



Region 26 honoured to announce the very first CMEA (Canadian Music Educator Award) - Our Own Patti Thorpe from Westcoast Harmony Chorus

~Stephanie Ball



It is with great pride and excitement that we are featuring Patti Thorpe in this edition of the Maple Leaf Express - **Patti has won Sweet Adeline International's nomination for the 2016 Canadian Music Educators Award (CMEA) which will be presented at the Las Vegas International Competition this October!**

"Patti was raised in a barbershop family and that thread has been securely woven into her career as a music educator for almost three decades. As a proud Sweet Adeline she employs her barbershop skills in selecting music, choir directing, teaching vocal production, motivating performers to excel, and building a supportive musical community."

As a high school music teacher, "...[Patti] selects music that presents real challenges for young singers, and patiently encourages them to sing at a high level and in close harmony, often a cappella." - **Margaret Sampson, Nomination Letter**

Among her many accomplishments, Patti has been the co-director of the Langley Children's choir since 1991, and co-founded the amazing Westcoast Harmony Chorus's Young Women in Harmony program in 2004 with Christine MacKenzie.

In addition to Patti's passion and achievements in education, this nomination and award would not have come to fruition without the tireless efforts of **Joey Minshall, Margaret Sampson, and other members of the Region and Management Team** - thank you to all that made this happen.

Patti is overjoyed about the nomination and award. When asked what her reaction was when she received the phone call from SAI President, Paula Davis, she said there were a lot of tears and subsequent phone calls made to friends and family to share the news. She is still in disbelief and says, "I have seen the American award presented countless times and the idea that my name will be first on the Canadian award? Crazy!"



(L) Patti Thorpe with Joey Minshall

Patti can't imagine her life without Sweet Adelines. "I have learned (and continue to learn) so much from this amazing organization".

"Patti's SAI skills have influenced our young singers in their ability to sing in close harmony, to sing a cappella, and to sing with their whole bodies... Imagining Patti without the influence of SAI is impossible, probably as impossible as it is to imagine your organization without her. Every year I'm reminded how lucky I and all of our singers are to get to work with her." - **Kim Hardy, friend & Co-Worker**

And the icing on the cake: **Patti has been asked to direct the YWIH chorus at the 2016 International Convention in Las Vegas, and Lisa Hills will be choreographing!**

Thank you for everything you contribute to the music community and to our art form, Patti. Region 26 is so grateful and so proud of you! Congratulations!

*"...When students surprise themselves - when they were not confident about their ability and they produce something wonderful (in music)...that is ground shaking."
~Patti Thorpe*

Save The Date

OCTOBER 15, 2016

FOR THE 2016
**INTERNATIONAL
YOUNG WOMEN
IN HARMONY
FESTIVAL**



- WHO:** Female singers ages 25 and younger
- WHAT:** A FREE educational experience for young female singers who want to learn more about barbershop!
- WHEN:** The festival is Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The chorus will perform Tuesday, October 18, 2016.
- WHERE:** MGM Grand Conference Center, Las Vegas, NV
- WHY:** An opportunity to meet other singers your age, to learn barbershop songs and choreography to be performed on the international stage
- HOW:** Register online at www.sweetadelines.com/YWIIHfestival

Sweet Adelines International is excited to present the 2016 International Young Women in Harmony Festival!

This free-of-charge festival is open to female singers ages 25 and younger; Sweet Adelines membership is not required to attend or participate. The YWIIH festival is an opportunity to meet other singers your age, all with one thing in common: MUSIC!



On Saturday, October 15th, participants will engage in an exhilarating day of fun and educational rehearsals, filled with music, singing and dancing! Working with Sweet Adelines certified director Patti Thorpe, and choreographer Lisa Hills, you will be introduced to the elements of singing four-part, a cappella harmony in the barbershop style.



The festival experience will culminate in an exciting chorus performance on the evening of Tuesday, October 18, 2016. The YWIIH festival chorus will perform a show package on the Sweet Adelines International stage at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, in front of an audience of more than 3,000 and webcast to thousands of fans across the globe.

Don't miss this chance to perform on the International stage! If you are a middle school, high school or college-age female singer, please join us for the exciting festival!

Go to www.sweetadelines.com/YWIIHfestival to register today!

TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS LOST 2016

Wendy Cawson - Hearts of Harmony Chorus

Wendy Cawson will be remembered by all who knew her for her welcoming spirit and sense of fun, for her warmth, kindness, care and compassion, and for her beautiful smile - it lit up a room! She will also be remembered for her grace and generosity, and her willingness to jump in and serve humanity in any capacity needed at the time.



