

The Key-Note



Harmony, Inc.

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Aged to Perfection

2018 Harmony Queens

HARMONY, INC.

Where Ordinary Women
Come Together to Make
Extraordinary Music.

Empowering all women
through education, friend-
ship, and singing.

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President's Message



Hello, Harmony!

Recently, Chorus America published [The Chorus Impact Study, Singing for A Lifetime](#) which shines a bright light on the amazing impact group singing has on our communities and world.

And that's something Harmony, Inc. has known all along, that choral singing is good for mental, emotional, spiritual, social, and physical health for both the individual and the community.

This study says choral singers are healthier, happier, more accepting of all types of diversity, and more apt to be involved in community service and leadership than non-singers.

Indeed.

Our Harmony chapters and quartets demonstrate this every day — as evidenced in this issue of **The Key-Note**. And that's why we're growing.

Harmony, Inc. grew more than seven percent this past year as we continued to welcome women who seek what makes Harmony, Inc. so incredibly special.

In 2018 we chartered five new chapters: Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus, Seaside A Cappella, Limestone City Voices, Breton Song Birds, South Lake A Cappella Chorus.

And so far in 2019 we have chartered four: Panama City A Cappella, St. Louis Vocal Project, Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus and Scarborough Harmony Chorus, with several more prospective chapters knocking on the door.

Congratulations, ladies!

Let's continue to let our light shine for the world.

Harmony. **Stronger.**

— *Donna McKay*, International President



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AT IC&C IN SANDUSKY

On the road with

Aged to Perfection



AGED TO PERFECTION — (From left) Alexa Beal, lead; Kathy Pomer, bass; Gaye LaCasce, Alexa's mother, tenor; and Kathy's daughter, Ellie Pomer, baritone; represented Harmony, Inc. on the World Harmony Showcase at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, in July.

Prologue

We can hardly believe it's been 8 months since our exciting achievement in Orlando – we are still thrilled and humbled by the experience and have had to pinch each other every time we remember the moment we won! Being the temporary caretakers for the crowns that have been worn by some of the most talented singers among us ... there is nothing about that honor that we take for granted. This reigning year has already been full and exciting, replete with many opportunities to focus on all the most important things in life. We have held on tightly for the wild ride.

Kathy Pomer (Bass)

After Orlando my family went back to our busy lives - including our Bari (Ellie!) who will tell you her own exciting story - but here's a hint: we didn't see her between January and May and now she only speaks Spanish! Relax - she has come home (a truly international woman of the world) and our family and the quartet are even more international because of it (whatever that means, but it sounds good!) Having had no children at home provided an important time for my husband Jim and me to focus on our own parents - spending cherished moments and caring for them.

I continue to be very engaged in my work of motivating and offering professional development for early childhood educators, all around the continent. Truly - I've been away more than I've been home.

And what makes me the somewhat partially sane person you see today? I know it's the singing. It's not only the joy of song and escaping into the world of notes and chords that transcend real life, but it's also the connections made with amazing people who understand the importance of this gift of music — for ourselves, in addition to our audiences! It is a discipline, and so important to protect sacred time for practicing on my own all the time so I'm ready to rehearse and do justice to the music (and the crown) when ATP is together.

See **QUEENS**, continued on next page



QUEENS

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Ellie Pomer (Baritone)

Almost immediately after our success in Orlando, I went off to Argentina for five months! I always knew I wanted to study abroad before my college career was finished, but I never truly expected that it would happen almost immediately after becoming a Harmony Queen. Argentina was a blast; it was the best place I could have chosen to travel.

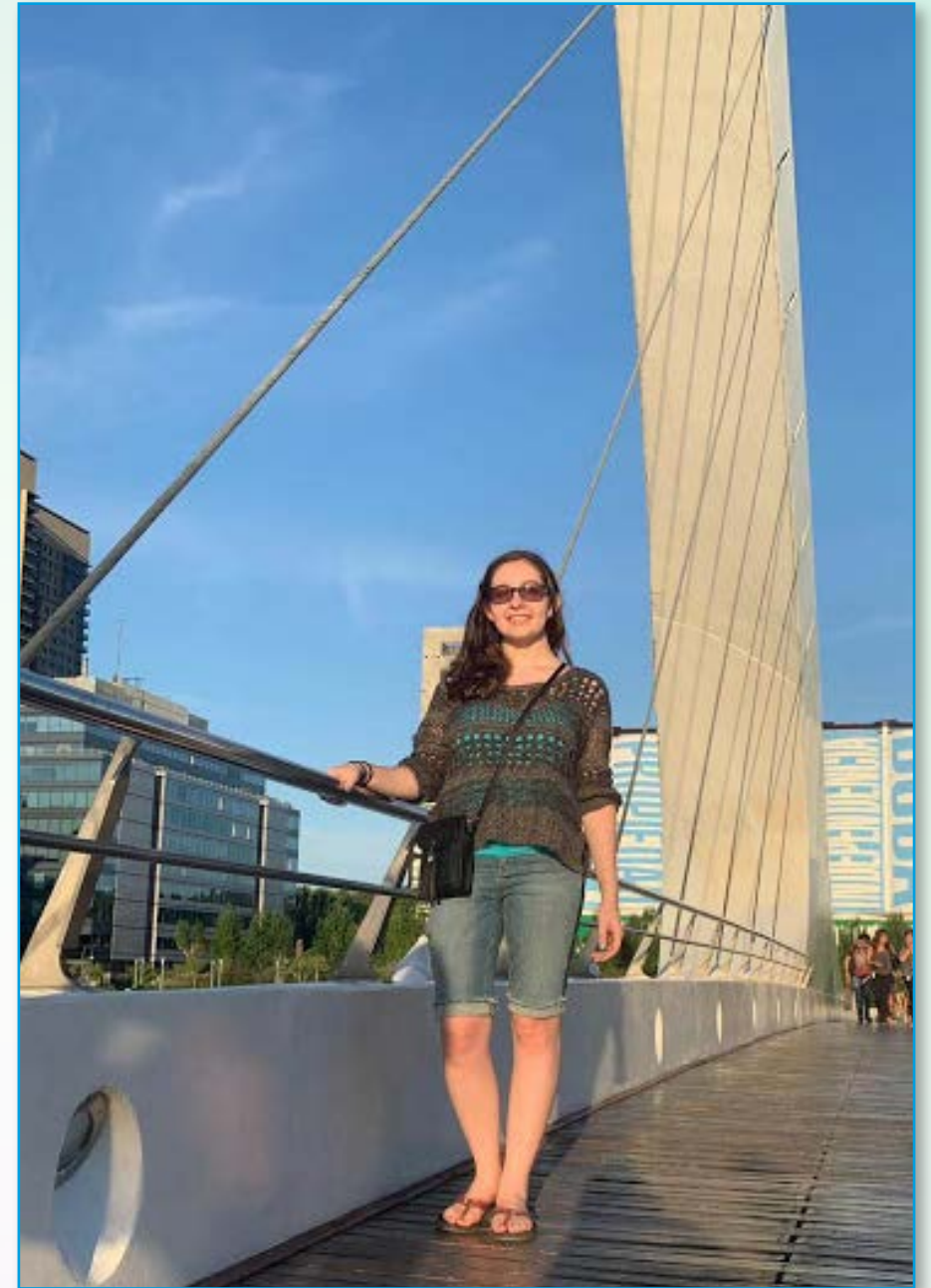
I had lots of new experiences while completely immersed in a new culture, and some of my favorites included going to tango shows and concerts. It was very cool to be introduced to this new music, with lyrics in Spanish, and Latin rhythms I hadn't ever experienced. Our quartet has not yet done any Latin music with Spanish words, but this trip got me thinking about possibilities for our future rep list.

The thing that has gotten a bigger workout than me since November has been my suitcase! I don't remember a year where I travelled more than I have since IC&C 2018 — and I love it. My most recent and one of my favorite trips of the summer has been a two-week road trip with my boyfriend, Travis Roy (who is a BHS district champ in the Northeast District). We began by attending the BHS International Convention in Salt Lake City, supporting our friends in competition and then representing Harmony, Incorporated by performing on the World Harmony Showcase. After Salt Lake, we continued through Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks. It was amazing.

ATP has had lots of travel opportunities as we are a long-distance quartet, and we look forward to all the new places we are getting the chance to explore now that we are Queens. I can't wait to see everyone at the next IC&C this November and continue our reigning year, enjoying life together.

It was very cool to be introduced to this new music, with lyrics in Spanish, and Latin rhythms I hadn't ever experienced.

See **QUEENS**, continued on next page



NEW WORLDS — Ellie savors her immersion in Argentine culture -- especially the Latin rhythms.



Alexa directs the Jeffersonland Chorus, a BHS chapter in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Monday nights.



Alexa also sings with three members of the Jeffersonland Chorus in a mixed quartet called Lady and the Tramps.

QUEENS

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Alexa Beal (Lead)

Since Ellie's return we've quickly gathered to focus ourselves in mind, body and spirit — and to perform and share the music with all who will listen! Remembering to focus on our core sound — that sound that makes ATP who we are, has been more important than ever, as we review old rep and learn new songs for the many shows we have on the calendar.

I've stayed busy in Charlottesville with singing, directing, teaching, and – oh yeah – my day job in Human Resources AND a new house with my boyfriend Matt!

I spend Monday nights with the Jeffersonland Chorus, a BHS chorus which I've has been directing for a year and a half. In June, the chorus put on their first annual show in several years, with Aged to Perfection as guest performers; it was a huge success!

Because I miss quartetting when the rest of ATP is not around, I also sing in a local mixed quartet – called Lady and the Tramps — with three members of the chorus. I have a handful of voice students, do a bit of quartet coaching on the side, and occasionally accept classical gigs and other various musical endeavors.

I'm currently working on finding jobs in Charlottesville for the rest of the quartet and their families so that the quartet will all be in the same state again!

See QUEENS, continued on next page



BUSY LADY — As well as being our Tenor Queen, Gaye also has founded a new mixed voice chorus, Pensacappella, and sings in a mixed quartet mysteriously named Short Circuit.

YOGA WARMUP — ATP readies for the show with a little centering exercise.

QUEENS

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Gaye LaCasce (Tenor)

At staff meetings at Pensacola State College, one of our traditions is for each person to share something new and something good. My contributions are often comments like, “I’m flying to Charlottesville for a gig;” “heading to Herndon, Virginia, for a Harmony, Incorporated Board meeting;” “going to Boston for a rehearsal;” “spending the 4th of July in Salt Lake City with my quartet”... and my colleagues are stunned by what my singing allows me to experience! (I’m a little stunned, too, since all of THOSE trips happened within a month after Ellie’s return from Argentina – and the fall calendar is full of gigs!)

I love volunteering as Area 6 Director – what an amazing group of volunteers we have, and how much growth are we seeing! My mixed chorus, Pensacappella, and mixed quartet, Short Circuit, are preparing for our first chapter show. (And yes – ATP will be here in Pensacola for that occasion.) Further musical volunteering finds me serving on the Board

of Directors for the Pensacola Children’s Chorus, and supporting the endeavors of my husband, Dan Signor, and his work as community liaison for Blues Angel Music, an amazing local music store. There’s just not enough time in the day for all the musical things we want to accomplish.

Epilogue

The Jeffersonland Chorus show was such an affirmation that being together is right where we want to be. Having the chance, a few days later, to go to Salt Lake City and represent Harmony, Inc, helping our Charisma sisters when they weren’t able to attend the World Harmony Showcase — that was an honor and a privilege. We can’t wait to experience even more of that excitement in Los Angeles at the BHS International next July. It’s so important that we who sing (especially those of us fortunate enough to have a high-profile barbershop platform such as we have right now)



are models for the world in how we can unite, connect and lift each other up. There has truly never been a greater need for this message.

The quartet’s biggest challenge, today? Missing each other. We cherish every minute we ARE together, using every technology possible to improve, to learn, and to laugh. We can’t wait to sing on your shows and at education events over the next year... and hopefully beyond! We are blessed beyond measure. We are Harmony, Stronger.

Seeing Double

2019 Area Contest Wrap Up

It's the return of the Area Convention and Contests (AC&C) facts, figures and tidbits about this year's contest season!

We saw double this year as 34 choruses and 34 quartets qualified for the 2019 International Convention and Contests (IC&C), with 15 Silver Division qualifying choruses, topping the record of 13 set in 2017.

33 of the 34 quartet qualifiers, 27 of the 34 chorus qualifiers and 4 of the 15 Silver Division qualifiers will be competing in #HI2019Sandusky. This IC&C will mark the end of the Silver Division contest.

Eight was a magic number in 2019 as there were 78 quartets (an 8% increase over 2018) and 54 choruses (an 8% increase over 2018) competing at area contests this year.

