



*SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL is a highly respected worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performance.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Barbershop A Cappella World Champions Announced at Sweet Adelines International's  
72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention and Competition**

**Tulsa, Okla.** – After five exhilarating days of outstanding a cappella barbershop performances, adjudicated competition sessions and hands-on educational events, Sweet Adelines International has announced its 2019 world champions.

Sweet Adelines International President, Patty Cobb Baker, presents a compelling account of the barbershop harmony convention and competition: “The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sweet Adelines International Convention and Competition will be remembered for the ‘overarching’ feelings of joy and sisterhood that imbued every day, every rehearsal, every meeting and education class and every stellar performance during our week together. Convention attendees from all over the world remarked on the incredible vocal and performance skills on display and how those performances made them feel ... from delightfully happy to captivated, enthralled, thrilled and moved beyond imagination! I think everyone left the convention even more harmoniously connected than ever, with buckets-full of all the things our wonderful musical sisterhood provides!”

More than 40 quartets and 40 choruses, totaling over 3,200 a cappella singers, competed during Sweet Adelines’ competition held at The Dome at America’s Center in St. Louis, October 16-20. Seven countries were represented in the international competition: Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. In addition to thousands of viewers watching the competition live via webcast, over 5,000 watched eagerly in the arena as one-by-one the choruses and quartets competed for the world champion title in their respective categories.

The competition began on Tuesday with Harmony Classic, featuring the top small and mid-sized choruses. From New York City, the Sirens of Gotham Chorus claimed the Division A champion title. Wellington City Chorus, from Wellington, New Zealand, secured the champion title in Division AA.

In the International Quartet Competition, ClassRing was crowned as the 2019 International Champion Quartet on Friday, October 19. With an overall score of 2,769, the quartet achieved the title with “Seize The Day,” “Sweet Adeline,” “Shamey, Shamey, Shame,” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” ClassRing quartet formed in spring of 2014 and within months of rehearsals, the quartet won Sweet Adelines International’s Rising Star Quartet Contest. The quartet has competed in Sweet Adelines International’s quartet competition consecutively since 2015, each year placing as a top ten Finalist. The members of the quartet include Michaela Slamka-Johnston from Fort Meyers, Florida (tenor), Heather Havens from Aldie, Virginia (lead), Mary Duncan of Olathe, Kansas (baritone) and Hailey Parks from Knoxville, Tennessee (bass).

Under the direction of Lori Lyford, the Scottsdale Chorus took home the gold in the international chorus competition on Saturday, October 20. From Scottsdale, Ariz., the chorus has won Sweet Adelines’ chorus competition an outstanding six times. With an overall score of 2,982 out of 3,200 possible points, Scottsdale Chorus secured its sixth international champion title with “Top of the World,” “The Jumpin’

Jive,” “I Will,” and Jump Medley: “Jump,” (Van Halen), “Jump” (Pointer Sisters), “Apache Jump” and “Jump” (Kriss Kross), and “Jump In The Line” (Harry Belafonte).

Sweet Adelines “Bursting With Song!” Songwriting Contest Grand Prize Winner, Mr. Joe Liles, Finalists and Honorable Mention Award Recipients were honored during the official awards ceremony on Thursday, October 18. The winning songs will be published by Sweet Adelines International in 2019. Contest results and awards ceremony are available at [www.sweetadelines.com/songwritingcontest](http://www.sweetadelines.com/songwritingcontest).

Competition scores are published at [www.sweetadelines.com/competitionconvention](http://www.sweetadelines.com/competitionconvention) and performances are available on Sweet Adelines’ YouTube Channel, SweetAdelineIntl.

Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performance. Sweet Adelines International is one of the world’s largest singing organizations for women, with a membership of nearly 21,000 represented in 500 choruses and 1,000 quartets across the globe. Founded in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sweet Adelines members have been singing four-part cappella harmony in the barbershop style since 1945.

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