

## **FACT SHEET—YWIH, YSF and SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL**

### **What is Sweet Adelines?**

Established in 1945, Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of nearly 27,000 women who enjoy singing four-part, a capella harmony, barbershop style. Members range in age from teenagers to senior citizens from all backgrounds and walks of life. Sweet Adelines is committed not only to teaching the barbershop style, but to improving the musical skills and knowledge of its members and bringing the joy of music into the lives of young people everywhere.

### **What is the Young Singers Foundation?**

The Young Singers Foundation has been the official charity of Sweet Adelines International since 1992. The Foundation's purpose is to enrich the lives of young people through educational programs in vocal music by awarding grants to school-based music programs; and funding to after-school and community vocal music activities for young people. The foundation also administers the Bev Sellers Memorial Scholarship Fund for vocal music students of any age.

### **What is the Young Women in Harmony Program?**

The Young Women in Harmony Program, sponsored by Sweet Adelines International, offers to music educators a means of including the study and performance of barbershop harmony in school music programs. The aim is to provide materials, training and performance opportunities for young women and to foster appreciation for this American musical art form. It teaches emerging voices the skills, joy and rewards of performing and singing four-part harmony, barbershop style.

Young Women in Harmony delivers both musical excellence and education while it gives young women a taste of show business. This program provides educational tools to teach young women singers the joy of performing in the barbershop style. It's easy to get started in the program. The Young Women in Harmony education packet contains comprehensive information for teaching young voices four-part harmony. Festivals and school presentations are organized by the various regions or choruses within Sweet Adelines each year.

The annual **Rising Star Quartet Contest** is held each July for female quartets aged 25 and under. The competition is held in conjunction with Sweet Adelines **International Education Symposium**, a four day total immersion in all aspects of the barbershop style. One of the featured tracks of study is specifically created for young singers and their teachers and coaches.

### **Isn't there also a barbershop harmony organization for men?**

Yes. The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) is the male counterpart to Sweet Adelines International. BHS also has several programs to help bring barbershop harmony and music in general into the lives of young men across the country. Their Harmony Foundation distributes grants and helps support several music education and community music programs. They also hold Harmony Explosion camps for high school boys and a College Quartet Contest for collegiate men every year. For more information about BHS and its programs for young singers, contact BHS headquarters at 1-800-876-SING or [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org).

### **What are the benefits of teaching barbershop harmony to young singers?**

The ringing harmony brings singers together and makes the music fun. Because of its a capella style, each singer is able to develop the confidence of being able to sing without accompaniment. Singing barbershop harmony can be a hobby for life, giving students an outlet to sing and perform long after they have graduated.

### **Scholarships and Grants**

The Young Singers Foundation offers scholarships for vocal music students and grants for Young Women in Harmony and community vocal music activities.

- Scholarship applications must be postmarked by February 15 each year.
- Grant applications are reviewed twice a year and are due June 1 and November 1.
- Applications and additional information are available from Sweet Adelines International headquarters

For more information about any of the above programs, call 1-800-992-7464 or contact [education@sweetadelineintl.org](mailto:education@sweetadelineintl.org)

## **WHY SING BARBERSHOP HARMONY?**

- Students love it!
- Barbershop harmony is challenging
- Students develop an “ear” for synchronization and tuning
- Materials and Resources are FREE!

## **BENEFITS OF SINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY**

- Increased pitch awareness
- Improved listening skills
- Increased self-confidence
- Improved pitch matching
- Improved synchronization
- Improved vowel matching
- Improved word delivery
- Greater vocal independence
- Improved music theory and chord knowledge

## **IDEAS FOR USING BARBERSHOP HARMONY**

- Sing Barbershop “tags”
  - Tags in quartets
  - Vocal warm-ups
  - Mixers
  
- 4-part Rounds
  
- Festivals/contests
  
- Supplements to chorus shows
  
- Challenge advanced students

## **GETTING STARTED WITH YWIH**

- Contact Sweet Adelines International
  - FREE Materials and resources
  - Inexpensive music arrangements voiced specifically for young women
  - Knowledgeable staff
  - [www.sweetadelineintl.org](http://www.sweetadelineintl.org)
  
- Contact local Women’s/Men’s Barbershop groups and quartets
  - Demonstration quartets available
  - Sponsorship for music (possibly)

## VOCAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUNG VOICES

- YWIH arrangements can work with mixed choruses
- Vocal ranges: generally not lower than F Below Middle C.
- Need for bass voices to balance chords:
  - Bass line may go to F or G above Middle C –challenging for some boys
    - Falsetto OK for one or two notes
    - Sing notes an octave lower
    - Look for other arrangements that don't go much above Middle C
    - Add girls to bass part
  - Some boys may be able to go as low as Eb below Middle C (or lower).
    - Use actual SAI arrangements based upon range of chorus