The number nine was popular in area chorus contests as there were nine choruses competing in Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The farthest traveled competitor at contest was Area 5's Elixir Quartet (Associates) competing out of area at Area 1 AC&C in Sackville, New Brunswick.

The highest percentage of qualifying choruses per Area goes to both Area 2 (5 and 4 Silver), and Area 5 (9 and 4 Silver), who also get the Wow! award as all of their choruses earned the opportunity to be on the contest stage in Sandusky.

Highest percentage of qualifying quartets per Area - Area 4, Harmony, Inc. (73%)

Chorus with the most members on the Area contest stage – A Cappella Showcase (64), followed by the ScotianAires Chorus (58), Sea Belles of Harmony, Inc. (42) and Island A Cappella (41).

Chorus with the fewest members on the Area contest stage - Area 2's Montreal City Voices (12) followed by Breton Songbirds Chorus (Area 1) and Area 3's Reading A Cappella Voices (tie - 13),

Qualifying chorus with the fewest members on the Area contest stage – Montreal City Voices

Area contests set a new tone as we had mixed quartets compete in Area 1, Area 2, Area 3 and Area 6. We also had a record number of new quartets compete at area contests this year!

Area convention themes:

Area 1 Harmony, Inc. - Night on the Red Carpet

Area 2 Harmony, Inc.– Harmony Survivor

Area 3 Harmony, Inc. – Jam All Night

Area 4, Harmony, Inc.– Around the World

Area 5 Harmony, Inc.– Cavalcade of Villains

Area 6 Harmony, Inc. – Pirates

And the "Wow, We Really Did It!" award for contestants in their first area contest goes to Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus (Area 2), Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus (Area 4), St. Louis Vocal Project (Area 4), and Scarborough Harmony Chorus (Area 5) who competed in their first area contest AND were all eligible to compete at IC&C!

Stay tuned for our breakdown of quartet and chorus qualifiers in upcoming social media posts!

Great job by everyone crossing the stage this season and congrats to all of the qualifiers and international contestants. See you in Sandusky for #60yearsofHarmony!

— Anita Prather Harvell, Social Media Coordinator

2019 International Convention and Contests



Quartet Contest Order of Appearance

1. True Colors
2. Mystic Chicks
3. enJOY!
4. Rogue
5. Tonic!
6. Generations
7. It's About Time
8. Something Good
9. Mach 4
10. Balancing Act
11. Kismet
12. Resolution
13. Fierce
14. Elixir
15. New Q
16. Wicked Pitches
17. Lip Service
18. Skyfall
19. Why Not???
20. Monarch
21. Kentucky Blend
22. FLASHPOINT
23. ZEST
24. Swing Theory
25. Vivàce
26. SweetLife
27. Take 4
28. Hot Pursuit
29. UpScale
30. Impromptu
31. High Five
32. Ring True
33. Bluebird

Chorus Contest Order of Appearance

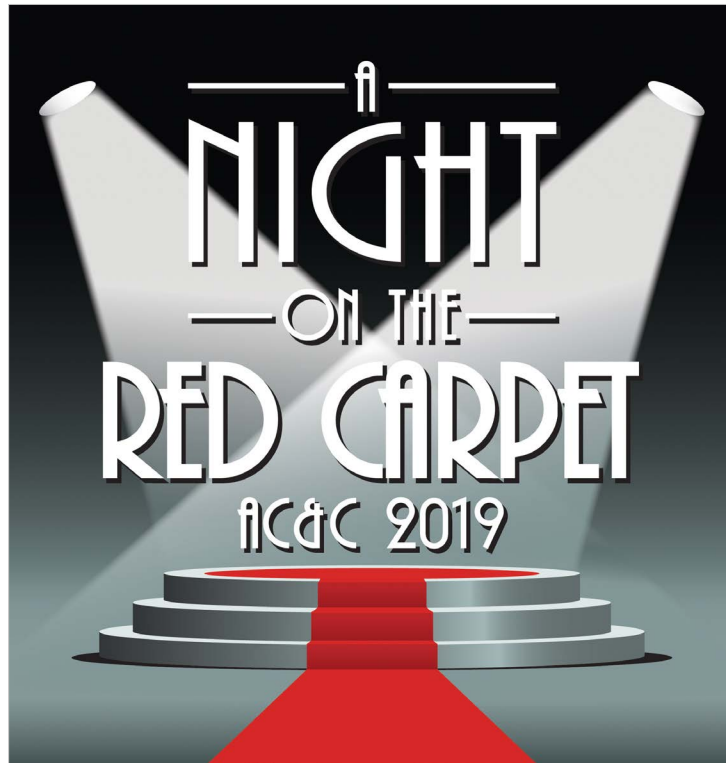
1. Women of Note
2. Capital Chordettes
3. Silver Division Winner
4. Unaccompanied Minors
5. Shades of Harmony
6. Toronto Accolades
7. Nickel City Sound
8. Bluegrass Harmony
9. Harmony Magic
10. Village Vocal Chords
11. ScotianAires
12. Chord Spinners
13. Bella Nova Chorus
14. Rochester Rhapsody
15. Sounds of the Seacoast
16. Covered Bridge Harmony
17. The Thousand Islanders
18. Niagara Frontier Chord Authority
19. Atlanta Harmony Celebration!
20. Northern Blend Chorus
21. Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus
22. Lake Ridge Legacy Chorus
23. Sugartones
24. A Cappella Showcase
25. The Liberty Belles Chorus
26. Crystal Chords
27. Barre-Tones, Inc.

Silver Division Contest Order of Appearance

1. Harmony Falls
2. Sisters of Sound
3. Chapman Mills Sound Connection
4. Skyway Connection

Area 1 Rocks AGAIN!

Highlights from AC&C



Area 1 2019 AC&C was another huge success thanks in large part to the terrific organizational skills, creative talents and endless energy of the Area 1 AC&C Planning Team and our Host Chorus, *ScotianAires*. As in the past several years, the contest weekend was held on the beautiful Mount Allison University campus in Sackville, N.B. where we were once again welcomed warmly by the local businesses and citizens.

Words cannot express our gratitude and appreciation for the hours of hard work and planning that went into making #ACC 2019 Area1 the most successful event ever: 330 registrants (60 more than last year) including 41 first time members, 283 on stage performers, all ten Area 1 choruses participat-

ing including our two newest choruses, eight Area 1 quartets, and two out of Area including our first mixed quartet. We were especially thrilled to have *Newfound Sound Chorus* join us for the first time in six years.

Thursday afternoon and evening members chose from a full and varied slate of education classes in leadership, singing, performance and music development, lead by several Area 1 leaders as well as the visiting judges.

Friday afternoon Quartet Contest excitement was in the air as Area 1 members clapped and cheered equally for all competing quartets. Final results revealed *ScotianAires Tonic!* as the five-time Area 1 champion quartet and winner of the Wona Wright Memorial Award as well as the Karen Gordon Award, presented to the quartet with the highest performance score. Both *Tonic!* and second place quartet *enJOY!* qualified for IC&C in Sandusky, Ohio in November. For the second consecutive year, *Moments of Magic* was awarded the Kathryn Ryan Memorial Trophy for most improved quartet over previous year's score. The Area 1 Quorus made up of members of all Area 1 quartets closed out the contest with *In my Life*, directed by *Janet Kidd*.

Friday evening Chorus Contest did not disappoint, with seven Area 1 choruses qualifying to attend IC&C, including one of our newest choruses, *Seaside A Cappella*. While marks were being tallied, the packed audience was entertained by the Area 1 Chorus under the direction of *Sue Kember*, singing *Change The World*, as well as the 40+ member Youth & Family chorus singing *Lean On Me*, directed by *Anita Taylor Powell*. The top Area 1 chorus was *ScotianAires Chorus* directed by *Sue Kember*, a position they've held for the past four years. *Elm City*

See AREA 1, continued on next page

Area 1 Strategic Planning Day

As if AC&C wasn't enough of a jam packed weekend, on Sunday morning Area 1 Council, Area 1 Team, AC&C Team and Music Directors came together for a milestone Strategic Planning session under the skillful leadership of Area 1 Director, *Linda McMaster*. We were especially delighted to be joined by *Newfound Sound Chorus* and *Nancy Fligel*, IBOD member and Area 5 Director.

The day included presentation of results of participants previously completed strategic planning survey, discussion on key issues affecting Area 1, brain storming opportunities for Area 1 leadership team as well as the music directors, sharing notes from discussion groups, and setting priorities to make Area 1 the best that it can be.

An interim Strategic Planning Committee was struck (*Jill Reid, Jan Coffin, Linda Brehaut, Linda McMaster*) to develop a draft strategic plan that will be shared with participants for input prior to it being presented to Area 1 Fall Council for approval.

It was a jammed packed six hours and although many participants admitted it was difficult to 'drag' themselves to the early morning session, all admitted to leaving full of energy and a renewed commitment to make Area 1 the best that it can be. This excitement is best described by the following participant comments:

Sea Belles President *Helen LeFort*, who had participated in a similar strategic planning session with her chorus in January, shared these thoughts, "I enjoyed the session thoroughly and wasn't really looking forward to it. I received so many ideas and concepts from others and shared a few too! The session reinvigorated my interest in getting back to our *Sea Belles'* goals."

Membership and Youth Coordinator, *Margie Fife* shared, "I was elated at the suggestions and ideas that came from this session on recruiting youth and growing our membership in every chorus. I am looking forward to putting these ideas into action."

Seaside A Cappella Director *Judy Comeau* had this to say, "I especially like that the music directors have made plans to meet before Area 1 spring and fall education days for dinner, and to spend the evening exchanging ideas, etc."

Madeline Power from *Newfound Sound Chorus* added, "It was great being included as ACC treasurer to the strategic planning, as ACC

See STRATEGIC PLAN, continued on page 10



AREA 1

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Echoes Co-Directors, *Christine Freeman* and *Jill Woodley* were awarded the Don Regan Memorial Trophy as the qualifying chorus with the most improved score from previous year. After winning the chorus competition, the ScotianAires took to the stage to sing for the audience, as tradition dictates. However, instead of performing one of their contest songs, they thanked Area 1 for being a family, and invited everyone to sing with them *Something Inside So Strong*. ScotianAires AC&C Host Chorus Chair *Tanya Reid* shared these thoughts, “Many ScotianAires say that while winning is great, that moment was the absolute highlight of the night and weekend.”

Friday evening concluded with a celebratory Moonglow where all qualifying quartets and choruses took to the risers for one of their contest songs, ensuring nobody missed the opportunity to hear all qualifying singers.

The Saturday afternoon banquet was the perfect opportunity to sing together while celebrating our music leaders, long term members and growing choruses. Membership certificates were presented to 25-, 30-, 35-, 40-year members by Nancy Flagel, Area 5 Director and IBOD representative and *Margie Fife*, Area 1 Youth & Membership Coordinator. That’s 295 years of Harmony, Stronger! Codiac Chords president Nancy Reading was awarded the Area 1 Membership Growth Award for their 41% increase in membership in the past year. Three Area

1 music leaders were awarded scholarships from Area 1 Council (*Fatima Whalen, Judy Robichaud, Adele Merritt*) and three from Sing Canada Harmony (*Jill Woodley, Paula Henley, Rosemary Donkin*) to attend Harmony University this summer. Sing Canada

Harmony has sponsored 20 Area 1 members this year with scholarships totaling \$16,000! ScotianAires members *Maureen Henley* and *Pauline Morehouse* presented the Karen Gordon Scholarship to Elm City Echoes Chorus president *Arlene Pineau*, to help them acquire an out-of-province coach for the chorus. The final tributes of the afternoon were to outgoing AC&C Chair *Debra Moreau* and outgoing Area 1 Director *Linda Brehaut*, by current Area 1 Director *Linda McMaster*. It is clear that Area 1 has indeed been fortunate to have thoughtful, dedicated guidance of both of these incredible women over the past few years.

This year’s theme, “A Night on the Red Carpet,” set the scene for lively Saturday evening music and entertainment. As usual, Area 1 choruses and quartets went over the top with costumes and comedy to match the theme of their Oscar winning song choice. But it was AtTUNement Quartet’s emotionally charged improvisation of *Singing from our Hearts* that brought the audience to their feet with its pointed reference to the importance of respect for diversity and equality. So many Area 1 AC&C 2019 Fun Night memories! We can’t wait for next year’s Harmony Survivor Island, hosted by Sea Belles Chorus!

QUALIFIERS — Directors and Presidents of top four chorus (FROM LEFT, 1st place ScotianAires, 2nd place Sea Belles, 3rd place Elm City Echoes, 4th place Island A Cappella)

TONIC! — Area 1 Champion Quartet (FROM LEFT, Tenor: *Mary Gareau*; Bass: *Adele Merrit*; Lead: *Marion Fraser Pritchard*; Baritone: *Cathy Hunter*)

ON WITH THE SHOW! — Host Chorus ScotianAires Fun Night opening with *We Go Together & Beauty School Dropout medley*.



