



NINE ON LINE



IMPORTANT DATES

2024

- Oct 5 - Toast of Tampa presents
"A Night at the Theater"
Oct 18-20 - [Sunshine District Fall Convention](#)
Oct 19 - [A Cappella Bay 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary](#)
Oct 19 - Sound of Sunshine Friends and Family Performance (see Chorus Connection for details)
Oct 28-Nov 2 -
[International Convention - Kansas City](#)
Nov 16 - Platinum Show Anniversary Showcase

2025

- Jan 24-26 - Winter Workshop
Apr 4-6 - Regional Competition
Oct 20-25 - International Convention
Columbus, Ohio

2026

- Jan 30-Feb 1 - Winter Workshop
May 13-17 - Regional Competition
Oct 26-31 - International Convention
Columbus, Ohio

2027

- Apr 15-18 - Regional Competition

Team Coordinator Corner

What a time to be a member of Region 9!

We were well represented this summer at the Director and Visual Leader Seminar in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Congratulations to our new Sweet Adelines International Rising Star Quartet Champions, Radiant!

Congratulations to our new Sweet Adelines International Diamond Division Champions, Bubbly!

Congratulations to our new Sweet Adelines International 2nd Place Diamond Division Quartet, Shine!

Their stunning performances captivated the judges and audience alike, and we couldn't be prouder. This victory is a testament to their teamwork, passion, and commitment to excellence. Each quartet brought something unique to the stage, and it was truly inspiring to witness.

Fall is officially here, and **WOW**, is Region 9 on fire! We are going to be represented on the international stage in Kansas City by not one, but three choruses and not one, but five quartets.

Unfortunately, Duly Noted has had to withdraw (due to some health issues) which would have been six quartets! We will miss Duly Noted at International, but we look forward to their return next year when we can continue to cheer them on along their journey.

Be sure to purchase access to the October 28-November 2 webcast. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss a single Region 9 performance.
[SAI Webcast \(sweetadswebcast.com\)](http://sweetadswebcast.com)

Harmony Class Competition - Tuesday, October 29

Division A Contestant #2: Sound of Sunshine Show Chorus
(approx. on-stage time – 6:00 p.m. CDT, 7:00 p.m. EST)

Division AA Contestant #4 Bridges of Harmony Chorus
(approx. on-stage time – 8:55 p.m. CDT, 9:55 p.m. EST)

Quartet Semi-Finals - Wednesday, October 30

Contestant #5: Radiant
(approx. on-stage time – 10:54 a.m. CDT, 11:54 a.m. EST)

Contestant #24: Bubbly
(approx. on-stage time – 4:25 p.m. CDT, 5:25 p.m. EST)

Team Coordinator Corner (Cont.)

Contestant #34: Dynasty
(approx. on-stage time – 5:26 p.m. CDT, 6:26 p.m. EST)

Contestant #38: All Fired Up
(approx. on-stage time – 7:26 p.m. CDT, 8:26 p.m. EST)

Contestant #42: Sirens
(approx. on-stage time – 8:10 p.m. CDT, 9:10 p.m. EST)

Chorus Semi-Finals - Thursday, October 31

Contestant #21: Spirit of the Gulf Chorus
(approx. on-stage time – 5:02 p.m. CDT, 6:02 p.m. EST)

Each chorus and quartet has poured their heart and soul into preparing for this moment, and their hard work truly reflects the spirit, passion, and talent of Region 9. From powerful harmonies to mesmerizing performances, we can't wait to see them shine on this international stage.

Let's come together to cheer them on as they showcase their remarkable talent and dedication. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to connect with other passionate musicians from around the world and share the joy of music!

Here's to a spectacular competition filled with unforgettable moments. We're all rooting for you!

Gayle Burton

Master Director
Region 9 Team Coordinator

Tag, You're It!

Click [HERE](#) to watch our Second Place Regional winner and 2024 Wildcard, Bubby's, rendition of this tag!

