

It's Time To Plan For The 2011 Regional Convention And Competition!

By Euna Poole, Chair of the Regional Convention

The 50th anniversary of Great Gulf Coast Region 10 is this year, so we are celebrating at Regional Contest with the theme, "All You Need Is 50 Years Of Peace, Love, Joy And Harmony," March 18-20.

The convention weekend officially starts with our Thursday night event, "All You Need Is Harmony" Mixer in the Atrium. Everyone is invited to join the competing quartets and wish them well.

We are introducing a few new ideas to this year's contest experience:

- Pictures for Chorus Competition will be taken ON STAGE!
- We will begin our Chorus Competition with our LARGE choruses first.



- Everyone loved having the schedule on the name badges so we will do that again this year.

- Show of Champions will start at 8 p.m. this year, giving you more time to enjoy dinner.

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Competition And The Singer: Preparing Physically, Mentally, Emotionally

By Darlene Rogers, Bachelor of Music Education, Master of Music Education, Certified International Faculty, Region 10 Education Faculty, Master Director Texas Harmony Chorus

Singing competitively either as a soloist or as a part of an ensemble is challenging, stressful and gratifying. Preparing for a competition challenges you to continue to grow and improve as an individual singer and the competition becomes a tool to determine if you are working in the correct direction. A singer is a vocal athlete — to deliver a peak performance in a competition the singer must prepare physically, mentally and emotionally.

PHYSICAL PREPARATION:

As a singer the body is your instrument so

you must take good care of yourself. To keep your instrument in really great condition do all those things your mother always told you to do:

- eat right
- get plenty of rest
- drink lots of water
- exercise regularly (physical and vocal exercises)
- see your doctor regularly
- laugh some every day
- maintain a positive attitude

Ignore any of these items and the results will show in your sound. Your voice reflects what your body is experiencing. If you are physically tired, it will show in the voice. If you don't get enough water the vocal bands may become red and irritated and a sore throat is the result. Water

to your voice is like oil to a car. To run smoothly the voice must be hydrated.

If you are engaged in the journey of competition preparation then you have some degree of talent and acknowledge the pleasure you get from your voice and the pleasure you give by sharing your talent. That talent, whether it is small or large, has to be nurtured. There are some people who are born with that talent fully



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Chorus Lines

Alamo Metro Chorus San Antonio, TX

As we prepare to bid adieu to 2010, AMC is thankful for another fun-filled and productive year! We



were very proud and honored to represent Region 10 at the International competition in Seattle along with our sister choruses, Lone Star and Spirit of Southeast Texas. It was a thrill for us as always, and we congratulate both choruses as well as Oasis Quartet on their outstanding performances! As soon as we returned home, we launched into a series of guest nights lasting four weeks long and culminating with our Christmas show titled, "The Magic of Christmas." Our guests were invited to sing with the chorus for part of the show, and several ladies did just that. We hope they caught "the bug" and will come back after the holidays. A festive time was had by all at our Christmas party and we look forward to caroling on the barges down the brightly illuminated San Antonio Riverwalk. On to the new year and we will once again participate in the San Antonio Youth Festival as the girls' clinicians, along with the Chordsmen and Marcsmen men's chapters. We are looking forward to sharing our love of barbershop with the young people of our city. And of course,

we will resume working toward our regional competition, which is right around the corner. We wish you all a very Happy New Year.

By Lisa Deiser, TIWT Correspondent

Austin Harmony Chorus Austin, TX

A picture is worth a thousand words or so the saying goes. So with that in mind Austin Harmony Chorus chose to rebrand itself this past summer. One of our members designed a new logo that really captured our energy and projected the image of the chorus we are striving to become.

The chorus planned our Fall Vocal Harmony Workshop over the summer to be held the 4 weeks prior to International. We used high impact



flyers, word of mouth and social media networks to advertise. We were rewarded with 37 registrations and averaged 12 attendees every week. Chorus members were outnumbered by guests on several nights. It was a nice problem to

have. The guests really enjoyed themselves and marveled at the world of barbershop that was being opened up to them. We also relocated to a central rehearsal space downtown and adopted the Groupanizer software to help manage our growing chorus.

We geared up for the Christmas season with 16 guests in tow. We had six performances and even serenaded the mall Santa who promptly whipped out a guitar and sang back to us! Only in Austin... We celebrated the end of the year with a potluck and ornament exchange that left everyone smiling. We are looking forward to 2011



with new members and new music. See you in March!

By Erica Sigler, TIWT Correspondent

Baton Rouge Chorus Baton Rouge, LA

The Baton Rouge Chorus celebrated its 50th anniversary with, how else, singing and a party!

