nova
Area 3
Ashburn, Virginia
Director - Richard Lewellen

Silk'n Sounds Area 2
Hamden, Connecticut
Director - Kia Lampe-Onnerud



Liberty Belles Area 3
Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Director - Anne Bureau



Rochester Rhapsody Area 3
Webster, New York
Director - Sue Melvin



Harmony Falls Area 3
Trumansburg, New York
Director - Karen Trotter

For complete chorus contest scoring summaries, go to
www.harmony members.org/docs/scores/ICC/2015ICCChorus.pdf

The Over Tones, Inc. Area 5
Guelph, Ontario
Director - JJ Piccolotto



Atlanta Harmony Celebration Area 6
Atlanta, Georgia
Director - Kathy Stone



Northern Blend Area 3
Watertown, New York
Director - Katie Taylor



Jewels of Harmony Area 5
Elliot Lake, Ontario
Director - Ann Foy



Toronto Accolades Area 3
Toronto, Ontario
Director - Wendy Arnold



Capital Chordettes Area 2
Nepean, Ontario
Director - Carolyn Henderson



Niagara Frontier Chord Authority Area 3
East Aurora, New York
Directors - Ron Mason and Sue Trenchard

Maine-ly Harmony Area 2
Augusta, Maine
Director - Kathy Greason



Crystal Chords Area 3
Horseheads, New York
Director - Bill McKay



ScotianAires Area 1
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Director - Sue Kember



A Cappella Showcase Area 3
Milton, Ontario
Director - Jordan Travis



Nickel City Sound Area 5
Sudbury, Ontario
Director - Wanda Olsen

Valley Voices Area 1
Kentville, Nova Scotia
Director - Judy Robichaud



Bella Nova Area 3
Ashburn, Virginia
Director - Richard Lewellen



For complete chorus contest scoring summaries, go to
www.harmonymembers.org/docs/scores/ICC/2015ICCChorus.pdf

Sing Niagara Area 3
St. Catherines, Ontario
Director - Linda Kuehnbaum



Chord Spinners Area 5
St. Jacobs, Ontario
Director - Kathy Hanneson



Barre-Tones, Inc. Area 2
Barre, Vermont
Director - Carol Hollenbeck



Sounds of the Seacoast Area 2
Newington, New Hampshire
Director - Wendy McCoolle



Sugartones Area 5
Alliston, Ontario
Director - Jan-Ake Westin



Women of Note Area 2
Hudson, Massachusetts
Director - Ray Johnson

2015 Award Recipients



MacIntosh Award
Atlanta Harmony Celebration!



Jerry Dunlop Memorial Award
Director Kia Lampe-Onnerud



L.A.B.B.S. Trophy
Niagara Frontier Chord Authority



G. Ruth Geils Memorial Award
Harmony Falls Chorus



Montreal City Voices Tait Trophy
The Over Tones, Inc.



Skidge Heath Memorial Award
Village Vocal Chords



Findlay Plaque
Halo



"Image" of Harmony Service Award
Shirahz



Accord Award
Acappella 4



Audience Entertainment Choice Award
Acappella 4



Second Place Medalist Chorus
A Cappella Showcase



Third Place Medalist Chorus
Northern Blend



Fourth Place Medalist Chorus
Sounds of the Seacoast



Fifth Place Medalist Chorus
Bella Nova



2015 Award Recipients

JUDITH WAITE MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Judith Waite Memorial Music Scholarship is funded by a donation to Harmony, Inc. from the estate of *Judith Waite*, former member of the Village Vocal Chords chapter.

The 2015 recipient of this \$1000 scholarship is: **Amelia Johnston**, daughter of Kim Johnston, member of *Atlanta Harmony Celebration*.



SANDI WHITE INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD

The Sandi White International Membership Award is presented by the *Women of Note* chapter, and is awarded to the chapter that attains the highest percentage growth during the previous membership year. (The membership year is defined as additions/deletions postmarked by March 15th.)

The 2015 recipient of the Sandi White International Membership Award, with a growth percentage of 34.5, is **Island A Cappella** of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.



IMAGES AWARD

The Image of Harmony Award recognizes those quartets who not only sing together, but also work together. They go beyond what is expected of them in combined and individual ways to serve Harmony, Inc., their Area, their Chapter, and their community. The award is sponsored by our 1997 Harmony Queens, "Images". They will present the recipients of the Image of Harmony Award with a traveling trophy and each individual will receive a pin.

This is your chance to nominate your favorite quartet to be the next recipient of the award. Any active quartet who has been registered with Harmony, Inc. for a period of two years or more prior to July 31, 2014, is eligible. Please note that quartets who have won the Image of Harmony Award within the past five years are ineligible.

You may make the nomination if you and four other Harmony, Inc. members sign the letter of nomination.

A chapter may make a nomination, another quartet may initiate a nomination, or a member of the International Board of Directors may make a nomination.

A sample letter can be found in the Corporate Manual (members-only section of the website) under the heading of "Image of Harmony Award."

Letters of nomination will contain the following information but not be limited to such:

- Name and Chapter affiliation of the nominated quartet.
- A review of the quartet's activities during their years as a registered quartet, including gratis performances, other community services involving singing, service to their chapter as a quartet and competition at the Area and International levels, etc. (Sample letter follows)
- A review of the activities of the quartet members, including offices held at all levels, teaching/coaching the barbershop craft at Area or Harmony Schools or craft sessions.
- Any other relevant data supporting the service of this quartet or its members to the community, the chapter, the Area, or the International organization.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT to recognize an exceptional quartet for all they give to our organization by nominating them for the Image of Harmony Award!

NOMINATIONS for the Image of Harmony Award must be postmarked by July 31, 2015.

e-mail: quartets@harmonyinc.org

From Shades of Harmony – Ann Booth

From the Sugartones – Caramel Selfe

From Harmony Sound Waves – Barbara Sheehan

From the Capital Chordettes and Area 2 - Lois Bruce, Past International President, Harmony, Inc.

The bass of our 1961 Harmony Queens, Key Chords - Mayme Laben

From Women of Note and the lead of our Harmony Queens 1976 Reflections, 1983 Joy and 1989 Heart's Delight – Jean Patterson

From Area 4 and Footloose and Pandemonium quartets – Pam Howard

To those friends we've lost, may they rest in peace as we cherish their memory.



2015 President's Award

The President's Award was created by the International Board of Directors of Harmony, Inc. in 2010 to be presented at IC&C each year. The recipient is to be selected at the sole discretion of the International President and is awarded to a woman she feels has made a major contribution to Harmony, Inc.

This year's winner is Lauren Lindeman. Lauren is recognized for her years of service as a Music Judge, a Category Director, as a coach and a teacher.



