

MEET MADAM PRESIDENT

From a very early age, the love of music in many forms has been a predominant focus of Bev Jackson's life and the center of many of her leisure-time activities. As a youngster growing up in Barrie, Ontario, she received piano lessons and, in high school, played clarinet in the Barrie Collegiate Band where she rose to the exalted heights of solo clarinet player during her final year. This band entered many music festivals worldwide, contributing to the early development of Bev's competitive instincts.

Many of Bev's lifelong friendships have developed through the common interests of music: as a student; as a Registered Nurse; and as a member of Harmony, Inc.

Since being introduced to Harmony, Inc. 27 years ago by her neighbor and past member of the International Board of Directors, Betty Klassen, there has been no looking back. Bev began her association with Harmony, Inc. as the charter Treasurer of the London, Ontario, SHADES OF HARMONY Chapter, and was a co-founder of HARMONY EXCHANGE. She continued her association by joining the TORONTO ACCOLADES when she and her family moved to Toronto. Bev has served in almost every chapter office at one time or another, including President and Costume Chair, and currently serves as the Music Chairman and Bass Section leader of the Accolades. She has competed in two registered quartets, advocating this as an experience not to be missed.

Bev considers Betty Klassen to be her inspiration and mentor who taught her the value of each individual's contribution to a group, and who gave her the confidence to tackle any job – even chapter Treasurer! Since retiring from her Pediatrics Nursing profession, Bev has been a stay-at-home mom with a strong leadership commitment to many community groups including: Home and School; Block Parents; Beavers; and the Canadian Cancer Society. Her Cancer Society role became very demanding in terms of time and leadership skills in the years of restructuring; she served as Regional President and Ontario Fund-Raising Chair.

Bev's other leisure-time activities have made for a well-rounded life and include such activities as gardening, sewing, skiing, needlework and – her most recent passion – being the grandma of one-year-old Scotia. Harmony has become a way of life, not just a hobby; and husband, Bill, has been of great support. Harmony, Inc.'s special "blend with friendship" and the support and care of Harmony friends helped Bev and her family enormously following the tragic death of her son, Scott, in the summer of 1994.

Bev served as the Area 3 Secretary for two years prior to her election in 1988 to the International Board of Directors as the Area 3 Representative. While serving in this position for eight years, leadership development and membership growth were always of great interest to her. During her term as Area Rep, the Area expanded from seven to 14 chapters, and the number of competing choruses and quartets increased each year. Bev always made herself available and accessible to the membership, willing to go the extra mile for her chapters and members.

Following this eight-year service, Bev decided it was time for a change. She was elected to the Board as a Member-At-Large and served as First Vice President 1996-98, during which time she chaired the committee that developed the Discover Harmony Package. At the 1999 Annual Meeting of the Board, Bev was elected to serve her second year as International President.

As she continues to share her boundless energy and dedication, life for Bev Jackson as International President is exciting, demanding, challenging and rewarding, all at the same time. She is one with whom all members of the organization can identify, at many levels. Those who know her best call Bev a communicator, a listener, a motivator, a person who has the best interests of Harmony, Inc. foremost in her heart. It is a pleasure and an honor to call her my best friend.

In Harmony, Wendy Pegg, Area 3 Representative



Beverley Jackson, 1998-2000 International President.