1. I Love To Sing 'Em

I love to sing 'em, I love to ring 'em, love those bar-ber-shop,
I love to sing 'em, I love to ring 'em, I

bar-ber-shop chords. Give me those bar-ber-shop chords!
sing-in', ring-in' chords!
Oh, give chords!

Mac Huff

Platinum Show Turns 50 this Year

On November 11, 1974, twenty-two women who loved to sing chartered the Platinum Coast Chorus of Sweet Adelines International. The name "Platinum" was chosen to represent the silvery-white sands of the coastal beaches that border the city of Melbourne, Florida and its surrounding towns. This small but mighty chorus has stood the test of time for fifty years and continues to thrive today.

In 2015, our name changed to Platinum Show Chorus. The change in name brought us to expand our singing expertise and earn a few awards at yearly regional competitions. Since 2015, we have won a total of four medals and most-improved chorus twice.



The chorus has performed at many events in Brevard county throughout the last 50 years. Some of the more notable venues include:

- Singing the national anthem for the Washington Nationals during their spring training game when they were in Viera
- Cocoa Women's' club 100-year celebration
- Disney Vero Beach Christmas performances
- Honor Flight family reunions
- Women's History Celebration during
- Assisted living facilities, Melbourne Mall, The Avenues at Viera
- Air Force Wives luncheons

Our current director is Elaine Haugen, who has been a member of Sweet Adelines since 1977 and a director for six years. The member count is still at 22, but we have fluctuated in numbers through the years. We weren't affected by the recent pandemic too hard, as we were able to meet and practice during Zoom meetings and outdoors as things generally improved.



This year, as we celebrate 50 years as a chapter, we are preparing a performance that will showcase songs through the decades. Not only will we perform familiar songs that are well known and loved, we'll also take you on a photo journey through the decades of the 70s through today. The show will be held on November 16, at the Heritage Isle, 6800 Legacy Blvd, #6692, Viera, Florida. See our [website](#) for ticketing information.

Chorus Connection

Gainesville Harmony Is Rockin'

We keep the calendar for Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus quite full. In addition to our monthly singing of patriotic songs at the Naturalization Ceremony for new citizens, we entertain regularly at a variety of area locations.

Earlier this summer, our music team attended the Bridges of Harmony Chorus coaching session. Lori Lyford was the coach for the Friday evening/all-day-Saturday session, and the music team found it to be very helpful seeing how she worked with the chorus and the techniques she used to get the desired vocal and visual performance.

Two years ago, on a very chilly (for us) Saturday morning, we sang at the Gainesville Downtown Festival & Art Show. We are excited to be singing there again this year on November 9! Hopefully it won't be so chilly!



We also enjoy singing at local retirement homes. Later this month we'll be singing at The Village, where the mother of one of our members lives. And we're quite excited to be singing for the first time at another assisted living facility, The Atrium, in mid-December to welcome in the holidays with them.



The first weekend of December, we'll continue our tradition of singing at the annual Thomas Center Holiday Lights event. We've been participating for over 15 years, and it marks the start of our holiday season.

Much of our attention throughout the fall will be focused on our 11th combined Holiday Harmonies show with our brothers-in-harmony, Barbergators Chorus. We had no idea when we first started putting on these shows in December 2012 just how popular they would become. But here we are, 11 years, later and back by popular demand. *Holiday Harmonies XI, A Musical Celebration* will be held December 14 at the Gainesville Unitarian Universalist Church. Showtimes will be 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Ticket information will be posted to our website: <https://gainesvillechorus.com/> and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GNVHarmony>.



Chorus Connection (cont.)

What did you do over summer vacation? **Toast of Tampa Show Chorus** kept busy learning masterful arrangements of beloved Broadway songs for its October 5 show “A Night at the Theater” with 2024 BHS international second-place Heralds of Harmony Chorus. [Click here](#) to order tickets for the 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. performances of these two world premier, award-winning choruses at the beautiful Pasco-Hernando State College IPAC, 8657 Old Pasco Rd., Wesley Chapel.

