

The Key-Note



Harmony, Inc.

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HARMONY.STRONGER.



Harmony, Inc.

HARMONY, INC.

Empowering all women through education, friendship, and singing.

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**President's Message**

It's here... the latest issue of *The Key-Note*! I can't wait to read through its pages to see what we've all enjoyed and accomplished through the very unusual past two years.

Since our time in Sandusky, we have all experienced some unimaginable changes. Chapters and quartets couldn't rehearse, and we were unable to gather at our AC&Cs in 2020 and 2021 to celebrate in friendship and song. Our focus had to shift from rehearsals and contests to the health and welfare of ourselves and our families.

We learned how to cope, pursuing our mission with new-found zeal and creativity. Turning to the virtual world, we created a whole new educational paradigm, The HIVE; staged two Virtual International Conventions; learned two new common songs; and found ways to encourage each other by sharing Zoom rehearsals and virtual videos with each other and the world.

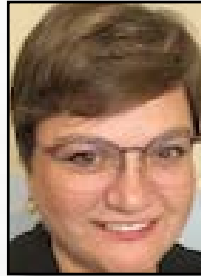
Over the last month, I have taken the opportunity (there, my word for 2022) to have conversations with members about the culture of Harmony, Inc. My heart was absolutely bursting with pride! I read so many different descriptions of how we might describe "empowering women" or supporting each other on and off the risers. One quote resonated with me: "I wouldn't be who I am today if it wasn't for Harmony, Inc." Harmony has made me a better me!

Together we are HARMONY. STRONGER.

Linda Brehaut
International President

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more on the past year's accomplishments, check out the [2021 Annual Report](#).

HARMONY MEETS THE CHALLENGE



2020 & 2021 VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS SHOWCASE HARMONY'S CREATIVITY

It's been a long two years since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. During that time, many membership organizations have faced the necessity to fold due to their refusal to move forward or use technology and innovation to remain strong and viable. Thankfully, Harmony wasn't one of them.

Harmony is always seeking ways to improve and serve our membership in changing times and remain viable as an organization. The pandemic posed unprecedented challenges to every aspect of our organization and its activities. We have spent the last two years challenging existing norms and practices, and rethinking the role of our beloved organization in our lives.

Almost every part of our organization has now adopted video conferencing tools and cloud project management software. Many chapters and Harmony administration have become experts in teleconferencing, online poll-taking, voting, cloud computing, file sharing, and Zoom. None of this virtual activity can replace "being there", but it did help us all stay connected as the pandemic and its restrictions rolled on.

Employing the help of many technological innovations led to the success of the Virtual International Conventions in 2020 and 2021. Chapters and quartets learned video-editing skills and provided incredible recordings for the Showcase and Parade of Champions. Legions of volunteers worked together to produce and present entertaining and engaging content to fill three sessions each year. In 2021, the addition of the VIC phone and computer application made navigating the convention activities easy and convenient. Though there were no competitions with medals or crowns, many awards were still presented and we all learned the true value of our friendship and place in Harmony, Inc.

There is every indication the changes made thus far will remain even after we are back to normal. Harmony will continue to thrive because of the strength of our members and their spirit of innovation which meets and overcomes any obstacle we may face. Harmony. Stronger.

— **Laura Oakes,**
Director Marketing and Communications

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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!

How we executed TWO virtual conventions



In the beginning

As a professional event planner, the year 2020 will be one that I won't soon forget. When the world shut down in March, there was a period of excitement to think that I might get a little vacation as all events were put on hold.

A month later, there was a scramble to cancel any upcoming events; and a month after that, the panic set in as it became apparent that the pandemic was not going anywhere anytime soon. How would I spend my days? Would I lose my job? What was I going to do?

I quickly understood that in order to survive, I had to pivot. So, I researched, tried new things, and eventually restructured the way we hosted and managed our events...quickly becoming an expert in all things virtual — and it worked!

As summer 2020 moved on, there were many, many con-



versations at Harmony, Inc. about how to handle International Convention & Contests. The convention team came up with a dozen different scenarios based on how the pandemic might pan out — holding out hope that we would not have to cancel it. When that decision was finally and painfully made, we were all heartbroken.

After a brief mourning period, I knew we couldn't let the year go by without pulling something together. We all missed singing and connecting with each other, and let's face it, by this point we were all losing hope that this virus would ever go away. The IBOD decided that we needed to provide something for our members to get excited about. Professionally, I had been able to successfully navigate the virtual meeting space, so I was able to apply what I had learned to our first Virtual International Convention.

I decided the main goal for our event should be to provide an opportunity for us to gather together and re-connect. So, while the content was important, it was not the main focus.

I knew it would be pretty easy to offer some of our most popular in-person education classes from previous IC&Cs including *You Be the Judge* and the Chorus and Quartet Master classes. From there, I decided to take the agenda from our last in-person event and identified other areas that I was confident we could pull off in a virtual environment: recognition, rewards, installation ceremony, etc. And after brainstorming with some of our highly intelligent HI members, we were able to figure out how to creatively include some additional traditions like the roll call and walk in.

That got me excited about what else we might be able to do....

While we knew existing technology would not allow us to sing in real time, we so desperately wanted to hear / see some singing — in any form. So that's when we decided to host an "uncontest" and allow choruses to submit videos of any past competitions or performances. And the icing on the cake? Having Anne Bureau and Ig Jakovac MC

See VIC, continued on next page

VIC

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the segment. They provided the entertainment and comical relief that we all needed. It allowed us to simulate a contest experience – we just didn’t get that personal thrill of singing on stage – but what fun it was to relive those moments!

We also included some other sessions that we knew would be entertaining and help us continue our walk down memory lane. Thanks to the amazing submissions from our membership, we showcased Harmony Fashion through the years with photos as far back as 1961! During the People’s Choice Awards, members were able to vote on their favorite costume and show packages from prior chorus and quartet contests.

Finally, thanks to the amazing technology experts that created virtual choruses, we were also able to feature our [International Chorus and Minor Chords](#). And who could forget the incredible videos that were shared during the Parade of Champions? The AHQ did such a fantastic job pulling all of that content together and providing such a memorable experience. I must admit, I shed a tear or two during this segment!

Involving 800+ people

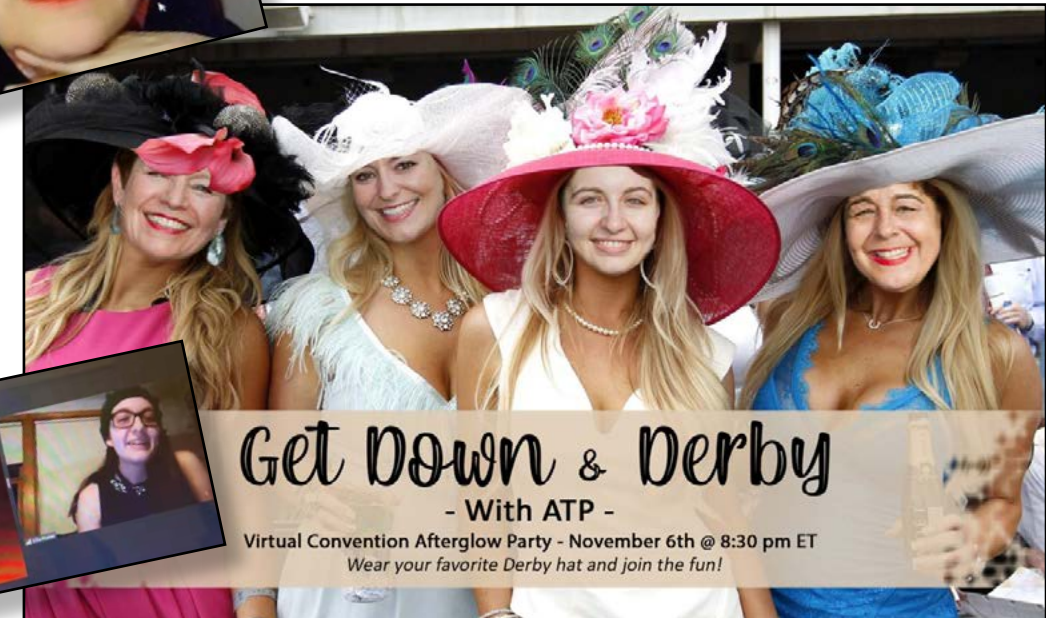
So now the missing piece was how to engage 800+ people virtually? That’s where my work experiences really paid off. I had already researched and experimented with different ways to engage a virtual audience. So, for VIC we decided to create a virtual mosaic. It was a great, memorable way to give every single person an opportunity to be a part of the event by uploading a photo and sharing their thoughts on what Harmony meant to them; which resulted in a very powerful representation of Harmony Stronger.

I think one of the best decisions we made for VIC 2020 was to invite Aged to Perfection to host our afterglow. Their sense of humor and experience hosting their own infamous virtual “parties” ensured us an engaging, entertaining evening - from the Get Down & Derby theme to their Queens Behind the Crowns game - it was a great evening full of lots of laughter.

By this time - we were confident that we would be together again in 2021 in Hershey PA - so I wanted to end the event on a high note and get everyone excited about what was ahead. We were joined by the Hershey Hotel team - including the mascots and they showed us how to make their infamous Hershey martinis while then-President Donna McKay led us in a toast to 2021— the year that things would get back to normal.

Little did we know....

See VIC, continued on next page



Get Down & Derby

- With ATP -

Virtual Convention Afterglow Party - November 6th @ 8:30 pm ET
Wear your favorite Derby hat and join the fun!



VIC

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Year Two

Fast forward to summer 2021. Once again, the convention team spent many hours coming up with possible in-person scenarios for ICC 2021 — not only to bring people together again — but to salvage our contractual obligations. But the IBOD soon realized the safety of our members was more important than our intense desire to sing together again.

I will admit that after 1.5 years of planning and hosting virtual meetings I wanted nothing to do with planning another VIC. But then, as so often happens for me, in the middle of the night I woke up with an idea. And that idea grew and blossomed into what became our best — and hopefully last — VIC.

The goal was the same — provide an engaging event. But the stakes and expectations were higher.

It is said the darkest of nights produces the brightest of stars and I knew we should focus on our own Super Stars

— all the people who stepped up during the pandemic and found new ways to meet, teach, engage and even sing.

With the huge success of the HIVE program; we did not need to include a big education component which allowed us to showcase more of our choruses and quartets. By now, so many of you had produced new videos that we had plenty of content that became the centerpiece of the 2021 event.

And this time around we all had lots of virtual meeting experience under our belt which meant more people were comfortable with the technology and willing to step up and play a role in planning the VIC. With so many great volunteers we were able host a variety of sessions and engagement opportunities. Some highlights included:

Opening Ceremony

Harmony, Inc. International President Linda Brehaut honored all of the shining stars in our organization. Deke Sharon, singer, director, composer, arranger and producer of

NBC's *The Sing Off* and *Pitch Perfect* 1,2, and 3 provided the keynote address and International Harmony Queens Hot Pursuit entertained us as only they can!

Kitchen Party

Area 1 hosted a Kitchen Party Thursday night after the Opening Ceremony. This was an incredibly entertaining evening full of stories and songs.

All Star Coaching with Deke Sharon

Known as the “father of contemporary a cappella,” Deke Sharon coached us on a new common song, *Rockin' Robin*. I can't wait to sing it together in person at next year's IC&C!

AHQ Show

What's a convention without the AHQ show? Livewire Quartet shared some of your favorite quartet performances and hosted an interactive game show honoring anniversary Queen quartets. We also enjoyed a Virtual AHQ Chorus performance.

See VIC, continued on next page

VIC

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Tag Room

Many of you joined New Q and Tonic quartets Friday night after the AHQ show to learn and sing tags! It was almost as if we were actually at ICC – standing around singing tags.

Coffee Talks

Did you grab a cup of coffee and join one of these live discussion groups? If not, you definitely missed out.

- Membership retention: Anne Bureau and Jennifer Cooke discussed a plethora of options and innovations in membership growth and retention.
- Judging Under Glass: A “panel” of judges shared some performance videos, followed by a brief explanation of why they scored a performance the way they did.
- Barbershop around the world: In this unique session organizations around the world shared their perspectives on what they have in common with Harmony, Inc. and how they are unique.
- Shoot for the Stars: Coaching Under Glass
Cy Wood, a musical theater teacher who spent many years in NYC working as a professional actor and producer coached Take 4 quartet and we got to listen in and see first-hand how virtual coaching works!

Harmony Under the Stars Afterglow

We closed out our 2021 virtual convention with another fun-filled evening where we showcased the [International Chorus virtual video](#), *From Now On*, got an introduction to our outly-

ing chorus chapters, and crowned the Brightest Stars in our trivia challenge! It was a night full of laughs and surprises!

In conclusion

Was it easier the second time around? Yes and no. There was definitely the same — if not more — work involved in planning and executing the second event. But we had best practices from the first event. We had more technology experience and knowledge. And we had many more resources and examples to pull from than the previous year. Most importantly, we had more volunteers and more time to pull it all together.

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Was I exhausted after the event? Absolutely. It was physically and emotionally challenging to pull these two events together. All of the logistics, all of the time and energy, all of the sleep lost. One of the biggest lessons we learned from VIC 20 was to provide breaks during the event! We were so excited to have so much content to share that we crammed it all in to a day and a half. On Saturday, we realized our mistake when we had no time to eat, no time to take our eyes off the screen and no time to pee!

Was it worth it? Most definitely. The satisfaction of seeing everything come together, the joy of reading all of the comments in the chat about how everyone was so happy to be connected — even in this small way — and the tears from all of the heart-warming moments...and all of the laughter shared among friends made it all worthwhile.