Wendy was a member from 2009 until 2016, when she was suddenly taken from us by a brief illness. Wendy served on the Management Team, was a strong singer in the bass section, and was always willing to help. Whether it was setting up risers, negotiating a great deal for a new sound system for the chorus, working tirelessly on the Tools for Schools project with other members, or welcoming prospective guests, Wendy was there, involved with her whole heart. We miss Wendy, and will remember her spot on the risers with sadness for a long time to come.

Joan Cooney, Arbutus Sounds Chorus

August 1, 1946 - May 18, 2016

Arbutus Sounds Chorus sadly announces the passing of a very dear member, Joan Cooney. Singing (lead) was her passion, and her family feel that the music kept her going way beyond medical expectations. Rehearsing songs during chemo treatments was a very common occurrence.

Joan was the epitome of unconditional love, and a shining example of faith, strength, courage, endurance and acceptance. She was truly an inspiration to her chorus and will be missed by all who knew her.



Lynn Blackadder, Southern Accord Chorus and Vocal Motion! Chorus

February 6 1958 – December 19, 2015

We celebrate the life of Lynn Blackadder, a strong and genuine member of Southern Accord Chorus and Vocal Motion! Chorus. Lynn enthusiastically participated in many areas of Chorus life during her 8 years of membership. She was a master of juggling her career, her two choruses, her love of birds and photography, and most importantly her love of family, her three children and her husband Bruce.

Lynn was looking forward to singing with Southern Accord Chorus at the Regional Competition in April and performing with Vocal Motion! Chorus at the Harmony Classic Competition at the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Las Vegas next October. She and her strong lead voice will be truly missed.

A brick has been placed in the patio at International Headquarters in memory of Lynn's service and participation in Sweet Adelines International. Vocal Motion Chorus will be wearing a memory jewel in their costumes at the Harmony Classic in Las Vegas in October. (Photo above) How do we say goodbye to someone so vibrant and joyful and someone who loved to serve in all areas of her life – her career as a Nursing Officer with the Canadian Armed Forces (1988-1995), a neo-natal nurse and most recently as an operating room nurse at the Chinook Regional Hospital in Lethbridge.



KLASSEN, Carol Isabelle (nee Marlin) Westcoast Harmony Chorus
July 17, 1933 - December 20, 2015



We rejoice in a life well lived by Carol Klassen (nee Marlin). Carol was born in Wolseley, Saskatchewan in the depths of the Depression, the sixth child of tenant farmers George and Gladys Marlin. She moved to Calgary for high school and then to Vancouver where she met and married the love of her life, Abie. Together they built a home for their family and settled in South Burnaby.

Carol was instrumental in many community projects such as Meals on Wheels, Burnabettes and at the school with the kids. Carol loved to sew. She did costume construction and reconstruction for all her children and then for her grandchildren. She joined Sweet Adelines and helped establish (Burnaby Chorus) Westcoast Harmony Chorus, where she sang and continued to sew while serving in leadership roles in Region 26. Carol and Abie were cornerstone supporters of barbershop singing in this part of the world. In all things she was an organizer, and was also hardworking, energetic and always willing to pitch in and help to get things done. Sadly, her vibrancy was taken from her in recent years with the development of Parkinsons Disease.

Our thoughts are with the Klassen family. Carol was the ultimate Mom, friend and Sweet Adeline. We will all cherish the memories and love Carol shared with us.



For Carol's contribution to International and Region 26 (Regent, Membership and Official Panel Liaison) a brick at SAI was purchased in her honour.

Muriel Irene Prosser, Heart of the Island
May 23, 1935 to February 29, 2016



Muriel was born in Birmingham England and immigrated to Canada with her husband Ken and their son Roy in 1967. They settled in Thunder Bay but two years later they packed up all their belongings and started a westward journey to Vancouver Island. Muriel was employed at Nanaimo Regional Hospital until her retirement. Muriel was a member of Heart of the Island Chorus for 35 years. She had a beautiful rich bass voice. Muriel was the consummate enthusiastic volunteer who never turned down an opportunity to serve her chorus. She was voted "Our Chorus Sweetheart" in 2013. She served on the IMT for many years and was a member of the present board. Muriel's sister Dorothy Decleg is a member of City of Gardens and both sisters have sung together numerous times in both choruses.

Muriel will be remembered for her vibrancy, kindness, and her always-present sense of fun. 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight' was Muriel's favorite chorus song. We silently dedicate it to her memory each and every time it is sung.

