



On the Edge Quartet delighted area residents with Holiday Carol-Grams (complete with masks) in December



Remember when—Take a good look at the photo above—competition 1980. Note the heavy stage make-up, a livid-colored polyester costume (about 20 lbs. worth) and oh yes, an All-in-One. What’s that you ask? Think a girdle that goes from your neck to your knees. Oh, so comfortable.

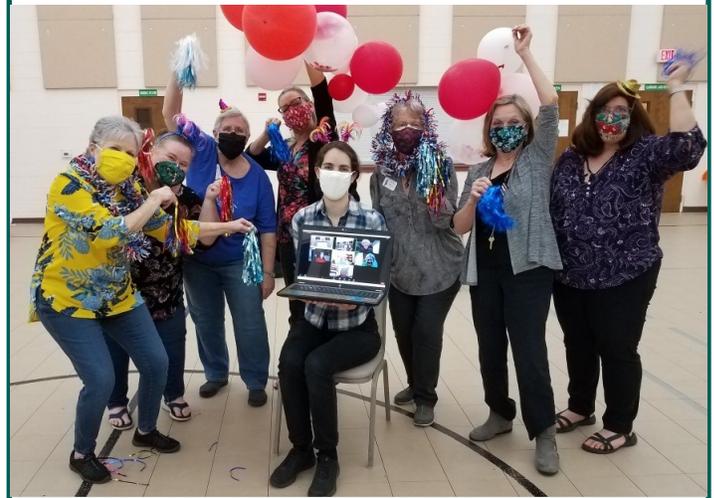
Looking below you see our most recent photo from the 2019 competition. What a difference 40 years makes...natural make-up, light fabrics and pants! I leave it up to you – which is better?



Save the Date:
Holiday Harmonies VIII—December 11, 2021

New Member!

We celebrated new member Shelley McLean passing her audition at our recent hybrid rehearsal—some of us on Zoom and some in person. Shelley teaches math at Eastside High School. Besides singing, she enjoys swing dancing, juggling, and riding a unicycle. We’re all delighted to have her as our newest bass singer and are thinking of ways to include her unique skills in a future show.



New Songs

This past year we had to find ways to deal with the challenges of COVID-19. Our directors chose two songs to teach to the chorus that spoke of hope and inclusion. The chorus learned the Nancy Bergman arrangement of “Over The Rainbow.” Chanda Morris says the movie from which the song comes takes her to a land of utopia, which we all needed a little of during 2020.

The chorus also learned Dede Nibler’s arrangement of “There Is Room In The World.” Diane Sherley feels this song reflects on the ability to use love to make room for everyone.

The chorus likes singing both of these songs and hopes that in the near future we will be able to share them with our Gainesville community.



My Musical Journey

by Donna Martin

Some of my earliest memories are of listening to my parents sing in church, or while sitting around at home, or when getting together with friends who also loved to sing. We had an antique pump organ which my mother taught me to play beginning around age 7 and I became pretty good at playing 4-part harmony on it. During those early years I also learned to *solfege* (*do, re, mi*) using shape notes, a skill that I still find very useful in sight-reading music and staying on pitch. I loved my music classes in school and joined the school band as soon as I was old enough. In high school I also sang in the chorus; during that time my sister and I and two cousins formed a quartet. We came into possession of a book of barbershop music, so we learned several of those pieces and sang on our local TV station’s weekly talent show one time. I sang in a chorus in college and then in various small groups after that—mostly for weddings and funerals.

After my children were in school, I began my teaching career in business and entrepreneurship education which kept me very busy for the next 27 years. My promise to myself was that “when I retired” I would join a chorus, and that happened in 2015. A friend invited me to check out her chorus and I went, not knowing that it was a barbershop chorus. As soon as the music started, I was instantly hooked! The chorus had already qualified to compete in the Harmony Classic Event at the 2016 Sweet Adelines International Conference, and I was thrilled that I got to sing with them on stage in Las Vegas. After a year or so in the chorus, Jazzed Quartet had a vacancy for a tenor and asked me to join them, and I happily agreed.

I had taken piano lessons for a few months when my children were smaller, but I didn’t really know very much music theory and had wished that I understood it better. At our regional chorus workshop held in January 2020, I attended a class on music theory where they told us about the Beginning Arranger program that was being offered by Sweet Adelines International. It was a self-paced online course, and I thought it sounded interesting. Then COVID hit and I decided it would be a good time for me to learn more about music so I started the course and finished it in December. My mentor was wonderful, and the whole experience was very enjoyable. I learned so much and feel that I am now a better singer because of the things I was introduced to regarding harmonizing, ringing chords, and various aspects of voicing. I look forward to continuing with the Intermediate Arranger program when it becomes available.

Thank You, Gainesville. The Chorus has received a two-year grant from Gainesville’s Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs, and we are especially appreciative that they doubled the award for the first year to help us cover the loss of income due to COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings. Thank you, City of Gainesville!

Find Us Online!

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Thank You

We’d like to thank our sponsors, whose support allows us to share our harmony with others. They are listed on our webpage. Thank you also to Kitty Lehtola, Donna Martin, Joan Gowan, Chanda Morris, Joyce McGehee, Beckie Preston, Diane Sherley, and Jenny Winsor who contributed to content, formatting, and publishing of this newsletter.