

The Key-Note



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

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Charisma

2017 Harmony Queens

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Harmony, Inc. is a non-profit international organization whose purpose is to empower all women through education, friendship, and *a cappella* singing in the barbershop style.

Editor

Sara Wood
keynote@harmonyinc.org

Photos by Best Bets Photos

Betsy Groner
bestbet2020@yahoo.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

We had an unprecedented response from our Harmony chapters to my plea for news of your activities. In fact, over one-third of all chapters responded and we ran out of space in these pages to accommodate them all. Please stand by for the Summer Issue of The Key-Note where we will feature all your wonderful stories.

Letter from the Editor

Harmony, Inc. - World of Possibility

As I've gotten to know many of you in our little barbershop bubble, I wanted to take a few minutes to share a different side of my life with you. While, not related to music directly, it is related to how much excitement and promise I feel when it comes to the current direction of our organization. What you may not know is that my day job is as an association executive at a management company. I quite literally spend all day trying to help organizations be successful within their given memberships. As a result, I can't help but look at the amazing things happening at Harmony without getting really excited about the future. As someone who breathes this stuff every day, here are 3 things that tell me that Harmony is poised for greatness.

- 1) **We are growing.** This sounds simple, but it's not. Less than half of associations polled in a recent survey indicate that they are actually seeing year-over-year growth. Harmony on the other hand has been adding chapters to an ever-growing family. I have several clients who would do anything to see their membership grow and not just stagnate or decline.
- 2) **Increased youth participation.** This year, we chartered an all youth chorus, Unaccompanied Minors, out of Florida. Most associations struggle to get younger members engaged. However, Harmony's structure is primed to bring in younger members. Our culture is welcoming of youth and this literal investment in our future is uncommon. Many associations try to engage younger members; few do it successfully.
- 3) **The expanding universe.** Usually, when you want to get a handle on how well your association will grow in the future, one of the primary things you look at is the overall market potential. Just how many people out there could be a Harmony member? Thanks to things like the Pitch Perfect series, there is a whole world of potential singers out there just waiting for someone to ask them to be in a Harmony chapter. Based on my experience, this isn't the case in many industries. Numerous associations struggle with getting to the end of their growth potential. Meanwhile, our universe just keeps on getting bigger and bigger. And now, with our partnerships with FloVoice and beyond, we are getting an even better megaphone to reach women who may have never even heard of barbershop before.

What this boils down to is that I've never been so excited to be a member of Harmony. We have some forward-thinking projects on the horizon, including a new website, and the amount of positive energy around our momentum is palpable. We are more than just an organization of women who sing together; we are group of strong, intelligent, professionals who know how to get things done, and the future has never been brighter. Now if I could only get my own mother to join the Liberty Belles up in Pennsylvania (keep working on her, ladies).

Your sister in harmony,

Sara

Market references were to the Marketing General 2017 Association Membership Benchmarking Survey.

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LETTING OUR

LIGHT SHINE

IN HALIFAX

2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION & CONTESTS RESONATES FAR AND WIDE

The 2017 Harmony, Inc. International Convention & Contests (IC&C) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, resonated far beyond the walls of the Halifax Convention Centre. For the first time ever, Harmony, Inc.'s IC&C was live streamed over the internet, allowing members and nonmembers alike to participate in what turned out to be a truly memorable experience.

Joined by guest performers, Throwback, and dignitaries from the barbershop harmony and a cappella realms, Harmony, Inc. welcomed new Harmony Queens, Charisma, and chorus champions, Northern Blend, after a series of exciting rounds of contest. From Wednesday evening's Opening Ceremony to the final evening's Championship Showcase — and every event in between — the 2017 IC&C was marked by a palpable energy that lasted long after attendees rang their final chords.

SPARKLE AND SHINE

After years on the contest circuit, and despite a nasty bout with the "Halifax crud," Area 3's Charisma, representing Niagara Frontier Chord Authority, took the top spot in the quartet contest.



Charisma sports their gold medals and crowns.

The quartet took the lead in the semi-finals, delivering a touching version of Where is Love? Having previously won quartet championships, lead Carol Zeffiro and bass Karin Kirkham shared in their acceptance speech a tearful welcome to "queendom" to their quartetmates, Barb Yendall on bari and Kate Kreinheder on tenor, who experienced their first quartet championship in Halifax.

The second-place silver medalist quartet was Low Key, representing On Q Chorus, Bluegrass Harmony Chorus, and Associate. Lip Service of Northern Blend Chorus took third place; Skyfall, representing A Cappella Showcase and Toronto Accolades, came in fourth; and fifth place medals went to enJOY!, representing the ScotianAires Chorus and Valley Voices.

In all, 24 quartets crossed the stage in Halifax, and the three representatives of Area 1 all placed in the Top 10 on their home turf.

In a chorus contest for the history books, Northern Blend Chorus went home with the gold medal, finishing 26 points ahead of long-standing first-place finishers, the Village Vocal Chords.

Northern Blend brought to the stage a breathtaking rendition of "Cheer Up, Charlie," (which was the highest-scoring song of the contest, by the way), accompanied by a non-stop-energy uptune, "Yes Sir, That's My Baby."

The Village Vocal Chords solidly took second place, singing "If Ever I Would Leave You" and "De-Lovely Medley" for their Halifax showing.

Rounding out the chorus medals were New England Voices in Harmony in third, Bella Nova Chorus in fourth, and Sounds of the Seacoast in fifth. In Halifax, 23 choruses crossed the stage.

The sparkle and shine continued Friday evening with the popular Association of Harmony Queens' Parade of Champions, featuring multiple queens quartets, including the first showing for 2016 Harmony Queens, Taken 4 Granite; the 2016 International Championship Chorus, A Cappella Showcase; and the Association of Harmony Queens Chorus. As a special treat, crowd favorite Anne Bureau and her army of professional bodyguards (err, body-judges?) kept the show moving in an entertaining fashion.

see LIGHT, *continued on next page*

LIGHT

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Several other people and groups received special honors in Halifax.

Starting with the Silver Division Chorus Contest on Thursday, Island A Cappella of Area 1 advanced to the Friday chorus contest, with an average score of 66 percent. That chorus of fantastic performers, by the way, ended up placing 20th overall in the chorus contest.

Other chorus contest awards included:

- Skidge Heath Memorial Award—Katie Taylor, director of Northern Blend Chorus
- G. Ruth Geils Memorial Award—Bluegrass Harmony
- Jerry Dunlop Memorial Award—Stella Kelly, Director of The Over Tones, Inc.
- LABBS Trophy—the ScotianAires
- MacIntosh Award—Bluegrass Harmony
- Montreal City Voices Tait Trophy—the Liberty Belles Chorus
- The Jeanne O'Connor Director Award—Carolyn Prime, director of Island A Cappella

Other quartet contest awards included:

- The Accord Award—Shirahz, Area 5
- The Findlay Plaque—Singlish, Area 3
- The Image of Harmony Service Award—Heart and Soul, Area 2

CONVENTION HAPPENINGS

Like any well-rounded IC&C, there were plenty of other activities happening and memories to be made off the contest stage. Attendees participated in Harmony, Inc. flagship events—including the Opening Ceremony/Membership Meeting, which included the installation of the new International Board of Directors, the hospitality rooms, and a broad range of educational classes.

At the annual membership meeting and Opening Ceremony, International President Christina Lewellen announced that the annual President's Award would be presented to Anita Prather-Harvell of Northern Blend Chorus for her selfless contributions and service to Harmony, Inc.

The Judith Waite Memorial Scholarship, funded by a donation to Harmony, Inc. from the estate of Judith Waite, former member

of the Village Vocal Chords chapter, was presented at the Opening Ceremony to Lauren Vine. The \$1,000 scholarship was accepted by Lauren's grandparents, Bill and Barbara-Ann MacIntosh.

The organization also celebrated the astounding membership growth the Liberty Belles Chorus had in 2017. The Sandi White International Membership Award, presented by Women of Note to the chapter attaining the highest percentage of membership growth during the previous year, recognized the Liberty Belles' growth of 52.2 percent.

Lewellen recognized Violet A. Peters, Sandra Dunlop, Jane Enders, Judy Comeau and Barbara Vale, who had achieved 50 years of membership.

Some special performances brought the audience to its feet over and over again. Following the chorus contest, Harmony, Inc.'s own Minor Chords performed under the direction of one of its own—Lexie Conway. This year's International Chorus, which includes representatives from many Harmony, Inc. chapters, after a coaching under glass session with Throwback's Sean Devine, presented an inspiring performance under the direction of Jordan Travis.

LIVE FROM HALIFAX...

A highlight of the year for attendees and non-attendees alike was Harmony, Inc.'s new partnership with FloVoice, a company that live streamed the week's events, provided commentary on the performances, and recorded special cameos to share both during and after the event. The energy from the FloVoice team, including commentators Amanda Cornaglia and Evan Feist, was felt far and wide and the duo was so excited about being a part of the Harmony, Inc. event that they joined fourth-place medalist chorus, Bella Nova, on stage during its Saturday evening showcase performance. With Cornaglia in the bass section and Feist offering vocal percussion, the chorus sang its Pool Mashup song from the movie "Pitch Perfect."

Harmony, Inc. received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the addition of the live stream to IC&C and will continue the partnership with FloVoice in the future.



ABOVE: International Chorus performs under the direction of Championship⁴ Director Jordan Travis.
LEFT: Queen Anne and her posse of bodyguards emcee the Parade of Champions.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

A convention wrap-up would not be complete without a heartfelt thank you to the entire convention team and its army of volunteers, who kept IC&C running as a well-oiled machine. Harmony, Inc. is grateful to have such knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers.

