

50 Years of Harmony!



FACT SHEET

Harmony, Inc.
www.harmonyinc.org
Press Inquiries:
P: +1-610-279-4141
E: press@harmonyinc.org

Harmony, Inc.

Harmony, Inc. is a nonprofit international singing organization. As a vibrant organization of women of all ages, Harmony, Inc. is recognized for world-class singing in the barbershop style and promoting bonds of friendship. Members are dedicated to:

- the performance, promotion and preservation of four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style
- personal growth and development through music and leadership education
- the practice of democratic principles
- celebration of friendship

Chapters are categorized according to the area they are located in. Harmony, Inc. has six areas. Each area holds an Area Contest and Convention (AC&C) which determines qualifications for Harmony, Inc.'s International Contest and Convention (IC&C).

Size

Harmony, Inc. is one of two all-women singing organizations with over 2,000 members in more than 80 chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

There are approximately 90 quartets registered with Harmony, Inc.; an estimated 40 more quartets are active but not officially registered.

Harmony, Inc. is governed by an international board of directors.

Founding

Harmony, Inc. was established in 1959 when 150 women from the Sweet Adelines International singing organization decided to start a new women's barbershop organization with a focus on democratic principles and open communication to all members. Harmony, Inc.'s musical focus resembles the Barbershop Harmony Society in song selection, performance, and competition standards.

Continued on page 2

FACT SHEET

Page 2

Statement of Purpose

Harmony, Inc. is a non-profit international singing organization of women who are dedicated to:

- performance, promotion, and preservation of four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style
- friendship
- personal growth and development through music and education
- the practice of democratic principles.

Motto:

A Blend With Friendship

Activities of the Organization

Education programs

The Education Certification Program provides a training plan and opportunity for education and certification of directors, assistant directors, music team leaders, chapter administrators, coaches, and individual members.

It provides an opportunity for personal growth as well as serving as an on-going, structured education for members. Participants decide their own short and long-term goals based on their individual growth perspective.

There are several certification categories which allow for participants to attain certification in various areas.

Here's Harmony for Young Women, Youth Outreach Programs

Harmony Inc.'s youth outreach programs spread a love of a cappella singing to today's young women. Young women have the opportunity to attend Harmony Camps and international conventions, and participate in "The Minor Chords," a group of Harmony Inc., members under the age of twenty-four who perform together at Harmony Inc.'s Annual Convention.

Charitable and community activities

The Harmony Memorial Program is Harmony, Inc.'s official charity. The program provides members with the opportunity to contribute to charitable and educational endeavors through contributions, gifts in memoriam and bequests.

All donations to the Harmony Memorial Program are set aside for the educational and charitable efforts of Harmony, Inc. As programs become available and needs become apparent, the International Board of Harmony, Inc. determines the use of donations.

Harmony Inc's choruses and quartets share their love of singing with their local communities through performances and shows for audiences of all ages. Harmony Inc. members can be found performing at churches, schools, hospitals, and senior centers, as well as contributing to charitable projects on a local and national level.

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INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harmony, Inc.
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International President

Jan DelVecchio

Vice President Administration

Denise "D" Dyer

Vice President Corporate Services

Marianne Cooke

Vice President Finance

Susan Spencer

Business Development Administrator

Pat Davis

Communications Administrator

Kathy Stone

Member Services Administrator

Anne Leinen

Music Services Administrator

Gail Smith

Area Representatives

Area 1 Representative

Susan Wright

Area 2 Representative

Gail Kelsall

Area 3 Representative

Lynne Hamilton

Area 4 Representative

Beth Montgomery

Area 5 Representative

Marilyn McCauley

Area 6 Representative

Betty Cluett

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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What is Harmony, Inc.?

Harmony, Inc. is a nonprofit international barbershop singing organization for women of all ages. Members are dedicated to:

- performance, promotion, and preservation of four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style
- friendship
- personal growth and development through music and education
- the practice of democratic principles.

What is Barbershop Harmony?

Barbershop singing is a specific style of music. It is a precise type of a cappella with four voices: tenor, lead, baritone, and bass. Sung properly, the barbershop style blends to create a “ringing” chord.

What are the Origins of Barbershop Harmony?

