



# NINE ON LINE



## IMPORTANT DATES

### 2024

Jan 9-14 - [BHS Midwinter Convention](#)

Jan 26-28 - [Winter "Wondersland"](#)

Mar 22-24 - [Sunshine District Spring Convention](#)

May 16-19 - [Regional Convention](#)

Jul 25-28 - [Directors/Visual Leaders Seminar](#) (Tulsa, OK)

Oct 18-20 - [Sunshine District Fall Convention](#)

Oct 28-Nov 2 - [International Convention - Kansas City](#)

### 2025

Apr 4-6 - Regional Competition

### 2026

Apr 15-19 - Regional Competition

## Team Coordinator Corner

In my home State of Texas, the changing of the seasons is marked by the turning of leaves, the arrival of geese, the closing up of pools, and stacking of wood for winter fires.

While the pools stay open and the leaves don't really change in Florida, I do enjoy watching for my Christmas Cactus to bloom and evenings on the lanai with the fire pit glowing. Winter in Florida is a beautiful thing.

During this time of family, food, music, and giving, there is also time for reflection on the journey of 2023 and all that we in Region 9 have accomplished.

At the International level we were represented by five quartets, four of whom were part of the top 11, and we had the 5<sup>th</sup> place medalist chorus for consecutive years.

At the Regional level we have welcomed a brand new chorus and 60 new members as well as 14 returning members, bringing our current Regional Membership to 576.

The RMT made personal visits to every chorus in the Region to present our Roadshow. It was great to connect with each of you in such a personal way after being separated by time, distance, and circumstances for so long. You brought great discussions and questions to us and shared your enthusiasm for our Region.

Our Facebook page has 177 new followers where our reach has grown to almost 35,000; an increase of 97% over last year, including over 24,000 visits.

Our Regional contest webcasts boasted 1,800 watchers logged in at its peak and we had over 610 participants in the audience. With 36 registered quartets (not including our six Queen quartets), our Regional contest is ramping up to be the largest in a very long time. Many are taking advantage of the education and coaching that will be available at Winter Workshop, where we currently have 285 registered to attend, up from 200 last year.

We are certainly the Region to watch in 2024. We will have two choruses competing in the Harmony Classic (Bridges of Harmony and Sound of Sunshine), our outgoing champion, Spirit of the Gulf, in the International contest, four quartets returning in the top 15 (All Fired Up, Duly Noted, Sirens, and Dynasty), and a new quartet champion, making a total of five quartets.

Lace up your running shoes, Region 9! It's going to be a banner year!

See you all at Winter Workshop!

*Gayle Burton*

Master Director  
Region 9 Team Coordinator



# Region 9 Rocks Louisville!

Region 9 is so proud of our representatives at the 2023 International Competition! Dynasty, Sirens, Duly Noted, All Fired Up, For The Love, and Toast of Tampa! Congratulations for a job well done!





# THE MAGIC OF MANATEE SWEET ADELINES CHORUS... SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING!

## The Early Years (1957-1975)

In 1956, 11 years after Sweet Adelines was founded, the first meeting of Sweet Adelines in Bradenton, Florida, was held. About 25 vocalists attended this meeting. The next year, on May 1, 1957, the Bradenton Chapter of Sweet Adelines, under the direction of Sam Stahl, was granted its charter. In November of 1970, 13 years after the first Bradenton chapter was founded, a second chapter of Sweet Adelines, The Friendly City Chapter, was formed under the direction of Hy Gladhill.

Bradenton Chorus 1966



As everyone knows, performing at chorus competitions is just a normal part of being a Sweet Adeline, and the Bradenton Chapter was no different. In 1963 the chorus placed third in the regional contest, and six years later, in 1969, they placed fourth. In 1974, both Bradenton chapters competed at the regional contest held in Atlanta. It was the first competition for members of the Friendly City Chapter. The Bradenton Chapter, with 27 voices under the direction of Mrs. William Siples, came in eighth place overall. The Friendly City Chorus, with 19 voices under the direction of Ed Hinkley, won first Place Small Chorus and thirteenth place overall.

Friendly City Chorus 1970



Friendly City Chorus 1974

As everyone *also* knows, wearing costumes is a normal part of being a Sweet Adeline. The costumes worn by the Bradenton Chapter were described as “flowing yellow gowns with wide motoring hats delicately tied with chiffon.” The costumes worn by the Friendly City Chapter, on the other hand, sounded a bit more unusual in that they were described as “blue and white bathing suits from the 1800s.” The competition photo shows members wearing dark stockings with the costume, but NO shoes!

## Magic of Manatee Chorus (1975-Present)

In October 1975, the Bradenton and Friendly City Chapters of Sweet Adelines, under the direction of Ed Hinkley, consolidated to become the Magic of Manatee Chorus. This newly formed chorus competed for the first time at the regional contest in 1976. At the time, it was the largest chorus in the Atlantic Gulf Region. At this contest, the Magic of Manatee won third place out of 17 competing choruses. The following year, in March of 1977, the new chorus came in second place, and in 1978 the chorus won fourth place out of 22 competing choruses.