While we took a July break from in-person rehearsals, our Toast of Tampa family was busy winning championships! We congratulate:

Three and a Half Men – BHS International Champion, Director Tony DeRosa

Radiant – SAI Rising Star Champion, members Abbie Owens and Hannah Paschal (and new member since then, Katie Vincent)

Bubbly – SAI Diamond Division Champion, members Gari Brindle, Lana Owens, Carol Beckmann, and Dana Dunlevy

Radiant, as Coastal Harmony Region 9 champion, and Bubbly, as a wildcard competitor, step onto the contest stage again October 30 for Sweet Adelines International’s annual quartet competition. Member Sarah Lindvall will return to the International stage singing with 2024 SAI silver medalist Dynasty quartet. We are so proud to be represented on the International quartet stage by these eight ToT members!

Toast of Tampa extends best wishes to all other Coastal Harmony Region 9 members competing in Kansas City:

Spirit of The Gulf
Sound of Sunshine
Bridges of Harmony
Sirens
Dynasty
All Fired Up

But wait! There’s more! Each week since our August return, we’ve had fun celebrating birthdays and welcoming many guests and lots of new members! But one of our favorite new activities is recognizing our members’ Sweet Adelines International and ToT anniversaries.

Membership Coordinator Laura Cleverly says, “We love to celebrate, especially our members! We love all our members and would not be the chorus we are without them!”



Laura Cleverly (l) acknowledges member Gloria Churchill’s 35th Anniversary with Toast of Tampa Show Chorus

We continue to learn new music, not only in anticipation of our 2025 International competition appearance in Columbus, Ohio, but to entertain our terrific audiences! Mark your calendars now for our upcoming shows. Ticketing updates will be on our website and social media outlets:

- October 5, 2024 - “A Night at the Theater” joint show with Heralds of Harmony, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Pasco-Hernando State College IPAC, 8657 Old Pasco Road, Wesley Chapel. TICKETS: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-at-the-theatre-tickets-929156852157?aff=oddtcreator>
- December 15, 2024 - joint holiday show with Heralds of Harmony Chorus, 3 p.m., Sun City Center UMC.
- March 15, 2025 - joint show with Heralds of Harmony Chorus, (time TBA), Branscomb Memorial Auditorium, Lakeland.

Chorus Connection (cont.)



Diamond Jubilee

APPETIZERS & VARIETY SHOW
SPECIAL FEATURED GUESTS & QUARTETS



BUBBLY!

*1ST PLACE INTERNATIONAL
DIAMOND DIVISION QUARTET*



Saturday, October 19, 2024 4pm

Doors open at 3:30 pm for Appetizers

\$25 PP - \$30 VIP seating

St. Lukes United Methodist Church

4444 5th Ave N, Saint Petersburg, FL 33713

Purchase Tickets at www.acapellabayshowchorus.com or

Scan QR Code Below



Chorus Connection (cont.)

Women of Note often start rehearsals with tag singing, combined with a focus on breathing and tuning, to help members develop the ability to learn music quickly and expand their “ears” to hear and tune to the other parts. However, in August we took tag singing to a whole new level by having a “TagFest” competition! Members had several weeks to form quartets, decide on tags, choose costumes, and rehearse. Everyone was welcome to sing any part they liked, and several members were in two, three, or even four different quartets (sometimes singing a different voice part in each). On August 26th, our celebrity guest judges (Kim Elger-Griffiths, Maria Maxwell, and Lisa Perera) selected “Mama Bird and the Chickadees” as the best tag quartet from among the 10 competitors. The quartet included the three youngest participants, one of whom was just five years old!



August also brought “Bowling for Barbershop,” a fun event with teams of members and guests who bowled the night away amid laughter and camaraderie. While there weren’t many strikes, everyone had a great time. The event also raised almost \$100 for the chorus!

The biggest event on the horizon for Women of Note is a Youth Harmony Workshop that will be held on November 12. WON members and members of the Coastmen Chorus (BHS) are organizing the event and expect to welcome approximately 120 middle-school and high school students and their teachers. Clinicians for the day are Gina Baker and Alex Rubin, who will work with the students to teach them two barbershop songs plus some fun tags, while the teachers will have a session to learn the history of barbershop and how it can be incorporated into the music curriculum. The event will culminate in a performance of the male and female choruses, as well as other guest quartets.

