

August 1, 2017
Harmony Happenings

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Summer is my favorite time of year in Sweet Adelines! There is little I like better than learning new music! My head is swimming with new notes and words on their way to becoming beautiful, emotion-filled, old friends. I know that Sweet Adelines around the world are experiencing similar joys as they prepare for International Competition, summer performances, and fall or holiday shows. But then there's never a dull season for us!

International Education Symposium (IES) will be held at University of Maryland from August 2-6. Region 3's Musical Mayhem is just around the corner. This year in Oconomowoc, WI, September 8-10. Melodeers and Choral-Aires both have Vegas preview shows on September 24.

If you've ever dreamed of singing in a quartet, you won't want to miss The Quartet Quest (quartet workshop) on August 20 in Schaumburg.

In Harmony,
Debi Batchelor

Harmony Happenings Newsletter Editor

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Quest Quartet

Quest is honored and excited to be Region 3 Quartet Champions this year! We are very grateful for all the love and support you all have shown us along this journey. We look forward to singing for you soon!

We had a bit of an interruption in our preparation for International right after contest. Two of our members had fairly serious and worrisome medical issues that prevented us from rehearsing as a foursome for almost 6 weeks. We're back on track now, learning some new music and working with our coaches to perfect our contest set. We are also looking forward to singing on the Toast of Champaign Show and Melodeers Preview Show in September.

We look forward to seeing many of you this summer at the Quartet Workshop and at Musical Mayhem! We'll have the beautiful music themed quilt, made by Mary Ann, with us. The quilt, along with a wine basket, and a music themed table runner will be the prizes in our fundraising raffle. We hope you'll want a ticket!

Thank you for all your support. We'll do our best to make you proud in Vegas!

In Harmony,
Mary Ann, Sherry, Diane and Debi



By Request Quartet

By Request wishes Quest, our new Region 3 Champions, the best of luck in Vegas. We know they'll represent our region well! We also send good luck wishes to the Melodeers and the Choral-Aires in their journey to Vegas and look forward to hearing all about it.

As to our own journey... we are looking forward to expanding our repertoire and learning new music. The experience last spring of being inducted into the winners' circle was indescribable. We are so grateful to the region for that experience and for the support that you all give so generously.

Always in Harmony~ Angie, Marie, Jen, and Jane



August 1, 2017

Choral-Aires Chorus

Spring is an active time for the Choral-Aires Chorus, busy with Regionals, installation, fundraisers and, this year, preparing for Vegas 3.

This year's Fashion Show, appropriately themed "Everyone's a Winner," was quite a hit, with more than 600 in attendance. Prizes included a week in Cabo and an American Girl doll package which included a doll, handcrafted furniture, and clothing collection.

April saw us making our first trip to Springfield for Regionals, performing for evaluation, followed by our annual installation dinner where we celebrate the year's successes. At that dinner, Sue Brander was named this year's Sandy Dekker Award winner, given in memory of that much-loved member. Three of Sue's daughters, including Associate Member Beth Blade, joined us for the evening.

Next up is the 2nd Annual Choral-Aires Golf Outing on June 22, singing the National Anthem at Arlington Race Track, Schaumburg Boomers baseball, and upcoming coaching sessions with Ryan Heller and Betty Clipman. Every rehearsal builds in excitement as we draw nearer to October and Vegas 3. Enjoy your summer!



Photo taken at Choral-Aires Fashion Show

Crosstown Harmony Chorus

It has been a busy first half of the year for Crosstown Harmony. We prepped for competition with some amazing coaches; Jim Arns, Lynne Smith & Bonnie Fedyski. Each gave us great tips for improving our performances. While we were focused on competition, we also enjoyed serenading loved ones during our annual *Singing Valentine* fundraiser on Valentine's Day. When April finally came, competition was a blast! It was great to see old friends and make new ones too.



The fun continues after competition with many public performances including West Allis Ala Carte, a local street fair in the area; Port Washington's Spring Fling & Volunteer Recognition party; and a very moving patriotic performance at the airport as some of our nation's heroes participated in a Stars & Stripes Honor Flight.



One of the many things that makes Crosstown Harmony such a fun chorus is the bonding we do both during and outside of rehearsal. Be it a pizza making fundraiser, our Annual Picnic, or a trip to see Pentatonix perform at our local state fair this summer, Crosstown members are always having a great time!