In April of 1976, the first annual show of this newly formed chorus was held at Neel Auditorium. Tickets cost \$4.00 and \$5.00. The Bron's Tones, the 1971 Sweet Adelines Quartet Champions, were the featured guest quartet. Betty Lockett (Meinholz), a member of the quartet, would later become an Associate Director of the chorus.

Lee Frayer, a 50+ year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and a member of the Florida Sunshine District Hall of Fame, directed the Magic of Manatee chorus for several years in the 1980s. Lois Van Beek followed Lee as director, and to date she is the longest-serving director of the Magic of Manatee. Lois joined Sweet Adelines in 1971 and became the director of the chorus in 1988. She continued to direct the chorus for the next 30 years. In 2003, under Lois's direction, the chorus earned both the second Place Mid-Size Chorus award and the Most Improved Chorus award. In the years 2014, 2015, and 2016, the Magic of Manatee chorus

# MAGIC OF MANATEE (Cont.)

competed in the Open Division category, winning the Audience Choice award each year. In 2017 and 2018 the chorus continued to compete in the Open Division, winning the Bravo award both years.

During her tenure with the chorus, Lois earned the Sweet Adelines "Certified Director" distinction. In 2003, she was recognized as Most Improved Director at the regional competition. Among her many achievements, Lois started a Young Girls in Harmony chorus at her school for girls in grades 4 through 8. In 2019, she stepped down as director but continued to sing with the chorus. Sadly, she passed away in 2021 after contracting COVID.

Replacing Lois as director in 2019 was Stephen Ditchfield, the highly-respected head of The Ditchfield Family Singers and the bass in the 2003 Florida State Championship Barbershop Quartet, My Three Sons. Stephen skillfully guided us through our 2020 sold-out annual show, and then---COVID ARRIVED. It would be three years before our chorus was able to perform another annual show under his able direction. Our biggest concern brought on by COVID was how we were going to be able to survive as a chorus when face-to-face rehearsals were no longer allowed.

## **The Little Chorus That Could (2020-2022)**

The COVID years, 2020 through 2022, had to be the most challenging of our 65 years as a chorus. None of us had ever lived through a global pandemic before, let alone managed a chorus during one. By focusing on the things we COULD do as a chorus instead of the things we couldn't, over time we figured out how to hold meaningful rehearsals virtually. Surviving this dark chapter, when many choruses our size didn't, is one of our chapter's proudest accomplishments.

## **The Future Looks Bright (2023 & Beyond)**

After four years as our director, Stephen Ditchfield, let us know that he had decided to focus on other pursuits and asked that we start the search for a new director. In July of 2023, it was our good fortune to hire Janice Wagner. Janice earned a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal Music from Bowling Green State University. She has extensive experience singing in and directing vocal groups, including Sweet Adeline choruses. We are pleased to say that our future continues to look bright under her guidance. The Magic of Manatee chorus is currently working on its 2024 competition music, and our show committee is well underway with plans for our 2024 Annual Show on March 9, 2024, at the Neel Performing Arts Center with our featured guest quartet, the Humdingers.

Yes, the Magic of Manatee chorus has changed a lot in 65 years. And yet a lot remains the same...like the pride that comes with being known as a Sweet Adeline...or the joy that comes while learning to master the craft of a capella singing, or the thrill of sharing beautiful music with others through performance. And it's our hope we'll be able to continue making our own special brand of "magic" for years to come.



1977



2017



2002



2023



# Chorus Connection

## Spirit of the Gulf Supports Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida



Spirit members Sue Talbott, Mina Peters-Ritchie, Janet Kamrad, and Linda Presley prepared a meal for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Florida on Friday, November 10th. They used the money collected from members to buy all the ingredients necessary for a delicious baked potato bar. Julie Todaro stopped by to help out during her work hours. Spirit of the Gulf supports Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida by collecting supplies and gift cards for the house and small groups from our chorus occasionally prepare a meal for families staying at the house.



**Venetian Harmony** recently had our Fall Workshop, organized by our Director, Betty Meinholz, to practice vowel sounds and improve our resonance and vocal sound. It was a very productive musical experience! See picture below of the chorus and two of our newest members, Holly O'Keefe, Bass, and Kimberly DeHetre, Lead.



Our chorus performances are filling up for the holidays with events at tree lighting ceremonies, and parties in resident communities and restaurants. We end the year singing at the wedding of one of our members, Jennifer Loadman.

We wish you all a merry and safe holiday and New Year

On December 9, **Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus** partnered with Barbergators Chorus (the men's local barbershop chorus) to present Holiday Harmonies X, a staged radio show. As the name suggests, this was the tenth time we've combined our choruses to entertain our friends and families. We presented two shows that afternoon, both of which were well attended. Afterward both choruses enjoyed a wonderful "afterglow" party with more singing and fun.



