

The Key-Note



Harmony, Inc.

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Take 4
2022 Harmony Queens

HARMONY, INC.

Empowering all women
through singing,
education, and
friendship.

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A Message from the President

Yes... it's time to take a moment and reflect on 2022-2023 as we turn the pages of *The Key-Note*. This is truly an edition of celebrations as we returned to our in-person International Contest and Convention at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino in Verona, NY. **Together Again** – what an appropriate theme for the event after canceling two years of conventions due to the pandemic.



A warm welcome was extended to **Vocal Moxie** who chartered in August of 2022, along with **Sunshine Harmony** chorus in December 2022, **White Sands A Cappella** in January 2023, and **Music City Sound** in February 2023. Already, there are more prospective chapters waiting to finalize their paperwork and become members of Harmony, Inc.

So many new initiatives were introduced this past year. At IC&C in 2022, the IBOD introduced **Gold Status** members, as a means of celebrating the longevity of those members that have been a member of Harmony, Inc. for 50 or more years. Their commitment to the organization is important to us and we want to let them know that they are valued!

We also had the opportunity to extend a huge thank you to **David Wright**, for his many contributions to the Barbershop world. He was nominated to receive the **Honorary Member Award** for 2022. We are so fortunate to have so many individuals that are dedicated to ensuring that a cappella singing in the barbershop style lives on.

Diane and David Patterson donated the **Young At Heart Award** to celebrate our senior quartets and the **Unaccompanied Minors Chorus** (our all-youth chorus) under the leadership of **Kristin Gunasekera**, our Youth Coordinator, have sponsored a new youth quartet award called the **Bright Future Award!!!!** These awards will be presented for the first time at IC&C 2023. 2023 will honour members of all ages!

Harmony is filled with champions – champions both on and off the riser. I want to celebrate our amazing ambassadors for Harmony, **Harmony Queens Take 4** as well as 2022 Chorus Champions, Northern Blend Chorus. Congratulations to all who crossed not only the international stage, but your AC&C stages as well.

Without a doubt, Harmony came out of the pandemic years stronger than ever! Congratulations to everyone. It seems that the excitement was not limited to 2022 – I have no doubt that 2023 is going to be an amazing year as we look forward to what is yet to come!

In Harmony,
Linda Brehaut

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BREATHING THE SAME AIR

Thankful for what it takes to be
'Together Again'

2022 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & CONTESTS

By Laura Oakes, Director Marketing and Communications

After only being able to see each other on a screen for two years, Harmony, Inc. pulled out all of the stops for a "Together Again" International Convention and Contest in 2022. Turning Stone Resort in Verona, NY was a comfortable, fun and accommodating venue offering a bit of casino excitement on the side.

Although our organization remained strong and viable throughout the COVID-19 lockdown, there is nothing like being in close contact with your friends and actually inhabiting the same space. The administrative members of Harmony, Inc. went out of their



way assigning a task force to research and visualize outcomes, then made decisions in order to go forward with an in-person event that kept members safe and healthy. We all agreed to take proper precautions ensuring each attendee was in good health because it was the best way to hold a safe and successful event. Successful it was! Smiles were seen, hands were held, hugs (with permission) were shared. It was refreshing to be reminded what a loving and kind organization Harmony, Inc. is and always will be.

The IC&C team always does a spectacular job to make this annual event successful and fun and the amount of prior planning and execution is mind-boggling. While

relaying the need-to-know information regarding IC&C to our membership is a huge task for the Marketing and Communications Team, the work it takes the IC&C Team to organize this event and develop programming is even more so. It truly makes me appreciate all of the behind-the-scenes work needed to bring us all "Together Again".

While we are still learning to live in a COVID world so that we can gather in-person, it is comforting to know that no matter what obstacles lie in our path, Harmony will continue to thrive with the willingness to be flexible, take precautions and use best judgement to be able to breathe the same air.



Meet Take 4 Tenor

Melissa VanHousen

Hi Harmony Friends!

I am Melissa (Mel), the tenor of Take 4!

I was born in California but moved to Missouri when I was three and was raised in a small town south of Kansas City. My mom is a hair stylist and has been for almost 30 years. My dad does IT tech assistance for Oracle. I have two younger brothers who also both work IT jobs.

I am also a mom to the coolest, smartest, sweetest seven-year-old boy. He's my whole world! I also have two sweet kitties.

Growing up, I always loved to sing, especially songs from Disney movies. The *Little Mermaid* was my jam! My dad plays guitar and used to write songs with a couple friends. They would teach me the songs they wrote and have me sing with them. Then I started playing guitar and writing a few songs myself. I joined choir in 5th grade and have continuously been in choirs and singing groups since age 11.

I earned my bachelor's degree (2008) and master's degree (2009) in Vocal Music Education from Northwest Missouri State University. Through my college years I was in three choirs, I taught private voice lessons, lead show choir and beginning guitar at music camp, and I directed an adult church choir. My first teaching job was in a small district where I taught K-12 vocal music all in one building. I had a full schedule of K-6 elementary music classes, 7-8 grade choir, high school concert choir, high school show choir, and beginning guitar.

I currently teach K-5 elementary music in the Lee's Summit school district.

