

# The Key-Note



Harmony, Inc.

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

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**NEW SUMMER EDITION!**  
38 pages of news about your favorite quartets and choruses  
**SEE WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING!**

**LIVEWIRE**  
2015 Harmony Queens



ON THE COVER



2015 Quartet Champions *LiveWire* celebrates summer and looks forward to receiving their permanent crowns at IC&C 2016 in Providence.

**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.

**Editor**

Sara Wood

keynote@harmonyinc.org

**Contributors**

- Jeanne O'Connor • Angie Beatty • Sandra Dunlop • Carol Jackson • Janine Schindler • Julie Schwinbeck • Patricia Cassidy • Linda Brehaut • Betty Gunterman • Christina Lewellen • Katie Taylor • Karen Hasman • Jan Coffin • Donna Balkan • Nancy Arkin • Anne Leinen • Amy Johnson • Judi Johnston • Robin Christman • Susan Klein • Diane Coates • Anita Harvell • Roxanne Powell



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# New Beginnings

As Harmony, Inc. returns to its roots, International Convention schedule expands



By Sandra Dunlop  
President

**How** exciting to welcome you to the inaugural electronic Summer issue of The Key-Note that celebrates the Area conventions and the many activities of Harmony, Incorporated chapters and quartets in their local communities. Thank you to our Director of Communications Roxanne Powell and our new Key-Note Editor Sara Wood for making this happen.

There are a lot of things going on in Harmony, Incorporated at the moment, but I think the main one that is coming up in November is our International Convention & Contests in Providence, R.I. The International Board of Directors accepted a new schedule proposed by an ad hoc committee chaired by Jeanne O'Connor. One of the issues that was addressed was not having the Quartet Semi-Final Contest and the Quartet Final Contest on the same day. It will be a super-packed four days.

## WEDNESDAY

It starts with the Opening Ceremony (Membership Meeting) on Wednesday evening, highlighted by the keynote speaker Don Fuson, President of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

## THURSDAY

Thursday morning, there are education classes, and into the early afternoon will be the Silver Division Chorus Contest. The rest

of the day Thursday will be dedicated to the Quartet Semi-Final Contest with 38 contestants.

## FRIDAY

Friday is the Chorus Contest, with 24 contestants and the Parade of Champions on Friday evening.

## SATURDAY

Saturday there will be more education classes in the morning, and then the afternoon will be the final contest of the convention – the Quartet Finals. Saturday will finish out with an optional dinner and the Championship Showcase.

## WORKING HARD

VP Education Christina Lewellen has been working hard putting some great education classes together and the Convention Manager Jan DeVecchio and her Convention Team have been working hard to accommodate the new schedule.

The International Board of Directors will meet just prior to our members arriving at IC&C to look after the administrative business of Harmony, Inc.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Providence.



# Statistics, statistics, statistics!

## 2016 Area Contest Season Wrap Up



By Anita Harvell  
Social Media Coordinator

Now that all the Area conventions and contests are over, we've got a few tidbits about this year's contest season:

- There were 75 quartets and 41 choruses competing this year.
- Forty-three quartets and 31 choruses qualified for International, with four eligible for Silver Division.
- Farthest competitor at contest was *Low Key* from *On Q* chorus from Albuquerque, New Mexico who competed at Area 4. (geographically outlying chorus)
- Highest percentage of qualifying choruses per Area: (tie) **Area 5, 100 %** (6 of 6) and **Area 3, 100 %** (5 and 1 eligible for Silver Division)
- Highest percentage of qualifying quartets per Area: **Area 3 (68%)**
- Associate Member Area quartet champions: (3) *Aged to Perfection*, Area 2; *@LAST*, Area 3; *Vocal Crush*, Area 4
- Participating in their last contest in their current Area: (2) *A Cappella Showcase* and *Toronto Accolades* moving from Area 3 to Area 5
- Chorus with the most members on the Area contest stage: *The Sea Belles* (49) - Area 1, followed by (tie) *A Cappella Showcase* - Area 3, and *Nickel City Sound* - Area 5 (both with 47)
- Chorus with the fewest members on the Area contest stage: *Surround Sound Chorus* - Area 2 (12)
- Qualifying chorus with the fewest members on the Area contest stage: (tie) *Chord Spinners* - Area 5 and *Georgia Connection Chorus* - Area 6 (both with 16)







# 100%

of **Choruses**  
and **Quartets**  
attend AC&C!

**A**rea 6 Convention & Contests took place in April and we had four choruses and eight quartets competing, which means . . . **The convention was a 100 percent turn out for members in Area 6!**

Three of the choruses and two of the quartets qualified for International in Rhode Island. Two of the choruses and the two quartets are all planning to attend IC&C in Rhode Island in November.

Our theme for the AC&C was “Pajama Party” and everyone enjoyed the evening in their night attire!

Some of the chapters in Area 6 have had shows to raise the money to help with their trip. We will be meeting in October for our Council Meeting and discuss what we are planning for increasing Area 6 membership.

— Area 6 Director Carol Jackson



2016 Area 6 Champions **Atlanta Harmony Celebration!**







# BEACH PARTY!

**Area 3's boardwalk was the place to be for AC&C**

Area 3 is always The Place To Be when it's AC&C time! This year's AC&C was hosted by Niagara Frontier Chord Authority from Amherst, New York. AC&C was held in Honeoye Falls-Lima High School in New York. It was a new school for us this year, but the same wonderful sleeping and late night singing accommodations at the Woodcliff Hotel & Spa after a great meal at the Burgundy Basin. We have been very fortunate to work so well with these two vendors over the past several years. Area 3 is also very fortunate to have had an AC&C Team for 10 years. Special thanks go to Co-Chairs Sue Trenchard and Dorene Dickerson, Facilities Chair Denise Michaelsen, Judges Services Coordinator Michelle Buckenmeyer, ACJC Melanie Menzies, Registration Coordinator Sharron Gilbert, PR Coordinator Cait Schadock, Education Chair Sue Berardi, and Area 3 Director Janine Schindler.

The theme for this year was "Life's A Beach." Although the weather in Rochester can change at a moment's notice and it isn't always warm and sunny for too long, Area 3's display of love and friendship will warm any Harmony heart! Friday night started out with our mic testers, LiveWire, Area 3's very own Harmony, Inc. 2015 Queens. After 19 quartets had sung, 12 qualified for International, and @LAST was the new Quartet Champion! Congratulations to Sally Burton, Amy Carr, Linda Beaver, and Tancey Bosna! The evening finished with performances by the Area 3 Quarus under the direction of Ron Mason, Director of Niagara Frontier Chord Authority. They sang Happy Together, arranged by David Wright.

Saturday showcased 9 of Area 3's Choruses. A Cappella Showcase, directed by Jordan Travis, were the Chorus Champions and walked away with 3 trophies, First Place Trophy, Rising Star Award, and Jean Linn Award for the most improved chorus. Eight Choruses qualified

See **AREA 3**, continued next page



2016 Area 3 Quartet Champions

**@Last**

Amy Carr, Linda Beaver,  
Tancey Bosna, Sally Burton



Celebrating 25 Year  
Anniversaries: Area 3  
Director Janine Schindler,  
Lorie Autote, Charlene  
Sudore, Julia McGregor  
and Wendy Arnold

6

**A Cappella  
Showcase and  
Toronto  
Accolades bid a  
fond farewell to  
the Area 3 beach.  
Beginning in  
2017, they will be  
part of Area 5.**





**AREA 3**  
*continued from previous page*

for International and Harmony Falls was eligible for the Silver Division Contest. Area 3 is hoping for a repeat performance from Harmony Falls in the Silver Division for the number three singing position in the Chorus Contest. The contest ended with a performance by the Family Chorus singing When There's Love at Home, arranged by Tom Gentry, under the direction of Christina Lewellen, 2012 Harmony Queen (EPIC) and the Area 3 Chorus singing Harmony, arranged by David Wright, under the Direction of Katie Taylor, 2015 Harmony Queen in LiveWire. The Family Chorus has grown significantly over the years especially as Harmony Affiliates (our "family" men) have joined the chorus.

The Saturday evening theme-inspired "Life's a Beach" meal at the Burgundy Basin was awesome, as always. The only thing better than the meal was the camaraderie and beach attire! Lifeguards, bikini-clad women, a jellyfish, you name it, and it was there! The moonglow acknowledged the Quartet Medalists, active Queens, our reigning Queens and all of our Choruses with a performance for the membership. There was a special performance by A Cappella Showcase and Toronto Accolades as they bid farewell to Area 3 as they move to Area 5 for AC&C 2017. There was also that

"special" performance by the judges, but you had to see it to believe it! The AC&C Team acknowledged each member of A Cappella Showcase and the Toronto Accolades with flower leis as they exited the moonglow stage as a gesture of love and friendship. In between performances the Area Director, Janine Schindler, acknowledged many Area 3 members with their years of membership awards. The Kay DeLong Award (Kay DeLong was a longtime member of SING Niagara) was presented to a very deserving Donna McKay from the Crystal Chords for her contributions to the members and music of Area 3. The Carol McDonnell Membership Award for largest increase in membership was presented by Karen McDonnell, Carol's daughter-in-law from Niagara Frontier Chord Authority, to second-year-in-a-row winner, Rochester Rhapsody. Singing ensued back at the Woodcliff for many hours late into the night, or early morning....

**Area 3's The Place To Be!**

— Area 3 Director Janine Schindler



**2015 Harmony Queens  
LiveWire**

*Lorie Autote, Katie Taylor,  
Jess Dunn, Lynn Blakeney*

**2016 Area 3 Chorus  
Champions  
A Cappella  
Showcase**







## Area 2 chooses western theme for AC&C

Area 2 has had a busy few months! In May, we held our Area convention, “How the West Was Sung,” hosted by NoteAble Blend and the Area Convention team. The fun western theme was carried throughout the event, and many notable characters were incarcerated in an old-time jail cell erected in the banquet hall during dinner Saturday night. Bail of a song had to be tendered by friends on the outside to be freed.

“Sing with the Queens East” was a blast with the opportunity to sing with Synchronicity, Moonstruck, and Foreign Exchange.

A full slate of educational classes was provided in the event. We are truly blessed with a number of excellent practitioners. Classes were taught by Jim Emery, Foreign Exchange, Tom Gentry, Brent Graham, Joe Hunter, Liane Iannuzzo, Tim Marron, Wendy McCooole, Moonstruck, Aileen Murray, Roxanne Powell, Renee Tramack, Steve Tramack, and Theresa Weatherbee.

Seventeen quartets and 10 choruses graced the contest stage. There we qualified 10 quartets, Aged to Perfection, All 4 WoN,

Balancing Act, Group Therapy, Happy Hour, Intuition, Kismet, Moxie, Taken 4 Granite, and UpScale, to International Contest and listened to out-of-area quartet HALO also qualify. Aged to Perfection took home the honors, achieving the Area 2 plaque for first place, the Rae Borrer Award (most improved), and the Jane Beale Award (most improved in Presentation). Taken 4 Granite came in 2nd place, Balancing Act 3rd, and Happy Hour 4th. The Novice Quartet Award went to Incognito.

Six choruses qualified for International: Barre-Tones, Capital Chordettes, New England Voices in Harmony, Silk’n Sounds, Sounds of the Seacoast, and Women of Note. New England Voices in Harmony took home top honors followed by Sounds of the Seacoast 2nd, Women of Note 3rd, and Silk’n Sounds 4th. Maine-ly Harmony is eligible to compete in the Silver Division contest. The Betty Costellow Small Chorus Award was won by NoteAble Blend. Sur-



Angie Dolber and Roxanne Morse accept the Betty Costellow Small Chorus Award from Harmony Heritage Representative Anne Diggle.



Jennifer Selby and Renee Tramack accept top honors in the chorus contest on behalf of New England Voices in Harmony, from Sandra Atkins while Sounds of the Seacoast Director Wendy McCooole applauds enthusiastically.



The 3-E Presentation Class team: Brent Graham, Theresa Weatherbee, and Joe Hunter



Jan LeClair accepts the Rising Star Award on behalf of Surround Sound from Linda Muise and Sounds of the Seacoast.

round Sound earned both the Rising Star Award (most improved) and the Carol Gardner Award (most improved Singing score). The Achievement Award was earned by Women of Note.

In other news, on June 28th, New England Voices in Harmony hosted an Inter-chapter party and then on August 12th, a quartet showcase! Our Area champs are a busy bunch!!



Evelyn Fogg accepts Carol Gardner Singing with Heart Award on behalf of Surround Sound from the Capital Chordettes representative, Cathy Thompson.