2016 Contest Season Dates & Deadlines

Area 1 June 2-5 Sackville, NB

Hosted by: **Area 1 Convention Team**

Contact Name: Carolyn Pellow

Contest Entry Deadline: April 4

Late Entry Cutoff: May 3

International Contest Entry Deadline: June 20

Area 2 May 13-15 Devens, MA

Hosted by: **Area 2 Convention Team**

Contact Name: Diane Coates

Contest Entry Deadline: March 14

Late Entry Cutoff: April 13

International Contest Entry Deadline: May 31

Area 3 Apr 29-May 1 Rochester, NY

Hosted by: **Area 3 Convention Team**

Contact Name: Sue Trenchard & Dorene Dickerson

Contest Entry Deadline: Feb. 29

Late Entry Cutoff: March 30

International Contest Entry Deadline: May 16

Area 4 June 10-12 Bloomington, IL

Hosted by: **Harmony Magic**

Contact Name: Sara Stone

Contest Entry Deadline: April 11

Late Entry Cutoff: May 11

International Contest Entry Deadline: June 27

Area 5 May 27-29 Alliston, ON

Hosted by: **Area 5 Convention Team**

Contact Name: Gidget Kaert

Contest Entry Deadline: March 26

Late Entry Cutoff: April 27

International Contest Entry Deadline: June 13

Area 6 April 15-17 Jacksonville, FL

Hosted by: **Area 6 Convention Team**

Contact Name: Aura Daye & Trayce Elenteny

Contest Entry Deadline: February 15

Late Entry Cutoff: March 16

International Contest Entry Deadline: May 2



‘... 16 TONS and whadaya get?’ a peek backstage at IC&C

Editor’s note: When ye ed peeked backstage at the recent IC&C in Verona to get a feel for the behind-the-scenes story, she bumped into logistics manager Cynthia Kieckhefer with her arms raised imploring heavenly aid – in the form of a golden chariot or five – in moving a mountain of luggage over various impedimenta, silently and in the dark, from stage right to stage left without disrupting the chorus then about to commence its contest ballad. Herewith, the rest of the story in Cynthia’s words:

I need to start by first thanking my comrades behind the stage, without whom I might still be in Verona, trying to climb out from under the black hole of chorus contest purses.

So, I render thanks to **Amy Johnson** for her helpfulness, energy and most of all physical fitness and fortitude. I challenge anyone to match Amy’s stamina as she efficiently and effectively empties purse bin after bin with speed, precision and skill. By the way, Amy, do you train for this with Iron man triathlon training? Just curious.

And my thanks to Dick Powell, aka BHS Board member and Bella Nova fan club chairman. Dick, thank you for your Ninja-like stealth and efficiency. And for helping me set up our strategy, soon to be famous and copied by all future purse pilers:

- First the moan, “Oh, no here’s the next chorus, and she’s a big one,”
- then, the multi-binned “purse grab”, “purse squish” and “purse pile”,
- then the “run like hell to stage left” tactical process.

And finally, a big thanks to my friend, and roommate and fellow Area 4 associate **Kathryn Anderson** for her nutritional sustenance. Allow me to explain.

In a moment of weakness, I volunteered to give back to an organization that has given me so much. And so I showed up eagerly, bright eyed and bushy tailed on the morning of the chorus contest. But after several hours of “purse grabbing, squishing, piling and running like hell” with no real decent break, and no lunch packed, I knew I was in trouble. My eyes had glazed over. And my tail, no longer bushy, now looked like that of a large rat’s.

Lunch arrives

My teammates needed vittles, too. But like the military, you join for the cause, and stay for your comrades. We couldn’t leave our posts and place our teammates in even greater purse peril! So, enter back door stage right, our friend Kathryn Anderson outfitted with a tuna and a pastrami on rye with the all-important pickle on the side.

All of Harmony, Inc. owes Kathy their gratitude. We could’ve all fainted from low blood sugar, causing a back stage chorus contest medical emergency. This would have delayed the contest and really annoyed you all. So, yes, getting up and off the risers efficiently and working through the back stage pattern is important to keep the chorus contest on track. But now you know the truth, we really have Kathy, tuna, and pastrami to thank for keeping us all on schedule.

Water bottles

But I digress. Back to our lovely choruses and their purses. Things are humming along back stage. We have three large wheeled bins draped in black for your purses and half-emptied water bottles. Really? Water bottles?! Bottles with no names. OK. These are your germs and not mine. But anyway...back to the purses.

Bloated python offers opportunity to excel

After we, “grab, squish and pile”, here comes the “run like hell” part. You see, there are all these wires that run from the back of the stage, along the floor to electrical panels. These wires are neatly gathered and taped over so I can wheel and run over them. Then I have to “run like hell” over these with my full bins to get to stage left where the ready and able Amy is ready to empty luggage, and iPhones, water bottles, iPads etc.

So why did she mention those wires? I’m glad you asked. When you have to push a multi-ton purse bin over a wire bump that now looks like a bloated Python that just swallowed a very large raccoon, you need a head of speed to make it over the bump. But not too much speed, so you don’t go airborne.

It can be tricky.

Oh, and hitting that road block at high speed makes a sound a bit like those M-80s the daredevil kids would put in garbage cans on the 4th of July. So here is when strategy applies. You have to hit the gluttoned Python at the same time all you chorus ladies are getting onto the risers so the audi-

Continued, next page





'... 16 TONS and whadaya get?'

a peek backstage at IC&C

ence doesn't hear the M-80s back stage! The take away lesson here for choruses.....make all the noise you can getting on those risers!

Now I only have the time between grabbing your purses, to when you are ready to sing onstage to do all thisand.....get those empty bins back to stage right to greet the next "purse- and water bottle-packin'" barbershoppers!

An empty bin hitting that poor road kill now has the sound of cymbals clashing. So I can't thank Amy enough for her inspirational "shout whispering", (another Ninja-like necessary back stage skill) "GO! GO! GO!" as I try to make it back to stage right before the comforting sound of your heels on risers stops! It's a dark day back stage if you get stuck stage left before the curtain opens.

You start "purse piler perspiring".

Will I get back to stage right for the next chorus in time? Fret, fret. Well, I can if I don't have three full bins and 3 roller suitcases. Hint, hint.

Digital assistance

Which brings me to SIRI, our beloved iPhone assistant. There was a chorus that brought more luggage than I've seen placed in a 787 Dreamliner readying for a transatlantic flight. Or as a teammate put it, "They can invade a small country with all this stuff!"

After three overflowing bins each — weighing at least 6 million tons — three roller luggage bags, and various lose items along with 1,000 half emptied water bottles, we finally resettle the goods at stage left. And, this was hard for us to witness, but one poor purse squished at the bottom, had opened up, spilling its contents. It was ugly! It probably was near suffocation and had to open to breathe. Poor thing. Happy to report it survived.

But now, the comforting "heel on the riser" sound wanes. Oh no! I'm stuck back stage left be-

make all the noise you can getting on those risers!

cause of the time it took to.... schlepp and empty bins.....get over the wire python etc.

But that's not the worst. Then Amy and I hear a strange robotic noise from the purse pile....

"Sorry. I didn't get that."

We gasp quietly, and look at each other in horror as only those who have ever left their phone on during a performance know. Then we hear again in that same eerie but comforting tone...

"Sorry. I do not understand."

We start feverishly pushing purses away to find Siri hiding at the bottom in a very cute Coach clutch purse. I extract the iPhone with purse-piler precision, as Amy watches nervously. I hope I can turn it off. But it'sits.....

PASSWORD PROTECTED! OMG!

So we wrap it in a scarf from one of the bins and place it at the bottom of the biggest purse we can find. Hoping no one calls.

No one did! Whew! Close one. I could use a drink about now.

Cynthia re-ups

In another moment of weakness or temporary insanity, I volunteered to purse pile for 2016 because the perks outweigh the perils. But then it doesn't take much to amuse me.

First, I lost a few pounds with all the running and schlepping.

I got to hear all the choruses.