Make no mistake, the success of these events does not fall on my shoulders. While I may have planted the seeds of ideas, it was the membership and volunteers who watered and cultivated those ideas to create the successful events we have enjoyed over the last two years.

While they are too numerous to name — I do want to give a big shout-out to a handful of people who were critical to making these two events happen, including;

Kelly Peterson
Linda Hilko
Anita Prather Harvell
Anne Colt
Donna McKay
Linda Brehaut
AHQ
Convention Team
Communications Team
VIC Planning Teams
Video Editors
MCs and Hosts
Session Leaders

And EACH OF YOU that submitted videos and photos, participated in a session and provided ideas and insights!

What's Next

Your convention team is already hard at work planning for ICC 2022 where we WILL be together again! As we brush off our notes and try to recall how to plan a contest (kidding...not kidding) be assured it is our goal to provide an over the top (but safe) experience for everyone who is able to attend.

We cannot wait to see you all in Verona!

— Allison Thompson,
International Convention Manager



Hot Pursuit reigns virtually

Little did anyone suspect that when Hot Pursuit were crowned Harmony Queens in 2019, they would become a historical first with a 3-year reign and a mostly virtual ambassadorship.

What has Hot Pursuit been up to since winning in November of 2019? Well, first off, WOW. 2019 feels like centuries ago, doesn't it? Sung in the voice and style of the incomparable Julie Andrews, "Let's start at the very beginning. A very good place to start."

After IC&C 2019, our first gig as Harmony Queens was in February 2020. We were very excited to participate in the Song of Atlanta Diva Day workshop as the teaching quartet. This was a particularly special opportunity as that exact event was how Tessa found barbershop 10 years prior. So, to be the teaching quartet while wearing crowns on the 10-year anniversary of Tessa finding barbershop was a very surreal moment in time. (Here is our performance of [When I Get Low](#) from that event.)

Best laid plans

On February 16, 2020, we met for a normal Hot Pursuit weekend retreat in Atlanta. During this weekend, we planned out our year of gigs, prepped for IC&C 2021, learned a few new songs, and created a learning plan which included picking up a new song or two every month. We were so excited for the year to come — new gigs, new opportunities, growth as a quartet, and finally some time to learn new music! Who knew the world would come to a halt almost exactly a month

later? We had no idea that the next time we'd all four be in person to sing was June 4, 2021. At the time of writing this article, Hot Pursuit has only been together 3 times since February 2020. Those three times all took place over the summer of 2021.

Discovering virtual avenues

However, like most barbershoppers during this time we found other virtual avenues to sing and participate within our amazing artform. After it quickly became clear that we would not have the reigning year we thought, it was even more imperative to us that we introduce ourselves to all of Harmony, Inc.

We are not naive to the fact that we were quite unknown at the time of our win. We had been looking forward to changing that through our planned attendance at AC&C events and other HI shows throughout 2020. Looking to find other ways to introduce ourselves and share our quartet with HI, we hosted a *Virtual Get to Know Hot Pursuit* Q&A on April 11, 2020. It was well attended and so much fun to talk with everyone. We laughed, answered questions, and shared. Along the same lines of growing our relationship with HI, Melody and Tessa started their [HI History YouTube Series](#) in the summer of 2020. It was extremely im-



portant that we learn more about our organization and utilize our relationship with other barbershop organizations to share HI's amazing history. The series is not complete and we hope to pick it back up this summer!

At this point, Hot Pursuit entered the "Virtual Era of Singing" like so many others. We were fortunate to be given so many amazing opportunities during such a tumultuous time. Please enjoy our chronological walk-through of all we've accomplished.

— **By Tessa Walker, Lead**

HOT PURSUIT'S PANDEMIC TIMELINE

September 2020: We were part of an amazing section leader team that coached the Virtual BHS Everyone In Harmony Chorus.

["Still the One" virtual chorus](#)

["Into the Unknown" virtual chorus](#)

We also submitted a performance video to Capital City Chorus's Fall Into Harmony virtual show.

October 2020: We were the teaching quartet for Lions Gate's Spookshop virtual youth event.

November 2020: We had a blast participating in HI's **Virtual IC&C**. We participated in the Parade of Champions show and ran a [Quartet Master Class](#) (Tips & Tricks with Hot Pursuit). (Hot Pursuit in the Parade of Champions is at 1:17:32 and the AHQ Virtual Chorus at 1:25:18). Also in November of 2020 we submitted virtual performances for the Hartford Men of Harmony: A Night With the Champs show. ([Hot Pursuit at 20:45](#) .)

December 2020: We virtually visited the North Pennsmen Chorus.

April 2021: We were part of an HI (HIVE) Quartet Panel Discussion. At Area 6's virtual education event, we led a youth tagging class. In addition, Melody and Tessa got to teach their own classes at Area 2 and Area 6 education events.

June 2021: We had a blast virtually visiting an On Q rehearsal.

July 2021: We had our first live performance since February 2020. We got to share a night of barbershop, food, tags, and jokes with some close friends in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. (["Let's Sing Again"](#) & ["Put 'Em In A Box"](#) .)

On July 3, 2021 we were part of the BHS's virtual Saturday Night Show. During the same event, we were seen on the Westminster Show portion (["Bright Morning Stars"](#) at 22:00.)

August 2021: We were the teaching quartet for BHS Northeastern District's [Virtual Harmony Explosion](#) Camp (Hot Pursuit at 25:19 .)

November 2021: Yet again, we were honored to be a part of Virtual IC&C. We performed a virtual set during the opening night and on the Parade of Champions show as well. Perhaps one of the most special things to happen throughout all our reigning time was singing together at our very own Michaela's wedding celebration on November 22, 2021.

Hot Pursuit has a few in-person opportunities lined up throughout the upcoming months as long as things are safe to do so! We are most excited to be getting back in person with our HI family. Individually, we are trying to make it out to some Area contests and we quite literally cannot wait for IC&C 2022!

Though this has been a crazy and unprecedented time, we have tried to make the most of our reigning years. It may not have looked anything like we had thought going into 2020, but we sure had some laughs, sang some barbershop, and wore our crowns with pride every chance we got. Thank you for all your support and we can't wait to share some harmony with you in the future!

Now that we've taken a look at the quartet's adventures, here are some of our individual endeavors!



CENTER: Performing Beautiful City with the Westminster Chorus.

BOTTOM: Candra joins Voices of Gotham at "Tin Pan Alley".

TOP LEFT: Candra and Melody hang out before virtual IC&C.

TOP RIGHT: Area 6 youth participate in a virtual tagging class with Hot Pursuit.



Hot Pursuit Tenor

Michaela Olson

In March 2020, Michaela's job transitioned to be 100% virtual and has continued to be since then. She moved from Chattanooga, Tennessee to Knoxville, Tennessee in August 2020, and got engaged shortly thereafter. Most of 2021 was spent wedding planning, aside from being a bridesmaid in the weddings of two close friends in July and October. She got married on November 22, 2021, followed by a honeymoon to Disney World.

Recently, she started attending the Aveda Institute in Knoxville to pursue an education and career in Esthetics. She is looking forward to graduating at the end of July and getting back to more singing afterwards.



Hot Pursuit performs. at tenor Michaela Olsons's November 2021 wedding.

Hot Pursuit Lead

Tessa Walker

Since 2019, Tessa has been teaching choir and adaptive music at Seneca Valley High School in Germantown, Maryland. Though Tessa has yet to experience a year of teaching without COVID-19, she has tried to make the most of the first three years of her career. In August 2020, she was honored to write a [guest blog for barbershop.org](https://www.barbershop.org). She was also thrilled to be interviewed on a couple podcast shows - Polyphony (Episode 9) and Vocal HERspective (Episode 24).

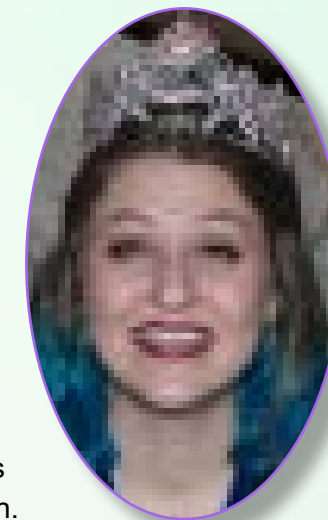
In January 2021, Tessa became a Lead section leader for the Alexandria Harmonizers (BHS). She is constantly humbled to be a part of the Harmonizer family and to learn from their leadership teams. She cannot wait to continue her journey with them!

In July of 2021, Tessa fulfilled a barbershop dream of hers by becoming a Virtual Harmony University faculty member. She taught two of her own classes (Foundations

of Storytelling and Hidden Figures) and participated in a couple Music Education seminars/panels. Most recently in November 2021, she was invited to be a guest lecturer for The Singers' Circle teaching her More Than Music Education class.

It feels like there aren't too many exciting things to share, but Tessa is proud to have made it through these years alongside her partner John. Just like everyone else, she hopes that the future years bring about more peace and health for everyone.

Hug a teacher friend and listen to them about what changes need to come about for better education!





Hot Pursuit Bari

Melody Hine

At the time of Hot Pursuit's crowning in 2019, Melody was teaching middle school chorus at Duluth Middle School in Duluth, Georgia. After an unexpected turn of events in the Summer of 2020, she sold her Duluth house and moved to Frederick, Maryland, to continue her chorus teaching career at Roberto Clemente Middle School, which *surprise* happens to feed into the high school where Tessa teaches!

Melody is still a member of Song of Atlanta Show Chorus but has also

since joined the singing and music teams of Parkside Melody in Hershey, Pennsylvania. She has attended many chorus' virtual rehearsals and taught several classes over the last two mostly virtual barbershop years and has spent a lot of time arranging as well.

Though it has been challenging this year in particular to balance her barbershop life with her school/work life, Melody is hopeful that the coming years will bring more singing and socializing opportunities for barbershoppers and positive changes for educators.



Candra Rice sports her new BHS Singing Judge Candidate badge.

As many of you know, life during the pandemic has been filled with both extreme joy and vicious heartache.

Candra kickstarted 2020 with a week-long trip to New York City to compete in Voices of Gotham's Tin Pan Alley Contest. It was an amazing experience to celebrate Hot Pursuit's recent win with some of her closest friends, and she even got to see her first Broadway show (*Mean Girls*).

Shortly after, life came screeching to a halt and she had to face the struggles of being an essential worker in Los Angeles during a global pandemic. She stepped into multiple new roles at her job, and was able to grow a lot as a leader.

In September 2020, Candra lost her partner, Matt, and left everything behind, moving cross country to Baltimore, Maryland. There were lots of twists and turns in the process, but it worked out thanks to the love and support of her friends (especially Melody, who was by her

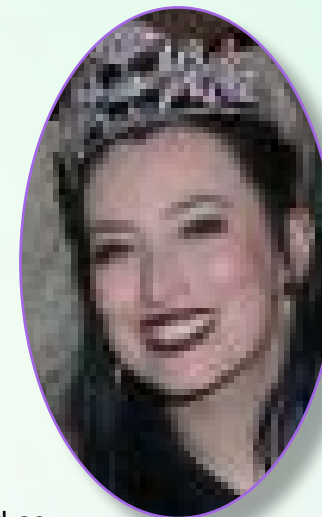
side the entire time).

Being on the east coast has brought her many new opportunities: Reconnecting with old friends, visiting several chorus rehearsals, coaching quartets, and in June 2021, she even had the honor of guest judging Tin Pan Alley. In September 2021, Candra was officially accepted as a BHS Singing Judge Candidate, after two long years of trials and training. October 2021 brought even more new experiences, such as her first Italian Beef, first shot of Malort, and even her first Village Vocal Chords visit in Chicago!

After the craziness of the past couple years, Candra is most looking forward to traveling and seeing her friends around the world again. She is currently working at the best craft beer store in Baltimore, and is enjoying exploring the rich culture and food scene of her beautiful city.

Hot Pursuit Bass

Candra Rice





Well, here we are two years in, and without any contests it would seem that A Cappella Showcase is still be the current Harmony, Inc International Gold Medal Chorus.

We can tell you that we definitely don't feel that way! We miss our singing friends and family and are extremely excited to be competing again this spring at Area 5 AC&C.

But what has led us here? Lots of change, conversation, adjustments, going with the flow, figuring out innovative programs, understanding and so much more.

Over the last two years we have grown as a chorus in so many ways, not just limited to the music we share with each other.

We grew as a group of friends while learning the the latest ideas and pillars of our singing and applying them to the new music which occupied us during the pandemic.

With more down time we used it to our advantage to keep up with friends we already had in the chorus and make new ones, always checking in on each other throughout the pandemic. We hosted coffee time, social bingos, had fantastic conversations in break out rooms during rehearsals

We think that all of Harmony, Inc. members are champions...

and we were still silly with theme nights. One of our favorite accomplishments was our virtual choir recording of *This is Me* from *The Greatest Showman* for our virtual spring show. You can see [in this video](#) how passionate our members are about their singing, their chorus, and their organization. This song showed us how all of us have something to bring to the table and that we can all be ourselves no matter what happens. Yes, sometimes there is darkness and life gets you down (like the

pandemic) but you can stand up, be brave and be yourself.

We even had a chance to be brave and sing in front of a live audience for our Christmas show. That was a real experience after two years!

So, are we still champs?! We don't think so. We think that all of Harmony, Inc. members are champions for enduring the this time of seclusion and making the best of every opportunity and situation. So, we take off our medals and salute every Harmony, Inc member who we can't wait to see and share our joy of music, song, and friendship with.