The **Shore Notes A Cappella Chorus** hosted a Guest Night on September 16 and was delighted to welcome 10 guests! The photo shows the chorus in their Shore Notes shirts and “Most Improved Chorus” medals, with their guests interspersed on the risers. Director Iris Christ introduced “Can You Feel the Love Tonight,” a new song for everyone, and it was inspiring to hear how quickly the guests learned the song and how rich and full the chorus sounded.



The Shore Notes recently moved to a new rehearsal hall in Okatie and have started planning four concerts at different Lowcountry churches in December. In addition to holiday songs, they will intersperse the program with entertaining repertoire songs. Last year the chorus held three concerts that were so well attended, they are expanding to include one more church.



In September the Shore Notes congratulated Patti Healey on her 30th anniversary of being a Sweet Adeline! Patti is a wonderful lead and travels every Monday from Mt. Pleasant to Okatie, almost an hour away, to attend rehearsal. She is also our very important pitch person and a dedicated member of our chorus!

In membership news, the Shore Notes A Cappella Chorus was delighted to welcome Cindy Huber, a new lead, in late August. The photo depicts Director Iris Christ, Cindy Huber and Membership Chair, Leslie Kennedy.



Chorus Connection (cont.)

Kansas City, HERE WE COME! **Sound of Sunshine** is deep in preparation and buzzing! Props are being made, costumes are coming together, lines are being learned, and the music and choreography are tightening up. We had the amazing Becky Ballagh create our choreography, we coached with Dee Dee Kastler and Michael Gellert on music, and had the wonderful Kim Wonders guide us in creating our script. We are having our Friends and Family performance on October 19 at 2:00 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 331 Lake Avenue, Maitland, FL 32751. All are welcome!



For the holidays, we have a performance scheduled on November 21 at the John Knox Village of Central Florida.

To keep things fresh, we have instituted an Accountability Partners program to help us stay on track, and it is bringing us closer with our partners to encourage each other to produce the best product we can.

We are also looking to increase our membership, so some Guest Nights are being planned.

Suncoast Harmony Chorus had a wonderful day of Coaching on September 21st with Beth Ripple. We learned so much from you Beth, many thanks to you!



Quartet Capers



Dear Coastal Region 9,

We can't express how grateful we are for all the love and support you've shown us. The beautiful flower bouquets presented to each of us by Cynthia Cohen after we exited offstage were such a thoughtful and touching gesture - Thank you! The Region 9 warm hugs and excitement made the moment even more special.

We are so lucky to be surrounded by such an incredible community. Your support meant everything to us.

With love and gratitude,

Tracy, Gayle, Cindy & Quay
Shine! Quartet

Bubbly Quartet flew to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and came home with spectacular memories and International Diamond Division Champion medals! We're still floating on air and no one can pop our bubbles!

We toured Sweet Adelines International Headquarters and met the wonderful staff and Sweet Adelines from all over the world visiting for the Directors and Visual Leaders Seminar and the Rising Star and Diamond Division contests. What fun!

As many of you know, we are 'related' to Region 9 Champions and current Rising Star Champions, Radiant Quartet, through mother Lana and daughter Abbie Owens, and we were fortunate to spend lots of quality barbershop and friendship time at the Tulsa home of Abbie's future in-laws. Many thanks to Marshall Crowl and his lovely, musical family!

We spent the summer polishing our contest set for Sweet Adelines International contest in Kansas City, Missouri. As Diamond Division Champions, we will perform new music at the breakfast honoring Sweet Adelines International members celebrating Legacy anniversaries and as scores are tabulated following Quartet Semi-Finals.

On October 19, as Diamond Division Champions, the quartet will be guests on A Cappella Bay Show Chorus's Diamond Jubilee show! We'd love to celebrate with you there!



Introducing Our New Regional Events Coordinator

Hello Coastal Harmony Region 9!