And I got to see all our wonderful directors from the chorus side. And it was fun to watch these

folks work their magic.

I made some new friends back stage....we will always be tied through our collective service. And I started to enjoy the challenge of seeing if I could help ease any of your pre-performance anxiety, as you handed me your purses, bottles, tiaras, iPads, iPhones, glasses, luggage etc. as you made your way to the stage.

New recognition awards

I am happy to announce I am proposing some new awards as a result of my experience. Maybe these could be announced on the Saturday award night with the winning choruses! But since these are not yet Harmony, Inc.-sanctioned awards, it could be announced like.....whenever, but I am hopeful.

The first is the **Golden Purse** award.

Just as our singing is evaluated in three categories, we have three categories here:

Category 1: The least number of purses and/or water bottles;

Category 2: The greatest number of tiny purses;

Category 3: The most attractive purses. (I did try to enjoy purse schlepping while I was at it. Like someone had an adorable Hello Kitty purse. So cute! Cute purses help the time pass. Just for your future reference.)

Now I don't want to get myself in any trouble by issuing the Golden Purse award before I've received Board approval to do so. So I won't mention names. But I am thrilled to announce we had a tie for this year's potential first-ever Golden Purse Award recipients! Isn't that exciting!

And what made these choruses so special and worthy of the coveted Golden Purse Award? I'll tell you. Both choruses handed me fewer than five water bottles. And two were actually empty! There were no purses. No purses! That's right! I

thought I was hallucinating! I almost cried.

So again, not naming names.....

The first-ever Golden Purse Award goes to a chorus that has "sweet" (hint, hint) tones and I believe it was their first time on the international stage. (That's another hint). And they competed, around the time in the contest where I could have used a little "sugar" (hint) for a pick me up.

The second, first-ever Golden Purse Award goes to a chorus "over" (hint) there in Canada. I heard their director has a history of audacious (hint) behavior too!

Please join me in congratulating these two stellar purseless and unnamed groups of trendsetting barbershop warblers. Unofficially, of course!

Lastly, the next new, not yet sanctioned Harmony, Inc. award, is the **Purse of Shame Award**. And there is only one criterion to "win" this award

"TOO MUCH GOSH DARN STUFF FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO BE SCHLEPPING".

I will spare the first recipient from the shame of this award, but all I will say is.....

Siri knows!

In conclusion, please follow the Golden Purse barbershop rule (this will be engraved on the actual future Golden Purse Award (once it's sanctioned, of course)....

Schlepp your purses, water bottles, iPads, glasses, etc. (sheesh) unto others as you would have them schlepp unto you.

See you next year....behind the stage and at the award ceremony!





VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS

Transformed!

Dare to dream and see what a dream can do!

Dare to dream is what the **Village Vocal Chords** did in preparation for the 2015 IC&C. It all began with a few dreamers in the group. They dreamed a big plan, a new plan, a never done before plan.

Was it scary? Yes!

Was it exciting? Yes!

Was it hard to achieve? Yes, yes, yes!

But did that stop us?

No, no, no – because our leaders dared to dream and we all decided to make that dream come true!

The initial dreamers sparked a thought in a member who is a seamstress. She offered to design and make each individual a costume.

We were oh, so proud, to show our friends of Harmony, Inc., what a dream can do!



Another member offered to design and make each of us a headpiece.

An artist among us painted the sepia background panels.

Other members designed and made the forms to hold up the background panels.

Each of us learned how to carry parts of the scenery to get it on and off the stage in twelve minutes or less, then be in our standing positions and ready to sing! (We practiced that a lot!)

In the end we were so excited we could hardly contain ourselves! All the people, scenery, and costumes made it to the IC&C.

We were oh, so proud, to show our friends of Harmony, Inc., what a dream can do!

— By Kate Snodell

Congratulations, Harmony Falls!



First place recognition brings the chance to enter the International Chorus Contest on Saturday. 2015 Silver Division winner is **Harmony Falls Chorus**, an *Area 3 chorus from Trumansburg, New York*, Directed by Karen Trotter. Karen is the recipient of the Jeanne O'Connor Director Award.



ST. LOUIS CHORDINALS, Area 4, St. Louis, Missouri, placed 2nd.



SHADES OF HARMONY, Area 5, London, Ontario, earned third place.

HARMONY HERITAGE, Area 2, Southern New England, earned fourth place.



For complete Silver Division Scoring Summaries, visit www.harmonymembers.org/docs/scores/ICC/2015ICCSilver.pdf

Minor Chords make us smile!

by Jen Wheaton
Youth Programs Coordinator



The Minor Chords, under the direction of Samantha Arten, entertained at 2015 IC&C with a Steve Tramack arrangement of Uncle Kracker's 2009 country hit Smile.

*You make me dance like a fool,
Forget how to breathe
Shine like gold,
Buzz like a bee
Just the thought of you can drive me wild
Oh, you make me smile*

Once again, the Minor Chords had our feet tapping and our faces grinning as they performed Uncle Kracker's You Make Me Smile after the International Chorus Contest in Verona, N.Y. Taking the stage with 31 youth members ranging in age from seven to 25 (yes, I said seven!), these talented and energetic young ladies showed the future of our organization is in confident, dedicated hands.

There were nine choruses represented, including **Atlanta Harmony Celebration, Bella Nova Chorus, New England Voices in Harmony, Barre-Tones, Inc, Women of Note, Capital Chordettes, The Over Tones, Inc, Rochester Rhapsody, Sounds of the Seacoast, and Associates.**

*Don't know how I lived without you
'Cause every time that I get around you
I see the best of me inside your eyes
You make me smile*

Each year, we are in for new treats from the Minor Chords. Continuing the new tradition, the youth members nominated other youth members from among their ranks to direct them. The 2015 director of the Minor Chords was **Samantha Arten**. Samantha has been a member of Harmony, Incorporated since the age of 10, starting out with New England Voices in Harmony (of which she's still a non-performing member). Samantha won a crown singing tenor with 2010 Harmony Queens **Ringtones!** Having earned a BM in music from Washington University in St. Louis and a MA in musicology from Duke University, she is now working toward a PhD in musicology at Duke University.

Samantha chose a wonderful custom arrangement of You Make Me Smile by Steve Tramack. Originally performed as a pop song by Uncle Kracker (Matthew Shaffer), an American musician, singer, lyricist, rapper and guitarist influenced by fellow musician

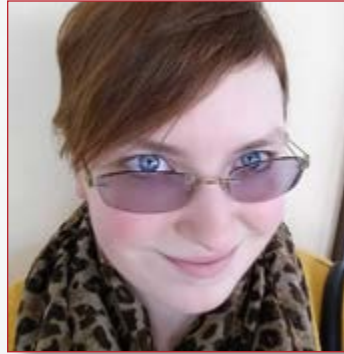
Kid Rock, Smile hit the Hot Country Songs top 100 chart in 2009. The girls loved this song and learned it very quickly, thanks to the expert learning tracks by Drew Wheaton of AKW Recording (www.AKWRecording.com).

*You're better than the best
I'm lucky just to linger in your light . . .
(Oh, you make me smile)
Oh, you make me smile
(Oh, you make me smile)
Oh, you make me smile*

Thank you, Harmony, for your continued encouragement and support throughout the year. We love you all!

The Minor Chords are a chorus of Harmony, Incorporated youth members (25 years of age or younger). They rehearse twice during the week of the International Convention & Contest each November, and then perform after the International Chorus Contest as part of the entertainment while scores are being tabulated.