We honour and remember these fantastic women of Region 26. Inspiring stories and gratitude beyond measure. Their participation and leadership are what we are made of.
Rest in Peace friends, we think of you often.



The Treehouse B&B



We're closing for the season
September 30. Book for next year
and receive 15% OFF
PLEASE MENTION THIS AD

Welcome to the Treehouse at J♥Y in the beautiful North Okanagan! Come and stay in the only Treehouse B&B and enjoy the sounds of the trickling stream, birdsong, and wind through the trees. Your arrival is celebrated with a wine and cheese snack tray. After that there's so much more to explore.

For more info or booking email: Enderby.Treehouse@gmail.com or phone 250-803-1755

Lions Gate Chorus
Performance
Celebrating Diversity at
the New Westminster
Pride Festival,
Aug 13, 2016



“We had the privilege of not only performing and celebrating diversity, but also joining host Whoopsie Daisy in singing ‘True Colors’ in honour and respect of the fallen in Orlando. It was also shared by Lisa Hood that the brick building in the shot behind Elaine and Elvera is the new home to Grouponizer! “



ANNOUNCING

It's our pleasure to announce that Steph Ball has joined the Maple Leaf Express as a Cub Reporter. She is following her dream to become a journalist. We're so happy she can use her talents here. You may recognize her as the tenor of our Region 26 Quartet Champions, No Strings!

If you have an idea for an article, please email us.
Steph (steph.sball@gmail.com)
Yvonne (region26contest@gmail.com)



Regional Management Team **UPDATE**

Greetings, Region 26! Your RMT met by Skype Sunday August 14. Here are some highlights from that meeting. (including some newer updates)

1 - Members who wish to do any DCP module testing at Area Schools coming in November should contact DCP Administrator Lynda Elliott lynda.elliott@shaw.ca to make arrangements. Please do that NOW so that the various event managers can make sure there is appropriate space available.

2 - Update on RES 2017, with our fabulous faculty FRENZY! quartet, August 17-20: we are investigating venues in Edmonton AB. Mark your calendars now!

3 - Update on Area Schools 2016 with KIM VAUGHN: Kim will be here for three wonderful weeks this November, leading Area Schools (in Calgary Nov 11-12, Saskatoon Nov 18-19 and Vancouver Nov 25-26) as well as coaching 12 choruses throughout the Region. EdCo Lisa Hunszinger is now working on scheduling quartet coaching into Kim's stay. Workshop registration is set at \$40/member, \$20/YWIH, \$60/non-member, and will include the workshop song Together in Harmony, and learning tracks. Registration info is now available on www.region26.ca Details have been sent to all Team Leaders. Please contact Yvonne if you have not received them. region26contest@gmail.com

4 - The RMT has selected "One Voice" as our theme for 2017 education events and competition. Look for a new logo in November.

5 - We're very excited to announce that EdCo Lisa Hunszinger is in process of confirming dates for Area Schools in the fall of 2018 with...are you ready for this?! ... RYAN HELLER!

6 - **Region 26 RAH RAH in Vegas!!! So much to cheer for! Come and make some noise for our TWO Choruses and FOUR Quartets: Westcoast Harmony and Vocal-Motion; Frenzy, Glow, No Strings and Uptown Suite!!!**
When? Monday, October 17, 2016
Time? 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Where? MGM Grand Conference Center, Rm 319
Bring your home-made red-and-white shakers!! (made from plastic bags - find on YouTube) YAY!!!

7 - RMT wants YOU! Positions coming open for next term (2017 - 2019) are: Director Coordinator, Events Coordinator, Finance Coordinator and Marketing Coordinator. More info coming soon from the Nominating Committee. In the meantime if you're interested or have questions, please speak with any RMT member. C'mon, you know you wanna!

That's it for this time. Next RMT Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Area School in Calgary - we'll look forward to seeing many of you there.

Vicky, Donna, Bev, Yvonne, Cathy, Susan, Lisa and Joey - RMT Region 26

LAS VEGAS!!! Westcoast Harmony, Vocal Motion, Frenzy, Glow, No Strings and Uptown Suite! Watch for our ads!





Join us for an incredible weekend of learning and fun as we take a “Journey through the Voice” with the one and only Kim Vaughn, Sweet Adeline extraordinaire! Kim will be in each of the three provinces of Region 26 to offer everyone an area school experience close to home.