My barbershop journey started in 2009 when I joined the Sweet Adelines chorus in St. Joseph, MO called **RiverSong**. I sang baritone in the chorus and immediately joined a quartet with the director. We were called **Applause**. We earned 5th place in our first competition and 4th place in the next one. Then the director and I formed another quartet — **Aurora** —

where I switched to tenor. We competed two years in a row taking 3rd place and then 4th place.

I took a year off of barbershop to focus on my job. Then in 2014 I was contacted by a gal I didn't know at the time, Kristin Drummond. She asked if I'd be interested in singing tenor in their quartet called **Take 4**. She mentioned that she sang with Chacey who I knew from NWMSU.

I said, "Absolutely, I'd love to!"

This was the best decision ever, singing with three ladies who would become my very close friends!

After competing for a couple years in Sweet Adelines, Take 4 realized that we don't quite fit the mold. When we heard about HI, we knew we had to try it. After our first AC&C in Area 4, we KNEW we had found our barbershop home! We love all our Area 4 peeps who are so much fun and so welcoming! We love the core values of HI where we finally feel like we can be true to who we are as people and a quartet.

I feel so honored and amazed that we get to represent HI as Harmony Queens! In the near future I hope to serve HI more by applying for the judging program. Thank you, Harmony sisters, for all your love and support! I know I personally have grown so much as a performer and musician since joining HI.





Meet Take 4 Lead Chacey Steen

Hello Harmony Inc! It's your friend Chacey, the lead of Take 4. I'm so happy to tell you a little bit about myself.

I was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. My dad, Ron, is a professional instrumentalist and has been the music pastor of our church for over 30 years. I credit most of my skill and talent to him and growing up around a full choir and orchestra every Sunday. My mom, Cindy, is an audiologist and great singer, although she would never admit it. As a kid in church, I sang in many children's programs and ensembles. In middle school, I started taking private voice lessons through the school of music at my church and maintained that practice throughout high school.

In 2012, I was graduated from Northwest Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in music education and in 2017 I earned my master's degree in educational leadership. Throughout my undergraduate career, I participated in all the ensembles offered at Northwest including show choir and was the lead in the production of *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Music Man*. Funnily enough, Melissa (our Take 4 tenor) served as the graduate assistant in the Northwest music department while I was a student. She gave me grades, before I ever sang a tag!

Since 2012, I have taught elementary music in North Kansas City Schools and though never easy it is always worth it. Many of my students have traumatic experiences or less than desirable home lives. Seeing these students succeed and have fun in my music room has helped me face many hard situations.

Kristin (Take 4 bari) and I started our friendship when our spouses sang and worked together in the men's barbershop chorus, **Central Standard**. Soon after we connected she invited me to sing with her in Take 4 and that was it; Take 4 is the only quartet I've ever sung in!

For a few years I sang with the Kansas City Chorus in Sweet Adelines but now happily sing with **St. Louis Vocal Project** in Harmony, Inc. When Take 4 decided to start competing in Harmony, our first Area contest was such a perfect experience. Everyone was so kind, friendly, and welcoming; not to mention we have some pretty cool party animals in Area 4.

On October 15, 2022 I had the honor to marry my best friend and life partner Matt Rush. He is the light in my darkness and has brought me to a place of happiness I thought I'd lost. Together we have three kitty babies, Kitten, Buddy, Benjamin Buttercup Bean.

Daily, I am still honored and amazed to be a queen in Harmony, Inc. Thank you, Harmony, not only for being a part of my barbershop story but also my musical life. I love you!





Greetings,
Harmony!

Where has the time gone? It feels like Verona was just yesterday, but also a lifetime ago!

The convention was such a beautiful reunion after so many years apart. I truly enjoyed all the hugs, conversations, laughter, tags, and amazing performances from all the quartets and choruses. Harmony definitely knows how to put on an amazing convention! It is absolutely surreal to be writing this article as one of your current Harmony Queens.

A little bit about me: I was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. I have been singing pretty much since I learned how to talk. My first recorded performance is an audio recording of me “singing” *Karma Chameleon* from *Culture Club* on my second birthday. I grew up singing with my dad who played the guitar, served as the official national anthem singer in high school (I was known as the *Oh, Canada* girl), sang and directed in various choirs at my church, and had the opportunity to perform with the Westminster Chamber Choir for two summers.

I am a first generation barbershopper, only discovering the hobby in my late teens. I first heard about barbershop from a friend in college. I didn’t think much of it at the time.

Meet Take 4 Bari

Kristin Drummond-Mance

A few months later, I was approached by a member of my church who invited me to attend a Sweet Adelines chorus rehearsal. One rehearsal and I was literally hooked! I auditioned as soon I could. I sang tenor in the chorus and enjoyed performing on the front row. While singing in the chorus I also met my husband Rob, as he was the chorus director at the time.

It was not too long into my barbershop journey that I was approached to sing in my first quartet. We were called **Moonglow**. Not too long after, I joined my first competitive quartet, **Commonly Unique**. I sang lead. We enjoyed a few great years together and even invited to compete as a wild card at SAI International in 2005. My next quartet was called **Northern Fusion** and we had a great time singing together.

