



Contest Updates

Contest Dates: May 3-6, 2018

Locations:

- **Hotel** - Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel (15269 - 104 AVE, Surrey)
- **Contest** - Chandos Pattison Auditorium (10238 - 168 ST, Surrey)

Schedule:

Thursday, May 3:

- Registration Opens at 3 pm;
- 1st Nite from 6 pm - 9 pm

Friday, May 4:

- Mass Sing - Guildford Town Centre - 12:30-1:15 pm
- Education Class - 2-3 pm;
- Quartet Contest - 5 pm

Saturday, May 5:

- Chorus Contest - 11 am;
- Show of Champions at Chandos - 7:30 pm
- Afterglow at the hotel

Save the Date



April 20-21 - YWIH Workshop, Langley, BC

April 21 - Prairie Gold Chorus Celebrates 35 Years, Regina

April 25 - Peace Arch Chorus Sneak Peek Concert, Surrey

April 25 - Harmony Extravaganza, Calgary

May 3 - 6 - Regionals, Surrey

June 2 - Chinook Winds Show Chorus Garden Party, Calgary

September 28-29 - Area School with Ryan Heller - Saskatoon

October 15-20 - Internationals in St. Louis, Missouri

October 26-27 - YWIH Workshop, Calgary

November 2-3 - Area School with Ryan Heller - Calgary

November 16-17 - Area School with Ryan Heller - Vancouver



Pack Up Your Trebles in Your Riser Bag and Smile, Smile, Smile!

by Kim Martin

Can you believe that contest is right around the corner? I'm sure there is one group who can't believe it either! Before we go any further, we all need to thank Judy McAlpine, Chair of the Regional Convention, Yvonne "Y" Meyer, Competition Coordinator and the rest of the Convention Crew for all their time and energy in pulling this event together. Please know that you are all very much appreciated!

Like me you are probably busy making lists to ensure you don't forget anything, and then you promptly lose your lists. It's usually the little things you forget like camera card, hairbrush, costume, shoes, etc., like I said, the little things. We started making up these Contest Checklists for our chorus, update them each year and then hand them out. It amazes me how much stuff we need to bring for a weekend!

While you're busy packing, don't forget to brush up on the songs we'll be singing at 1st Nite and the Mass Sing at Guildford Town Centre. We'll be singing: *Can You Feel the Love Tonight*, *Fame*, *Good Ol' A Cappella*; *Harmonize the World*; *Hooked on a Feeling*; *How We Sang Today*, and *Its My Song*.

CONTEST CHECKLIST

COSTUMES

- ☐ New Purple Jacket
- ☐ New Black Pants
- ☐ New Black Top with Sheer Sleeves
- ☐ Cappezi's/Approved Shoes
- ☐ Silk Sheer Black Pantyhose
- ☐ Roll Control Garment
- ☐ Chorus Rhinestone Earrings
- ☐ Chorus Rhinestone Necklace
- ☐ Red and White Outfit for Thursday
- ☐ Green Scarf for Friday
- ☐ Riser Bag

MAKEUP

- ☐ Foundation - Honey Beige #4
- ☐ Finishing Powder
- ☐ Eye Shadow Primer
- ☐ Eye Shadow
 - ☐ CandleLight/WhiteGold
 - ☐ Wine/Brownberry
 - ☐ PS-1 White/Time Resist White
- ☐ Blush - Wild Dusty Rose/Victorian Rose
- ☐ Eyelashes - Ardell #107
- ☐ Eyelash Glue
- ☐ Eyeliner - NYX MPE02/SL07
- ☐ Lipstick - Maybelline #625
- ☐ Lip Liner - Red
- ☐ Mascara - Black
- ☐ Eyebrow Pencil - Dark Brown

TOILETRIES

- ☐ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ☐ Brush/Comb
- ☐ Hair Products
- ☐ Irons/Rollers
- ☐ Makeup Remover
- ☐ Face Products
- ☐ Contact Lens Case & Solution
- ☐ Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Lipstick/balm
- ☐ Grooming Kit (Nail file, etc.)
- ☐ First Aid Kit (Band-aids, etc.)
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Sewing Kit/Safety Pins
- ☐ Showercap

APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

- ☐ Tops/Shirts
- ☐ Pants/Shorts
- ☐ Undergarments
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Jammies and Slippers
- ☐ Shoes/Walking Shoes
- ☐ Warm Coat
- ☐ Bikini
- ☐ Gloves/ Hat/Scarf
- ☐ Rain Gear/Umbrella

ELECTRONICS

- ☐ Phone Charger
- ☐ Camera/Charger/Memory Card
- ☐ iPod/Headphones/Charger
- ☐ Chorus Name Tag for Afterglow

This is so exciting! See you in Surrey!

- Share the webcast information with friends and family who can't make it to Surrey (www.region26webcast.com).
- Tweet, Twitter, Tweeted your little contest adventures to #R26Fusion.
- Wear your fusion colours for 1st Nite and the Mass Singout.



BROADWAY Here We Come!

Lions Gate Chorus - Total Vocal '18 - March 25, 2018

by Katherine Webster, Lions Gate Chorus

On March 25th, 20 members of Lions Gate Chorus (LGC. lite) had the pleasure of singing at Total Vocal '18 SOLD OUT show at Lincoln Center in New York City. It's a celebration of a cappella singing in a festival atmosphere. We were thrilled to be directed and coached by none other than Deke Sharon, the "godfather of modern a cappella". Canada was well represented as half the singers in the Act 1 chorus were from the True North (BC & ON). Having the opportunity to sing and work with so many other a cappella groups from around the world is golden! High school students right through to seasoned Barbershop men (Vocal Confluence, Voices of Gotham, Westchester Chorus) and women from Lions Gate Chorus. Not to mention special A Cappella guests like Matt Sallee (Bass from Pentatonix), VoicePlay, Kari Francis and SO MANY more!



If you'd like to watch the archived Live Stream event from facebook, you can view it at <https://www.facebook.com/DistinguishedConcertsInternationalNewYork/videos/10156217750196948/>. The official concert review is at <http://nyconcertreview.com/reviews/distinguished-concerts-international-new-york-dciny-presents-total-vocal-in-review-4/?j=166938&sfmcsub=67558474&l=1997> HTML&u=5448717&mid=7283745&jb=0

This opportunity was a Bucket List item for many of our group. If it is for you as well, Total Vocal 2019 is already scheduled! Check out the organizers' Distinguished Concerts International - New York at www.dciny.org.

REC APPOINTS QUARTET EDUCATION SPECIALIST

The Regional Executive Committee (REC) is very happy to announce the appoint of Dawn Witherspoon to the position of Quartet Education Specialist.



Dawn will be joining the Resource Staff under the guidance of Lynda Elliott, Regional Education Director.

Dawn is a member of Gateway Chorus and Thumbs Up Quartet.

Welcome to the team Dawn!

One Nation. One Voice

CANADA 150

PINS PRICED TO SELL! BLOW OUT SPECIAL! \$1 EACH!
Available only at the Boutique during the Fusion 2018 Contest.



CANADA'S 150TH
SHOW YOUR PRIDE AS ONE OF
NATION'S MUSIC MAKERS

The limited edition One Nation, One Voice pin. Now available online.

All proceeds go to Region 26, the only All-Canadian region of Sweet Adeline singers.

WWW.REGION26.CA/ONEVOICEPIN

Bulk rate available for orders of more than 12 pins



How Are You Preparing For Contest?

by Kim Martin, Team Coordinator, Chinook Winds Show Chorus

Contest preparation time is a season all of it's own and as our annual contest draws nearer, choruses and quartets are in a flurry of activity. Dress rehearsals, retreats, friends and family nights, motivational and team building activities, makeup training, costume adjustments, and let's not forget, lots and lots of singing! For some members, this isn't their first rodeo but they find themselves getting just as excited as the first timers. The pageantry of the contest makes us all stars on stage and we all want to shine! One of the best parts of the season is the sharing. Choruses open their doors to quartets looking for very willing and supportive audiences and choruses are out sharing their love of singing wherever they can. How have you been preparing for contest?