Riding high on the energy of a highly successful IC&C event in Halifax, many Harmony, Inc. members are already making plans to attend the 2018 IC&C in Orlando, Florida, scheduled for October 31 through November 4. For more information, watch the "events" section of the Harmony, Inc. [website](#) and future editions of the E-Note.



Meet Charisma Tenor

Kate Kreinheder

Music was not a focus in my family when I was growing up. We enjoyed spending time outdoors. Our family vacations revolved around where we could catch the best fish. My love of music was first developed in grade school singing in the chorus, and then in church where I fell in love with performing. Church gave me the opportunity to sing in front of an audience. The congregation was always supportive and allowed me to gain the confidence needed to try out for solos at school and eventually high school musicals.

My father was a high school math teacher at Lake Shore Central where Carol (Mason) Zeffiro attended. She and my father developed a friendship through a love of animals (plus Carol needed a fair amount of help in Trigonometry). Carol would come to our home for extra help and I idolized her. I wanted to be Carol Mason! Fast forward 15 years later, Carol and I were reconnected through our mutual friend, Connie. She invited me to check out her chorus, Niagara Frontier Chord Authority. I instantly loved the tight harmonies and became a member. Marie Hutton and I joined at the same time and had great times rooming together at competitions and being groupies for IMAGES and Root 5. Marie and I formed a couple of quartets and had a ton of fun, but never found the right blend. My life dream was to sing with my idol, Carol Mason, but unfortunately, she was taken at the time.

I then left NFCA and got married to a wonderful man, Dave. We have two amazing daughters; Zoe (10) and Morgan (9). My life revolved around my family and my job as a high school math teacher (runs in the family). I missed singing and performing, but the time needed to be part of a group didn't seem possible. This was the case until my idol, Carol Zeffiro, asked me if I would be interested in singing tenor in a new quartet that she was forming. I panicked a bit. How could I find the time needed to make this commitment? Could I really sing a part that I'd never sung before? This was a dream come true, but could I really make it work? When I spoke to my husband, he said, "It's your dream to sing with Carol, do it." I love him even more for supporting me in this dream.

Carol, Karin and Barb have been incredibly patient with me over the past 5 years. It takes me longer to learn my part than it takes them. I've never sung a harmony part before and often struggle to hear it. I can't thank



them enough for their beautiful voices and more importantly, their friendship. I told the girls last June that this would be my final competition. It was a difficult decision because it meant that if we didn't win in the Fall, then I would not have achieved my goal of being a Queen of Harmony. Fortunately, we hyper-focused, worked with some amazing coaches, and achieved our dream! The tears come to my eyes each that I think about the 1st place announcement in Halifax. Many of you have seen the footage from competition; it would seem that I'm a crier.

There are so many people to thank for their love and support. My husband, children, parents and in-laws have all stepped up so that I could attend rehearsals and competitions. The ladies of Niagara Frontier Chord Authority were magnificent and always cheered and treated us like queens well before we won the title. Sue Trenchard has been a wonderful asset and friend to us. Lynda Mason (Mom 2) needs to be thanked for inspiring and helping me learn to be a tenor. Special gratitude also goes to Ron Mason - this man knows how to work us to find our sound. He is our biggest champion and most amazing coach. And thank you, Harmony Incorporated, for being a wonderful organization that has allowed me to realize a dream!



ABOVE: The Kreinhelder family, Dave, Kate, Zoe, and Morgan, smile for the camera.



Meet Charisma Lead

Carol Zeffiro



I feel so honored and privileged to be writing this article, introducing myself to Harmony, Inc. as the Lead of your reigning Quartet Champion, Charisma! Singing in this quartet with Karin, Kate, and Barb has been such a wonderful experience. It was great fun bringing Barb and Kate into the quartetting world; showing them (and remembering) the hard work and dedication that it takes to find music that fits us, find our sound (Thanks, Dad!), and create the emotion through interpretation and performance (Thanks, Dad, Brent, Pat, George, Theresa, and Sue). Having been in three other quartets, it's always amazing to me how different each one is.

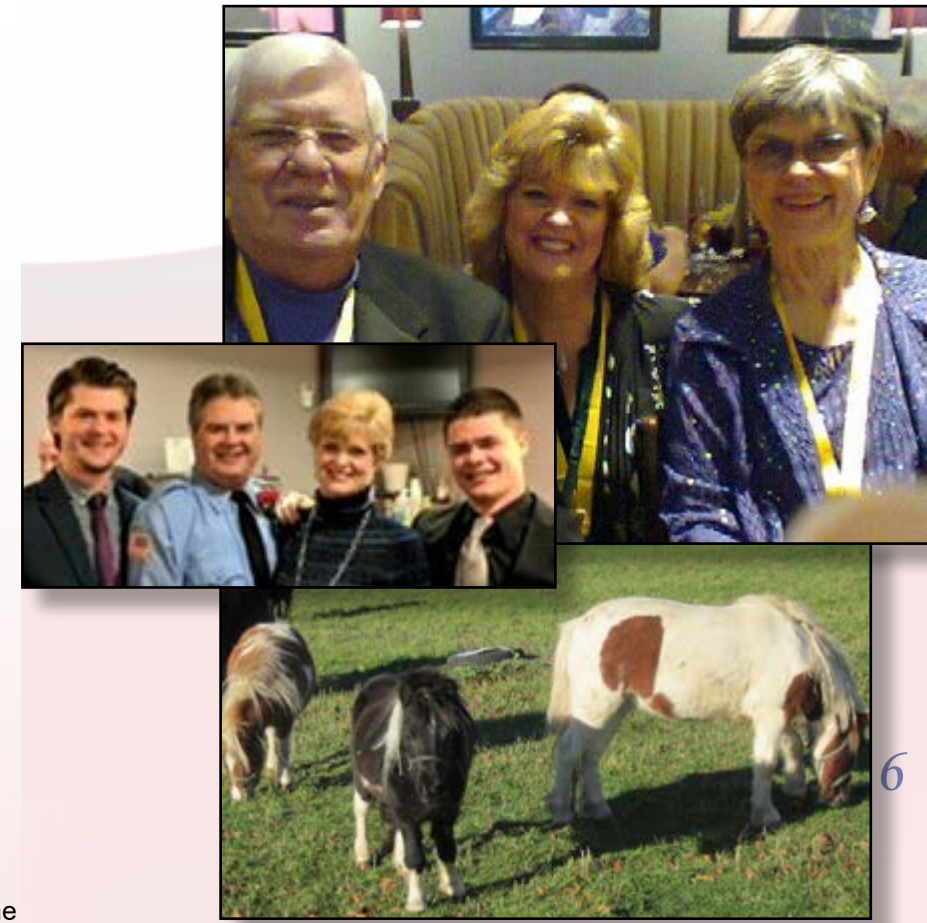
I have had the pleasure of singing baritone in Foremost and IMAGES (1997 Harmony Queens) and lead in Mystique (2007 Harmony Queens). I guess I like those years with 7s! I was brought up in a very musical family. Mom played the piano, which is where we ended up at just about every family party – singing around the piano. My brothers (Randy and Dave) and I took piano lessons and learned to play other musical instruments, as well. We sang in choirs and choruses throughout our school careers and took voice lessons throughout High School. I loved performing on the recitals! I would also spend hours listening to singers, especially Karen Carpenter, trying to learn every little nuance in her voice and worked to replicate it the best I could.

I was introduced to Barbershop in the 70s when my dad (Ron Mason, International Senior Quartet Champion with Border Patrol) had quartet rehearsals at our house. I loved to sing the tenor parts. Years later, Mom (Lynda Mason, two-time Harmony Queen with IMAGES and Mystique) was singing in quartets too. I could NOT sing tenor in her quartets! That's when I fell in love with baritone! I loved to see the fun that they were having and to hear their beautiful voices! So, after college and getting mar-

ried to my amazing, super-supportive husband, Frank, I joined the newly chartered Niagara Frontier Chord Authority, where I currently serve on the Music Team as Lead and Baritone Section Leader. This group of ladies, and Dad as director, make such beautiful music and are such a loving "family". I feel very blessed to have them all in my life. Thanks, NFCA, for all of your cheers, support, and positive thoughts.

My sons, Mike and Eric, have always been very supportive, as well. Mike is a Jazz Pianist and member of the FDNY (Fire Dept of NYC) and Eric is an Architect and percussionist in Buffalo, NY. Thanks, Guys! Frank and I live on a farm in Western NY where we raise mini horses! Cuteness overload! I am a First Grade Teacher of 31 years!! I absolutely LOVE my job, but am looking forward to retirement in two short years.

I have thanked our coaches, but saved a special thank you for my dear, younger brother, Dave, who passed away after a long



FROM TOP: Carol with parents Ron and Lynda Mason; Carol with her guys, Frank, Mike, and Eric; the Zeffiro mini-horses.

fight with cancer in 2013. He was so excited about Charisma and NFCA. He worked with us on presentation/performance using his ridiculously fun sense of humor to teach and to make coaching sessions SO much fun for everyone. Dave was the personification of "Love, Laughter, and Song". He is my Hero and I miss him terribly. I know that he had a hand in our success! He must have been the one who got a VERY sick Karin onto stage that weekend! A big chunk of my gold medal belongs to you, Dave. I love you. Kate, Karin, and Barb (Karb), thank you SO much for taking this journey with me. You have worked really hard and made it happen! But much more than that, you have given me your trust, your love, and friendship. I am so grateful. I love you all!