2015 YOUTH MEMBERS OF THE YEAR



CHRISTINA TRAMACK
New England Voices in Harmony
Area 2



MIKAYLA SCHMIDT
Chord Spinners
Area 5

Harmony for Young Women Program Updates

Hello Harmony, Inc!

In case you have missed it, there are many updates to the youth outreach program that have happened in the last couple of years, so here's a quick update.

The name of the program is now Harmony for Young Women (HFYW). This program is now multi-faceted and growing rather rapidly. We have a more detailed webpage in development, as well as several internal programs like the Minor Chords and scholarships. The program has its own mission, on top of Harmony, Incorporated's mission, and has specific goals.

Mission:

The Harmony for Young Women Program is intended to reach out to young women through four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. Its goal is to provide musical education and an environment that fosters a love of vocal music, personal growth and development, and life-long friendships.

The goals of the Harmony for Young Women Program are to:

- Introduce barbershop style singing to young women;
- Encourage young singers to pursue vocal music in schools, as well as in their communities;
- Provide vocal music education to all young singers;

By Jen Wheaton, Youth Programs Coordinator

- Raise awareness with young singers, educators, administrators, and the community of the viability of the barbershop style as a musical art form;
- Encourage and help schools expand their vocal music programs to include barbershop music;
- Help Areas and chapters develop more local youth outreach initiatives by providing guidelines and resources;
- Encourage an environment in which young singers can develop greater self-confidence, improved performance skills, and the value of teamwork;
- Educate all of Harmony, Inc. about the importance of youth outreach, and all that it entails;
- Encourage the current youth of Harmony, Inc. to be more active in their chapters and Areas.

To this end, we have developed a few resources that can help chapters and Area organize and host events, reach out to the local youth, and share the music.

So let's get out there and share the enjoyment of the music and hobby that we love so much! Need help? All you have to do is ask! You can contact me at youth@harmonyinc.org, or call me at (603) 557-0044!

Thank You!

Two generous men support Harmony youth

The International Board of Directors, and the entire membership extend our most sincere gratitude to two gentlemen whose generosity is extraordinary! Both gentlemen are long-time members of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), and dear friends of Harmony, Inc.

Steve Hagerdon, from Rock Tavern, N.Y., is a former Director of our Harmony On the Hudson chapter. It is his generous donations which have provided complimentary All Events Passes to our youth members who attended their respective AC&Cs and the IC&Cs in the last 6 years, and his benevolence continues today. Steve has been awarded a Lifetime Affiliate Membership in Harmony, Inc.

Charlie Hill and his wife **Nell** reside in New Orleans, La. Charlie is a veteran BHS Certified Judge in the Contest Administrator category. Among other youth events supported by his donations, Charlie annually sponsors youth members to participate in Sing With the Queens at IC&Cs. Charlie is an Affiliate Member of Harmony, Inc.

Both Steve and Charlie are committed to financially embracing youth programs and events. Harmony, Inc. youth are fortunate recipients of such generosity which supports their participation in the life-fulfilling rewards of singing music!





Introducing . . .

Bluegrass Harmony



Bluegrass Harmony surrounds International President Sandra Dunlop and Director Pam Ringo at their charter party, Oct. 14, 2015.

Eight women who were just crazy enough to believe that if they had enough fun, laughed hard enough, and worked hard enough they could eventually charter with Harmony, Incorporated.

In August of 2012, six former Derby City members got together for dinner. While reminiscing about old times they realized how much they missed singing together and decided it was time to start a chorus of their own.

They invited a few friends and held their first rehearsal September 4, 2012. With the assistance of Sara Stone and the Harmony Magic Chorus, the journey had begun!

Kathy McDaniel had agreed to direct the chorus until a permanent director was found. The chorus chose the name **Bluegrass Harmony** and scheduled some sing outs. November and December of 2012 brought local Christmas caroling and a couple new members.

In the spring of 2013 Bluegrass Harmony performed for the Galt House Business Association and from there the excitement kept building. In June, chorus members attended Area 4 Contest in Terre Haute, IN. They made new friends, reconnected with old friends and even got a chance to sing for Queen **Jeanne O'Connor**.

2014 was another year of milestones in the steady growth of Bluegrass Harmony. In early May, the chorus sang the National Anthem for the largest school board in Kentucky. A few weeks

later, they held their first retreat. Members of the chorus conducted classes in vocal production, committees were formed, and strategies developed.

In June the chorus again traveled to Area 4 contest in Aurora, IL. They were honored to perform in the Moonglow with their friends **Harmony Magic**. A few summer sing outs brought in new members.

And then the big news.

The 2014 International Contest and Convention was to be held right here in Louisville. It was very exciting for Bluegrass Harmony members to have the opportunity to show off our city as well as assist with planning the event.

This brings the journey to 2015, arguably the biggest year for Bluegrass Harmony yet. In April, Queen **Kris Wheaton** introduced Bluegrass Harmony to **Pam Ringo** hoping that Pam would eventually take over as permanent director for the chorus.

Pam thought the girls were crazy and they thought she was crazy and an instant crazy bond was formed.

In June, the chorus again attended Area 4 contest but this time they were performing as mic-testers under the direction of Kathy McDaniel. The performance and evaluation were a thrill beyond belief but to top it all off, Bluegrass Harmony won the award for Best Performance at the Moonglow!

A few weeks later, at a chorus pool party, Pam Ringo was officially announced as Bluegrass Harmony's new director. Kathy McDaniel became the Assistant Director. Pam and Kathy work well together and make a formidable team!

International President **Sandra Dunlop** came to Louisville October 14, 2015, to preside over a beautiful Charter Ceremony. The journey to charter had finally come full circle and, as always, one journey ends and another one begins.

Under the leadership of our Board of Directors and Director, Pam Ringo, Bluegrass Harmony is now working to find our identity, strengthen and educate both the leadership and membership, learn new music and prepare for our first Area 4 contest as a contestant.

We cannot wait to have more fun, laugh harder, work harder and most of all, make music with our friends in Harmony, Inc.

— *Angie Beatty,*
PR Chair,
Bluegrass
Harmony Chorus



WIDE WORLD

Harmony Hits New Heights

Cheers rang out in the Capri Ballroom of the Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nev. during the board meeting of the Barbershop Harmony Society www.barbershop.org/ at its Midwinter convention when they accepted the newly formed Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association www.mixedbarbershop.org/ as its newest affiliate.



The MBHA gives men and women an organization devoted to supporting and enhancing the experience of singing barbershop harmony together. The BHS (a men's singing organization), and its sister organizations Sweet Adelines International (sweetadelines.com/) and Harmony, Incorporated (www.harmonyinc.org/) were built on the close harmony tradition of four-part, single-gender singing in the style popular at the turn of the Twentieth century.

"This is a great day for mixed harmony ensembles in North America," said MBHA President and CEO **Ron Morden**. "We now have a better opportunity to share the joy of mixed-voice singing to men and women in Canada and the United States. There is more mixed harmony happening out there than we know, and it's time for them to have an organization that supports their efforts and promotes this style."

The MBHA will be working with the BHS to offer contest opportunities and to serve as the qualifying body for North American entrants to the biennial World Mixed Harmony convention and contest hosted by Barbershop in Germany (BinG!) www.barbershop.de/en/events/worldmixed/index.html

The MBHA will be seeking similar support from other choral organizations, building on the popularity of a cappella singing and personal vocal expression through song in mixed harmony ensembles.



