

A PUBLICATION FOR SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL

BarbershopNOW – February 2021

Welcome to BarbershopNOW, a one-stop source for news and links directly to your areas of interest.

Sing, Baby, Sing...That Means You!

As coaches and educators, the late Sharon Babb and Darlene Rogers helped countless Sweet Adelines strengthen their voices and confidence using the craft and artistry of barbershop music. To honor their memory, Peggy Gram and Dale Syverson (co-creators of *Sing, Baby, Sing!* along with Darlene Rogers) have donated a free audio recording (.mp3 file) of *Sing, Baby, Sing!: Blue Ribbon Vocal Warmups, Edition #1*, to Sweet Adelines members. Log in to the Sweet Adelines International website to download your .mp3 file at www.sweetadelines.com/education/sing-baby-sing. *Sing, Baby, Sing!: Blue Ribbon Vocal Warmups, Edition #1* is the first in this popular series of vocal educational tools. The entire *Sing, Baby, Sing!* series includes CDs 1-7, as well as the book, *A Springboard to Artistry*. CDs are available for purchase in the Sweet Adelines online store at www.sweetadelines.com/shop.

Pack Your Virtual Bags and Get Ready to Travel in Tune!

All aboard...It's been awhile since we've been able to hop on a train, bus, or plane and visit each other. Until we can meet again in person, Sweet Adelines International has a project in the works that will allow Sweet Adelines to virtually travel and experience the exceptional cultures, personalities, and educational programs of our regions. Travel in Tune is a virtual experience that will be available exclusively for Sweet Adelines members. Stay tuned to your email for itineraries, destinations, and more...

Reminder: How to Access Members-Only Content on the SA Website

Several resources listed in this issue of BarbershopNOW require members to log in to the members-only portion of the Sweet Adelines website. Not sure how to log in as a member? For step-by-step, illustrated instructions, View [member log in instructions](#).

Drawn Together by *The Voice Of Harmony*

In a time when Sweet Adelines have to be apart, we are drawn together by *The Voice Of Harmony*. In 2019, SA re-instated the legendary Renee Craig's *The Voice Of Harmony* as an official song, revised by Master Music Arranger Joey Minshall. While the pandemic restricted members from gathering in person, 155 Sweet Adelines from every region (including satellite region, Chapter-At-Large, and Member-At-Large!) answered the call to be part of *The Voice Of Harmony* Virtual Chorus. The talented Jen Cooke, Master Director of Scenic City Chorus, created learning tracks for each voice part and a how-to video for members new to virtual performance. She also handled the video editing and production to create the uplifting performance recently released by Sweet Adelines International via email to members, on the SA website, and on social media, where you can find it archived in case you need to see it for the first or fiftieth time! Watch now at www.sweetadelines.com/the-voice-of-harmony-chorus.

Song Assessment Tool (SAT) Database is Growing Steadily

In August 2020, the Sweet Adelines International Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Task Force released the Song Assessment Tool (SAT). The SAT provides a step-by-step research process that members and directors can use to assess songs to determine if they include racist lyrics, messages, or histories. The SAT user then submits the song to the SAT Committee, who reviews it to determine whether it is permissible for performance by Sweet Adelines. The song then goes into a database that is searchable by Sweet Adelines and directors. As of Jan. 25, 2021, almost 300 songs have been logged in the database, and more are being assessed every day. To find out more about the SAT and how to use it, log in to the Sweet Adelines website and visit www.sweetadelines.com/diversity-equity-inclusion/member-resources. For questions about the SAT, email songassessment@sweetadelines.com.

Support 75 Years of Life on a High Note Campaign Surpasses Goal

We are proud to announce that our Support for 75 Years of Life on a High Note Campaign goal of \$200,000 USD has been exceeded. Through December 31, 2020, we have received \$272,000 USD in contributions from donors. The Campaign focus is on funding new educational offerings, supporting youth outreach, and the creation of scholarships for directors of small and mid-size choruses.

The dedication and generosity of our members has been overwhelming. A special thank you to 1981 International Quartet Champion Baritone of All-Star Jubilee, Judy Gordon, for her extraordinary \$25,000 challenge gift which inspired so many to contribute to Support for 75 Years of Life on a High Note.

