

*Prospective Member
Guide*



*The Shades of Harmony Chorus
of
Sweet Adelines International*

*Congratulations on your
decision to try out for
membership in the
Shades of Harmony of
Sweet Adelines
International.*

*This guide will help you to
understand more about our
organization, our chorus and
your auditioning process.*

*We hope to see you on the
risers soon!!!*

Shades of Harmony Chorus

Director:

**Lori Ludlum
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Membership:

Joanne Miksit	Karen Bonin
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Welcome

The Shades of Harmony of Sweet Adelines International is delighted to have you as our guest! We are all here because of our love of barbershop harmony and for the friendships we share. “Barbershop” is a unique structure of 4-part *a capella* harmony that is a part of our American heritage. Today it is recognized worldwide.

About the Organization

Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance. Our headquarters are based in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

www.sweetadelineintl.org

Atlantic Bay – Mountain Region #19 is one of 35 Regions around the world. Each Region is comprised of many Sweet Adeline choruses and provides a liaison between the individual choruses and International headquarters. Every spring each Region holds a convention and competition where choruses are judged on their musical performance. Region# 19 covers Delaware, Maryland, parts of Pennsylvania and Central and Southern New Jersey.

www.region19sai.org

Shades of Harmony Chorus was created through the efforts of Director Lori Ludlum and a couple of Sweet Adelines from another Chapter to give her a nucleus of parts. After a few years of keeping a core of a dozen members, one guest night proved valuable, and there were the required 16 members (plus a couple extra) to charter. In September, 2005 Shades of Harmony officially chartered! We have since grown to 25 members, competed in our first Competition for Evaluation only, and now Competition for scoring. Our main purpose is to provide entertainment and education with Four Part Barbershop Harmony. We perform for our communities on a regular basis, and for the benefit of our elder citizens.

www.shadesofharmony.org

Keeping in Touch

As a prospective member it may seem that information flies by in a sea of confusion. But here are some things to look for which will help you sort it out!

Groupanizer Our online center of communication.

Survival Kits These are our personal “mailboxes” on the center table. Notes, receipts, new sheet music, etc are posted in these files and every member checks her survival kit before/after each rehearsal without interrupting rehearsal time.

Phone Chain If ever there is “emergency” information which cannot wait until the next rehearsal to be announced, the message is sent out in an orderly pattern of telephone calls to be sure everyone knows about it.

Harmony Hi-Los This is the Regional quarterly newspaper which goes to all the choruses in the Region. It has articles and information about choruses and regional events.

The Pitch Pipe This is a quarterly magazine sent to each member from Sweet Adelines International

A Typical Calendar Year

A year in the life of a Sweet Adeline can be fun-filled. Listed below are the typical events for Shades of Harmony Chorus throughout the year:

May- July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation Banquet
August- October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scarecrow Day Fundraiser • Regional Fall FLASH • International Convention
November- January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Show • Holiday Performances • Holiday Party
February- April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chorus Week-end Retreat • Regional Competition • Elections- Team Management members

*FLASH= Friendship, Laughter & Singing Harmony

Musical Education is provided by our Director who hires professional coaches for our chorus and schedules vocal sessions for our members. If you like, you may also attend Regional “FLASH” (Friendship, Laughter & Singing Harmony) weekends in the fall, where members from regional choruses get together to learn, socialize and of course, sing!

The International organization offers special-interest schools available throughout the year for directing, arranging, quartetting, administration, leadership and more. Opportunities for personal growth abound for members of Sweet Adelines!

Quartets At this time we have two registered quartet, MP4 and In the Mix. They can be seen performing for wedding showers, reunions, nursing homes, etc. If being in a quartet is of interest to you - see Lori Ludlum.

Rehearsals and other Activities We rehearse year – round (except for a short break in December) every Monday evening from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm at the George Ruch building, 14th & Highland Ave, Williamstown, NJ, 08094. We perform throughout the year for organizations and businesses. In November or December we host our Annual Show – a complete stage production created and performed by our members. In the spring, we prepare for Regional Competition – the highlight of the Sweet Adeline Year!

People You Can Talk To

Director Lori Ludlum (856)728-2669
lludlum@hotmail.com

Asst. Directors Chris Foley (856)694-6553
cfoley02@comcast.net
Nancy Burns (856) 309-1190
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Team Leaders Sandra Smith (856) 863-0511
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Section Leader(s)
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Tenor Evelyn Donnachie (856)881-8866
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Bari Terry Scaruzzi (856)563-1234
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Bass Karen Bonin (856) 302-1166
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Music Librarian Carole Michaels (856) 466-2911
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**Prospective Membership
Coordinator** Karen Bonin (856) 302-1166
Bellettres@att.net

**Practice Quartet
Coordinator** Lori Ludlum (856)728-2669
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The Schedule

Week 1: -- You sign in our Guest Registry and the Prospective Membership Chairman introduces you to the chorus. You fill in a Guest Questionnaire and the Music Librarian lends you a guest folder of our music to use for the evening (it must be checked back in at the end of the rehearsal). The Director or one of the members of the Music Team takes you aside for voice placement to determine which part you will be singing. You can join us on the risers for warm-ups!