Newest members of the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association are Vintage Mix, a set of 14-year-old quadruplets from Wisconsin who wowed the BHS Midwinter Convention attendees with their tight harmonies and enthusiastic performance

OF BARBERSHOP



Debi Stoll and Annette Bliss sing with two Sweet Adelines friends as "Sweet Harmony" at the second annual Harmony Brigade weekend in Wilmington, Del. August 2015. Interested in this experience for yourself? Visit vfclead.wix.com/womensharmonybrigade to learn more.

Extreme Quartetters Women's Harmony Brigade



"If you are a passionate, experienced & competitive female barbershop harmony singer and you yearn for challenging quartet singing opportunities with a network of like-minded women, the Women's Harmony Brigade may be for you!"

Debi Stoll and I saw this headline and thought, "What the heck? LET'S DO IT!!!"

And what an experience it was. For three days in Wilmington, Delaware, we bonded with 135 dedicated singers creating quartets to fill our "dance card". This was both exhilarating and challenging as everyone tried to sing with every person in attendance who was not singing her same voice part.

Other fun events included singing in a quartet competition, performing in the Wilmington community and the highlight of the weekend, being a part of the Saturday night show. The fabulous guest performers were:

EPIC, 2012 Harmony, Inc. Queens and **The Buzz**, 2005 Sweet Adeline's Queens of Harmony!

Debi and I made up an impromptu quartet with two Sweet Adelines, named ourselves Sweet Harmony, an homage to both organizations, to sing their 50th Anniversary Song, How We Sang Today. What a thrill when the entire audience joined us for the final verse, arms raised and voices full of love and friendship.



The challenge for WHB 2016: to join us in singing Harmony Inc.'s 50th Anniversary Song, "What A Dream Can Do".

— By **Annette Bliss**, Silk'n Sounds Chorus, Baritone, Acappella 4 (retired) and **Debi Stoll**, Sounds of the Seacoast Chorus, International Quartet Development Coordinator 1983 Harmony Queen JOY 1989 Harmony Queen Heart's Delight Bass, Acappella 4 (retired)

The Resurgence of Education at Harmony, Inc.

By Christina Lewellen, VP Education

At the core of Harmony, Inc.'s mission is to empower women through education. More so than at any other time in recent history, the leadership of Harmony, Inc. is breathing new life into this aspect of its mission. Education can take many forms and be delivered to members in a variety of ways, and the organization is committed to serving today's members with contemporary content presented by best-in-class instructors and delivered via a variety of platforms.

The most prominent of Harmony, Inc.'s educational offerings takes place each year at the International Convention & Con-tests. As this is our largest gathering of the year, the leadership at Harmony, Inc. aimed to shake things up at the 2015 IC&C in Verona, N.Y., and committed additional resources to develop a memorable and impactful educational offering.

BY THE NUMBERS

Compared to attendance in 2014, attendance in Verona jumped an impressive 152 percent. The maximum number of attendees participating in an educational offering at any one time was 209 people, compared to 83 people in 2014. Note that more than 209 attendees are likely to have attended the educational sessions throughout the day's agenda; this is just the highest count during any given hour of programming.

Further, a higher percentage of 2015 IC&C attendees participated in the educational sessions compared to 2013 and 2014. In 2015, more than 21 percent of total IC&C attendees were counted during the busiest educational hour, compared to 10 percent in 2014 and 15 percent in 2013.

Following the convention, members participated in a brief survey to share their thoughts about the revised programming and the results were overwhelmingly positive. More than 95 percent of respondents ranked the educational programming as excellent or very good, and another 4 percent noted that the sessions were fairly good.

AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

The IC&C education program organized content areas into five distinct tracks featuring instructors from the judging panel as

well as a variety past champions, high-demand coaches, and thought leaders in the barbershop harmony genre.

Attendees were encouraged to showcase their barbershop harmony IQ by collecting unique badge holder ribbons from each of the educational tracks. As they visited a class in a particular track, they were handed a ribbon to add to their badge holders, and participants certainly wore them with pride for the remainder of the convention.

With catchy names and an organizational structure that made the layout easy to understand, the 2015 educational tracks were:

- **"Wheaties"**—The "breakfast of champions" track.
- **"Judge-Mental"**—The get-inside-the-judges'-heads (if you dare!) track.
- **"Fishbowl"**—Observation of real-time coaching unfolding before attendees' eyes, like a fishbowl in a dentist's office!
- **"Leadership Ninja"**—The crown jewel of the 2015 tracks! An intensive leadership track aimed to help choruses shape their futures.
- **"Geek"**—The self-explanatory, wear-it-with-pride track!

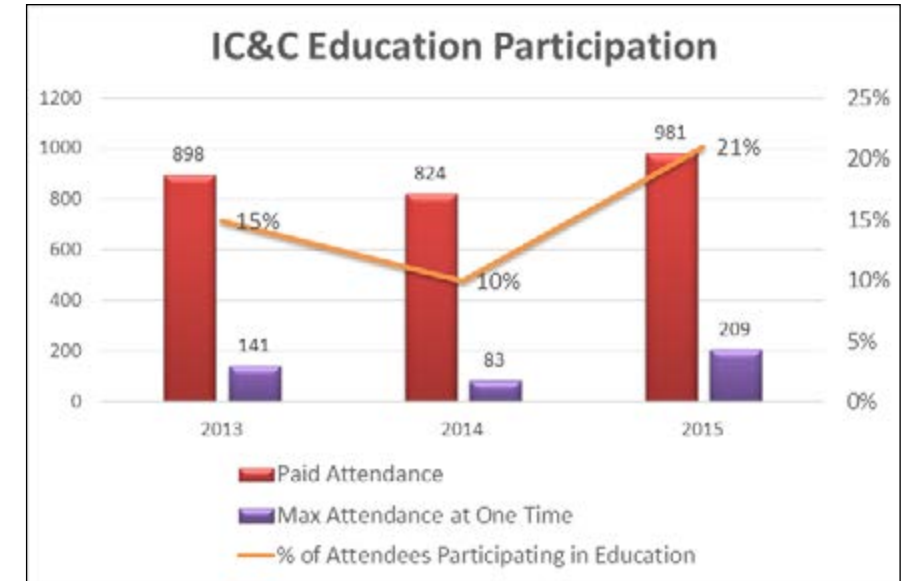
Attendees reported that they enjoyed collecting the ribbons and using them as conversation starters for the remainder of the event. They shared stories of their experiences in various classes, leading to an educational ripple effect for the days following the conclusion of the tracks.

Special on the agenda this year was the two-part "Leadership Ninja" workshop led by Steve Denino. Representatives from a number of chapters attended to experience this intensive planning and development track, which was recorded by a professional videographer and will be made available to the entire Harmony, Inc. membership this spring.

In the "Building Your Leadership Toolbox" sessions, Denino worked with chapter leaders to shape their organizations' futures by helping them explore their chapters' personalities and the reason they exist.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR EDUCATION

Harmony, Inc. has only scratched the surface on its education-



related goals. In addition to making the "leadership ninja" recordings available to the membership at large, organizers are already making plans for the 2016 IC&C educational offerings taking into account feedback from the 2015 attendees. Education will be spread out throughout the convention rather than limited to one day and there will be some breaks in between sessions to allow for transition time. Further, as many attendees reported having to make difficult decisions about what sessions to attend that were happening in the same time slot, organizers are looking at ways to capture more content for later viewing or finding ways to repeat popular topics at various times.