Here's just a little information about me, Bobbie Slack and my Sweet Adeline journey.

It began in the fall of 1984 when I visited the Mill Creek Chorus in Comstock Park, Michigan, and then continued with the Grand Rapids Chorus, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. While a member of the Grand Rapids Chorus, I served as the Historian, Board Member, Show Co-Chair, member of the Director's Resource Team and



Chorus President

Regional Events Coordinator (Cont.)

I had friends that were involved on the Regional Contest Steering Committee, and they enlisted me in transporting the judges and setting up the judges' pit for contest. One friend eventually became the Competition Coordinator (CC) and the Regent asked if I would be the Official Panel Liaison (OPL). I happily accepted this position and was the OPL from 1993-1996.

In the Spring of 1996, my friend was planning her departure as CC and asked me if I would consider applying to International for the position. I decided to throw my hat in the ring and had an interview with Carol Schwartz from the Sweet Adelines International Office. In the Fall of 1996, I was appointed the new Competition Coordinator for Region #3. I held this position from 1996-2006.

During my time as the Competition Coordinator, I also had the opportunity to serve as an International Contest assistant during many of the International Contests. I did everything from checking in quartets/choruses to working backstage as the contestants prepared to enter the stage and to being on a headset during the finals pattern.

In the Summer of 2005, I became a member of the Meldodeers Chorus in Northbrook, Illinois. I joined the make-up team from 2006-2011. While I was a Melodeer, I earned an International silver and gold medal. The time spent with them was incredible and I enjoyed the journey.

Along the way, I met my husband, Paul Slack, who was in the mens' Great Lakes Chorus! Our chorus sang on their spring show and his chorus sang on our fall show. Like many "barbersweet" relationships begin we sang tags at the afterglow and started dating. We were married in 1991 and have two adult children, and now our first grandson!

Now, with my recent retirement as a property manager and subsequent move to Punta Gorda, Florida, I am very excited to be singing as a bass with the Spirit of the Gulf Chorus. It has been so fun to meet up with old friends from Region 3! I especially am thrilled to be singing for Karen in Spirit! This past spring the Competition Coordinator, Candice Dickens, reached out to me for assistance while she competed with her quartet, and I enjoyed jumping in to help.

As a long-time Sweet Adeline with a bit of experience, I am honored to be the Events Coordinator in the Coastal Harmony Region #9 Management Team. I look forward to making more lifelong friendships in Region 9!

DEDICATED DIRECTORS

This article is called "dedicated directors" but the joy in my life is a "dedicated chorus!" Spirit of the Gulf is a family, and although we value achievement and striving for excellence, we also truly value laughter, friendship, respect, and trust. I have the amazing privilege of co-directing with DeeDee Kastler who embodies all the aspects of chorus life that I just mentioned. Co-directing can be challenging for many choruses, but we have worked out a system and a friendship that makes this work. It is also our joy to have Gina Baker as our Associate Director. Gina does directing but also does section rehearsals and private vocal instruction. DeeDee's and Gina's hearts and souls are so in tune with Spirit and makes this co-director soar with thanksgiving. We are challenged by having so many snowbirds and "weekend singers" as well as two directors who live far away from Fort Myers. But, due to their dedication and a flexible, tolerant attitude, we continue to make this work. As we head to Kansas City to represent this magical regional, we continue to strive to do our best performance while maintaining the friendship and mutual respect. I treasure this chorus and this region!

Karen Breident

Blast from the Past

From the 1972 Spring Pitch Pipe

FROM WHENCE CAME THE NOBLE RISER

riser / 'ri-zər / n 1: those steps they give you to stand on—three feet high and three inches wide!

by Char Gurney, Rochester Chapter

Several weeks ago, I had the task of making a few phone calls in order to determine the location of the sixth section of risers at Harmony House. As I became more deeply entrenched in the search, I developed a growing interest and appreciation for those oft-neglected, but most important, RISERS. A set of risers is nothing more than a few boards and some metal supports, but they are a necessity to most Sweet Adeline choruses. As my love intensified, I found myself wondering, "From whence came the noble riser?" A few sessions at the local library provided the following facts that you might find interesting.

