



**SWEET ADELINES
INTERNATIONAL**

*... a worldwide organization
of women singers
committed to advancing
the musical art form of
barbershop harmony
through education
and performance.*

INTERNATIONAL
HEADQUARTERS
P.O. Box 470168
Tulsa, OK 74147-0168
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www.sweetadelineintl.org

Sweet Adelines International Fact Sheet

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P.O. Box 470168
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Size

- Nearly 23,000 members worldwide; one of the world's largest singing organizations for women.
- More than 1,200 registered quartets and 500 choruses.
- Chartered chapters located in Australia, Canada, England, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Wales and most of the 50 states in the United States.
- Governed by an elected board of directors; administered by a professional staff in Tulsa, Okla.

Motto

- "Harmonize the World"

Founding

- First meeting: Friday, July 13, 1945 in Tulsa, Okla.

Vision Statement

- Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performances.

Education Programs

- The Young Women in Harmony program offers to music educators a means of including the study and performance of barbershop harmony in school music programs.
- The aim is to provide materials, training and performance opportunities for young women and to foster appreciation for the American musical art form of barbershop harmony.

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- Festivals and school presentations are organized by various regions or choruses within Sweet Adelines each year.
- Free educator kits are provided to music educators.

Charitable and Community Activities

- Sweet Adeline choruses regularly entertain at civic events and charitable functions. Proceeds from performances are often shared with scholarship funds, health care and social services programs and the arts and humanities.
- The Young Singers Foundation has been the official charity of Sweet Adelines International since 1992. The foundation's purpose is to enrich the lives of young people by supporting vocal music programs and education through its grant program.
- The Young Singers Foundation offers scholarships for vocal music students and grants for Young Women in Harmony and community vocal music activities.
- The Overtone Society is one of the official charities of Sweet Adelines International. The International Board of Directors conceived the Society in 2009 for members and non-members who wish to take leading roles in the financial security of the organization.
- All contributions to The Overtone Society directly benefit the mission of Sweet Adelines, which is laser-focused on educating and acknowledging exceptional a cappella singers, in the barbershop style, and their successful leadership locally and internationally.

What is barbershop harmony?

- Four-part, unaccompanied, close-harmony singing, with melody in the second voice, called the "lead." Sung in the range between A below middle C, and C above middle C.
- Tenor is a harmony part sung consistently above the lead. Although tenor is the highest voice in barbershop harmony, it should not be confused with the soprano of conventional singing groups. The tenor should have a light, sweet, pure tone that will complement but not overpower the lead voice.
- Baritone covers approximately the same range as lead. The baritone harmony notes cross the lead notes; sometimes sung below and sometimes above.
- Bass singers should have a rich, mellow voice and be able to sing the E flat below middle C easily. Bass should not be confused with the alto of conventional groups.

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Achievement

Sweet Adelines International is a non-profit musical education association for women founded in 1945, and endows nearly 23,000 members with the mastery of singing four-part harmony music, barbershop style. Performances and competitions develop members' confidence and pride in their achievements. Sweet Adelines perpetuate barbershop music – one of a few forms of music native to the United States.

Community Needs

A Sweet Adelines chorus is a musical asset to its community. Geographically, there are more than 500 Sweet Adelines chapters located throughout the U.S. and 14 other nations. Sweet Adelines choruses regularly entertain at civic events and charitable functions. Proceeds from performances often are shared with scholarship funds, health care and social services programs, and the arts and humanities. Sweet Adelines promote harmony, friendship, self-esteem and the sense of belonging among women of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds and levels of performance readiness.

Mobilizations

As Sweet Adelines International grows in size, stature and scope, it remains committed to recognizing talent within its membership. Local chapters are the laboratories where members receive basic training in barbershop harmony. Programs designed and developed internally identify and train members as music leaders and teachers, contest judges, arrangers and administrators. These opportunities for growth and volunteer commitment are available to all who take advantage of them.

Innovation

Young Women in Harmony is an outreach program for secondary school – through college-level voices. Member-developed student songbooks, educator guides and recordings are provided gratis.

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Sweet Adelines International History

On Friday, July 13, 1945, Edna Mae Anderson of Tulsa, Okla. held a “women only” meeting in her home to discuss forming a group of chord-ringing harmony singing women. The women wanted to participate in the same barbershop harmony that many of their husbands were enjoying with the Barbershop Harmony Society, formally known as the Society of Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA); originally formed in 1939. From that meeting grew the nucleus of what was to become Sweet Adelines International.

The first chapter was named Atomaton because as Anderson stated, “we have an atom of an idea and a ton of energy.” Anderson became the chapter’s first president and by the end of the first year it had 85 members.

Within four years the organization had grown to 1,500 members singing in 35 chapters and 60 quartets in 14 states. Bylaws were adopted, national officers were elected and a system was created for adjudicating national annual competitions to select the best women’s barbershop quartet. These systems of governing and parliamentary procedure, finances and leadership development that were created 60 years ago, remain unchanged today.

Sweet Adelines went international on March 23, 1953 when the first chapter outside the U.S. was chartered in Bradon, Manitoba, Canada. Even though there were international chapters, it wasn’t until May of 1991 that the name officially changed to Sweet Adelines International.

“The original purpose for which Sweet Adelines was organized in 1945 was educational, to teach and train its members in musical harmony and appreciation,” Anderson stated. The main goal was to create and promote barbershop quartets and other musical groups; another goal was to give musicals...public and private performances for...learning and general appreciation of all things pertaining to music.

The organization has stayed true to its original goals, entertaining and educating thousands of people every year. Following the vision statement today - A worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performance. Sweet Adelines International now has nearly 23,000 members worldwide in more than 500 choruses.

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