In addition to education at IC&C, the Harmony, Inc. leadership is working hard behind the scenes to develop a comprehensive strategic plan specific to our organization's educational goals. Recognizing that educational needs vary among directors and other musical leaders, administrative leaders in our organization, and the core membership at large, Harmony, Inc. is designing plans and partnering with our brothers at the Barbershop Harmony Society to ensure that Harmony, Inc. remains a leader in the realm of barbershop harmony education.

As always, Harmony, Inc. wants to know what are your thoughts about education. Take a moment to share your comments by emailing VPeducation@harmonyinc.org.



2014 HARMONY QUEENS **Moonstruck** receive their permanent crowns ³⁵

In the traditional on-stage ceremony— always an emotional one —2014 Harmony Queens Moonstruck exchanged their traveling crowns for permanent tiaras. Each member of the quartet was crowned by the people in her life whom she wished to recognize as most supportive of and significant in her, and the quartet's achievement. Strictly warned not to look at each other during the crowning, the above photo captures the moment Kate Steer, Jennifer Selby, Kari-Lynn Knight and Jeanne Crowell turned to look at each other and saw their new tiaras for the first time. Sparkle on, Moonstruck!

Harmony Queens Travel Fund

What is the Harmony Queens Travel Fund? So glad you asked!

The Harmony Queens Travel Fund consists of money raised each year by the Association of Harmony Queens at the annual Parade of Champions at IC&C. This money is raised for your benefit and we hope you will take advantage of this fund. Your chapter is eligible for up to \$2,000 US towards travel and accommodation expenses when you hire a Harmony Queens quartet to appear on your show. Each Area is eligible for up to \$500 US towards expenses of a Queen's quartet serving on the staff at your Area Education event or AC&C.

Please check out the Harmony, Inc. website for details at www.harmonyinc.org or contact:

Travel Fund Chairman Judi Johnston
 qtf@harmonyinc.org
 705-835-3402

Future IC&C Dates and Locations

2016 Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI	November 2 - 6
2017 Halifax Convention Centre, Halifax, NS	November 1 - 5
2018 Hilton Orlando, Lake Buena Vista, FL	October 31 - November 4
2019 Kalahari Resort & Convention Centre, Sandusky, OH	November 6 - 10
2020 Galt House, Louisville, KY	November 4-8

A Word from our President

I would like to thank you all for your support as I enter my second year as your International President. It has been another great year for Harmony, Inc. I presided over the charter of our newest chapter, **Bluegrass Harmony** of Louisville, Kentucky.



*International President
Sandra Dunlop*

I was honored to represent Harmony, Inc. at the Barbershop Harmony Society convention in July in Pittsburgh. I had the pleasure of attending the World Harmony Council meeting while there and met barbershop representatives from all over the world. Our own 2013 Harmony Queens **Spot On** represented us on the World Harmony Jamboree and I was fortunate to have a front row seat. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Sweet Adelines Convention in October, but Harmony, Inc. was well represented by our VP Education **Christina Lewellen**.

Our biggest event of the year, Harmony, Inc.'s 56th International Convention & Contests saw a great gathering in Verona, New York. And what a convention it was. From the International Board of Directors meeting all the way through to the Saturday evening Championship Showcase, it was a flurry of activities.

Highlights for me were being elected your International President, welcoming **Pam Ringo** and **Angie Beatty** from Bluegrass Harmony, presenting the President's Service Award to **Lauren Lindeman**, stage managing the Parade of Champions and presenting the Quartet Finals Contest. I always enjoy watching old friends

meeting up and members making new friends and being so welcoming.

And then there were the contests:

The Silver Division Chorus Contest saw four choruses cross the stage and 1st place went to Harmony Falls Chorus, who then went on to compete in the International Chorus Contest.

There were 25 quartets in the International Quartet Contest and when it was all said and done we crowned our new Harmony Queens, LiveWire.

The International Chorus Contest had 25 choruses competing for the blue ribbon. First time international chorus contestant Bella Nova Chorus walked away with the 5th place ribbon. AND hearty congratulations to our Championship Chorus, Village Vocal Chords, whose performance was outstanding.

The venue for the convention was an easy venue to reach and attendance was exceptional. The Convention Team (Manager **Jan DelVecchio**, and members, **Barbara-Ann MacIntosh**, **Chris Hembel**, **Kath Morgan** and **Carolyn Pellow**) provided, once again, a not-to-be forgotten experience. Thank you ladies.

And lastly, thank you to our wonderful convention volunteers. Without them the convention and contests would not happen. Why don't you step up next year and see the contests from a totally difference perspective. I know Kath Morgan would love to hear from you.

I look forward to serving you in the coming year and meeting as many of you as I can. Remember, "We're Harmony, We're Strong".

*Sandra Dunlop
International President*

2015-2016 International Board of Directors & Assistants



The 2015-16 International Board of Directors smiles for the camera at IC&C in Louisville. CLOCKWISE, FROM CENTER BACK: Roxanne Powell, Anne Leinen, Patricia Cassidy, Donna McKay, Diane Zanetti, Christina Lewellen, Donna Clarkson, Sandra Dunlop. Betty Gunterman, Amy Johnson, Nancy Arkin, Carol Jackson, Janine Schindler, Linda Brehaut

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2015 IC&C Judging Panel

CHRIS BUECHLER, RANDY RENSI, JOHN BURRI, TOM GENTRY, ROD SGRIGNOLI, JOE HUNTER JR, MARTY LOVICK, THERESA WEATHERBEE, JEREMY CONOVER, ALAN GORDON, CHRIS RICHARDS



from our *Hearts* for the *Love* of *Harmony*

Donor

Honoree

Island A Cappella,
Island A Cappella

in memory of Gwen Adey, mother of member Carol Gosse
in memory of Allison McCormick, husband of member Marsha McCormick



Island A Cappella

in memory of Carol Mullaly mother of member Kelly Mullaly.

Island A Cappella

in memory of Dr. Albert "Bud" Ings, father of Chapter President, Joanne Ings.

Nova Quattro
Area 3

in Memory of Jean Patterson.
with thanks to Nanda Landers

Island A Capella
Nova Quattro
Toronto Accolades Team
Area 3
NoteAble Blend
NoteAble Blend
Harmony Sound Waves
Atlanta Harmony Celebration

with thanks to coach, Anne Bureau
with thanks to Jeanne O'Connor for coaching

with thanks for the AC&C Judging Panel
with thanks to Liane Iannuzzo
with thanks to Nanda Landers
in loving memory of member Barbara Ann Sheehan
with thanks to Coach, Linda Hilko



ScotianAires
Elm City Echoes
From Area 6
Georgia Connection
Area 2
Area 5
Harmony Sound Waves

with thanks to Myrt McCardle for Coaching
with thanks to Jeanne O'Connor for coaching!
with thanks to the judges for the 2015 AC&C
with thanks to Dave Fobart for Coaching
with thanks to Sue Novosad and Sandy Wright
with thanks to the Judging Panel at Area 5 AC&C 2015
with thanks and good luck to Aura Daye



'For the Love of Harmony'

Have you ever asked yourself, "How can I support Harmony, Inc. and show my appreciation for the immense love and joy it brings to so many?"