— **Angie Morton-Locke, Chorus VP**

2020 & 2021 Award Recipients

2020 President's Award
Kathy Greason



2021 President's Award
Anne Colt



Where there's a volunteer, there's a way

Harmony, Inc. embodies the words “Volunteer led organization” and relies on its member volunteers to keep our organization moving forward. To honor outstanding volunteer action, awards were presented at Opening Ceremonies at the past two years at each Virtual International Convention (VIC),

At the 2020 VIC, 2019 International President Donna McKay, and at the 2021, VIC Linda Brehaut, our current International President honored the following generous volunteers for the time they gave to Harmony in 2019 and 2020.

2019 Honorees:

- Trayce Elenteny, 10 years
- Chris Hembel, 15 years
- Bev Jackson, 30 years
- Lauren Lindeman, 35 years

2020 Honorees:

- Dorothy Webster–10 years
- Jeanne O'Connor–35 years



As always, all volunteer efforts on behalf of Harmony, Inc. are appreciated and it is understood that no progress is possible for our organization without those hard-working members. Much gratitude to you all.

— **Laura Oakes,**
Director of Marketing and Communication

Future IC&C Dates and Locations

2022

November 2 – 5

Turning Stone Resort & Casino
Verona, NY

2023

DeVos Place Convention Ctr &
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, MI

2024

November 6 – 9
Galt House
Louisville, KY

2025

November 5 – 9
Hershey Lodge
Hershey, PA

2026

November 11 – 14
Galt House
Louisville, KY

2027

Canada
Dates/Location TBD

2028

November 1 – 4
Hershey Lodge
Hershey, PA





How sweet it is!

The HIVE energizes Harmony

We all REALLY miss singing together during this COVID pandemic! Harmony, Inc. found a marvelous way to keep us connected, keep us learning, and continuing to grow despite the restrictions. Harmony, Incorporated Virtual Education — HIVE — was born out of the HI spirit of friendship, connections and love of our craft. It is my privilege to discover the amazing story of The HIVE. I hope that I can do justice to the many Harmony members whose hard work, vision and dedication have brought The HIVE to us, leaving an amazing legacy and providing us with some modern tools to share our love of Barbershop.

How The HIVE was born

Previously, the Education team had long envisioned recording IC&C education classes so that those who could not attend IC&C could access them, but that had never seemed to work out. It was not long after the pandemic began that “Virtual Education” became a reality. Music Judge Janet Billings put a call out through Harmony Chat to anyone who might like to learn some Music Theory via Zoom. These first four sessions began in March 2020. As then International President Donna McKay said, “How awesome was that of her? And what a fabulous idea!”

Shortly thereafter, the IBOD facilitated a small brainstorming group searching for ways to keep members engaged during the pandemic shutdown and asked:

“What if we could continue education classes through Zoom?” and

“What if we could record Zoom sessions and members could watch them later? Great idea!”

Donna remembers, “Education Coordinator Anne Colt and Corporate Assistant Kelly Peterson got classes up and running, very quickly, I might add!” The first session was the end of April under the title “Virtual Education” and throughout the month of May, two or three sessions were offered each week. After classes had started running, the Communications Team’s Robin Matula noted that Harmony, Inc. Virtual Education produced a really nifty acronym and the project was christened The HIVE. The spiffy honeycomb logo setup and colors that now identify HIVE were mainly thanks to Social Media Coordinator Anita Prather Harvell. Others involved in the remarkable early team effort that resulted in the HIVE we know and love today were Kelly Thomas (then VP Education), Mary Ann Wert (Director Communications) and, of course, Donna McKay (then International President).



ANNE COLT



KELLY PETERSON

Education Coordinator Anne Colt and Corporate Assistant Kelly Peterson got classes up and running, very quickly, I might add!

— Donna McKay



President's Award 2021

Presented to Anne Colt

For her contributions to Harmony Inc.

"Constructive in our work for Harmony Incorporated."

*I am so grateful
for the recognition
for a project that is
dear to my heart . .*

— Anne Colt

The HIVE

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Anne Colt

The driving forces behind the work to find presenters, schedule classes and inform members have been Anne Colt and Kelly Peterson. For those of you who don't know Anne, let me introduce our Education Coordinator! Anne is a member of the California Note Catchers, a thriving chorus (for over 25 years) in an "outlying area" of Area 4. After attending her first IC&C in 2018, she volunteered to be Education Coordinator (and dive into the deep end) coordinating education classes for the 2019 IC&C.

She explains, "My job was to recruit the teachers and schedule the sessions." Her HIVE job is a little more complex: to anticipate our needs, always be on the lookout for creative topics and possible instructors, reach out to possible instructors, find and coordinate the facilitators, schedule sessions

and oversee their ongoing delivery. Her leadership and passion have shaped HIVE.

Director of Program Sara Stone says, "I'm happy to work with Anne. She is the epitome of the right person for the right job. She loves what she does and has great ideas for class topics. She is a great communicator. She thinks outside the box and was challenged during COVID to get even more education to us!"

Anne was recognized for all of her work on HIVE with the 2021 President's Award, presented to a person who makes significant contributions to Harmony, Inc.

Anne says, "This was unexpected: I was overwhelmed and literally speechless! I am so grateful for the recognition for a project that is dear to my heart and that I'd like to share

with everyone on the team that has made the HIVE so successful." It is so typically Anne to thank the whole wonderful team.

Kelly Peterson

Saying that Kelly Peterson is another driving force behind HIVE's success is an understatement. The multi-talented Kelly wears many hats including Corporate Assistant for Harmony, Inc. The HIVE is just one of many responsibilities that Kelly assumes for us. She manages registrations for the HIVE classes, and creates announcements and online links for members about upcoming HIVE sessions.

Kelly has taught a class, been a facilitator, and jumped in on at least one tense moment during sessions to save the day! Kelly says, "It has been such a joy to watch the initial idea for online education blossom into the program we have

The HIVE

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in place today. I love sitting in on classes whenever I can, both to learn something new and to get some face-to-face time with other Harmony members and friends. The HIVE has been a huge win for our members over the last two years.”

This writer is delighted to have an opportunity to publicly say a big Thanks to Kelly for all that you do for us in Harmony!

The HIVE’s Wonderful Presenters

There have been 60 presenters to date (Feb. 2022) that have offered their expertise to us through the HIVE. A few offered to present existing sessions (particularly in the early days). The vast majority have been tailored for the HIVE, sometimes through topics suggested, sometimes through Anne’s creativity but often through member needs. As the pandemic changed our circumstances so did our needs change. For example, coming back together to sing in person may require refreshing old skills (like knowledge of contest categories) just as Zoom rehearsals required new and different skills, so presenters stepped up to help others adapt.

Early in the HIVE’s infancy, judges made a push to offer classes. As Kathy Greason recalls, this is how one class came to be: “Once Anne knew that the judges were encouraging each other to offer classes for the HIVE, she asked me whether there was anyone who knew about copyright, as that was a need that the Board had identified. Unfortunately, we didn’t have internal expertise. I knew no more about the topic than the average barbershopper, but it was of interest to me, and I ended up researching and creating a class.”

Anne reached out to our members, the Chorus Directors’ Roundtable, judges, and coaches first for possible presenters, then to BHS and Harmony University instructors and eventually to SAI instructors, trying to meet our needs. “I’ve been overwhelmed with the wonderful response from prospective instructors when I’ve reached out for presenters.”

The presenters seem grateful for this opportunity to share their expertise. Katie Taylor commented, “Even though it was only through a computer screen, I felt a great connection with the attendees in my class and I hope they were able to take away a lot of valuable information! It was a blast!”

See **The HIVE**, continued on next page



The HIVE

Harmony, Inc. Virtual Education

Many thanks to our presenters!

<i>Janet Billings</i>	<i>Jen Wheaton-Forest</i>	<i>Aged to Perfection</i>
<i>Kim Meechan</i>	<i>Angie Morton-Locke</i>	<i>Roxanne Powell</i>
<i>D Dyer</i>	<i>Anita Prather Harvel</i>	<i>Sara Stone</i>
<i>Katie Taylor</i>	<i>Linda Muise & panel</i>	<i>JayButterfield</i>
<i>Susan Spencer</i>	<i>Jen Cooke</i>	<i>Sue Melvin</i>
<i>Anne Bureau</i>	<i>Marie Ross</i>	<i>Nancy Bos</i>
<i>Sandi Wright</i>	<i>Amy Patterson</i>	<i>Joe Cerutti</i>
<i>David Wright</i>	<i>Hot Pursuit (2019 Queens)</i>	<i>Kevin Keller</i>
<i>Joe Hunter</i>	<i>Mark Kettner</i>	<i>Chris Rimple</i>
<i>Marty Lovick</i>	<i>Alan Gordon</i>	<i>Brian O’Dell</i>
<i>Lindsay Chartier-Holdeman</i>	<i>Cindy Hansen Ellis</i>	<i>Steve Tramack</i>
<i>Lynn Blakeney</i>	<i>Kelly Adams</i>	<i>HI Membership Team</i>
<i>Ig Jakovac</i>	<i>Judy Comeau</i>	<i>Sue Kember</i>
<i>Tony Sparks</i>	<i>Sue Greene</i>	<i>Naomi Russell</i>
<i>Gene Spiker</i>	<i>Kelly Peterson</i>	<i>Paul Ellinger</i>
<i>Jordan Travis</i>	<i>Patrick McAlexander</i>	<i>Change of Heart</i>
<i>Fatima Whelan</i>	<i>Nicola Stevens & panel</i>	<i>Bill Colosimo</i>
<i>Wendy McCoole</i>	<i>Kathy Greason</i>	<i>Brandon Hall</i>
<i>Theresa Weatherbee</i>	<i>Steve Scott</i>	<i>A special thank you to those who have presented multiple sessions</i>
<i>Jill Reid</i>	<i>Debra Lynn</i>	

The HIVE

continued from previous page

Paul Ellinger enthused, “People are so warm, welcoming and filled with joy. I am so honored to be part of the HIVE sessions as I am always even more uplifted after getting together with all my new Harmony, Inc. friends.”

Bill Colosimo agreed saying, “I feel privileged to be part of the HIVE faculty team... encouraging Harmony members to strengthen their skillsets and share what they’ve learned.”

Sandi Wright reflected on the HIVE, “Being able to teach, learn, sing, and sharpen my own skills is making it easier as we emerge from the pandemic.”

The HIVE Facilitators

Volunteers that act as facilitators at the HIVE sessions are the oil that make the sessions run smoothly. Since the HIVE began, 11 facilitators have helped us to connect to each other and support our learning (and help make the instructors’ lives easier) during 98 different sessions. Linda Hilko, a ‘frequent flyer’ as a facilitator, commented, “Being a small part of this well-run and well-organized team has been a joy.” She commended all the presenters. “They are well-prepared, engaging and more than willing to answer questions and share their knowledge — all in an effort to build relationships, skills and confidence.”

Sandra Hanson, also a frequent facilitator, is a relatively new member of HI (and to barbershop) and saw facilitating as a way that she could not only learn about Barbershop but also meet new people involved in the organization. “It’s been such a great learning experience,” she says.

Anne Colt says, “I can’t ask for more willing or capable facilitators or more smoothly running sessions.” (for the most part — we won’t get into exceptions!)

Thank you to all of our great volunteer facilitators!

Behind the HIVE has been a lot of Buzzing!

Behind the scenes are many volunteers that you don’t see during the HIVE sessions. There are technical supporters on the Communications teams (past and present), video editors and social media posters that all work their magic, just as Anne and Kelly do, for each session to become a reality. Thank you to all of the outstanding volunteers (in all capacities) who have contributed their time, talents and efforts to make the HIVE so successful.

Participants

The success of the HIVE can certainly be measured by the over 6,250 participants at live online sessions and the countless views of the 98 sessions that happen daily at the members-only page on the HI website. These sessions are now a permanent resource for ongoing education. As Donna McKay said, “What a huge benefit to membership in Harmony.” This is an amazing success story for Harmony, Inc.!

I think that by now most of us have either been participants or heard the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the many HIVE participants. Everything from over-the-top praise to pure gratitude seems to be the feedback. For example:

“Greatest thing since sliced bread!”

See The HIVE, continued on next page



The HIVE

Harmony, Inc. Virtual Education

Thanks Facilitators:

Anne Bureau

Anne Colt

Jeanne Crowell

Sandra Hanson

Linda Hilko

Jess Jones

Donna McKay

Amy Patterson

Kelly Peterson

Kelly Thomas

Patricia Watson

The HIVE

continued from previous page

“Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the free education.”

“We HI members appreciate all those who are sharing their knowledge!”

“I’m grateful for access to these fabulous classes despite distances.”

“The HIVE programs are wonderful!!!”

“The HIVE has provided us with a huge resource for years to come!”

Paul Ellinger provided the following: “WARNING: May be habit forming. If you go to one HIVE session, you might just want to go to the rest of them!”

The Future of the HIVE

In planning for the 2021 Virtual International Convention, it was decided that because of all the rich content the HIVE offered, there was no need to include any education component. That may be true during the pandemic, but as Anne Colt says, “Nothing can replace being together, hearing our music together, hearing in-person presentations and live discussions and the personal interactions at an IC&C.” We will all be delighted to be back together again soon!

The HIVE has a future and a place after the pandemic to complement our traditional education. There are members who, due to personal circumstances cannot personally attend IC&C (geography, finances, schedule, health, etc.) who will still be able to have access to IC&C education classes online on their own schedule.

Anne Bureau believes, “Certain classes can’t be done (or as effectively) on the HIVE.” Both in-person education and the HIVE programs will work well together as valuable educational formats going forward into our future. Virtual education is a wonderful tool even when we can get together personally. It is a wonderful (and timely) inclusivity tool, not only for our expansion areas but for members who (for whatever reason) are limited to online connections with the rest of us.