Meet Charisma Bari

Barb Yendall



I grew up in a family where singing was something we did all the time—around the house, in the car, everywhere. My mother had no formal music or voice training, she just loved music and passed that love onto her kids. I remember in the early years of elementary school, spending evenings with my mom singing along to Peter, Paul and Mary records. She taught me to listen for the different voices singing “the high part” and “the low part”...that’s how I first learned to pick out and sing harmony...a skill that paid off years later as a baritone. Driving on trips in the car, my siblings and I would sing harmony to songs on the radio...especially The Beatles.

My older brother Bob started performing in musicals in high school. Bob auditioned for the summer musical the year I turned 12. It was *The Music Man*. I was too young to take part in the show, but that year they asked the cast to bring their younger siblings to audition for the roles of Amaryllis and Winthrop. I got the part of Amaryllis and from there I was hooked on performing on stage. *The Music Man* was also my introduction to barbershop! I loved to listen to the men’s quartet sing *Lida Rose*.

Once I got into high school, I spent a lot of time singing and performing in musical theatre. Our summer musicals consisted of students from all the area high schools, and I made friends for life that I otherwise may never have met. One of those friends, Marie Tulett Hutton would come back into my life in a big way when we became adults. She was the person who got me to come to Niagara Frontier Chord Authority and sing with them one August night in 2008. I loved it and was especially excited to hear *Mystique*, the beautiful quartet who had just been crowned queens the year before! When I watched and heard them, I thought to myself...someday I’m going to do that!

Flash forward four years...the lead and the bass from *Mystique* actually asked me to audition for the new quartet they

were starting!! Of course this was an amazing opportunity, but it was a little scary too...my very first quartet experience would be standing beside two queens!! But they made me feel comfortable, and from the very first rehearsal with Carol, Karin and the other newbie, our tenor Kate, we were all so surprised and excited by the sound of our voices blended. We like to call it rich and chocolatey! Since that first rehearsal, I have learned so much about barbershop and quartetting. This has been a dream come true. It has been a lot of work, and has taken a lot of dedication. Oh, and a lot of driving...Kate and Carol live about an hour from me, and Karin lives in Canada, which is about 40 minutes to an hour, depending on delays at the bridge.

I have been married to my wonderful husband Rob for 30 years this July. Rob is not a singer, but he couldn’t be more supportive of my hobby. When the IC&C was live-streamed this year, Rob had my family over to watch the contest. Probably my favorite moment from that amazing weekend was watching a



ABOVE: The Yendall family, Barb, Julianne, Brandon, Jordan, and Rob.



RIGHT: The Yendall kids, Brandon, 26, and twins Julianne and Jordan, 23.

video of my family screaming, yelling and cheering as Charisma was announced as 2017 Harmony Queens. There was Rob, hooting and hollering like the Buffalo Bills just won the Superbowl!! My son Brandon (26) and my twin daughters Julianne and Jordan (23) have been amazingly supportive too. I’m a lucky mom! My 87 year old father lives with my family and is Charisma’s biggest fan!

When I’m not singing, I work as the Customer Experience Training Specialist for a company that makes dental products. I’m also on the selection committee of a Performing Arts Hall of Fame my family started at my former high school. I look forward to the rest of this year as Charisma continues to grow as your queens. We are so proud to represent a wonderful organization like Harmony, Inc. and want nothing more than to make you proud. Thank you to everyone for being so welcoming to us and especially to Niagara Frontier Chord Authority for supporting us every step along the way. A special shout-out to Ron Mason for teaching me everything he knows about being a baritone. I wouldn’t be a queen without all of your help!

Meet Charisma Bass Karin Kirkham



I was always aiming for the Glass Hat



Karin's grandchildren.



I have been a member of Harmony, Inc. for over 30 years and I am thrilled to be representing you as your 2017 International Quartet Champion.

I am a vintage Queen as it took me a long time to win my first crown. My bass voice has evolved over the years and that is all due to excellent coaches, particularly Ron Mason who has a bionic ear, and the perfect touch to coaching. We call him our King of Queens. Thank you Nor!

I have been married for over 40 years to my wonderful husband David and we still live in our little log cabin in the woods. We have two beautiful adult daughters who have blessed us with a 14 year old granddaughter and a new precious grandson. I am a retired Reg. Nurse who is enjoying retirement to the fullest. I have been a singer all my life as far back as I can remember. My parents were singers so I come by it naturally.

I was introduced to Barbershop singing in (believe it or not) Yellowknife, N.W.T. When I moved back to the Niagara Region, the Welcome Wagon pamphlet lead me to The Rainbow Tones. The rest is history.

I have been in many choruses and quartets and I have many medals and awards. I didn't reach the Holy Grail until 10 years ago in my Mystique quartet and it was a dream come true. I was always aiming for the Glass Hat and this time Carol and I were wanting to bring two new women into the competition. For 5 years we worked hard to attain our goal. I am so proud of Kate and Barb and of course Carol, too. She is the consummate lead and leader who kept us focused on our singing every week.

Thank you all for your love and support of Charisma and please know that I could not be happier being the Bass in this beautiful champion quartet.

CONGRATULATIONS, 2017 Quartet Medalists

2nd Place **Low Key**



3rd Place **Lip Service**



4th Place **Skyfall**



5th Place **enJOY!**



For 2017 Quartet Finals Scoring Summaries, please visit <https://www.harmonymembers.org/docs/scores/ICC/2017ICCQuartetFinal.pdf>



Skyfall • A Cappella Showcase & Toronto Accolades
 Sheelle Kelly-Witt • Liz Travis • Wendy Arnold • Susanne Hasulo



FLASHPOINT • A Cappella Showcase & Associate
 Kelly Thomas • Janice Williams • Kathy Withnell • Sandy McCreary



Relative Pitch • Bella Nova
 Christina Lewellen • Kristina Adams • Judy Rector • Annie Ermlick



Nuance
 Skyway Connection Chorus & Associates
 Michelle Bender • Andrea Binnington •
 Jen Ieluzzi • Su Canning



Lip Service
 Northern Blend Chorus
 Cait Schadock • Jodi
 Castello • Mary Ann Wert •
 Taralee Lashway



Firestorm
 Northern Blend Chorus
 Marty Martinex • Dorene Dickerson • Jeannie
 Greenwood • Patricia "Bunny" Gorman



Low Key
 Bluegrass Harmony, On Q Chorus & Associate
 Amanda Gonzalez • Corrina Feldman • Audrianna Aragon • Kendra Lambert



Intuition
 New England Voices in Harmony & Associate
 Jennifer Winston • Kelly Wennik • Susan Kapur
 • Dianne Nitzschke



Tonic
ScotianAires Chorus
 Mary Gareau • Marion Fraser-
 Pritchard • Cathy Hunter •
 Adele Merritt

Mystic Chicks • Bella Nova
 Rachael Storey • Erin Cassidy-Whong • Jerri White • Debbie Smith



Kentucky Blend
Bluegrass Harmony
 Chie Ozaki • Valinda
 Petri • Michelle Evans •
 Margie Dimond



Gotta Sing!!!!
Elm City Echoes
 Jill Woodley • Deborah Smith •
 Christine Freeman • Mary McDonald



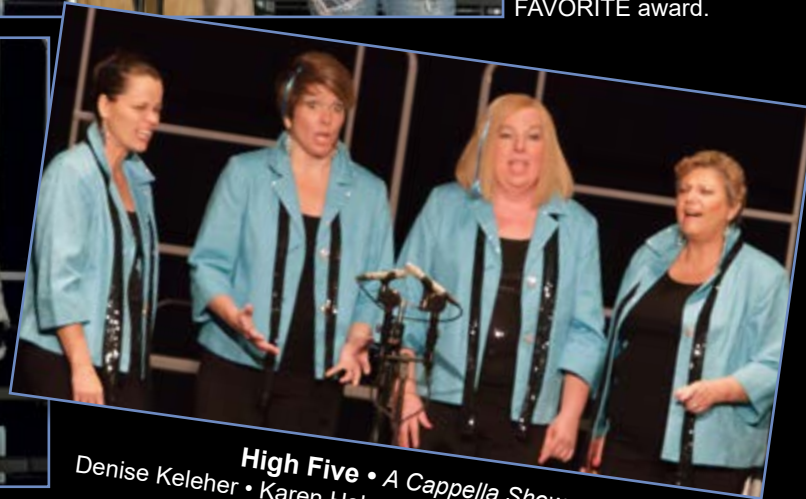
Kismet • Sounds
of the Seacoast,
New England Voices
in Harmony
 • Wendi-Lee Bailey
 • Susan Prescott
 • Elizabeth LeClair
 • Debbie Barol
 Kismet won the AUDIENCE
 FAVORITE award.