Large groups of people (from here on referred to as choruses) have been singing for thousands of years. However, it was not until the 16th century that choruses realized the importance of direction. Thus began the problem of how to elevate the rows of singers so that each person could see the director. For many years, choruses could perform only in outdoor settings with the rows standing on different levels of a hillside. This meant that choruses could sing only in the nice weather of summer, and some towns had no choral groups at all because they happened to live in flat country.

For a short time, choruses held auditions based entirely on height. Only midgets were placed in the first row, normal sized people in a second row, basketball players in the third row, and giants in the fourth row. This concept was short-lived because of the limits placed on the quality of the sound production and also because it became increasingly difficult to fill the first and fourth rows.

In 1872, the famed American inventor, Eli Whitknuckle, developed the first pair of stilts; and choruses around the world cheered his accomplishment as the answer to their problem. Chorus members were provided with stilts of varying heights and could be placed anywhere in the chorus and still be able to see the director. But, alas and alack, there were new problems. The use of stilts severely restricted the choreography that could be used and chorus absences increased due to a sharp rise in broken arms and legs.

During the next 50 years, choruses experimented with all kinds of gimmicks. A community chorus in Flint, Michigan, outfitted their entire group in air-

tight rubber costumes. Each person was anchored to the ground by a large piece of rope. The costumes were filled with helium and the singers were then elevated to the height of their anchor ropes. Unfortunately, two mischievous youngsters with very sharp pocketknives ruined the whole performance. Later that night two robust sopranos were fished from Lake Michigan, and two weeks later the bass section leader was found suspended from an oil derrick in Muleshoe, Texas.

In 1940, Cary Carpenter, an enthusiastic member of the newly formed SPEBSQSA came up with what seemed the obvious solution—a three-leveled wooden platform. This idea was adopted by virtually all choral groups since there were always enough men in their membership who could quickly and easily construct a wooden platform.

Then came the formation of Sweet Adelines, Inc. For years Sweet Adeline choruses used wooden platforms, as did choruses all over the world. They were better than stilts or helium-filled costumes, but were still a bit of a nuisance. Can you imagine having to arrive at an 8:30 performance by 3:00 in order to construct the platform? Or having to carry not only your costume and makeup, but also a hammer, nails, and a two by four? Since most women are not as competent in carpentry as their male counterparts, it became necessary to wear gloves at all performances to hide smashed fingers.

Finally in 1955, the answer to our prayers arrived on the scene in the form of Rita Riser, a multi-talented baritone (of course), from Alaska, Nebraska. It was Rita's job to carry the large sack of nails to all performances, but one night she mistakenly picked up a bag of shelf supports from her husband's workbench. By the time her error was discovered it was too late to return home for the nails. Score one mark for women's lib because the girls made do with what they had and crudely constructed the first set of risers. The idea was quickly perfected and well, you know the rest. Now a set of risers is just as important to a chorus as is its repertoire.

So the next time you are asked to stand on the risers, don't take the matter lightly. Remember that they are the result of years of frustration and experimentation.

Mighty Risers, we salute you!

Ignite the Sound - Region 9

New Members

A Cappella Bay Show
Kim Maiorano

Bridges of Harmony
Charlotte Boyer
Sharon Rowell
Savannah Simmons

Gainesville Harmony
Leslie Barber
Anusha Chaudhary

Platinum Show
Melanie Barton-Gauss

Toast of Tampa
Sydney Nolf
Stella Pipkin

Dual Members

Spirit of the Gulf
Jean Flinn

Toast of Tampa
Ilona Kersey

Returning/ Transferring Members

A Cappella Bay Show
Kaitlyn Forester
Michelle Kienzle

Spirit of the Gulf
Alex Riehl

Toast of Tampa
Anita Gay Dement
Suzy Goff
Katie Vincent
Kathryn Wallace
Lauren Wallace
Julie Wallace

Regional Management Team

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