Alberta Gold Chorus

by Dallas Loschuk, Alberta Gold Chorus

We had a wonderful workshop with Cheryl Pearce from Magic City Chorus, Saskatoon on March 24th. Two of our Music Team members/Rah! Rah! Committee started us on the road to Rah! Rah! a few weeks ago. They are getting us pumped up by doing little projects every week - yes, that means homework besides practicing our music! They also have a unique way for each chorus member to make a wish heading into competition! We had a sing-out at a Senior's Home a few weeks ago and were joined by Ambrosia quartet which always adds to the entertainment. We ended our chorus practice on March 12th with a little St. Paddy's Day social.

Exciting Times Ahead for Pacific Edge Chorus

by Carol Henderson, Member-at-Large, Pacific Edge Chorus

Pacific Edge Chorus have been very busy lately with contest coming up. In preparation, we recently spent a lovely, however busy, weekend retreat in beautiful Sooke at the Prestige Hotel. Our days were long and were spent rehearsing, singing, and perfecting our art with the help, and expertise, from Julie Smith, and Sandy and Tim Marron. Tim also took the time out to teach personal voice instruction which, in my opinion was invaluable. Our evenings were mainly spent together, singing, talking about music, having fun, and some women walked down to the beautiful ocean boardwalk to enjoy a quiet moment while watching the sunset. It was a lovely enjoyable weekend.

Back in Victoria we continued working on choreo and started learning a new song.

On April 14th we sang with South Island Harmony for their 50th anniversary show and we are singing at the Tidesman competition weekend in Nanaimo on April 27th and 28th. Both will be a perfect opportunity to prepare for contest in May.

This will be followed by a Paint Night in May and by Wine Women and Wheels 111 on September 16th at Enrico Winery, along with the car show which is always a great day.

PAC PEACE ARCH Chorus

Barbershop-style A Cappella Singing
SNEAK PEEK
Concert with Special Guests
April 25, 2018

DOORS 7:00 PM
Free Admission • 50/50 Draw
Newton Cultural Center
13530 72 Ave Surrey BC
(at King George)

peacearchchorus@gmail.com
f PeaceArchChorus
@PeaceArchChorus
www.peacearchsings.com

Meanwhile back in Calgary, Contest Prep Continues...

A number of quartets are making the rounds and it's been fantastic! Chinook Winds Show Chorus has had the opportunity to experience No Strings Quartet, Under a Rest, and Zenergy up close and personal. As well, Chinook Winds and Rhythm of the Rockies are both hosting Friends and Family Nights in April.



Vocal Motion is presenting Harmony Extravaganza for the second year. This show, featuring Alberta Gold, Chinook Winds, Rhythm of the Rockies and our amazing quartets, gives us all an opportunity to sing and show our support for each other. We will also have a sneak peek at Vocal Motion's St. Louis performance!



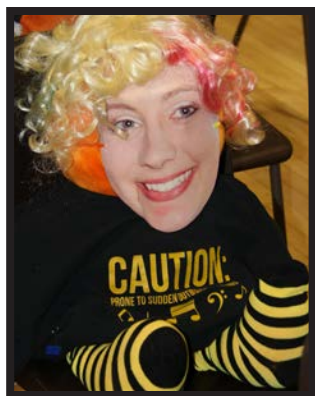
No Strings Quartet



Zenergy

No Audience? No problem! Try hosting some open rehearsals and advertise for an audience. Keep in mind that the primary purpose behind an open rehearsal is to recruit and share our love of barbershop with an audience, not recruit new members, but, that said, if some of the guests happen to get caught up in all the excitement and come back the next week, that's an added bonus! If you market the open rehearsal especially around the community where you rehearse, and get your chorus on board to promote it, add in some refreshments and good singing, you'll be surprised with the results.