For The Love of Harmony is the perfect answer to your question, and is a most heartfelt and worthwhile "thank you" to our beloved organization. Your donations to **For The Love Of Harmony** enable you to identify individuals or groups to receive special recognition while, at the same time, provide a monetary gift to Harmony, Inc. Funds donated to **For The Love Of Harmony** will be used as requested by the donor on the Donation Submission Form.

Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized with a heart on Harmony, Inc.'s web site and mention in the next publication of The Key-Note. Inside the heart, designate your name, as donor, or the name of the person or event you wish to celebrate. Families, friends, members, quartets, chapters, may all make a gift in honor of someone who is celebrating a special day or event or, you may wish to memorialize a special someone who touched your life, or who enhanced your barbershopping experience. This is a fun way to thank your coach, recognize a friend's birthday, wedding anniversary, send a tribute to your chapter, or celebrate a "just because" moment. The list is endless! The donor will receive a letter of appreciation. The individual or group in whose name the donation was made will receive a card advising a donation was made and the reason it was given. (See Donation Submission Form)

When donations of \$500 have accumulated donors are recognized as follows:

Individual member, quartet, chapter and Area donations will be recognized with:

- \$500: receive a letter of thanks, certificate, and name on the web site and in The Key-Note
- \$1,000: all of the above plus acknowledgment in the International Convention program
- \$5,000: all of the above plus personal recognition at the Annual Membership Meeting and an invitation to the President's Reception.

Corporate and non-member donations will be recognized with:

- \$500: a thank you letter, framed certificate, name in The Key-Note
- \$1,000: thank you letter, framed certificate, name in The Key-Note
- \$5,000 - \$10,000: thank-you letter, plaque, article and photo in The Key-Note, invitation to the President's Reception.

Note: In the United States, Harmony, Inc. is recognized as a non-profit organization under education and with a code number of 501 (c) (3).

'a blend with friendship...'

a look back at how Harmony, Inc. began

By Anita Prather Harvell
Social Media Coordinator
(as posted on the Harmony, Inc. Facebook page)

In 1958, approximately 150 women from the **Melody Belles** (Providence, R.I.), **Sea Gals** (New Bedford, Mass.), **Harmonettes** (North Attleboro, Mass.), **Harmony Belles** (Barrie-Orillia, Ontario), and the **Harborettes** (Scituate, Mass.), came together in Providence, R.I. to pursue the idea of starting a new organization based on democratic principles and open to all women, regardless of race, creed, or color.

On February 26, 1959, **Peggy Rigby, Charlotte Snedon, Mary Avis "Pudge" Hedges, Jeanne Maino, and Mary Perry** were elected to lead a newly-formed organization called Harmony, Incorporated.

Harmony, Inc. members are devoted to the ideals in our Harmony Creed, and in the early years, two chapters demonstrated that they believed "all women can belong." The **Village Vocal Chords of Harmony Incorporated**, started as the little chorus that could, forming in the midst of several large Sweet Adelines chapters, and placed third in their first International competition in 1961, on their way to an unprecedented 19 International chorus championship titles.

In 1963, Ottawa's **Capital Chordettes Inc.** joined Harmony, Incorporated rather than face the prospect of losing member **Lana Clowes**. This two-time international championship chorus continues to give back to their community, and also co-presents the **Jerry Dunlop Memorial Award**, presented to the Novice Director whose chorus places highest in the chorus contest.

Harmony, Inc. has had many special and theme songs, from our original theme song, **A Song of Friendship, Harmony Grace, Two Nations**, and our current theme song, **We're Harmony, We're Strong**, introduced during our 25th Anniversary, with music by **Beth Ramsson**, lyrics by **Nancy Foris** and arranged by **Russ Foris**.

One song has created a special place in the hearts of Harmony, Inc. members and not only reflects our past, but also the hopes and dreams of everyone who raises their voice in song.

What a Dream Can Do, with words and music by **Christine Hayes** and arranged by **Steve Delehanty**, served as the cornerstone of our 50th Anniversary International Convention, fittingly held where we began — Providence, Rhode Island.

Christine noted, "I had read and heard stories about women who made sacrifices and strove to create something not because it was easy, but because it was right...I wanted another generation of members to reflect on what those founders accomplished and to take up the challenge to continue their courageous dream for another 50 years -- or more!"

Now in our 58th year, Harmony, Incorporated celebrates our "blend with friendship" as we bring together ordinary women making extraordinary music.

What's next for Harmony, Incorporated? Whatever our future holds, we know that we will always be united by our love of barbershop harmony.

Happy Birthday, Harmony, Incorporated — here's to many more!



Like us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/HarmonyIncorporated/

2014 Chapter Anniversaries

Chapter	Area	Charter
55 years		
Montreal City Voices, Inc.	2	June 4, 1960
40 years		
Women in Harmony	GOC	April 26, 1975
30 years		
Cobequid Fun-Tones	1	March 19, 1985
St. Louis Chordinals, Inc.	4	June 12, 1985
Northern Blend	3	September 4, 1985
25 years		
Women of Note	2	March 23, 1990
Hernando Hills Hi-Lites	6	November 12, 1990

The Harmony Creed

by G. Ruth Geils

*Harmony from our hearts, as well as voices;
Affection for each other, oft expressed;
Radiant with our love of barbershop;
Mindful of our principles and ideals;
Outstretched hands to every race and creed;
Neatness in our dress and in our thinking;
Young in heart, for singing keeps us young;
Inspired with our desire to grow and flourish;
Nourished by devotion to our music;
Constructive in our work for Harmony, Incorporated*





Bel Canto for Barbershop Singing

By Debra Lynn

In November/December of 2010 and January/February of 2011, the two-part series, "Sing Like an Italian," for The Harmonizer magazine was written about my discovery of the dovetail between the barbershop style and the enhanced results that could be achieved using bel canto (beautiful singing) principles. My book, *The Bel Canto Buzz: Beautiful singing made simple!*, followed in the Spring of 2012 and has received numerous five-star reviews on Amazon.com.

Bel canto was considered the standard of vocal production in Italy from 1800 to 1840, which predates what we now recognize as a more vibrato-laden operatic sound. This earlier orientation produces clear, concentrated tone with absolute tonal accuracy, heightened harmonics, minimal vibrato and relentless legato control, fully supporting the rigorous demands of great barbershop sound.

As we all know, in this unique style, one of our most consistent challenges is air management for our longer than normal phrasing. This often occurs even when we do our best to "tank up" and taking in that huge amount of air, sometimes even exacerbates the very issue we are trying to solve.

When we think about the singer's breath, we often talk about airflow or moving lots of air across the vocal chords. This is supported by later classical orientations, as they were designed to do exactly that – move more air and create more power. However, just think of the difference between a Puccini or Wagnerian operatic aria and your most recent barbershop repertoire. It is possible that the phrase "less is more," will apply here in a profound way.

When we look to bel canto thinking, we find an interesting piece emerges. In Wikipedia, several principles of bel canto are discussed and one of them is the "avoidance of aspiration." This one concept can be confusing. How can less air across the vocal cords produce clearer sound? How is it possible to sustain longer phrases without a huge quantity of air?