Great Lake Sound

Great Lake Sound has had quite an exciting summer with more fun planned! Here's the list:

June 22, 2017: Our monthly "GLS Supper Club" fundraiser was held at Five Guys in June, where we always have a great turnout.

June 27, 2017: "Rodeo Roundup" was the theme for our guest night on June 27 as we invited new singers to join us.

July 8, 2017: We hosted a canvas painting party fundraiser at Gelsosomo's Pizza in Chesterton, Indiana. This was a wonderful fundraiser for us and always produces quite a turnout. The restaurant also hosts karaoke on Saturday nights, and most of our fundraiser guests stayed to sing once they finished painting!

July 23, 2017: We sang at the Porter County Fair, an annual performance for us. We welcomed people of all ages to join us—and, of course, getting some funnel cake afterward was highly encouraged!

August 12, 2017: We will be hosting our second annual 0.0K "race" and picnic at Valplayso Park in Valparaiso. This was a fantastic new event for us last year, and it's back by popular demand. I've attached our flier about it, and we welcome people of all athletic levels to join us! If you've always wanted to participate in a "race" but just don't find yourself wanting to exercise, this is the perfect event for you. Here's how it works: you line up at the start/finish line, take one step, and the race is over! Afterward, we celebrate everyone receiving a first place ribbon with games, hot dogs, and music.

All of these events can also be found on our Facebook page, and you can [click right here to see the full list](#) and RSVP to as many as you'd like!

HarmonEssence Chorus

This Spring has been very busy and exciting times for the HarmonEssence Chorus (formerly Prairie Echoes) from DeKalb, IL. Our name change was finalized with Sweet Adelines HQ on May 1st. We plan for this new name and rebranding to launch us on the journey toward our dreams and aspirations as a chorus!

We've welcomed some new members and had several visitors, both those new to barbershop and even some former members. Rehearsals have been fun and productive thanks to our Interim Director and "Woman of Note" Karen Stuedemann. Some new and more up-to-date music has also helped rejuvenate our spirits.

In April we performed in our local Kiwanis community talent show at the Historic Egyptian Theatre in DeKalb. Our performance was very well received and it was thrilling to be up on stage and under the lights again! This summer we are working to refine our performing skills with our patriotic music selections, and setting up summer performance opportunities in our local communities.

Perhaps most importantly, we recently held interviews for our Director position, and are happy to say we have hired someone...but more about that in the next Newsletter!!

Melodeers Chorus



We invite you to join us for a sneak peek of our upcoming international competition performance in Las Vegas! 2PM on Sunday, September 24th.

Tickets go on sale July 27th! Reach out to your favorite Melodeer or visit our website www.melodeers.org for tickets. We can't wait to see you!

Want to get involved in a quartet but don't know how? Looking for a new baritone? Join us at the Quartet Quest - an opportunity for curious singers and quartets looking to fill parts - to come together!

Lead Faculty: Cori Albrecht,
Bass, 2008 SAI Champion
Quartet the 4 Bettys

Additional Faculty:
Renee Porzel
Deborah Peters



We will be singing International Songs like *How We Sang Today*, *Send Your Love*, and *Harmonize The World*. Bring your music & sense of adventure!

\$5 Donation will be collected at the door to help cover building usage.

Midwest Crossroad Chorus

The last few months have been amazing!

We enjoyed coaching sessions before Regional contest with Jim Arns, Renee Porzel, and Kim Wonders!! What great teachers we have in this organization.

Our Guest Night brought in a few new voices for us to enjoy. We are happy to welcome our newest members, Denise Shepherd and Ashlie Meredith, to Midwest Crossroad.

MCC's Friends and Family preview show, was very entertaining. Quest Quartet performed their contest set, and SideKixx (a chorus quartet) entertained our audience, too. We were excited to share this year's show package with our families and friends! All our hard work came together for a great evening.

Competing in Springfield, on a stage brand new to many of us, was an interesting and educational experience. Midwest Crossroad is very happy to be awarded the Renee Porzel Showmanship Trophy!!! We're thrilled that Quest Quartet, including MCC members Mary Ann Neuman and Debi Batchelor, are the new quartet champs.

We are lucky to be part of an organization, and a region, where excellence abounds and the challenge for improvement never diminishes.

We are Sweet Adelines!

River City Sound

April is but a memory but what a wonderful memory and the start of another journey. River City Sound is very proud to be your 2017 regional champs.