Don't have time to plan an open rehearsal? No problem! Build your own audience! It may be a little out of the box thinking but for our Open Rehearsal at Chinook Winds, we gave each member a choice, bring a guest or build one. The result was a wild mix of people and decorated chairs but the effect was positive. We had a sea of faces including family, former coaches, and beloved former members to perform for and, at the same time, it was a fun team building activity!



However you prepare for contest remember to do it for the love of singing, the joy of harmony, the amazing feeling of unity you get from being with your chorus and quartet sisters, and with an eye to the adventures ahead. Here's to a fusion filled weekend of fellowship, fun, and fantastic singing, with an added prayer that I will be able to put on my eyelashes without gluing my eyes shut! See you all in Surrey!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

ARBUTUS SOUNDS CHORUS WELCOMES CONNIE JOHNSTON AS NEW MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Connie joined Arbutus Sounds Chorus in 1997 and has been a driving force musically and educationally, spreading her infectious love of barbershop harmony. The years 2004 to 2010 were spent with Alberta Heartland Chorus, learning from some of our region's most successful directors, then returning to Arbutus Sounds, bringing with her more enthusiasm, experience and knowledge, which she has unselfishly shared.



Connie has been baritone section leader, publicity chairman, music committee member and an integral part of the chorus directing team in the absence of her snow-birding director. She has updated the chorus evaluation process, the audition requirements and is now enrolled in the DCP program as she takes on the role as new musical director.

Stepping down as director is **Deb Sneddon** who took up the position when the founding director Grace Kutcher retired in 2004. Deb has been pivotal in keeping Arbutus Sounds Chorus actively performing in the Sunshine Coast



Communities. Family, friends, chorus and community members thank her for keeping barbershop harmony alive and well. Deb will step back up on the risers, keeping her years of experience and leadership with Arbutus Sounds Chorus.

GUESS WHAT?

We have a surprise waiting for you!!! The Membership Resource Staff of Region 26 are preparing to announce... you'll have to come see!

COME TO 1ST NITE FOR THE REVEAL!

Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel
Ballroom, Surrey, BC - May 3, 2018 7:00 pm

WEAR YOUR BEST FUSION COLOURS!!



WESTCOAST
HARMONY
CHORUS

Invites you to

BOUTIQUE 2018

Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel

15269 104th Avenue, Surrey, in the Fraser Room

Thursday, May 3, 3-7 p.m., 9-10 p.m.

Friday, May 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday, May 5, 9-10 a.m.

Sunday, May 6, 9-10 a.m.



*Here's a sampling of our
14 Vendors!*

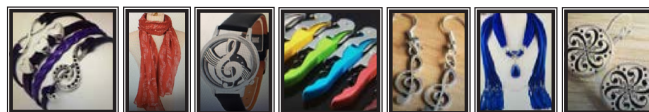
MojiLife
Avon
LipSense & SeneGence
Norwex
Pampered Chef
Rack Fashions
Tupperware
Heaven N Earth Native Art
Epicure
The Alexander Boy's Tea & Drink Co.
Beau Jangles
Kittens Mittens Knit & Crochet
And More!!

And there's more!!

Raffle Baskets!

Fabulous Bake Sale!

including Gluten Free and Keto items



www.westcoastsings.com

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Magic City Chorus + Harmony Explosion = Serendipity

By Alanna King

Magic City Chorus of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan hosted a retreat in March, which was enthusiastically referred to as “HARMONY EXPLOSION 2018”. The purpose of the weekend was to set aside time to focus on building the strong bond required not only to sing to our full potential but work together as a committed chorus family to achieve our wildest dreams. Members committed their time and energy. Mothers arranged babysitters, employees took time off work and even snow birds flew home for the occasion.

