



Elevating women singers worldwide through education, performance, and competition  
in barbershop harmony and a cappella music.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Barbershop A Cappella Singing Brings Family and Harmony to New Orleans

**TULSA**, Okla. (September 6, 2019) — In the world of competitive barbershop singing, the Slamka family is legendary. This year at the 73rd Annual Sweet Adelines International Convention and Competition in New Orleans, Louisiana, from Sept. 16-21, Slamkas will grace several stages, representing the legacy of four generations of singers in this unique genre of a cappella music.

The first competitive barbershopping Slamkas were brothers John and Emil, who sang with Michigan's Macomb County Chapter, an all-male chorus that is part of the organization now known as Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). Since then, in every generation, Slamkas of all genders have competed in choruses and quartets — and they often marry other barbershop singers, adding even more voices to the harmony of singing Slamkas.

Fourth-generation barbershopper Michaela Slamka Johnston of Fort Myers, Florida sings tenor with 2019 Sweet Adelines International Champion Quartet, ClassRing, who will perform their "swan song" in New Orleans, marking the end of their championship year. Michaela is married to barbershopper Nathan Johnston, with whom she sings in two-time international champion mixed quartet Double Date.

Michaela's sister Madison will sing lead with Florida-based quartet Duly Noted in the 2019 Sweet Adelines International Quartet Competition in New Orleans. Duly Noted won the Sweet Adelines International Rising Star Quartet Contest for female barbershop singers ages 25 and younger in Manchester, U.K. this summer, and this is the first time a reigning Rising Star Champion Quartet will compete at international competition in the same year. (ClassRing won the Rising Star Quartet Contest in 2014.)

Michaela and Madison's aunt and cousin, Staci and Holli Slamka, will also compete in the 2019 Sweet Adelines International Quartet Competition with Girl Talk. (Staci is married to Don Slamka, barbershop chorus director and member of BHS international champion quartet Power Play.) Michaela and Madison's father, Michael Slamka, coaches both Duly Noted and ClassRing and is the former director of Florida's Spirit of the Gulf Chorus. The chorus, which counts Madison and her sister Mackenzi among its members, will compete at the 2020 Sweet Adelines International Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. Michael is a member of two BHS international champion quartets, Crossroads and Power Play, which also includes his father, Jack, brother, Mark, and cousin, Don.

For the Slamka family, barbershop singing is a way of life, whether they are singing on the competition stage, performing in the community, or teaching the next generation the a cappella art form.



*Sweet Adelines*  
INTERNATIONAL

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

International Headquarters: 9110 South Toledo Avenue • Tulsa, OK 74137

Phone: 1.918.622.1444 Email: [communications@sweetadelines.com](mailto:communications@sweetadelines.com)

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To see performances from ClassRing, Duly Noted, and Girl Talk as well as many of the world's top barbershop singers, watch the 2019 Sweet Adelines International Competition Sept. 17–21 for free at [www.sweetadswebcast.com](http://www.sweetadswebcast.com) along with over 50,000 viewers across the globe.

Founded in 1945, Sweet Adelines International is a women's singing organization committed to elevating women singers worldwide through education, performance, and competition in barbershop harmony and a cappella music. It is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women, with over 20,000 members in choruses and quartets across the globe. For more information, visit [www.sweetadelines.com](http://www.sweetadelines.com) or follow on Facebook and Instagram via @sweetadelinesintl.

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Contact: Tamatha Goad, senior director of marketing and communications  
Lauren Stark, marketing and public relations manager  
[communications@sweetadelines.com](mailto:communications@sweetadelines.com)

Photo: ClassRing and Duly Noted, shortly after 2019 Rising Star Quartet Contest.  
Madison Slamka, third from left. Michaela Slamka Johnston, far right.  
Ian Dearman Media

