



Countdown to 75 years

1990-1999: COME AS YOU ARE

One of our most important tasks in the present is to envision, focus on, and secure the future.

International President Karen Koch (*The Pitch Pipe*, July 1993)

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.

For the Youth: The Young Women in Harmony (YWIH) program, approved in 1989, took effect in 1990, and choruses immediately began programs for young singers. Throughout the 1990s, young choruses and quartets flourished, and in 1999, the first Rising Star Quartet Contest was held at the first International Education Symposium at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas (USA). Thirteen quartets competed, and Dazzling Diamonds of Michigan won the contest. *The Pitch Pipe* reported that, “The Rising Star Quartet Contest left attendees feeling that the future of barbershop is bright.”



The Barbershop Singers of the Indiana School for the Blind (USA) were among many Young Women in Harmony choruses that sang in the 90s. The Barbershop Singers were affiliated with Capital City Chorus.

A Name Change: In the October 1989 issue of *The Pitch Pipe*, it was announced that Sweet Adelines, Inc. would change its name to Harmony International, effective May 1, 1990. The controversial name change lasted until May 1, 1991, when the International Board of Directors (IBOD) changed the organization’s name to Sweet Adelines International and initiated a series of surveys to determine the needs and wishes of members.

Unusual performances: The Heart of Essex Chorus performed at the International Plowing Match, the largest farm exhibition in Canada. Golden Belle Chorus performed at the Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive. Mission Belles Chorus sang for Queen Elizabeth II when she visited San Antonio, Texas (USA) in 1991. Classified Chords quartet performed at the 1992 World Gymnastics Championships in Indianapolis, Indiana (USA). Sound of Sunshine Chorus sang for the opening of the

1996 Olympic soccer matches. Cypress Sounds Chorus performed at a regional meeting of the International Model “A” Restorers Club. Denver Denver quartet performed as the “harmony hazard” during an indoor miniature golf game that was part of the National Conference of Financiers. There, they met former U.S. President Gerald Ford. In 1997, Pearls of the Sound Chorus sang for Prince Sigvard Bernadotte, a world-famous industrial designer, at his 90th birthday in Helsingborg, Sweden.



Genesis quartet performed three times at the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg, Manitoba (CAN).

Film/Television/Recording: 1994 Queens of Harmony, Showtime, performed between segments on the QVC Shopping Channel, a television channel that features items for sale. Director Jo Kraut of Kansas City Chorus threw out the first pitch when the chorus performed at a Kansas City Royals baseball game. Their rendition of the U.S. national anthem at that game became the one used for signing on and off local television station KZKC. Sheri Izzard, who got her start singing with Kansas City Chorus, played a nun in the 1992 movie *Sister Act* (and its 1993 sequel). Purbrook

Harmony Chorus was one of the first acts accepted for London Weekend Television's variety show series, *Barrymore*, which aired from 1991-2000. Touch of Texas Chorus appeared in the 1992 movie *Leap of Faith* starring Steve Martin and Debra Winger. The Sound of Sunshine Chorus contributed a Christmas medley to the *Share the Wonder* Christmas album, which also included songs by Paul McCartney, Willie Nelson, Neil Sedaka, Belinda Carlisle, and Spinal Tap, among others.



Members of Mexico City Chorus sang background for U.S. pop singer Michael Bolton at two sold-out performances.



Celebrities wearing Sweet Adelines shirts given to them by Grammy Award-winning songwriter Carol Connor, an honorary member of Sound of Sunshine Chorus. Left to right are actors Beverly Sasso, Barbara Luna, Ruth Buzzi, Barbi Benton, women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, songwriter Carol Connors, and actor Tippi Hedren.



1990 International Champion Quartet, Panache, sang for former U.S. President Ronald Reagan at his surprise 80th birthday party in 1991.

Harmonize the World: In the late 90s, what had been known as "World Wide Areas" became official Sweet Adelines regions: Nordic Light (#32) in 1997, New Zealand (#35) in 1998, and Quartet of Nations (#31) and Southern Cross (#34) in 1999.

Welcome Home: Many Sweet Adelines and their families were affected by military conflicts in the Middle East in the early 1990s. In 1990, Just Friends quartet sang on the Purple Heart Cruise, a cruise on Lake Michigan for 500 veterans from area hospitals. Lt. Col. Sue McConaughy of Tonal A-Chord quartet and Big Sky Chapter accompanied her battalion (370th Quartermaster Battalion of Great Falls, Montana) to Saudi Arabia to serve during

Desert Shield. When the Persian Gulf Conflict ended in 1991, several choruses took part in "Welcome Home" ceremonies, including Farmington Valley, Mountain Laurel, Heart of the Valley, San Diego, Great Lakes, Lehigh Valley, Heart of the Valley, Golden Valley, and Spirit of Detroit. Members of Buffalo Gateway Chorus sang at a ceremony for Terry Anderson, an American journalist who had been held hostage in Lebanon from 1985-1991.