We were thrilled to have three of our newest members performing with us! Meagan Reagle and Shealyn Hannen both successfully auditioned with us during our Open Auditions last fall. And as proof of the adage, "You never know when you'll meet someone interested in singing with you," we met Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney when we were scouting venues for our chorus' upcoming 50th Anniversary party! All three are wonderful additions to our Lead section. Reagle had one of the major speaking parts in our radio show, and Kaitlyn sang in the pick-up comedy quartet in the show.



# Chorus Connection (cont.)

Rounding out our holiday festivities, the chorus went caroling at two local senior housing facilities, sharing a little holiday spirit with the residents and staff. And we enjoyed singing at the City's annual Tree Lighting event, as we do almost every year.

We will take a little time off for the next couple of weeks but are looking forward to several exciting events during our anniversary year of 50 years in harmony!



The **Women of Note** has had a joyous holiday season performing all over South Florida and spreading holiday cheer in the community. The chorus has performed for the communities of Tivoli Lakes and Valencia Bay, for a full house at the Downtown Boca Raton Library, and for the residents of LUXE Healthcare and Tuscan Gardens. We even had a pick-up quartet sing for the Opening Night of *A Christmas Carol* at the Lake Worth Playhouse! Our chorus quartet, Sunstation, has been busy as well, singing in all of our ensemble programs and highlighting the joy of 4-part harmony, quartet style! The chorus closed the holiday season with a



fabulous end-of-year party where we ate, sang, and were entertained by soloists, trios, and pick-up quartets! Women of Note is looking forward to 2024! The new year will bring coaching sessions, contest preparation, local performances, and our Spring Show, "Life Is A Cabaret: A Musical Revue", at The Lake Worth Playhouse on Sunday, April 28th, at 2 p.m. We hope to see you there! Happy holidays!!

**Toast of Tampa** had a busy year in 2023!

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

We were thrilled to represent Region 9 at the International Competition in Louisville. It was great to be on the International stage again after a four-year hiatus due to the Pandemic. Our theme for the week was *Mary Poppins*, and we enjoyed singing the wonderful arrangements that were written for us by Clay Hine and Gary Lewis. Throughout the week we sang songs from the original *Mary Poppins* movie, *Mary Poppins Returns*, and from the Broadway show.

We lit up the stage during our finals package with a little help from Kyle Fletcher, a friend of Jamee Billings a la "For the Love" quartet. Kyle helped us create a lighted costume that he was able to control from the audience. It was great fun for us, and the audience seemed to love it, too!



If you missed our packages, here are the links:

[Louisville Semi-Finals](#)

[Louisville Finals](#)



We had lots to celebrate in Louisville. Our quartets represented us well, and we were blown away by the performances of ***Sirens***, ***Dynasty***, ***Duly Noted***, and ***For the Love***.



# Chorus Connection (cont.)

We had our largest “Rookie Class” ever. ToT gives the “Rookie” label to any singer who has not yet competed with us at International since joining. Now that they’ve competed in Louisville, they are no longer Rookies! This picture shows our talented group of ladies after receiving their fifth place medals!



We were also happy to celebrate Jody Little’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Sweet Adelines. Jody “grew up” in Sweet Adelines, singing with her mother and sister. She sang in quartets for many years, winning seven Regional Championships. (Look for her singing in Region 9’s Top Hat Club!) We love having Jody in our ToT baritone section.

## LIFE AFTER LOUISVILLE

Alas, there is life after competition.



In mid-December, we had a joint Christmas concert in Sun City with *The Heralds of Harmony*. It is always fun to join voices with our brothers in harmony!



During our Christmas show, we welcomed two brand new members, Amy and Jade, to the stage with us for the first time, and we welcomed Katie Noriega back with us, too.

We are SO proud of our amazing director, Tony De Rosa. If you’ve been to the Epcot Candlelight Processional this season, you may have seen him conducting the orchestra and choir. He was invited to conduct the Processional 12 times this year, and he rocked it!



We are looking forward to seeing all of our Region 9 friends at Winter Workshop in January, where we will be performing on the Saturday Night Show.

# Chorus Connection (cont.)



## A Cappella Bay Show Chorus

What a great year we have had! We returned to contest after four years with our new Director, Lisa Williams, and had so much fun together. This summer we worked on our vocal skills and enjoyed a fabulous coaching session with Kim Elger-Griffin. This holiday season, we presented our Christmas Show, "It's Christmas, Carol," featuring an original script written by Julianna Guinin, appearances by ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future, and, of course, Santa Claus! We capped off the year with a performance at Tampa International Airport. We are looking forward to sharing our joy of barbershop in 2024!



**O-Town Sound** had a fabulous time this past December spreading holiday cheer at a Friends and Family mini-concert on December 11<sup>th</sup>, which featured Ladybug Quartet. They also performed for the Heathrow Women's Club at their holiday luncheon on December 12<sup>th</sup>.