ScotianAires' Linda McMaster elected new Area 1 Director

Area 1, Harmony, Inc.'s Canadian Atlantic Provinces, boasts ten women's a cappella chapters with a total enrollment of over 360 members and associates. It's a big ship to steer and Area 1 is welcoming a new hand at the tiller, ScotianAires chorus member Linda McMaster.



Linda first joined the Halifax-based chorus in 2006. Jan Coffin from Island A Cappella (at that time known as Abegweit Chimes) introduced Linda to her quartet and chorus when they were both working with the National Research Council. It was love at first sound bite! Linda fell in love with the four-part harmony and the making of music with so many talented women, not to mention the challenge and joy of experiencing her own growth along the way.

The chorus benefited from the addition of this enthusiastic lead and it didn't take long for them to also take advantage of Linda's administrative expertise. Prior to retirement, Linda worked as Strategic Advisor for the Nova Scotia Departments of Community Services and Justice. Within the ScotianAires, Linda stepped up to co-chair the Ways & Means Committee, served the board as a member at large followed by two terms as Vice President and two terms as President, and also served as Membership Chair. She is proud to have begun the annual membership survey that helps make sure all voices are heard in chorus decision making. Linda currently serves as Past President and developed and chairs the chapter's Strategic Planning Committee.

Linda soon found many new friends and mentors in the Harmony, Inc. organization including well known trail blazers and leaders such as Jeanne O'Connor.

"Many years ago Jeanne explained how she started in the organization with no or very little musical background" Linda recalls. "She convinced me that I didn't have to read music to be a credible, contributing member of the chorus." And within the chorus women like tenor section leader Nan Bowlin provided support to Linda and other chorus members like her, helping to guide them through new and old repertoire. More recently, Linda Brehaut, past Area 1

Director taught Linda a tremendous amount about Area 1 and Harmony, Inc.

"Every week there is someone on the risers or someone out front who inspires me", Linda adds, "including of course, our fantastic directing team!"

Linda is absorbing more and more about her new role as Area 1 Director. The key functions are representing Area 1 at all International Board functions and ensuring that the Area 1 Council understands and meets the needs of its chapters and quartets. Overseeing educational functions and events such as AC&C (Area Convention and Contests) are a big part of the role.

And in case her role as Area 1 Director doesn't keep her busy enough, Linda has two granddaughters and one great grandson who, in her words, "I love to pieces!". She is also an avid curler, beginning out of the Mayflower Club in Halifax and for the last ten years, with her club in Dartmouth.

It's the 60th year for Harmony, Inc. and this year's vision is "Harmony. Stronger". There is no doubt that Linda McMaster will continue to lead Area 1 down that path of strength. Along with all her sisters in Harmony, we welcome Linda into her new role as Area 1 Director.



photo credit Elizabeth Houghton

All of Area 1 joins hand for the Banquet Mass Sing, We're Harmony, We're Strong!

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STRATEGIC PLAN

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team is closely linked to Area 1 council and although ACC is a separate entity we work as a team. It's given me a better understanding how Area 1 operates and the plans on making Area 1 even better."

The final word goes to facilitator and Area 1 Director, Linda McMaster: "I'm excited and so looking forward to implementing our plans for the Area and cannot thank you all enough for your great ideas, enthusiasm and overwhelming support. Because of you the session was better than I ever hoped!"

Area 1 is now positioned to move forward in exciting new directions. We are truly Harmony, Stronger!

— Ann Connolly, Area 1 Public Relation Coordinator



Area 2

Survives AC&C

100% participating choruses qualify for IC&C

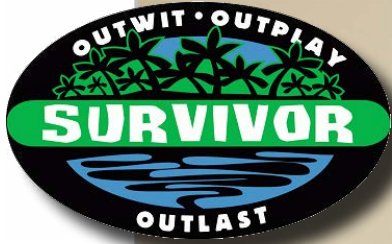
Harmony Survivor was the theme for this year's Area 2 AC&C and fortunately, we all survived!

Once again, we celebrated at Devens Common in Devens, Mass. with nine choruses participating and all of them qualifying for IC&C! There were 14 quartets with six qualifiers and we are very proud of the talented members of Area 2.

Area 2 also welcomed a new chapter in January of this year, *Rhythm of New Hampshire Show Chorus*. We had the pleasure of welcoming *Linda McMaster*, Area 1 Director, to our AC&C and we put her to work as the Presenter for our chorus contest. Long-time HI and Area 2 member *Barbara Ann MacIntosh* presented the quartet contest. Thank you to both of those ladies for their assistance.

Our annual council meeting was held in conjunction with AC&C with all Chapters represented and we were able to update our Council photo.

— *Diane Zanetti, Area 2 Director*



Area 2 Council smiles for the camera.



Jam All Night: *the place to be for AC&C*

Area 3 is always the place to be when it's AC&C time! This year's AC&C was hosted by *Bella Nova Chorus* from Virginia. AC&C was held in Liverpool/Syracuse, New York. It was a new venue for the Area this year and it has room for us to grow!

Area 3 is very fortunate to have had an AC&C Team for 13 years. Special thanks go to Chair *Dorene Dickerson*, Facilities Chair *Denise Michaelson* and Facilities in-training *Dene Day*, Judges Services Coordinator *Michelle Buckenmeyer*, ACJC *Nicola Stevens*, Registration Coordinator *Sharron Gilbert*, PR Coordinator *Cait Schadock*, Education Chairs *Sarah Thorne-Miller* and *Nancy Weisbein*, and Area 3 Director *Janine Schindler*.

The theme for this year was "Jam All Night". Although the weather in Liverpool/Syracuse can change at a moment's notice and it isn't always warm and sunny for too long, Area 3's display of love and friendship will warm any Harmony heart! We welcomed *Harmony In Motion* members and our first *MBHA* mixed quartet to AC&C as well.

Friday night started out with our mic testers, *Ready or Not*, members of *LiveWire*, *For Heaven's Sake* and *Northern Blend Chorus*. After 17 quartets had sung, 6 qualified for

International and *Lip Service* was the new Quartet Champion! Congratulations to *Mary Ann Wert*, *Taralee Lashway*, *Jodi Castello* and *Cait Schadock*. The evening finished with performances by the Area 3 Quarus under the direction of *Lisa Twitchell*, Quartet Promotions Coordinator. They sang *Soul Sister*, arranged by *Elaine Gain*.

Saturday started out showcasing nine of Area 3's choruses. *Northern Blend Chorus*, directed by *Katie Taylor*, were the chorus champions, walking away with the First Place Trophy. Six choruses qualified for International and *Harmony Falls* is eligible for the Silver Division Contest. Area 3 is hoping for a repeat performance from *Harmony Falls* in the Silver Division for the number three singing position in the Chorus Contest.

See AREA 3, continued on next page

LIP SERVICE – First Place Quartet (Cait Schadock, Taralee Lashway, Jodi Castello and Mary Ann Wert).



Karla Terry, Crystal Chords President; with Katie Taylor, Northern Blend Director, and Taralee Lashway accepting the Area 3 First Place Chorus trophy.



1st place chorus medalist, Northern Blend.

AREA 3

continued from previous page

Area 3 also had its first MBHA Mixed Quartet, *Fantastic 4*. They received the new MBHA Mixed Quartet Trophy sponsored by *Roxanne* and *Dick Powell* in memory of *Chuck Wert* and *Compound W*.

The contest ended with a performance by the Family Chorus singing *Let There Be Music*, arranged by *Joe Liles*, under the direction of *Donna McKay*. The Family Chorus has grown significantly over the years especially since Harmony Affiliates (our “family” men) have joined the chorus. The Area 3 Chorus sang, *Orange Colored Sky*, arranged by *David Harrington* and was directed by the previous year’s Area Chorus Champion, *Ron Mason*.

The Saturday evening theme-inspired “All Night Jam” was awesome. The only thing better than the meal was the camaraderie and getting to wear pajamas! The photo booth, a recent tradition, was a hit with a bed, silky robes and stuffed animals. You name it, it was there! The moon glow acknowledged the Quartet Medalists, active Queens, and our Choruses with a performance for the membership. There was also that “special” treat by the judges, but you had to see it to believe it!

In between performances, the Area Director’s designee and ACCT Chair, *Dorene Dickerson*, acknowledged many Area 3 members with their years of membership awards. The *Kay DeLong*

Award was presented to a very deserving woman, *Dorene Dickerson*, a member of *Northern Blend Chorus*, for her contributions to the membership and music of *Harmony, Inc.* *Dorene* was honored to be chosen from among some very deserving women.

The *Carol McDonnell* Membership Award for the largest increase in membership was presented by *Karen McDonnell*, *Carol’s* daughter-in-law and her granddaughter, *Rachel*, from *Niagara Frontier Chord Authority*, to *Niagara Frontier Chord Authority*. They had a 40% increase in membership! The Area 3 Service Award, present by *Dorene Dickerson*, on behalf of Area Director, *Janine Schindler*, was presented to a very deserving *Ann Christiano*, for her enthusiasm and energy in working for Area 3 and for her work as the new Area 3 Treasurer. And, \$888 was raised for Youth Outreach by passing the hat! Singing ensued for many hours late into the night, or early morning....

Area 3’s the Place To Be!

— *Janine Schindler*, Area 3 Director



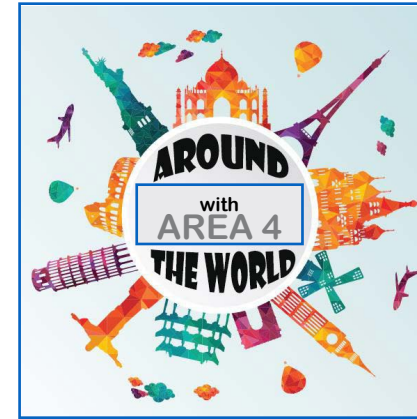
FROM TOP:

Area 3 Chorus sang *Orange Colored Sky*

Area 3 Family Chorus sang *Let There Be Music*

***Fantastic 4*, (*Chris Sussalka, Dale Bird, Susan Shields and Heidi Brown*) was the top-ranked MBHA Quartet.**





FROM LEFT:

“Best in Show” award went to *Bluegrass Harmony* for their very moving rendition of *Sukiyaki*, arranged by Tom Gentry and featuring soloist Chie Ozaki .

Take 4 is the Area 4 Quartet Champion.

Village Vocal Chords, under the direction of Jeanne O’Conner, entertain at the *Moonglow*.



Chords and more in Area 4!

To say that AC&C was one of the best ever in Area 4 would be a HUGE understatement! The convention opened with the Membership Meeting in which the first of two new choruses received their official charter from Harmony, Inc. *President Donna McKay*. *St. Louis Vocal Project*, under the direction of *Sandi Wright*, was welcomed into Area 4 and Harmony, Inc. with open arms and much love.

Covered Bridge Harmony was announced as the winners of the membership growth award for the second year in a row by increasing membership by an astonishing eight new members! Congratulations to *Covered Bridge Harmony*!

Education was provided by our wonderful judges, area leaders and the International President. The classes were outstanding,

and everyone learned so much! There were classes on everything from communicating with your chapter to improving vocal skills to being fearless while performing. Thank you to all of those that offered their time and talent to teach us so much!

Friday’s quartet contest was OUTSTANDING! *Take 4* took home the gold for the sec-

See **AREA 4**, continued on next page



AREA 4

continued from previous page

ond year in a row! We love *Take 4* and couldn't be happier that they will be headed to IC&C to represent us. However, they will not represent us alone as seven, yes, 7 other quartets are going with them! Congratulations to *Fierce, Resolution, It's About Time, Ring True, Monarch* and *Kentucky Blend*! We can't wait to cheer you all on in Sandusky!

As if Friday's contest wasn't enough, Saturday's chorus contest was off the charts! *Village Vocal Chords* took home the gold while two brand new choruses, *Lake Ridge Legacy* and *St. Louis Vocal Project*, took second and third place, respectively. Every chorus that competed either qualified or won an award! Overall, there were seven choruses qualifying for IC&C and one Silver Division qualifier! *Wolf River Harmony* won most improved with an impressive 71 point improvement from last year! The level of singing in Area 4 just keeps getting better and better!

Just when we thought the weekend couldn't get any better, it was time for the Moonglow. This year's theme was "Around the World". It was here that we welcomed our second brand new chorus, *Lake Ridge Legacy*. President Donna McKay presented their official charter while Area 4 welcomed them with open arms. We are so proud to have them with us in Area 4!