Anne Colt’s vision for the future of the HIVE immediately is to support members as we transition back to singing in person. Long range, she sees the HIVE as an ongoing educational resource for individual singers, choruses, quartets and organizational leaders. She hopes to offer more educational series since previous series (from a number of instructors) have been very successful on the HIVE format.

I could not summarize better than Linda Hilko, who said, “My hope for HI post-COVID is to see, hear, and feel that our bond is not broken; that our singing and performance skills are stronger thanks to the educational opportunities that the HIVE has offered, and that we can soon continue to share the joy of our music together in person. One of the many things I love about Harmony, Inc. is the willingness of every member, no matter their position or role in the organization, to teach others and to share with others to build them up.”

Doesn’t that just about capture the spirit of the story of the HIVE?

Long live the HIVE!

— **Judy Breckles, Staff Writer**



The HIVE

Harmony, Inc. Virtual Education

Thanks Tech Wizards:

Anita Prather Harvell

Anne Leinen

Robyn Matula

Laura Oakes

Kelly Peterson

Roxanne Powell

Tanya Reid

Pam Ringo

Mary Ann Wert

Everyone who posts on Facebook!





Harmony, Inc.

Immediate Past President,
Donna McKay



International President,
Linda Brehaut



Executive VP,
Gaye LaCasce



VP Finance,
Jan Delvecchio



VP Convention & Contests,
Kelly Thomas



Director of Programs, Music & Education,
Sara Stone



Director of Development,
Sara Wood



Director of Membership,
Kim Meechan



Director of Marketing & Communication,
Laura Oakes



Area 1 Director
Linda McMaster



Area 2 Director
Julie Schwingbeck



Area 3 Director
Sarah Thorne-Miller



International Board of
Directors
and Advisors
2021-2022

Area 4 Director
Susan Spencer



Area 5 Director
Nancy Flagel



Area 6 Director
Angie Beatty



Parliamentarian
Debbie Parmeter



Strategic Advisor
Linda McMaster



Financial Advisor
Donna Clarkson



Recording Secretary
Paula Henley





Area 1 engages Associates to form virtual octet

A few weeks ago, we formulated a plan to keep some of the chorus members in the Saint John, NB region of Area 1 engaged with some of our Associate Members from the region. When we sent out an invitation to form an Octet with former quartet and current quartet members, the response that came back was so favorable that we ended up with an octet plus one, comprised of five Chorus members and four Associates!

A few years ago, we had made up a separate group from Sea Belles (all quartet members) and called ourselves Sisters in Harmony. We decided to purchase a song to sing at our closing summer party. The song had not been sung since then, but, since we had paid for the music and tracks already, we decided to resurrect this piece of music for our current endeavour. We thought that we could, if it turned out well, share it with funeral parlours if any loved ones wished for this style of music for Celebrations of Life during this pandemic.

So, we all started working on our tracks. One of the women was interested in learning how to mix them in Audacity and another was going to try to do the video portion.

So far – all the tracks have been done and we are just waiting for the videos to be sent in. We are all wishing for a successful outcome, but success or not, this is keeping us all engaged with our harmony music during yet another Covid lockdown.

Time will tell the story for Joyful Harmonies, but we are hoping to continue to have fun with our music.

Always in harmony with song – Joyful Harmonies!

Leads: Darlene Isnor (AM), Sue Ingraham (AM), Dianne Bonner (Chorus Member)

Bass: Cheryl Sweeney (Chorus Member), Margie Fife (AM)

Bari: Joanne Conrad (Chorus Member), Bonita Hester (Chorus Member)

Tenor: Debbie Sabean (Chorus Member), Judy McNab (AM)

— Margie Fife



Our journey to Jamie

Island A Cappella's persistence pays off

In the fall of 2015, our Prince Edward Island-based chapter, Island A Cappella, suddenly found itself without a Director, which is never ideal but even more so with no one waiting in the wings to assume that role. But in keeping with our Harmony Creed and shared dedication to a common goal, talented member and Tenor Section Leader Carolyn Prime stepped up for what we assured her would be a “temporary” assignment to help keep the chorus moving forward in a positive and productive way.

Carolyn did a wonderful job at the helm, taking us to competition four times. We thought she might decide that directing was in her blood but ultimately, in 2019, after four busy and successful years leading our charge, she was ready to return to the risers, so it was time to get serious about our recruitment process.

Any chorus who has ever recruited for this key position knows just how challenging it can be in a world where folks who have not only the skills and education but interest in barbershop can be very rare finds — even more so on an island with a population of 156,000.

And then throw a pandemic into the mix!

A recruitment process that ended up spanning a total of four years exhausted two different volunteer member committees who did everything from print ads and press releases to recording and posting promotional videos on social media.

As luck and a collective non-stop effort would have it, a casual conversation between a chorus member at the rehearsal for another community-based chorus resulted in newly arrived resident Jamie Feinberg sitting in as our guest for one of the first return to in-person chorus rehearsals in the fall of 2021. Imagine our delight in connecting with a skilled performing artist and educator with a B.A. in music from Smith College and an M.S. in community economic development from Southern New Hampshire University.

She had spent the past five years travelling, teaching, and performing across the U.S. with her husband, Ross Malcolm Boyd, while simultaneously developing online music education and virtual assistant businesses. After spending the early part of her career as a professional musical director, arts educator, and performer, she started her own theatre company in New Hampshire in 2010, and in 2020 she completed a life coaching

program to help sensitive, aspiring adventurers get the confidence and tools to bring their own dreams to life.

In August of 2021, Jamie and Ross realized another dream: returning to Charlottetown (after a honeymoon visit in 2014), where Ross began studying music at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). Jamie is pursuing another dream of her own and is now a Soprano 1 in PEI's professional choir of mixed voices, Luminos Ensemble.

Jamie officially signed on as Island A Cappella's new Director in January 2022. We are beyond thrilled to have welcomed her to our barbershop family and to provide her with a safe and fun space where she can further explore and expand her directing, conducting, creative, and leadership skills as she and her husband settle into their new life in our Island community.

Never say never, remember that hope is what makes barbershop special and please join us in welcoming Jamie to Harmony, Inc. by dropping her a line at: director@islandacappella.ca

Imagine our delight in connecting with a skilled performing artist and educator...

— Kelly Mullaly

Bonding closer while physically distanced

Clever spotlight questions highlight ScotianAires member experiences

The word COVID is everywhere. It's all we've heard of for two years. It's affected the way we work, the way we grocery shop, the way we and our children learn, and it's drastically affected our health.

And for those who sing for a hobby, it's changed how we do what we do. Singers' masks, 6-foot distances, gathering limits, lockdowns cancelling rehearsals and performances. This truly sucks!

The ScotianAires, however, found a way to bond closer no matter if we were meeting in person, or on Zoom from our own living rooms / bedrooms / kitchen tables:

Some choruses in Harmony are quite small and can get to know one another quite easily, but the ScotianAires have been over 50 members for at least 15 years. Once-a-week rehearsals focused on singing doesn't leave much time to get to know one another. So, Director Sue Kember thought of a way to change that.

She carved time out of rehearsals, chose one member at random, and we all got to know them.

Introducing, the Member Spotlight!

"What brought you to the ScotianAires?"

Some members were brought in by a singing friend, work buddy, or chatty customer. Some sought out singing opportunities on their own and found our website or social media (which we are quite proud of!). Some saw or heard us singing elsewhere and followed up. One member credits Snoop Dogg(!) and one member was singing karaoke down south and someone told HER to seek us out! One thing was in common though – once they heard those Barbershop chords, they were hooked!

"What is or was your job?" A lot of our members are currently retired, but we do have members that are still employed. Lots of members are or were in health care – nurses, lab staff, administration, a pharmacist. Some in government work. Others owned their own various companies with families or were home makers.

"What has been your greatest accomplishment so far?" A hard question for sure. Many ladies chose their children – their prides and joys (and grandchildren, and great grandchildren). But some others said their careers, which they worked very hard for. And some others felt that what they've done with singing has been

AREA 1

their biggest accomplishment.

"What is one thing our members would be surprised to learn about you?" Well! This has been the highlight for our spotlights! Some members have shocked us with hidden nuggets like championship figure skating, singing in a touring rock band, university sports hall of fame, an invitation to dine with Prince Phillip. Or funny tidbits such as knowing how to make homemade donuts, fear of cows (that's from yours truly), a RuPaul fan (which led to a couple "Me too!"s), and one member who's driven on an ice road!

And lastly, *"What is your most memorable ScotianAires moment?"* A lot of ladies mentioned first AC&Cs, first IC&Cs, wins, awards, performances (especially at long term care facilities), the specialness of singing with family, a retreat performance of *I Will Follow Him* dressed up as nuns, 90s car-karaoke from Ohio to Nova Scotia (21 hours) after IC&C 2019, an AC&C fun night dressed up as a pregnant bride, and lastly, a very memorable plane ride home from AC&C with an uneasy belly!

These spotlights have really brought us closer together, learning things of these ladies we've been friends with for years, or decades! We've laughed with them, and we've cried with them. And it's made these bonds even stronger. Who knew that was even possible?

— Tanya Reid



AREA 2

Education, Friendship, & Singing

Area 2 gets creative



MOLLYOCKETT CHORUS



One of the most exciting Area 2 happenings since the March 13, 2020 shutdown was the chartering of a new Harmony, Inc. chapter in Norway, ME – Mollyockett Chorus. We are thrilled to have them with us and hope to be able to fete them properly at Area 2 AC&C in April.

Though the pandemic shut down much of the entertainment sector, the Area 2 Council continued working on our behalf, providing an impressive Virtual Education Day on April 17 last year thanks to the hard work of Education Chair Samantha Tramack, with help from Convention Manager Diane Patterson. Our staff included a variety of barbershop luminaries and provided a menu of classes (three separate tracks) in music, singing, and performance.

Area Convention Manager Diane Patterson kept busy negotiating contracts with multiple venues as conventions were cancelled, hotels were sold and space repurposed, and COVID-19 surges kept changing our anticipated attendance. We are THRILLED to be committed to AC&C 2022 in Westborough, MA!



Red circles show potential locations for Discover Harmony Day.

Stars indicate current Area 2 Chapter locations.

The Area Council is embarking on a Discover Harmony Day project for fiscal 2022-2023. We plan to host a choral gathering in a geographical area with no local HI chapters to develop interest in the organization.

— Julie Schwingbeck, Area 2 Director



Area 2 Education Day

Harmony, Inc.
Area 2 Convention & Contests
 April 21 - 24, 2022
 Westborough, Massachusetts
 Area 2's AC&C Convention Team and Hostess Chapter, **Silk'n Sounds**
 Welcome you to





WOMEN OF NOTE & MAYNARD HS CHOIR



BARRE-TONES ZOOM REHEARSAL

VIRTUAL VIDEOS, GALORE!

Area Chapters embraced virtual choruses and choral videos to keep our singing alive. Check out these awesome efforts!

[Music Speaks Louder Than Words - Women of Note and Maynard HS Choir](#)

[Sound Celebration - NoteAble Blend](#)

[Virtual Holly Jolly Cabaret - Sounds of the Seacoast](#)

[Virtual Valentines - Maine-ly Harmony](#)

[With a Little Help From My Friends - Harmony Heritage Chorus and NoteAble Blend Chorus](#)

[You're My Best Friend - Sounds of the Seacoast](#)

I hope you remember New England Voices in Harmony's wonderful virtual offering of Come the Wild, Wild Weather at VIC 2020.

CREATIVE MEETINGS!

Three cheers for Zoom! – Much as we all suffered from Zoom-fatigue as the shutdown continued, Area chapters took advantage of Zoom rehearsal to bring in celebrity (barbershop celebrity anyway) guest speakers and gather with other chapters virtually. Zoom rehearsals also helped connect Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus with their frontline director, who has moved to Florida. They are fast at work developing director Jamie Bolduc to handle local arm waving.

New England Voices in Harmony and Silk'n Sounds both arranged to rehearse via FM transmitter in their cars – or as NEVIH called it – Carmony! Many choruses took to the outside to rehearse and perform. Check out this video of Surround Sound caroling in the park: [Surround Sound Caroling in the park](#)

Montreal City Voices celebrated Jean MacBeth for her 50 years in Harmony, Inc. as indicated in this local news report: [Jean MacBeth - 50 years with Harmony, Inc.](#)

AREA 2

Getting back out there once again

Silk'n Sounds and Women of Note went the local festival route to spread the word and drum up business and membership.

Women of Note at Applefest in the hometown of their new rehearsal location.



Silk'n Sounds at Hampden Fest

In Memoriam

We lost some very dear long-term members to the Area over the last two years, including the last living founding member of Harmony Incorporated, Eileen Valade. Please check out her tribute on the Harmony Heritage page: [Tribute to Eileen Valade.](#)

We also lost:

CATHERINE KELLY — 40-plus-year member of Montreal City Voices



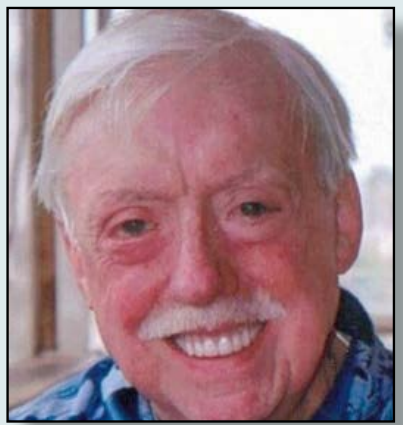
EILEEN VALADE



PAT LONGCHAMP — 50-plus-year HI member and Queen Mom

BILL GREEN — Former Director of Harmony Heritage

CELIA LANDRY — 40-plus-year member of Chair City Pipers (now Surround Sound) and Women of Note Chapters.