In 2008, Rob and I moved to Kansas City so I could pursue my master’s degree in Education. While teaching in the area, I joined the Kansas City Chorus and served as the lead section leader for some time. Rob took over as director of Central Standard Chorus.

Take 4 formed in 2014. Chacey and I were “chorus wives” as both of our husbands were involved with Central Standard. I took a leap of faith and asked Chacey to sing with me. I also approached Wendy and Melissa even though I had never officially met either of them. I had heard both of them in other quartet configurations and knew it would be a good vocal fit.

We must all be a bit crazy because we agreed to give it a try.

We started off as an SAI quartet and officially joined HI in 2017 as T4. The rest is history! We all fell in love with the people and culture of HI. One of the kindest gestures was the original **Take 4** giving us their name. That, right there, shows you what Harmony is all about!

Currently, I am a teacher educator at the high school level and I also work as a course evaluator for the School of Education at WGU. I have the distinct pleasure of singing with multiple ensembles. In addition to Take 4, I also sing with an SAI and BHS quartet called **First Class**, I serve as a baritone section leader with **Vocal Standard Chorus**, and sing baritone with **St. Louis Vocal Project**. In my “spare” time (what’s that?) I love spending time with my husband, traveling, eating delicious vegan food, taking Highland dance lessons and hanging out with my senior chihuahua, Little Willie.

I want to thank all of Harmony for being so open and welcoming to Take 4. You have given us nothing but love, support, and encouragement. I am proud to join the Association of Harmony Queens and to serve as an ambassador for our wonderful organization!





Meet Take 4 Bass Wendy Spilker

I still can't believe it. I mean, it really happened. It's 10 months now and I still can't believe it's done and over. IC&C in Verona was a blur and getting there was a long

time coming.

I was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. None of my relatives would profess to come from a musical family but looking back, the influences were everywhere. Every summer as a kid, I spent weeks with my grandparents, a pop-up camper, and a small village comprised of aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, neighbors and their kids, camping in the wilderness, ending every night circled around a big fire with guitars, banjos, harmonicas and everyone singing.

Both of my grandmothers hummed every waking moment of their lives. I remember my Grandfather, even though he wasn't a "barbershopper", standing at the bar in his basement billiard room, wearing a striped vest and straw hat, singing along to his favorite barbershop albums when I was little.

My father was that guy with the stereo system that had so many components it took an entire wall and a record collection spanning every

genre on vinyl (33, 45 and 78), reel to reel, cassette, and CD that stretched from one end of the room to the other.

As a child, my favorite time spent at home was lying on the floor, big headphones encasing my face, listening to records, marveling over cover art and lyrics, singing along. My mother sang in church and pretty much every moment of every day (and has just recently begun her own barbershop journey, singing lead in St. Louis Vocal Project).

None of us claimed to be musicians or vocalists, but music was everywhere in my life. I sang in school, camp and church choirs. At age 18, I got a job slinging vinyl at a local record store, where, on my second day I met the other new employee (who would end up being my future husband) Dr. Gene Spilker. We used to catch each other singing at work all the time, often in passing, usually in different parts.

One day he mentioned his mother directed a women's chorus that was always looking for more voices and I might want to check it out. Another of his friends (who was a member) invited me as a guest to the St. Louis Harmony Chorus Holiday Party, where I sang my first tag, met amazing people and it pretty much changed my life forever.

I was absolutely clueless about barbershop

and couldn't have been brought into a more influential family. Sandi Wright (unbeknownst to me, my future mother-in-law) was the director. She voice tested me as a baritone (which, honestly, is still my happy place) and threw me on the front row where I stayed for nearly 30 years. David Wright, at the time, was directing the then **Daniel Boone Chorus** (now the **Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus**), where Gene had sung on the risers since he was 16 years old. Someone was always rehearsing. Music was everywhere. Barbershop became family and a primary way of life.

Two years later, at age 20, I sang bari in my first quartet, **Vocal Animation**. We were together just a few weeks before taking next-to-last place (and the last place contestant withdrew) in our very first contest (we were all rookies) and we had the best time!

From then on, I was hooked and quarteting became my sport of choice. I had various combinations over the years but it wasn't until



WENDY*continued from previous page*

about 10 years later that one of those combinations officially registered and competed — with a major change on my part.

While participating in a tag contest at the annual New Year's Party at Sandi and David's, I sang bari in men's key, and well, Sandi immediately switched me to bass in the chorus and we put a quartet together right away. Sandi, two chorus section leaders, and I, formed **Spirit** quartet and we enjoyed our years in the contest arena.

A few years later, a new formation called **Trademark** came together. I sang bass again, enjoying my time competing with three sisters from a local barbershop family.

A couple of years later, I received an email from a sister Sweet Adeline named Kristin all the way in Kansas City. She remembered seeing me compete in Detroit with Spirit and wondered if I might be interested in a long-distance quartet. I knew nothing about the other three, had zero interest in something long-distance (hadn't done it before and it just sounded like a pain) and had no idea what to expect. I decided to give it a go anyway and dragged Doc with me to get his insight.

I still remember the end of our very first rehearsal where Rob Mance (Kristin's husband, who was also there for insight) said, "Well, that was a definite lack of suckage."

We've been together ever since.

