



# 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.



*Mary Barrett of Shoreline Sound Chorus was among those chosen to carry the Olympic torch on its way to the 2002 Salt Lake City, Utah (USA) Winter Olympics.*

**Sweet Adelines Onscreen:** Voices Only Quartet appeared on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* on Oct. 6, 2000. Six members of Lions Gate Chorus appeared in the 2002 made-for-TV movie *A Very Muppet Christmas*. Heart O'Wisconsin Chorus appeared on the Food Network Channel's *All American Festivals* singing *Harmonize The World* at the Warren Cranberry Festival. Theresa Schonbach, then a member of Harborlites Chorus, appeared on an episode of the television reality series *Survivor: Panama* in 2006. Her son, Aras Baskauskas, won the competition upon which the show is based. In 2007, Surrey Harmony Chorus appeared on the reality show *Car Booty* (BBC), where they raised money for new costumes. When Bay Area Showcase Chorus won the 2009 *Forever Plaid* singing contest, they were featured at the *Forever Plaid* movie premiere and included in the DVD extras. In 2009, 2011 International Champion Quartet MAXX Factor appeared on NBC's reality music show *The Sing-Off*. "We were there to let people know Sweet Adelines is out there," said lead Leslie Shoenhard. "Sweet Adelines is where we live. This is home."



*On June 9, 2007, San Diego Chorus performed, along with the San Diego Men's Chorus, the debut of the song cycle, *Sing for the Cure*, dedicated to people affected by breast cancer. The narration was performed by actor Nichelle Nichols who played Lt. Uhura on the popular television series *Star Trek*.*



*MAXX Factor with musician Ben Folds, judge of *The Sing-Off* television show.*

**Sweet AD-elines:** The 2001 International Champion Quartet, A Cappella Gold wrote and recorded a radio commercial for Oreo cookies when they won the 2006 *Oreo & Milk* jingle contest. In 2007, four section leaders of Alamo Metro Chorus formed the Plumber Hummers and recorded what became the winning television commercial jingle in the Will Fix It plumbing company's contest. Wellington City Chorus joined men's chorus Vocal FX to make a web-based commercial for a computer product called "Harmony."

**A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Barbershop:** In 2004, Thumb Area Chorus opened for country music star Loretta Lynn at the Clio Amphitheater in Michigan (USA). In 2008, two Sweet Adelines choruses sang backup for country music star Kenny Rogers at his *Christmas and Hits* show: Barrie Huronia Soundwaves Chorus in Orillia, Ontario (CAN), and Gateway Chorus in Edmonton, Alb. (CAN).



*Barrie Huronia Soundwaves Chorus in Orillia, Ontario (CAN), and Gateway Chorus in Edmonton, Alberta (CAN) performing with Kenny Rogers.*

**Harmonizing the World Wide Web:** The first-ever online webcast of the Sweet Adelines International Convention & Competition occurred with the 2000 convention in Orlando, Fla. (USA). In 2001, Sweet Adelines International Sales launched online shopping. In October 2008, Sweet Adelines announced our new MySpace and Facebook pages.

**Sept. 11, 2001:** Soon after the devastating terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, Sweet Adelines International held our International Convention & Competition in Portland, Ore. (USA) on Oct. 9-13, 2001. International President Rita Hull wrote in the Jan. 2002 issue of *The Pitch Pipe*, "Sweet Adelines around the world recognize and personify the healing, unifying power of music. This universal language uplifts and allows us to join hearts across boundaries, both physical and cultural. Nowhere has this been more apparent to me than at our recent international convention...A powerful, positive spirit surrounded and lifted us, intensified by its contrast to the fear and uncertainties that had gripped so many of us earlier in the week." Of the 2001 convention, a member of Region #34's Perth Harmony Chorus told *The Pitch Pipe*, "We don't know how well we'll do, but we just



want to come and hug Americans.” On Sept. 11, 2002, over 300 Sweet Adelines choruses participated in Sing Out For Peace, an event during which choruses performed in honor of 9/11 victims, survivors, and emergency workers.

**Military Support:** What has come to be known as the Global War on Terror began in 2001, affecting many Sweet Adelines and their families. Several performed at events in support of the military, including Alamo Metro Chorus, Magic Valley Chorus, Sound of New England Chorus, and Friendship VII Chorus. In 2005, Assiniboine Show Chorus performed on the steps of the Manitoba Legislative Building at a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. In 2004, Palo Duro Metro Chorus performed at the dedication of a memorial statue for astronaut Rick Husband, mission commander of the STS-107 Space Shuttle Columbia, which broke apart over Texas (USA) on Feb. 3, 2003.