After the ceremony, our quartets and choruses presented their "Around the World" performances. The judges sang *This World is Your World* and were a real treat complete with chipmunk voices singing *It's a Small World* led by Anne Bureau. The "Best in Show" award was presented to *Bluegrass Harmony* after their very moving rendition of *Sukiyaki*, arranged by Tom Gentry, featuring soloist Chie Ozaki who is from Japan. *Sukiyaki* is a very moving song about sadness and loss that touched every heart in the room.

Area 4 is growing by leaps and bounds both in membership totals and skill level! Chords and More in Area 4!

— **Angie Beatty, Area 4 PR Chair**



BIG YEAR! — Newly chartered *Lake Ridge Legacy* placed second and qualified for IC&C.



CONGRATULATIONS! — Newly chartered *St. Louis Vocal Project* placed third and qualified for IC&C.

Area 5 celebrates



AC&C 2019 was interesting to say the least. We had a cavalcade of Villains at our Moonglow. One of our newbie chapters outdid themselves in organizing a celebration that will be sure to be remembered. Everyone got quite creative with their villain costumes and the authenticity of the characters had you wondering... Thank you, Limestone City Voices, for all your work and creativity.

In addition, we had the pleasure of installing our newest chapter in Area 5, *Scarborough Harmony Chorus*. This was so special to have their installation ceremony with all of Area 5 in at-

See AREA 5, continued on next page



Area 5 Champion Quartet
Swing Theory



Area 5 2nd Place Quartet
Skyfall



Area 5 3rd Place Quartet
Generations



Area 5 Champion Chorus
A Cappella Showcase



AREA 5

continued from previous page

tendance and to have our International President *Donna McKay* be the installing officer.

The contest weekend was full of wonderful, amazing music, friendship and education. Friday, we had 17 quartets of which 9 qualified to go to IC&C. *Swing Theory* was awarded first place, *Skyfall* second, and *Generations* third.

Saturday, we had 13 choruses of which nine qualified for IC&C and four qualified for silver division. YES you read that correctly. All our choruses qualified for International or International Silver Division. The excitement was palpable.

This year we introduced a family chorus to our contest weekend. The response was overwhelming and we all look forward to growing this chorus for many years ahead. Thank you, Sandy McCreary for your inspiration and also for organizing this wonderful chorus.

— *Nancy Flagel, Area 5 Director*



International President Donna McKay installs Area 5's newest chapter, Scarborough Harmony, at 2019 AC&C.

MINIONS & MONSTERS — Area 5 hosts a "Villainous" Moonglow.





MAILBOX REGATTA
– Booty-filled ships prove un-sinkable.



Unaccompanied Minors celebrate qualifying for IC&C..



SHIVER ME TIMBERS! — Lassies dance a hornpipe.

Seadogs and scallywags carouse at Area 6 convention

Area 6 had a spectacular AC&C this year. Our theme was “PIRATES” and could be seen at the beginning of the weekend in the Registration/Hospitality Room. The Registrar and her assistant were dressed in traditional pirate garb and handed out gold doubloons for signing in and picking up AEP’s. Also, the traditional chorus and quartet mailboxes were individually made “pirate ships” (more on those later) which were filled with booty by each of the other groups, a great tradition, to be sure.

Friday morning was education time. Since none of the judges or IBOD members were willing or able to teach a class on sword fighting, burying treasure, or other pirate-y things, we were treated instead to several hours of wonderful education and mentoring. It’s always a highlight of the weekend, especially for our kids and new people.

Our contests were wonderful as usual and we are proud of those who will represent Area 6 on the international stages in Sandusky in November.

This year, our new Convention Chair wanted to try something new, so we had an event just prior to our Saturday evening happy hour, dinner, events and show. Remember the “pirate ship” mailboxes from earlier? Well, we all took the mailboxes to the hotel pool (with permission from the hotel staff, of course) and sailed them across the pool. The idea was that the ship that made it across the pool without sinking would win a prize. Unfortunately, they didn’t sink. It turned into people trying to splash them across (ok, that might have been me) or sink someone else’s (guilty), and by the time there was a winner (definitely NOT me) we were all laughing and having a great

time. It was a huge hit and we are already trying to come up with something for next year.

Also, on Saturday night, our newest chorus, *Panama City A Cappella Chorus*, received their charter from International President *Donna McKay*. Many of these ladies were devastated by Hurricane Michael in October of 2018 but worked hard to be able to be in Jacksonville in April.

Since none of the judges or IBOD members were willing or able to teach a class on sword fighting, burying treasure, or other pirate-y things

After all the Saturday evening festivities, we were able to use one of the vacant eval rooms to celebrate our new Area 6 chorus and welcome them into our sisterhood.

It was a BOOTYful weekend in Area 6!

We had some big changes leading up to our contest season this year. Our longtime Area Director retired in October for some much-needed

rest and was replaced by Gaye LaCasce, who also happened to be crowned shortly thereafter, as the tenor of *2018 Harmony Queens Aged to Perfection*. Talk about a full plate! At the same time, our beloved Convention Chair, mentor, former Harmony, Inc. president, and the woman responsible for starting Area 6, *Aura Daye* was diagnosed with terminal cancer and passed away in February. I personally, will be forever grateful for her guiding hand and the many hours she spent sharing her insight on all things Harmony, Inc. as well as family, life, and respect for self, others, traditions and new ideas. She was one of a kind and Area 6 was fortunate to have known and loved her. We will miss her.

— *Trayce Elenteny, Area 6 ACJC*

New England Voices In Harmony



New England Voices in Harmony show off their First Place medals.

Plenty to Celebrate!

As Harmony, Inc. celebrates and reflects on its sixty years of “empowering all women through education, friendship, and singing,” New England Voices in Harmony finds itself in that same celebratory and reflective mode.

Having officially chartered in April of 2001, we have almost two decades upon which to celebrate and reflect. And, we have plenty to celebrate – we recognize and acknowledge that we come from a place of abundance. A collection of talented, caring, dedicated, and hard-working women join together to create the heart and soul of what we lovingly call “Voices”. Our “blend of friendship” has allowed us to achieve much and we are grateful.

On March 2, we presented a show entitled “Treasures From the Heart: An A Cappella Celebration.” As *Lynn Gresock*, our master wordsmith wrote in “Celebration Time!” for the program booklet, “When planning this show, we had no idea we would be entertaining you today as the Harmony, Inc. 2018 Chorus Champions. Whether or not we have gold medals, we know we all need each other; the music we make is an integration of many different personalities and talents that come together in a special way to make harmony. In selecting the theme for our show we wanted to celebrate the treasure of our love of music and the friendship we have for each other... and other similar treasures that may be invisible but are really the centerpieces of our lives.”

The introduction continues, “We don’t always keep those treasures in the front of our minds. Sometimes we take them for granted; sometimes we forget how special they are; and sometimes our lives are so filled with hustle and bustle that we forget them altogether for a time. Perhaps we put

them away in a dusty attic that is seldom visited.” Lynn closed with, “We know that our lives are a little richer because of the Harmony we share, far beyond the thrill of blue and gold, and we are excited today to be sharing that gift with you. We are so glad you are here to celebrate with us!”

As we celebrate our gifts, and with an understanding that by actively reflecting on our past - perhaps dusting off those treasures in the attic - we are more able to know if we are headed in the right direction. We have taken that look back, evaluated our practices, and worked with a consultant who guided the full membership in some deep conversations. Our contemplation included a follow-up membership survey. As a large group, and within our smaller leadership teams, we carefully reviewed everyone’s input, and have affirmed our direction moving forward.

As a result of our work, we have:

- a chorus in which our director leads from within and joins her voice with the membership, rather than directing from out front; new fun rehearsal techniques (off the risers, facing each other, tapping-out quartet and VLQ activities, combined sectionals, etc.);
- additional social engagement apart from and outside of rehearsals (dinners, movies, parties, ballgames, etc.);
- a continuation and addition of numerous tools to support learning (including video recordings of our coaching sessions, workshops, and rehearsals);
- weekly rehearsal notes created and distributed by a member;
- renewed opportunities for performances and skills enhancement;
- skills workshops presented by our own

members and by friends of the Chapter (Vocal Health, Tune it or Die, Musical Notation, Look Inside the Music, Rehearsal Strategies, Everything You Want is on the Other Side of Fear, Accessing and Utilizing Groupanizer, etc.);

- increased communication efforts both within and outside of our Chapter (weekly emails, performance info sheets, NEVIH website, Groupanizer, varied social media platforms);
- an ongoing review of Chapter documents (bylaws, standing rules, policies, etc.);
- encouragement and support for new and existing quartets (Quartet Showcase, opportunities to sing at rehearsals, on shows, and at performances);
- a welcomed receipt of suggestions (suggestion box, requests for new music selections);
- succession planning and mentoring in leadership roles (guidelines, calendars, and documents collections);
- shared responsibilities (taking turns warming up the chorus, co-chair and committee opportunities) and a commitment to personal responsibility (personal recordings to section leaders, outside sectionals, etc.);
- and an acknowledgement that every member is valued and a mission assuring that every voice is heard.

Although this exercise in reflection and renewal was extensive and sometimes exhausting, it was also incredibly worthwhile. Recognizing our desire for flexibility and fluidity, we have refreshed, reset, redoubled our efforts, and are ready for the future of our incredible Chapter, New England Voices in Harmony. We’re Harmony – Stronger!

— Joyce Desjardin



MCV celebrates 60th year with milestone performances

The lazy, hazy days of Summer are here! The days seem to go by so quickly!!

We have a new Director since January, 2019! We bid fond farewell to *Morgan LaCroix* at the end of December, 2018. *Steve Gilson* comes to us with an immense knowledge of music and singing in the Barbershop Style! He took us to AC&C in Devens, Mass. in late April. We all had a wonderful time! It was so nice seeing all of our Area 2 Sisters in Song. Steve's wife, *Karen*, joined our chorus and now is part of the Lead section. We also welcomed *Deborah Pollack* to our Bass section.

Last November, we had the pleasure of singing with *The South Shore Saints*, a Men's Barbershop Chorus, at their show. A week later, they participated in our November show. Singing on stage with the Saints was such an awesome experience, we plan on making singing together a more frequent experience. The men in the chorus were very welcoming and cordial.

We are embarking on a publicity/media blitz and setting dates for auditions for singers as well as a new Quartet/Octet/VLQ promotion, encouraging members to participate in these groups. Whether for fun or looking to perform at competitions – it's nice to hear the singing of these groups!

In May, we participated in "Porchfest," a community music festival. The idea is for musicians – singers and bands – to perform on a "porch" in a community and have the "audiences" walk around the community to hear all the great music! NDG (Notre Dame des Grace – the community in Montreal West) Porchfest was a huge success! The weather co-operated and we had a great time. We sang for one hour and the audience was most appreciative. Check out the video, [here](#).

We are hoping to participate in another "Porchfest" in mid – September in Hudson, west of Montreal.

We are looking forward to the days ahead. We will be learning new songs, some in preparation for AC&C 2020. And we will be re-visiting some of our past repertoire.

2020 is also a very special year for Montreal City Voices. We will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary! Plans are underway to have a Celebration Night of Dinner and Song on Saturday, June 6, 2020! Mark this date on your calendars as you are all invited to come to Montreal to share this special day with us! Stay tuned for more Anniversary info...



New Director Steve Gilson proves to be a good sport.



Charisma and Niagara Frontier Chord Authority sing at a fundraiser for Gerard Place of Buffalo, N. Y.

Niagara Frontier Chord Authority makes a difference in the community

20

Upon returning from Area 3 contest, *Niagara Frontier Chord Authority* and *Charisma* sang at a fundraiser for Gerard Place of Buffalo, N.Y. Gerard Place provides supportive programs for homeless single-parent families.

We always enjoy any opportunity to sing for an audience! Good thing, for the next week we were invited to sing at a Celebration of Life for the family of *Dr. Jim McDonnell*. Dr. Jim was a long-standing supporter of our chorus and his wife, *Carol*, was one of the founding members of NFCA. Area 3 is familiar with Carol McDonnell as her family endorses the Carol McDonnell Membership Recruitment Award of which NFCA was the proud recipient this year!

And every summer, we gather for a picnic at a member's home to welcome the chorus back from summer break. This year we initiated a brand new in ground pool at the O'Hanrahan household. It was a blast!

— Gail Kelsall, Publicity Co-Chair

— Charlene Mindel, President



Harmony Heritage Roundup



Harmony Heritage sings with students at Aston Elementary School, Cumberland, RI.

RIGHT: Affinity placed in top 10 at AC&C. (Josie LaFrance, Suzanne Misunas, Kathy Rasicot, Dianne Clark)

Foursythia won the Area 2 Novice contest (Dianne Clark, Sharon Gunasti, Camilla Streeter, Jeanne Chapman)



Looking back over the time since last September, we find that it has been a sweet blend of old friends and new members, old tunes and new repertoires, familiar venues and new horizons.