All but two of the former directors were present as were three of the charter members: Alma Risley, Gwen Bruton and Jean Place. Also present was Paul Melancon, former director of La Louisiane Chorus, which merged with the Baton

Rouge Chorus in the 1980s. Current and former members told stories, reminisced, and, of course,



The Baton Rouge Chorus, with Cate McRitchie directing, performed at the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

shared cake and sang together.

Over the holidays, the chorus revved up the performance schedule to include stroll-and-sing performances at the local mall, two tree-lighting ceremonies, and numerous retirement homes' holiday entertainment. The chorus was joined by two former members, Emily McCarroll and Sharon Bezdek, and prospective member, Sharon Wilson. The chorus members enjoyed sharing the spirit of the season, and with our mall performances, we collected the names of several ladies interested in singing with us!

We were fortunate to have enjoyed another visit from our director mentor Pat LaVezu this fall. So far, she has visited as a mentor to our director, Cate McRitchie. But we have found her easy style and deep experience so helpful that she is scheduled to be our retreat coach this winter. We look forward to growing with her help.

By Molly Manson, TIWT Correspondent

Bayou Blend Chorus

Lafayette, LA

CLANG CLANG CLANG went the Trolley – ding ding ding went the BELL...lots of laughter...singing...and nobody fell!

We rode the trolley (in Washington, La.)..and stopped to sing....some folks hopped on to sing along this special day! Millie Boudreau made this event possible for us and welcomed us in her “home in the round”..believe us NO better hostess could be found! Our Chorus did many community performances this year (including several nursing homes, and a special concert in our “rehearsal



home” First Baptist Church in Broussard) as well as performances at Acadian Village and for our Red Hat “groupies.”

So many wonderful memories we will remember about this year..special coaching experiences ..some we never knew but oh how helpful they all were in what we do!

Our Director has “tuned” us up in many ways and so 2011 is the year that we hope to achieve the goals that we’ve agreed to work toward.

Resolutions for the new year begin

with members planning to attend Regional events; to receive more coaching; to be the very best we can be in the March Regional Competition; to work toward doing more community service; to save our pennies so that International in Houston will be the best ever and we’ll be there. And, to end this year with the feeling of accomplishment in harmony with everyone who shares this love of music!

Topping the list of resolutions is the show we are planning on Tax Day, what a relief when that’s over (April 15, 2011,) in the Carencro High School! Our Co-Show Chairs are Kate Sutton and Marsha Bock who are planning to make this 50’s show rock!

So, it is not too early to mark your calendar and you won’t miss this event..come for a few days enjoy the cajun cooking so that you’ll have a “mouth-watering” experience and a “heart string” zing from your Region 10 friends at Bayou Blend!

Don’t leave this year with anything but thankfulness for all of our wonderful blessings ..take the “trolley” into 2011 with joy, hope, love and music “and as if it were planned we’ll stay on with you all til the end of the line and “it’ll be grand.”

By Bev Colomb, TIWT Correspondent

Brazos Crossing Chorus

Rosenberg, TX

Brazos Crossing Chorus had its Holiday Harmony Christmas Cho-

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rus again this year. The BCC invited the women of the surrounding area to join them this season in singing Christmas Carols and



Songs and bringing Christmas Cheer to the nearby retirement centers, nursing homes and churches.

We scheduled seven different locations for the month of December for Sing-Outs, which kept us pretty busy. The people at the Retirement Facilities really enjoy listening to our songs and will sometimes sing along with us. It makes it worth it to see such happy faces and isn't that what Christmas is all about?

Faye Ludwig has done a fantastic job leading us in our practices and Sing-Outs in absence of our Director and we want to say Thank You, Faye! Our Director, June Yagiela, has had hip replacement, and is at home nursing that but said she will be back in January.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to June, wishing for a successful and speedy recovery. As soon as she gets back we will be working hard on our music for competition.

By Peggy Simmang, TIWT Correspondent

Chisholm Trail Chorus Temple, TX

Our annual fall production, "Yesterday Once More," was made even more exciting with the addition of 30+ voices to our stage. Texas Harmony and Chisholm Trail combined to produce a fabulous show that we took on the road, so to speak. One performance was held in Irving and one in Temple on consecutive nights in October. Over the months of planning and rehearsing together many new friendships were formed and the dynamic directing duo of Rogers and Scherer will be the talk



of many regional meetings to come. This partnership isn't over in the least as we continue combined rehearsals for those performing at Carnegie Hall in late May 2011.