This would be our first chorus retreat experience and the excitement was buzzing for weeks leading up to the event. With a little help from our friend and chorus coach, Corinna Garriock, we were able to dig



deep to create a strong foundation for the art form we all love, singin'. Relationships grew into strong bonds during the weekend as we shared meals and social time together. New friendships were rooted, and old ones bloomed. This is the type of commitment and dedication required to sing as one voice and take our musical product to the next level. The word serendipity is used to describe a pleasant surprise. It's when you make a fortunate discovery by accident. You show up to a coaching retreat to improve the quality of your contest songs and leave with an incredible feeling of belonging, emotional connections and endless potential. It could also be referred to as

“magic”.

BREAKING NEWS... Important Rechartering New Policy From Sweet Adelines International

By Yvonne “Y” Meyer, Region 26 Membership Director, Sweet Adelines International

The recommendations accepted by the International Board of Directors were as follows:

RECOMMENDATION #1: That effective May 1, 2018, a chapter may re-charter with as few as 12 members, plus a director. Public performance requires all four singing parts.

RECOMMENDATION #2: That effective May 1, 2018, chapters with fewer than 12 members are required to enter Revitalization Status, with annual re-charter fees and competition rules waived. Public performance requires all four singing parts.

RECOMMENDATION #3: That effective May 1, 2018, a chapter currently in Revitalization status, and having more than 12 members, plus a director, can choose to complete Revitalization status for up to two years, dependent on the original start date of Revitalization

status, or choose to regain full chartered chapter status, which includes annual re-charter fees and competing once every three years.

The RLC (Regional Leadership Committee) /ILS is strongly recommending that any chorus whose numbers dip below 15, even if they do not go into Revitalization, be given extra help and support to retain those numbers and build their membership back up. This can be in the form of visits, coaching, mentorship, Skype coaching, access to educational materials, financial help to attend workshops, etc. This change will not affect the initial chartering policy, which is that a chorus must have 15 plus a Director in order to charter as a new chorus.

We hope that this new policy will be beneficial for choruses who are in the situation of having between 12 and 15 singing members and Regional Leaders who work with them.

Prairie Gold Chorus – After 35 years, they’re still “Feeling the Love”

by Bev Liski, Treasurer, Prairie Gold Chorus



Located in the heart of the prairies and in Saskatchewan’s Queen City, Regina, the Prairie Gold Chorus got its start in September 1981 with 12 women who loved to sing. With the addition of 11 members, in February 1983, Sweet Adelines International announced the official charter of the Prairie Gold Chorus as the newest small chorus in

Region 26. This year, 2018, marks Prairie Gold’s 35th anniversary. In February, they had a party to celebrate their actual charter date.



Since its inception, Prairie Gold has had remarkable success. With Director Rose Peddle, they placed second, among 18 choruses, in their very first competition in Calgary in the spring of 1983. That was the beginning of an incredible journey. In its history, Prairie Gold has received thirty regional awards, including eight 1st place small chorus and two 1st place mid-size chorus awards. Twice they were the most improved chorus. They have also been part of some international firsts. In 1996, with Marlene Greenough directing, the chorus attended the first ‘small chorus festival’ in St. Louis, Missouri. Then, in 2000, Prairie Gold travelled to San Antonio, Texas to compete in the first ‘harmony classic’ at IES, where, with Director Chris Evans, they placed 4th in the world and brought home Region 26’s first International chorus medal. In July 2003, Prairie Gold qualified to compete

internationally in Greenville, South Carolina. After many hours of practicing, polishing and perfecting, the chorus took its package to the International stage where, one point out of first place, they placed 2nd, bringing home their second International chorus medal. Again, in October 2009, with co-directors Helen Olinik and Valerie Neison, Prairie Gold appeared on the International Competition stage in Nashville, Tennessee. This was the first Harmony Classic to be held directly in conjunction with the SAI International Convention. The chorus was bursting with pride when it brought home its third International medal, having placed 5th in the world. Chorus directorship has changed several times and has included Marg Ohm as well as our current Director Denise Lindenbach.