# Chorus Connection (cont.)



**Suncoast Harmony Chorus** was bringing Christmas cheer all December long!

Suncoast Harmony sang at Salishan Gracious Living in Spring Hill in early December. Later in the week we had the opportunity to sing for a Ladies Club in Timber Greens in New Port Richey, and also that same afternoon we sang at an assisted-living facility nearby. It was so much fun to sing for the residents there. They were singing along with us!



We performed at the Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church in Inverness, and we were so happy to help bring Christmas cheer. They had a lovely reception afterwards which we enjoyed, and we were able to talk with some of the attendees.



Once again we were invited to sing Christmas Carols on a catamaran in the canals of Hernando Beach. Thanks to Frank and Greta for that! Before we went on the boat, a neighbor who was not well asked us to sing for her when she came outside with her caretaker. It was so touching to see her smiles as we sang. Once on the catamaran, it was a delight to see people turning on their flashlights to call us over to sing to them as the sun was setting. What fun to bring joy to the residents of Hernando Beach!

Lastly, Suncoast Harmony had an opportunity to sing at the Valerie Theater, and it was delightful to sing at such a historic theater which almost 100 years old! (See photo of Suncoast in front of the Valerie Theater.) Suncoast Harmony Chorus wishes all Sweet Adeline Sisters in Harmony a very Happy New Year!



What a whirlwind of a fall and early winter for the **Bridges of Harmony Chorus!**

In the last several weeks we have had several performances out in public, run a successful Singing Telegrams program with Christmas season music, and, most recently, we put on a successful "Santa Express" show in a new

auditorium-style venue – a first for us since our chartering in 2017! A number of brand new members stepped up in a big way and were able to do many of those performances with us – we are so very, very proud of them!

Within our midst, quartets also seem to be springing up like tulips and daffodils – last count is five (5) chapter quartets who have at least one member in Bridges of Harmony Chorus!

We have an aggressive coaching season planned in our run-up to our 2024 Harmony Classic appearance in Kansas City in coming fall! Coaches we've worked with or are on the docket: Jim Arns, Gina Baker, Jay Giallombardo, Lori Lyford, Diane Porsch and Renee Porzel!

A first for us this past several months is throwing open music repertoire suggestions to a chorus vote – the Music Team took in all suggested song titles (and arrangements where known!) and ran a "semi-final" and "final" vote with the chorus membership! It really has been quite the fun and interesting challenge to prepare this music for public performances!

On the upcoming performance docket this spring will be appearance(s) at the Duval Alden Road Exceptional Center and the CalaVita Music and Arts Festival!



# Quartet Capers

Happy New Year from **Ladybug Quartet!** We had our Annual Ladybug Retreat the weekend of International Competition and worked hard preparing for a busy December. After solidifying our Christmas set, we decided to relax at the resort. We found ourselves singing in the hot tub, and before we knew it, a crowd had gathered. Some of them had never heard Barbershop before. We introduced them to a new genre of music, gained some new fans, and coined a new phrase: "Hot Tub Barbershop." Don't worry, you'll be hearing more about that in the future! We had a busy December performing at Tampa International Airport, the A Cappella Bay Show Chorus' "It's Christmas, Carol!", O-Town Sound's Friends and Family Christmas, and a few other holiday gigs. We're excited to see everyone and share harmony at Winter Regional. In true Ladybug fashion, we have a little fun prepared.



**Sunsation** was thrilled to sing with the Women of Note this holiday season at all their performances and helped provide entertainment at the annual holiday party!



Singing has the remarkable ability to bring people together. And during the holidays, that has been most in the forefront for **Ta-Da!** The best gift we can give this holiday season is music. The most wonderful things sometimes are the simple things that we fail to notice. When we sing together, we get the real gift of joyful human connection!



We had the honor and pleasure of being a featured quartet at the annual Christmas Carol sing at the first Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers in early December and on the Bridges Of Harmony show!

So in this spirit, why don't you make a "Ta-Da" list. At the end of the day, write the things that happened during the day, which brought you light, peace, happiness, or simply a smile.

We wish you a wonderful holiday, full of music, warmth, and joy.

Diane, Lisa, Sylvia and Vivian.

**Syncopation** has been busy building repertoire and freshening up Christmas music. Some highlights have been singing at our Lead's school for the Great American Teach-in, singing everything we know for our Bass's dad (a long time barbershopper) who is confined to a hospital bed at home, and singing at Tampa International Airport for holiday travelers. A scheduled gig at a favorite assisted living facility had to be cancelled because our Bari's daughter decided to have a baby that day! As we head into contest season, we are looking forward to weekly rehearsals and coaching. We can't wait to see everyone at Winter Regional!