To say I feel blessed to have found these incredible ladies is an understatement. It's a rare thing when four voices come together blending so easily. It's rarer for the personalities to fit just as easily. We bonded from the start and have been through just about everything you can think of together over the last 8 years, including my moving to Florida and most recently even further, Puerto Rico. I love these women with all my heart and there's no distance so great to keep us apart.

I started in Sweet Adelines back in 1990 and hadn't heard of Harmony, Inc. until Sandi started competing at Area 4 with **Great Day**. My husband, who was a BHS judge and had just returned from judging his first Harmony, Inc. contest suggested I give it a go. Take 4 was well underway by the time I'd attended my first Harmony convention, but after attending my first IC&C in Louisville, I knew that not only had I found an amazing community but that Take 4 would love and very much needed to be part of it. We have loved every moment since and are so honored to be a part of such an amazing organization.

Barbershop is and has always been a family activity for me. My husband's grandparents (Stan & Jan), my in-laws (Sandi & David), my sister-in-law (Chris), my husband ("Doc" Gene Spilker), both of our children (Gene and Autumn) and our son-in-law (Sean Mueller) either have been or currently are active in their local chapters and personal barbershop pursuits. Major conventions for all three organizations have become our favorite family gatherings.

Barbershop, in general, has too many benefits to list. Each organization also brings its unique opportunities and growth, but Harmony made Take 4 feel that we had the freedom to be ourselves. The love, support, encouragement and freedom has been like no other. There was no mold to fill.

Harmony pushed us into our vulnerable, authentic selves and we are so grateful to be a part of a community that taught us that being us is always enough.

When we first came together, Take 4 wanted longevity. We wanted contest to be only part of our journey, not our destination. Our end game was to do great things beyond contest. Looking back, it's been a phenomenal adventure so far. Knowing it's only the beginning makes us so excited for the music and path ahead. We couldn't be more honored to represent Harmony, Inc. and we couldn't be more grateful to have its community as the foundation of our future.



CONGRATULATIONS, 2022 Quartet Medalists

2nd Place **Fierce**



3rd Place **Escapade**



4th Place **Roulette**



5th Place **Lip Service**





BLUE PHOENIX
Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus
 Rilea Lombardy, Tina Lowe,
 Beth Miller, Shanno Wilson



CONTEMPO
Area 6 Associates
 Tracey Neville, Lizzie
 Green, Christine Wright,
 Quay Houchen



VIVACE!
*Northern Blend Chorus &
 Associates*
 Donna McKay, Amy
 DePerna, Lorie Autote,
 Jessica Nasto



CONTINENTAL CRUSH
Nickel City Sound/Associates
 Tracey Larder, Claire McMartin,
 Stacy Hugman, Anne-Miek de Nijs



DAPHODYLS
*Sisters of Sound & Unaccompanied
 Minors*
 Scarlett Gunasekera, Hanan Geda,
 Daphne Gunasekera, Olivia Fontana



ELIXIR
Northern Blend, Thousand Islanders & Associates
 Mary Gareau, Mary Allin, Judi Johnston, Christine Schroeder



EnJOY! • ScotianAires
 Judy Robichaud, Jennifer Cleveland, Sue Kember, Jane Fritz



ZEST
Crystal Chords & Harmony Falls
 Karla Terry, Brooke Robinson, Ann Wilcox,
 Jessica Rhodes



FOUR SHORE
Seaside A Cappella
Jennifer Green, Jackie Barkhouse, Terra Lee Kelly, Suzanne Rudolf



GENERATIONS
A Cappella Showcase
Emily Travis, Elizabeth Williams, Amy Patterson, Sarah Patterson



FREE SPIRITS • *Sounds of the Seacoast*
Frances (Fran) Wilhelm, Camille Duffy, Nancy Russo, Joyce Auger



FRIENDZIE • *Village Vocal Chords*
Jen Wheaton, Lynn Randall, Kathleen Knopoff, Lauren Lindeman



HALF NOTES
Northern Blend Chorus
Hazel Coughlin, Phoebe Hall, Jeannie Greenwood, Anita Prather Harvell

IN A CHORD • *Sisters of Sound*
Kristin Gunasekera, Tiana Sandh, Mary Ann Cantwell, Alex Riehl



IN SYNC • *Coastal Voices/Associates*
Pam Ringo, Deb Thistle, Krista Pickens, Sue Pelley



KENTUCKY BLEND
Bluegrass Harmony
Chie Ozaki, Valinda Petri, Michelle Evans, Margie Dimond



LIFE IS GOOD • A Cappella Showcase /Associate
Denise Keleher, Karen Hosler, Wendy Kurvits, Julia McGregor



LIFE'S A PITCH
Women of Note
Jane Thie, Ashley Lang, Sherri Avery, Amy Harker

KISMET
Sounds of the Seacoast & NEVIH
Kim Dubray, Susan Prescott, Elizabeth (Liz) LeClair, Deborah (Debbie) Bartol



MACH 4
Crystal Chords
Brooke Robinson, Becky LaBella, Chris Dunbar, Michelle Dunne



METAFOUR • Harmony Falls
Jean Falter, Olivia Englehart, Karen Trotter, Sherie Carroll