A common thread in this amazing musical tapestry is Helen Olinik, who has been there since the beginning. Helen joined Sweet Adelines in 1976 as a member of the chorus in Moose Jaw, SK and later transferred membership to Regina Chorus in Regina, SK. Helen is a charter member of Prairie Gold Chorus. After 35 years, she is Prairie Gold’s one remaining, active charter member. Helen has been involved in every aspect of chorus life from physical and vocal warm-ups to administration, having served as President, Vice-President, Rules and Bylaws Chair, Publicity Chair, Education Chair, and Music Librarian. She has been on the music team, and the choreography, and costume committees. With a background in piano, tap dancing, and voice training and having played numerous instruments including piano, drums, saxophone, banjo,

Prairie Gold Chorus Continued...

accordion and guitar, Helen is a true 'student of music'. When Helen joined Sweet Adelines, she was like a sponge, absorbing everything she could. She achieved her Certified Director status because she wanted to be a better section leader. She is a driving force on the choreography team where her talents, experience and creativity are put to



good use. This passion is evident at her home where she had a wall of mirrors installed in her basement so she could hold extra choreo rehearsals. Helen participated in an international Director's Retreat in Tulsa, Oklahoma and a choreo workshop in Detroit, Michigan, as well as numerous International Education Symposia. She regularly attends regional events and has been present at almost every International Competition and Convention. Helen is currently Assistant Director, Vice-President, choreographer, a member of the music team and the costume committee, and schedules vocal and physical warm-ups. Helen sings baritone with the chorus and has competed regionally with the well known quartet "A Touch of Gold", which formed in 1990 and is still performing. Helen is typically the first one at rehearsal and the last one to leave and rarely misses a rehearsal or performance. She has twice been Prairie Gold's nominee for Region 26's Spirit of 26 Award. Helen epitomizes the term 'chorus leader'. She is positively energetic, enthusiastic, kind, humble and generous with her musical talents, knowledge, time and love for our art form.

As Prairie Gold celebrates a milestone 35th anniversary, it is fitting to celebrate Helen's milestone membership and her contribution and unwavering dedication to the success and longevity of this chorus. On Saturday, April 21st, the Chorus will be holding a special "Feeling the Love" 35th anniversary celebration for family and friends at 7:30 p.m. at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre, 1975 Broad Street, Regina, SK. **For information and/or tickets, please contact Jeannie Paik (306-949-0720), Karen Ell (306-536-4625 karenell@live.ca) or any current chorus member.**

Editor's Note - Congratulations to Prairie Gold Chorus and to Helen Olinik on your milestone anniversaries! All the best with your anniversary celebration!

WATCH FOR THE 50/50 DRAW AT THE SHOW OF CHAMPIONS!



Marlene Eppy FUND For Youth

When you donate to the Marlene Eppy Fund for Youth, you are investing in the future of 4-part a capella harmony and Sweet Adelines.

Donations can be made anytime through e-transfers to finregion26@gmail.com or personal cheques.

Questions? Contact Susan Dumas at sdumas3255@gmail.com.

ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!



The Search IS ON!

Sweet Adelines International is searching for female quartets to compete in the 2018 Rising Star Quartet Contest. Members of the quartet must be age 25 and younger.



THE STARS WILL ALIGN ON:
Aug. 10, 2018 • Tulsa, Okla., USA

FOR CONTEST DETAILS, PRIZES & HOW TO ENTER:
www.RisingStarQuartetContest.com



Who's Who on the Regional Education Faculty

Jo-Anne Killips - Assistant Director & Choreographer Rhythm of the Rockies Chorus

- Jo-Anne is a teacher by profession. She loves to receive education and share her knowledge with others.

Musical Experience:

- Certified Director;
- Assistant director;
- Member of the music and vocal craft class teams;
- Trained in dance and classical piano, and with top level International choreographers;
- Baritone of the competing quartet Zenenergy.

Coaching Strengths:

- Good communicator;
- Specializes in visual performance and performance preparation along with the musical product;
- Enjoys coaching and working vocal skills with choruses, quartets and individuals.