There is no downtime in our hobby; reviewing Christmas music came right on the heels of our fall show. In December we had several opportunities to bring a little cheer to our community with performances at the HEB Feast of Sharing in Temple, the Salado Stroll and a holiday show at Sun City, Georgetown. Caroling in the Temple Mall closed out the 2010 performance season after which we enjoyed a holiday dinner and ornament exchange.

Over the Christmas holidays we have new music to work on as well as contest music to prepare for coaching sessions in January with Darlene Rogers and Sylvia Alsbury. LeRae Lavergne has already visited us to fine-tune our visual package for contest and we are very excited to present it to the region in March. We wish all our sisters in harmony a wonderful new year.

By Gail Eltgroth, TIWT Correspondent

Cradle of Texas Chorus Sugar Land, TX

We have had so much fun with our 8 new guests beginning last fall, when we advertised singing with us at Christmas. These ladies have come each week and have worked so hard. Three have joined, 4 have decided to join, and the last one hasn't made up her mind, even though she does a lot of dancing around when she sings. She's very animated and that is a Sweet Adeline. We sang for Casa in Sugar Land on Dec 11. We sing on the tour of homes and get so many compliments. On Dec 19 we sang at the town square in Sugar Land, offering a set of non-Christmas songs then we brought on our members-to-be to sing a set of Christmas songs. We are a small group and have such a good time. That is why these ladies have decided to join us. Holly Ritter is our director and she makes it so much fun at rehearsal with all of her jokes and her knowledge of our art. And asking ladies to come sing with us at Christmas was Charlene Cummings' idea. Kudos to you, Char. We certainly will have to do this again year after

year. We'll be up to a medium size chorus before too long.

By Jimmie Hargrove, TIWT Correspondent

Crescent City Sound Chorus New Orleans, LA

We had a very trying October in New Orleans. Both our director, JoAnn Fernon, and associate director and choreographer, Jeannine Thibodaux, had surgery within a week of each other. Our Directors' Team stepped in and handled the rehearsals. We did not skip a beat. We are a very lucky chorus to have such a wonderful group of talented women who were up to the challenge of taking over rehearsals. In addition to that, we are fortunate to have a chorus who respects our Directors' Team so much that attendance did not suffer with the absence of our top two directors.

We had a very busy Christmas performance schedule. We had three performances in a five-day period. The performances were as diverse as they were enjoyable. We sang at an uptown, upscale assisted living facility, a fancy country club, a beautiful Garden District home, and Harrah's casino for the Rotary Club. Nothing is better than making money for the chorus doing what we love most---singing.

After one of our performances, a group of our ladies went caroling in the French Quarter. (That's their story and they are sticking to it.) Someone heard them outside of the House of Blues. They were promptly invited on stage and sang two songs to a packed house.



When they finished they were rewarded with a standing ovation.

In addition to our Christmas music and show music, we have been working on our competition music. We are looking forward to a productive coaching session with our coach, Mary Beth McMurray.

By Kitty Warner, TIWT Correspondent

Fiesta City Chorus San Antonio, TX

Happy Holidays from Fiesta City Chorus. We have had the craziest three months; our heads are spinning with songs, dialogue, choreography and costumes. Starting in October, we worked very hard on our stage production "Fascinatin' Rhythms: A tribute to Tin Pan Alley." Costumes for the Gay Nineties and the early 1920s were brought together from closets and wild imaginations. Imagine the scene from "My Fair Lady" at the horse races and add a riot of color. Quartets went out to various as-



sisted living centers in San Antonio to perform just a small sample of the 25 different songs in the show. The production hit the stage on 13 and 14 November. If there were any mistakes, the audience never knew! We sang and danced our hearts out. We even got our director, Sally, doing the Charleston and she got the audience to do the "eagle rock."

We had one short week to recover and it was straight into Christmas. We have performed at Milberger's Nursery among the Christmas trees. Then out to the Westin Hotel at La Cantera for five performances in the Legendary Cowboy Christmas, the last one ending just before Christmas Eve. We even got to sing at Cody Branch Library for the staff and all the patrons.

We took the holidays off to be with family and hopefully will have recovered enough to start all over for a new year. All the best from Fiesta City for 2011.

By Betsy Billinger, TIWT Correspondent

Houston Horizon Chorus Houston, TX

Christmastime is here! The members of Houston Horizon Chorus recently took a welcome break from all the shopping, baking and wrapping to share the gift of song with an appreciative audience at its annual Christmas concert. In addition to our "Christmas Concert Guests" (members of the community, including some former HHC members) who have been singing with us since we started preparing this fall, we had 2 additional spe-

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cial guests that evening, Santa and



Mrs. Claus. Boy, do they know how to draw a crowd!

