

Still Singing!

While we cannot sing together, we have kept the music alive. We have gathered online for weekly rehearsals. We have taken advantage of the online format to bring in some excellent coaches, including sessions with Kim Higdon, Director of Bridges of Harmony chorus, and Deanna Kastler and Kim Elger-Griffin, members of Bling!, the 2016 Sweet Adeline's International 2016 Quartet champions.

Once a month, we have also held a social distancing rehearsal in the parking lot of Grace Presbyterian Church where we usually rehearse. While it isn't typical, we enjoy being able to hear our chords ring!



Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus rehearsing outside Grace Presbyterian Church

Remember when a benefactor sent the chorus a check for new costumes where the memo line said, "Such beautiful voices deserve beautiful costumes"? We went to competition fashionably dressed to sing "*How You Gonna Keep Em Down on The Farm.*" It wasn't just the money or new costumes that made us feel confident, but those words that still stay with us so many years later.



Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus online rehearsal.

New Songs

We have started to learn several new songs to expand our repertoire. Below, our Directors give some insight into a couple of the song choices.

Chanda Morris on "The Loco-Motion": "*The Loco-Motion*" is a 1962 pop song by songwriters Gerry Goffin and Carole King. It is an enduring example of the dance-song genre; much of the lyric is devoted to a description of the dance itself, usually performed as a type of line dance. However, the song came before the dance. The song is notable for appearing in the American Top 3 three times, each in a different decade: in 1962 by Little Eva, in 1974 by Grand Funk Railroad and in 1988 by Kylie Minogue.

I chose to have the chorus learn this song because of its playful tune, and because we all needed a little "pick me up" due to COVID. It's one of those songs that gets stuck in your head, in a good way!

Diane Sherley on "How Could You Believe Me When I Said I love You 'When You Know I've Been a Liar All My Life": I heard this song many years ago at a competition. I've always wanted to have the chorus sing this song, but it took a while to find an arrangement of the song by itself. It is usually coupled with the song "It's A Sin To Tell A Lie."

This song was written for the 1951 musical film *Royal Wedding* in which singing and dancing siblings Tom and Ellen Bowen (Fred Astaire and Jane Powell) unveil a vaudeville-like comic number for their act. The song hearkens back to the contentious comic numbers Fred Astaire did with his own real-life sister Adele Astaire during their Broadway years.



Why I Sing

For Sweet Adelines' 75th Anniversary, Sweet Adelines International began the "Why I Sing?" series. We interviewed our own Joyce McGehee about her journey:

My Sweet Adelines journey began in September 1994 with jury duty on a murder trial. It's an unusual method of recruiting a new member, but it shows that being enthusiastic about a cappella singing in all sorts of situations will help a chorus grow. The jury broke for lunch with instructions not to talk about the case. A few of us found a café and one of the ladies started talking about singing. I had not sung for 15 years and was thinking about getting back into a choir of some sort. The next week I visited her at the Capital Accord Chorus rehearsal in Silver Spring, Maryland. By the second rehearsal I was ready to join!

I am originally from Kenmore, New York, near Buffalo. I took piano lessons for 9 years, sang in the choir at church and at school, and performed in the musicals. I attended the State University of New York at Buffalo where I sang with the University Chorale Ensemble and the Touring Chorus. The style of music ranged from pop to classical but never a cappella. One of the oldest Sweet Adelines choruses was nearby; in addition, one of the most competitive choruses was also in that area, but somehow I had never heard of them.

I moved around a bit after college. I lived in Texas for a while; then Arizona where I met my husband Bob; then Alaska for four years; then Northern Virginia. I worked in Human Resources for the Army, the Air Force, the National Guard Bureau, Dept. of Defense Headquarters, and the Office of Personnel Management. In that role I conducted training, set pay, and reviewed occupations for all sorts of jobs—clerical to aircraft pilot. Along the way I picked up some fun and useful computer skills and also earned a Masters in Business Administration from Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. I retired from the government in 2004 and from contracting in 2013.

Back at Capital Accord over 14 years, I filled a number of jobs from Telephone Tree coordinator to Team Manager. I performed in a couple of registered quartets and loved the whole quartetting experience. That chorus is still doing great! The Accordions have a special place in my heart. But the commuting got too difficult, as what was once a 30-minute trip became an hour and sometimes we couldn't get there at all.

My second chorus was Potomac Harmony Chorus in the Arlington-Alexandria area, a much easier commute. I enjoyed director Ozzi Mask and her chorus so much! I worked on setting up performances around the Washington area. The best gigs were welcoming the Honor Flights at Washington Reagan International Airport.

In 2014 I encountered medical difficulties with breast cancer and decided that if we were ever going to fulfill our dream of a winter in Florida, we should go. Bob has family connections in Newberry and we had been coming here for reunions for over 40 years. We came down for the winter of 2015-16. Finding the Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus sealed the deal and we love our new home. I so appreciate this chorus' support during my heart and lung surgeries and recovery!

Find Us Online!

<https://gainesvillechorus.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/GNVHarmony>

For Twitter and Instagram: @GNVHarmony

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Chapter member, Sweet Adelines Region 9:

<https://coastalharmony.org/>

Thank You

We'd like to thank our sponsors, whose support allows us to share our harmony with others.

Thank you also to Kitty Lehtola, Donna Martin, Chanda Morris, Joyce McGehee, Beckie Preston, Diane Sherley, Terrie Vasilopoulos, and Jenny Winsor who contributed to content, formatting, and publishing of this newsletter.