

BIG YEAR OF EXCITEMENT AND INNOVATION 1978

IT WAS back to Canada for convention hosted by the **TORONTO ACCOLADES**, with **THE OVER TONES** of Guelph being proclaimed the new chorus champions. **A GOOD ARRANGEMENT** from Elgin, Illinois proved to be just that by winning the crowns and capes.

Mid-Year Meeting was especially busy, with a full evening devoted to the study of a long-range plan submitted by Jacquie Jensen, Lauren Lindeman, Nancy Foris and Mary Marek. Called "A Proposal for Reorganizing Harmony, Inc.," it stimulated much discussion and was referred to the Study and Review Committee. Meantime, all Area Representatives were to pose an intriguing question to their members: "If you could do ONE thing tomorrow to improve Harmony, Inc., what would you do?" Results of this survey were also turned over to the S & R Committee.

For some time, the idea of a publicity blitz in the State of New York had been under consideration.



1978-79 Harmony Queens, **A GOOD ARRANGEMENT**, Elgin, Illinois, (left to right): Nancy Marbury, tenor; Joni Mitchell, lead; Charlene Centanni, bass; Nancy Foris, bari.

The 1978 Board authorized hiring a public relations professional to assist in this promotion as a pilot project. Why this apparently never happened is not clear.

One major change that did happen was that starting in 1979, choruses would qualify at HTP for International competition. Prospective chapters were to be encouraged to perform at HTP, too, for educational purposes only. One reason for qualifying rounds was the apprehension expressed that year by the **TORONTO ACCOLADES** over the possibility of having thirty-nine choruses competing. At the Mid-Year Meeting of the International Board it was decided that, in such event, there would be three contest sessions.

A very successful quartette coaching day, Harmony's first, had been held in Area IV and other Area Representatives were encouraged to try similar programs in their areas.

The Study and Review Committee sought to change the name of the Associate Judges Training Program to the "Harmony, Inc. Judges Training Program." With twenty-seven written and six verbal requests for entry into the program, the Committee wished to proceed with a "totally positive attitude." A screening committee was established composed of Barbara-Ann MacIntosh, Lauren Lindeman and Nancy Foris. When they embarked on this project, the three ladies could not know that six years later they would each earn the title of Certified Judge.

Harmony, Inc., along with Sweet Adelines, Inc., participated in the Canadian National Exhibition Day. International President Jo Rider represented us on the review stand

during the parade, which showed off our **VIBRA-TONES** quartette on a float. Several other Ontario chapters and quartettes entertained at this exciting event.

With our 20th Anniversary coming up, the time was right for an introductory booklet about Harmony, Inc. to be produced for distribution to new members. Format was approved, to be used on a one-year trial basis.

It was decided to remove the position of Competition and Judging Chairman from the Board and make it a permanent chair. Because of her experience, fine performance and rapport with Society members in the judging field, Barbara-Ann MacIntosh was selected to serve in this most important position.

A decision at the Mid-Year Meeting to publish a 20th Anniversary edition of **THE KEY-NOTE** was rescinded. It was decided that the 25th Anniversary would be a more appropriate occasion.



The need to provide administrative, as well as musical, training, was becoming more apparent. Because the high cost of travel prohibited such training at the International level, education within the Areas became even more essential. At the same time, HTP ac-



1978 International Chorus Champions — *THE OVER TONES* (Guelph, Ontario), Dave Litwiller, Director.

tivities were increasing because Area chorus contests were now official qualifying contests for International competition. Within this climate of complex needs, HTPs were lengthened to full weekend events and Area IV volunteered to pilot its *Directors/Arrangers/Administrative/Training (DAAT) School*.

The biggest change that year came as a result of recommendations by

the Study and Review Committee, which had completed its study of the reorganizing proposal previously mentioned. Major changes involved (1) consolidating the seven Areas into four and (2) Area Representatives taking their places as voting members of the Board. The Board approved a poll of the membership on these matters, to take effect immediately after the 1979 convention.

Thus the importance of the Areas in the future development of Harmony, Inc. was recognized. At the same time, a stronger liaison between the membership and the International Board was established that would encourage more active interest and participation by the members. This was a giant step forward for Harmony, Inc.



1979 International Chorus Champions — *VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS* (Metro Chicago, Illinois), Jeanne O'Connor, Director.