— Julie Schwinbeck, Area 2 PR Chairman





*The judging panel entertains Area 5 with their dilemma of trying to solve a problem like...Maria*



*Quartet Champions Just Jump! proudly hoist The Val Mullin Memorial Award.*



*50-year Harmony member Win Andrews cuts the cake at The Over Tones, Inc.'s 50th Anniversary celebration.*

Area 5 is  
growing,  
growing,  
grown!

The weekend of May 27-29, 2016 marked our second centralized AC&C at Nottawasaga Inn and Resort in Alliston, Ontario. On Friday, May 27, nine quartets (including one from out of area) entertained and inspired us. When the results were in, three Area 5 quartets qualified to compete at the 2016 IC&C in Providence, R.I. this November. Congratulations to Bluebird, Shirahz, and Just Jump!, who also placed first in the contest.

On Saturday May 28, six of our eight Area 5 choruses competed in the chorus contest, and all six of them qualified to compete at the IC&C in Providence! Our 2016 Area 5 championship chorus is The Over Tones Inc. from Guelph, Ontario. Well done, ladies!

No Area 5 convention would be complete without a chance to celebrate the special bond of friendship that all of us in Harmony know so well. On Saturday night we gathered for food, laughter, and music – lots and lots of music! What a wonderful evening! No report about the Area 5 moon glow would be complete without sharing the identity of the individual sporting the best costume. For the third consecutive year, the winner – hands down – was Stuart MacMartin, director of The Thousand Islanders from Brockville, Ontario. Way to go Stuart!

In other Area 5 news, The Over Tones, Inc. celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a party on June 25th. It was a lovely afternoon full of the sounds of friendship and song. Last year, chorus member Win Andrews celebrated her 50th Anniversary as a member of Harmony, Inc. and it is no coincidence that, one year later, The Over Tones, Inc. were celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Win has been a vibrant, active member of The Over Tones, Inc. since founding the chapter fifty-one years ago. On this page is a photo of Win, cutting the cake at the anniversary celebration.

Mark your calendars now to attend our Area 5 Education Day on the third Saturday of September. We are thrilled this year to welcome our reigning Harmony Queens, “LiveWire” as our facilitators. We will have a full house at Georgian College in Orillia, Ontario on September 17th and look forward to a wonderful, informative, and inspirational day! While ramping up for Education Day in just a few weeks, we’re also exploring alternate accommodations for Education Day in September 2017 to ensure we have room for every member in Area 5 to attend. Stay tuned for more information as 2017 gets under way.

**Now for the really big news.** Area 5 is growing, growing, grown! We just welcomed our newest chorus to Area 5, “Skyway Connection” from Stoney Creek, Ontario. Their charter ceremony is scheduled for October 15, 2016. Stay tuned for more details regarding time and place. Hope to see a large Area 5 contingent to welcome our newest chorus. We are also looking forward to welcoming a further 5 more choruses at renewals in 2017. They include “A Cappella Showcase” from Milton, Ontario, “The Toronto Accolades” from Toronto, Ontario, “Classic Blend” from Hamilton, Ontario, “Sing Niagara” from St. Catharines, Ontario and “Chapman Mills Sound Connection” from Barr Haven, Ontario! And that means we’re scurrying to be sure we have extra accommodations for AC&C 2017 and our Education Day in Sept. 2017. Oh, what a happy problem to have!

It’s certainly a very exciting time for us. There is no question that, “the Spirit’s Alive in Area 5”!

— Area 5 Director Patricia Cassidy





Area 1  
makes  
**Fairy  
Tales**  
come true!



We couldn't be happier — wait — yes we could! In 2017, our goal is to have all our choruses and quartets on the International stage when IC&C 2017 is hosted in Halifax, Nova Scotia! Now that is “happy”!

What a great year in Area 1! A full year of rehearsals and performances always brings us to the high point in the year — AC&C. Huge thank you to the Elm City Echoes for hosting an amazing convention and still being able to put a wonderful performance on the stage. Great contest for sure – it is obvious that we are all working at improving our craft as our scores get closer and closer. We are so excited that ScotianAires and Sea Belles, along with Never Too Late and Tonic! will be representing us on the international stage. We couldn't be happier — wait — yes we could! In 2017, our goal is to have all our choruses and quartets on the International stage when IC&C 2017 is hosted in Halifax, Nova Scotia! Now that is “happy”!

Congratulations to Tonic! and ScotianAires who took 1st place at AC&C and to Sue Kember for receiving the award for the director of the chorus showing the most improvement. Sue was so gracious when she shared that it was the first time her name would appear on that plaque.

In 1992, Karen Ruby Gordon was killed in a tragic

car accident on her way to rehearsal with the ScotianAires. A scholarship has been established in Karen's name and is awarded annually to assist one Atlantic Chapter to acquire an out-of province coach. As a celebration of Karen's love of learning and her passion for music, this award was presented to Sea Belles' president Susan Ingraham by Diana MacDonald this year. Congratulations Sea Belles!

What is a convention and contest without some fun? An amazing weekend wraps up with “fun night.” Oh the costumes! The singing – no this is not singing, this is not even presentation, this is an evening filled with “performances” – costumes and drama to complement the singing! (This is probably where the idea of switching the presentation category to performance category came from!) The theme this year was Fairy Tales, so everyone from Mother Goose to yes, some elaborate octopi from the Sea Belles, was there!

Valley Voices presented the theme for 2017 in a full array of colours that kept the audience guessing at what the theme would be for next year. “Colour our



**TOP: ScotianAires** took first place at Area 1 AC&C.

**BOTTOM: Tonic!** is Area 1's 2016 champion. Mary Gareau (Tenor), Adele Merritt (Bass), Marion Fraser-Pritchard (Lead) and Cathy Hunter (Bari).

See **AREA 1**, continued next page





**AREA 1**

*continued from previous page*

World” — each chapter picked a crayon from the box and will highlight that colour at next year’s fun night. I can only imagine the costuming for that!

Harmony Strong 2020! Thank you to Christina Lewellen, VP Education, for sharing with Area 1 our Harmony Strong 2020 plan. Knowing that membership and leadership are key components in the plan, we were excited to learn that Carolyn Prime, the new director for Island A Cappella in Charlottetown, PEI, was the recipient of a scholarship to attend Directors’ training at Harmony University. Carolyn was thrilled and so grateful for the assistance to make the opportunity more affordable. Carolyn believes that, “Every member should have this experience at least once! They will never forget it!” Thank you Harmony for working with the BHS to make these possibilities, realities!

Our organization provides us with so many opportunities. We are grateful for the members of Area 1 who have taken the step towards certification in the judging program. Sue Kember and Jill Reid of ScotianAires are currently in the certification process as they follow in the footsteps of Theresa Weatherbee and Myrt McCardle, whom we recognize as role models from our Area. How exciting to hear that we have another candidate in our midst. Best of luck to Fatima Whelan (ScotianAires) as she too begins the journey!

With a renewed focus on building our membership, a number of chapters are hosting Find Your Voice programs. Valley Voices, Kentville, N.S., is hosting a one day FYV vocal-coaching event September 10 with Debra Lynn as the facilitator, and by August 30, there were 87 people registered. How exciting – there are many ladies out there looking for a place to sing. Great advice from the Sea Belles: get yourself in the newspaper! On or in the news, and the headlines, make your name so familiar that you won’t hear people say, “How long have you been around?” and you sheepishly answer with, “Oh, about 20 or 30 years!” No more. We are on a mission to get our names out there! Codiac Chords of Moncton are also kick-starting their September with a six-week Find Your Voice program.

Area 1 has found its voice and is working as one ensemble to share the knowledge, the opportunities, and celebrate the possibilities through our bonds of friendship.



*Karen Gordon Award was presented to Sea Belles president Susan Ingraham by Diana MacDonald.*

**ABOVE: Valley Voices presents the 2017 theme, “Colour our World”**

**LEFT: Sue Kember and Jill Reid of ScotianAires are working toward certification in the judging program.**



**ABOVE: Next year in Halifax!**

**LEFT: These elaborate octopi from the Sea Belles came straight from the Mermaid Lagoon for Fairy Tale Night.**





*The Karamels, winners of the Kaleidoscope Award for highest Presentation score, model their signature facial expression.*



*First Place Medalists Vocal Crush lift their voices in one more song at the moonglow.*

Area 4 is

in  
a  
**whirl!**

**New convention team organizes jam-packed event**

*Yeah, yeah  
My heart's in a whirl*

*I love, I love, I love my little calendar girl*

— Neil Sedaka

This was the first convention for Area 4 that was headed up by a convention team. CT Manager Sara Stone, Stage Manager Jeanne O'Connor, Treasurer Linda Bloch, and Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman, worked well together. Each chapter was responsible for certain duties for the weekend, and we will rotate those jobs each year. Monthly teleconference calls with CT members and chapter representatives kept everything on the same page and communications open. It wasn't bad for our first time, and we will change and improve many things for next year. We are scheduled to be in the same central location for one more year and then hoping to find another location that will fit our needs even better.

A few years ago Area 4 decided to add more education to its AC&C weekend rather than having a separate "Education Day" at another time during the year. This has worked well for all attendees. Arriving Thursday evening for classes has been a plus along with more classes on Friday. Education Chairman Janice Westphal organized the classes and gave us many choices this year.

Friday we enjoyed a membership meeting run by our Area 4 Director, Betty Gunterman. This is always a jam-packed gathering. There were many announcements, including a review of IBOD accomplishments; keeping the Area informed is important. We also saw the

introduction of Area 4 IBOD members and Assistants, applauding the Area's contributions to Harmony.

Next, the Area 4 Membership Award was presented to Sound Celebration, the chorus that increased its membership the greatest percentage in the past year. We also distributed membership certificates to individuals and chapters, including three 55-year Harmony membership certificates to the Village Vocal Chords and individuals Ginger Carpenter and Jeanne O'Connor. What a privilege to honor all the recipients!

On Friday evening it was on to the Quartet contest. This year we had the largest contest ever with 13 quartets, including Low Key, a quartet from On Q Chorus in Albuquerque, N.M. competing out-of-area. We presented ribbons to 8 quartets who qualified for International – what a wonderful showing. Our winning quartet was Vocal Crush, Associates from St. Louis, Mo. Taking home the Kaleidoscope Entertainment Award was The Karamels who won with their vampire package.

Saturday started early with chorus rehearsals then on to the contest.

See **AREA 1**, continued next page





# AREA CONVENTION & CONTESTS

## AREA 4

### AREA 4

*continued from previous page*

We had 6 choruses competing this year. Three qualified for International Contest in November and two more are eligible for the Silver Division Contest. In its first time competing, Bluegrass Harmony took home first place honors. Most Improved went to Harmony Magic.

Of course the best time is the moon glow/afterglow – whatever you want to call it. This year's theme was "Be a Calendar Girl". Each group received a month to use as their theme. The costumes and songs went from Valentine's Day in February to St. Pat's Day in March to Tax Day in April all the way to Christmas in December. What a fun evening.

Area 4 is looking forward to next year with a Circus theme. What costumes might that bring?

**Village Vocal Chords President, Jacquie Jensen accepts the 55-year membership certificate for the chapter.**



**Area 4 members proudly display their membership certificates.**

**Area 4 Director Betty Gunterman runs a tight ship at the membership meeting.**



**Bluegrass Harmony Chorus receives their first place medals.**

## Future AC&C Dates

	Area 6	Area 2	Area 3	Area 5	Area 1	Area 4
2017	April 7 - 9**	April 27 – 30	May 5 – 7	May 26 – 28	June 1 – 4	June 9 - 11
2018	April 20 – 22	April 26 – 29	May 4 – 6	May 25 – 27	May 31 - June 3	June 8 - 10
2019	April 5 - 7**	April 25 – 28	May 3 – 5	May 24 – 26	May 30 - June 2	June 7- 9
2020	April 17 – 19	April 23 – 26	May 1 – 3	May 22 - 24	June 4 - 7	June 12 - 14
2021	April 16 – 18	April 22 – 25	April 30 - May 2	May 28-30	June 3-6	June 11-13

\*\* indicates dates changed per HI policy to avoid conflict with Easter or Passover holiday

# Introducing the Directors First Education Campaign

Harmony, Inc. members have long known that the strength of our organization rests in the hands of our musical directors. Strong directors contribute to strong chapters, which are the basis for strong Areas and a strong international organization. In a nutshell, Harmony, Inc. understands the importance of putting its “Directors First.”



**By Christina Lewellen**  
VP Education

Harmony, Inc. is proud to announce a new fundraising campaign called Directors First. The goal is simple: we want to send one director or musical leader from each chapter—yes, that’s right, one from each chapter—to the Barbershop Harmony Society’s world-class educational conference, Harmony University, in the next five years. There’s simply no place better to receive the critical techniques to be a strong musical leader than at Harmony University, which takes place annually in the summer in Nashville, Tenn.