AREA 2

Harmony Heritage conquers the pandemic

Talk about whiplash!

In February 2020 we had delivered one of our best performances to a spillover crowd at the Warwick Public Library; the PR machine was cranking; Barbara-Ann was booking more performances as fast as requests came in. On March 3, 2020, we had just come off a high-energy coaching session in preparation for the Area 2 Contest & Convention in April. We did not know that it would be our last in-person rehearsal for six months. In late March, Rhode Island went into lockdown, businesses closed, events were cancelled (including the Area 2 competition) and we all found ourselves sheltering at home, cut off not only from the singing, but from the sisterhood and support that went with it. What's a barbershopper to do?

Answer: Virtual Happy Hour! Our first tech-challenged Zoom session came with a beverage of choice. Such a relief to see the faces and catch up! We kept up these sessions at semi-regular intervals for several months, but our music was withering on the vine. When July rolled around, the chorus leadership decided that we had to get back to rehearsing in whatever form that needed to take, so HH Zoom Happy Hour became HH Zoom rehearsals. Director Bob O'Connell would review the music with us, then challenge us as individuals to sing our part with audio while everyone else sang along on mute.

By September, conditions in the state has eased enough to allow for open air, socially distanced in-person rehearsals at Slater Park in Pawtucket. We sang under the grove, outside the tennis courts, under the open air shelter with the rain beating down, always with a few Zoom participants on Camilla's cell phone. On one occasion we brought the party to Carol and Bill Green in Riverside, entertaining the neighbors with a front yard rehearsal.

Some of us took advantage of the HIVE classes, and, missing our audiences, some of us sought virtual outlets, joining Harmony Inc.'s International Chorus with virtual song presentations, [Narragansett Bay Chorus](#), or the Raceand#RealTalk Virtual Ensemble, part of HALO Quartet's multi-chapter conversations on race. A high point of these endeavors was when we joined with our sister chapter, NoteAble Blend, in a virtual presentation of *With a Little Help From My Friends*, as well as joining them in a virtual Fun & Games night with trivia.

For many months and into 2021, we continued going back and forth between Zoom and in-person rehearsals at the park. Over that time, we temporarily lost our rehearsal space at St. Paul's, as well as losing our spot at Slater Park to a children's concert in September. We were determined to move indoors to make any progress in our music, so we first tried St. Mary's in Pawtucket, with its stunningly beautiful sanctuary and daunting stairs, then on to the Murray Church sanctuary in Attleboro, with its air conditioning, great acoustics, three baby grand pianos and strict masking requirements. Then unexpectedly, St. Paul's became available again, and from October through early December, we held in-person rehearsals with masking. With the Omicron variant, we are back to rehearsing on Zoom. For now.

No matter the variant or the venue, we found a way to sing. Too technologically challenged to see each other, we sang. Too muffled by masks or too socially distanced to hear other, we sang. In church sanctuaries, in public parks, in a member's yard, at wakes and through the loss of loved ones, we sang.

In spite of the obstacles, we have welcomed five new members and one new/old member to our chorus. Welcome, Karen, Mary, Shaundra, Maria and Lisa!! And welcome back to our first remote

member, Cheryl from sunny Florida!

Throughout the many months of improvising and adapting, there are individuals who deserve special praise for bringing us some degree of "normalcy" and keeping alive the hope that we will one day rehearse in-person and reunite with our audiences to share this wonderful music.

- Thanks to the prolific talents of our Director/Arranger Bob O'Connell, we have added 13 new songs to our repertoire, many arranged by him. We also appreciate the extra time that he and the Music Team put in recording learning tracks that were much needed.

- We came so heartbreakingly close to performing in the holiday season just past, but it was not to be. Thanks go to Barbara-Ann MacIntosh for keeping open the channels of communication between us and the people charged with hiring us, and for fostering so much good will when we or they needed to cancel a performance. Thanks to her careful diplomacy and persistence, those doors are still open.

- Camilla Streeter, our Zoom tech guru, hosted rehearsals, BOD meetings, Outreach Task Force meetings, Music Team meetings and more, all with patience and good humor.

- And finally, many thanks go out to President Anne Diggle for keeping us on track, informed and accountable to each other in our singing and in our governing functions.

To kick off the new year, we have a [new](#) web-



site. We are poised to make 2022 another year filled with sisterhood, support and song.

— **Jeanne Chapman**

TOP: Harmony Heritage gathers to sing safely outdoors at Slater Park.

BOTTOM: HH entertains the neighbors with an outdoor rehearsal.

A kaleidoscope of opportunities

New England Voices in Harmony stay connected and growing by being flexible

If variety is the spice of life, then New England Voices in Harmony has been well-seasoned this past year! In my second year as President – and I thought 2020 was difficult! – balancing safety and our need to join in harmony with one another continued to require flexibility. In the process, we have experienced many ways of coming together and, for the most part, have been keeping our sisterhood connected and eager to continue our journey together. We do know that with the diversity of people that make up not only our chapter, but the entire Harmony organization, no solutions will be the right fit for every member. But we have certainly tried.

After a year of rehearsals on Zoom (augmented with some limited small-group gatherings during warmer weather), we were ready for something different. Our first foray into our return to in-person singing was to purchase what we dubbed “Carmony,” an electronic system allowing members who wished to participate to sing from their individual vehicles and hear our joined voices over the radio or a headset. The joy of finally hearing our voices joined in harmony is reflected whenever we listen to the version of *What a Dream Can Do* that we recorded that day. As we use that recording to sing with during our still-occasional Zoom rehearsals, the cheers and “woo hoo”s on that track make us smile every time.

During the spring, we alternated between Carmony rehearsals and Zoom rehearsals, always maintaining a Zoom link to allow those unable to participate in Carmony (for whatever reason) to hear and sing along with our in-person cadre. Although we had diligently worked on Zoom for the past year and had the opportunity for many unique and wonderful educational classes, we did find our in-person skills a bit – um – rusty. It was heartening to hear improvement week by week during this time. Hearing some of the new songs in person that we had learned while virtual-only was so impactful. And holding Carmony rehearsals in the parking lot of our “normal” rehearsal venue began to help

AREA 2

PICTURES FROM TOP: The virtual installation ceremony, with lighted candles in each of our homes creating a shared sense of warmth as we recommitted to Harmony and each other.

Joyful faces, even singing in separate vehicles, using our “Carmony” technology.

Happy together “come rain or come shine”!

Never has expressing ourselves with our eyes been more important.

Contributing items to Savers provides us funds while helping to reduce the “stuff” we all seem to collect.

The joy of good hard work together on our craft!

us imprint travel to rehearsals once again. And we got to meet our newest member Tina (who not only now sings barbershop, but owns a barbershop!) in person. Face-to-face on Zoom is not the same.

As weather improved, we decided to alternate Carmony with outdoor in-person rehearsals. It was interesting to observe which version of rehearsal attracted more members – and we always kept a Zoom connection. The outdoor rehearsals allowed us to reinvigorate sectionals and see each other’s faces, still taking care to be well separated while singing. Summer also saw organization of more social time, with beach days and gatherings at homes. We were thrilled to be able to respond to a gig request for a back-porch quartet performance, which allowed a pick-up quartet some additional small-group rehearsal time. Ah, the kind of fund-raising we like best: sharing our love of harmony!

Excellence training weekend

It is our practice to hold an Excellence Training Weekend in early September, and we had been so disappointed to forego it last year. Although conditions still did not allow for a weekend-long event full

See NEVH

continued on next page





Maine-ly Harmony was able to return to their rehearsal hall for a short while in the fall of 2021 before the Omicron variant spread to Maine.

Maine-ly Harmony Chorus gives thanks

During these difficult times, the members of Maine-ly Harmony wish to thank our director, Kathy Greason, for her tireless efforts to keep us united and singing, even if it has to be on Zoom rehearsals.

Thanks also to our members who are able to enhance our virtual meetings with their technical skills. Janet Dunham and Barbara Combs seek out great Vimeos of barber-shop choruses and quartets to inspire us. With their help, we were able to put together Vimeos of our chorus performing Christmas music and love songs for Valentine's Day, which were sent to senior housing and nursing homes throughout the state of Maine. Our efforts even produced a feature story on NBC morning news.

Very much appreciated, as well, are our officers, President Candace Pepin, Vice President Sue Staples, Secretary Jennifer Clair, Treasurer Janet Dunham, and at large members Betty Avery and Tina Barker, for their leadership and guidance.

A state-wide news release last December about Maine-ly Harmony has caught the attention of a rising number of interested women who have begun Zooming with us and, we hope, will soon join us in person.

— *Lea Davis*

AREA 2

NEVIH

continued from previous page

of coaching and social time, we were pleased to have a successful coaching day in a member's back yard. We set up canopies to protect us from the sun, and found the yard ideally sloped in a riser-like configuration. We rounded out the day with a modified version of our Quartet Showcase, inviting our own quartets to strut their stuff before a very receptive audience.

We worked hard individually, during this time, to prepare a virtual performance of *Come the Wild, Wild Weather*, as a performance for virtual IC&C. This song is near and dear to our hearts, speaking as it does to the part we each play in the lives of those with whom we are connected. It was great fun to rehearse the song outdoors in-person, and poignant to record ourselves individually at home to be joined in virtual harmony. At the end of September, another small group (with the size of the group constrained by the tiny stage) had the opportunity to perform at the Big E. Our Carmony equipment came in handy, as we were able to use the mixers and microphones from that setup. We are proud that we are learning new microphone skills!

Especially in New England, the nice weather doesn't last forever. We made the decision that we would begin to gather indoors with proof of vaccination and use of masks. The decision process – considering data points from other choruses, recommendations from health organizations, the health of our members, and our rehearsal venue (which is a senior center) – was difficult. We know that, as had been the case for each of rehearsal techniques used throughout the year, this would work for many, but not for all members. I'm sure other chapters have experienced that selected measures are considered too restrictive by some, and not protective enough by others. So many unknowns!

In October, we began to move indoors for our rehearsals. Our initial gatherings were riser-less, very spread out, with frequent breaks to move to separate spaces.

As always, we kept a Zoom link live for those remaining at home. Flexibility remained the Word of the Year, and we made the decision to revert to full Zoom rehearsals on a number of occasions. But it was wonderful to be back and to be indoors! Other gatherings for fundraising and social time continued in a careful fashion.

As time progressed, we pulled out our risers, using extra spacing (and frequent breaks). We identified and purchased singer's masks, which we found required us to hone new breathing skills but provided decent sound quality. It was exciting – after several venues had to cancel planned holiday performances – to hold a performance for a local community wearing our new singer's masks. We had a virtual holiday gathering at the end of the year, in order to include as many members as possible, and enjoyed a short break until the new year. Although we had intended to return to our indoor rehearsal venue immediately for renewed focus on our non-holiday repertoire, the latest variant made us cautious about an immediate return. We reverted to Zoom rehearsals for a few weeks in January, welcoming a new prospective member during that time. A small number of our contingent trickled back to in-person rehearsals in late January, and we look forward to more and more joining in as personal comfort levels and health issues allow.

I think of this past year like a kaleidoscope of opportunities that bring us back to the increasing experiences of harmony. We have been eager to re-establish a strong foundation of skills and are looking forward to sharing more performances in the coming months, as well as hopefully welcoming more prospective members. We know we are not the only ones who have longed for opportunities to sing together during these difficult times, and hope that others will find their way to the joy we experience and the harmony we share.

— *Lynn Gresock, Chapter President*

Surviving and thriving during a pandemic

'Can-Do' attitude paves the way for Silk'n Sounds

What a journey the past two years have been for womens' barbershop choruses! At the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, there was immediate and enthusiastic consensus from our 37 members that Silk'n Sounds would continue rehearsing weekly, learning and expanding our singing skills, and enjoying the strong camaraderie that comes from shared goals and the joy of creating this wonderful style of music. How to make that happen was the challenge!

We knew we had to be innovative to engage our members meaningfully. Thanks to outstanding and enthusiastic leadership from our director, Kia Lampe-Onnerud, and countless hours of planning by chorus volunteers, the past two years have been driven by the spirit of, "Let's try it!" and we have continued to build our repertoire, recruit new members, and perform. In summer 2021 we were grateful to rehearse together again in person and the weekly hugs all around said it all.

The results of our "can do" commitment were fantastic and kept our enthusiasm high as we experimented with unique approaches to effective

rehearsing and learning 15 new songs. Highlights include:

- In spring 2020, we moved our rehearsals outdoors at the high school where we had been rehearsing in the auditorium;
- Kia, an inorganic chemist, gave us a quick lesson in particle physics so we "masked-up" and wore surgical shields;
- Outdoor power sources and lots of extension cords enabled Kia to use her digital keyboard, microphone and speakers;
- A few sprays of insect repellent made singing in a grassy area on a beautiful summer's evening fun and memorable;
- Our section leaders approached sectionals differently by working together extensively before introducing new music, smoothing out tricky rhythms and pitch trouble spots for better learning outcomes;
- On one of the coldest Sundays in 2021, our innovative "A Car-Pella" was created by a couple of husbands and chorus volunteers. Members stayed warm in their cars, and sang with microphones sent through a mixer and broadcast on an FM station and, best of all, we already had all of the equipment needed;
- In February 2021, we had a very special opportunity to perform virtually in 2021 for the development of an off-Broadway Audio Theater broadcast of [The Triangle Factory Fire Project](#) by Christopher Piehler and Scott Alan Evans.

We decided to shift all recruitment resources to social media platforms

AREA 2

and undertook a major renovation of our [website](#), improved our FaceBook profile and added a successful Meet Up page. And, a new video sampler of our performances was added to the website. Our efforts really paid off and we welcomed two new members in summer 2020 and three new members in 2021.