Nov 11/12	Calgary, AB	Coast Plaza Hotel • Host Chinook Winds Show Chorus blocked rooms held at \$115-\$140 per night
Nov 18/19	Saskatoon, SK	Radisson Hotel • Host Magic City Chorus blocked rooms held at \$135/night
Nov 25/26	Vancouver, BC	Unity Vancouver, 5840 Oak St • Host Lions Gate Coast Airport Hotel has reserved 10 rooms at \$90

**REGISTRATION FORMS AND INFO NOW ON REGION26.CA
OPEN TO ALL SAI, BHS AND CHORAL SINGERS**

The workshops will offer something for everyone, taking a journey through the individual voice, the unity of each section, and how each of those benefit the ensemble as a whole. Everyone will have the opportunity to get involved as a singer and learn hands-on in small groups and in a large chorus as well as watch Kim work with a demo chorus. You will be able to see it, hear it and experience it all!

Journey through the voice

As Musical Director of the San Diego Chorus since 1985, Kim Vaughn led the chorus to multiple successes, including the International championship in 2001 and a 2014 regional score of 708, earning her the title of Master 700 Director. She recently retired from directing and spends many months of the year away from home, coaching around the world. Kim was also the Musical Director of Pacific Coast Harmony, a men’s barbershop harmony chorus.

Kim has won the International Quartet Champion title three times, and is the first woman to ever do so. She won her first title in 1976 with High Society, again in 1988 with Savvy, and most recently in 2001 with a cappella Gold.

A vocal teacher and member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Kim holds a B.A. in Music Education and an M.A. in Vocal Pedagogy from San Diego State University. She is also a certified judge in the Sound category as well as International Faculty for Sweet Adelines.

Quartets!

Who, What and Where are they now? ~Stephanie Ball

Harmonycatz

Congratulations! How did it feel to win audience choice?

Humbling – to be nominated by one's peers and then to win – Fantastic! We were on cloud nine - walking on air. It was such a thrill to know that the audience enjoyed what we love to do the most - sing and have fun. The icing on the cake was getting to do it all over again on the Show of Champions. That was even more fun - if that's possible.

How was the energy on stage? It must have felt different than the normal competition format.

The energy was great. The audience was very responsive and we felt right at home. It was exciting to be in the Show of Champions. We were in the company of Queens, first place winners of the Quartet competition, winning choruses – we really felt like



winners. The competition itself was great – warmth and support from the audience. We just wanted to showcase what we have been doing in our performances for the last 9 years.

What's in store for Harmonycatz's future?

We are currently taking a little time off over the summer - family time - a little travel time and one of us is dealing with a broken wrist. But when Sept. 1 arrives we hope to get right back in gear. We have a ton of new music to learn and Christmas performanc-

es in the wings. There is always a new script or two in the making and we hope this will be a fun year ahead for us. As long as life doesn't get in the way, we will be singing together for a loooooong time.

VOX

How long have you been together?

VOX began singing together at the end of October in 2015, so we are not yet one year old and we had only been together six months when we competed at regional competition in Saskatoon.

How did it feel to win the novice quartet award?

FANTASTIC! Our goal going into contest was to win the Novice Quartet Award, so we were THRILLED to achieve our goal. We were excited to receive the regional plaque and certificate. Chinook Winds Show Chorus surprised us with individual plaques to commemorate this win. Both Chinook Winds Chorus and Rhythm of the Rockies Chorus supported us throughout our journey. We are very appreciative of the coaches who helped us reach our goal.

Do you have any advice for new quartets? Decide what kind of quartet you would like to be, which will help determine how much time, coaching and hard work will be required. Choose a coach or coaches to help you prog-

ress. Record coaching sessions, make notes, and follow through on their advice. Get as many performance opportunities as possible. Sing, have fun and laugh!



What's next for VOX?

Build a good repertoire, perform often, continue to develop our personal and quartet musical skills. At contest in 2017 our new goal is to improve our score.

Uptown Suite

Congratulations! How does it feel to have qualified as a wildcard quartet for Las Vegas?

Super EXCITED!!! It was right down to the wire, so it was a nerve wracking time as we were waiting to see if we actually made it!

How long have you been singing together?

We started singing together in March 2015, but we've all been in different quartets over the years. Danna and Shayna have sung together for 23 years in various quartets and Donna and Pat have been singing together for about 17 years!

We finally put these 2 halves together last spring but we had to figure out how to put 2 leads in a quartet!!

What was the most memorable part of the journey to securing your wildcard spot?