Pam, Barb, Sandy, & Kris



## Quartet Capers (cont.)



**AttiTunes** had a very busy holiday season! We started our performances by doing a few songs at Southern Company Chorus's appearance at the State Fairgrounds in Tampa for a huge Christmas gift sale on November 12. Friday, December 1, we sang at a private party; Saturday, December 2, we sang at two private parties; and Sunday December 3, we performed at a private HOA party in Ruskin in front of 200 people. Monday, December 11, we performed twice in the Tampa Airport - 30 minutes each time. So much fun to bring smiles to people traveling for the holidays! Then our final gig was with Southern Company Chorus on Friday, December 22, at a Memory Care

Facility in Brandon where we did a few of our humorous Christmas songs. Now we begin working hard on our competition package for May - a great way to start the new year!



**Sound of the Keys** has been busy! We were all heavily involved in South Florida Jubilee's annual holiday show. Our Lead, Heather, wrote the script, our Tenor, Brittany, designed our program, our Baritone, Kimberly, took care of administrative duties and our Bass, Rita, helped with marketing and organized our Afterglow. And of course, we sang in the show! We performed at other Jubilee performances during the holiday season. We also had the pleasure of performing with our sister quartet, Marmalade Skies, for the residents of Covenant Village. We look forward to attending Winter Workshop and coaching with one of our great faculty members.

**Marmalade Skies** has had a busy fall. We sang a Halloween-inspired parody at our Chorus' Fashion Show. Halloween Groove (sung to Basin Street Blues) and Howl at the Moon (sung to How High the Moon) were a big hit. We then sang on South Florida Jubilee's annual holiday show, Wishful Thinking, and at other chorus performances. In late December, we had the pleasure of entertaining the residents at Covenant Village in a joint performance with our sister quartet, Sound of the Keys. Now it's time to prepare for Valentine's Day!



Wow! What an amazing time **Sirens** had in Louisville representing the best Region in the organization!! We can't thank our Region, our choruses, and our friends enough for all of your support going into International Competition this year. Region 9 has done such a wonderful job of supporting our competitors with well wishes, donations, and even beautiful flowers coming off the stage. You truly know how to make us feel special! Congratulations to Toast of Tampa on an amazing 5th place finish, and we couldn't be prouder to have come in third Place - an achievement we are still pinching ourselves over! To claim those top spots with Dynasty and Duly Noted made the week that much more special! We are so excited for the year to come and hope to continue to make you proud in Kansas City! We will be doing a little more performing than rehearsing in the month of June though!



DeeDee and James will be directing the Harmony Travel chorus during a trip of a lifetime to Tuscany, and all of Sirens will be there! Come join us as we head to Italy with Harmony Travel!! We have 2 busses full of fun friends and singers, ready to explore Tuscany, and we'd love to have you be a part of it all!

It's going to be a fantastic trip!! Check it out at [harmony-travel.net](http://harmony-travel.net)! We're really looking forward to being together and seeing you all at Winter Workshop at the end of this month. Let's sing some tags!!!

# Quartet Capers (cont.)

The word “Cantiamo” is Italian in origin and translates as “we love to sing” or “let’s sing” which describes us \*perfectly\*!



We were blessed throughout the 2023 spring to have the advantage of “coaching on demand” with legendary BHS Hall of Fame & Lifetime Achievement awardee Jay Giallombardo pretty much every time we rehearsed at the Giallombardo home – his vocal production tutelage helped lay the groundwork for our sound jelling pretty rapidly since our quartet formed. We also took advantage of Jim Arns’ masterful coaching when he came to town to coach Bridges of Harmony!

Words tend to fail when describing our very first Region 9 contest appearance in May 2023 – after having such fun on stage then talking on the webcast to all our farflung fans who listened in from literally all over the world, it was pretty overwhelming while standing there on the risers to wait for the medals and placement call off in between quartets destined to go onto the International contest who placed in the Top 5 - that was really something! Imagine our joy when we were called for 4<sup>th</sup> place honors at the 2023 Reg. 9 contest!



Our schedule TOTALLY revolves around our tenor Maddie Higdon’s college schedule – whenever she is home, we squeeze in time to get together. Both our lead Kim Higdon and our bass Shelly Traficante have “big deal” jobs during weekdays, and our baritone, Helen Giallombardo balances recording of learning tracks for barbershop and community choirs all over the world with her small start-up company! So getting together is indeed a challenge!

A big “thank you” of our appreciation goes out to our Bridges of Harmony Chorus for all your love and encouragement while we found time here and there surrounding rehearsals in order to prepare our two songs that we performed on the “Santa Express” show in mid December at the FSCJ – Kent Campus Auditorium! We are very excited about singing for the upcoming Winter Workshop Saturday night show! Our coaching schedule is really booking up as well and will keep us on our toes! We hope to launch ourselves on social media in coming weeks as well – so .... Stay tuned and hit the “Like” button when you Can. We appreciate your support more than we can possibly say!

**Spark!** Has been having fun bonding and rehearsing over the last several months and are excited for the upcoming contest season. Next month, we have coaching sessions planned as well as some fun too. Our Bass is from Harmony Inc and we are looking forward to a little mixer of her Harmony Inc quartet and our quartet. It’s been such a pleasure to ring chords together and we can’t wait for you to see us sparkle and shine!