MOVING PARTS

Scarborough Harmony Chorus
Alice Zywiell, Kathy Do, Dianne Clare, Brenda Putt Rogers



N2Q • Harmony Falls

Lois Kozlowski, Nancy Oliver, Joan Plant, Belinda Thompson



NEW Q

New England Voices in Harmony/Associate
Linda Noble, Kathleen Macdonald, Samantha Tramack, Renee Tramack



ONYX
A Cappella Showcase
Kelly Thomas, Amy Chop,
Michelle Odendahl, Jenn
Haines

OUT ON A LIMB • *New England Voices in Harmony*
Diane Fagerstrom, Diane Reynolds, Cathy DeCoste, Joanne
O'Connor



REMIX • *Atlanta Harmony Celebration!*
Kathy Rall, Kary Alicea, Suzanne Settles, Marie Ross



REPLAY
Expansion Area Associates
Shelley Varallo, Cindy Carter, Joan
Ross, Dana Carter



**RESTLESS
RHYTHM**
Crystal Chords
Becky LaBella,
Sandy Hamilton-
Ziegler, Jan Aiello,
Charlene Zearfoss



REUNION • *Bluegrass Harmony*
Lisa Pigman, Mary Spencer, Charlotte Moore, Cathy Muse



RING TRUE • *Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus*
Jennifer Weigl, Melisa Judware, Kelly Ramey, Chris Hurd-Clem



SERENADE • *Sisters of Sound*
Cindy Hunt, Shannon Shelton-Muller, Katie Rosenblad, Diana Anderson



SWAG • Toronto Accolades, A Cappella Showcase & Associates
 Voula Coronios, Grace Kahle, Wendy Shibata, Susanne Hasulo



SWEET LIFE • Sounds of the Seacoast/NEVIH
 Samantha Wiggin, Andrea Bossie, Wendy McCoolle, Dianne Nitzschke

SINGAMAJIG
 A Cappella Showcase & Classic Blend
 Katie Ritz, Nicole Negus, Tracey Beatty, Sue Blunt



TONIC
 ScotianAires
 Mickey Melanson, Marion Fraser-Pritchard, Cathy Hunter, Adele Merritt



TOP SHELF
 Crystal Chords & Harmony Falls
 Anne McGee, Chris Dunbar, Ann Wilcox, Jessica Rhodes



TRUE COLORS • NEVIH, Noteable Blend, Sounds of the Seacoast
 Kate Steer, Jen Selby, Angela (Angie) Dolber, Debi Stoll



UPTOWN SOUND • Coastal Voices/Associates
 Anneka Carlson, Krista Chimel, Tina Gleason, Kim Hughes



V • Village Vocal Chords/Associate
 Jen Wheaton, Jennifer Cooke, Ruth Maple, Robin Gould



2022 CHAMPION CHORUS
Northern Blend Chorus
Area 3 • Watertown, New York
Director - Katie Taylor



**2022 SILVER
MEDALIST CHORUS**
**A Cappella
Showcase**
Area 5
Milton, Ontario
Director - Jordan Travis



3rd PLACE MEDALIST
New England Voices in Harmony
Area 2
Nashua, New Hampshire
Directors Renee & Samantha Tramack



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



5th PLACE MEDALIST
Crystal Chords
Area 2
Corning/Elmira, New York
Director - Chris Dunbar

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



Bella Nova, Inc. Area 3
Ashburn, Virginia
Director - Richard Lewellen



Bluegrass Harmony • Area 4
Louisville, Kentucky
Director - Kris Wheaton



Capital Chordettes Area 5
Ottawa, Ontario
Director - Sean Mueller

Coastal Voices * Area 6
Fort Myers, Florida
Director - Pam Ringo



Harmony Heritage • Area 5
Providence, Rhode Island
Directors - Bob O'Connell



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



Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus • Area 4
Elyria, Ohio
Director - David Smotzer



Liberty Belles • Area 3
Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Director - Anne Bureau



Niagara Frontier Chord Authority • Area 2
Amherst, New York
Directors - Ron Mason and Carol Zeffiro

Maine-ly Harmony • Area 2
Gardiner, Maine
Director - Kathy Greason



Noteable Blend • Area 3
Lakeville, Massachusetts
Director - Angie Dolber



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



ScotianAires • Area 1
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Director - Sue Kember



Seaside A Cappella • Area 1
Bridgewater, Nova Scotia
Director - Judy Comeau



Sisters of Sound • Area 6
Clermont, Florida
Director - Tiana Sandh





The Over Tones, Inc. • Area 5
Guelph, Ontario
Director - Bonnie Morton



Unaccompanied Minors • Area 6
Clermont, Florida
Director - Tiana Sandh



Village Vocal Chords • Area 4
Glen Ellyn, Illinois
Director - Lynn Randall



Women of Note • Area 2
Hudson, Massachusetts
Directors - Nanda Landers & Maria Gabriella



By Taralee Lashway,
Immediate Past President,
Northern Blend Chorus

After a long couple of years being kept away by COVID, a group of 34 barbershoppers got together and set a collective goal to be more positive, more courageous, more compassionate, more welcoming, and simply more genuine than ever before. The strong desire to realize this objective led to Northern Blend Chorus's success in becoming the Harmony, Inc. 2022 International Chorus Champion.