Zest
Crystal Chords
 Karla Terry • Brooke Olson • Ann Wilcox • Jessica Rhodes



Singlish • Liberty Belles
 Melody Nyce • Anne Bureau • Monica Walsh • Linda Franklin



High Five • A Cappella Showcase & Associates
 Denise Keleher • Karen Holser • Julie Rushton • Mulia McGregor



Sweet Life
Sounds of the Seacoast & Associate
 Samantha Wiggin • Andrea Hutchings • Michelle McDonald • Shirley Dion



Upscale
Barre Tones, Inc.
 April Knight •Carolynn O'Donnell • Trecia Pallman-Hamilton * Carol Hollenbeck



In A Chord
Sisters of Sound
 Kristin Gunasekera • Tiana Sandh • Mary Ann Cantwell • Emily Kurz



Bluebird
The Over Tones, Inc.
 Janet Dakins • Stephanie Fournier • Amy Chop • Dani Williams • Jennifer Haines



Family Affair
Crystal Chords
 Brooke Olson • Becky LaBella • Amber LaBella Carroll • Michelle Dunne

For 2017 quartet contest scoring summaries, go to www.harmonymembers.org/docs/scores/



enJOY!
ScotianAires & Valley Voices
 Judy Robichaud • Jennifer Cleveland • Sue Kember • Jane Fritz



Shirahz
Area 5 Associates
 Claire McMartin • Mary Allin • Judi Johnston • Charlann Lamb



Charisma
Niagara Frontier Chord Authority
 Kate Kreinheder • Carol Zeffiro • Barb Yendall • Karin Kirkham



2017 CHAMPION CHORUS
Northern Blend
Area 3 • Watertown, N.Y.
Director - Katie Taylor



**2017 SILVER
MEDALIST CHORUS**
**Village Vocal
Chords**
Area 4 • Metro Chicago, Ill.
Director - Jeanne O'Connor



3rd PLACE MEDALIST
**New England
Voices in Harmony**
Area 2
Nashua, New Hampshire
Director - Renee Tramack



4th PLACE MEDALIST
Bella Nova
Area 3
Ashburn, Virginia
Director - Richard Lewellen



5th PLACE MEDALIST
Sounds of the Seacoast
Area 2
Newington,
New Hampshire
Director - Wendy McCoolle

Elm City Echoes Area 1
Frederickton, New Brunswick
Director - Christine Freeman & Jill Woodley



Valley Voices Area 1
Kentville, Nova Scotia
Director - Judy Robichaud

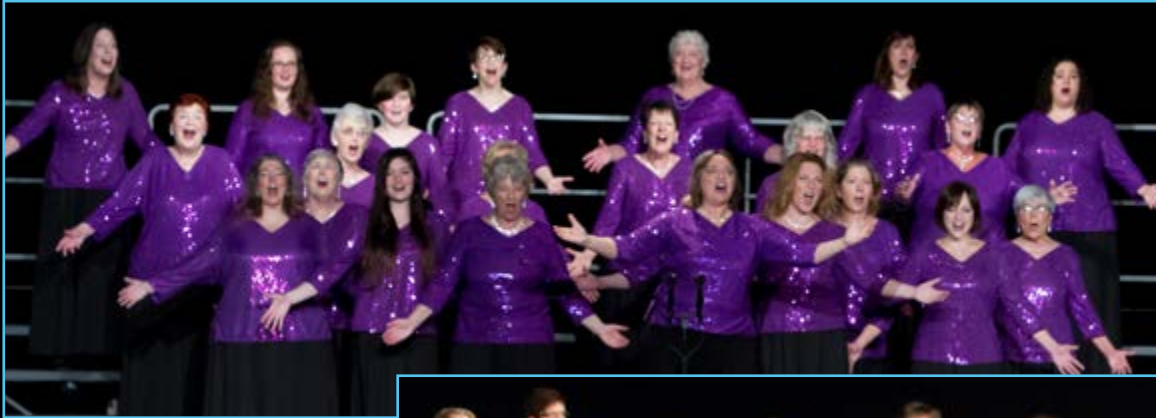


Island A Cappella Area 1
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Director - Carolyn Prime



Nickel City Sound Area 5
Sudbury, Ontario
Director - Wanda Olsen

Sugartones Area 5
Alliston, Ontario
Director - Jan-Ake Westin



Barre-Tones, Inc. Area 2
Barre, Vermont
Director - Carol Hollenbeck



Bluegrass Harmony Area 4
Louisville, Kentucky
Director - Pam Ringo

ScotianAires Area 1
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Director - Sue Kember



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



Niagara Frontier Chord Authority Area 3
East Aurora, New York
Directors - Ron Mason and Sue Trenchard



Harmony Magic Area 4
Central Indiana
Director - Janet Foster

Liberty Belles Area 3
Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Director - Anne Bureau



Sea Belles Area 1
Saint John, New Brunswick
Director - Janet Kidd



Crystal Chords Area 3
Horseheads, New York
Director - Bill McKay



Women of Note Area 2
Hudson, Massachusetts
Director - Ray Johnson



The Over Tones, Inc. Area 5
Guelph, Ontario
Director - JJ Piccolotto

New England Voices in Harmony Area 2
Nashua, New Hampshire
Director - Renee Tramack



Sounds of the Seacoast Area 2
Newington, New Hampshire
Director - Wendy McCoolle

Northern Blend Area 3
Watertown, New York
Director - Katie Taylor



Village Vocal Chords Area 4
Metro Chicago, Illinois
Director - Jeanne O'Connor



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

Bella Nova Area 3
Ashburn, Virginia
Director - Richard Lewellen



Toronto Accolades Area 3
Toronto, Ontario
Director - Wendy Arnold



2016 International Champion Chorus
A Cappella Showcase Area 3
Milton, Ontario
Director - Jordan Travis



2017 Award Recipients



MacIntosh Award and G. Ruth Geils
Memorial Award
Bluegrass Harmony



Jerry Dunlop Memorial Award
Director Stella Kelly



L.A.B.B.S. Trophy
ScotianAires



Montreal City Voices Tait Trophy
The Liberty Belles Chorus



Skidge Heath Memorial Award
Katie Taylor
Director of Northern Blend Chorus



Accord Award
Shirahz

2017 President's Award

Anita Prather Harvell

International President Christina Lewellen made a special presentation at the opening ceremonies of the 2017 International Convention & Contests to Anita Prather-Harvell, the recipient of the 2017 President's Award.

The President's Award is bestowed annually on an individual of the president's choice who embodies the Harmony, Inc. culture by going the extra mile in her service to the organization.

During the presentation in Halifax, Lewellen joked that she would need to make the announcement of who won the award first, since the recipient would, no doubt, be working in the back of the room and it would take her some time to get to the stage. As Harvell made her way to the stage to accept her crystal award, Lewellen noted that she had personally experienced Harvell's kindness several years ago at an IC&C event when Lewellen was serving as VP of Education and running the education program for the first time.

"I was new to the Board, and we didn't have an Educational Events Coordinator at the time so I was on my own," Lewellen recalled. "I was running around trying to make sure all the educators had what they needed and we had run into an issue getting video lined up with one of the classes. Not only did Anita go out of her way to bring me a hot lunch, she also remembered that I can't eat gluten, and brought me a meal that addressed my allergy. She does this kind of thing all the time, and I know many of us have been at the receiving end of Anita's kindness."

Harvell serves as Harmony, Inc.'s Social Media Coordinator and plays an active role in providing timely updates to social media during IC&C and throughout the year. She's a member of Harmony, Inc.'s Equality & Diversity Committee and an active member in Northern Blend Chorus in Area 3.

Later, Lewellen added that Harvell sets the bar high when it comes to being a positive example of a Harmony, Inc. member. "She has so much passion for this art form and for this organization," she said. "That sort of positive, hopeful energy is the reason Harmony exists, and I think we could all strive to bring a bit more 'Anita' into how we serve the organization. She's a role model, for sure."





NORTHERN BLEND

Wins Gold in Nova Scotia

Don't stop believing! With so many amazingly talented choruses crossing the barbershop stage, winning the International Championship was a goal defined while realizing an incredible dream. Northern Blend Chorus is absolutely honored and humbled to be the representatives of the best of the best in our craft. Being announced as the winners of the 2017 Gold Medal in Halifax, Nova Scotia was an exhilarating experience to be cheered and congratulated by such a phenomenal group of women!

What does it really mean to be a champion? It means dedication to a tremendous amount of time, energy, focus and sacrifice; along with recogniz-

ing the unique intricacies that every single person involved contributes to the group. No one person can do it alone and that was the moment that we knew something had changed and we wanted to share the soul of the group with the audience.

It really helps to bring out the best in someone when you have wonderfully amazing people around to guide and direct you to greatness. The awesomeness that is Katie Taylor, our director, is second to none. Her spirit, drive and incredible talent generates excitement and ambition to push yourself to be the very best you can. Our music team is nothing short of tremendous; always seeking excellence and helping us to be better musi-

cians and performers.

Enormous amounts of gratitude is owed to our amazing coaching team Ig Jakovac and Anne Bureau as well as the incredible David McEachern who have collectively helped us to see outside the box and live the music that we were giving to our audience. Not only are they each spectacular coaches and musicians in their own rights; they are also very dear to us and we are blessed to have them share their passion, heart and soul to teach us to do the same.

Our board is always so energetic and supportive of each and every one of Northern Blend's members.

Our president Taralee Lashway, although relatively new to barbershop has really tried to embrace the Harmony motto of finding your voice and encouraging each person to bring their best while being their best day after day. "We are not just ladies that sing together, we are a family that shares our heart, soul and passion for life with everyone who crosses our path," she says.

We are so overwhelmingly blessed to be a part of Harmony, Inc. and we continue to fall in love with the music with every passing moment. We believe in miracles and we NEVER stop believing. We are all champions in this craft; our friends, our family, our sisters...We're Harmony, We're Strong!

Congratulations, Island A Cappella!



2017 Silver Division winner is **Island A Cappella**, an **Area 1 chorus** from *Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island*, directed by Carolyn Prime.

First place recognition brings the chance to enter the International Chorus Contest on Saturday.