# Unsung Heroes of Region Nine



Have you ever wondered how all those awards, plaques, trophies, and medals get to Regional Competition? We've all entered the wing backstage in preparation for our contest set and been blinded by the tables full of shiny gold and silver medals, giant quartet and chorus trophies, and all the gemmed baubles and bling! Did you know that before the Quartet Competition begins there are over 1,250 individual awards on display backstage? **Sarah Giguere** does - she's prepared every single one of them.

In addition to being the Finance Coordinator for O-Town Sound, singing lead with them and Bridges of Harmony, and being the lead in Ladybug Quartet, Sarah is the region's awards coordinator. For her, contest starts in January when she inventories the region's medals and supplies. The velvet ribbons for the quartet medals and all the different colored cords for the chorus medals must be ordered ahead of time and cut to different lengths.

The International Office requires a specific color for each medal. Sarah keeps in touch with the Competition Coordinator and is updated on the membership and how many singers will be competing. There needs to be a medal available for each member competing in each division. Individual Quartet Champion and Novice Quartet trophies are the next thing to be ordered, along with the Champion Chorus Director's Award. She keeps track of who received Traveling Trophies and Plaques from the previous year and she starts sending out reminder emails. "When you pack for Competition, don't forget to bring your awards!"

After Competition Registration is closed, she places the order from the International office for chorus medals, quartet medals, and certificates. When the trophy and medal orders come in, the fun begins. Did you know that each of the chorus medals comes individually packaged? The cords and ribbons are cut to specific lengths, and each medal is prepared for the winners! They're all carefully counted and packed.

The awards table is an International requirement and has to be set on Thursday before the Official Inspection. Sarah is backstage during the chorus awards making sure the correct medals and plaques are ready when the winners are announced and keeping track of the new recipients. Saturday night, she packs everything up and stores it for the following year.

"It's a big task, but it's really fun and very rewarding! Everyone works so hard for so long to earn those medals. I like knowing that intention was put into getting everything prepared. I get to see all the happy faces receiving their awards and I love that I had a small part in making those smiles. I'm not afraid of an Excel Spreadsheet, so keeping track of everything is time consuming, but it satisfies that part of my brain that needs things organized. There are also times I get to personally enjoy the fruits of my labor!", Sarah said. So... the next time you look at a competition medal, know that it was carefully prepared just for you.

# Sharing Region Nine Memories

One time, several years ago, I forgot the pitch pipe for contest. I'd been blowing the pitch for a few years already. It wasn't in my car, which is where I keep it. I'd driven with someone else and left home without it. I was in full panic since I was the only pitch blower that year. Thankfully, James asked DeeDee if I could borrow Spirit's pitch pipe. And it went off without another hitch!!

**Laura Knowles, South Florida Jubilee and Spirit of the Gulf.**

I'll never forget the time when Spirit of the Gulf was rehearsing on the risers in Phoenix and the lights went out in room. It was totally black in there ! I started singing, "Day-O, Day-O, daylight come and me wanna go home." Everyone chimed in and kept singing 'til the lights came back on. Then we had a few laughs about it.

**Sue Craig, Spirit of the Gulf**

As a 66 year old first timer "Rookie" in anything to do with Sweet Adelines and Barbershop, I feel extremely blessed by the friendships I have made singing with The Toast of Tampa Show Chorus and The Southern Company Chorus. At my very first Regional in May it was a thrill to both compete with SCC and Sing the Bow out Package with TOT. Every person I met from every chorus was kind and helpful and genuinely excited that I was taking on this brand new adventure at "my age". A special highlight for me came at the end of the competition when hundreds of us stood together holding hands singing, 'How We Sang Today'. My heart was full of love for this beautiful musical society, and I was moved to tears because I really thought that would be one of the last times for me to sing in Sweet Adelines, as we were scheduled to move to Cartagena, Colombia, at the first of June.

But God had different plans. We didn't move in June, and I was able to stay and prepare to sing with Toast of Tampa and compete on the International Stage in Louisville, KY. As a "Rookie," I wanted to do my very best in the competition, and I also had another personal goal, which was to hold hands and sing that sweet song with my friends at the end of the day. But wouldn't you know it, when the announcement was made that it was time to sing "How We Sang Today", I found myself standing alone with lines of people moving by me to get to the exits and no one I knew to hold hands with. I looked at my fellow competitors from Forth Valley and Lions Gate who stood several feet in front of me and Ronninge who stood a few feet to the side, and as the pitch was given, I wondered if it would be weird to ask to hold their hands. I suddenly felt very alone as the song started and I tried to sing, and then it happened! One of the beautiful Swedish singers stepped over and grabbed my hand and smiled at me. We sang our harmonies hand in hand. And as the words of the song filled my mind, my heart was overflowing with joy at this beautiful gesture and the music that brought us together. I wish I could say thank you to that sweet Ronninge singer, whoever she is. Her simple act to include me has become one of my favorite memories of my Sweet Adelines journey.