**Moving Our Convention:** In 2003, the site of the 2005 International Convention & Competition was changed from Salt Lake City, Utah (USA) to New Orleans, La. (USA). Sweet Adelines looked forward to celebrating our 60th anniversary in the Big Easy, but on Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall, devastating the U.S. Gulf Coast and the city of New Orleans. With just four weeks to make the transition, Sweet Adelines International moved the convention to Detroit, Mich. (USA)! That year’s International Champion Scottsdale Chorus wrote, “It is a privilege for Scottsdale Chorus to represent Sweet Adelines International in this year of healing and rebuilding! We are proud and eager to harmonize the world and share the therapeutic powers of music with our Sweet Adeline sisters.” The 2005 International Champion Quartet, “the BUZZ” rallied other champion quartets to press 2,500 copies of an all-star CD whose proceeds went to hurricane relief. Jon Petersen Photography donated a portion of sales to the Red Cross, as did many Harmony Bazaar vendors. By the end of the Detroit convention, Sweet Adelines had raised over \$75,000 USD in donations for hurricane relief. New Orleans’ Crescent City Sound Chorus reported that Sweet Adelines from

around the world had sent costumes, music, learning tracks, and donations to help them recover.

**Most Entertaining:** The Audience Choice Award for Most Entertaining Chorus was established in July 2006. In that year’s convention in Las Vegas, Nev. (USA), Spirit of the Gulf Chorus, directed by Karen Breidert, won the first-ever award for Most Entertaining Chorus, and SALT won the award for Most Entertaining Quartet.

**We Are Family:** The first-ever Family Chorus sang at the 2002 International Convention in Nashville, Tenn. (USA). It was so popular that the International Board agreed to hold the Family Chorus “annually at international convention as long as there is interest.”

**Setting Records:** On April 21, 2001, Riverport Chorus helped set a world record, certified by the Guinness Book of World Records, for the longest concert of continuous unamplified live music when they performed at the Music for Life Festival in Kenosha, Wis. (USA). On Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009, Peggy Gram led World’s Largest Singing Lesson, as certified by The Guinness Book of World Records at our international convention in Nashville, Tenn. (USA). 🎵



*Peggy Gram led World’s Largest Singing Lesson, as certified by The Guinness Book of World Records at our international convention in Nashville, Tenn. (USA). Shown with 2009 International Champion Quartet, Moxie Ladies and Guinness officials.*



*The first-ever winners of the Audience Choice Award for Most Entertaining were Spirit of the Gulf Chorus (directed by Karen Breidert) and SALT quartet.*



## 2000s CONVENTION SITES

2000 Orlando, Florida (USA)  
2001 Portland, Oregon (USA)  
2002 Nashville, Tennessee (USA)  
2003 Phoenix, Arizona (USA)  
2004 Indianapolis, Indiana (USA)  
2005 Detroit, Michigan (USA)  
2006 Las Vegas, Nevada (USA)  
2007 Calgary, Alberta (CAN)  
2008 Honolulu, Hawaii (USA)  
2009 Nashville, Tennessee (USA)

## SWEET ADELINES PRESIDENTS

1999-2000 • Kathy Carmody  
2000-2002 • Rita Hull  
2002-2004 • Carole (Kirkpatrick) Persinger  
2004-2006 • Diane Huber  
2006-2008 • Pat LeVezu  
2008-2010 • Peggy Gram

## 2000s QUEENS OF HARMONY

2000 • A Cappella Gold  
2001 • Fanatix  
2002 • Swinglish Mix  
2003 • Brava!  
2004 • "the BUZZ"  
2005 • Spotlight  
2006 • SALT  
2007 • Four Bettys  
2008 • Moxie Ladies  
2009 • Zing!

## 2000s CHORUS CHAMPIONS

2000 • Melodeers Chorus  
2001 • San Diego Chorus  
2002 • North Metro Chorus  
2003 • Melodeers Chorus  
2004 • Harborlites Chorus  
2005 • Scottsdale Chorus  
2006 • Rich-Tone Chorus  
2007 • Harborlites Chorus  
2008 • Melodeers Chorus  
2009 • Rich-Tone Chorus

## HARMONY CLASSIC CHAMPION CHORUSES

2000

Prairie Echoes Chorus (Div. A)  
Royal River Chorus (Div. AA)

2001

Pearls of the Sound Chorus (Div. A)  
Jacksonville Harmony Chorus (Div. AA)

2002

Prairie Echoes Chorus (Div. A)  
Royal River Chorus (Div. AA)

2003

Millennium Magic Chorus (Div. A)  
Valley Forge Chorus (Div. AA)

2004

Queen City Chorus (Div. A)  
Columbus Chorus (Div. AA)

2005

Women of Note Chorus (Div. A)  
Scioto Valley Chorus (Div. AA)

2006

Metro Nashville Chorus (Div. A)  
Harbor City Music Company Chorus (Div. AA)

2007

Alba Show Chorus (Div. A)  
Waikato Rivertones Chorus (Div. AA)

2008

Stockholm City Voices Chorus (Div. A)  
Metro Nashville Chorus (Div. AA)

2009

Millennium Magic Chorus (Div. A)  
Scioto Valley Chorus (Div. AA)