Carolyn Prime is the recipient of the Jeanne O'Connor Director Award.



SKYWAY CONNECTION CHORUS, Area 5, Hamilton, Ontario, placed 2nd.



SHADES OF HARMONY, Area 5, London, Ontario, earned third place.



Minor Chords impress in Halifax

The Minor Chords, under the direction of Lexi Conway, entertained at 2017 IC&C.

The youth membership of Harmony, Inc. had a BUSY 2017!

The youth had a wonderful experience with Minor Chords and blew the crowd away with their fabulous performance of *That's Life*, directed by Lexi Conway. Gratitude and thanks go to Lexi for taking on the task of teaching, choreographing, and leading the future of Harmony on the stage! The crowd loved their performance and gave the Minor Chords a well-deserved standing "O"! There were 28 young women on the stage, representing 10 Harmony, Inc. choruses! Wouldn't it be fabulous to see 40+ in Orlando?

The choruses represented were A Cappella Showcase, Atlanta Harmony Celebration!, Barre Tones, Bella Nova, Bluegrass Harmony, New England Voices in Harmony, Northern Blend Chorus, Over Tones, Inc., Sisters of Sound, and Women of Note. Thank you so much for encouraging your youth to participate and supporting them in their success and growth!

Youth Member of the Year Didn't Happen!

Why, you ask? Not a single youth member was nominated this year. Talk to your chorus leaders and make sure they nominate someone! Are you a mentor? Performer? Tech wiz? You can and should be nominated! Let's flood Harmony with nominations this year... whaddya say?!



New Website! New Logo! New T-Shirts!

In 2017, we launched a website just for the youth members, which allowed them to register, login and download their sheet music and learning tracks, leave feedback, and see details on the new t-shirt and logo for Young Women In Harmony. Our youth members will also be able to vote for the 2019 Minor Chords Director in the coming weeks!



<https://www.myhfyw.com/>

Looking for Upcoming Youth Harmony Events?

The Barbershop Harmony Society has put together a map of upcoming youth events. Check this link out to see if there's a camp near you! <http://www.barbershop.org/outreach/youth-harmony-events/>

Thank You!

From Pam Ringo: I would personally like to thank Christina Lewellen for allowing me to take on the Youth Coordinator Position. Working with the Harmony volunteers, the girls of Minor Chords, and being able to share my love of Harmony with the members of Harmony, Inc. has been WONDERFUL! And of course, a HUGE thank you to the parents, guardians and families who let their children participate and the chorus directors and members that help support them on a weekly basis in learning their music. Harmony is a way of life and I'm proud to be a part! Our future is in GOOD HANDS!

Thank You!

A visionary supports youth and education

The International Board of Directors, and the entire membership extend our most sincere gratitude to a gentleman whose generosity is extraordinary! He is a long-time member of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), and dear friend of Harmony, Inc.

Steve Hagerdon, from Rock Tavern, N.Y., is a former Director of our Harmony On the Hudson chapter. It is his generous donations which have provided complimentary All Events Passes to our youth members who attended their respective AC&Cs and the IC&Cs in the last 8 years. He also generously supports the Directors First Program. Steve has been awarded a Lifetime Affiliate Membership in Harmony, Inc.

Parade of Champions



U4X • 2008



LiveWire • 2015

Association of Harmony Queens Chorus



Change of Heart • 1999



Taken 4 Granite • 2016



For Heaven's Sake • 1996



A Cappella Showcase • 2016



2016 HARMONY QUEENS

Taken 4 Granite receive their permanent crowns

In the traditional on-stage ceremony — always an emotional one — 2016 Harmony Queens Taken 4 Granite exchanged their traveling crowns for permanent tiaras. Each member of the quartet was crowned by the people in her life whom she wished to recognize as most supportive of and significant in her, and the quartet's achievement. Strictly warned not to look at each other during the crowning, the above photo captures the moment Christina Tramak, Renee Tramack, Samantha Tramack and Kartrine Dickau turned to look at each other and saw their new tiaras for the first time. Sparkle on, Taken 4 Granite!

Harmony Queens Travel Fund

What is the Harmony Queens Travel Fund? So glad you asked!

The Harmony Queens Travel Fund consists of money raised each year by the Association of Harmony Queens at the annual Parade of Champions at IC&C. This money is raised for your benefit and we hope you will take advantage of this fund. Your chapter is eligible for up to \$2,000 US towards travel and accommodation expenses when you hire a Harmony Queens quartet to appear on your show. Each Area is eligible for up to \$500 US towards expenses of a Queen's quartet serving on the staff at your Area Education event or AC&C.

Please check out the Harmony, Inc. website for details at www.harmonyinc.org or contact:

Travel Fund Chairman Judi Johnston

qtf@harmonyinc.org

705-835-3402

Halo Gets Real with



Race and #RealTalk

Members of Harmony do more than just sing and rehearse; they help shape their communities. Recently, Harmony's own quartet, HALO, has embarked on an important project, and member Shana Oshiro took a few minutes to sit down with **The Key-Note** Editor to talk about how they are approaching difficult issues through the lens of barbershop.

Shana, for those who have never heard about Race and #RealTalk, can you describe for Harmony what the program is about?

Race and #RealTalk is the Community Music Therapy initiative HALO has started under the umbrella of the HALO organization. Race and #RealTalk utilizes the Barbershop listening and singing experience as a metaphor, a framework, and an exercise to facilitate productive conversations about America's issues with racism, and its continued traumatic effects on both the individual and the collective psyche. The program is led specifically by myself, a board-certified Music Therapist (MT-BC) and my sister, Niambi, a licensed clinical Social Worker (LCSW-C). We use and combine our respective areas of expertise to guide community groups through a therapeutic process in confronting these issues with one another and within each individual.

Where did the original idea for all of this begin?

This idea was born in 2015 after HALO had its first IC&C experience as the first African American quartet to compete on the interna-

tional stage of any of the major Barbershop organizations. Niambi and I were musing over what ostensibly seemed anachronistic - that there would still be these "firsts" in areas of achievement and community in the 21st century - but that was, in fact, not all that surprising in the context of American society, at large. It then started to crystalize for us, something of a parallel between the Barbershop community and our broader society, relative to the residues of racism - from systemic achievement gaps to unspoken social estrangement. At that point, we realized that this milestone could and should represent an opportunity for something much bigger and much more open than just our experience as a quartet. And we felt empowered and inspired to use this music, rooted in African American musical traditions, the metaphors we'd discovered together, and the experience from our respective professional backgrounds to help create communities that might not otherwise be possible.

What made you want to tackle these topics through the lens of barbershop?

Barbershop has a remarkable appeal to professional musicians and dilettantes, alike-- despite its harmonic complexity and challenging vocal lines! We believe that its unique combination of qualities - its musical history, its musical structure, and the social experience embedded in both - lends itself well to holding space for America's unique issues with racism and having honest conversations about it. We've experienced for ourselves

See #REAL TALK, continued on next page

#REAL TALK

Continued from previous page

how for the sake of community and belonging, Barbershop singers open themselves to being vulnerable with such an exposed experience of a cappella singing. In this way, we can see how Barbershop music models the essence of what is missing from the conversations many of us are prone to having to this day about racism. If people are willing to take off the armor so often worn to protect our egos, beliefs, and existing sense of self when singing together — maybe the music can teach us how to do the same in our conversations about racism, despite the tension we are bound to experience in doing so.

What has been the most surprising thing to come out of your meetings so far?

So much of the work of this program is as much about the individual, as it is the collective process — so there have been different aspects of surprise that emerged from the program and its growth. We've had people participate who admitted to never having sung outside of the shower, nor ever having had anything close to a desire to do so. And they've expressed surprise at how gratifying the experience was, in the context of participating in a broader conversation that our society so desperately needs. Others shared their surprise at the shifts in their own perspectives, once they had learned more about the perspectives and experiences of others. Personally, I was overjoyed with surprise with having witnessed this vision we'd been working so hard to manifest finally come to fruition. Sometimes you may go through with a mission because you want to believe the best for humankind and its potential, when every day the news tells you, "keep dreaming." And when the work yields something as beautiful as what you'd imagined — tiny, but whole — it's really astonishing. Pure joy.

What is the one thing you would want Harmony to know about the Race and #RealTalk?

The one thing we hope for our Harmony sisters to know, aside from what's expressed in other answers to your questions, is that your support matters to us.

What would you tell Harmony members who want to start something like this in their own community? How can they get involved?

Our goal is to continue to grow the organization by facilitating programs in communities of all kinds all over the country. Chapters, choruses, areas and regions certainly are communities in their own right-- and any group that wishes to engage in this kind of discussion and would like to invite HALO to



facilitate it can contact us to explore the possibilities of making this program happen for them, as well.

Where can members follow your journey or learn more?

We invite everyone to follow our journey and learn more about our organization at www.haloquartet.com. They can of course, like us on Facebook if they've not already done so--where we also post regular updates and messages about upcoming events. If anyone would like to offer their support through a tax-deductible donation, they can do so at

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2728016>.

Atlantic Area Barbershop Choruses Share Stage with Top Maritime Musicians

Christmas is always a busy performance time for Harmony Inc. Choruses, caroling for shoppers, in senior homes and at community events, but for three Area 1 choruses this year there was a special excitement. Island A Cappella, Sea Belles Chorus and Elm City Echoes were thrilled to be invited to perform on stage with several award winning Maritime folksingers and songwriters



during three stops of *Tomato Tomato's* 10-city Maritime Christmas Show tour. Also included in the show were Canadian folk song writer, Dave Gunning and Cape Breton singer song writer, Heather Rankin.

