

Our Next Normal

With everyone in the chorus fully vaccinated, we're slowly working toward "normal" activities. As 2021 rolled to the end and we were back in our usual rehearsal space, we were able to get out and sing in public again. Several years ago, we started singing at a local girls' social services center, Pace Center For Girls, Alachua. We were thrilled to be able to join their Christmas party again, along with their special guest, The Grinch!



We were also able to participate in the Thomas Center Tree Lighting again. We were invited to sing at the Micanopy "Caroling in the Park" festivities, which was held on December 9. We then drove back to Gainesville for our usual rehearsal. Except for some of us getting lost finding the field, we had We were also able to participate in the Thomas Center Tree great time singing for them!



Back Together Again!

By Joan Gowan

We haven't sung together for the longest time, but on July 23rd, the Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus and the Barbergators Chorus will collaborate on a summer show called, not surprisingly, **FOR THE LONGEST TIME**. We have truly missed performing during the pandemic (which seems to have lasted for decades). We hope you will join us for music and fun at one of our two shows (2:00 or 4:30) Saturday, July 23. It's being held at First United Methodist Church, 419 NE First St, Gainesville.

Tickets: \$15 for adults and \$10 for students are available from any chorus member or online at Gainesvillechorus.com or Barbergators.com

Directors' Corner

by Chanda Morris

What a joy it is to be back on the RISERS! Don't get me wrong, standing on the floor to sing together was much better than rehearsing via ZOOM (thanks, Zoom, for being an option!) but you'd be surprised how the sound changes from the floor to the risers. Want to hear for yourself? We welcome any female that is interested in singing a cappella. Men, there is a place for you in our form of music as well – with the Barbergators Chorus.

Speaking of the Barbergators Chorus, our two choruses are working to put on a combined show this summer. Though our chorus started doing public performances last holiday season, we didn't have enough time to prepare our usual Holiday Harmonies show with the Barbergators Chorus. Read on for more information about our summer show. Hope to see you there.

Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus is very happy to be a part of Sweet Adelines International (SAI). We are happy to say that our organization is working to educate the membership about the truth of its racist history by using it as a catalyst for our inclusion and equity work of today. SAI believes it is important to be clear about what happened in the past, because racism and discrimination were unacceptable then and they are something we will not tolerate now. Our organization celebrates our differences and our goal is to make ALL its members feel welcomed. This includes women from different ethnic and racial backgrounds, those with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and women from varied religions. Let the music bring us together! For more information, please refer to the Sweet Adelines website: <https://sweetadelines.com/diversity-equity-inclusion>

One way SAI is working to eradicate unwelcomed feelings caused by its music is by having all choruses and quartets submit their music for review through the Song Assessment Tool. This tool includes questions about the lyricist and composer – who they are, what other material did they pen, what did your research tell you about them. They want to know who and what the song is about (as intended by the composer and earlier performers), what your research said about the history of the song and the performers that have sung it, what was happening in the world when it was written. The goal is to create harmony where every voice (singer) and ear (audience) matters!

Sweet Adelines International and Gainesville Harmony Show Chorus strive to elevate women singers through education, performance, and competition. The organization provides both vocal and administrative training and opportunities for ALL women. Give us a try.

Retreat

Shortly after the New Year, we decided to participate in the Regional Competition, for the first time in two years. So on a weekend in March, we held our annual Chorus Retreat at Camp Weed in Live Oak, Florida where we've been going for many years. This year we had the opportunity to be coached by Kim Higdon, Director of the Bridges of Harmony Chorus in Jacksonville, and a member of the Coastal Harmonies Region 9 faculty. She worked with us on the two songs we would be singing in the Regional Competition. We worked for two hours Friday evening, and all day Saturday; by Sunday morning, we were feeling quite good about the progress we had made.



On to Competition

For the weeks following Retreat, our weekly Thursday night rehearsals were primarily spent working on our Competition songs. On April 21, one week prior to Competition, we held our Family and Friends Night. The chorus, as well as our quartet, **On The Edge**, used the opportunity to perform our Competition songs for everyone gathered there. We even had guest performances by two other quartets—**Jazzed**, from our chorus, and **The Phabulous Phlegmtones** from the Barbergators Chorus. To say we've missed performing in public is an understatement. It was great having the chance to do so again! And we are really looking forward to our summer show with Barbergators Chorus!!



Singing Lessons

Are you interested in singing with us? Please consider joining us at our Thursday rehearsals. Starting May 26, we'll be providing singing lessons where you have the opportunity to learn a song or two to sing in our shows with us. And guys have the same opportunity to learn a song or two to sing in our shows by attending the Barbergators Chorus' rehearsals. Those rehearsals are on Tuesday nights, and both rehearsals are at Grace Presbyterian Church 3146 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, starting at 7:00. We'd love to have you join us!!

Find Us Online!

<https://gainesvillechorus.com>

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

Twitter and Instagram: @GNVHarmony

Email: gainesvillechorus@gmail.com

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. They are listed on our webpage. Thank you also to Chanda Morris, Joan Gowan, Mitzi Korb, and Donna Martin who contributed to content, formatting, and publishing of this newsletter.