The chorus focused on community service this past fall and enjoyed lively outdoor performances for brand new audiences. Highlights include:

- The Hamden Community Dinner, a weekly "dinner for \$1.00" sponsored by a local church, invited us to sing at a dinner in their parking lot on a lovely September evening. We were surprised and delighted when the Pastor added his beautiful baritone to a few songs, as well as a guest who joined us with his accordion;
- For the first time ever, we participated in the Hamden Town Festival, an outdoor, all-day event with several hundred attendees which gave us great PR, attracted new members singers and resulted in two paid gigs;
- In December, we had a blast singing holiday music at a drive-through Winter Wonderland and hundreds of families stopped to listen on their way through the "Festival of Trees".

History, science and our hearts tell us that singing lifts the human spirit and we were fortunate to present three performances this past fall, two of which were at venues new to us. Performances were as follows:

- Through the efforts of a chorus member, we were engaged to sing at the First Congregational Church in Wallingford, CT, a stunning 300 year-

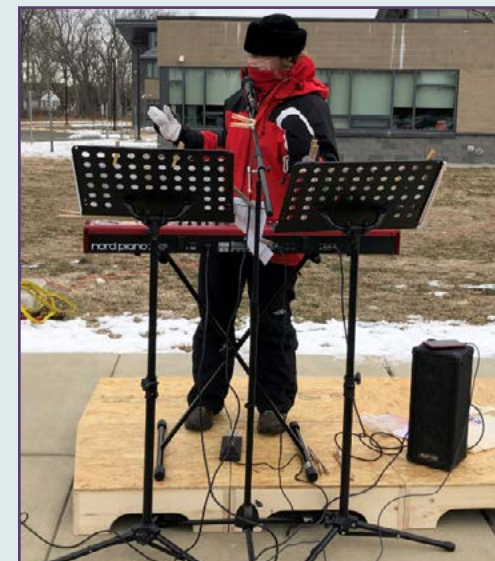
old church with absolutely amazing acoustics, even singing masked;

- In December, we were invited to sing holiday music and other favorites at the grand opening of Chatham Place in North Haven, CT, a new, premier assisted living venue;

- Also in December, we performed at Evergreen Woods in North Branford, CT, a repeat customer where we've made many good friends.

- Lastly, we had one of the most inventive and enjoyable outdoor holiday parties following the Evergreen Woods performance with a member's hatch-back car beautifully decorated with holiday lights and ornaments. We enjoyed delicious desserts, cider, and being together on a wintry night.

A surprising outcome of adapting to the pandemic is a feeling of greater connection to each other in spite of working by Zoom. Our extensive work in sectionals provided new smaller group interaction and together we celebrated the arrival of new grandchildren, wed-



Silk'n Sounds Director, Kia Lampe-Onnerud, "A-Car-Pella", February 2021



Silk'n Sound waves farewell to the wonderful First Congregational Church audience who sponsored a reception for guests and the chorus following the performance.

dings, graduations and our families' special moments and achievements. One word sums up our experiences since March 2020: gratitude. We are grateful to our director, Kia, for her boundless enthusiasm; to our fellow singers who volunteered significant time for everything from setting up the weekly zoom for those who couldn't join outdoor rehearsals, for greatly improving our social media presence, and for the joy of making beautiful music together.

— Kate Stoddard

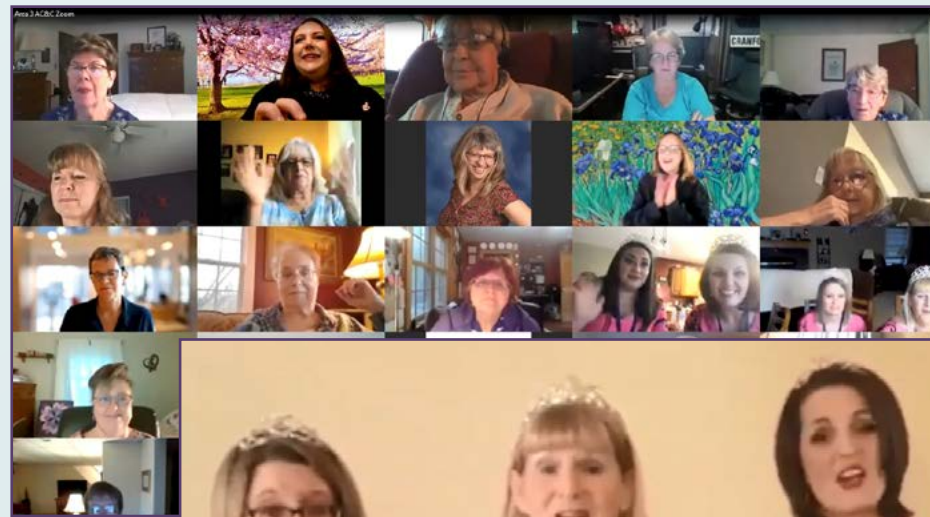
Area 3 is the place to be!

In early 2020, Zoom meetings became a way of life. And while not the same as in person, Zoom gave us the opportunity to come together during the pandemic. Choruses started having rehearsals virtually. And Area 3 was no different.

Every year, our members look forward to Area Convention and Contest. It's a time to join together and share our passion for singing with friends, performances, awards, education, and gatherings. When we learned in early 2020 and 2021 that we would not be able to hold Area Contests in person, we were devastated.

Virtual Moonglow Awards

How could we reach our Area 3 members and still bring them a piece of AC&C virtually? The Area 3 Virtual Moonglow Awards Presentation was created to bring together our members for one night in 2020 and 2021 to celebrate the members receiving Years of Membership Awards, Chorus Years of Membership Awards, the Chorus Membership Award, the Kay DeLong Award (2020), and the Area 3 Service Pin. The presentation was shown during a Zoom event for all Area 3 members to attend. In 2021, we even had a fun afterglow with 2015 Harmony Queens LiveWire.



Area 3 members come together via Zoom for the Awards Presentation.

1996 Harmony Queens For Heaven's Sake, sing We're Harmony, We're Strong via Zoom.



Area Council Zooms

During the pandemic, the Area 3 Council held its biannual meetings in spring and fall virtually. Using Zoom for the Area Council Meetings was nothing new for the Area. We have been using Zoom for a few years to cut back on expenses and travel time for in-person meetings. While we love to meet in person, Zoom allows more of our Council Members and Chapter Presidents to attend.

At the meetings, the Presidents go around and talk about what each chorus has been doing. During the pandemic, the discussion

focused on if and how choruses were meeting, how choruses were retaining members, and how choruses were moving forward.

East Coast Harmony Explosion

As for upcoming events, Area 3 has some exciting news! For the first time, all three barbershop organizations will join together in a youth outreach program. The sponsoring organizations are Region 19, Sweet Adelines International; Mid-Atlantic District, Barbershop Harmony Society; and Area 3, Harmony, Incorporated.

East Coast Harmony Explosion is a free day camp for singers grades 6-12 in and around

the Baltimore, MD area. This camp is for any student grades 6-12 who loves to sing and perform. There is also a track for music educators. The event will take place in early 2023. Area 3 is thrilled to be a part of this!

Virtual Education

Also, Area 3 held its first Virtual Education Day this March. Attendees had a choice of classes about music, coaching, rehearsing, quarteting and diversity, just to name a few.

AC&C features Derby Days

But the biggest event we are looking forward to is, of course, Area Convention and Contest. After two years of only being able to be on Zoom for our Convention, we're so excited to be able to come together in person after such a long absence.

This year's theme is Derby Days, hosted by Crystal Chords. The convention will start on Friday, April 29 with the quartet contest. Area 3 is again welcoming mixed quartets registered with the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association to compete. Saturday will be the chorus contest, followed by a dinner and then moonglow to close out the evening. Education classes will be held Sunday morning to finish out the convention.

We know AC&C will be different this year with wearing masks, social distancing and fewer hugs. But we hope to have a fun filled event with amazing performances, top-notch education classes, and lots of camaraderie with our Harmony family and friends.

— Sarah Thorne-Miller

AREA 3

Crystal Chords share remarkable community support

Wow, what a ride!

Like everyone, we have learned to be creative and flexible while striving to stay connected and GROW during the past two years. While it is not the best venue for singing 4-part harmony together, thank goodness for ZOOM! We even took the opportunity to run a six-session “Learn to Read Music” course for our members who wanted to learn.

McKays retire

Perhaps our biggest change as a chorus was accepting the retirement of our dear directors, Bill and Donna McKay. Bill had been our Director since the beginning, and Donna had been our teacher and leader on so many different levels – also since the very beginning. There is no replacing leadership like theirs, but Chris Dunbar stepped into the role as Director of the Crystal Chords and is striving to continue the level of excellence begun by the McKays. We cherish our past and look forward to a bright future as well.

Parking lot rehearsals & virtual video

During the summer, we resumed in-person rehearsals in the parking lot of our rehearsal site. How great to harmonize together again.



TOP: Crystal Chords spread holiday cheer donating gifts for residents at the local behavioral science unit.

LEFT: Donna and Bill McKay retire from chorus leadership.

Our ever-resourceful Karen Trotter put together a virtual chorus of one of our favorite repertoire songs, [Don't Stop](#). We also had a wonderful summer party at a State Park with our friends, Harmony Falls.

Community support

Fall of 2021 welcomed a return to our Craft & Vendor Show. We had a great turnout from the community.

Even through the pandemic, quarantining, and social distancing, Crystal Chords has continued to support our community. In 2020 when we were unable to gather together,

a small contingent of chorus members met outdoors (socially distanced) in a beautiful country setting to record a few holiday songs to be included in the Arctic League Telethon. This past year, we were able to meet together and have the entire chorus represented on the Telethon. In total, we were able to donate nearly \$2,000.

We also spread some holiday cheer by donating gifts for residents at our local behavioral science unit.

Holiday events

This past winter, we were able to partici-

pate in Corning’s Gaffer District “Sparkle”, which is an outdoor holiday event. The chorus took the main stage singing holiday favorites to a very enthusiastic crowd, and chapter quartets strolled through the streets and stores singing carols. The energy from the audience was absolutely amazing! We were also able to present our annual holiday concert with all proceeds benefiting the Food Bank of the Southern Tier. We were thrilled to have several “Holiday Guests” join us on the risers.

Radio & TV

Our Bari Extraordinaire, Jo Barlow, has organized several interviews on local radio stations and TV programs, with some of our quartets giving stellar performances, and one of our newest members, Rita Sherman, has stepped right in keeping our Facebook page and website fresh and vibrant!

All in all, the Crystal Chords have been very busy. We look forward to continuing our presence in our wonderful community. We look forward to opportunities to perform this year, including our annual show with the Mark Twain Chapter of BHS.

— **Chris Dunbar, Chorus Director**



AREA 3

Harmony in Motion finds their voices in the pandemic world

To say things have been difficult is an understatement, since life as we once knew it came to an abrupt halt in March of 2020. Our upcoming annual weekend retreat, our scheduled performances, and our weekly rehearsals were all cancelled on the spot. Like everyone else in the world of Harmony, it was a disheartening and frustrating time.

Thanks to the technology of Zoom, we continued to see each other socially and to work on our music and choreography together.

Although we had to sing on mute, it was a way to stay connected for a while to each other and to our music. We learned many a new song this way, thanks to Director Jeanne Viscito. Our choreo team introduced movement for some of our songs and virtually led us in weekly practice. Several members volunteered to lead our physical warmups and to share the music via Zoom. It was truly a team effort. We even held our Board installation ceremony and subsequent Board meetings via Zoom. No one ever expected this pandemic to continue for so long!

Zoom rehearsals did have their good points. It provided an opportunity to invite others from the world of Harmony to easily visit our rehearsals and share their expertise with us. We also utilized this rehearsal time for oc-



casional prerecorded HIVE classes.

When the weather improved that year, some of us took advantage of the warmer temperatures to get together outdoors socially. We held a choreography session in a member's backyard, as well as a couple of times singing socially in the parking lot of our local YMCA. It gave us hope of better days to come!

When our regular rehearsal venue shut down to visitors, we were fortunate to have been offered the use of a non-profit community service agency that our chorus supports. As things started to improve with the pandemic, we began holding in-person rehearsals videoed on Zoom so other members could join us from their homes. We have continued with these arrangements, but have been back on Zoom during times when there has been an upsurge of the virus, including the entire month of January.

During this challenging time, we have sadly lost some of our membership, but we also

Harmony in Motion sang at the Sussex County Fairgrounds! The building was packed with many volunteers from the German Christmas Market who were all treated to a luncheon there....and we were their entertainment. We left after much applause and with full hearts!

managed to add a few new voices to our chorus.

Community performances

Harmony in Motion has resumed some of our community performances.

- We sang our National Anthem at a local ballpark, home of the Sussex County Miners.
- We performed some patriotic numbers at a golfing fund-raiser for our military troops.
- We provided some entertainment at Project Self-Sufficiency's annual Toy Drive held outside their facility with many local dignitaries and speakers. We closed the event with some of our holiday songs and welcomed Santa to the stage.
- We performed at the German Christmas

Market held at the Sussex County Fairgrounds.

- Our chorus also held a performance in the gym of our YMCA for a group of senior citizens, who enjoyed our assortment of patriotic, holiday, and love songs.
- The Retired Teachers Association was also the recipient of a Harmony in Motion performance at their holiday luncheon. We customarily invite our audience to sing along with some of our songs. They love it and, who knows...there may be a future member of our chorus lurking in their midst!

Harmony in Motion participated in the special Harmony Virtual International Convention with the submission of one of our songs taped in the fall of 2019 at our big show. Bass Section Leader Cathy Lagreca participated as a member of the Virtual International Chorus. She was presented with a prestigious award at our Area 3 Virtual Awards Ceremony in 2020.