As we breathe, our bodies naturally inhale and expand, then, exhale and collapse. When a relaxed "in and out" breathing orientation like this is used in singing, without any attention to air regulation across the vocal cords, we may begin to notice anomalies in our overall quality

of sound. The most obvious becomes a diffused or breathy quality of tone, as well as an inconsistent sustainment of intonation and target sound. Pushing or pressing can be indicative of air management-related issues and often shows up in the challenging transitional or passaggio areas of our vocal range, where it often feels like we need to get louder to even be able to sing the notes.

So it does seem pretty amazing that a smaller amount of air controlled by gentle, steady air pressure, sustained by only our energized and engaged body, will automatically regulate our air for us, without any force, manipulation or press. To feel the ease associated with this kind of vocal production can be life-changing.

Many coaching experiences stick out in my mind within this area of breath control. For example, one front row member of a women's chorus was really feeling her years. When I asked everyone to give me their wish list for the day's work, she replied that not having to take three breaths every single phrase would be a great achievement. I said, "If I show you how to do that and it works, will you give it a go?"

She said, "It will be a miracle if you can, but, yes I will."

I shared with the gals how I wanted them to inhale and expand more laterally or sideways; then asked them to remain



INSTANT CLASSIC — A few years back, just prior to their first International Collegiate competition, these young men integrated the bel canto principles into their vocal approach. The underlying effect of this training can be heard in the quartet's free, effortless tone; precision onsets; relentless legato control; energized releases; sustained ring and the expanded harmonics of their synchronized singing.

See **BEL CANTO**, continued on next page

BEL CANTO

Continued from previous page

gently engaged or energized in their physical core, while they sang through the song. They gave it a try. At the end of the song, the woman had an amazed look on her face. I asked her what happened.

She said, "I did it. I got through entire phrases with just one breath. It's a miracle!"

Another Sweet Adeline bass, with more than one gold medal at the Regional level, was considering leaving barbershop altogether. Her ability to sustain sound across a phrase was being compromised by her lack of breath control and resulting vibrato. She was almost in tears as we talked. I asked her to give me 30 minutes and then make the decision.

We walked through this re-orientation of having the body to engage upon inhalation, then keeping the core energized throughout the phrase, versus allowing a lot of air to press through her vocal mechanism. Immediately she felt something different occur within her sound – clear, stable, resonant and effortless tone. Now truly in tears, she said, "That was easy. How is that possible?"

I just smiled and said, "Perhaps you don't have to give up what you love. But, you may need to work a little harder, until the body understands how to sustain this physical engagement. It will then assist you to control your sound with ease."

Someone asked recently how I ended up here in barbershop. My Dad was a baritone in the small man chorus called The Coastmen, directed by The Suntones (1961 Gold Medal Men's Quartet). Recordings of ringing chords were heard in my home throughout my childhood. The awareness that my bel canto skills could benefit barbershoppers occurred in 2010, when I found myself in the role of vocal production instructor for Maiden Vermont, directed by

Lindi Bortney. Within a few short months the chorus was maintaining heightened intonation and tonal accuracy. When she asked me how that was possible, in such a short time, my response was that once everyone was used to being a stable resonating instrument, the key challenge we face as American singers, the English language and it's related pitfalls, would be under control.

Recently at the Pittsburgh Barbershop Harmony Society International Men's convention, many of us were privileged to witness Instant Classic quartet's Gold Medal win, a culmination of all the various components of great barbershop presentation and singing. A few years back, just prior to their first International Collegiate competition, these young men integrated the bel canto principles into their vocal approach. The underlying effect of this training can be heard in the quartet's free, effortless tone, precision onsets, relentless legato control, energized releases, sustained ring and expanded harmonics of the synchronized singing.

Pure bel canto training is quite rare and some would say almost extinct. We are called Direct-Line Scholars, because we can trace our teaching lineage back 200 years to the founder, Manuel Garcia. This is the work that transforms singers into professionals, who can maintain a rigorous schedule of singing performances with consistent accuracy. When working with barbershoppers, I light-heartedly refer to myself as an acoustic structural engineer, helping to demonstrate stabilized singing using very simple body mechanics. As we become these optimal



resonating instruments, we can use our bodies to become effective amplifying stereo speakers, without any need to push or press to make sound.

When bel canto is used as a vocal production foundation, we find a classical technique that wholly supports healthy contemporary singing, adding the possibility of vocal rejuvenation for the aging voice. When the principles are applied to the demands of our unique and challenging barbershop style, effective synchronized singing can become as simple as setting the structure, engaging the core and adding the full measure of desired imagery and artistry for winning results!

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Debra Lynn, author of "The Bel Canto Buzz: Beautiful singing made simple!" graduated with her B.A. in Voice Performance from Florida State University and the College of Charleston, with four years of post-graduate work in bel canto with Edward Sayegh of Los Angeles. She has performed in concert throughout Europe, the United States and was principle Soprano with the Maui Symphony, founder of Maui Civic Light Opera, maintaining a private voice studio since 1995. A barbershop vocal production coach for numerous choruses, quartets and individuals since her articles appeared in The Harmonizer, she has presented for Harmony University at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention since 2011. Debra Lynn's new website, www.debralynnmusic.com, offers various support tools for both men and women who desire more ease with their singing.

wall of fame

Two volunteers honored for years of extended service

Harmony, Inc. is a "volunteer" organization, meaning we rely upon our members to conduct the business and assist with all events, and in various roles, wherever the needs may be.

Throughout our history, hundreds of ladies have willingly devoted their time and talents for the benefit of us all. In particular, during the Opening Ceremonies at the 2015 IC&C, the International President

was pleased to invite Jeanne O'Connor and Jacquie Jensen to the stage.

In recognition of 30 years of service to Harmony, Inc., Sandra presented Jeanne with an engraved clock.

In recognition of 40 years of service, Sandra announced that a donation was made to Jacquie's chosen charity.

To these two dedicated individuals — and to all others past, present, and future — we express our sincere gratitude.



Jacquie Jensen
 honored for 40 years service to Harmony, Inc.

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Jeanne O'Connor
 honored for 30 years service to Harmony, Inc.

editor's note

Welcome to the 2015 issue of **The Key-Note**. We have expanded our coverage a bit. Since we no longer are constrained by the requirements – and costs! – of print journalism, we thought we'd try including a few more articles of wider interest.

As there were last year, there are live links throughout this issue that will connect you with a simple click to further information on the [Harmony, Inc. website](http://www.harmonyinc.org) or our dynamic [Facebook page](#). A number of people contributed their time and talents very generously to the construction of this issue of **The Key-Note**. Our heartfelt thanks go to every one of them.

The backbone of the magazine is the amazing series of photographs produced by **Betsy Groner** of Best Bets Photos. You can see even more of them at www.harmonyinc.org/photo-galleries.html.

All of our contributors are to be commended on their timely, complete, and interesting stories. We hope you enjoy every one of them.

I want you to know that the process of putting this issue together has shown me that the members of Harmony, Inc. really do live our creed. The support and cooperation I've experienced are a perfect example of that "blend with friendship" we all pledge in song. Thank you, all!

— Roxanne



2015 IC&C Chorus Champions
VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS
beam with delight at the realization that their dream is fulfilled.
Congratulations, ladies!

*"Good Night, Good night! Parting is such sweet sorrow,
that I shall say good night till it be morrow."*

Romeo and Juliet (Quote Act II, Scene II

We will all remember fondly our time together in Verona . . . and look forward to seeing you all again, in November in Providence, R.I.!