We are grateful to the hundreds of member donors who have demonstrated they dearly love what Sweet Adelines represents, and they want to see us continue for the next 75 years. We are indeed very honored to receive these gifts during such a challenging time in our history.

Sweet Adelines Grant Recipients Announced

At their January meeting, the Education Direction Committee announced grant recipients for the most recent Sweet Adelines International grant cycle. Grants to support programs that encourage barbershop singing were awarded to the following applicants:

- New York Lakeside Acappella Camp
- Northern Colorado YWIH Festival
- Colorado Heartsong Foundation Festival
- New Zealand Young Singers in Harmony Convention

We congratulate these grant recipients and look forward to hearing more about their projects. To find out more about Sweet Adelines International scholarships and grants (including how pandemic restrictions on gatherings may affect them), visit www.sweetadelines.com/education/scholarships-and-grants.

New Philanthropy Donor Impact Report Available Now

In December, the Sweet Adelines International Philanthropy Department issued its first Donor Impact Report, featuring the Donor Honor Roll acknowledging donors who gave between May and October 2020. For information on SA Philanthropy and how to donate, visit www.sweetadelines.com/give/the-overtone-society. To read the report, click on the “Donor Honor Roll” button. Watch for the next donor report in May 2021, honoring donors giving between November 2020 and April 2021.

DEI Council Begins Work

The newly-appointed members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council and its subcommittees (Chorus Toolkit and Song Assessment Tool) began work in January 2021.

The official approved mandate of the DEI Council is to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion remain priorities within the culture of Sweet Adelines International and are evidenced in all we do and how we do it. The DEI Council reports directly to the

International Board of Directors, and will provide input to their strategic planning process, support in executing all DEI-related activities, and will report on the progress of the work within its mandate. For more information on the DEI Council and their work, visit <https://sweetadelines.com/diversity-equity-inclusion/member-resources>.

Membership Changes Approved by IBOD

The pandemic has resulted in financial challenges for many Sweet Adelines. In an effort to assist with some of them, the International Board of Directors (IBOD) approved a group of membership-related changes. These changes include the following:

- A 120-day grace period will be granted for all membership renewals through December 2021. Prospective choruses are granted a one-year extension to meet the requirements to advance in the chartering process.
- The minimum number of members required to renew the chapter charter will be waived for the 2021-22 fiscal year charter period.
- The charter renewal fee will be reduced by 50% for the 2021-22 fiscal year charter period.
- Quartet registration/renewals fees will be reduced by 50% from May 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021.
- Regions will be given a \$400 USD stipend for a virtual meeting platform.

Learn Something New! Sweet Adelines Online Education Portal

New content is being added to the Sweet Adelines Online Education Portal each week. From vocal exercises to theory classes, there is something for every singer. For public education, visit www.sweetadelines.com/education. For members-only education, log into the Sweet Adelines International website before going to the Education section. (And remember that 2020 Virtual Convention education classes are also available in the same place!)

To access the members-only content, you must be logged in as a member. Not sure how to log in? View step-by-step login instructions published at the top of the page.

Our most recent education additions include the following:

[“The Music Category Unplugged”](#): A ZoomChat with Renée Porzel featuring the late Sharon Babb

From ballads to uptunes, Sharon shares what she looks for as she judges music during a performance. Renée is Past International President, International Faculty member, and Certified Judge in the Showmanship Category. In her long Sweet Adelines career, Sharon served as an International Board Member, Judge Specialist in both the Music and Sound Categories, and Master International Faculty Member.

[“The Expression Category Unplugged”](#): A ZoomChat with Renée Porzel featuring Paula Davis

The Expression Category focuses on the powerful effect that occurs when the lyrics and notes come together to fulfill the meaning of a song. Renée and Paula Davis discuss how artistry, musicality and technical expression can be used to draw out the emotion of a song. Renée is Past International President, International Faculty member, and Certified Judge in the Showmanship Category. Paula is Past International President, Director of Song of Seattle Chorus, Judge Specialists Moderator, and Certified Judge in the Expression Category.