In the past, we've produced a very successful big show every two years. We postponed our 2021 show for a year because of the continuing pandemic. Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of things to come, we've decided to cancel our plans for a big show in 2022. Instead, we hope to take a smaller version of a show "on the road" to perform at venues in and around our community, beginning in the upcoming spring. We look forward to keeping our Harmony alive and continuing to share it with others!

— **Bev Rentler**

AREA 3

Liberty Belles Chorus

Our journey through the pandemic

Although the past two years were quite challenging, The Liberty Belles Chorus didn't miss a beat – we knew how important it was to keep our members connected to each other and to the music, and to also stay connected with our audience and community.

For 14 months we continued our weekly rehearsals, which were held via Zoom. During that time, we found creative ways to learn and grow, including virtual workshops, one-on-one coaching, and sing-a-longs to audio tracks. One of our biggest achievements during that time was a [virtual show](#), which we put together using a medley of fun and creative video and audio recordings. Our chorus members participated in the creation of two music videos, plus a collaborative video between our quartets. This was a dual effort between our chorus and our local men's barbershop chorus, The North Pennsmen. Together we were able to create a 30-minute virtual show, which we premiered on YouTube.

In May 2021 we started getting back together for outdoor rehearsals (weather permitting!). Soon thereafter, we had the amazing opportunity to sing *The Star Spangled Banner* at the Philadelphia Phillies game in center field at Citizens Bank Park. It was a last minute gig due to an unexpected opening, and we only had a week to prepare, but it was an amazing experience that we will never forget. It was exactly what we needed to reinvigorate our chorus, and it connected us to our community in a big way.

In the months that followed, we focused our energy into our annual and bi-annual fundraisers, participated in community outdoor events, collected monetary donations for our local women's shelter, and practicing our contest songs and performance package. We were able to tune up our holiday package in time to perform at our local tree-lighting ceremony in December. And also during those months, we welcomed three new members!

Despite the limitations that we have faced, we have kept ourselves busy and motivated, and we're looking forward to several big events coming in 2022... including AC&C in April, a guest performance in The North Pennsmen Spring show in April, another performance of the National Anthem at the Reading Fightin' Phils game this summer, and (drumroll please!) we are so excited to be planning our very first Liberty Belles show coming in September. We are ready to put the past behind us, and to continue pushing forward.

— Sara Dahl, Chapter Marketing Chair

TOP: The Liberty Belles sing at the Philadelphia Phillies baseball game, July 17 2021.

BOTTOM: The chorus sings at the Towamencin Township Holiday Event, December 4 2021.



Northern Blend Chorus

Innovative coffee chats keep chorus members connected

I've been a Northern Blend Chorus member since June, 1986, practically since its charter with Harmony, Inc. Having no biological sisters, the ladies of Northern Blend are that for me. When the pandemic hit in March of 2020, we all had to stop going to work and doing other normal daily things; we also had to STOP SINGING TOGETHER! That was a BIG blow in my life. Not only was I unable to SING every Monday with my Harmony sisters, but I couldn't even be with them to laugh, learn, have some fun and just be...

Immediately, Chorus Director Katie Taylor set up engaging weekly Zoom gatherings so we could still learn and be together, which definitely eased our separation and kept our routine. 'Rehearsals' were continuing but we all felt they weren't the same without our group singing and togetherness. This became glaring as the pandemic churned on and weeks blurred into months.

Chorus President Taralee Lashway shared inspirational quotes and comments on Facebook almost daily, but during this tough time she also thought of an entertaining way to add to our Zoom connection. By interviewing chorus members through quarantine challenges weekly in a 'talk show' titled *Choruses in Quarantine Connecting over Coffee*, Taralee gave us back a bit of that missing 'connection' piece!

With her love of coffee, Taralee made this a fun and interesting weekly recorded interview series with one member at a time sharing a little piece of themselves with all of us. This was an ingenious format with questions and answers spanning several months that added 'talk' back into our rehearsal time, as we cleverly learned fun and interesting facts about our friends. These recorded video interview gems were shared with all of Northern Blend Chorus and gave us something different to look forward to weekly. We welcomed them eagerly with excitement, laughter and a few happy tears, becoming a weekly "gotta see".

We love our innovative, articulate, AWESOME President Taralee, as she helped ease the pain of separation!

— Dorene Dickerson, Northern Blend Chorus



AREA 4

Area 4 is the place for more

Area 4, is clearly the Place for More, even in the face of a worldwide pandemic. Area 4 chapters have done more to learn and grow, to stay connected, to celebrate, to fundraise, and to sing. We've sung on Zoom of course, outside in lots of different locations, and even sometimes inside. We've sung by ourselves and have even found some audiences to return to that special connection.

The last two years haven't been easy for anyone in a singing organization. After all, who knew singing, the primary stress-reliever for most of us, could be something that could make us sick. But as singers we will find a way to overcome. We'll find Zoom and other technology to help us connect, masks that allow us to sing safely, ways to sing further apart, and in short, whatever we need to do to be able to do this important craft of a cappella barbershop singing.

Learning and Growing

Two years ago most of us had never heard of Zoom, and now it's a ubiquitous part of life. While it can be tiresome to be on 'yet another Zoom call', we are thankful for the technology. Through it, we have been able to use it to learn new music. St Louis Chordinals learned new tags to work on tuning, and California Note Catchers even used it to be directed by interim director Katie Taylor. We have received remote coaching like Bluegrass Harmony did with Lynn Blakeney, Jenn Cooke, and Katie Taylor. And worked on our technical skills. Sound Celebration focused on diving deep into lyrics, and worked with an acting coach, to improve facial expressions to really tell a story.



Covered Bridge Harmony visited Harmony Magic to celebrate the latter's 15th anniversary.

Staying Connected and Celebrating

Chapters visited other chapters, virtually., shrinking geographical distances. Bluegrass Harmony visited Coastal Voices (Area 6) and welcomed Sound Celebration.

California Note Catchers celebrated their 25th Anniversary with then-President Donna McKay via Zoom. And for Harmony Magic's 15th Anniversary, they had a chapter visit/party from Covered Bridge Harmony.

Harmony Magic also celebrated the life of Janet Stacy, a member who passed away, singing Irish Blessing at her service, and celebrated member Katelyn Cabico's wedding. Both Bluegrass Harmony and Harmony Magic celebrated members' new babies.

One special way Bluegrass Harmony stayed connected last spring was in renting out a movie theatre to watch Wonder Woman together.

Bluegrass Harmony holds a yard sale.



BGH participates in Alzheimers Walk.



Harmony Magic raises funds at a farmers market.



Fundraising

Area 4 chapters have kept busy throughout these two years raising money. Several chapters sold virtual holiday greeting cards (both telephonic and videos). Bluegrass Harmony hosted a yard sale and Harmony Magic had a very popular baked goods booth at a Farmer's Market. St Louis Chordinals had a fun Trivia Night where they sang the category intros, and St Louis Vocal Project has an upcoming Rock-and-Roll Bingo fundraiser in March. Bluegrass Harmony also raised money for Alzheimer research through having a walk team.

Harmony Magic



Bluegrass Harmony

California Note Catchers



AREA 4

Harmony Magic Sieberling performance



Misty River

BGH at Veterans Park



Singing

Whether virtually or in person, Area 4 chapters have found a way to keep singing. Rehearsals looked different, as when:

- California Note Catchers returned to in person in a courtyard,
- Harmony Magic sang all summer in a park shelter In July 2021, and
- Bluegrass Harmony found harmony in a parking lot.

And many have found a way to now sing inside, with masks and physically distant and with different ways to accommodate those members who aren't yet comfortable.

Performing

Area 4 chapters found ways to perform. Harmony Magic sang at a park band shelter to a distanced audience in lawn chairs.

Sound Celebration had the honor of singing the National Anthem at a Dock Spiders baseball game in Fond du Lac, WI.

Bluegrass Harmony sang at Veteran's Park (Louisville, KY) on Memorial Day. As they said, "Oh, what a wonderful feeling to ring those chords again. We all had tears of joy while we sang." I'm sure we can all appreciate that feeling!

In 2021 Christmas and the holidays increased the performance opportunities: Misty River Music Makers sang for the Geneva, IL Christmas walk.

Covered Bridge Harmony sang at a drive thru Christmas display stop for the last two years, and Harmony Magic sang outside a Kokomo, IN historic home's special Christmas home show.

Area 4 chapters also found ways to performing virtually, either through a virtual chorus or through videos or live performances.

[Harmony Magic](#) set up a Youtube channel for their videos and Covered Bridge Harmony has their [Let Freedom Ring video](#) to share.

They said that while it can seem strange to sing in a cemetery, there is a fabulous monument to all of the Civil War veterans from the entire country. So they all felt the significance of that song, in that special place.

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to gathering together again for Area Convention & Contest in June. So, from Bluegrass Harmony, California Note Catchers, Covered Bridge Harmony, Harmony Magic, Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus, Misty River Music Makers, Sound Celebration, St Louis Chordinals, St Louis Vocal Project, Village Vocal Chords, Wolf River Harmony, and all our Associates, we send our sisters in Harmony all over the world good wishes for health and ringing chords!

— Susan Spencer, Area Director

'Garage band' attracts listeners to St. Louis Vocal Project

Like everyone, St. Louis Vocal Project has been through Zoom rehearsals, outdoor rehearsals, indoor rehearsals with masks and combinations of all three. Director Sandi Wright has a three-car garage and it provided a perfect outdoor rehearsal spot for several weeks. Cars pulled out, garage doors opened, distance tape marks on the floor and a laptop positioned on a stepladder (for Zoom) provided good acoustics and a well-ventilated "room" for hearing the sound of our blended voices.

It also attracted the attention of neighbors. A few dog-walkers stopped to listen and one joined in the singing. Thanks to our little "vocal garage band" we gained a member, and she brought a friend who also joined.

St. Louis Vocal Project has gained six new members over the course of a few months. Welcome Diane Abou, Michelle Cramer, Melissa Trippeer, Joy Villaflores, Bobbi Winchell and Ellen Chapman.

This pandemic has only fueled our resolve. We have a new quartet forming, and we are planning a fundraiser in April, a concert in May and Area 4 competition in June.

— Sandi Wright, Chorus Director

Area 5 keeps the spirit alive!

Area 5, just like everyone else, has had to adapt and find ways to stay connected. I cannot even imagine getting through the past two years, without a platform like Zoom to be able to keep us connected. We have learned to be able to do a complete 360 at a moment's notice.

Area 5 has benefitted greatly in having coaching sessions and education events that we would normally not have been able to have. The barbershop world has been very gracious and I know we have appreciated all the coaches/speakers who have given of their time.

I gratefully acknowledge all of the chapter presidents and the outstanding work they have done during these unprecedented times. We have come together as a team and meet on a monthly basis to celebrate and to discuss issues. These meetings let us all know we are not alone out there and that we can depend on each other.

Area 5's Education Team went above and beyond over the past year to bring monthly education events to the members. These were well received and again a huge thanks to all the presenters that gave of their time to assist us with this initiative.

Plans are well underway as we get ready to see each other in person once again at AC&C! We have a wonderful new venue with lots of space, and rooms that can be used for all our needs.

Our Moonglow theme, 'Come as you Zoom!' will be a fun and low-key way for us to meet in comfort and show off our virtual meeting outfits. We are expecting to see lots of variations of business/dressy top halves, paired with leggings, track pants, p.j.'s and who-knows-what on the bottom!

Our COVID-19 Protocol team is working hard to define and communicate ways we can all do everything possible to keep each other safe. These extra steps take some time and care to put into place but are important for everyone's health and peace of mind.

We are hoping for a well-attended AC&C and a chance to show off what we have been working on for the last two years.

Area 5 has indeed "kept the spirit alive".

— Nancy Flagel, Area Director

AREA 5



Sugartones

Sugartones send the love with their singing valentine video

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Sugartones record 15 songs!

Below is the full "catalogue" of Sugartones Virtual Performance songs. Browse our [YouTube Channel](#) to view most of them:

- July 2020: FEELIN' GROOVY
- September 2020: HOT, HOT, HOT
- December 2020: Sugartones Holiday Greeting, including guest quartet Notables and Community Singers: DECK THE HALLS, BLUE CHRISTMAS, AULD LANG SYNE and WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS
- February 2021 Singing Valentine: HEART OF MY HEART
- January 2021: LET IT SNOW as a joint project with our neighbouring Sweet Adelines Chorus, Barrie Soundwaves
- February 2021: MARSHMALLOW WORLD
- April 2021 Spring Show: WE ARE THANKFUL, THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR, BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO, ON THE SUNNY SIDE OF THE STREET and MOOD INDIGO performed by Sugartones chorus and 3 "virtual quartets".
- February 2022, Singing Valentine in collaboration with Nickel City Sound: DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET

Sugartones

Necessity is the mother of invention!

The proverb above best describes how Sugartones survived and even thrived during the pandemic.

Zoom

At the very beginning, we missed one week of rehearsal, but quickly learned about Zoom. We acquired an annual license right away and started to learn this new technology. Teach it to members. Discover features as we went along: Screen sharing, chats, virtual backgrounds, white board, break-out rooms, pinning, frozen screens, ... you know all about that already.

In our area, we have some rural communities with poor reception, and unfortunately, we had a sudden drop of participation and unfortunate loss of a few members. However, in the first year we maintained 70-90% participation on Zoom amongst those who stayed with us.

We are lucky to have the current HI Championship Chorus, A Cappella Showcase, in our Area with all their positive and giving leadership. Huge thanks to Jordan Travis and other Zoom pioneers who lead and taught the way!