I think the most memorable part happened while we were all apart from each other. The last few regions were competing and we were hanging on to that wild card spot by just a hair and so waiting for the final results that weekend was super exciting. Pat and her hubby Barrie were coming home from a dinner out with Bev Hunter and her



hubby Dwayne. Barrie was driving and Pat was watching the on line results all the way through dinner and so when the final scores came through on the ride home that little car nearly levitated off the road with whoops and hollers from the 4 of them!! Danna and Shayna were watching that webcast from Arizona sweating through all 32 quartet contestants and while Danna was calm and

confident, Shayna was the nervous one!! So when the results were posted Danna was the picture of serenity and Shayna started bouncing up and down screaming! Donna and Rob were heading to the interior that weekend and driving through the mountains the cell service was spotty. Donna

kept getting little blips of information and then suddenly would lose the connection. With every curve of the road she'd get a little more info but not the whole message. The suspense was killing her as she couldn't connect long enough to get any answers! She finally asked (screamed) to her hubby Rob to PULL OVER!!! Then finding a good connection her phone started bing, bing binging with the news that WE MADE IT!!!! Yup, we were all screaming and jumping in our little parts of the world!

Holy IMPROVEMENT! How does it feel to have improved by 78 points in just 1 year?! That's huge!

It felt so great to see all the hard work that we put in pay off on the score sheets. I'm pretty sure everyone in the hotel could hear our excited screams..!

Yay!

Having Caroline Richards (Vocal Motion's director, and our Bass, Mae's, mom) available as our "fifth ear" was extremely valuable.

Region 26 is super welcoming and supportive, and everyone genuinely wants to see performers do well. There's

You obviously worked really hard over the past year – what was key in your jump to the next level?

When we first competed, we were so nervous, and honestly, quite terrified! Our goal was to just have fun and get the experience under our belts. We picked our contest songs early, set some realistic goals, and practiced our skills consistently. We've applied as much of what we've learned from singing in chorus (Vocal Motion!) as we could, and solidified our contest plan early on.



nothing like the feeling of being on stage!

The most important questions (costume related) – who is in charge of your costumes and where do you find those adorable dresses!?

We found our dresses last year at a store in Calgary called "Blame Betty" that sells kind of retro, rockabilly style clothing. It was a "costume miracle" that we were able to walk into the first store we went to and find four matching dresses that fit everyone perfectly!

To avoid conflict of dates all choruses are reminded that upcoming events should be coordinated with **Vicky Smith**, and report to TL of each local chorus.
Region 26 Team Coordinator; Email: vickysmith@shaw.ca



**R26
CALENDAR**

2016

- Oct 8 Westcoast Harmony Chorus Sneak Preview
- Oct 17-22 International Convention in Las Vegas NV
- Nov 11/12 Area School, Calgary, AB
- Nov 18/19 Area School, Saskatoon, SK
- Nov 25/26 Area School, Vancouver, BC
- Nov 26 Rhythm of the Rockies, "Speaking about Christmas"
- Nov 27 Lions Gate Chorus Concert, TBA

2017

- Apr 27-30 Regional Convention , Surrey, BC
- Oct 9-14 International Convention in Las Vegas NV

**LET US KNOW ABOUT
YOUR EVENTS!**

We'll post them here & online.
Next Maple Leaf EXPRESS is
 Sept. 1st and stuff is due
 the week before.
region26contest@gmail.com

REGION 26 Calendar is also online in the members only section!

>>NEW advertising OPS<<

Do you have a business in women's services, jewellery, bookkeeping or virtual assistance? These are a few examples of the types of businesses we want to help with advertising!

Two issues - 1/4 page - \$50, 1/2 page - \$95
 Four issues - 1/4 page - \$80, 1/2 page - \$155
 (design fees are separate) Please email for rate sheet and order region26contest@gmail.com



**ADVERTISING
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**REGION 26
CHORUS OR
QUARTET ADS
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>>EDITOR<<

Yvonne Meyer

<region26contest@gmail.com>

WEB LINKS TO BARBERSHOP

- www.barbershop.org
- www.evgsings.org (Evergreen District BHS)
- www.barbershophistory.com
- www.barbershop.de (BinG)
- www.labbs.org.uk/ (Ladies British BBS)
- www.harmonyinc.org (Women BBS)
- www.snobs.org (Nordic Barbershop)



Message me if you know of others. YM

ANY DONATION IS WELCOME!



Like it says, ANY donation will be appreciated!

Challenge: Sing a song, bake some cookies, or pass a hat.... collect donations and contact Susan to send a cheque or e-transfer. Any donation! We'll congratulate all participants in the next Maple Leaf Express.

E-transfers to finregion26@gmail.com
 Susan Dumas - sdumas3255@gmail.com