The International Board of Directors has launched the Directors First campaign to give Harmony, Inc.’s directors and music leaders access to the brain trust responsible for shaping choruses and quartets in the world. Learning from the best in the barbershop harmony genre means we arm our directors to be among the best this hobby has to offer.

The Directors First fundraising campaign has a singular, simple mission—send the musical leadership of Harmony, Inc. to Harmony University. The funds

See *DIRECTORS FIRST*, continued next page

## *Why Do We Need the Directors First Campaign?*

This year, Harmony, Inc. was fortunate to receive from our barber-shop brothers in the Barbershop Harmony Society two scholarships for Harmony University, a week-long educational immersion that takes place each July at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. The event pairs students with some of the leading minds in the genre of barbershop harmony.

We were thrilled to receive the two scholarships from BHS, and we had funds to provide travel assistance to the two who were selected. As you might imagine, we were stunned when we received 16 qualified applicants for those two slots. The scholarship selection committee had a very challenging task on its hands to select only two recipients, leaving the other 14 musical leaders without support to attend Harmony University.

With so much interest, it was clear to the leadership of Harmony, Inc. that there’s a significant demand for director and musical leadership education. With the launch of the Directors First fundraising campaign, we aim to give every chapter in Harmony, Inc. a shot to send one of its musical leaders to Harmony University.

This year’s recipients, Carolyn Prime, the frontline director of Island A Cappella (Area 1) and Maria Kolano, acting director of the Misty River Music Makers (Area 4), both reported that their experiences at Harmony University significantly impacted their abilities as musical leaders. They were able to implement changes as soon as they returned to their chapters and noted that the skills and knowledge they absorbed in one action-packed week will likely last a lifetime.

“Attending HU was a great experience—one I would recommend to anybody interested in barbershop music,” Kolano says. “I came away with knowledge that I will need months to fully integrate.”

Kolano adds that, while learning from the genre’s top experts was exhilarating, she also learned just as much from other Harmony University students. She signed up for as many classes as she could squeeze into

her schedule and eagerly attended the general sessions. “There were so many incredible moments: fantastic performances from quartets, singing in the general session with hundreds of others by your side, the camaraderie of the shared hot seat in conducting class, the week-long exposure to all things barbershop—it was all a music nerd like me could ask for and more,” she says.

Prime’s experience was equally fulfilling. She says that, no matter what an attendee’s skill level, there’s a place for her at Harmony University. “The workshops are especially helpful to directors and those in leadership positions,” she notes. “However, brand new barbershop singers would find classes that would be meaningful to them as well. There are just so many class options there is truly something for everyone.”

In fact, a frequent lament among HU attendees is the inability to absorb everything in one visit. “There isn’t enough time to take all the classes you’d like so careful selection is important,” Prime says. “There’s so much information coming at you in just one week be sure to take lots of notes or record some sessions. You’ll be glad you did.”

In the course of one week at Belmont University, two notable Harmony, Inc. directors are stronger and positioned to bring new skills and musical leadership to their chapters. “Best of all,” Prime adds, “you will make lasting friendships and have lots of opportunities to have questions answered by the best in the biz!”

Kolano expresses gratitude for Harmony, Inc.’s support of her education. “My very deep thanks to Harmony, Inc. for the generous scholarship, and to all the staff members and teachers at Harmony University whose hard work and dedication to barbershop music and to us, the students, are indeed making the world better through singing.”

The Directors First campaign aims to send 12 Harmony, Inc. musical leaders to Harmony University next summer. Will you support the cause?







**DIRECTORS FIRST**

*continued from previous page*

that members and supporters contribute to the Directors First campaign will not be used for anything else. It's completely earmarked for director education. It won't go in the general fund or affect the Harmony, Inc. budget—it's all set aside for directors and other musical leaders who qualify for the resulting scholarships.

As one of the board members who designed this program, I'm reaching out to ask you personally to consider giving to this campaign. Your contribution can be \$5 or \$50 or \$500, or any amount you're inspired to contribute. If each member donates just \$5 per year to the Directors First campaign for the next five years, we will be able to send one director or musical leader from each chapter in Harmony, Inc.—including yours.

I know this hobby/lifestyle can be quite a financial investment, but there is simply no way you can more significantly have an impact on the health of Harmony, Inc. than with this campaign. When all of our musical leaders are bringing a world-class experience to the risers each week at rehearsal, our membership will be more engaged and our entire organization will benefit from the rising tide.

I implore you to visit the Directors First page of the Harmony, Inc. website to learn more about the program and how to contribute. Show the video at your chorus rehearsal. Host a contest to see if each member could skip a cup of coffee or a dinner out in order to help Harmony, Inc. reach its goal. Your efforts will be rewarded because your director or one of the musical leaders in your chapter will be heading off to Harmony University sometime in the coming years.

With your help, we will send 12 Harmony, Inc. musical leaders to Harmony University in 2017. And then 12 more in 2018. And another 12 in 2019. You get the idea! Watch the Directors First webpage to see our progress in reaching our goal. By 2021, we aim to have sent more than 60 representatives from Harmony, Inc. to Harmony University. We can do it!

Curious? For more information about how to donate, the progress of the campaign, or how your director can apply for the resulting scholarships, visit the Directors First webpage at [www.harmonyinc.org/directors-first/](http://www.harmonyinc.org/directors-first/).



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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





**California Note Catchers of Area 4 — yes, way out there in La Mesa, California! — invite all Harmony sisters in song who travel to the San Diego area to stop by their rehearsals and share in the fun. Contact Mayra Bee, Membership Chair, at 619-575-6165 or visit their web site at [www.californianotecatchers.com](http://www.californianotecatchers.com)**

## Note Catchers celebrate ‘ecumenical’ year

The California Note Catchers has been bringing barbershop to various groups across San Diego County the past several months. The chorus, under the direction of Randy Parrish-Bell, sang in a Mission, a rehab center, Catholic and Presbyterian churches, a Jewish synagogue, a retirement home, and a *Relay for Life* cancer event.

The biggest event was its “Summer Harmonies” show held in a theatre at a retirement community on June 26.

“We have put on holiday shows over the years but this was our first summer show,” says chorus president and show chair, Annette Draper. “The theatre was packed to capacity!”

Three quartets also performed: Among Friends (Anne Colt, Nancy Speckmann, Anne Ash, and Randy Parrish-Bell), Four Wonders (Annette Draper, Lynda Sterns, Lisa Hohm-

an, and Becky Combest), and Heart Lights (Karen Hasman, Pauline Jimenez, Lisa Hohman, and Patsy Roeder). One volunteer who greeted people at the door noticed how somber the people were when they came into the show but how after the show they left with big smiles and lighter steps. The chorus received many compliments.

The California Note Catchers have other performances booked through the end of the year.

The chorus would love to have any sisters in harmony who plan to travel to the San Diego area stop by their rehearsals in La Mesa, CA on Monday nights or Wednesday mornings. Contact Mayra Bee, Membership Chair, at 619-575-6165 or visit their web site at

[www.californianotecatchers.com](http://www.californianotecatchers.com)

— VP Performance Karen Hasman 16

## Atlanta Harmony Celebration!

**Georgia chorus maintains busy education and performance schedule**



Things are going well for Atlanta Harmony Celebration! We are so excited to represent Area 6, after winning at AC&C for the third year in a row. We also had two of our quartets qualify for International, Wild Fermatas and BariStones. The BariStones also had some great news, as their tenor, Elie, got married over the summer.

In May, AHC! participated in a getaway retreat weekend at the Dillard House in Dillard, Ga. with special guest, Paul Ellinger. Paul taught us about Wavebox singing in addition to giving us some pointers on how to “Supercharge” our chorus.

November 12th, AHC! will be featured in the Stone Mountain Men’s Chorus production of the Music Man Songbook. BHS 2016 Quartet Champions Instant Classic will be the headliner of the show!

We look forward to seeing everyone in Providence at IC&C!





*Members of Surround Sound pose with the Rising Star Award and the Carol Gardner Singing With Heart Award at Area 2 AC&C.*



# Surround Sound!

**Area 2 chorus increases contest score by 90 POINTS; wins Rising Star and Carol Gardner Singing With Heart awards**

When the MC began to announce the Rising Star award at the Area 2 Chorus Contest, we were all wondering which chorus would be announced. She first said that the winner had increased its score by 90 points; a collective gasp went through the audience. This was an unheard of increase.

Then the announcement came. You could have knocked us over with a feather! Surround Sound!

Although Surround Sound was the first chorus to receive the Rising Star award many years ago, there had been some turmoil with the the chorus and we had doubts about even competing in 2016. We knew where we stood in the hierarchy of Area 2, still that C-level chorus.

However, we chose two songs that we liked and decided to go for it -- no particular expectations.

Our chorus president leapt to her feet, cheering and clapping for and with the entire group. In her excitement, she raced up to the front to receive the award, forgetting that the director needed to be there too. Having had recent knee surgery, Director Evelyn Fogg, was a bit slower.

Then as she was standing on stage with the Rising Star award, the next award was announced — the Carol Gardner Singing With Heart Award for increasing our singing score: Surround Sound! By that time, her presence of mind had returned and she stood back while the director stepped forward to accept this accolade.

The Harmony family is amazing. The audience was cheering wildly for us, a small struggling chorus that always loves to perform. How good was that!

Other chorus members and friends jumped out of their seats, had tears in their eyes and shared hugs. The smiles couldn't have been wider. Our director recalls

pounding the air with clenched fists and shouting, "Yes, yes, yes!"

She grabbed her cane (remember the knee surgery?), wiggled her way to the end of the row, and ran limping to the stage. She remembers the enthusiastic cheers of the audience, even hearing Surround Sound from the back of the hall, and feeling gratified for all the hard work. What a major boost to our collective ego and what an incentive this experience is to continue the hard work.

One of our newer members said, "It's really hard to put into words all the feelings and emotions that went through my head, heart and soul when I heard our name announced. Shock, surprise, pride, joy and honored to be part of this wonderful group of women who work hard, stay positive and never give up."

To capitalize on this event, we sent a press release and photo, taken by Molly Sillich of NEVIH, to all our area newspapers. Some used the press release as written; some interviewed chorus members. We continue sharing this experience in our chorus promotions, earning us performances and, hopefully, new members.

Other chorus members have reported feelings of elation and being proud of and thankful for the hard work they had put into our performance. Some were overwhelmed with intense emotion, realizing that last place in Area 2 was not so bad when your work is recognized by the judges and your peers in other ways.

We are so thankful to be part of Surround Sound, and for the three members who came from Florida, Arizona and Japan to sing with us, as well as for our sisters in Area 2 and Harmony Incorporated. It doesn't matter how small your group is as long as you have fun and friendships to carry you through.



# Adventures in recruiting

Liberty Belles grow chapter by 50 percent!

**W**hat happens when you take a 21-member women's barbershop chorus, have them utilize social media, and have a great relationship with the local men's barbershop chorus? You get 20 guests and nine new members in 10 months!

The Liberty Belles Chorus of Lansdale, Pa. has been using Meetup.com for two years, and the website accounts for fifty percent of guests who attend its rehearsals. Meetup is the world's largest online network of local groups. People can create and organize groups of their own, or search for local groups already established. This is one of the most utilized ways local female singers find out about the Liberty Belles.

"Prior to the rise of social media we relied on word of mouth/personal invitation, poster/flyers, performances and our website with personal invitation that accounted for the highest percent of guests attending our chapter meetings" says Lisa Traxler, Membership Chair. "When it became evident that many of our guests were finding us through Meetup.com and more importantly showing up, this caught our attention. We began encouraging our members to become more active in our [Meetup] group...[by posting] a comment on a rehearsal itself or excitement about upcoming contests. In addition, we post photos to celebrate auditions passed, fun with tag singing or recent performances. We want the visitor to our [Meetup] page to see we are an active, vibrant and most of all fun group."

"I was browsing through Meetup.com looking for crafting groups and I happened upon the Liberty Belles. I saw that the Liberty Belles Meetup page was updated and people were commenting [and posting photos], in other words, it was quite active!" says Nancy Weisbein, Belles member since February 2016.

In addition to Meetup, The Liberty Belles have a close relationship with their local men's barbershop chorus,

The North Pennsmen, a chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society, that is currently holding a recruiting campaign for its chorus, hitting up social media, posting flyers at local businesses, and posting yard signs around the neighborhoods. The North Pennsmen mentions that women who love to sing can contact The Liberty Belles, and they direct any female inquiries to the Belles.

"Having two very active barbershop choruses in the same community really helps spread the word and attract new singers," says Anne Bureau, Director of The Liberty Belles Chorus and The North Pennsmen. "We often feed off each other's promotions as in The North Pennsmen's current promo "SINGERS WANTED" – it has already attracted six new guests, including one new member, to the North Pennsmen and five new guests to the Liberty Belles and we're only half way through the program!"