In September, *Harmony Heritage* and *NoteAble Blend* choruses joined forces to present “A Blend of Harmony”, to the delight of a packed audience at the Original Congregational Church in Wrentham, Mass. Mike Maino hosted, and Harmony Queens *For Heaven’s Sake* were our special guest quartet. In December, Harmony Heritage members were excited to be guests for the first time in *NoteAble Blend’s* annual holiday show, “Harmony for the Holidays”.

We continue to reach out to new singers through local press releases and sites such as MeetUp.com. This year we are proud to welcome new tenor *Sylvia Izzo* and new leads, *Renne Proulx* and *Barbara Marquis*. Their lovely voices and enthusiasm for the music greatly enhance our sound and our singing pleasure!

Old Tunes & New Repertoires

Thanks to a combination of song suggestions from our members, our Director’s arranging skills and a search for tunes that really fit us, our repertoire has expanded to include the lush, jazzy sounds of the 1930s and 1940s, a haunting folk song and some exquisite holiday tunes that are somewhat off the beaten path.

One of the most exciting aspects of preparing for area contest was our first “Friends & Family Night,” held at our rehearsal hall at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Pawtucket, R.I. We invited everyone we knew to experience our song package and the music that they’d been hearing about for years. As a result, the dress rehearsal for contest played to a full hall of our biggest fans. Joining us to entertain was Mike Maino, our host par excellence, and our Director *Bob O’Connell’s* own quartet, the *Mansion Vocal Band*.

Thanks in no small part to selections that fit us well, our “small but mighty” chorus continued to improve in overall scores over the previous year at the Area 2 AC&C, and we saw the debut of not one, but two new quartets. Both *Affinity* and *Foursythia* placed in the top ten, and *Foursythia* won the Area 2 Novice Quartet Award. Many thanks to *Dianne Clark*, Lead for *Affinity* and Bass for *Foursythia*, for spreading her talent around and allowing all to benefit from her experience. Thanks also to our wonderful Director, *Bob O’Connell*, for his direction and his expert coaching of both quartets. And thank you to fellow chorus members, who patiently sat through quartet performances every week, cheered them on, and watched them improve.

Familiar Venues and New Horizons

One of our ongoing pleasures is to share our music with our friends at local nursing homes and assisted living centers from Woonsocket to South County. In addition, in the past year, we have received surprising invitations to sing at new and unexpected venues, from a Senior Follies dance revue to entertaining the lunch crowd at Living Well Adult Day Care to the Candleberry Chapel Spring Fair in Attleboro, MA. Most delightful of all was the chance to teach harmony to a gymnasium full of school children, from kindergarteners to 5th grade, at the Ashton Elementary School in Cumberland, RI. We had a blast, as their voices joined with ours, and none of us wanted it to end! As a thank you, students handed each of us a lovely bouquet of flowers.

Upcoming events include a Fall Show at St. Paul’s and our annual singing of the National Anthem at the Pawtucket Red Sox game, where we will be joined again by *NoteAble Blend* and other friends. We will savor the experience all the more with the knowledge that the Pawsox will be leaving Rhode Island for Worcester in 2021. As if to compensate for that loss, we have recently been invited to sing the anthem at The Moving Wall exhibit, a traveling replica of the Vietnam War Memorial, to be displayed at Highland Park in Attleboro, MA late in September. We are thrilled and honored, and we jumped at the invitation to do our civic duty.

— *Jeanne Chapman, PR Chair*

Sea Belles enjoy a busy year

These last few months have been very busy indeed for Sea Belles Chorus.

The year began with a Strategic Planning workshop in January facilitated by Area 1



Director Linda McMaster. Based on the results of a previ-

ously completed strategic planning survey, members spent a productive energizing day brainstorming and setting realistic chorus goals. Under the direction of a core strategic planning team, members are now working to prepare achievable action plans to make Sea Belles the best we can be. Sea Belles is indebted to Linda McMaster for her many hours of support and leadership on the journey. Sea Belle Strong indeed!

In May, almost 150 former Sea Belles and Area 1 members joined us in a grand celebration of our 50th Anniversary. The day began with an afternoon complimentary wine and cheese reception where guests, including four former Sea Belles Directors and many retired quartets shared lots of laughter and stories as they browsed chorus history books and posters of milestone events. Our golden anniversary photo booth with props provided many laughs for our guests throughout the

afternoon and evening.

Following a delicious dinner, Linda McMaster served as installation officer for Sea Belles 2019-2020 Board. We were pleased to receive greetings from Harmony Inc., many fellow choruses and were delighted with two donations from both the Elm City Echoes and ScotianAires to Sing Canada Harmony in our honour. The City of Saint John also sent anniversary congratulations for our “outstanding contributions to the Saint John community” and providing a better “Quality of Life for all”. Of course, the evening ended with lots of singing directed by the many Area 1 music leaders present. Making new friends and memories is always fun with this organization and this event was no different.

It was then three busy weeks leading up to our AC & C held in beautiful Sackville, N.B. We were delighted to place second out of the nine competing choruses and were thrilled that one of our quartets, *Moments of Magic*, won the Kathryn Ryan Memorial Trophy for most improved quartet score for the second year.

Saturday night in our Area is also Fun Night. What a blast with groups offering up many selections of Oscar winning music! Forrest Gump was in attendance and had everyone in



stitches with his running all over the place! As part of our fun night antics, we had the audience clapping along with our rendition of I Will Survive as we introduced the theme for next year — Harmony Survivor Island — which Sea Belles will host.

Sea Belles will conclude our golden anniversary year with a Celebration Showcase of talent November 17. Plans are underway now for the kitchen party style show called “Sea Belles Celebrate 50 years with Friends!” with many committees working throughout the summer break.

As you can see this chorus never stands still. Until next time.....

— Ann Connolly, PR Coordinator



TOP: Sea Belles introduce next year's FunNight theme, Harmony Survivor Island, at this year's FunNight.

Sea Belles Directors — Janet Kidd, Irene Goddard, Christine MacParkland, Ellen Belyea, Alan Fawcett

"I Feel a Song Comin' On!"

An Evening of Great A Cappella Singing!

featuring --

The Mark Twain Chorus



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and special guests --

Aged to Perfection

2018 Harmony, Inc.
Harmony Queens

October 19, 2019
7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
2943 Westinghouse Rd.
Horseheads, NY

\$15 Regular Admission
\$12 Seniors and Students
Age 8 & under – Free

Tickets available at the door
or from any Crystal Chords or
Mark Twain Chorus member

Or call: 607-215-1526
or 607-207-3521

<<A portion of show proceeds will benefit the Food Bank of the Southern Tier>>



Highlights from the Crystal Chords

As many choruses do, we began preparing for our Holiday Concert immediately upon our return from IC&C in Orlando. This year, we decided to add something a little different to our concert and invited a local elementary school chorus to perform with us. They sang some holiday favorites as well as a song about "Snow Days", which all children and teachers could relate to. We ended the concert doing a back and forth version of Frosty the Snowman, and without a doubt everyone left the concert in the holiday spirit. On top of that, we collected \$850 in donations that went straight to our local Foodbank.

To celebrate our 25th Anniversary as a Harmony, Inc. chorus, we had a Community Open House in March with booths about our chorus, quartets, costumes, music, Harmony, Inc. and barbershopping in general. It was fun putting together our costumes from the last 25 years, and seeing how we've progressed over that time span. Many thanks to

our Area 3 Director Janine Schindler for coming down to talk about our Area and Harmony, Inc. With lots of singing and reminiscing, it was an evening that showed our community that "song and friendship" describes the Crystal Chords.

With the arrival of summertime, a subset of the chorus named "Farmers' Daughters" travels to the different farmers' markets in the area to stroll and sing for an hour or so. All wearing Crystal Chords tees, they give out business cards and flyers to the women who stop to listen – a great recruiting team!

October 19 is our annual show with the Mark Twain Chapter of BHS, and we're especially pleased to have Harmony, Inc.'s reigning queens Aged to Perfection as our special guest quartet. If you are anywhere near us, you won't want to miss this show!

Looking forward to seeing our sisters-in-harmony in Sandusky!

— Anne Leinen



Women of Note enjoy performing

Women of Note held a Holiday Sing Fling through December, inviting members of the community to come to our rehearsals to learn two songs from our holiday repertoire, then perform with us at two holiday performances — Christmas by Candlelight at Old



BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Sturbridge Village, and Christmas at Grotonwood — a Christian camp and conference center for people with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities.

In March, we had our third annual Interchapter gathering with the two other barbershop choruses directed by our talented Musical Director Ray Johnson — New Sound Assembly, a chapter of the Northeastern District of the BHS, and Post Road Chorus, a chapter in Region 1 of Sweet Adelines International. The pot luck yielded delicious food for all, and later each chorus performed for the group with two songs from their repertoire, and we all got two songs from an impromptu group of men and women who had participated in the very first Mixed Harmony Brigade earlier that month. This Interchapter is always a lot of fun as we get to share space with our fellow barbershoppers lucky enough to have Ray as their director and it's a great way to make new connections in the local barbershop community!

We've had some great performances this spring, with a series of Arts Council Grant per-

formances at area libraries. April 3, we sang at the Bigelow Public Library in Clinton, Mass. and on June 12, we performed at the Morse Institute. And for the third year, we had a grant performance to benefit the Westborough Food Bank on May 18, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Westborough. The cost of admission (also paid by chorus members) was one non-perishable food item. The collected food was donated to the Food Bank.

In April we came together with the rest of Area 2 in Devens, Mass. for AC&C — this year's theme being Survivor! We were so proud that our very own Music Judge Candidate Janet Billings received her OFFICIAL JUDGE CERTIFICATION at AC&C! Way to go, Janet!

Women of Note felt confident and relaxed on the contest stage singing our "Love" package— Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart and When I Fall In Love. We were very happy to place third in the chorus contest, and we qualified for IC&C in November!

We were also very excited that our chorus was represented in FIVE competing quartets this year!!

- Our favorite chapter quartet Life's a Pitch with Jane Thie, Ashley Lang, Sherri Avery and Amy Harker.
- Our resident Music Judge Janet Billings sang with a new one-off quartet called You Be The Judge, along with Liane Ianuzzo, Liz LeClair and Wendy McCoole.



ZING! — Women of Note prepare to take the stage at AC&C 2019.

- Intuition has our Assistant Director Sarah McNamee singing with Kelly Wennik, Susan Kapur and Jen Winston.
- New Q is made up of our baritone Linda Noble singing tenor, along with Kathleen MacDonald, Samantha Tramack and Renee Tramack.
- And competing in the Mixed Quartet contest was *Neapolitan*, made up of Sarah McNamee singing tenor, Anand Sitaram a tenor from local BHS chapter Vocal Revolution singing lead, Linda Noble singing baritone

and our fearless leader Ray Johnson singing bass.

Even more exciting, *New Q* is the new Area 2 Quartet champion, and *Neapolitan* is the new MBHA Mixed Quartet champion from Area 2!

After we got back from AC&C, we had our annual Installation Dinner and Ceremony at the Horseshoe Pub in Hudson, Mass. and per our usual routine, a bunch of us took an after-dinner walk around the corner to New City

See **WOMEN OF NOTE**, continued on next page

WOMEN OF NOTE*continued from previous page*

WoN held a very successful guest night July 15.

Microcreamery for some delicious dessert!

Next was Hudsonfest on June 8, a large festival in our little town with local vendors, food, music and art. Our chorus hosts a booth every year and this year was one of the best! Our goal was to challenge those who told us they “couldn’t sing”. We drew people into our friendly booth and taught them the “Sleepy Time Down South” tag. It was a roaring success, we taught people that everyone can sing and enjoy the sound of those ringing chords! The highlight was singing a tag with State Rep Kate Hogan and making connections with local high school music groups. It was a beautiful day for music!

Since then we’ve been picking up some new songs in preparation for our chapter show next March, doing some in-house education and coaching, and planning for our Guest Night on July 15.

This Guest Night was a HUGE success thanks to our hardworking members who planned a great program, pot luck refreshments and promotion! We advertised on Meetup and in a Facebook Event that we paid to boost, reaching a wider audience. As a result, we had TEN ladies show up to come see what we’re about! We ran through some extended warm-ups and brain games

to get us prepared to sing, explaining along the way why we take these steps to prepare ourselves to sing, familiarizing our guests with the value the barbershop world places on vocal resonance and unity. We sang a few songs for our guests including our contest package, and taught everyone a tag. Then we brought them into our sectional rehearsals on a new song we’re learning, came back together after and sang through what we had reviewed. The Harmony Creed and We’re Harmony, We’re Strong closed out the rehearsal and we invited them to spend a bit of time getting to know us over food and drink.

Looking forward to seeing all our sisters in Harmony at IC&C in Sandusky, where we can once again be “Harmony, Stronger!”