Each chorus opened the second half of their respective city show with their choice barbershop Christmas song to a very receptive, sold out audience, as well, welcomed John and Lisa MacLaggan (*Tomato Tomato*) back on stage for their fun-loving spirited song *The Trouble with Mittens*, with the choruses singing “back up” “wha-oo” and “doot” on the refrain.

How did it all happen?

On November 9, Island A Cappella's president Jan Coffin received an email from Shelley Chase, Road manager for the funky Maritime songwriter duo, *Tomato Tomato*, requesting they perform on stage for their December 1 Maritime Christmas Show at the Confederation Center in Charlottetown, PEI. In accepting this offer, Director Carolyn Prime also shared contact information on other Harmony, Inc. a cappella choruses. As a result, Saint John Sea

Belles Chorus and Fredericton's Elm City Echoes were also contacted for *Tomato Tomato's* Saint John and Fredericton shows.

Both Island A Cappella and Sea Belles choruses responded to Ms. Chase's request to create a 30 second promotional video for the show which was uploaded and shared on *Tomato Tomato's* Facebook page. Lisa MacLaggan had this to say on their Facebook page in response to IAC video, “These ladies are amazing!!! We are very excited to have Island A Cappella from PEI, join us!”. (<https://www.facebook.com/Island-A-Cappella-womens-chorus-1638057049793598/>)

Elm City Echoes' Carole Peacock expressed it best after their December 22 performance. “It was an offer we couldn't refuse! A chance to sing one of our favourite upbeat Christmas tunes (*Little St. Nick*) and perform with that crazy, funky duo *Tomato Tomato* for a sold-out house at The Fredericton Playhouse three days before Christmas . . . what a high! The audience loved it and we left the stage, waving, to thunderous applause. We had succeeded as back-up singers. We were giddy and relieved as walked out into the night and headed home.”

Sea Belles' Director Janet Kidd had this to say about their December 21st experience: “This was a huge opportunity for the chorus to be heard and seen by 900 people who would not necessarily come to our regular performances. As the curtain opened we heard gasps about our sparkly red outfits, and then wonderfully intense quiet listening as we opened the second half of the show with *Mary Did You Know*.”

Doing the back-up vocals in *Tomato Tomato's* following song (Janet arranged *The Trouble with*



Mittens in four part barbershop style) was such fun – and an interesting challenge for us because the style was so different from Barbershop. Not only was it an honour to be invited to be on that stage, but it was also exciting to know that our barbershop sisters in other cities were also being allowed to showcase our wonderful a cappella style!!” (Youtube video recording with permission of *Tomato Tomato* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIKf_ZW4FmM)

Area 1 Director, Linda Brehaut gets excited every time she sees the Area work as an “ensemble”. “This was one of those wonderful opportunities when 3 of our choruses shared with so many people the gift of a cappella music along side some very gifted Maritime artists. What a wonderful experience!”

All in all, this is a fabulous example of the marvelous things that can happen when Area 1 Choruses work together and share their time, talents and accept “outside the box” opportunities.

Tomato Tomato Bio from their Blog <http://www.tomatotomato.ca/bio>

John and Lisa write clever and quirky songs that draw on traditional Folk, Bluegrass, Blues and Swing with their own interesting twist. Lisa performs on an old washboard rigged up with tin cans and a cymbal while simultaneously playing bass and snare drums with her feet. She truly takes multitasking to a new level! Tight

harmonies, old-timey guitar and Lisa's up-cycled percussion create an unmistakable sound that is unique, refreshing and fun. Really, really fun!

2017 was a whirlwind for the East Coast power duo. They toured all across Canada including performances at the **Vancouver Folk Festival**, **Regina Folk Festival** and the **National Arts Centre**. Outside of Canada they had very successful tours of both Australia and the United Kingdom. The band was honoured with nominations for “*Contemporary Folk Album of the Year*” at the **Canadian Folk Music Awards** and “*Songwriter of the Year*” at the **East Coast Music Awards**. In the last three years they have accumulated ten nominations for Music/Musique New Brunswick and taken home six awards. They're kicking 2018 off with a trip to Nashville to record a new album with Grammy Award-winning producer, Andrija Tokic at “The Bomb Shelter” Studio. This studio has produced some of today's most ground breaking records from Alabama Shakes to Margo Price or Langhorne Slim. Their music combines years of study with the everyday ebb and flow of life on the East Coast of Canada.

Dave Gunning Canadian folk songwriter and winner of 2014 ECMA Songwriter of the Year as well as 3 time 2017 ECMA nominee.

Heather Rankin- Cape Breton singer songwriter Heather Rankin follows her 2016 Juno Award Nominated solo album, *A Fine Line*, with a Christmas album, *Imagine*. Her angelic voice wraps her listeners in coziness and nostalgia reminiscent of her Celtic roots.





L to R: Margaret de Wolf (Interpretation CS), Sheila Rice (Education Advisor), BaM, Sandra Landey (Stage Presence CS) and myself, Marilyn Penketh (Arrangement CS).

A Letter from LABBS

In 1984 four ladies from LABBS left England to come to Harmony Incorporated's IC&C in Providence. In celebration of your 25th anniversary, we presented a silver plate for you to determine how it should be awarded.

Barbara-Ann MacIntosh met us at Boston airport and looked after us extremely well. We even found time to visit the Cape Chordaires rehearsal.

I was so taken with Harmony that I decided I must join you as a member!

In 1987, as Chairman of LABBS I invited Four In Accord to be our guests at convention. This was a great deal of fun because we also had our patrons of the time... The King's Singers...coming along too. My Chairman's reception saw the quartet teaching tags, and a great time was had by all.

I've been coming to your International Conventions ever since and have enjoyed some wonderful hospitality which I have managed to reciprocate on occasions, mainly with members of the Village Vocal Chords. Harmony Inc. has given me so much pleasure over these past years and I continue to meet with friends and make more friends every year that I am able to travel. You have also enabled me to see so many wonderful places as each year I plan extra days for sightseeing as well as visiting other choruses in the vicinity.

I was extremely proud In 2017 to be presented with my 30 year membership certificate and look forward to seeing you all in Orlando, 2018.



— Marilyn Penketh

Area 4 and its 'Sound' Traditions

Tradition is a big part of life and an important part of Sound Celebration Chorus. It has rehearsed in Plymouth, WI, since it was formed in 1966, and has taken its dulcet tones throughout Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Counties in east central Wisconsin to competitions throughout the United States and Canada. It's been 53 years since the ladies started singing, and in those 53 years, 52 of them have featured the tradition of an annual "Show." No small feat, the family friendly musical show reflects the vaudeville style of old featuring a musical theme including "bad" jokes, glorious costuming, and sets that rival Broadway. Among the 52 shows offered, favorite themes have featured *Pirates*, *Big Top Harmony*, *Hard Hat Harmony*, *Recipe for Harmony*, and *Malt Shop Melodies*. The tradition of working together builds friendship and showcases the talents and skills that bind chorus members together in song and friendship.

"The shows give us more reason to rehearse year round," the organization's president, Kerry Wilson says. "The competitions are important, but the show not only puts us "out there" in the community but it builds camaraderie among members and brings in revenue that helps with coaching opportunities and takes us to yearly competitions."

Rehearsals start and end with traditions that build love and friendship between women who live up to 50 miles apart, and "meet in the middle" every Tuesday to rehearse. Kate Pearce, a member for more than 15 years introduced the tradition of "Warming up With Dance" every week. Rehearsals start with Kate's selection of 5 minutes of music – Jamaican? 50's Jive? Big Band? Folk or Folk Rock? Beatles?, Elton John?, you name it - you never know what genre' is going to kick things off, led by Kate herself, encouraging the circled group to stretch, sway, march, and dance to the feel good music, getting the group ready to sing at its best.

Kerry Wilson, the group's president says, "I get chills when Sound Celebration sings *Harmony Grace* before

our meals together, whether on retreat, in a church basement opening a bag lunch, or in a classy restaurant while at a competition."

She continues, "I also love that space in time when we arrive to rehearse. The warm chatter, laughter and kind greetings that fill the air as we arrive at each rehearsal is a bond of fellowship only Barbershop singers can know. I also love the ceremonial induction of new officers. Candles are lit as new officers promise to do their best. It brings home the importance of the job they have committed to do not just to them, but to the entire chorus."

Marianne Cooke, another longtime member of the group, recalls that when it was realized that rehearsals were drawing women from 30 miles in several directions, it became clear that a way was needed for them to get to know each other. Consequently the "Closing Circle" was introduced. Turns out that this is a time to quiet down after two and a half hours of learning music and the hard work of learning the choreography that goes with it. A closing circle of Chorus announcements, birthdays, joys, concerns and stories, capped with jointly reciting the Harmony Creed and singing an individual chorus member's choice of song, is the "Coda" for the evening. "I love the calming effect of saying the Harmony Creed together at the close of a rehearsal" Kerry Wilson concludes.

"It's like having a grown up Girl Scout Troop," comments Denise Shaffer, a life time member of Girl Scouts of the USA, (another well respected organization for women!). A more recent Sound Celebration Barbershop Chorus member, she sports a 5 year membership award. "I get teased a lot for all my Girl Scout references, but for me, the traditions of this Woman's Barbershop Chorus feature all the things I love best about Girl Scouting - great friends, great singing, meaningful contributions to our communities, teamwork and traditions! Every Tuesday it's another "Sound Celebration Tradition!"