But no matter how the new members found out about The Liberty Belles Chorus, they are all in agreement on one thing: they love being a part of the Belles.

"In my brief time with the group, I've learned more about singing than I have in years," comments Pat La Salle, Belles member since July 2016. "The Liberty Belles is a group of wonderful, warm and caring women who are passionate about their craft! I'm so glad that I found them!"

Joanne McCreery, Belles member since December 2015, says, "I have been so blessed to get involved with one of the most wonderful groups of women I've ever had the pleasure meeting."

"Often it's not the most complex membership promotions that bring in new members," Bureau adds, "it's the simplest ones where everyone contributes to getting the word out into the community then taking care of those folks once they walk through the door for a visit!"



**The Liberty Belles Chorus' newest members: (top row L-R) Melody Nyce, Edye Cooperman; (middle row L-R) Joanne McCreery, Nancy Weisbein, Ellen Gebler; (front) Janice Stemler. New members not pictured: Bonita Grady, Heather Bassman, Pat La Salle.**





# Rochester Rhapsody takes their show on the road!

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Since we pride ourselves on being connected with our community, Rhapsody spends a lot of time performing throughout our county. For the past three years we've conducted a "June Road Show" during which we substitute our usual Monday rehearsals for performances. Additionally, we've completed 15 other paid public and private performances so far in 2016, and there are still several more to go!

In an effort to stay on top of our game, we're excited to be working with Sean Devine (OC Times, Throwback) in September and then Area 3's own Jordan Travis in January.

This year we tried a new fundraising idea: a chorus garage sale. We were delighted with the dollars we raised and our members were also happy to get

rid of their junk! We're also repeating our lucrative Save Around coupon book sale that yields us forty per cent profit on each book sold.

In an effort to improve spirits and increase membership during the wintertime, Rhapsody will again hold our popular annual Holiday Chorus. We invite women from the community to attend our holiday music rehearsals followed by a string of caroling performances. We've forged many friendships and delighted audiences with this fun event.

If you're in the area, Rochester Rhapsody invites you to our October 10th concert! Contact us via our Facebook page, or at [info@rochesterrhapsody.com](mailto:info@rochesterrhapsody.com) for more information.







## IAC organizes summer quartet circles

Island A Cappella, Charlottetown, PEI, has had a wonderful year with a membership of 38 and a recruitment drive using the “Find Your Voice” theme planned for this September/October 2016.

We had several successful sing-outs this spring, and we were excited by our performance and evaluations at AC&C.

Director Carolyn Prime was speechless when she returned from an amazing week at Harmony University in Nashville, and we are all looking forward to being the recipients of her new and enhanced

knowledge.

IAC usually takes the summer off because we are all busy with our visiting friends and families; however, this summer we organized three “quartet circles” for members who wanted to sing, stay connected, and try quartetting, octetting or experimenting with other parts. It has been a great success and we are looking forward to one more session before we go back to the risers on September 8.

Check us out at [islandacappella.ca](http://islandacappella.ca)

— Jan Coffin, President

## Harmony Magic rejoices in Silver Division invitation

The members of Harmony Magic are very happy with our progress this year. We were fortunate to score enough points at the Area 4 AC&C to be eligible for the Silver Division Chorus Contest at International in Providence, R.I., this November. (We will have to vote absentee before we go.)

In July, we performed at the HeArt of Tipton festival, singing on stage for an hour in 90+ degree weather. Needless to say, it was a HOT performance. We did catch the attention of the community, and a couple of people expressed interest in joining us. None of them has come to us yet, but we are still hopeful.

Later in July we had a bake sale as part of the Noblesville Farmers’ Market, bringing in \$500 for our group. We also sang a few songs when the feature entertainer took a break, and we attracted the attention of a couple more ladies who



were interested in us...and actually showed up for rehearsal!

On August 5, we participated in the Kokomo First Friday event, another HOT performance, followed by dinner out together at a lovely Kokomo, IN restaurant. We will perform for another charity event on August 20, the Tipton CAM organization, a group that sees to the needs of the homeless in Tipton. Then more fund raising at another Noblesville Farmers’ Market.

We are a thriving, joyful group, and we appreciate being a part of Harmony, Inc.

— Robin Christman, PR committee





# The Over Tones celebrate 50 years of sweet harmony



The Over Tones, Inc. chapter of Harmony, Incorporated recently celebrated its 50th anniversary of active membership in Guelph, Ontario. Two hundred people, including past and present members, their friends and families, and others whose lives have been touched by the chorus' half century involvement in the Guelph area packed the Royal Canadian Legion, where they were treated to an afternoon of reminiscing and lively entertainment. Among the guests at the event was Mayor Cam Guthrie, who had the audience in stitches as he proclaimed his own love for barbershop singing and informed the assembly that the chorus was "hired" to sing at council meetings.

"We always look forward to bringing barbershop harmony to the community," says Chorus President Amy Chop. In addition to selections performed by The Over Tones, Inc., guest performers included The Shades of Harmony (London, ON), The Sugartones (Alliston, ON), as well as quartets Shiraz, Bluebird, BaSINGa, What 4, and Just

Jump!, Area 5's current quartet champions. Another notable element of the celebration was a tribute to Win Andrews, a founding member of The Over Tones, Inc., whose 50 years as a member of the chorus, was acknowledged through a serenade by a local men's quartet, Page 4.

In addition, a short film was produced for The Over Tones, Inc. by Angus McLelland, local videographer and storyteller, which thrilled past and present members with its emphasis on the empowerment inherent in being a member of The Over Tones, Inc. A link to the film is available on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theovertonesinc](http://www.facebook.com/theovertonesinc)

The Over Tones, Inc. was founded in January of 1966, by a 'handful of girls' who wanted to form a competitive barbershop chorus. The group chartered on June 11, 1966 and has competed at every area and international contest since that time. The Over Tones, Inc. recently earned first place in their regional competition and qualified for a spot at Harmony, Inc.'s international compe-

titition in Providence, Rhode Island later this year.

The chorus consists of women from a wide range of musical backgrounds under the direction of J.J. Piccolotto. In addition to singing traditional barbershop music from the 40s and 50s, today's barbershop harmony singers put their own spin on contemporary songs. The Over Tones, Inc. rehearses from 7 to 10pm on Mondays at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre, 5420 Hwy 6 North Guelph, Ont. For more information, contact The Over Tones, Inc. at [overtones@rogers.com](mailto:overtones@rogers.com)







All five ScotianAires first-timers got into the Fun Night spirit. From left: Jennifer Cleveland, Kim Meechan, Pam Callow, Elaine Blanchard, Michelle Woodrow.

There's **always**  
a **first time**

*smudging ceremony kills 'nerves'*



AC&C first-timer Kim Meechan proudly displays her first place ribbon together with her "newbie" ribbon.

Just before Elaine Blanchard was about to perform at AC&C for the very first time, she asked several other ScotianAires to join her in a smudging ceremony, a tradition befitting her Mi'kmaq heritage and common to other North American indigenous cultures.

Elaine felt the ceremony would release her creativity and help her deal with any negativity or nerves. When the curtain opened on our contest performance, she was pleasantly surprised at how "not nervous" she was.

"It really made a difference. A sense of peace came over me and I'm sure the others felt the same way."

Elaine was one of five ScotianAires "newbies" who attended this year's Area 1 Contest in Sackville, New Brunswick, in June.

Like Elaine, first-timer Kim Meechan was also surprised at her lack of stage fright. She joined the other ScotianAires for a period of quiet time (no talking!) just before going on stage.

"I was in the zone," she later recalled.

At first, Kim was reluctant to wear the special ribbon that would signify her "newbie" status: "I didn't want to stand out."

But she was pleased with how friendly and welcoming everyone was to her and the other newcomers.

"The most exciting thing was when they read the results – it was like Christmas," Kim recalled. "After they announced that we had won, a woman from another chorus gave me a big hug. It wasn't like a rivalry – it was an atmosphere of mutual respect. It was as if the cohesiveness we feel in our own chorus extended to all of Area 1."

Pam Callow, who writes thrillers when she isn't singing with the ScotianAires, made a similar observation.

"Whenever a chorus came off the stage and came into the auditorium, the audience applauded them again. When you're on stage, you can't really see your audience – when you're in the auditorium, you get to see the other choruses and have more of a connection of what's happening," she said.

At the same time, she enjoyed the competitive aspect of AC&C.

"The competition forces you to work on your musicianship and different elements of performance. It exposes you to so many other choruses," she said. "It was wonderful to win, but whether we won or not, I like performing and I like competing. It's rare in the performing arts where all the adults can actually compete."

All the new members – like the rest of the ScotianAires – are looking forward to attending IC&C in Providence in November. In fact, Kim Meechan was so inspired by her first contest experience that she organized a crowdfunding campaign to raise money to help defray the chorus members' travel costs, which are particularly high as a result of the exchange rate between the U.S. and Canadian dollars. To find out more about the campaign – and to make a donation – go to [www.gofundme.com/scotianaires](http://www.gofundme.com/scotianaires).

— Donna Balkan

Donna Balkan (Lead) is chair of the ScotianAires Public Relations and Marketing Committee and a member of the ScotianAires Board. She was an AC&C "newbie" in June 2014.





## Exciting year for the Sugartones!

The Alliston Sugartones have had a very exciting year so far for 2016. We had a terrific turnout for our Find Your Voice guest nights, and were happy to welcome seven new members.

We have run many fundraisers this year but had the most fun with our Singing Valentine campaign. Several of our members went out into the community to serenade the loved ones of our patrons.

Our spring show, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, was so much fun to put on. We had some very interesting costumes and a beautiful set.

We have been shown wonderful support from our community and asked to perform quite a few times. We were honored to take part in

such events as Alliston's Relay For Life and Matthew's House Hospice volunteer appreciation night. We were also very excited to take part with our sister chorus, the OverTones, Inc., in its Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration.

We have been part of Rogers TV Daytime Talk Show and received a grant from MyFM, our local radio station. We also received a generous grant from Honda.

Our AC&C experience this year was incredibly rewarding. We thoroughly enjoyed singing with all of our sisters in Harmony, and were so excited to receive the award for Most Improved Chorus for the second year in a row! We were thrilled to win second place and are looking forward to utilizing all of the incredible feedback we received from our judges.

**NEW! IMPROVED! DIFFERENT! EXCITING!**

# THE PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

AT IC&C

Past and Present Harmony Queens  
including 2015 International Quartet Champions

## LIVEWIRE

*will transport you to seventh heaven*

**The Association of Harmony Queens chorus  
raise their voices in beautiful song**

**We honor: six International Quartet Champions  
50th anniversary of the Sophisti-Kords who won in 1966!  
2015 International Chorus Champion Village Vocal Chords**

**FIRST TIME! both LiveWire and the Village Vocal Chords  
perform their swan package on the Parade of Champions!**

### DONATIONS AT THE DOOR

**The Association of Harmony Queens puts this show on every year to  
raise funds for the Queen's Travel Fund, which is a fund that helps  
finance the travel expense of bringing any registered Harmony  
Queens Quartet to your chapter show or Area educational event.**

**SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10**

**SEE YOU THERE!**





# Harmony in the Bluegrass

**New chorus wins the gold at their first-ever AC&C**



**B**luegrass Harmony is over the moon after attending our first Area 4 AC&C. Since it was Bluegrass Harmony's first time at AC&C, many were trying to figure out just who in the world is Bluegrass Harmony. Everyone knew the chorus was from Louisville, Ky. Most knew that we have several members who belonged to Derby City Chorus, but we were still asked over and over, "Who is Bluegrass Harmony and where did you come from?"

Here is a brief overview of Bluegrass Harmony!

- Nineteen Members
- First time Director
- First time on a barbershop contest stage for 4 members
- First time competing in any Harmony, Inc. contest for 9 members
- Three members under the age of 18
- Three mother daughter combinations
- First time competing as a chorus (received Charter June 30, 2015)
- First stage costume
- Four quartets (Charmed, Kentucky Blend, Red Velvet and With a Twist)
- First Gold Medal



At this year's AC&C Bluegrass Harmony members were the volunteers for the judge's education classes. We all enjoyed this opportunity to meet and greet Area 4 and attend the incredible classes.

The contest got off to a great start for Bluegrass Harmony as all four of our competing quartets qualified for IC&C.

On Saturday, the chorus was excited (and nervous) to take the stage for the very first time at AC&C. Our first-time director, Pam Ringo, just wanted to get through hearing her name announced as the director. Imagine her elation when she heard our name called as one of the qualifying choruses and then again as the 2016 Area 4 AC&C Champions! Pam is still up on the moon!

Speaking of which, the Moonglow brought even more fun and opportunity to meet more of our Area 4 sisters. We drew the month of March and so dressed for St. Patrick's Day! It was so much fun wearing beards, hats, bow ties, striped socks and anything else green we could get our hands on just to "Bust a Chord Like Good Leprechauns Do!"