We are starting out our preparation for St. Louis with a bang. We have learned 7 new songs since contest. There's never a dull moment at an RCS rehearsal. You hate to miss even one!

We have several performances lined up this summer. It's great to be in demand to do what we love to do.... PERFORM!

RCS is celebrating Christmas in July. We're going to sneak in a few Christmas songs in our summer performances. What??? We want to get the word out about our 10th annual "Sweet" show. It will be held on December 10th this year. More details to follow in the next Harmony Happenings or check out our website.

And what would summer be without fairs and festivals. Time to shine up our fusil

Trailer and get ready to make our scrumptious cream puffs. We'll be at Cherry Valley Days and of course, the Walworth County Fair. Maybe we'll see you out and about this summer.

This September, River City Sound is honored to be involved in a youth barbershop day in Sterling. We have participated in this event two other times. It is rewarding working with the girls, bringing out their creativity and their inner Diva and most of all, sharing the wonderful art form of 4 part acappella harmony. They are our future. Let's feed the fever for the love of harmony.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer and we'll see you at Musical Mayhem!

Riverport Chorus

What a great weekend in Springfield, Illinois. Congratulations to the Midwest Region 3 Champions- River City Sound and Quest! And congrats to all the competitors – you are all winners. The after party was great fun!

“Summer breeze makes me feel fine ...” What better way to spend a summer than singing with your friends every Monday night and of course all the other activities that go along with that; for Riverport -

- * Annual Rummage Sale
 - * Annual Craft Fair
 - * Open House Membership Night
 - * Coaching
 - * Honor Flight Welcome Home “gig”
 - * Getting ready for our Fall Cabaret
- And on and on. Just keeping those *summer breezes* blowing!

Happy Summertime Region 3! ... *Lazy days, rays of sunshine, baseball games, Burgers*Hot Dogs*Corn on the cob*S’mores, Camp fires, giggles & smiles,*

Toast of Champaign Chorus

Toast of Champaign felt right at home last April as Region 3 returned to our old stomping grounds in Springfield, IL for competition. Congratulations to River City Sound and Quest for gracing the Sangamon Auditorium stage with beautiful music and well-deserved first place scores. We are proud to have you represent us on the International stage.

This summer, our chorus is working hard to prepare for our annual show to be presented [on September 16th](#). With the theme "That's Amore", almost anything is fair game, and we are having fun digging out some old favorites that have not been performed for awhile. Hopefully, they sound better with new and improved skills applied. Last year's show brought out quite a few internal quartets, and we hope that trend continues this year. Perhaps some of them will find their way to the Appleton stage next year at competition. We're hoping!

Several of our chorus members are planning to attend the Admin School in June in hopes of picking up or honing in on good leadership skills. And we really look forward to September and attending Musical Mayhem with Darlene Rogers in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. (If we keep going to that city, maybe we will learn how to spell AND pronounce it.)

Vermillion Valley Show Chorus

Busy Baritone's Blog

What a terrific spring we've had! Several chorus members attended February Frolic in Downers Grove. As always, Betty Clipman stretched us with great new skill-building ideas. (And who can resist the word "frolic" in the gray days of February?)

The fun continued via two coaching sessions with Joan Boutilier, an overnight retreat with Tori Postma, and then the excitement of regional competition in Springfield. Vermillion Valley is so proud and honored to have won three danglies this year: Fourth Place Overall, First Place Small Chorus, and Most Improved Chorus! (Now if I can just figure out how to keep the little ribbons from tangling in my swimsuit straps!)

Congrats to our returning team leader Ruth Finney and to this year's SALLY winner Kathy Endres. With their ever-present smiles and never-ending hard work, they deserve all the homage we can give. (How on earth can they keep going like this? Perhaps they're aliens, sent to make the world a better place. It's working!)

It was hard to say goodbye to our beloved Sandy Barnes, former Associate Director of VVSC, talented musician (bari, of course), and outrageously funny friend. We've hugged her family, placed a memorial brick at Headquarters, and donated to Youth in Harmony, a cause always near and dear to Sandy's heart. Now we just have to take the love and inspiration she provided and pay it forward!

VVSC is looking forward to summer sing-outs and our show at Pontiac's Eagle Theater on October 1—a jammin' jubilee of gospel songs and other favorites. Hope to see you there!