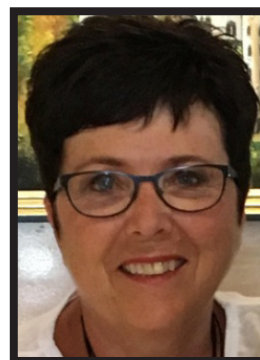


Cheryl Pearce - Certified (500) Director, Magic City Chorus

Joined SAI in 2001 and became the director of Magic City Chorus, Saskatoon in 2006 placing in the top 5 at contest most years. Member of the REF since 2015. Baritone

Musical Experience:

- Directed a 4 part mixed choir for a few years
- Private vocal teacher for school age children (8 – 17 years old) for 32 years.
- Former baritone section leader
- Strong singer and soloist; sung baritone in 2 quartets
- Currently singing in a mixed quartet (non-barbershop)



Coaching Strengths:

- Good understanding of all aspects of vocal production (breath, placement, resonance, unity, blend, expression)
- Computer skills – writing/creating sheet music; recording, creating, editing learning tracks;
- Love to do riser placement;
- Enjoy working with individuals (PVI), small groups (GVI or quartet), entire chorus;
- Experienced mentor for new directors;
- Experienced in script writing, show planning, stage direction, how to use a microphone effectively, etc.

Carolyn Saumer - Assistant Director Alberta Heartland Chorus

A charter member of Alberta Heartland Chorus and a Sweet Adelines since 1984. New Coaching Associate on the REF.

Musical Experience:

- Certified Director
- Assistant Director, Tenor section leader and Vocal Production Coordinator on the Alberta Heartland Chorus Music Team



Coaching Strengths:

- Interest and enthusiasm for sound and expression.



Alberta Heartland Chorus celebrates 4 new graduates of the DCP - Mary, Lisa, Carolyn and Dineke. Mary, Lisa and Carolyn are all members of the REF!

Congratulations to all of you!

Mary Teed - Alberta Heartland Chorus

Mary Teed is an enthusiastic and passionate Sweet Adeline! She's been a member of the REF since 2001. Certified Director.

Coaching Strengths:

- Vocal production, unit sound, resonance, expression, characterization, forward motion, and synchronization;
- Riser placement;
- Directing skills;
- PVIs for quartets
- Experienced chorus and quartet coach
- Coaching sessions are filled with team building and fun!



Let's Chat

With Kim and Steph

Hello Everyone! We hope you are enjoying this issue of the *Maple Leaf Express* or as we like to call it, the MLX. We love putting it together and we always want to hear what you think. We can be reached anytime at mapleleafexpress@gmail.com. Our "Let's Chat" column is kind of a catchall for all the bits and pieces that we think are amazing and really want to share with you. Enjoy!

Spotlight on the Regional Education Faculty

This is a new addition to the MLX and it's awesome! We have so many talented people in our membership who are willing to share their expertise and passion for our beloved hobby so why not look closer to home when searching for a coach. For the next few months we will feature 4 or 5 coaches in the MLX so you have a handy reference the next time you need a coach! This information is also available on our website at: <https://region26.ca/bios/192>.

Kim's Seeking Feedback on Eyelashes

Personally I am a bit freaked out about putting on false eyelashes mostly because having glue on my shaky hand that close to my eyes is a recipe for disaster. So far my whimpering and whining has drawn enough sympathy from the Makeup Team that they have put them on for me (*my dogs have taught me well!*) but who knows when they will see through that ploy. Has anyone tried those magnetic eyelashes? Drop us a line with any tips and tricks you may have about applying eyelashes or if you have tried the magnetic ones, send some feedback our way. I need all the help I can get!

Deal of the Century - Don't Miss Out!

When you are at Contest this year, make sure you check out the Boutique. Westcoast Harmony Chorus is in charge this year and it sounds like they have some great stuff plus raffle baskets and even better, bake tables! Singing always works up an appetite! The boutique is also where you will locate the registration, ticket sales and the Wall of Fame as well as the deal of the century, the One Voice pins that will be sold for \$1! That's right, I'm not crazy, it's the price that's loonie! (*See what happens when Steph doesn't supervise me?!*)

Until next time, keep those comments and emails coming. Have a great contest!