Our first gathering after returning home brought comments and stories about how overwhelmed we were with the warm welcome we received from Area 4. Each one of us has a story about the amazing people we met and the incredible love and support that was so freely given by the women of Area 4!

We can hardly wait for IC&C so we can make new memories with friends, both old and new!



## Sea Belles A Cappella Chorus A year in review

### Performance and music development

We have had another busy musical year! Sea Belles now boasts five quartets: Four the Moment, Just 4 Fun, Moments of Magic, Friends First, Nova Quattro. We also have the newly-formed Sea Belles' Ensemble "Sisters in Song" comprising all five quartets. Opting out of IC&C 2015, our alternative was to offer a "three concert series" in a mega musical weekend! Exhausting, but a first, the chorus donated the freewill offering to local church services and programs totaling \$3,200. We also had several new performance requests, so it was a win-win for everyone!

We also took part in Music Monday, an annual initiative of the Coalition for Music Education. Sea Belles was one of a few in the Canadian community that participated in the May 2 coast-to-coast webcast event and one of only a few New Brunswick submissions. Janet's video message is on Sea Belles web: [www.seabelles.ca](http://www.seabelles.ca).

### Coaching sessions with three pros

We recently had the opportunity to receive coaching from Judy Comeau, Theresa Weatherbee, and Kathy Greason. In addition, the chorus subsidized members private voice lessons during our regular practices with local singer and Sea Belles' supporter, Theresa Patterson. Funding for the workshops/coaching sessions were made possible by the generous support of Sing Canada Harmony Scholarship Fund and the ScotianAires Karen Gordon Scholarship.

Sea Belles' members are ever grateful for the ongoing guidance of our Director Janet Kidd, Assistant Director Marilyn Hickman as well as our Music Team and their many hours of dedication to make the chorus the best we can be.

### Membership growth

We are currently at 55 members, including three youth members. Guest Nights in September and January introduced 17 new women to a cappella singing resulting in seven new or returned



members. Also, each year, Sea Belles recognize a member who has given generously to chorus life and spirit. Bernice Blake-Dibblee was presented with the Barbershopper of the Year award at this year's winter music retreat.

At 2016 AC&C, Theresa Giddings and Linda Oliver were recognized for their 25 and 35 years' memberships respectively with Harmony, Inc. As a 47 year member of Harmony, Inc, Sea Belles has several other members with more than 35 years membership. On a sadder note, this year Sea Belles said a final good bye to two former members, Beth Garnett and Angela Cooper. Although Beth only sang with us a short time, we will remember her beautiful smile, love of singing and determined spirit. Angela was always a faithful chorus supporter and we'll miss her smiling face at our performances and competitions. Also, in happy news, Sea Belles welcomed their first baby in 20 years to member Jessica Achilles.

### Fundraisers and charity support

All our travel, coaching, new music, costumes and performances would not be possible without the tireless contributions of our members and faithful supporters of various fund-raiser events. In addition to our major annual events, a percentage of all money raised is donated to our preferred charities: Romero House, a local food bank and Sophia Recovery Center which assists

women recovering from addictions. The \$1,000 donated to each of these charities in December, in addition to the funds donated from our November Concert series and May A Cappella Concert, increases Sea Belles' visibility and raises its profile within the community.

### 2016 AC&C friendly competition and fun!

June saw another successful and fun AC&C in Sackville, NB, with four first-timers joining us on the risers. It was a tough competition with Sea Belles placing third among Area 1 choruses and along with four other choruses qualifying for 2016 IC&C. Sea Belles' PR Team shared our membership and marketing successes in a Find Your Voice Workshop. Fun Night was a blast with choruses and quartets performing very animated and hilarious songs depicting Fairy Tales. Sea Belles costumes for Under the Sea were reported to be the best yet! Sea Belles is pleased to report we will be attending IC&C in Providence, RI.





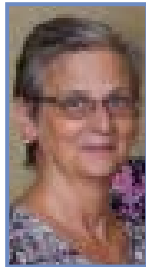
# Messages from the International Board of Directors

## ‘My Assistants do all the work!’

Hello Harmony,

I am coming into the home stretch of my sixth and final year on the International Board. It has been a pleasure and a learning experience these past six years. I am amazed at the leadership and dedication from the other women that I work with. All volunteers and doing the best job possible.

The past two years I have been serving as VP of Convention & Contests. This position has been an incredible learning experience in how our judging community works so well together and supports each other to make sure that Harmony, Inc. has the best



**By Nancy Arkin**  
VP Convention & Contests

representation at all of our AC&Cs and IC&C. These ladies and gents work hard and give many hours of their time and then we have the ACJCs and COJs that keep everything running smoothly at our contests. The leadership and my assistant, Jacquie Jenson, do all of this work. She keeps everything in order and knows all. I have been very fortunate to have

such a dedicated assistant who has been very patient with me as I try to learn all that is involved in running the judging program.

My other responsibility as VP of Convention and Contests is IC&C. Once again, Harmony is so fortunate to have a dedicated Convention Team that works year-round to make sure all of our needs are met at IC&C. It is not an easy task to keep almost 2,000 women happy with hotel rooms, the stage, seating, AEPs, presenters, registration, getting volunteers, hospitality room, competitors, and the list goes on and on. Plus they are making arrangements for the next IC&C five years out to get competitive rates and enough hotel rooms. This has been a great team to work alongside as I watch them solve problems and schedules every day leading up to Providence. All of this is done with the leadership of Jan DeVecchio, my other assistant, and she keeps me on my toes, as this is a learning experience I will always remember.

My assignment for this article was to write about “activities of interest in your area.” I found both the judging program and the IC&C Team very interesting and enjoyable to work with. Jacquie and Jan made my job easy. I have watched and learned from the best. Harmony, Inc. is in very good hands with these two ladies.

## ‘It’s all about the money . . .’

Hello Harmony,

I hold the position of Director of Business Services on our International Board. In a nutshell, I deal with things within Harmony that make money for our organization, outside of dues, AEPs and contest fees.

Examples of what I do include finding vendors at IC&C, selling big screen ads at IC&C, and arranging for the sale of items that chapters and members would have an interest in. This year, it is the sale of SiNG and Find Your Voice Magnets. I also oversee iGive and Amazon Smile (you are signed up for iGive and Smile, aren’t you?) and publicize the Harmony Emporium for members looking for Harmony, Inc. merchandise.



**By Anne Leinen**  
Director Business Services

This position will also oversee the organization of a Harmony Cruise at the conclusion of IC&C 2018 in Orlando, Fla. Fun stuff! I will

be working with an agent to find a great cruise line, arranging an exciting itinerary for our members, publicizing the event, and making extra money for Harmony.

This is a great job!

Have you thought about taking that extra step and running for the International Board? I would highly encourage you to do so if you are organized, and wish to see Harmony grow and flourish. This is the sixth year I have been on the International Board and I can tell you that I have learned, and continue to learn, more about Harmony and about myself than I ever thought when I first joined the Board. I have received tons of help and encouragement by supportive Board members and the wonderful Assistants to the Board in all my positions.

So, the next time you come home from rehearsal with endorphins pumping from all those ringing chords, think about taking that step up. Harmony needs good people to ensure we’ll be a vibrant organization into the future.



# Messages from the International Board of Directors

## Yes, ALL Chapters MUST file annual tax returns!

Hello Harmony, Inc!

What an honor to speak with you via the brand new, mid-year issue of The Key-Note. Many thanks to Roxanne Powell and Sara Wood, for their work on this wonderful publication.

The VP Finance has many responsibilities in her job description. At the top of the list is working closely with our Executive Treasurer, Judi Johnston, making cer-



By Amy Johnson  
VP Finance

tain the financial business of Harmony, Inc. is handled in a professional, transparent fashion. I am pleased to be able to work alongside Judi in this manner.

Another item in the VP Finance's job description is to help chapters understand their tax filing obligations. In the U.S, this annual task is fairly easy and straight forward. I'd like to thank the many U.S. chapters who have already filed for 2015 and forwarded me their 990-N IRS acceptance. In Canada, tax filing is a bit more complicated.

This year, I began a project to research the tax filing process in Canada. Over the years, there has been a lot of confusion and misinformation about whether

Canadian chapters are required to file and how to file. The short answer is **yes, all Harmony, Inc. Canadian chapters are required to file a tax return with the CRA each year.** My thanks to the Canadian chapters who have been, and continue to, file their annual taxes. Below is an excerpt from a CRA document. If you would like a PDF version of this information, please send a note to me at: [VPFinance@harmonyinc.org](mailto:VPFinance@harmonyinc.org)

### Canada Revenue Agency Corporation income tax return

All resident corporations (except tax-exempt Crown corporations, Hutterite colonies and registered charities) have to file a corporation income tax (T2) return every tax year even if there is no tax payable. This includes:

- non-profit organizations;
- tax-exempt corporations;
- and inactive corporations

The VP Finance also oversees any copyright issues with our Harmony, Inc. logo. You may know our logo, which debuted several years ago, was easily copyrighted in Canada. Getting that same logo copyrighted in the U.S., however, has been quite a journey. I am pleased to share that effective this month, our treasured logo is now officially copyrighted in both Canada and the U.S.



Finally, I'd like to invite all Harmony, Inc. members to visit the Members Only section of the Harmony website. Once signed in, using your member number, you can find all sorts of important information, including monthly financial reports.

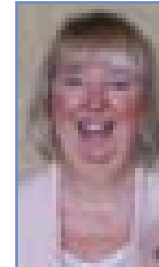
## Queen's Travel Fund can help YOU

Hello Harmony, Inc!

Your Association of Harmony Queens organizes the *Parade of Champions* at IC&C each year in order to bring you the best entertainment that Harmony, Inc has to offer and to raise funds to assist you in bringing this talent to your hometown audiences.

The *Harmony Queens Travel Fund* is available to help your chapter bring a championship Harmony Queens quartet to headline your chapter show. Funding for actual travel expense (mileage,

airfare, airport parking etc.) and accommodation to a maximum of \$2,000 U.S. is available on a first-come, first-served basis by making application in advance. Details and the application can be



By Judi Johnston  
AHQ Travel Fund Chmn

found on the Harmony website at [www.harmonyinc.org](http://www.harmonyinc.org).

The *Travel Fund* will also cover up to \$500 per year per Area to bring an active Queen's quartet to your area educational event or AC&C education program. All four members of the quartet must participate in the coaching/facilitating aspect, and the Area Director must approve the application. These funds are also allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Monies are currently available for 2016. Don't miss out; make your plans and application now!

[judijohnston2@gmail.com](mailto:judijohnston2@gmail.com)



# Around the calendar with

# LIVEWIRE



**FROM LEFT:**  
 2015 Harmony Queens Livewire strike a pose.  
 Livewire serves as clinicians for 96 young women at HXNE.  
 LiveWire cherishes the earrings Barbara-Ann MacIntosh gave them.

LiveWire has had an exciting year since we won our medals last November. Along with working hard on new music, we have had lots of activities to keep us busy!

In March, we were invited to sing on the NEVIH show and we had an amazing time! The ladies took great care of us and our sweet friend Barbara-Ann MacIntosh gave us some beautiful earrings that we will cherish!

In May, we mic tested at Area 3 contest and cheered on our sisters from our front row seats!

In June, we sang for a fund raiser for Bella, one of Katie's private students, to help her raise money to sing at Carnegie Hall. Bella also attended Lakeside A Cappella Camp and had a wonderful time. We love spreading the BBS bug!

In August, we served as the teaching quartet at Harmony Explosion North East youth camp in Worcester, Mass. What an awe-

some experience! We had the pleasure of working with clinician Ali Hauger (of GQ fame) and 96 young women! It was an experience we will forever treasure. What a great way to continue our hobby!

By the time you read this, we will have sung in Chautauqua, N.Y. for the annual Seneca Land District show August 21, and spent a retreat with Northern Blend August 27-29 with coaching from Anne Bureau & Ig Jakovac!

On September 17, we will be on staff for the Area 5 Education Day. We will be coaching under glass, and Lynn will be talking about the new Performance category. We will also teach the following classes:

Lynn — "The Ins and Outs of Quarteting: selecting music, costumes, and more!"

Lorie — "Building a Successful Show: adding variety and youth!"

Katie — "Sight Singing for Dummies!"

Jess — "Vocal Production: Bringing out your inner diva!"

It's sure to be a great day!

On October 15, we will be headlining our very own NBC Chapter show, "Sing Fling!" in Watertown, N.Y.!

It's an awesome show with NBC (of course!) our chapter quartets, youth quartets and choruses, and special guests.

As you can see, we are keeping busy. We can't wait for International to see all of our Harmony family and to share some of our new rep with you all. It's been a heck of a year!