Farmington Valley Chorus performing at a welcome home ceremony at Westover Air Force Base.

Hurricane Andrew: In August 1992, Hurricane Andrew struck the Bahamas and the southern coast of the United States. Region #9 set up a fund to benefit barbershoppers affected by the storm, and later that year, Stars of Harmony Chorus organized a benefit concert, "Hurricane Harmony." Sweet Adelines who performed included quartets Showtime (1994 International Champion Quartet) and choruses Royal Palm, Miami Magic, Suncoast Sound, and, of course Stars of Harmony. In a 1993 letter, The Suncoast Sound Chorus wrote, "In the wake of Andrew, fourteen members of Suncoast Chorus lost their homes, our rehearsal hall was devastated, and many members have had to relocate. But because of your generous gifts of supplies, clothing, and money, the difficulties of many have been lessened... The true meaning of harmony lives in our minds and sings in our hearts."

Oklahoma City Bombing: On April 19, 1995, the U.S. was shocked by the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Tragically, OK City Chorus member Jamie Genzer, who worked in the federal building, was among those killed. Shortly after the bombing, SA Corporate Secretary Mary Lou Hatley passed away unexpectedly. Staff members planted trees in memory of Genzer and Hatley at the headquarters building — a redbud tree (Oklahoma's state tree) for Genzer and a dogwood tree for Hatley. Many individual Sweet Adelines and 125 choruses contributed to a trust fund set up for Genzer's children.



Regional leaders and International Board members sing at a ceremony remembering victims and honoring heroes of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Harmonizing the World Wide Web: In 1995, the IBOD voted to put Sweet Adelines International online. Our first presence on what was then called the World Wide Web was the order of appearance for the 1995 international quartet contest, which was posted on America Online's *Barbershop Digest* site. On Feb. 16, 1996, we launched our first home page. That same year, Harmony Heights Chorus of Uppsala, Sweden became the first Sweet Adelines chorus to be heard on the internet when they posted song recordings on their newly-established chorus home page. In 1997, Sue Beck, then a member of the Technology Committee, wrote, "Can you visualize browsing an online department, ordering your music, and perhaps even attending education sessions without leaving the comfort of your own keyboard? How about 'chat rooms,' where lively discussions on topics of your choice can be conducted? These are some of the possible uses for technology in the Sweet Adelines International world. But never fear; we'll always have that personal touch — after all, it takes at least four live, warm bodies to ring a chord!"

The Year With No Champions: At the July 23, 1993 IBOD meeting, the board, along with the Coronet Club, decided that champions would be designated by the year of their reign rather than the year of their win. The 1992 International Champion Quartet was City Lights, and when Showtime won in 1993, they became the 1994 International Champion Quartet because of the change. The 1992 International Champion Chorus was Rich-Tone Chorus, and Toast of Tampa was named the 1994 International Champion Chorus. That is why, technically, there are no champions for 1993! 🎵



The October 1999 issue of *The Pitch Pipe* celebrated the winners of our first Rising Star Quartet Contest.

1990s CONVENTION SITES

1990 Salt Lake City, Utah (USA)
 1991 San Antonio, Texas (USA)
 1992 Baltimore, Maryland (USA)
 1993 Indianapolis, Indiana (USA)
 1994 Reno, Nevada (USA)
 1995 New Orleans, Louisiana (USA)
 1996 Fort Lauderdale, Florida (USA)
 1997 Salt Lake City, Utah (USA)
 1998 Nashville, Tennessee (USA)
 1999 Atlanta, Georgia (USA)

SWEET ADELINES PRESIDENTS

1989-1991 • Marsha Fulton
 1991-1993 • Betty Clipman
 1993-1995 • Karen Koch
 1995-1996 • Marge Bailey
 1996-1997 • Julie Kendrick
 1997-1998 • Kathy Carmody
 1998-1999 • Karen Breidert
 1999-2000 • Kathy Carmody

1990s QUEENS OF HARMONY

1990 • Panache
 1991 • Swing Street
 1992 • City Lights
 1994 • Showtime*
 1995 • Chicago Fire
 1996 • Weekend Edition
 1997 • 4-Star Collection
 1998 • Classic Edition
 1999 • Rumors

1990s CHORUS CHAMPIONS

1990 • Ramapo Valley Chorus
 1991 • Gem City Chorus
 1992 • Rich-Tone Chorus
 1994 • Toast of Tampa Show Chorus*
 1995 • Melodeers Chorus
 1996 • Rich-Tone Chorus
 1997 • North Metro Chorus
 1998 • Melodeers Chorus
 1999 • Rich-Tone Chorus

* See "The Year With No Champions"