— Linda Noble



New Director brings new energy to Surround Sound

After Area Contest and Convention season is over, it’s usually a quiet time for Surround Sound when we take a few weeks to relax and regroup.

But not this year!

Following our “Sing with Us for the Holidays!” program this year, we acquired a new member, Jayne Thompson, who is shown on the left here with Lois Lundsted, at her installation in April. Jayne has some choral directing experience and a degree in music. She is a talented singer, musician and now TADA! our new director! She is also the recipient of a scholarship to attend Harmony University this summer.

Jayne is looking forward to her intense experience in barbershopping at the university and to helping our chapter become all that it can be. If you see Jayne around the barbershop world, give her a big Harmony welcome!

Later in June, the chapter conducted a pizza

and strategic planning session. Planning ensures that all members come together on where the chapter is heading and how to get there. Pizza ensures that no one’s grumbling stomach interrupts the session. After some intense looks at where we want to be and how we can get there, it was clear that we all agreed we wanted to improve our musicality.

We also agreed on how to get there: practice, practice, practice.

Everyone then committed to creating a personal schedule of practice for each week and pledged to keep to it barring unexpected events due to family, work, whatever. So far, so good. With a schedule for what to practice and new learning techniques from our new Director Jayne, the future is ours!

Meanwhile, the Chapter will assist, as usual, local churches whose choirs are taking a summer break.

— Janice LeClair



The North Pennsmen and Liberty Belles perform in their 2018 joint spring show.

The Liberty Belles and North Pennsmen come together at the annual summer picnic.



Our take on ‘Everyone in Harmony’

It all began in late 2015 when our local men’s barbershop chorus, the *North Pennsmen*, a Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society, invited the *Liberty Belles Chorus* as guests on their annual 2016 spring show. We accepted the invitation and got to work learning two new songs which we would sing jointly with the North Pennsmen, in addition to preparing songs for our own portion of the show. We had so much fun performing in the show, sang to over 800 patrons and raised some substantial income.

“The North Pennsmen had traditionally been inviting a top guest quartet to be featured on their annual spring shows and were looking to switch things up to boost show attendance,” said *Anne Bureau*, Musical Director of the North Pennsmen and Liberty Belles. “It became clear that there was a need to move towards bringing in a local community-based act, something to add variety, while staying in the barbershop style. The idea to invite the Liberty Belles was unanimously accepted.”

With two songs learned that both choruses could sing together, we performed again in summer 2016 at the North Pennsmen Annual Songfest Picnic — an evening where local barbershop choruses

and quartets come together for some food, performances, and tag singing. Our fellow barbershoppers watched with excitement, seeing a mixed chorus of men and women from two separate choruses come together for amazing eight-part harmonies!

Wanting to continue our excitement, our evolving friendships with the North Pennsmen, and giving our audiences something to talk about, the North Pennsmen invited us back to be a part of their 2017 spring show. This time, we spent a greater amount of time on stage with them and on our own. Both the Liberty Belles and the North Pennsmen shared the stage – over 80 singers blending their voices in four, eight and twelve-part harmonies. In summer 2017, both choruses again performed a song together at the Songfest Picnic. Soon after that came another chance for us to join our voices and put on a 60-minute performance. The North Pennsmen have been long-time sponsors of a local charity that is committed to ending hunger, building community and transforming lives. The Pennsmen asked us to perform with them in a benefit concert that fall, where we raised over \$1,000 for the charity.

The North Pennsmen and the Liberty Belles now perform at least

three times a year together. Both choruses have developed a community following over the years, especially the North Pennsmen who chartered in 1962. We have expanded that community with bringing both choruses together, and our growing supporters and audiences learning of and recognizing both choruses.

“I cannot tell you how many times I’ve mentioned that I’m in the Liberty Belles Chorus to someone, and they said, ‘Oh I’ve heard of you! Your chorus sings with the North Pennsmen!’ or, ‘I saw your show with the North Pennsmen!’ Our relationship with our Brothers in Harmony has not only helped us become more of a household name, but has strengthened our ties to the barbershop community,” said *Nancy Weisbein*, president.

“You don’t need to lose the identity of your individual men’s or women’s chorus to be a part of ‘everyone in harmony.’ All you need is a relationship between your local men’s and women’s choruses to bring the community together,” said Anne.

— *Anne Bureau*, Director, and
Sarah Thorne-Miller, Marketing Chair



Limestone City Voices love to ham it up.

“Gangster Couple”



Newly chartered chapter qualifies for 3 competitions

As members of two women’s barbershop organizations, the journey of *Limestone City Voices* over the past year has been educational, exhilarating, and, well, down right CRAZY busy since receiving our Harmony, Inc. charter in the spring of 2018! Never in a million years did we feature ourselves qualifying for THREE international contests in one season but here we are! In all honesty, we’re still a little stunned by all that has transpired but we are exceedingly grateful for all the opportunities, the wonderful people we’ve met, the friends made, the warm welcome from HI and Area 5, and the ‘home’ we feel being a part of the HI family.

Since coming back from our first international contest in Orlando in November of 2018, we’ve been busy re-vamping our “Gangster” package, fundraising for our community, and participating in other barbershop shows.

In December of 2018, we had the pleasure of sharing the stage for a Christmas concert with our brothers and sisters

in harmony, the *Kingston Townsmen* of BHS and the *Greater Kingston* chorus of SAI.

In March of this year, we performed our first on-the-road gig as guests on the spring show of the *Capital City Chorus* of BHS in Ottawa, Ontario. In April we performed at our Sweet Adelines regional convention, and a month later competed in Area 5 contest. Whew!

Our community outreach continues to be one of our favourite things to do! For the past two years we’ve been supporting a charity that is near and dear to our hearts – The Mess Studio. Located in downtown Kingston, the studio provides a safe place where people who struggle with issues of brokenness and poverty create and relate. In April, we participated in their annual fundraiser which was a huge success!

The month of June saw more fundraising activity as we hosted our second annual Links with Limestone City Voices Golf Tournament which helped to raise funds for the chorus

and The Mess Studio. We also threw in, because we just weren’t busy enough (ha ha!), a yard sale.

With two international conventions scheduled this fall there is no rest for the wicked. July and August are full with rehearsals, coaching, and a pool party... because SUMMER! We’d like to shout out to our great leadership in director *Kristin Stevens* and associate director *Vanessa Patterson* for always challenging us to be better. We’d also like to thank our team of coaches *Mo Field*, *Lynn Blakeney*, *Katie Taylor*, *Jocelyn Poirier* and *Mike Bullett*.

Now, back to deck and a cold mojito!

Happy summer, everyone!

— *Vanessa Patterson*
Associate Director, *Limestone City Voices*
Director, *Kingston Townsmen Chorus*



Maine-ly beekeepers are prepared to survive!

Maine-ly Harmony enjoys busy year

Maine-ly Harmony members enjoyed their AC&C weekend experience, appreciating all the work that went into the planning, and all the fun of the Survivor theme!

We were honored to receive the Betty Costellow small chorus award, presented by Harmony Heritage. We equally have enjoyed sharing our music within our Maine communities.

Christmastime 2018, though now a pleasant memory, was filled with the joy of singing for our veterans at the Augusta VA hospital, for our elderly citizens throughout our state, and for a packed house at our holiday show.

Singing Valentines, always fun and profitable, were delivered by our two awesome quartets, *Heart 'n Soul* and *Windsong*.

We helped to raise money for a local library, as well as Respite Care, and performed for Maine General Hospital's Memorial Service in June.

Plans are in the works for celebrating our 30th anniversary this year!

— Lea Davis

We were honored to receive the Betty Costellow small chorus award.



Hello from Harmony Magic



Harmony Magic hosted our first variety-style show in February with our "Salute to Laugh-In". The show was full of music from the 60s, jokes, skits . . . and even Ernestine made an appearance! One ringie-dingie...

February also found us singing Valentines to family and friends across the country.

Fast-forward to July when Harmony Magic will be singing the National Anthem for Kokomo Jackrabbits AAA baseball!

Our Holiday calendar is filling up already with several public sing-outs and our Holiday Show! What a great way to finish up 2019!

— Kelly Kahn





Pauline Morehouse helped found the ScotianAires chorus and has now added tap dancing to her many talents!

 **ScotianAires**

SPOTLIGHT: ScotianAires charter member Pauline Morehouse celebrates milestone

We all love to celebrate milestones and the ScotianAires celebrated one recently...our 35th anniversary in 2018. But an organization like ours doesn't reach those milestones without the foundation and support of the "rocks" that serve as our cornerstone. One of our "rocks" is celebrating her own milestone. This year *Pauline Morehouse*, charter and still current member of the ScotianAires celebrates her 90th birthday!

Pauline grew up in Kentville, Nova Scotia where she met and married Ralph Morehouse. They raised two daughters, Sheri and Kathy, in their dream home in Bridgewater. Outdoor enthusiasts, Pauline and Ralph took many trips to Kejimikujik National Park in N.S. where they canoed and enjoyed the park adventures. They later bought a mobile home in Florida and spent many winter months vacationing there as well as making trips farther afield, including Australia and New Zealand. When long-distance traveling became tiresome, Pauline and Ralph built a cottage on Butler Lake back home in Nova Scotia.

Pauline discovers barbershop harmony — and finds a chorus

Pauline was heavily involved with the Guiding organization and volunteered with the Red Cross for many years. Her husband Ralph sang with the City of Lakes Men's Chorus in Dartmouth and spent many years with the quartet, The Countymen. Not one to be left out of the fun, Pauline decided to look for a women's

chorus and so visited the Bluenose Belles, a Sweet Adelines group based in Halifax. But history had other plans...In late 1979, Pauline and Dartmouth friends Layne McCoubrey, Marion Griffiths, Marion Penton, and Nora Bastedo decided to investigate starting their own chorus.

This small but enthusiastic group of singers started out independently with Shelagh and Mark Radcliffe as directors, meeting in Marion Penton's basement and various other locations. Nora Bastedo took over as director for a short time but when she moved in 1980, the group convinced Rene Boymook (who was singing with the Bluenose Belles at the time) to be the director along with Judy Robichaud as assistant. They visited choruses and met with different organizations before deciding that Harmony, Inc. would be their home. To decide on a name for their new group, they each put their choice in a hat and drew at random. It was Pauline's suggestion, the ScotianAires, that is still the moniker for the chorus almost 36 years later!

Years of leadership and service

Pauline did most of the groundwork on the rules and regulations of how to become chartered and how to run a chapter and so became the ScotianAires' first Secretary. On April 16, 1983, the ScotianAires received their Harmony, Incorporated official charter. Pauline was (and still is) a stickler for doing everything properly and correctly. To commemorate this fact, sometime in the late-80's, the ScotianAires presented her with a hat emblazoned with the legend "Fussy

Old Fart" which she proudly wore for a long time...especially at Board meetings!

For many years, Pauline continued to serve as Secretary for the ScotianAires, as well as the Chair of the Karen Gordon Scholarship Fund. She was also the Canadian representative for Harmony, Inc.'s Education Resource Materials. Travel to international competitions as well as the men's competitions with husband Ralph became a regular part of her holiday routine.

In later years, Pauline took up knitting and it would be difficult to find a member of the ScotianAires who does not own a knitted coat hanger to protect her costumes, courtesy of Pauline's talents!

Today Pauline lives in an apartment in Bedford, N.S. Although she misses her back yard and flowers (and her clothes line!), she is glad not to be too far away from her two daughters, two grandchildren, and one great-grandson! Still singing lead in the chorus, Pauline has always been the "rock" of the ScotianAires with the group in her heart and soul at all times. A constant at all functions, events, and performances, she was always the "go to" person for any question involving the ScotianAires or Harmony, Inc., and today we still count on her wisdom.

Where would the ScotianAires have been without the determination and vision of this force of a woman! Happy 90th birthday to our rock, Pauline Morehouse!

— *Philomena Hughes, Chapter PR Chair*



With a song in their hearts

Rochester Rhapsody entertains community

Rochester Rhapsody has been busy spreading a cappella music in the Rochester, N.Y. region. Most recently we participated in a special concert produced by LocalVocal of California to bring several a cappella groups together on one stage. This was a great opportunity to share with a number of college performers and encourage them to continue singing after they graduate.

After a busy spring preparing for Area 3 Contest, chorus members served up hotdogs and hamburgers at the Senior PGA Golf Tournament at Oakhill Country Club. A portion of the money raised there will help sponsor Amber Clark (daughter of a chorus member) to attend the Lakeside A Capella Camp in July. Through our Mike Morgan Scholarship fund, applicants get support for music education. In addition to Amber, the chapter will be able to sponsor another “camper” via a donation to Lakeside’s general fund.

On a wonderful afternoon in June, members of the chorus entertained on the steps of townhall at the local Fairport Canal Days festival and also at Assisted Living Senior Homes during our June Roadshow (every Monday of the month).