If you want another chance to see LiveWire, we will be singing on the Harmony Falls (Area 3) Chapter show on Saturday, November 19. It'll be our first gig with our new sparkly permanent crowns! WHEEEEE! See you all soon!







# Applause, applause!

## In Cahoots sings for laughs

In Cahoots, a quartet of the Barre-Tones, Inc. chapter of Harmony, Inc. has been “in cahoots” for 11 years. While a Queen’s crown has never been the motivation for this quartet, the entertaining of audiences has kept them going strong. As the song says, “Nothin’ I know, brings on the glow like sweet applause...”

Sometimes their own best audience, quartet rehearsals are filled with laughter, zany ideas, and insightful comments like, “Is this funny? We think it is – but is it?” and “Wait, wait! I have an idea!” and, “What if we.....(fill in almost anything ridiculous)?”

In Cahoots has recently shot a television commercial singing the jingle for a regional hardware store, Aubuchon Hardware. They were contacted by local performer Rusty DeWees who writes, produces, and performs music and stand-up comedy. The commercial will air on local (Vermont) television through October 2016.

In Cahoots’ founding members include bass Susan Klein, baritone Lisa Parro, lead Becky Senesac, and tenor Sue Nevins. They plan to keep on singing together and bringing smiles and laughter to audiences for a long time to come.

— *Quartet Contact Susan Klein*



ABOVE: In Cahoots sings the jingle several times before filming to get the timing perfect.

LEFT: There isn’t much In Cahoots won’t do in the name of Harmony.

## Introducing **Charmed** of Area 4

**W**e are an Area 4 Bluegrass Harmony quartet, formed in January of this year. Now, to introduce our quartet:

**Bass:** Kris Wheaton is the wife of Drew Wheaton, gold medalist (Forefront and Thoroughbreds), daughter of Jay Hawkins (AOH and Thoroughbreds), and Kathy Hawkins (our lead). Kris is also an International Harmony Queen with Spot On. She is a facilitator at the Early Learning Campus at the University of Louisville.

**Lead:** Kathy Hawkins is married to gold medalist Jay Hawkins, mother of Kris Wheaton (our bass) and J.J., who sings barbershop as well, and works for Harmony Foundation in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a photographer.

**Tenor:** Pam Ringo, sings with HI and SAI. She has just completed her first year as Director of Bluegrass Harmony and works as a document specialist. Pam also makes learning tracks. She and her partner have three children, with the youngest in fifth grade, the middle one a sophomore in high school and the oldest just starting college.

**Baritone:** Kathy McDaniel previously sang with Diamond Girls and Amethyst in HI. She works as a full-time registered nurse in an Endoscopy Center. Kathy and Tim have three grown sons, and two grandchildren. Her oldest son, Craig, sings with Ky. Vocal Union.



Charmed thoroughly enjoyed competing in its first Area 4 contest in June. Words just can’t describe how thrilled we were to qualify for the international contest in Rhode Island in November.

Charmed is busy learning new music and will be singing in some upcoming local festivals in Louisville, Ky. Be sure and stop us at the International Competition and say hi! We’ll be “charmed” to meet you!







**Change of Heart**  
*Janet Foster,  
 Beverly Miller,  
 Sara Stone,  
 Susan Spencer*

## Christmas from the Heart

1999 Harmony Queens announce new CD

**C**hange of Heart is so excited to have our Christmas CD almost complete! By the time you read this, the last songs for Christmas from the Heart should be recorded and mixed, and the album will be at the duplication company for CD creation.

In the meantime, we're happy to release the cover as a 'teaser' for the album. The presents and ornaments all relate to one or more songs on the CD.



We are extremely proud of this CD, as it has been deeply personal for us, as well as a fun challenge to find songs that are not on many other holiday albums out there.

We hope that you'll find it enjoyable to add to your collection, as well as something to purchase for family and friends' stockings!

If you're interested in being on the pre-order list, just reach out to Susan at [susan@changeofheartquartet.org](mailto:susan@changeofheartquartet.org). We'll be shipping out signed CDs to those folks as soon as they come in.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at IC&C in November! Hugs from *Janet, Sara, Susan, and Beverly*, Change of Heart (1999 Harmony Queens)

Greetings from

## Kindred Spirits

**W**e are a quartet of 3 sisters and our niece. Penny Earley sings bass, Sandy Daze sings baritone, Jennifer Huss, our niece, sings lead, and Elizabeth Earley sings tenor.

We hope you all had a good summer. Kindred Spirits had its annual retreat, which we call "Girls at Camp" this July. We took this opportunity to go to Sandy's camp, (you all would call it a cottage), to learn new music, to develop and refine old music, and to have a lot of fun!

We were busy all last year, with rehearsing, preparing for contest, choosing new outfits, (the most important task of course), singing in our chorus Nickel City Sound Christmas show, and several performances with Nickel City Sound at local nursing homes.

We also had several individual gigs, including a chorus member's parent's fortieth wedding anniversary. We sang at our local Farmer's Market Harvest Festival last fall, when it was very cold for singing outside! We also sang and entertained at The Older Adult Centre for a community celebration, and lastly, we will be singing in the Nickel City Sound's Christmas Show this November.

We want to thank Nickel City Sound Chorus members for all their encouragement and support.



## Life's a Pitch

finds new meaning,  
 new tenor, new sound

30

Life's A Pitch has had a wonderful year. We have spent time finding our new voice with our new tenor, Jane Thie.

The Holidays gave us plenty of places to perform.

We spent the beginning of the year getting coached by some of our favorite people, including Ray Johnson, Angie Dolber, and Janet Billings finding our blended sound and mostly developing a new sense of what our songs mean and how to get that meaning across.

Crossing the contest stage was so much fun.

With new jobs, and new houses, and even new babies, Pitch is going strong and looking forward to a new year of growth and harmony.







## Fusion announces 10-year anniversary

Fusion is very excited and proud to announce our 10th Anniversary! Yes, in August of 2006, we met around Amy's kitchen table and sang some Rochester Rhapsody repertoire songs. To our delight, we rang some chords, and the rest is history. Although we've stepped back from competing, we're a very busy quartet. Living within 20 minutes of each other has enabled us to entertain around the Rochester area on a regular basis, which is something we love to do.

We've been fortunate to work with many great coaches and are looking forward to working with one of our favorites, Sean Devine (OC Times, Throwback), in September. Then, on October 22 we will be the guests on the Crystal Chords' show. This is such a thrill for us, and we're anxious to share the stage with these wonderful sisters in harmony. We hope you can come! The show will be at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2943 Westinghouse Rd., Horseheads, New York.

In November we'll have the new experience of being in the audience at IC&C, cheering on the quartet competitors as well as having the honor of presenting the Audience Entertainment Choice Award, which our quartet initiated in 2015.

Then it's on to December, which is our busiest month. We've already scheduled several Christmas performances and anticipate many more. It's a very rewarding way to share our gift and love of song.

We wish the very best of luck to all quartet and chorus competitors at IC&C. See you in Providence!

Love, Charlene, Sue, Amy & Kathy

## Kentucky Blend is looking forward to IC&C

Kentucky Blend is so excited to be competing together for IC&C in November. We got together in January 2016 and competed in Area 4 in June and qualified. We were so excited. Our crazy lead (Valinda) and tenor (Chie) are in two quartets. And guess what? That quartet qualified as well.

Three of us have been around Harmony, Inc. for quite some time now and have competed in several quartets. Margie, our bass, has been a barbershopper and quartet member for several years, but this is her first time competing with Harmony. She is so excited to be competing at the International level. We are so happy to be competing with our quartet as well as our chorus Bluegrass Harmony for all of you in November. Looking forward to a wonderful week of music and harmony. See you soon.

*Chie, Valinda, Michelle, Margie*



## 'Low-pressure' quartet chooses biceps over jackets

### ReVoiced represents Bella Nova at Area 3 AC&C

Though Bella Nova Chorus is a few years old, ReVoiced remains the only formal quartet in the chorus, so we were very excited to once again represent our Bella Nova sisters at AC&C in Area 3. ReVoiced is a mother-daughter duo on lead and baritone, Grace and Susan Shields, respectively, and a couple of Epic queens, Christina Lewellen (who stayed on tenor) and Kristina Adams (who switched to bass for ReVoiced).

If we could summarize our Area 3 contest experience in a nutshell, it's that it was very low pressure and fun. Here's why:

We didn't have time to rehearse! Like, not once!

Kristina had changed jobs early in the year, Susan decided to pursue a new career by starting an accounting degree, Christina was busy running around with her job, and as an international board member for Harmony, Inc., and, probably most importantly, our lead, Grace, landed the lead role in her high school production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."

While Grace focused on playing Lucy and the adults were busy "adulging," ReVoiced watched the weeks and months melt away and found ourselves staring down the barrel of AC&C.

When we arrived in Rochester, N.Y., for AC&C, we sang for

the first time in a long time. Things clicked fairly quickly, and we reminded ourselves to have fun and sing from the heart.

In the moments leading up to the pattern, we were making last-minute decisions about what to wear (jacket or no jacket?). As we ultimately decided "no jacket," Susan and Christina did a few emergency push-ups and tricep dips in the warm-up room, while Kristina and Grace started filling out paperwork for the mental institution.

We headed to the stage with more heart than head and had a blast. We improved our scores and placement over AC&C last year with a 6th place finish (in a super tight contest!) and we're very much looking forward to International.... this time with at least a couple of rehearsals.

**Susan Shields and Christina Lewellen perform "emergency" push-ups and tricep-dips before hitting the stage.**

*Facebook.com/ReVoicedQuartet*





# Contest With a Twist



There have been so many *twists* and turns during the 22 year journey With a Twist quartet has taken to get to international contest stage.

It all began in 1994 when Allison, Angie and Cathy started singing in a quartet with Angie's Mom. While life's journey eventually took that quartet in different directions, we remained life-long friends. During the time the three of us sang together, Pam joined the chorus we belonged to. We have shared many memories over the years even though there have been 6 quartets between us since then.

Last year, our journey took a *twist* when the four of us got together to sing at a memorial service to honor our dear friend; Angie's mother and Pam's mother-in-law. It was a difficult thing to do but created a special bond between the four of us that will never be broken.

The *twists* continued when we all found ourselves at the newly chartered Bluegrass Harmony chorus earlier this year. When talk of AC&C contest rolled around we decided to give it a try. We are the best of friends but we had never

officially sung in a quartet with Pam. It had been years since Cathy, Angie and Allison had been in the same quartet. In an additional *twist*, Pam who is an awesome tenor, is singing lead! We were not sure where this journey would take us, but were excited about being together sharing new experiences.

And new experiences they were! In a final *twist*, after only four months of singing together we were ecstatic to have placed second and qualify for international competition! We want to thank our chorus, Bluegrass Harmony; our sister quartets, Charmed, Kentucky Blend, and Red Velvet; and all of Area 4 for the love and support they have shown us before, during, and after AC&C.

We are thrilled by all the amazing people we have met on this journey so far. We look forward to new adventures and making even more new friends at IC&C in Providence!

Who knows where this journey will lead us. But we know this for sure; wherever it is - we will get there **With a Twist!**

Allison Thompson – Tenor, Cathy Muse – Bass  
Pam Ringo – Lead, Angie Beatty - Baritone

## Shirahz spreads joy of harmony to all audiences

Since this time last year, Shirahz has had a busy and absolutely fabulous schedule.

We had the privilege of conducting our third half-day vocal workshop at St. Joan of Arc High School, where we had the opportunity to share our love of a cappella music and the barbershop style with the school's vocal music students.

We were thrilled to be a featured quartet on three men's shows: the Muskoka Music Men from Huntsville, ON, the Barrie County Chordsmen, and the Huronia Harmonizers from Midland.

Christmas performances for the Bracebridge Probus Club, Tay Shores Elementary School, and two shows with the Barrie Huronia Sweet Adelines topped off our holiday season and gave us an opportunity to use the Christmas repertoire that we learned for our month long gig at Tim Hortons the previous year.

This was followed by a great Valentine's gig entertaining the patrons at Vidya's Veggie Gourmet Restaurant.

The highlights of our year were receiving the Image of Harmony Award thanks to the wonderful and heartfelt nomination by our gals, The Sugartones.

We also enjoyed singing on stage with the Barrie County Chordsmen during their swan song at the BHS Ontario District Spring Convention.

We'd like to send a shout out and huge thanks to those who have shared their time and many talents in helping us improve our craft including the incomparable Annie B. and Ig J., Ken Fisher, Jordan Travis, and Jan-Ake Westin.



