

Stellar Young Sweet Adeline

Bev Sellers Memorial Scholarship Recipient



Jessie Leov, 2018 recipient of the Bev Sellers Memorial Scholarship

Jessie Leov, a New Zealander and Region #35 Sweet Adeline since the age of 13, has received the 2018 Bev Sellers Memorial Scholarship, awarded by the Young Singers Foundation (YSF). Jessie will graduate in November 2018 from the University of Auckland with a degree in music composition with honors.

"I'm thrilled and honored to receive this scholarship," she told *The Pitch Pipe*. "Barbershop and a cappella singing have been a treasured part of my life since I was 13 years old and I fall more in love with this incredible art form each year.

"I'm so thankful to Sweet Adelines and the YSF for very kindly expanding the criteria to include music composition, in addition to vocal performance and music education, so that I was able to apply," she added.

Jessie fell in love with barbershop following her mother to Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus rehearsals, where she loved the music and the opportunity to be with her mother, but the three-hour rehearsals? Not so much.

"I applaud my mum for tolerating me

standing next to her on the risers and fidgeting away," Jessie remembered. Yet as she grew older, she found herself in a self-described barbershop "obsession phase," a happy state of being enriched by having her "mum, auntie and cousin" as fellow Sweet Adelines.

Jessie's barbershop chops, coupled with her broader musical experience, stack up like those of a seasoned professional. She's performed on the international stage with the award-winning Christchurch City Chorus and sings tenor in Zeal, which finished third in the 2016 Rising Star Quartet Contest. She's an inspiration to a generation of young singers and, not surprisingly, is YWIH coordinator for Region #35. She's passionate about coaching and running barbershop workshops for young women.

At 17, she launched her own company, Jessie Leov Music, which specializes in making learning tracks, arranging, score editing and transcription, composing and songwriting, teaching voice and piano. One of her current biggest projects is an original musical, slated to premiere in 2018.

She also writes original songs in the barbershop style, has proactively honed her arranging skills under the guidance of Jim Arns and Deke Sharon, and plans on completing SA's new Arranger Certification Program as well. Whew!

Jessie wholeheartedly encourages other young women to apply for the Bev Sellers Scholarship.

"You have to be in it to win it," she noted. "It's worth diving in and giving it your best shot. My advice would be to always believe you have the ability to succeed on any project or goal you're working toward. Believing is the first step to making it a reality!"

To meet, and hear Jessie, visit www.jessieleov.com. 🎵

Help More
Young
Women
Get In It
and Win It!

Bev Sellers would be so proud, as we are, of these scholarship recipients. We're amazed by their rich talent and love for barbershop a cappella harmony. These young women are barbershop leaders for both today and tomorrow.

The Bev Sellers Memorial Scholarship is a \$5,000 USD award, presented annually to an undergraduate student pursuing a degree in music composition, vocal performance or music education. Take Jessie Leov's advice. If you or others in your chapter know of a deserving young woman, encourage her to apply. For scholarship criteria and deadlines, visit www.sweetadelines.com and click on Education/Grants and Scholarships.

You can also help grow YSF funds for this scholarship and other educational barbershop activities for young women. To make a tax-deductible contribution, visit www.youngsingersfoundation.org.