August brings our Summer SingSation Membership Drive and a special performance at a Veteran’s Appreciation Party at a local hospital. As we head into fall we will be doing some extra prepping for ICC with two weekends of education, including exciting coaching opportunities at our “home base” -- Harmony House in Webster, NY and at Area 3 Help Day in Scranton, PA, September 21.

We look forward to seeing everyone at IC&C in Sandusky and celebrating 60 years of Harmony, Inc. with a song in our hearts.

— Michelle Buckenmeyer and Sue Vorrasi, Co-Presidents

Unaccompanied Minors Needs Your Help!

If you attended IC&C in Orlando last year, then you surely remember *Unaccompanied Minors*! This all-youth chorus from Clermont, FL, placed 14th in their first year on the international stage, and were a crowd pleaser with their moving rendition of If I Ruled the World. Their talent was recognized with the G. Ruth Giles Memorial Award.

Great news... the girls are back! They placed second at Area 6 AC&C and are so excited for their second International appearance.

Last year the competition was right in their back yard, but unfortunately, not all of the girls’ families can afford to send them to Sandusky. As an educational chorus, no one is turned away from

Unaccompanied Minors for her inability to pay dues, but paying for airfare and lodging is a larger challenge.

Luckily for some of the girls, the members of Village Vocal Chords have come to the rescue with an incredible fundraising effort, raising enough to sponsor the travel costs for at least three of the chorus members!

These kids are passionate about barbershop and had such a blast at IC&C last year, it would be a shame to be forced to leave any of them behind! If your chorus or quartet would be able to sponsor a girl, a donation of \$500 would fund one girl’s airfare and lodging for



the convention, or a \$100 donation would cover a girl’s AEP so she could attend classes and performances!

Check out www.unaccompaniedminors.org for more information.

Thanks, Harmony friends!

— Lindsay Fontana, Vice President



*'I WILL FOLLOW HIM'—
Seaside A Cappella hosted
Choirfest on June 12. This
evening of song featured
11 choirs and choruses, of
various sizes, from across the
South Shore of Nova Scotia.*



Highlights from the Seaside

What an exciting year 2019 is turning out to be for Seaside A Cappella. At our recent AC&C, we celebrated our first birthday as the newest chapter in Area 1, having chartered with Harmony, Inc. in June 2018.

In April, the chorus entered the local Lunenburg and District Music Festival as a preparatory exercise for its first AC&C in June. The experience of being evaluated was beneficial, but more importantly, the chorus was awarded the Community Choir Award. This accolade is the adjudicator's decision and is awarded to a group with an emphasis on community and outstanding performance.

Building on the experience of the music festival, the chorus increased the level of preparation for AC&C. This included weekend rehearsals, special coaching sessions, and more as the chorus readied itself for its first time on the contest stage.

And what an experience it was! There is certainly nothing like being on the contest stage for the first time. The unex-

pected surprise however came when the results were announced and it was determined that the chorus had qualified for International. For a new chorus this result was definitely a confidence booster.

The fun continued with Seaside A Cappella hosting the first ever Choirfest on June 12. This evening of song featured eleven choirs and choruses, of various sizes, from across the South Shore of Nova Scotia. The groups entertained a full house with many guests expressing their enjoyment and interest in seeing the event held on an annual basis.

The momentum from the ChoirFest carried over as Seaside A Cappella began the Ladies' Summer Sing Program on June 19. Into its third year, the program aims to increase awareness and interest in singing a cappella, four part harmony. This year's session brought approximately 30 guests to join the chorus on the risers. What an incredible sound! The program runs on Wednesday evenings until July 31, concluding with a fundraiser and an opportunity for the

chorus and guests to perform.

July will also see two members of Seaside A Cappella attend Harmony University for the first time. With financial scholarships from Sing Canada Harmony, Patricia Watson and Dianne Humphrey will participate in an intensive week of training with others in the barbershop community. The skills acquired will benefit the entire chorus.

In September the chorus will host and perform in a cabaret style show at St Mark's Place, just outside Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. In addition to Seaside A Cappella as the main attraction, A Night at the Cabaret will showcase a variety of local entertainment from singing to dancing and comedy.

Busy and exciting are the key themes for the Chorus this year. With each activity the chorus is instilling itself as part of the music culture on the South Shore of Nova Scotia. Who knows what will be in store for the remainder of the year and into 2020? Stay tuned.

— Sandra Purcell, PR Chair



FROM LEFT:

Area 3 Champs Northern Blend show off their hardware.

Dorene Dickerson wins Kay DeLong Trophy for outstanding service to Harmony, Inc.

Lip Service and Friends perform at the Densmore Church concert series.

Area 3 1st Place Chorus Trophy

BELOW LEFT:

Thanks in part to a grant from the Northern New York Community Foundation, Northern Blend is the proud possessor of brand new risers.

What's New with Northern Blend

It's been a busy year for *Northern Blend*!

After IC&C 2018, we performed throughout the community and set our sights on Area 3 contest, learning new music and welcoming new members to the chorus. We recognized *Laura Oakes*, our chapter Vice President, as Barbershopper of the Year for her hard work on behalf of the chapter.



At Area 3 AC&C in

May, we were honored and thrilled to be named Area 3 chorus champions and our chapter quartet, *Lip Service*, was Area 3 quartet champions. We also had several members celebrate Harmony, Inc. anniversaries including mother-

daughter *Marcia Trick* and bass section leader *Lynn Blakeney* (30 years).

The highlight of the evening was our very own ACCT chairperson *Dorene Dickerson* being awarded the Kay DeLong award for her outstanding service to Harmony, Inc. As her nomination noted, "Dorene is a self-proclaimed 'singing fool,' and she rarely, if ever, misses a rehearsal! She is upbeat, positive, supportive and encouraging to members new and old! She's very supportive of our guests when they attend and is our music librarian! She has folders for our guests with rep music and always makes people feel welcomed and appreciated!" Our heartfelt congrats to Dorene!

After Area contest, we continued a variety of projects, including fundraising for new risers. We received a generous grant from the Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) to help augment our fundraising and we're now

standing on brand new risers!

"The Northern New York Community Foundation is an incredible asset to our community," noted Northern Blend Vice President *Laura Oakes*. "I'm grateful for what they do here in the North Country and especially their financial assistance to Northern Blend Chorus in purchasing new risers."

This summer, *Lip Service* quartet, director *Katie Taylor*, and several other Blenders attended Harmony University in Nashville, Tennessee. By all accounts, it was a fantastic and "life-changing" week - *Lip Service* performed on the Friday night show and baritone *Stacy Hugman* performed in the Women's Honors Chorus. We already have implemented some of the great tips everyone learned at HU and hopefully more members will be able to attend in the future.

We added another quartet to our chapter — *Roulette* — consisting of *Morgan LaCroix* (tenor), *Jessica Jones* (lead), *Katie Taylor* (baritone)

and *Lynn Blakeney* (bass). *LiveWire* bass *Jessi Nasto* joined a new quartet, *Vivace*, to bring another quartet to the Blender family! We're excited to see what these new quartets will achieve and we're rooting for *Vivace* and *Lip Service* at IC&C!

To wrap up the summer, *Lip Service* and *Friends* performed at the Densmore Church concert series, a performance which Northern Blend chapter quartets have been a part of for many years. We'll be performing for the inaugural Trinity Summer Concert Series and are also looking forward to coaching with the amazing *Dale Syverson*. If that wasn't busy enough, we're preparing for our annual show, *Sing Fling* on October 19. Whew!

Throughout this busy year, we've learned and grown and are looking forward to continuing our journey together.

"It's Great to be a Northern Blender!"

— *Anita Prather Harvell, Publicist*



“Yo-ho-ho and a bottle of rum!”

Completely Youthless finds novel use for contest costume

Driving home to Pensacola following the Area 6 competition, *Completely Youthless* was lamenting the end of our days as pirates – maybe we can use our costumes again at Halloween, but that sure felt like a long time to wait.

Lucky for us, there is a great Pensacola beach restaurant that is “All Pirate, All the Time” so we gathered up friends and relatives and went to dinner at Peg Leg Pete’s in our pirate garb and sang our pirate song. Restaurant patrons and servers took photos with us as we sang our way through the dining rooms. Now we can retire our pirate costumes — we’ve had all the fun we can stand!

Our springtime was filled with four appearances through-

out the community including a walk on the red carpet for an annual meeting of the Pensacola chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The “Hollywood Red Carpet” theme called for our most sparkly costumes and a program of old standards. Of course, we ended our program with a patriotic medley for the DAR lovers of history.

Completely Youthless has been invited to perform in the first chorus show of *Pensacappella*, a mixed harmony chorus formed in 2018 by Area 6 Director and 2018 Harmony Queen *Gaye LaCasce* and her husband, *Dan Signor*. We are excited to be on stage with these talented singers on September 14.

Completely Youthless poses with Peg Leg Pete. Karen Schutt, Sherlyn McKibbon, Leslie Esselburn, Judy Foster

It's About Time!

It's About Time quartet is still flying high from an exciting Area 4 contest. We are so honored to have taken 4th place, and are excited to go to IC&C in November.

We are singing everywhere we can — assisted living homes, birthday parties, a Memorial Day Ceremony — even at a brat fry we did to raise funds! In addition, we are doing a couple of fundraisers to help get us to Sandusky - the brat fry previously mentioned - and one more still to come, and are working at a local festival in July.

Even with all of that, we are squeezing in rehearsals, coaching and learning new music. Judy Pozsgay, coached us June 22 and we are looking forward to continuing to work with Scott Kvigny and anyone else who will listen to us!

See you in Sandusky!

— Terrie, Nancy, Chris & Vicki,
It's About Time Quartet

It's About Time is flying high.





Mystic Chicks lead Erin Cassidy *sizzles* on stage

Mystic Chicks, Debbie, Jerri, and Rachael, are very proud of our lead, Erin Cassidy! She performed in her first stage performance of the British Players during the month of June.

"I'm not sure of much, in this crazy new world I joined, except that I am sure I lost my sanity 2 weeks ago," Erin admits after Tech Week was over. "Also, I will never, ever complain about the prep work that goes into a barber-shop contest ever again!"

And her son J, exclaims "Wait, wait, wait! Why are you singing about being married to someone else that's not Daddy?"

Teri Klein Allred, the director and a member of Bella Nova says, "Our Erin is a Super Star. We are so fortunate to have her gracing our stage!"

The local critic writes, "Kruger features again

in a hotter Who's Sorry Now, her spectacular, almost gymnastic dancing accompanied by sizzling vocals from Erin Cassidy and Kristin Franco."

Erin performed seven numbers in combination with the Edwardians, The Sussex Sweethearts, a female barbershop quartet, and other cast members. The tunes included When You Were Sweet Sixteen, Masculine Woman & Feminine Men, Jobs and several love medleys.

She not only sang as part of the Edwardians, she also participated in The Sussex Sweethearts, the show's female barbershop quartet, and coached the male barbershop quartet that participated as well. She is a talent, but of course we know this and have for a while now.



Perfect Your Pitch with "Aged to Perfection"

Come ring chords with mother & daughter singers, *Aged to Perfection*, Harmony International's First Place Quartet. **Female singers aged 13 and up** are invited to an **inter-generational a cappella workshop** hosted by Silk'n Sounds Chorus.



- Bring your mother
- Bring your daughter
- Bring a friend
- Bring yourself!

November 23, 2019
10am- 4pm

North Haven High School
221 Elm Street
North Haven, CT 06473

This interactive singing workshop will culminate with a **performance at 3pm** featuring *Aged to Perfection*, Silk'n Sounds Chorus and workshop participants.

Tickets for performance for non-participants are \$10.

Funded in part by a grant from Harmony, Inc.

Silk'n Sounds Chorus is a not-for-profit organization



Workshop Cost:
\$10 per person (add a family member for just \$5).

Contact Cathy at
cagobes@gmail.com
to preregister.

www.silknsounds.org



Harmony in Motion

A Women's A Cappella Chorus

Presents

BARBERSHOP

THROUGH THE DECADES

Come and enjoy as we sing songs from the
1890s through the 1980s



When: 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 29, 2019
Where: Newton High School
44 Ryerson Ave, Newton NJ



To purchase a ticket,
call 973-453-5665
or ask a chorus member

Tickets	
Adults	\$15.00
Age 12 & Under	\$8.00
Seniors	\$12.00

Reserved Seats \$3.00 Extra

www.harmonyinmotion.net

Kim Meechan appointed Chair of Equality and Diversity Committee

Kim Meechan came to the world of a cappella harmony singing via Chapman Mills Sound Connection, a Harmony, Inc. Chapter in Ottawa. A move to Halifax in 2013 led her to seek out the ScotianAires and she joined the chorus in 2015. As Kim describes it, "The joy I felt when standing on the risers with my new group of Harmony sisters was uplifting and I was hooked!" Beginning as a lead, Kim has moved to the bass section and enjoys helping to create the foundation of the chord!