**ABOVE: The highlight of the quartet's year was receiving the Image of Harmony Award.**

**Shirahz spreads the joy of a cappella harmony in their third vocal workshop with students at St. Joan of Arc High School.**





*Jen, Kelly, Susan, and Dianne mug for the camera with coach Ray Johnson*

**BELOW: Intuition sings for the World Voice Day program at Brigham and Women's Hospital in the spring. The hospital's website included an audio recording of their rendition of You Are My Sunshine.**



## Intuition prepares for contest singing for enthusiastic audiences

Intuition quartet (Area 2) is looking forward to its first IC&C this fall. They recently had a great time coaching with Ray Johnson, a BHS International quartet medalist and director of Women of Note chorus from Area 2. Their favorite way of preparing for contest, however, is to sing for enthusiastic audiences like the one they had at the Boston Flower show and World Voice Day at Brigham and Women's Hospital this spring. Here is a link to an article about their performance at BWH, which includes an audio recording of You Are My Sunshine. [bwhbulletin.org/2016/04/21/music-echoes-in-bwh-on-world-voice-day/](http://bwhbulletin.org/2016/04/21/music-echoes-in-bwh-on-world-voice-day/).

They also sang for the amazing clients and dedicated staff at the Price Center, a day program for adults with developmental disabilities in Newton, Mass., and they performed for them again on September 1. Intuition will also participate in the Quartet Showcase, which is a wonderful Area 2 event hosted by New England Voices in Harmony Chorus. This fun event is all about building strong relationships and better singing through quartetting. The quartet often post pictures and videos on their Facebook page, so take a look and give them a "like" at: [www.facebook.com/IntuitionQ/](http://www.facebook.com/IntuitionQ/)

## Brand-new quartet wins Area contest

Vocal Crush is a newly-formed quartet with an interesting back story. Eleven years ago, Chelsea, Gina, and Angela were all freshmen in college. All strangers auditioning for the elite a cappella ensemble Voices Only at Lindenwood University. They all made it in as altos! A few other choir members introduced them to the barbershop world. You may know them — a little quartet called Vocal Spectrum!

After college, the three altos went their separate ways, dabbling in quartets here and there. Angela sang in a quartet with Christina, who used to go to Lindenwood as well.

Fast forward a few years to present day. All four are quartet-less and really missing that barbershop buzz. Gina and Chelsea finally decided enough was enough and they were bound and determined to get a quartet together.

Well, Chelsea was visiting with some friends who just happened to be members of the local men's chorus, Ambassadors of Harmony, and one of the members' girlfriend (now fiancée) was Christina!

Chelsea immediately contacted Gina and said, "I've found our third!" They knew they had their trio, and had planned on having a rehearsal with just threes to designate roles and pursue the search for number four.

Then Christina contacted Chelsea and Gina and said, "Do you know Angela Hall?"

The rest was history! The group had come full circle, completely connected in different ways, but it all led to their passion: barbershop.

The quartet had its first rehearsal in January, decided who would be singing what by late March and were simply thrilled to win first place in the Area 4 contest this past June!

They've also had a blast singing at various events around town, including Saint Charles Pride Day and the Crohn's and Colitis Take Steps Walk. They are so beyond excited to continue the musical journey at the IC&C in November.

"Can't wait to hear all the amazing talent on that stage, and get some pointers from the best of the best!" they enthuse.

They also have a show coming up next February, in collaboration with several other women's barbershop groups in the area.

They invite everyone, "Come see us if you'd like ... we'd love to sing for you!"







# Oh, those 6-Minute shoes!

**TO DI 4** — *Diane Fagerstrom (tenor), Diane Coates (lead), Diane Zanetti (bass) and Dianne Clark (baritone) have a long history of hijinks.*



## Quartet reprises popular comedy song

**To Di 4** has been around for 30 years in various combinations, posing for pictures, but never singing a note together. This current configuration came together in the summer of 2015 to prepare for the 240 Club Contest at International 2015, a contest in which your ages need to add up to a total between 240 and 280.

They had great fun with their one song, a parody, entitled “Six-Minute Shoes” to the tune of Winter Wonderland. They performed for their second time at the New England Voices in Harmony’s 15th Annual Quartet Showcase on August 12.

*Editor’s note: The Key-Note apologizes for wrongly attributing To Di 4’s signature song to Acappella 4 in the 2015-16 issue.*

### Red Velvet preparing for competition

**R**ed Velvet is very excited to be competing in their very first International Competition. The quartet, all four of them charter members of Bluegrass Harmony Chorus, is from Louisville, Ky.

They have sung in a variety of venues but have spent the last year concentrating on preparing both themselves and their newly chartered chorus for competition.

**Lead Valinda Petri** serves as President, **Baritone Charlotte Moore**, serves as Treasurer, **Bass Mary Spencer** serves as Lead Section Leader and Board Member. **Chie Ozaki** is the tenor and for a long time was the only tenor in Bluegrass Harmony.

In order to reach their goal to qualify for International, Red Velvet decided

to focus on improving our singing/performance skills. They added a few extra rehearsals, performed for the chorus and received coaching from their director, Pam Ringo. Since Area, they have coached with Anne Bureau and Ig Jakovac who came to town to work with Bluegrass Harmony.

After IC&C, Red Velvet is going to continue being vital members of Bluegrass Harmony, getting coached, working hard and doing more public performances. With the Holidays right around the corner, their calendars will be filling up quickly!

Red Velvet is beyond excited and cannot wait to meet all of you in Providence! It promises to be an exciting week of competition and education!



# 2016 International Contests

## Order of Appearance

### Silver Division Contest

Thursday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m.

1. Maine-ly Harmony
  2. Harmony Falls
  3. Harmony Magic
- Silver Division champion performs 3rd in the Chorus Contest on Friday

### Quartet Semi-Finals

Thursday, Nov. 3, 1:30 p.m.

- MT LiveWire
1. Kismet
  2. Red Velvet
  3. Glitz!
  4. Kentucky Blend
  5. Taken 4 Granite
  6. Shirahz
  7. Four Eyes
  8. Aged to Perfection
  9. All 4 WoN
  10. Charmed
- INTERMISSION
11. Third Time's the Charm
  12. Never Too Late
  13. Upscale
  14. HALO
  15. Charisma
  16. Balancing Act
  17. BariStones
  18. Just Jump!
  19. Tonic!

### DINNER BREAK, resume 6:30 p.m.

- MT. LiveWire
20. Intuition
  21. Bluebird
  22. Skyfall
  23. Group Therapy
  24. Vocal Crush
  25. Firestorm
  26. Southern Comfourt
  27. Wild Fermatas

28. It's About Time
- INTERMISSION
29. Low Key
  30. With a Twist
  31. Moxie
  32. Mach 4
  33. Lip Service
  34. High Five
  35. ReVoiced
  36. Happy Hour
  37. Top Shelf
  38. @LAST

### Chorus Contest

Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.

- MT - Village Vocal Chords
1. The Over Tones, Inc.
  2. Shades of Harmony
  3. Silver Division Winners
  4. Women of Note
  5. Rochester Rhapsody
  6. Bella Nova
  7. Northern Blend
  8. Atlanta Harmony Celebration!
  9. Sound Celebration
  10. Covered Bridge Harmony
  11. Liberty Belles
  12. Crystal Chords
- INTERMISSION
13. Capital Chordettes
  14. New England Voices in Harmony
  15. Sea Belles
  16. Sisters of Sound
  17. Niagara Frontier Chord Authority
  18. Bluegrass Harmony
  19. A Cappella Showcase
  20. Sounds of the Seacoast
  21. Nickel City Sound
  22. ScotianAires
  23. Barre-Tones
  24. Silk 'n Sounds

# back to our roots

## Providence is where Harmony, Inc. began

By Anita Prather Harvell, Social Media Coordinator

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 20 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 the original theme song, **A Song of Friendship**, **Harmony Grace**, **Two Nations**, and the 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.

## IC&C Order of Appearance draw broadcast live on Periscope TV

At the summer executive committee meeting in August in Chicago, International President **Sandra Dunlop** and Vice-Presidents **Nancy Arkin**, **Amy Johnson**, and **Christina Lewellen**, along with Immediate Past President **Jeanne O'Connor** — and under the "supervision" of International Contest and Judging Chairman **Jacquie Jensen** — assembled to draw the official order of appearance for the various contests at Harmony, Incorporated's 56th annual International Convention, this year in Providence, R.I., where it all began. The draw was broadcast live on Periscope TV with hundreds signing in to witness where their chorus or quartet would be singing. You can still experience the fun of this event with a delayed viewing. Go to [www.periscope.tv/HarmonyInc/](http://www.periscope.tv/HarmonyInc/)



## IC&amp;C EDUCATION THAT COVERS ALL THE BASES!

Back by popular demand, you'll be able to collect a ribbon for each track you attend. Showcase your barbershop harmony IQ by collecting a ribbon from each track. Attend a class in each track, earn a ribbon, and wear it with pride. Demonstrate your *barbersmarts*!

All of this year's educational offerings are arranged in five tracks:

- **Sing!**—An in-depth look at making the most of your beautiful voice.
- **Perform!**—The bring-the-song-to-life track
- **Dream!**—Set your sights on your dreams and take a step toward making them a reality.
- **Grow!**—Stretch your leadership skills, expand your effectiveness.
- **Share!**—We're all in this together. Let's share some best practices! But show up early! There are only 14 seats around the table for these intimate sessions.

Collect your ribbons and showcase your *barbersmarts* (yes, we made up a word and, yes, we know it doesn't sound very smart). Then, strike up a conversation when you're in the elevator with Harmony, Inc. sisters who are wearing the same ribbons you've earned! Share what you've learned.

**Social media addicts**—be sure to hashtag the heck out of your IC&C educational experience! Share what you learn and get creative with your hashtags! #barbersmarts #HI2016ICC #DreamTrack #GrowTrack (you get the idea!)

Want more information on each session to help you decide? Read on!

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### “SING!” TRACK

#### **Listen Up, Singers! (Anne Bureau)**

Back by popular demand—one of the most popular sessions from last year! We spend a lot of time on singing skills, but how much time have you spent on your listening skills? In her interactive, audience participation session, Anne Bureau will tap you into your ability to listen to win. It's more powerful than you might think!

#### **Optimizing Musicality by Where You Stand (Steve Jamison)**

This is the kind of class you have to see and experience to believe. You could improve your contest score simply by finding your optimized standing position. Whether for quartets or choruses, adjusting standing position can lead to jaw-dropping results. Come see for yourself.

#### **New Music—Now What? (David Mills)**

You've picked a new song for your chorus or quartet. So, now what? Join David

Mills, head of all the judges in the Barbershop Harmony Society, as he walks you through the best way to teach a new song. Even better, he'll explore the best ways to *learn* a new song.

#### **Improving Your Vocal Health (Alison Thompson)**

All the way from the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers (LABBS), Singing Category Director Alison Thompson will make sure you're protecting your voice as much as you would any other part of your body. What exactly is good vocal health? In this class you'll learn to listen to and respond to your body to make the most of your voice.

#### **Sight Singing Superpowers (Lauren Lindeman)**

Don't let sight singing be your Achilles Heel in barbershop! Join music whiz Lauren Lindeman as she helps you tap into your sight singing superpowers. This 90-minute workshop is more detailed than some others in the track, so come prepared to take your skills to a whole new level.

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### “PERFORM!” TRACK

#### **Be Brave, Be Vulnerable (Doc Spilker)**

A hallmark class in this “Perform!” track, Gene “Doc” Spilker, Presentation judge, will walk you through the fundamentals of bringing vulnerability to your performance. Be brave, open yourself up, and learn how to bring a more authentic performance as a chorus and/or quartet singer.

#### **Taking a Song from Paper to Stage (John Santora)**

Join John Santora for his session on how a music team should take a piece of music and decide on the appropriate musical, emotional and storytelling message they want to convey, and how to get the singers to coalesce around that message. Walk through taking a song from paper to the stage.

#### **The 4 C's of Song Prep (Mark Kettner)**

Presentation judge Mark Kettner has a great way to boil down a killer approach to song preparation. Using the 4C's (Context, Contrast, Conversational, and Culture) will allow you to create more meaningful and impactful performances going forward.

#### **Technically, Artistic! (David Mills)**

Barbershop harmony takes some ninja skills, especially as singers aim to blend technical skills with artistic singing. David Mills will teach how to bring a new level of artistry to your vocal production, delivering the message in easy-to-digest language.

#### **BONUS ROUND: Branding in Barbershop (Christina Lewellen)**

This 20-minute session gives you a down-and-dirty game plan for building your quartet or chorus brand. Stand out from the crowd with a brand your audiences will remember.

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### “DREAM!” TRACK

#### **First Timers' Session (Sandra Dunlop)**

International President Sandra Dunlop will take an opportunity to welcome first-time attendees to Harmony, Inc.'s most exciting gathering of the year. Come to meet new friends and learn how to make the most out of your International Convention & Contest experience.