To NBC, as we are lovingly known, achieving the honor of being the championship chorus this past season was exceptionally special to us. The challenge of the pandemic gave us the opportunity to step back, take a deeper look and truly see the most important parts of our chorus...the people! Recognizing the value, unique attributes, and talents that each member brings to the collective group is what makes our

...the pandemic gave us the opportunity to step back, take a deeper look and truly see the most important parts of our chorus...the people!

connection so amazingly strong. In the beginning of the season, we decided to solidify our foundation and grow together exploring our direction and rediscovering our purpose. We reached out to the amazing Christina Lewellen to help us with a goal setting session to refocus on our Chapter's values, unified goals, and aspirations. However, the exercise gave us so much more...it shed light on our Chapter's

collective culture, where we understood that ongoing positivity, mutual respect, personal accountability, connection, acceptance, and fun were the cornerstones of making our dreams possible.

With this energy, we got to work, supporting, and encouraging each other to be our true, authentic selves and committing to spread this positivity with each and every note. Our wonderful director, talented music team and encouraging leadership joined forces to rise up by lifting others along the way. We brought

See NBC, continued on next page



NBC
continued from previous page

in a very positive and uplifting coach, Cy Wood, to reinforce our stories and help us to present them in the most sincere and genuine way possible.

Over the year we have been honored to be representing Harmony, Inc. as the 2022 International Chorus Champions. We continue to work hard learning five new songs, bringing back several old rep songs, hosting a few very successful guest nights, singing many times in the community, appearing on local radio and TV spots, supporting local youth and the arts all while continuing to support and encourage our members and every member in Harmony to be their true selves.

...ongoing positivity, mutual respect, personal accountability, connection, acceptance, and fun were the cornerstones of making our dreams possible.



2022 Award Recipients



**G. Ruth Geils Memorial Award
Seaside A Cappella**



**Jerry Dunlop Memorial Award
Maria Gabriella & Nanda Landers
Women of Note Directors**



**L.A.B.B.S. Trophy
Seaside A Cappella**



**Montreal City Voices Tait Trophy
Crystal Chords**



**Jeanne O'Connor International
Chorus Championship Trophy
Northern Blend Chorus**



**Skidge Heath Memorial Award
Director Katie Taylor
Northern Blend Chorus**



**Accord Award
Ring True**



**MacIntosh Award
Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus**



**Findlay Plaque
Serenade**



2022 Award Recipients

President's Award Allison Thompson


President Linda Brehaut says of awardee Allison Thompson, "...over the past two years I have heard this individual say more than once, 'Anything is possible!' and on the night before our second virtual convention, 'I'm so excited!' That kind of energy has followed her through yet another year with a new focus."

"Allison went above and beyond to create two virtual conventions and then the magic behind Together Again, IC&C 2022. From all of us to all of you — Allison and the Convention Team — thank you so much for working on our behalf over these past three years to keep us celebrating our music and each other," says Linda.

"You define 'constructive in our work for Harmony, Incorporated.' Thank you."



Honorary Member Award David Wright



the recipient of the 2022 Honorary Member Award, for his decades of contributions to our organization. David is an historian, judge, coach, arranger, and generous and knowledgeable asset to our community.

Congratulations to
Dr. David Wright



2023 International Board of Directors

International President
– Linda Brehaut
Executive Vice-President
– Gaye LaCasce
Vice President Convention/Contests
– Kelly Thomas
Vice President Finance
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– Taralee Lashway
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– Sara Stone
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– Donna McKay



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– Julie Schwingbeck
Area 3 Director
– Sarah Thome-Miller

Area 4 Director
– Susan Spencer
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– Sandy McCreary
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– Angie Beatty

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Linda McMaster

FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Donna Clarkson

ASSOCIATE MEMBER COORDINATOR:

Tessa Walker

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

COORD: Anne Bureau

CONVENTION MANAGER:

Allison Thompson

COPYRIGHT & LICENSING COORD:

D'Arcy Jackson

Betsy Long

DIRECTORS FIRST

PROGRAM COORD:

Jen Bratis

EDITOR, THE KEY NOTE:

Roxanne Powell

EDITOR, HI NOTE:

Roxanne Powell

EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

Anne Colt

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Kathryn Dory

EQUITY & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

CHAIR: Bonita Hester

GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATOR:

Lindsay Fontana

ICJ CHAIR:

Kathy Greason

MANUAL CHAIR:

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Elizabeth Meeker

MUSIC COORDINATOR:

Sandra Dunlop

NEW CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

COORDINATOR: Bev Jackson

PR COORDINATOR:

Melinda Brunson

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Pam Ringo

YOUTH PROGRAMS COORDINATOR:

Kristin Gunasekera

CONVENTION BUSINESS SERVICES

MANAGER: Debbie Wilson

CONVENTION CONTEST/STAGE MAN-

AGER :

Linda Hilko

CONVENTION MARKETING MANAGER:

Shannon Shelton-Muller

CONVENTION ON-SITE MANAGER:

Marie Ross

CONVENTION PROJECT MANAGER:

Rita Sherman

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

MANAGER: Linda Briggs

CONVENTION TEAM ASSISTANT:

Margaret Cain

CONVENTION VOLUNTEER MANAGER:

Anne Leinen

ASSISTANT ICJ CHAIR:

Linda Muise

SECRETARY/HANDBOOK CHAIR:

Diane Patterson

ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE CATEGORY

SPECIALIST: Linda Muise

MUSIC CATEGORY SPECIALIST:

Liz LeClair

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

SPECIALIST:

Theresa Weatherbee

SINGING CATEGORY SPECIALIST:

Renee Trammack

ICJ TRAINING COORDINATOR:

Sue Novosad

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June Cousens

AREA 2 C&J CHAIR:

Linda Bober

AREA 3 C&J CHAIR:

Erin Cassidy

AREA 4 C&J CHAIR:

Ria Bunte

AREA 5 C&J CHAIR:

Debbie Gay

AREA 6 C&J CHAIR:

Trayce Elenteny

ASSOC HARMONY QUEENS CO-CHAIR:

Donna McKay

ASSOCIATION OF HARMONY QUEENS

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CORPORATE ASSISTANT:

Kelly Peterson

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CORPORATE OFFICE ASSISTANT:

Angie Morton-Locke



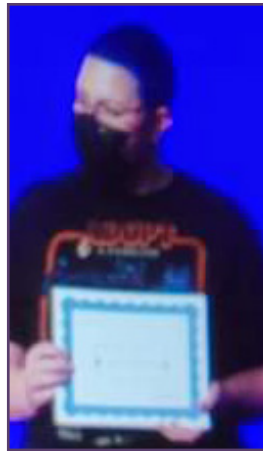
YOUTH MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Sarah Patterson

Sarah Patterson, from Area 5, was the 2022 recipient of the Youth Member of the Year. Sarah is a four-year member of **A Cappella Showcase** where they contribute as a bass singer and a front row performer. Sarah is also the bass with **Generations Quartet**, which placed first in the Area 5 AC&C and 11th in Verona.

Sarah took part in the BHS Harmony University “Next Generation” program and was presented with a certificate by Kristin Gunasekera, Harmony, Inc.’s Youth Programs Coordinator.

As a special surprise, it was announced that the IBOD approved free corporate dues for the coming year to our newest Youth Member of the Year! This will be an ongoing way to recognize the youth leaders in Harmony, Inc. who are awarded this special recognition of contribution and leadership!



Minor Chords entertain at IC&C 2022 in Verona, NY.

Harmony for Young Women encourages youth

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

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

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



Parade of Champions 2022



ASSOCIATION OF HARMONY QUEENS CHORUS



A CAPPELLA SHOWCASE • 2019 CHORUS CHAMPIONS



HARMONY QUEENS ON THE RED CARPET





2019 HARMONY QUEENS

Hot Pursuit

receive their permanent crowns

In the traditional on-stage ceremony — always an emotional one — 2019 Harmony Queens Hot Pursuit exchanged their traveling crowns for permanent tiaras. Each member of the quartet was crowned by the people in her life whom she wished to recognize as most supportive of and significant in her, and the quartet’s achievement.

LEFT: Melody Hine, Candra Rice, Tessa Walker, and Michaela Medford show off their new glass hats.

Sparkle on, Hot Pursuit!

Future IC&C Dates and Locations

2024	Galt House, Louisville, KY	November 6-9
2025	Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA	November 5-8
2026	Galt House, Louisville, KY	November 11-14
2027	Niagara Falls Conv. Ctr, Niagara Falls, ON	November 10-13
2028	Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA	November 1-4

Harmony Queens Travel Fund

What is the Harmony Queens Travel Fund? So glad you asked!
 The Harmony Queens Travel Fund consists of money raised each year by the Association of Harmony Queens at the annual Parade of Champions at IC&C. This money is raised for your benefit and we hope you will take advantage of this fund. Your chapter is eligible for up to \$2,000 US towards travel and accommodation expenses when you hire a Harmony Queens quartet to appear on your show. at an educational event or youth event.

Please check out the [Harmony, Inc. website](#) for details at or contact:
[Travel Fund Chairman Judi Johnston](#)
 705-835-3402





SERVICE AWARDS 2022

Harmony honors our volunteers

Harmony, Inc., being a volunteer-led organization, relies on its amazing members to care for and guide us through all types of events and in a variety of ways. We honor eight women this year for their milestones of service. Harmony, Inc. is so very grateful to these dedicated women and we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

15 YEARS

Trayce Elenteny, Area 6 C&J Chair

Anita Prather Harvell, Social Media Coordinator

10 YEARS

Linda Brehaut, International President

Anne Bureau, Chapter Director Development Coordinator

Donna Clarkson, Financial Advisor

Linda Hilko, Convention Team, Contest Stage Manager

Judi Johnston, Finance Assistant

Donna McKay, Immediate Past President

Nominations for Honorary Member due!

By Taralee Lashway, Director of Membership

In 2022, Harmony, Inc. recognized Dr. David Wright with our Honorary Member Award. In 2012, we presented Tom Gentry, Russ Foris, Bill Macintosh, and Larry Clemons the Honorary Member Award, making them the first Honorary Members of Harmony, Inc. A few years later, Jeanne O'Connor presented Tom the Honorary Life Member Award. We value our Honorary Members with the highest regards, for they are a significant part of our history as well as our future. We thank thank them all for their wonderful contributions, and although Russ, Bill, and Larry have passed on, their legacy with Harmony, Inc. lives on.