Week 2: -- The Prospective Membership Chairman introduces you to your Section Leader. She helps the members in your voice part with their musical questions. It is time to start preparing your audition package! You will be given the audition packet, containing music and audio of 3 songs, of which a current contest selection will be the audition song. (see audition requirements)

Week 3: -- First practice quartet.

Week 4 and 5: -- Additional practice quartets OR audition. During your practice quartet(s) there will be three other parts singing with you, plus a member of your own section to coach you (so you'll be perfect for your audition!!) It is important to be able to hold your part on your own in the quartet. We recommend that you have a practice quartet each week from now until your audition. Good Luck! We are looking forward to it!

Week 6: -- First audition (if you haven't already done so)

Week 7 and 8: -- Second audition if necessary

Prospective Member: Audition and Schedule

Introduction

So, you'd like to become a part of the Shades of Harmony! The Membership Chair will give you more details and provide guidance throughout the audition process.

Every prospective member will be expected to sing a current repertoire song. After you are voice placed, you will be given a folder containing the music and tape or CD of 3 songs. "How We Sang Today" is the theme song of Sweet Adelines International. "Keep the Music Ringing" is our theme song and sung at the end of each rehearsal. The third song is your audition song, to concentrate on. Your job is to practice with your part predominant on the recording, and memorize it. The goal is to get as close to note and word perfect as you can, and to be able to hold on to your part with the 3 other parts. You will have as many practice quartets as you'd like to get you ready for the audition, within 6 weeks. When it comes time for the audition, you will sing your part with 3 other ladies, and we'll be listening for how you take your pitch, your notes and words, and how well you sing in tune. If you don't pass the audition on the first try, you will be given another chance. After passing the musical audition, you will then fill out the application for membership in Sweet Adelines and turn that in to the membership chair with your money for dues.

We're All in the Chord

Barbershop music is a unique four-part harmony blend of bass, baritone, lead and tenor parts. Each part working together singing their part smart helps Shades of Harmony Chorus achieve that *awesome* barbershop sound, which is our musical goal.

- Tenors:** are the tops! Usually the top note in the chord, to be sung delicately and lightly. You are the icing on the cake –yummy!!
- Leads:** are usually the melody that everyone must hear. You set the pace for the drama and tell the story of the song. All the harmony enhances you!
- Baritones:** are known as the "technicians" of the chord. You make "it" happen. You glue the chord together. (Oh, the pressure!!)
- Basses:** are the foundation of the chord. You are what barbershop is built on. You drive the tempo and put those low, low, low notes in the chord. Yes, you are different.

We are all "Special"!! Without any one part, we no longer sing Barbershop!!

Choreography

I joined this organization to SING! What does choreography have to do with it?

Cho.re.og'ra.phy [according to Shades of Harmony]

The art of bringing to life the words and message of our song:

- through sincerity; facial expression; emotions, enthusiasm; attitude; energy; posture; and lastly – the arm, hand and body movements.
- to get our music “across the footlights” so that our audience can experience the joy of our music and message of our song!

How to Learn Your Music

At Rehearsal: --

Our desire for musical excellence requires ALL members to be responsible for learning their music accurately and quickly. **You will need to acquire a hand-held recorder** to tape yourself singing at rehearsals and to listen to later for your own education. All members have to audition new songs by handing in their recordings to their section leaders for evaluation.

At Home:--

We strongly recommend that you sing along with your learning CD at home. It is important to work on notes, words, vowels, breathing, interpretation etc at HOME so that we can spend time perfecting these skills at rehearsals.

The CD also provides you with the quartet part where you can sing your part against the other three parts, first with the sheet music noting where you are having difficulty until you can confidently sing it without any note errors.

As soon as you can do this perfectly, record yourself at the next rehearsal or practice quartet, without using the music and check it afterwards for mistakes.

About the Money

As with most leisure activities or hobbies, members of the Shades of Harmony do pay for the benefits we receive. While it might seem like quite a bit at first glance, it is considerably less than other activities or clubs – about \$5 for the night out. And you will see that you get a lot for your money!

After you have passed your audition and are accepted into the chorus, you will have *two weeks* to pay:

		Check made out to
International dues	\$ 100.00	Shades of Harmony
Regional assessment	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	(waived for first year)

Total: \$100.00

Youth up to age 25	\$ 50.00	
Regional assessment	<u>\$ 12.50</u>	(waived first year)

Total: \$50.00

Costume rental fee **\$90** (\$45 refunded if you leave the chorus)

Members also pay monthly chapter dues of \$21.00, \$16 for youth

Monthly checks should be made out to *Shades of Harmony Chorus*.