A Look Behind the Curtain

We weren't planning on competing at IC&C last year. As a chorus we wanted to focus on membership growth and our repertoire. But after the excitement of AC&C, we couldn't help ourselves. And even though almost half of our chorus couldn't go to IC&C – we committed anyway. Could we compete with so few people? Should we? Those were the questions we asked ourselves.

But after the curtain closed in Halifax, we knew we had done the right thing. So many of you came up to us with questions - "How do you do it with so few people?" "Can I feel your costume?" The most common question that day was, "How do you keep the excitement and joy that is so evident in your members both on and off the stage?" We even heard "I wish I could be a fly on the wall and see what makes Bluegrass Harmony so different than other choruses your size."

We returned to Louisville excited about what we had done and then asked ourselves, "how DO we do it?" The question made us laugh and laugh because truthfully, we are just as surprised as the rest of you! Here is an honest behind the curtain look at Bluegrass Harmony and the key to our "success". We think you will get the picture ...

Leadership:

Every successful chorus has to have solid leadership with common goals. We are fortunate to have a leadership team that is confident, knowledgeable and always supportive of each other.



Discipline:

A chorus should be disciplined and if not, leadership should work to keep members corralled and in line.



Teamwork:

The success of any organization is in its ability to work as a unified team and understand that every member and opinion is important.



Dedication:

Our members are dedicated to our craft and we take our work very seriously. Even our long-distance members are devoted to giving 100%.



Good Fashion Sense:

A chorus should not only sound good — but they should look good, too — at all times, because you are always representing your chorus!



Friendship & Love:

Most importantly - Bluegrass Harmony is a family! We love our chorus and we love what we do.



The Results:

You decide. We REALLY don't know how we do it either!



Atlanta Harmony Celebration! brings barbershop to the railroads



Atlanta Harmony Celebration! sings in a variety of venues. We can be found in churches, retirement communities, at festivals, and sometimes in the local bar and grill! To wrap up 2017, however, we enjoyed a very unique experience. On Saturday, December 16th, AHC! performed at the Southeastern Railway Museum's Polar Express Charity Event! Amidst smiling children who whispered Christmas wishes in Santa's ears, young and old exploring historic railroad cars from days of old - AHC! choristers climbed aboard an unused railroad car and sang a few bars! Then they stepped out into the huge, barn-like museum full of vintage locomotives, little red cabooses, and an array of vehicles and other relics to sing some more.

We made our way to a front corner of the 21,000 square foot exhibit area, where colorful and brightly lit decorations brought warmth to the huge space. In holiday bliss,

we raised our voices in glee, pausing briefly only when challenged by an over exuberant train whistle! Visitors came and sat for a while, listening and joining in for a sing-a-long or two, then moseyed on to explore another train car. In no time at all, we found the time had passed, the songs had been sung, and it was time to "call it a wrap". Another performance and another year gone by. We snuggled together for one last picture, to capture the moment, to remember the happiness and reasons that we do this, and to close the books on yet another successful community engagement!

At our last rehearsal, we talked about that performance, even joking that "AHC! will sing ANYWHERE!" That's right; we like it that way. And now we have to wonder: Where will 2018 take us?

As always, we are "Proud to be AHC!"

'Singing with friends warms the heart'

Chesapeake Harmony hosts educational event

The Chesapeake Harmony Chorus (CHC) had a "squawkin'" good time serving as the host chorus at a regional barbershop educational event in January. Planning started last fall with Karen Glanden choosing a penguin theme with the tag line: Singing with friends warms the heart!

Chorus members were brimming with ideas on filling the Boutique with fun items to sell. The crafters among us brought in projects that members constructed during one very relaxing rehearsal. The result was a wonderful combination of personally-crafted and purchased items, such as the ever-popular glittery lanyards and sparkly pins of each singing part! Themed gift baskets, beautiful jewelry and healthy snacks rounded out the offerings.

Our ladies staffed the registration table and managed last-minute changes to the Personal Vocal Instruction (PVI) schedules, matching more singers with available coaches for private sessions. Chorus members served as a liaison

for every class offered, sang in the color choruses, and took advantage of PVIs. On Sunday morning, the chorus relished having Jean Barford for a 2-hour, open coaching session.

The highlight of the week-end was performing on the Saturday night show, which opened with Chesapeake Harmony Chorus dressed as penguins! The performance had everything you could want – great music, a dancing flea, flying fish, "nun-sense" fun, lots of squawking and singing.

While the chorus sang Spanish Flea, our adorable flea Karen taught CHC Director Tancey Bosna the Macarena dance, which is a challenge with fins.

Saturday evening's show was emceed by CHC's very own Mary Beth Whisman, whose acerbic wit kept the show moving and the audience laughing.

Later in the show we were invited to sing along with our sisters from Greater Harrisburg dressed as penguins from another Mother Superior.



Marge McGugan, Diane Schwarz and Tomoko Michel mug for the camera. We couldn't look this good without our talented costume and make-up team, Patti Platt, Kammy Curry and Debbie Toy.



The Cobequid Fun Tones Stay Busy Through Winter Season

Our invitations to entertain have included a Valentine Tea at the United Church, Oxford and International Women's Day, Capitol Theatre, Oxford. We are delighted to have invitations back to perform again this coming March.

Over this past year, we have been very active as well. Throughout the spring we enjoyed performing at the Highcrest Nursing Home, Springhill, NS, and ministering in music at the Wentworth Baptist Church. In May we hosted the East Coast Music Show where we put on a variety show with an east coast theme and with other invited guests for a packed house.

We took to the stage at 1:30 pm July 1st, 2017 to officially open the Gathering of the Clans honoring Canada's 150th birthday in Pugwash, NS. And yes, we included Happy Birthday and *O Canada* in four part harmony. Following that event we took a summer break and resumed early fall.

We were blessed to be able to give back following the hurricanes, by joining other groups at the Church of the Nazarene's for a musical evening to raise funds for Cuba.

In like fashion we played our part in a fundraiser for Pugwash United Church, participating in a Variety Show, fundraiser for Calvary United Church of Port Howe.

We celebrated the Christmas season with much merry making. A favorite each year is when we are invited to Victoria, a small country church, packed with standing room only. Here we enjoy an old fashioned service, with no power, by candle light, and our cords ringing the rafters. We also performed at the Oxford Festival of Choirs along with the local Church and other community choirs. Our chorus enjoyed our own Christmas get together at a members' home complete with Chinese food following our sing out at Centennial Villa Nursing Home.

Along with what is becoming our annual Valentine Tea and International Women's Day performances, we are preparing for a Spring Gospel Concert and AC&C.

It is with regret that we have accepted the resignation of our long time Director and Co-Director Joanna LeBlanc. We wish her a song on her lips and in her heart.



Harmony In Motion Presents 'A Jersey Journey'

Every two years, Harmony in Motion puts on a big show production held in an area high school auditorium and usually for an audience of more than five hundred people. It takes well over a year of careful planning and preparation, and this year was no exception. "A Jersey Journey" took place on September 17 at Kittatinny Regional High School with another packed auditorium! We were extremely pleased and excited to have "Gimme Four" as our featured men's guest quartet, as they had just become the BHS Mid-Atlantic quartet champions the night before our show.

"A Jersey Journey" told the story of two women who had been college friends and who had reconnected again many years later after having had a falling-out. "Ms. Kansas" flew to her friend in New Jersey to tour the Garden State and was shown all it had to offer, from High Point State Park in the north to Cape May in the south. Musical numbers accompanied them throughout their travels, sung by Harmony in Motion and four of its quartets – "High Hopes", "Jeweltones", "Secret Blend", and "Four More."

While our director was doing research for the show, she

came across a song entitled, "I'm From New Jersey," and some interesting facts about its songwriter, Red Mascara. It seems that NJ is the only state that does not have an official state song. This gentleman lobbied in Trenton for more than 50 years trying to have his song passed through the legislature to become New Jersey's state song. Unfortunately, he passed away before seeing his mission fulfilled, but his grandchildren are continuing where their grandfather left off. Wanting to help their cause, Harmony in Motion had Red Mascara's song arranged in our style of four-part harmony and paid tribute to this songwriter during the show. We told a bit of his story and had his picture appear on the screen behind us as it was told. His song became our finale and we were pleased to have some of Red's family introduced from our audience during that time. We can only hope that Red's dream will someday become a reality...and that we were a small part in helping to achieve this. Harmony in Motion hopes to be taking this very successful show on the road during the coming year. It was indeed "A Jersey Journey" in the true sense of the word!

from our Hearts for the Love of Harmony

For the Love of Harmony Donations
December 2016 to November 2017

December 2016

Medium Heart on the website:

From: Sharon Gilbert for FUSION with thanks for their gift of Harmony.

From: Sue Kellison with thanks to the Convention Team

From: Shirahz with thanks to Ken Fisher

Large Heart on the website:

From Area 2 with thanks to the Judging Panel for AC&C

From Joan Fontaine (Area 3), in loving memory of her son Michael Chevalier

January 2017

Large Heart on the website:

From Crystal Chords for Jeanne O'Connor, in appreciation for sharing her great talent.

February 2017

Medium Heart on the website:

From Classic Blend in loving memory of Leanne Hoelke, 30 year member.

April 2017

Small Heart from Joan Fontaine in loving memory of former member, Shirley Crossman.

Large Heart from Area 6 with thanks to Change of Heart for their help with the FindYour Voice event in Tennessee.