This is the time of year where we are reminded that any Harmony, Inc. Member and Associate Member in good standing can nominate an individual who is suitable to serve as a Harmony, Incorporated ambassador as an Honorary Member awardee.

In order to meet criteria for this honor, the Honoree:

- Would agree to attend and receive the Honorary Member Award at the Membership Meeting during that year's Opening Ceremony of the International Convention.
- Would agree to take part in publicity and media coverage surrounding the presentation of the award.
- Work with Harmony, Inc.'s Public Relations Coordinator to represent and serve as a spokesperson and for the organization.

For more information and to find the nomination form, visit the Member's Only section of the website (under Corporate Manual, Section 14.5) & Form, HAR-058.

Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2024!

Chapter lauds family's life of service

By Lea Davis, Maine-ly Harmony

For many years, Linda and Fred Davis have invited Maine-ly Harmony members to hold successful yard sale fundraisers amidst their gardens, which attract folks traveling on the busy road from Augusta to Belfast every summer. Local residents look forward to the sale every year, stopping by to browse and to hear Maine-ly Harmony chorus members singing beautiful harmony amidst the blooms. The chorus has been very grateful for the couple's generosity.

Even as Fred's health declined and the couple moved south for the winter, they insisted on continuing to support the chorus fundraisers. Linda came to Maine-ly Harmony when her former chorus and quartet retired. She sang tenor with the Chantez Quartet, whose members included Lead Donna Ryder; Bass Kathy Greason; and Baritone Lea Davis.

Fred Davis passed away February 1, 2023.

Maine-ly Harmony would like to express our deepest sympathy to Linda and her family.

editor's note



Welcome to the 2022-23 issue of **The Key-Note**. With the establishment of the **HI Note** as a bi-monthly publication highlighting Area, Chapter, and Quartet events throughout the year in addition to organization announcements, reminders, other news, — and the “spot on the minute” coverage of Harmony events and topics of interest in Harmony Chat and on the official Harmony Facebook page, as well as the livestream of the contests and YouTube releases of individual quartet and chorus performances, we have re-thought the role of **The Key-Note**.

The Key-Note began as a “Year in Review” publication primarily focused on the events at IC&C to provide a memory book for those in attendance and information for the approximately half of our sisterhood who were unable to attend our premier event. With this issue, we return to that purpose and format.

A number of people contributed their time and talents very generously to the construction of this issue of **The Key-Note**. Our heartfelt thanks go to every one of them.

The backbone of the magazine is the amazing series of photographs produced by Read photography. All of our contributors are to be commended on their timely, complete, and interesting stories. We hope you enjoy every one of them.

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

— Roxanne

IC&C Education – Something for Everyone!

By Anne Colt, Education Coordinator

IC&C isn’t just about the singing – it’s also about learning! We have some exciting classes lined up for IC&C2023, including all your favorites: **Singing with the Queens** and the **Quartet and Chorus Master Classes**. We have classes offered by our judging panel, certified judges, and our own Harmony, Inc. members.

Here is our All-Star line-up:

- * Converting Guest to Member with Angie Beatty and Sue Marderness
- * Bring the Lyrics to Life with Gene Spilker
- * We Got the Matching Shoes, Now What? with Rod Sgrignoli
- * Preparing the Performer, Using the Voice, Body, and Imagination with Theresa Weatherbee
- * Broadway to Barbershop with Joe Hunter and Theresa Weatherbee
- * Say This, Not That and What the Scores Mean and How to Get Better with Adam Scott
- * Speech Level Singing is the Refusal to Reach with Nate Ogg
- * How to Make a Great First Impression with Sandi Wright
- * The World’s Ten Best Tags (According to David Wright) with David Wright
- * Chorus Master Class with Katie Taylor
- * Mixed Barbershop Singing and an Introduction to the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association with Barry Towner, Bill Colosimo, Jan DelVecchio, Angie Morton-Locke, Roxanne Powell
- * From Beginning to Winning! With Sandi Wright and Take Four
- * 3 Lens Coaching with Joe Hunter, Rob Mance, Rod Sgrignoli, and SolFire Quartet
- * Project Management for Barbershop Organizations and Ballroom to Barbershop and Back with Rob Arnold
- * The Chorus Warm Up: The Most Important Part of the Rehearsal with Rob Mance

This year we also have two classes to introduce the new Musicality Category: Musicality - Presto Change-O! with Rod Sgrignoli and Steve Tramack and How to Leverage the Musicality Category for Your Non-Contest Music with Cary Burns.

Whether you sing in a chorus, a quartet, or are a musical or team leader, we have a class for you. So set aside time on Thursday morning @ 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. and Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and gain the skills and knowledge to help you make Pure Harmony!





2022 IC&C Chorus Champions

Northern Blend

beams with delight at the realization that their dream is fulfilled.

Congratulations, ladies!

We will all remember fondly the time we finally came Together Again in Verona ...

and look forward to seeing you all again in November in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