Barbershop music originated from the African-American culture, starting as a recreational activity where African-Americans harmonized popular spiritual and folk songs through improvisation. As the barbershop style of music became popular, it was soon adopted by whites. The African-American roots quickly became lost in the past. To this day, many people are unaware of the origins of barbershop music.

How Did Barbershop Harmony Become Popular?

By the late 1930s barbershop music began to disappear all together. But thanks to the Barbershop Harmony Society of America (originally known as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America or SPEBSQSA); this unique art form was revitalized.

Continued on page 2

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Page 2

How Did Barbershop Harmony Become Popular with Women?

During the summer of 1945, wives of the members of the Barbershop Harmony Society of America decided to form their own barbershop singing group known as the Sweet Adelines International. Years later in 1959, a group of 150 women decided to start their own women's barbershop singing organization known as Harmony, Inc.

Do Harmony, Inc. Choruses and Quartets Compete?

Registered choruses and quartets of Harmony, Inc. attend an area contest and convention where they compete with other choruses and quartets at the regional level. Based on their scores, choruses and quartets qualify for the annual International Contest and Convention.

How Can Women Join Harmony, Inc.?

Women of all ages are welcome to join Harmony, Inc. and discover the joy of a cappella singing. For a chapter near you or to learn about forming a chapter visit www.harmonyinc.org or call toll free 1 (888) 871-7762.

How Does Harmony, Inc. Support the Community?

Many local chapters throughout the United States and Canada are active in their local communities. From performing for free at nursing homes to special performances at churches and community functions, Harmony, Inc. choruses and quartets gladly share their passion of singing to the community.

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BIOS

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International President Jan Delvecchio

In November 2008, Jan Delvecchio was elected by the International Board of Directors of Harmony, Inc. as its International President. As the International President, Jan has a variety of responsibilities including overseeing board members and ensuring that the day-to-day operations of Harmony, Inc. are running smoothly.

Prior to her position as International President, Jan served as Vice President Finance for two years, and was also the Music Services Administrator. At the administration level of Harmony, Inc. she has developed a higher skill level that has given her numerous opportunities for personal growth. From emceeing contests and conventions to event planning for nearly 1,000 people, Jan has embraced each opportunity.

She was a member of the Seaforth Harmony Hi-Lites Chapter for nearly 25 years. When she first began singing with the Seaforth Harmony Hi-Lites, she sang lead; however, she transitioned into a bass. When the chorus dispersed four years ago, she kept her involvement with Harmony, Inc. by tending to the administrative duties.

This year, Jan is looking forward to traveling to International and Area Contests and Conventions. She will also represent Harmony, Inc. at the International Contest and Conventions for the Barbershop Harmony Society and for Sweet Adelines International.

Jan resides in Egmondville, Ontario. She recently retired from her position at Mitchell District High School where she was a guidance counselor.

Continued on page 2

Vice President of Administration Denise “D” Dyer

In November of 2008, Denise “D” Dyer was elected by the Harmony, Inc. International Board as the new Vice President of Administration. As the Vice President of Administration, Denise maintains a strong line of communication with fellow board members. She is responsible for making sure everyone remains on task with various projects throughout the year and participates in the Board’s monthly teleconferences.

Denise has been a proud member of Harmony, Inc. since 1991 when she joined the Maine Chapter of Harmony, Inc.’s chorus, Maine-ly Harmony. Later on in her singing career, she became the president of the Maine-ly Harmony Chorus. She felt that she could make the biggest impact and difference by becoming actively involved with her chorus at the administration level.

In 2007, she joined the Sounds of Seacoast Chorus in Portsmouth, New Hampshire where she continued singing in the bass section. In May 2008, Denise joined the East Coast Serenade Quartet.

Denise says that she has gained many new skills while serving on the International Board which has carried over into her professional life. She loves the friendship of Harmony, Inc. and the family-friendly atmosphere of the organization!

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FOR MORE INFO

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All members of the media should contact Harmony, Inc.'s communications team:

- Nicole Fondry
- Phone: (610) 279-4141
- Email: press@harmonyinc.org

You can find your local Harmony, Inc. chapter by searching on www.harmonyinc.org/chapters/map.htm.

Photos, logos and press releases are available at www.harmonyinc.org/press

Quartets and choruses are available for performances and interviews. Call Nicole Fondry to arrange.

Thank you for your interest in Harmony, Inc.!