



Countdown to 75 years

A NEW MILLENNIUM: 2000-2009

The new millennium invites us to look within and develop the personality and character traits that give harmony a place to live – inside and out

International President Kathy Carmody, *The Pitch Pipe*, January 2000

The stories in this article are gleaned from past issues of *The Pitch Pipe* magazine. All issues can be found in the archives at Sweet Adelines International Headquarters in Tulsa, Okla.

Barbershop Music Appreciation Day: July 13, 1945 is the day our founder, Edna Mae Anderson, brought together a group of women to sing barbershop music. We consider it the “birthday” of Sweet Adelines International, and in 2005, to commemorate our 60th anniversary, July 13 officially became Barbershop Music Appreciation Day. On the first-ever Barbershop Music Appreciation Day, more than 100 Sweet Adelines choruses and countless quartets participated in public performances marking the new holiday.

Harmony Classic: The first Harmony Classic competition was held in 2000 at the International Education Symposium in San Antonio, Texas (USA). Royal River Chorus were the winners of Division AA, and Prairie Echoes Chorus won Division A. In 2009, the Harmony Classic competition was moved to the international convention and competition, where it remains today.



The first Harmony Classic Champion Choruses: Left, Royal River Chorus of Yarmouth, Maine (USA) under the direction of Christine Ferguson (Division AA) and right, Prairie Echoes Chorus of DeKalb, Ill. (USA) under the direction of Susan Pippel (Division A).

A New HQ: In March 2002, International Board members and headquarters staff held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of what would become our new headquarters building at 9110 South Toledo Ave. in Tulsa, Okla. (USA) where we still are today. The grand opening was held on March 13, 2004 during the International Board meeting. In June 2005, International President Diane Huber performed an action familiar to Sweet Adelines: She ceremonially burned the mortgage on the headquarters building.

Honors and Dignitaries: In 2002, Valley Shore Chorus performed for the designer of the first electronic pitch pipe, Henry W. Jones III. In 2003, Tokyo Chapter performed *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*, among other American classics, at a festival celebrating the 400th anniversary of Japan’s Edo historical period. They wrote, “Someday, just as the Japanese baseball players were able to realize their ultimate baseball dream in the Major Leagues, all of us in the Tokyo Chapter also aspire to perform as a competent and ambitious chorus of Sweet Adelines on the International stage.” U.S. President George W. Bush enjoyed singing from several Sweet Adelines groups: Members of River Raisin Chorus in 2003 and Unplugged Quartet and Seattle Shores Chorus in 2004. In 2003, Circular Keys Chorus sang for Australian Prime Minister John Howard at a cocktail party in Sydney. In 2005, Surrey Harmony Chorus was invited to sing for HRH Princess Anne at a party in London for the veterans’ charity The Not Forgotten Association.

Carrying the Torch: The Yarra Ranges Harmony Chorus (now East City Sound Chorus) sang as the Olympic Torch Relay arrived at Healesville near Melbourne to open the first Olympic Games of the millennium in Sydney, Australia. “It has been marvelous to be a small part of the Olympics, which is about being part of something bigger than you are. Just like the Sweet Adelines!” they wrote in the October 2000 issue of *The Pitch Pipe*. Three Sweet Adelines – Mary Barrett of Shoreline Sound Chorus, Amy Kinder of Chesapeake Harmony Chorus, and Jayne Fischer of Thumb Area Chorus – were among those chosen to carry the Olympic torch through their cities on its way to the 2002 Salt Lake City, Utah (USA) Winter Olympics. During the winter games, Mountain Jubilee Chorus, under the direction of Tori Postma and Beth Bruce, sang for athletes and visitors to the Olympic Plaza.