Virtual video performances

Sugartones is a performing chorus who before the pandemic did 10-15 performances per year, including annual shows, smaller community performances and multiple community appearances during the busy winter holiday season.

During the beginning of the pandemic, we kept rehearsing for our annual show, but realized in the late spring of 2020 that was not going to happen. Encouraged by the pioneering InstaChoir work by Jordan Travis, we ventured into our own virtual performance project with one of the new show tunes. We were blessed to have the son of one of our members being highly skilled in videography and basic sound editing. Our members quickly learned to become recording artists, home video producers and technology experts – yikes! We released our first video in July 2020.

With one down, we kept releasing virtual performances throughout the pandemic. In total, we recorded 15 songs! We even had virtual quartets formed by Sugartones members, a guest quartet (Noteables), and guest singers from the community participate.

Membership drives

We used our 2020 Holiday special and 2022 Singing Valentines as member recruitment tools. We had 10-20 guest singers from the community during the pandemic and we were blessed to gain four new members.

Self-Coaching and other new skills

In 2020, we invited Amy Patterson, Singing Judge and Assistant Director of A Cappella Showcase, to teach us how to “Practice with Purpose”. This involved switching from a “fixed” to a “growth” mindset. That principle in itself has been very helpful to get through

this long and drawn-out pandemic! It also involved setting achievable personal goals, regular singing practice at home, and development of self-coaching skills with the help of personal recordings and “kind” self-assessments.

We topped up the individual skill building with additional SOVT lessons by Nicky McGrath, Australian-born and Toronto-based vocal pedagogue, and a PVI program lead by Amy Patterson.

We also participated in a “bubble-off challenge” with neighboring choruses where members recorded their personal time spent doing “straw-in-water-phonation”. Lots of fun and engagement in a light-hearted competition.

Many members searched out the web and found their own straw phonation favourites!

We kept up these programs throughout the pandemic and have a new understanding of the importance of home-based voice exercises, especially during the hardest times of the pandemic.

Live performances

During the periods of the pandemic where live singing was allowed, we learned to perform with whoever could participate at any given opportunity. This resulted in a dozen performances during the 2021 Christmas season, with 13-18 singers, and on a couple of occasions our ukulele- and guitar-playing members performing at seniors’ residences. We also had a chance to be featured with four holiday songs in our local TV station 2021 holiday special.

It is such a wonderful feeling to have been able to continue to share our music with the community!

Finding new ways to rehearse

Beyond Zoom, we learned to do two “drive-in rehearsals” with the help of our local “We Love Sound” studio technician. We also held several outdoor rehearsals in our local park pavilion. Ah, the joy of seeing and hearing each other, along with the crowds in the park, the car horns in the street, and the mosquitos at dusk!

Future plans

As individuals and singers, we have changed with the pandemic and so has our outlook on the importance of singing. We have rediscovered the long list of health benefits from singing – ask “Dr. Google” if you want to find out more about that.

We are still a competition-oriented chorus, but our greatest desire right now is to share our gift of music, and singing, with our community.

As soon as we are able, we have plans for open rehearsals and community performances with playful vocal instruction and audience participation, and of course lots of sing-alongs.

We will attend AC&C with our 2020 song package “re-engineered” to suit this year of transition. We hope our newest members will also learn our two contest songs and fully embrace the fun, learning and extended community of this annual event.

— *Jan-Ake Westin, Chorus Music Director*

AREA 5

Scarborough Harmony Chorus Pandemic can't get us down!

Scarborough Harmony Chorus (SHC) has been very productive during the pandemic and quickly introduced measures to continue to rehearse and grow. The chorus, as well as individual members and quartets, found many creative ways to contribute and bring harmony to our community.

Rehearsals & social time

The chorus transitioned to Zoom rehearsals in April of 2020. Although this was brand new for most of our members, we quickly learned how to make use of the break-out rooms for sectional work, as well as using the main room for collective work.

Each rehearsal ended with a social activity where the members played fun and interactive games. We also used backyard social gatherings and pool parties, when possible, to do some rehearsing. When permitted, the chorus rehearsed in person, using masks, COVID-19 screening and social distancing. As a precaution, rapid antigen tests were taken by members before live performances.

Virtual performances & videos

SHC produced two virtual chorus videos and both were featured in the Virtual International Convention: *Isn't She Lovely* in 2020, and the *Beatles Sunshine Medley* in 2021. The Chorus members' enthusiasm for these video productions shone through in the results!

Education

The Director and section leads presented the chorus with many new and innovative warm-ups and vocal exercises to build our vocal skills, while engaging us and keeping us motivated. Chorus coaching continued during the pandemic with many top level coaches including Lauren Lindeman, Lynn Randall, Lynn Blakeney, Gaye LaCasce, Alexa Beal, Dan Signor, Generations (Amy Patterson, Sarah Patterson, Elizabeth Williams), Mo Field, and Amelia Charnock, Katie



Taylor, Fatima Whelan, Renee Tramack, and Steve Scott. Chorus members have also taken advantage of several of the informative HIVE sessions.

Membership drives

Since the start of the pandemic, SHC has hosted three membership drives and promoted them through *Meetup*, *The Scarborough Mirror*, *The Bluffs Monitor*, *SNAPD* and *Now Magazine*. These membership drives are fun, interactive and continue to produce results! Since 2020 four new full-time members have joined the chorus and very quickly volunteered to take on chorus tasks such as Facebook management and marketing.

Marketing & fundraising

SHC continued to use their traditional marketing and fundraising initiatives such as FundScrip, Pampered Chef, church performances etc. During the Christmas season, a new and very profitable fundraising event, performing at three malls owned by Cadillac Fairview, was added due to the efforts of a new member who took on the role of marketing coordinator.

Chorus Holiday Party

A separate room was booked at our favorite pub and all members were invited to exchange greeting cards as well as perform at the party. Prior to attending, all members took rapid antigen tests provided by the chorus for safety. The evening began with a wonderful meal followed by a heartfelt

Life isn't about learning how to weather the storm. It's about learning how to dance in the rain!

— Vivian Green



acknowledgement by President Judi Goodwin who took time to individually thank members for their hard work and commitment. This was followed by an amazing evening of fun and performances by many chorus members.

Future marketing plans

SHC now has a draft marketing plan with numerous recommendations, and we continue to encourage ideas from all members on how to keep current, remain vital, and continue to grow.

Pandemic can't get us down

Scarborough Harmony Chorus adopted the sentiment below by Vivian Green:

“Life isn't about learning how to weather the storm. It's about learning how to dance in the rain!”

Our leadership team and members of the chorus found new and innovative ways to continue to grow and celebrate barbershop while proving that the pandemic can't get us down!

— Dorothy Currie,
Chapter Marketing Coordinator

Destination: Education

Area 6 takes a virtual road trip

On April 17, Area 6 gathered via Zoom to share their love of barbershop and each other with a wild and crazy Education Road Trip! Their journey allowed Area 6 members as well as guests from other areas to choose from three tracks for the day: General Membership, Directors and Music Team, and Marketing and Membership. Each track consisted of 3-4 classes and workshops hosted by such phenoms as Harmony Queens Hot Pursuit and members of fan favorites Swing Theory, with members of Area 6 contributing between classes.



Area 6 is continuing to “go places,” with all area choruses planning on taking the stage at their upcoming AC&C, and a focus on membership for 2022 that will have them cruising along to a great future. Keep us on your radar as we make announcements about our 2023 Barbershop Youth Camp and other events that will keep Area 6 on the road to barbershop greatness!

— Angie Beatty, Area Director



Panama City A Cappella chorus holds a Christmas bake sale at a local Farmers Market.

Persistence and joy!

Panama City overcomes hurricane destruction and a pandemic

The pandemic may have slowed us down some, but it hasn't stopped Panama City A Cappella from moving forward. Zoom kept us together, but we all cheered when we could start meeting in person again. PCAC was able to do a number of performances over the holidays, including nursing and retirement centers, and our Christmas Cards.

PCAC now has three quartets, having recently added two new ones, SHADES! and UNDECIDED. Our third quartet, SHORE SOUNDS, has sung together for a number of years and will be competing this year. Good luck SHORE SOUNDS!

Our most exciting news is we've recently welcomed six new members! Sarah, Deb, Jennifer, Jackie and Lina sing lead, and Jamie sings baritone. All are awesome additions to our chorus!

PCAC has also been actively fundraising to get ready for competition. Our Singing Christmas

Cards and paid holiday performances were successful fundraisers. We held a successful bake sale at our local Farmers Market before Christmas, selling our homemade breads and cookies and enjoyed delivering Singing Valentines again this year.

A local TV station recently featured our chorus on their evening spotlight program, after recording one of our rehearsals.

In October 2018, Panama City was hit with a Cat 5 hurricane, destroying many of our homes, followed by the pandemic. But through all this, our incredible director, Barb Sampson, held us together through interesting Zoom meetings until we were able to get back to regular rehearsals. Now we are looking forward to competing, future performances and continuing to grow our chorus.

— Peg Jaros, Chapter PR/W&M Chair

AREA 6

Coastal Voices ends the year on a high note....volunteering and performing!

After all the COVID struggles, Coastal Voices Chorus was thrilled to end the year singing — for an audience! A real, live audience! Thanks to a couple of our members organizing the event, we sang in a local community center. The chorus performed holiday music for a large gathering, spread the word about barbershop, CVC, and Harmony, Inc., and then went and performed for some home-bound folks.

Coastal Voices also felt the joy of the season by again volunteering with The Heights Foundation (where we rehearse) for their Thanksgiving and Holiday Outreach programs, giving food and gifts for the needy.

Besides performing, the chorus had a great time at its watch party for Harmony, Inc.'s 2021 Virtual IC&C. The chorus had a blast

that day watching a great IC&C while sharing food, singing tags during breaks — all while keeping proper COVID protocol. As a new chorus with only a couple of our members ever having attended an IC&C, this was a great learning experience.

The chorus also ended the year on a high note by working on the behind the scenes “stuff”. We are thrilled that our membership continues to grow and, although we ended the year on an upswing of new members, we’re not stopping there. We plan a membership drive for after Area 6 AC&C. And the board took the opportunity during the slow performance period to update various chorus documents and to review and modify processes.

Coastal Voices continues its in-person rehearsals incorporating COVID-19 protocols to

help keep our members and guests healthy. While sometimes frustrating singing or speaking (or what about our wonderful directors still being masked up?), seeing our friends, sharing the love of music, and sharing an air hug or two just isn’t the same via Zoom. However, the chorus continues to use Zoom for those who might feel sick or be out of town (state or country) so we all stay connected and at least give our singing friends a virtual hug and hear the beautiful music being made.

And the biggest excitement that came out of the end of 2021 — Coastal Voices is competing in Area 6 AC&C in 2022! We are beyond excited to see old friends, make new friends and ring some chords!

See y’all in Jacksonville!

— Pam Ringo, Chorus Director



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QUARTETS

Until we sing again.... FUSION Quartet



For 15 years we have sung, laughed and loved together in that unique bond that is created by being in a quartet. As time passes, we all take our own paths which often leads us in different directions. The members of FUSION have come to the sad decision that the time has come for us to retire. We all will remember the contests, the trips (including HI Category School twice), shows and coaching sessions we have had together.

We were lucky enough to compete in 3 different Areas over the years, winning our beloved Area 3 contest on four occasions. We are beyond proud of our 6 International medals and our Image of Harmony Award for service. FUSION was honored to create and provide the trophy for the Audience Entertainment Choice award where the audience gets to choose their favorite contest quartet!

We’ve been blessed to work with, and become friends with, dozens of coaches from all 3 of the

Barbershop organizations. The experiences we have shared, from the hundreds of performances and singing telegrams we have given over the years in every type of venue, have made all 4 of us stronger performers and entertainers. Although we will not be rehearsing and singing together anymore, we all know that we’ll always be there for each other because we have become more than quartet members, but sisters.

— Charlene Sudore

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Giant Double issue of *The Key-Note*, otherwise known as the *How We Conquered the Pandemic* issue.



If you've made it all the way to this column, you know what I'm talking about. As I read each of the over 40 stories in this publication, I was struck by the resilience and determination of our members and leaders. Over and over again, we heard the story of women pivoting from the comfortable and customary to the creative and inventive as they sought to maintain connections and practice our craft.

The Can Do attitude led to all kinds of inventive solutions, all of which have been detailed numerous times in these pages. But even more importantly, following the principles of our creed, those with solutions were quick to share them with their Harmony siblings. Each week brought fresh ideas and new resources.

And there's more!

We were not just content to work at maintaining the status quo. We were determined to use this challenge to grow and flourish. Thus we:

- Created The HIVE, a top-notch resource of seminars in all aspects of barbershop including leadership, administration, and technical skills as well as instruction in music, singing, and performance enjoyed by our membership and generously shared with all other barbershoppers;
- Participated in Anne Bureau's Directors Roundtable to support each other, share ideas — and spark more. The synergy was amazing;
- Encouraged Chapters to interact with each other through shared Zoom meetings, rehearsals, celebrations;
- Moved our Area and International conventions into the virtual world and serendipitously created performance [playlists](#) that share the unique Harmony sense of fun with audiences far beyond our usual convention attendees.

Wow. Truly we can say that we are fulfilling our mission: **Empowering all Women through Education, Friendship, and Singing.**

And I think we can all agree that we have definitely become **Harmony. Stronger.**

— Roxanne

Thank You!

Over 35 people very generously contributed their time and talents to the construction of this issue of *The Key-Note*. My heartfelt thanks go to every one of them. 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! — Rx

P.S. See you all in Verona in November. **Together, Again!**

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, Inc.

— G. Ruth Geils