Five days after leaving internationals I joined my husband in South America. I am now living in Cartagena, Colombia, but look forward to getting back to the USA in a year to continue my musical journey with Sweet Adelines, to renew old friendships, make new ones, and sing, sing, sing those barbershop chords!

**Cindy Cunningham, Southern Company/Toast of Tampa**

I believe the year might have been 1997. Regional competition was going to be held in Jacksonville at the Florida Times Union Building right on the St John's river. My memory is actually twofold. First, this was the only year that my mother and my daughter would be on stage singing with me in my chorus Southern Celebration from Orange Park, Florida. That was a pleasant memory in itself, but I was also going to be competing with my quartet, G Whiz. Bonnie Lathom was the lead in the quartet and had chosen a beautiful ballad "Chase The Rain Away" for us to sing. Just before we were going on stage, we could hear that there might be some rain starting. Bonnie told us to just focus on singing, even though there might be some snickering due to the content of the song. We started our package with the uptune. Then came the ballad, along with the rumbling of thunder. We could see the audience leaping out of their seats. The judges were taking shelter under the judges table. We were focused! We kept singing. When the set was finished, we left the stage to be greeted by our entire chorus. They were astonished that we just sang our way through a twister that hit the building we were in, tore an air conditioning unit off of the roof and threw it into the river. Some may remember this happening. I know that I'll never forget that competition.

**Carla Chadwick, Bridges of Harmony**



# DEDICATED DIRECTORS

*David Templeton, Sound of Charleston*



David's first experience with Barbershop was singing in a boys' quartet in high school in Texas. Since then, he went on to get Bachelor and Master of Music Performance degrees with an emphasis in Vocal Pedagogy. He stopped just shy of finishing his Doctorate at Ohio State because his operatic career took off. His full-time job for many years was that of an operatic baritone, whose career spanned three continents. Wanting to be home more, he began teaching voice on a university level and has done so for the past 18 years with the last 16 being at the College of Charleston. He is also the Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church of Charleston for the past 13 years.

David's connection to SAI is through his wife of 30 years, Melody. She has been an active Sweet Adeline for 25 years: as a section leader for Scioto Valley Chorus, a regional quartet medalist, a regional board member, and recently the director of Shore Notes. During that time, David has taught voice lessons to members of Scioto Valley and coached numerous medal winning quartets, both women and men.

We are happy to bring a new chorus to Region 9!

## Introducing Our Regional Education Coordinator

**Kim Elger-Griffin's** love for barbershop harmony started in 1980 when her boss invited her to his men's chorus show. She joined the Five Valley Chapter in Missoula, MT, and sang Lead with them for three years. Life ensued and after a lengthy hiatus she returned to barbershop in 1997. She was a member and Associate Director of the Women of Note Chorus in Southeast Florida – 2005 SAI Harmony Classic small chorus champions. She has recently rejoined them in an advisory capacity.

Her quartet background includes Heatwave (2006 8th Place International Medalists) and Fireworks Quartets, and, most notably, Bling! (2015 International Quartet Champion). Her newest quartet venture, All Fired Up, is the current SAI 11<sup>th</sup> place quartet.



In addition to being a proud member of the Spirit of the Gulf (2022 5<sup>th</sup> Place Medallists), she is a Certified Director, serves as Region 9's current RMT Education Coordinator, and is a long-time member of the Region 9 Education Faculty. Previous roles in chapter management include Team Coordinator, Music Team Member, and Show Chair. She also served as Region 9's Team Coordinator and as SAI Regional Leadership Coordinator. She currently coaches quartets and choruses with their musical and administrative needs and provides personal vocal instruction for members.

Kim is an IT/ telecommunications engineer with AT&T (Mobility) and resides in Boca Raton.

## Official Judging Panel for 2024 Regional Convention

Sound: Sandy Marron

Music: Jana Gutenson

Expression: Vickie Maybury (also Panel Chair)

Visual Communications: Lisa Greenough

Panel Secretary: Andrea Hass

# The Story Behind the New Spring Contest Logo

By Ali Pauluhn Bias

**Q:** What was the inspiration behind your design?

**A:** I really love this year's theme "Spring into Song" and I was so excited to see that the RMT was offering members the opportunity to be involved in the design this year. I saw so much opportunity to create not just a logo, but a full branding suite that was vibrant, fun, and that leaned heavily into the theme. I wanted to create something that felt celebratory and energetic, two qualities that I think really embody the competition weekend. My goal was to deliver a brand suite that was bold, effervescent, and a little quirky. I wanted a look that could be applied with versatility to all of the event collateral, and one that would communicate the excitement of contest weekend.



The floral motif represents the individual unique singers in Region 9 and communicates the life and energy of springtime. The text's curves are modern, feminine, and full of movement, like the singers on stage, while the supporting graphics take their inspiration from retro florals and a mod color palette. My hope is that this design communicates the energy and joy embodied by the amazing musical talent in Region 9 while also being fun for members to interact with during the competition.