#### **Building a Barbershop Community Collaborative (Tony Sparks)**

Building a whaaaa? Tony Sparks has a super innovative approach to how barbershop choruses from all three organizations (Harmony, Inc., Sweet Adelines Intl., and Barbershop Harmony Society) can join forces in a metropolitan area to better serve the community. With this vision in mind, he formed a non-profit organization in Albuquerque, N.M., to spread the word of barbershop harmony far and wide.

#### **The Other Side of Fear (Moonstruck, 2014 Harmony Queens)**

The members of Moonstruck, 2014 Harmony Queens, have a simple motto they want to share: “Everything You Want is on the Other Side of Fear.” In this class, you'll learn strategies for coping with the fears and anxieties that prevent a singer from putting their best performance on stage. Find your dreams on the other side of fear!

#### **Sing with the Queens (Harmony Queens Quartets)**

The crowd favorite Sing with the Queens tradition continues with a refreshing new approach! This year, Sing with the Queens becomes a more intimate experience with several break-out sessions. When you sing with Harmony Queens during these sessions, take your time, try the tag again, and have a blast experiencing what it's really like to Sing with the Queens!

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### “GROW!” TRACK

#### **Self-Evaluation for Your Chorus (Don Fuson)**

Barbershop Harmony Society President Don Fuson will offer you a chance to evaluate your chorus through the lens of what it would like to be when it grows up! He will present ideas about how to leverage member surveys, analyze your

See *EDUCATION TRACKS*, continued next page

\*Schedule as of Sept. 7, 2016, and is subject to change. Please refer to final on-site program for details.



**EDUCATION TRACKS**

*continued from previous page*

chapter’s efforts, and how your chorus interacts with your community.

**Transition from Presentation to Performance Category (offered in two sessions)**

Barbershop Harmony Society Presentation Category Specialist Barry Towner and Harmony, Inc. Category Specialist Jeanne O’Connor will walk you through what will be changing next year when the current Presentation category shifts to the new Performance category.

**Queens’ Master Class with LiveWire!**

LiveWire is proof that love at first sight is possible. These four ladies came out of nowhere to win the crown last year and they’re back to take us on the whirlwind journey that is LiveWire!

**The Care and Feeding of a Small Chapter (Lynn Trapp)**

Creating an environment in which a small chapter can thrive can be a daunting task. Fewer members can mean additional strain on volunteer resources, but it can also result in a tight-knit group of teammates pulling for the same goal.

**Chorus Master Class with the Village Vocal Chords**

Last year, the Village Vocal Chords took us on a magical journey over the rainbow in one of the most visually impressive performances to grace the Harmony, Inc. stage. Come learn from the chapter that has become synonymous with the word champion.

**BONUS ROUND: Find Your Voice (Donna McKay)**

This 20-minute session gives an overview of how Harmony, Inc.’s Find Your Voice publicity and marketing program can kick start your member recruitment efforts.

**“SHARE!” TRACK**

These sessions are where true idea sharing takes place. Each session takes place in the Executive Boardroom and there are only 14 seats at the table. Come early, grab a seat, and talk to your fellow sisters in Harmony about the assigned topic!

Or if you want, swing by and add your sticky note answer to one of the “Share!” topic walls. We’ll compile all of the sticky notes and share with the entire membership after IC&C concludes!

Whether you stay for the chat or pop in to hang your sticky note on the wall, you’ll earn your “Share!” badge holder ribbon!

**“Share!” Topics:**

- How do you name a new quartet? (Thursday 9am)
- Where do you shop for your quartet/chorus? (Thursday 10am)
- How do you pick songs? (Thursday 11am)
- How do you grow chapter leaders? (Saturday 9am)
- How do you run a great rehearsal? (Saturday 10am)
- Why do you love Harmony, Inc.? (Saturday 11am)

	Sing!	Perform!	Dream!	Grow!	Share!*
<b>Thursday, November 3, 2016</b>					
	Blackstone	Newport	Bristol/Kent	South County	Executive Board Room
9:00-9:50am	Listen Up, Singers! (Anne Bureau)	Be Brave, Be Vulnerable (Doc Spilker)	First Timers' Session (Sandra Dunlop)	Self Evaluations for Chapters (Don Fuson)	How do you name a new quartet?
10:00-10:50am	Optimizing Musicality by Where You Stand (Steve Jamison)	Taking a Song from Paper to Stage (John Santora)	Barbershop Community Collaboartive (Tony Sparks)	Transition to the Performance Category (session #1)	Where do you shop?
11:00-11:50am	New Music--Now What? (David Mills)	The 4 C's of Song Prep (Mark Kettner)	The Other Side of Fear (Moonstruck, 2014 Harmony Queens)	Quartet Master Class with LiveWire!	How do you pick songs?
<b>Saturday, November 5, 2016</b>					
	Waterplace 3	Blackstone	Waterplace 2	Waterplace 1	Executive Board Room
9:00-9:50am	Improving Your Vocal Health (Alison Thompson)	Transition to the Performance Category (session #2)	Sing With The Queens	The Care and Feeding of a Small Chapter (Lynn Trapp)	How do you grow chapter leaders?
10:00-10:50am	Sight Singing Superpowers! (Lauren Lindeman) 10 am - 11:20 am	Technically, Artistic! (David Mills)	Sing With The Queens	Chorus Master Class with the Village Vocal Chords	How do you run rehearsals?
11:00-11:20am (bonus round!)		Branding in Barbershop (Christina Lewellen)	Sing With The Queens	Find Your Voice (Donna McKay)	Why do you love Harmony, Inc.?

\*The Share! Track is limited to 14 people per session. Arrive early to grab your spot around the board table for a live chat, or stop by to leave a sticky note with your answer to the questions that are posted.

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**The Harmony Creed**

*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**

by G. Ruth Geils

\*Schedule as of Sept. 7, 2016, and is subject to change. Please refer to final on-site program for details.

For more information on IC&C 2016 registration and rooms, [www.harmonyinc.org/](http://www.harmonyinc.org/)

# 2015-2016 International Board of Directors & Assistants

**International President**  
Sandra Dunlop

*president@harmonyinc.org*

**Vice President**

**Convention & Contests**

Nancy Arkin

*vpconventioncontest@harmonyinc.org*

**Vice President Finance**

Amy Johnson

*vpfinancet@harmonyinc.org*

**Vice President Education**

Christina Lewellen

*vpeducation@harmonyinc.org*

**Director of Business Services**

Anne Leinen

*directorbuservices@harmonyinc.org*

**Director of Communications**

Roxanne Powell

*directorcommunications@harmonyinc.org*

**Director of Membership**

Donna McKay

*directormembership@harmonyinc.org*

**Director of Music Programs**

Donna Clarkson

*directormusprograms@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 1 Director** — Linda Brehaut

*area1director@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 2 Director** — Diane Zanetti

*area2director@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 3 Director** — Janine Schindler

*area3director@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 4 Director** — Betty Gunterman

*area4director@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 5 Director** — Patricia Cassidy

*area5director@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 6 Director** — Carol Jackson

*area6director@harmonyinc.org*

## Assistants & Advisors

**Executive Secretary** — Denise "D" Dyer

*exsecretary@harmonyinc.org*



*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*

**Executive Treasurer** — Judi Johnston

*extreasurer@harmonyinc.org*

**Immediate Past President** — Jeanne O'Connor

*pastpresident@harmonyinc.org*

**Parliamentarian** — Carolyn Pellow

*parliament@harmonyinc.org*

**Editor, The Key-Note** — Sara Wood

*keynote@harmonyinc.org*

**New Chapter Development**

**Coordinator** — Bev Jackson

*chapterdev@harmonyinc.org*

**Manual Chairman** — Chris Hembel

*manual@harmonyinc.org*

**Chorus Director Development**

**Coordinator** — Liane Iannuzzo

*chorusdirdevcoor@harmonyinc.org*

**Education Event Coordinator** —

Allison Thompson

*educationeventcoor@harmonyinc.org*

**Music Coordinator** — Nancy Flage

*musiccoordinator@harmonyinc.org*

**Public Relations**

**Coordinator** — Angie Beatty

*prcoordinator@harmonyinc.org*

**Quartet Development**

**Coordinator** — Debi Stoll

*quartets@harmonyinc.org*

**Copyright & Licensing**

**Coordinator** — Erin Cassidy

*recording@harmonyinc.org*

**Social Media**

**Coordinator** — Anita Prather Harvell

*socialmediacoordinator@harmonyinc.org*

**Web Site Manager** — Nicola Stevens

*webmaster@harmonyinc.org*

**Youth Programs**

**Coordinator** — Jen Wheaton

*youth@harmonyinc.org*

**Nominating Committee**

**Chairman** — Michelle Buckenmeyer

*nominating@harmonyinc.org*

## Convention Team

**Convention Manager** — Jan DelVecchio

*iccmanager@harmonyinc.org*

**Convention Contest/**

**Stage Manager** — Marianne Cooke

*iccontestmanager@harmonyinc.org*

**Convention On-Site**

**Manager** — Barbara-Ann MacIntosh

*icconsitemanager@harmonyinc.org*

**Convention Registration**

**Manager** — Chris Hembel

*iccregistrar@harmonyinc.org*

**Convention Volunteer**

**Manager** — Kath Morgan

*iccvolunteermanager@harmonyinc.org*

## International Contest & Judging

**IC&J Chairman** — Jacquie Jensen

*judging@harmonyinc.org*

**Assistant IC&J**

**Chairman** — Kathy Greason

*assisticj@harmonyinc.org*

**Secretary/Manual**

**Chairman** — Lauren Lindeman

*icjcsecretary@harmonyinc.org*

**Chairman of Judges**

**Category Director** — Linda Muise

*coj@harmonyinc.org*

**Music Category Director** — Kathy Greason

*music@harmonyinc.org*

**Presentation Category**

**Director** — Jeanne O'Connor

*presentation@harmonyinc.org*

**Singing Category Director** —

Renee Tramack

*singing@harmonyinc.org*

**Training Coordinator** — Sue Novosad  
*training@harmonyinc.org*

## Area Contest & Judging

**Area 1 C&J Chairman** — Sue Beckwith

*a1jc@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 2 C&J Chairman** — Linda Briggs

*a2jc@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 3 C&J Chairman** — Nicola Stevens

*a3jc@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 4 C&J Chairman** — Cookie Crews

*a4jc@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 5 C&J Chairman** — Beth Harris

*a5jc@harmonyinc.org*

**Area 6 C&J Chairman** — Trayce Elenteny

*a6jc@harmonyinc.org*

## Association of Harmony Queens

**Chairman** — Susan Spencer  
& Wendy McCoolle

*hqchair@harmonyinc.org*

**Secretary** — Nancy Landers

*hqsecretary@harmonyinc.org*

**Treasurer** — Mary Ann Wert

*hqtreasurer@harmonyinc.org*

**Queens Travel Fund** — Judi Johnston

*qtf@harmonyinc.org*





## editor's note



SARA WOOD

Hello, Harmony. I'm Sara Wood, and I'm the new editor of *The Key-Note*. Fear not, Roxanne Powell is still helping behind the scenes, but as I take the reins, I first want to thank everyone who submitted content for this new edition. I'm fairly new to the organization, and I don't know many of you yet; I hope that changes soon. As my first editor's column, I wanted to take the opportunity to tell you all a little bit of who I am and why I wanted to become your editor.

Three years ago, I was working for Christina Lewellen at a national non-profit outside of Washington, DC. During the very first conversation I ever had with her I asked, "What do you like to do for fun?" She responded, "I sing barbershop with my quartet, Epic." I knew what barbershop was, but I had never been involved. I had, however, sung classical music my entire life. I sang what I would call "recreational" opera in college and have continued to sing with my local choral society. I said something along the lines of, "I sing too, we should compare notes." Little did I know that was the beginning of my entire musical life being turned upside down.

When Christina and Richard Lewellen decided to start their own women's barbershop chorus, I don't ever remember saying that I was, "in." Before I knew what was happening, my name and photo were on the Bella Nova website, and I was helping scout for our first rehearsal location.

Excited about trying something new, I encouraged some of my friends to join, and in short order, Bella became an integral part of my life. I was surrounded by an incredible group of strong, independent women who weren't just fantastic musicians, but also unique and beautiful individuals. I was hooked. I had to miss IC&C last year because I was finishing my MBA, and I found myself missing late nights of singing tags and the rush of competing with my chorus. I could not have been prouder when I heard that we had won 5th place.

When I found out that Harmony was in need of an editor, I jumped at the chance to help. In a former life I worked for a local newspaper and had some experience in copyediting, so I submitted my application. I am humbled by the opportunity to give back to an organization that has changed my life so drastically in such a short amount of time. Thank you for accepting me into the community, and I look forward to singing many tags with all of you at IC&C.

- Sara

deadline  
for  
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