May 2017

Large Heart:

From Area 6 In Memory of Bill Jackson

From Area 6, with thanks to the Judging Panel for AC&C 2017

From Sea Belles, Area 1, with thanks to Coach, Kathy Greason

From Area 2, with thanks to the Judging Panel for AC&C 2017

June 2017

Small Heart:

From Harmony Sound Waves, Area 6, In Memory of Bill Jackson, husband of Area 6 Director, Carol Jackson.

From Island A Cappella, Area 1, In Memory of Brian Curley, brother of member Isabella Christian.

July 2017

Large Heart on the website:

From Area 5 with thanks to the Judging Panel.

Small Heart on the website:

From Island A Cappella, Area 1, in Memory of Rita Olscamp.

Island A Cappella, Area 1, in Memory of Danny Beaton, husband of Nancy BulgerBeaton. Atlanta Harmony Celebration!, Area 6, in Memory of Daphne Meagher, Charter Member, Past Area 6 Director.

August 2017

Medium Heart on the website:

From: Bev and Bill Jackson in celebration of Eilyn and Harry Hakomaki's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations!

September 2017

Small Heart on the website:

From Doug and Andrea Long, with Congratulations to Diane and David Patterson.

Island A Cappella in Memory of Erik Hagmeier, father of Ulrike Hagmeier.

Large Heart on the website:

From Island A Cappella to Kathy Hanneson in appreciation of a song arrangement.

Jeanne O'Connor, with Congratulations to

Diane and David Patterson.

September 2017

On August 26, 2017, Diane Coates and David Patterson were married in Devens, Massachusetts. They requested that instead of wedding gifts, their friends and family make donations to either The Harmony Foundation, or For the Love of Harmony, designating funds go to Youth Outreach. The following will have Hearts on the website. Thank you Diane and David for your heartfelt request for those programs that are near and dear to YOUR hearts!

Small Heart with Congratulations and best wishes to Diane and David Patterson:

Dianne Clark

Gail Taplin

Alan & Jan Lamson

Celia Landry

Kristina & Efrain Martinez

Maureen Panetta

Medium Heart with Congratulations and best wishes to Diane and David Patterson:

Kathy Greason

The Haydens

Diane Zanetti

Kim Bury & Gil Dubray

Laurie Hamel

Brian Cullen

Alison & Matt Aliskevicz

Linda Bober & Dave Pitts

Karen Schutt

Large Heart with Congratulations and best wishes to Diane and David Patterson:

Deb & John Green

Mark & Abby Prior

Betsy & Brad Westgate

Kathy Menzel & Steve Lang

Julie & Dave Schwingbeck

'For the Love of Harmony'

Have you ever asked yourself, "How can I support Harmony, Inc. and show my appreciation for the immense love and joy it brings to so many?"

For The Love of Harmony is the perfect answer to your question, and is a most heartfelt and worthwhile "thank you" to our beloved organization. Your donations to **For The Love Of Harmony** enable you to identify individuals or groups to receive special recognition while, at the same time, provide a monetary gift to Harmony, Inc. Funds donated to **For The Love Of Harmony** will be used as requested by the donor on the Donation Submission Form.

Donations of \$25 or more will be recognized with a heart on Harmony, Inc.'s web site and mention in the next publication of The Key-Note. Inside the heart, designate your name, as donor, or the name of the person or event you wish to celebrate. Families, friends, members, quartets, chapters, may all make a gift in honor of someone who is celebrating a special day or event or, you may wish to memorialize a special someone who touched your life, or who enhanced your barber-shopping experience This is a fun way to thank your coach, recognize a friend's birthday, wedding anniversary, send a tribute to your chapter, or celebrate a "just because" moment. The list is endless! The donor will receive a letter of appreciation. The individual or group in whose name the donation was made will receive a card advising a donation was made and the reason it was given. (See Donation Submission Form)

When donations of \$500 have accumulated donors are recognized as follows:

Individual member, quartet, chapter and Area donations will be recognized with:

- \$500: receive a letter of thanks, certificate, and name on the web site and in The Key-Note
- \$1,000: all of the above plus acknowledgment in the International Convention program
- \$5,000: all of the above plus personal recognition at the Annual Membership Meeting and an invitation to the

President's Reception.

Corporate and non-member donations will be recognized with:

- \$500: a thank you letter, framed certificate, name in The Key-Note
- \$1,000: thank you letter, framed certificate, name in The Key-Note
- \$5,000 - \$10,000: thank-you letter, plaque, article and photo in The Key-Note, invitation to the President's Reception.

Note: In the United States, Harmony, Inc. is recognized as a non-profit organization under education and with a code number of 501 (c) (3).

Harmony, Inc. continues to put its Directors First

At the opening ceremony of the 2017 International Convention & Contests, Harmony, Inc. celebrated the completion of its first year of Directors First, a program unlike any other aimed to support the strength of the organization's musical leadership. The Directors First program is a fundraising campaign with one goal—to send Harmony Inc.'s directors and supporting musical leadership to Harmony University for a world-class barbershop harmony education.

The initiative aims to send one director or musical leader from each chapter of Harmony, Inc. to Harmony University, hosted by the Barbershop Harmony Society in the summer, within five years.

Since the launch in 2016, the Directors First fundraising campaign earned enough to send nine Harmony, Inc. musical leaders to Harmony University in 2017. With a successful "Class I" in the books, the membership is turning its effort to raising money for Class II and sending another round of scholarship recipients in 2018.

"Our Directors First program, led by some instrumental volunteers, is entering a really exciting phase," said Christina Lewellen, International President. "We're conducting friendly challenges on social media, chapters are raising money as teams, and the applications are already rolling in, which is a great thing."

Directors First Class II will be announced in mid-April. More information about the program—how to give and how to apply—is available at HarmonyInc.org.

"At Harmony, Inc., we know that stronger directors equal stronger chapters, and stronger chapters equal stronger areas, and stronger areas equal a stronger international organization," Lewellen adds.

Learn more about the program, come up with creative ways to support it, and your chapter will benefit when it's time for your director or other musical leader to attend Harmony University.

Harmony Welcomes New Judges

At the Opening Ceremony of IC&C, outgoing International Contest & Judging Chair Jacquie Jensen, recognized several new additions to Harmony, Inc.'s judging program. Joining the ranks as Certified Judges in 2017 were:

Lynn Blakeney, Performance Category
"D" Dyer, Singing Category
Sue Kember, Singing Category

"We are grateful to our judges, both existing and new, for dedicating their time and talents to serve Harmony in this capacity," said Christina Lewellen, International President. "We're proud of the recent candidates who transitioned to Certified Judges, and we look forward to seeing them on upcoming panels."

2018 Area Contest Season Dates & Deadlines

Area 1 June 2-5 Sackville, NB

Hosted by: **Area 1 Convention Team**
Contact Name: CDeb Moreau
Contest Entry Deadline: April 2
Late Entry Cutoff: May 2
International Contest Entry Deadline: June 18

Area 2 April 26-29 Devens, MA

Hosted by: **Area 2 Convention Team**
Contact Name: Diane Patterson
Contest Entry Deadline: February 26
Late Entry Cutoff: March 28
International Contest Entry Deadline: May 14

Area 3 May 3-6 Rochester, NY

Hosted by: **Area 3 Convention Team**
Contact Name: Sue Trenchard & Dorene Dickerson
Contest Entry Deadline: March 5
Late Entry Cutoff: April 4
International Contest Entry Deadline: May 21

Area 4 June 7-10 Bloomington, IL

Hosted by: **Area 4 Convention Team**
Contact Name: Sara Stone
Contest Entry Deadline: April 9
Late Entry Cutoff: May 9
International Contest Entry Deadline: June 25

Area 5 May 25-27 Toronto, ON

Hosted by: **Area 5 Convention Team**
Contact Name: Gidget Kaert
Contest Entry Deadline: March 26
Late Entry Cutoff: April 25
International Contest Entry Deadline: June 11

Area 6 April 19-22 Jacksonville, FL

Hosted by: **Area 6 Convention Team**
Contact Name: Aura Daye
Contest Entry Deadline: February 19
Late Entry Cutoff: March 21
International Contest Entry Deadline: May 7

Future IC&C Dates and Locations

2018	Hilton Orlando, Lake Buena Vista, FL	October 31 - November 4
2019	Kalahari Resort & Convention Centre, Sandusky, OH	November 6 - 10
2020	Galt House, Louisville, KY	November 4-8



- **Bonnie Boutin, Founding Member of New England Voices in Harmony, Area 2**
 - Donna Lee Balkan, ScotianAires, Area 1
 - Leanne Hoelke, Classic Blend, Area 5
- **Alma Schilling, first Area Representative in Area 2, donor of the Area 2 Achievement Award**
- **Daphne Meagher, founder of The Georgia Connection, past Area 6 Representative**
- **Pennie Barbour, Founding Member of the Chaleur Echoes, Area 1, Past International President**
 - Bonnie Inch, The Baytones, Area 5
 - Betty Treloar, Harmony Heritage, Area 2
 - Eartha Zila, Sing Niagara, Area 5
- **Joanne Willett Founder and LIFE member of Harmony, Inc., lead of the 1965 Harmony Queens, KEYNOTES, Area 2.**

To those friends we've lost, may they rest in peace as we cherish their memory.



2017 IC&C Chorus Champions
Northern Blend
*beam with delight at the realization
that their dream is fulfilled.
Congratulations, ladies!*



We will all remember fondly our time together in Halifax . . . and look forward to seeing you all again, in November in Orlando, Florida!