Westosha Lakes Chorus

The Westosha Lakes Chorus brought its own flavor and fun to the 2017 Regionals Open Division in Springfield. This year's event was particularly special for our chorus, as several of our newer members performed in their first ever Sweet Adelines competition. During the post-contest evening festivities, we enjoyed reprising our "Harmony Home" set and singing together with fellow choruses from the region.

The chorus is working on some delightful new music and has enjoyed some new visitors in recent months. We're looking forward to several future sing-outs, from summertime through the holiday season.

We are planning a few fundraisers this year, including participation in a community-wide garage sale extravaganza, where we will vend some intriguing chorus-crafted garden items. Also, the second annual Westosha Lakes Chorus golf outing is scheduled for Sunday, September 17, 2017. Returning highlights include a silent auction and a ball drop, as well as a rousing round of golf.

Watch for the upcoming launch of a brand-new WLC website design. You can also find (and follow) us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WestoshaLakesChorus>



Yahara River Chorus

Despite sickness and missing members, we were proud to bring home our 5th place medal this year in the Midwest Harmony Competition in Springfield, IL. All three of our fabulous quartets were awarded medals this year:

2nd place By Request
4th place Charisma!
5th place Humdingers (1st time competition!)

We had a successful Open House on May 9th, 2017. Several ladies came to check us out and some to just enjoy the music. Hopefully we'll be adding new members soon.

We will be busy this summer working the Brat fest over Memorial Day weekend, joining Make Music Madison, performing a memorial concert, and singing the National Anthem at the local Mallards game!

We are excited to have Whistle Junction join our annual show on October 28th this year. Our theme is Sentimental Journey, and they will surely help us on our way with their outstanding humor!

Attached is a photo of our very special By Request joining the elite Winners Circle. We are so very proud of them and their accomplishments!



LOST & FOUND

A black cardigan was left behind in Choral-Aires hospitality room in Springfield. Please contact nanciesmith@sbcglobal if the description below sounds like your missing sweater!

Black cardigan, size LG, Jerzees brand. Rhinestone zipper, SA logo on left front & large SAI rhinestone logo on the center back.

REGION 3 CLASSIFIED ADS

Regional Boutique Coordinator

Qualifications include an unfulfilled calling to organize and manage people and spaces, a love for all things sparkly and a knack for money-making activities.

Youth Harmony Coordinator

Qualifications include a desire to lower the average age of Sweet Adelines in Region 3, a love for engaging with young women, and a passion to share Sweet Adelines with as many women as possible.

Region 3 Calendar

<u>2017</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
August 20 1-4pm	<u>The Quartet Quest</u> Faculty: Cori Albrecht, Renee Porzel, & Deborah Peters	St. Peter Lutheran Church 202 E. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg, IL
Sept 8-10	Musical Mayhem 2017 Faculty: Darlene Rogers	Olympia Resort and Conference Center 1350 Royale Mile Rd., Oconomowoc, WI
September 16 5pm	<u>Toast of Champaign</u> "That's Amore" Annual Show	Faith United Methodist Church Life & Worship Ctr 1719 N. Prospect Ave., Champaign, IL
September 24 2pm	<u>Melodeers Chorus</u> "Time For Vegas" Preview Show	Stevenson High School 1 Stevenson Drive, Lincolnshire, IL
September 24 3:30pm	<u>Choral-Aires Chorus</u> "Viva Las Vegas" Preview Show	Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 W. Brush Hill Rd, Elmhurst, IL
October 9-14	International Convention & Competition	MGM Grand, Las Vegas, NV
October 21	Heart of Illinois Chorus "Tropical Heartwave"	Illinois Central College Performing Arts Center East Peoria , IL
October 28 2pm	<u>Yahara River Chorus</u> "Sentimental Journey"	TBA
November 19 3pm	<u>Midwest Crossroad Chorus</u> "Pure Imagination"	Trinity Christian School 901 Shorewood Dr, Shorewood, IL
December 10 1:30pm	<u>River City Sound Chorus</u> "Sweet X"	CBCBC 111 W. First St., Belvidere, IL
<u>2018</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
April 19-22	2018 Regional Convention & Competition	Performing Arts Center 400 W. College Ave, Appleton, WI
June 15-16	Battle of the Barbershop Stars Faculty: Kim Vaughn, Vicki Maybury, & Renee Porzel	TBA
Sept 7-9	Musical Mayhem Faculty: Tori Postma	TBA
October 15-20	International Convention & Competition	St. Louis, MO