Kim and Steph

The Treehouse B&B at





Email: Enderby.Treehouse@gmail.com Find us on Facebook 
Phone: 250-803-1755 Enderby Treehouse



Ideas..... all shapes and sizes

www.meyerprintgraphics.ca



The *Maple Leaf Express* (MLX) is produced quarterly at the end of January, April, July, and October. Submissions deadline is the 15th of January, April, July and October unless otherwise stated.

Submissions Policy: Article submissions are accepted at the discretion of the MLX Advisory Staff. Articles and images may be subject to editing and may be held for publication in a future issue of the *Maple Leaf Express*. Questions or concerns regarding this submission policy can be directed mapleleafexpress@gmail.com.

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a business in women's services, books, jewelry, 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 mapleleafexpress@gmail.com for a rate sheet and to place an order.

The Power of a Community Performance - Part Two

by Kim Martin

In the January 2018 issue of the *Maple Leaf Express*, Emily Holtorf-Ma from Lions Gate Chorus wrote an article call “The Power of a Community Performance” where she made us think about the impact our public performance can have on both our chorus and the audience itself. She shared how Cammi Mackinlay’s chance overlap with Lions Gate at a community function changed not only her personal life but also that of the chorus’s history. Chinook Winds Show Chorus would like to share their story that also reinforces the power of a community performance.



Two years ago, our chorus adopted a government funded senior care centre for Christmas. We bought presents for 56 of the residents, collected money at our chorus Christmas party to put towards a bigger gift, and then joined them for a Christmas party where we sang, laughed and visited. The gifts were left to be opened on Christmas morning and what a morning they had. Most of the residents had no family so we really made their Christmas and they made ours.

This past year, we took on an even bigger project, 248 residents at Cedars Villa Extendicare. Cathy Carson, our Special Events Coordinator and I were a bit taken aback by the number of residents but decided to go forward with it, dividing up the list so each sheet had 6 names. We had about 36 active members at that time so we anticipated that we would be doing a lot of shopping ourselves. As it turned out, our chorus members dived in, grabbed multiple lists and they were off! We had to fight to get any of the lists. To be honest, it was quite heartbreaking to see how little people asked for - a box of kleenex, a bag of cheezies, hand lotion, shampoo, nail clippers, etc. By December 19th, the gifts were wrapped and on their way through the first big snow storm of the season. Although the roads were in terrible shape, that didn't stop our merry band of festively dressed performers. The seniors that were entertained by Chinook Winds Show Chorus that night were singing right along with us, smiling and engaging, and after, loved being able to have the small visits from the members circulating. They were so very appreciative that we were all there to sing to them on such a snowy night. For some that rarely smile or engage, we brought out their “happy” and that’s what it is all about. A short time later, the facility contacted us to share their Christmas story. “On Friday, December 22, all staff were called in to assist with distributing your gifts to the residents. As staffing is pretty skeletal over the holidays, Cedars decided to take advantage that every caregiver was available to bring ALL residents together in one area, and the staff “played Santa”. The gifts had been sorted by House name a couple of days before and once the residents were all together, every staff member appeared loaded with Christmas presents. The residents were like children - smiles and laughter all around while opening their gifts, they were overjoyed. It was a party and the staff were thrilled. Several seniors could not stop thanking their Santa.” Following this visit, we learned there were remarkable attitude changes in some seniors and it was great to see so many smiles, laughter and conversations.



Cathy and I were humbled by the generosity of our members and their willingness to give their time and their voices. They had a huge impact on the lives of these seniors last holiday season and we are proud to be members of such a wonderful chorus! Did we get any members out of this activity, no, but what we got was so much better. Something to keep in mind the next time a smaller “gig” comes around and you realize the power of a community performance.