I have been a Sweet Adeline for 10 years, and this will be my fourth year directing O-Town Sound. In my non-barbershop life, I own a branding agency in Mount Dora ([AP Design](#)) where I work on large brand strategy, visual branding, and marketing projects for a wide variety of local and national clients. I am thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to share my passion for great design with Region 9.

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## Ask A Judge

**Q:** Is there a difference in judging an international contest versus a regional contest?

**A:** This is a 3-part answer!

- The Performance Guidelines (level descriptors) that judges use, and that are available to all members to read, don't change from one contest to another; the same standards are used to adjudicate performances in both types of contests.
- The mindset of the judges has to be significantly different for the two types of contests. At regional contests, we generally hear performances that range from the C level up to one of the A levels and can focus on the general characteristics of those levels. At international contests, we rarely hear anything at a level below mid-B, and the contest overall stays mostly at high B to A (scores in the 70s and low 80s, a range of only 15 points). Our ears, our eyes, and our brains have to focus on the details and nuances of the elements in our categories. We need to listen more closely for vocal skills, unity, fine tuning, matched energy, etc., so that we can assign scores that reflect the SMALL differences between the performances we experience. We know that a single point from just one or two judges can make a difference in the rankings of these excellent performers.
- It's not uncommon for scores at the international level to be lower than the scores earned at the regional contest where the group qualified. This tends to be true especially for quartets. Part of the reason is the huge difference in the size of the venue. The performance energy needs to match the venue, and often the singers are still singing with the energy they used in a hotel ballroom or small theater—or their own rehearsal hall or living room--instead of an arena. This doesn't mean our performing groups should sing LOUDER - just with an energy and focus that reaches to all corners of the arena.

Thanks for your questions. We have LOTS more to talk about at Winter Workshop in the Saturday afternoon class, "Myths, Mysteries, and Misconceptions," that Gina Baker and I will be leading. Hope to see you there!!!

Jan Meyer, Certified Music Judge



# Ignite the Sound - Region 9

## New Members

### Bridges of Harmony Chorus

Jack Champagne  
Mary Roesler

### Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus

Shealyn Hannen  
Kaitlyn Hof-Mohoney  
Meagan Reagle

### Platinum Show Chorus

Christine Chasteen

### Shore Notes A Cappella Chorus

Ellen Dzwonar  
Mary Jawordki  
Leslie Kennedy  
Cori Randall

### Sound of Sunshine

Crystal Wood

### South Florida Jubilee Chorus

Kaylee Mastrangelo  
Amy Weinberg

### Spirit of the Gulf

Alena Koltashava  
Linda Presley

### Suncoast Harmony

Deborah Hamilton

### Venetian Harmony

Kimberly DeHetre

### Women of Note

Lauren Harner  
Aimee Kover

## Dual Members

### Bridges of Harmony Chorus

Marsha Oakes  
Marisa Whisel

### Sound of Sunshine

Cynthia Cohen

### Spirit of the Gulf Chorus

Sondra Avant  
Kelli Chou  
Amanda Proctor  
Brittany Sloan

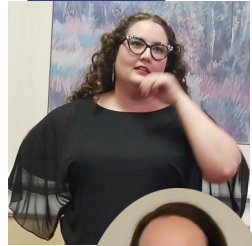
## Returning/ Transferring Members

### Bridges of Harmony Chorus

Lisa Adams  
JeriJo Fox  
Liz Green  
Tatiana Zavala

### Women of Note Chorus

Erin Acevedo



# Tag, You're It!

Click [HERE](#) to watch Sound of the Keys' rendition of this tag!

## Region Nine Tag

Words and Music by Kimberly Heilbrun

Arranged by  
Kimberly Heilbrun

The musical score is written for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Oh we're so fine. We are the so fine. great Re - gion Nine! great, great Re - gion Nine! great Re - gion Nine!"

### Regional Management Team

Team Coordinator: Gayle Burton  
regional\_team\_coordinator@coastalharmony.org

Membership Coordinator: Donna Martin  
membership@coastalharmony.org

Marketing Coordinator: Melissa Maris  
marketing@coastalharmony.org

Director's Coordinator: Faye McLanahan  
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Education Coordinator: Kim Elger-Griffin  
regional\_education\_coordinator@coastalharmony.org

Finance Coordinator: Debbie Thornton  
finance@coastalharmony.org

Communications Coordinator: Maria Maxwell  
communications@coastalharmony.org

Event Coordinator: Amanda Wreford  
events@coastalharmony.org

### Regional Education Coordinators

Directors Certification Program (DCP) Coordinator – Deanna Kastler (deannakastler8@gmail.com)

Young Women in Harmony (YWIH) Coordinator – Gina Baker (vivalead4@gmail.com)

Arrangers Certification Program (ACP) Coordinator – Jan Meyer (jan.meyer@hotmail.com)