Never one to sit still, Kim got involved in chorus activities right away. With her love of photography, she became the chorus photographer and part of the Public Relations and Marketing Committee. Her creative and fun-loving nature has also served her well helping the Ways and Means Committee (which she has chaired for three terms) to produce successful fundraisers. Other chorus roles include: Liaison Officer (three-year term), Nomination Chair in 2018, and member-at-large on the Board of Directors from 2018-2019.

Personable and knowledgeable about her new home town, Kim was the obvious choice to guide three of Harmony Inc.'s International Convention and Contests (IC&C) organizers around the local sites when IC&C was held in Halifax in 2017. In April 2018, she served as the personal tour guide for then Harmony President Christina Lewellen, showing her the highlights of Halifax while Lewellen was visiting for the ScotianAires' 35th anniversary celebration!

In July of 2017, Harmony, Inc., under Lewellen's leadership, formed The Harmony, Inc. Equality and Diversity Committee. The committee is primarily tasked with assessing the needs of the Harmony

Inc. community in this area, developing systems for reporting incidents of discrimination, educating and raising awareness about diversity and promoting change. Kim was invited to join the committee and was subsequently appointed chair for the 2019-20 year.

Kim is passionate about the work of the committee and the opportunity it affords members of Harmony, Inc. to speak honestly about their feelings and their experiences in order to ensure that "every woman feels they belong". Issues that face diverse members of the organization can easily go unnoticed or be misunderstood by the general membership, but Kim hopes to raise awareness through her articles in Harmony, Inc. publications and the educational opportunities she will create.

Kim believes in Harmony, Inc. and its willingness to grow and adapt and shares her dream for the future: "I am hoping that those of us who are 'diverse' will share our stories – the good and the bad – so that all members can learn and grow towards an organization that is truly inclusive. I am also hoping that those members who are not 'diverse' will be conscious and appreciative of the efforts of those who tell their stories and welcome the growth that comes from learning, changing and valuing all women!"

The ScotianAires are proud to have leadership like Kim's emerge from our membership and we too value the growth that all of Harmony, Inc. will experience from the work of the Equality and Diversity Committee. Just like the bass note is often the foundation of the chord, inclusivity is the foundation of our organization!





Harmony, Inc. continues to put its Directors First

In 2019, our third year of the Directors First program, we sent another 13 Harmony musical leaders to Harmony University in Nashville,



What can [Directors First](#) mean for you and your chapter? Check out this [video](#) by Harmony Foundation International, our U.S. fund-raising partner.

Tennessee. This means that almost two thirds of our musical leadership have gone to Harmony University in the past three years!

The directors were immersed in a week-long

learning experience, where they expanded their knowledge and raised their skills to new heights, to better serve their home chapters. In the wrap up reports we kept hearing, “Whether or not you are a director, Harmony University has classes that can help you be your best.”

Harmony, Inc. members have long known that the strength of our organization rests in the hands of our musical directors. Strong directors contribute to strong chapters, which are the basis for strong Areas and a strong international organization.

We are off and running. Now we need to build momentum for the Fourth Class. You know how there’s never been a Harmony, Inc. initiative so singularly focused on supporting our directors and musical leaders, right? The time to embrace

the power of Directors First is right now!

If you are on the fence on whether or not to apply next year, do what other attendees have embraced and “GO for it!” You can never achieve something without first trying!

<https://harmonyfoundation.org/harmony-inc-directors-first/>

Watch Harmony, Inc. grow and flourish. It all seems pretty simple when we put our directors first, doesn’t it?

STRONGER DIRECTORS =
STRONGER CHAPTERS =
STRONGER AREAS =
STRONGER HARMONY, INC.

— Jennifer Bratis,
Directors First Program Coordinator

DIRECTORS FIRST PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Who will you send to Directors First at Harmony University in 2020?

Applications for 2020 Directors First Scholarships open Jan. 1. If your chapter has not already sent a musical leader to Harmony University on a Directors First scholarship, now is the time to act! Who will you nominate? Forms can be found [here](#) and are due by March 1, 2020 to vpeducation@harmonyinc.org.



WE HAVE A WINNER!

The winner of the free 2019 All Events Pass by participating in the Website Scavenger Hunt is



Amy DePerna, an Associate Member from Area 3 and member of *Vivace!* quartet. Thanks to everyone who participated and for playing along and being excellent sleuths!

Amy successfully perused the website for answers to questions contained in the past several months'

E-Notes and then decoded the accompanying block letters.

Congratulations, Amy!

If you haven't visited the Members Only section recently and are having trouble logging in, please contact Tanya Reid, our Website Manager at webmaster@harmonyinc.org.



Pioneer women, becoming the first official Certified Judges of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Thank you for inspiring us all to be our best.

Linda Muise, Mo Field, Judy Pozsgay, Sandi Wright, Charlotte Murray, Theresa Weatherbee and Melody Hine at Belmont University

Harmony, Inc. candidates become certified BHS judges!

Five Harmony, Inc. members made history last month, as they became part of the first group of female judges to be certified by the Barbershop Harmony Society.

- *Linda Muise*, who has been a certified Chairman of Judges for Harmony, Inc. since 2005, and who is currently COJ category director, certified as a BHS Contest Administrator.
- *Theresa Weatherbee*, who has been a certified Presentation/Performance judge for us since 1997, and is currently category director for Performance, certified as a BHS Performance judge.
- *Sandi Wright*, who has been certified as a Presentation/Performance judge for us since 2011, certified

as a BHS Performance judge. She is also a Showmanship judge for Sweet Adelines International, making her the first judge ever to be certified in all three North American-based Barbershop organizations.

- In addition, Associate Member *Melody Hine*, of the quartet *Hot Pursuit*, certified as a BHS Music judge, and *Mo Field*, Associate Member, Charter Member of *Limestone City Voices* and the quartet *Swing Theory*, certified as a BHS Performance judge.

We are so proud of these pioneers!

— *Kathy Greason*,
International Contest and Judging Chair
judging@harmonyinc.org

It's a *CELEBRATION!*

Before we know it, it'll be time to head to Sandusky, Ohio where we'll celebrate Harmony, Inc.'s 60th anniversary all week!

As you make your plans for IC&C, the 60th anniversary task force has been hard at work preparing a unique IC&C experience for you this year. Here's a glimpse of what we're working on:

- Planning to attend the Opening Ceremony on Wednesday night? You won't want to miss it! Instead of bringing in outside entertainment this year, the evening will be all about YOU, our members.
- When the formal Opening Ceremony is over, don't head to your room. Instead, head straight to the 60th anniversary bash! We'll be celebrating with cake, a cash bar and a festive party setting. It's guaranteed to be a fun time.
- Stroll through 60 years with Harmony, Inc. as you enjoy a slide presentation that will take you on a journey through our rich history. The presentation will be playing on a continuous loop in the hospitality room all week.
- Do you like playing bingo?
Our 60th anniversary version of bingo is affectionately called, Harmony Sing-O. Pick up your Sing-O card at registration and complete the tasks found on the back of the card. At the Saturday Showcase of Champions we'll draw one lucky winner who will receive a free all-events pass for IC&C 2020!

I look forward to celebrating Harmony's past, present and future with you in November.

— Donna McKay, President



HAPPY
60TH
HARMONY!

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Excerpts from Harmony Chat

Up-to-the-minute information and advice on all things Harmony — especially IC&C — is posted regularly on Harmony Chat. If you haven't joined yet, head to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HarmonyChat/> and check out what's in store.

INTERNATIONAL CHORUS

One of the best parts about IC&C is getting to meet so many people from so many places who share your love of singing. This is exemplified in our International Chorus – comprised of members of each chorus that come together to learn a song and perform on the IC&C stage after the Chorus Competition on Friday.

We encourage you to sign up for this incredible experience. You will be sent the music ahead of time and there will be a rehearsal on Thursday morning at the convention.

EDUCATION

IC&C isn't only about the singing – it's about learning and sharing too! You have an opportunity to take classes to enhance your skills whether you are a director, an arranger, a leader, or a singer.

This year, along with the chorus and quartet master classes and Sing with the Queens, there will be a variety of classes you can choose from. Here are just a few of the classes we will offer:

- Coaching Under Glass with Aged To Perfection and Jeremy Conover,
- Public Relations 103 with Angie Beatty and Anita Prather Harvell,
- Using Improv to Improve Your Performance with Katie Taylor,
- Equality, Diversity and Me! with Kim Meechan,
- Get Out of Your Shell – Heads Up Barbershop Edition with Susan Spencer.

Speaking of classes, do you teach a class that you think members would be interested in taking? Have you taken a class that you feel other Harmony members would like to take or is there a certain subject you would like to see a class on? Complete the class request form on the HI website under IC&C Education Classes.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Have a question about your room or the amenities at Kalahari? You can Use their handy web chat to get answers!

<https://webchat.kalahariresorts.com/ccmwa/chat/79bb2778-b80f-4a0d-9b0e-24bba0109daf?fbclid=IwAR3tI-igp2o7lotwGs3LyELvDGBQSKFywDZGkjszEUSTFFE22cdMG6XEVC-4>

The PARTY is ON!

HAPPY
60TH
HARMONY!



Reflection Wall

Stop by the reflection wall to share what Harmony Inc means to you.

(This will be a large “white board” where folks can write down what Harmony Inc means to them.

Then take a selfie etc. It will be at the Celebration reception on Wed night and in the hospitality suite the rest of the week See attached.)

Selfie Station

Stop by the selfie station to use themed props to take your photos. Be sure to use our hashtag #60YearsofHarmony when posting! (see attached)

T-shirts

Pick up and/or order your 60th anniversary T-shirt!

60th Celebration

Following the opening ceremony, be sure to stop by for some cake, socializing and singing

Want a free hotel room?

Be sure to come to the opening ceremonies where one lucky winner will be drawn for two nights comped stay at the Kalahari!

Quartet Celebration Room

The Quartet celebration Room is an opportunity for our competing quartets to “re-group” after they leave the stage and before they return to the audience. It’s a private place for you to celebrate your great accomplishment! The celebration room will be included in your pattern schedule, but it is optional.

Buffet Dinner

Dinner is \$35 inclusive and this year we are offering a buffet so that you have more options to

choose from. The two main dishes being served are Roasted Prosciutto Chicken Fontina and Pot Roast Jardinière with a variety of sides and desserts. Vegetarian? No worries – we will have a special plated dinner for you – just be sure to indicate your dietary restrictions on your dinner order form. Forms must be postmarked or e-mailed by October 1.

Please note: There will be no dinner ticket sales on-site. You must pre-purchase your seat. If you purchase a seat, then determine you can no longer attend the dinner, it is your responsibility to sell your ticket to someone else. You can post the information on Facebook via Harmony Chat or the IC&C event page, or you can post it on the bulletin board in the Hospitality Suite at IC&C. Remember, the person buying your ticket is also buying your seat assignment, we will not re-assign seats after they have been posted.

Singo Game (loads of fun for everyone)

Honoring the Past

We will be honoring our history by having past presidents as presenters at all contests.

Permanent Crowning Ceremony

Aged to Perfection will be crowned during quartet finals this year.

Dedicated Check In

There are two ways to check in to your hotel room. You can go to the front desk at any time or take advantage of the Harmony, Inc. dedicated check-in kiosks located in the Convention Center. The dedicated check-in is available Wednesday, November 6 from 11 am – 8 pm and Thursday, November 7 from 10 am – 2 pm.

Mobility Issues

While the hotel is quite large, the activities in the convention center are all contained in one area making it easy to get around. We have requested that all Harmony sleeping rooms be close to the convention center, but you can also call the hotel directly and request a room close to an elevator. You can also rent a scooter to use during the week and it will be delivered to the hotel. The cost is \$100 plus \$50 delivery. A credit card and driver’s license number are required. For more information or to reserve a scooter – call 1-440-365-8581.

Is there anything to do around the hotel?

The hotel is offering our group rate three days pre- and post- conference (based on availability) if you are interested in extending your stay. There is a TON of stuff to do at the Kalahari from the water park, to the animal park as well as: game room, 7-D theater, Escape room, Laser tag and more. For more information visit the Kalahari website.

Options in the surrounding area:

Sandusky: although Sandusky’s top attraction, Cedar Point, will be closed in November, there are lots of other places to explore. Check them out by clicking here.

Cleveland: check out the Official Visitors Guide for a comprehensive look at area attractions, and activities or the Dining Guide for an overview of Cleveland’s culinary scene and a list of restaurants by area. The Show Your Badge Program: allows you to simply show your conference badge when visiting participating partners found at www.thisiscleveland.com/syb in order to receive an exclusive offer.

— Allison Thompson, Convention Manager