It won't be long before those visions of sugarplums dancing in our heads, are replaced with visions of Sweet Adelines dancing on the stage here in Houston! Are you envisioning it too? It's not too late to consider dual membership with HHC to compete with us at International in October 2011. Details and deadlines are available at www.HoustonHorizon.org. You may also direct any questions to Sally Ison, our Member Services Manager at SallyIson@aol.com.

We are excited to have already received several "intent to dual" forms, and would love to add your name to our growing roster, and your voice to our risers. It's going to be a blast! Won't you come along for the ride?

By Jodi Ceaser, TIWT Correspondent

Lone Star Chorus Fort Worth, TX

What can we say...Seattle is an awesome city! We thought the day would never arrive when we would finally get on that plane to Seattle and compete in our first Harmony Classic.

We worked long and hard with our coaches - Ruth Ann Parker, Becky Larson, Becky Bartlett; and the coach that pulls everything out of us - Kim Hulbert (now Kim Bone Vaughn).

The day of competition was long since we were the last to compete. We boarded the bus and when you get anxious...well you know, and being stuffed into an all-in-one is bad enough (yes, they were on even under that loose fitting poncho), but our ducks...god love 'em...were stuffed and SEWN into their costumes. Our favorite warm up song on the bus became "I do not have to ___" sung in perfect 4-part harmony!



Lone Star Chorus international competition photo courtesy ER Lillley

What fun we had, being the last contestant at 9:30 pm (11:30 pm our body time). We took the stage, entertained, and reveled in the laughter and applause. Now as the 5th Place Mid-Size Chorus in the World, we wear our first International medal with pride. We worked hard, played hard, sang our best, had fun - and received jewelry to boot!

We took one week to review our Seattle DVD then jumped right

into singing Christmas songs, preparing for the first ever joint Christmas Show of three Fort Worth choruses: two men's barbershop groups, Texas Millionaires and Arlington Good Times; and Lone Star Chorus. At our first joint rehearsal we learned about two songs we would be jointly singing (with parody words to boot), and we learned the version of Hallelujah Chorus we would all be singing was not Handel's but David Wright's! But being the troupers we are, three days before the show we rose to the challenge, got the music and worked hard to be performance-ready.

It all worked beautifully in the end with two fabulous shows, lots of fun, and talk of it becoming an annual event. We also found the time to do what we do best - entertain at Christmas performances. Fort Worth's annual "Gathering at the Chapel" is a mixture of musicians from all music genres that gather quarterly to share their style of music and it is always interesting and entertaining. In the midst of all of this activity we were also having our largest fundraiser, selling poinsettias, which was also a success.

After the show we all needed a break after so many intense months of preparation. We were off till the first of the year when we will begin preparing for contest, once again working with all our great coaches. Till next time...quack, quack, quack and Happy New Year!

By Judy Wilson, TIWT Correspondent

Magic Valley Chorus McAllen, TX

What a joyous and exciting time of year this is! Magic Valley Chorus has even more reasons to celebrate. With the return of our much-loved and appreciated Winter Texans, once more our voices can soar!

This year marks our Chorus's 20th Anniversary, and with Pat Craig and Gloria Johnson, Charter Members, we say thank you for this wonderful sisterhood of song. We began our 20th Year Tribute in



November, with a day out, singing at a couple of nursing homes, and then enjoying a tasty dinner at Cracker Barrel, with family, friends and some of our past members. The evening concluded with singing in front of their beautiful fireplace for the patrons and staff. We have a standing invitation to come and sing there whenever we can and we always feel welcome. It was a great start to our 20th Year.

December began with our Annual Christmas Performance Weekend at the Tower Theater in Weslaco. We opened the program with songs from our current repertoire and then sang our Christmas favorites. Border Connection, Shades of Grey, and Fascinatin'

Rhythm Quartets participated, adding fun and flavor to the shows.

The audiences, mostly Winter Texans, were wonderful, obviously enjoying the Art of Barber-shop Singing. There was lots of laughter at the jokes offered by Janet Doyle, our M.C., and G.W. Lewallen, our esteemed Director, a couple of standing ovations, and on Sunday, with an overbooked theater, and two extra front rows of seats, a very intimate presentation, where singers and audience were within touching distance. We looked beautiful in red, with sparkling new Christmas appliqués and sang our best to sound as good as we looked. It was an uplifting AND exhausting weekend, and a great kick-off to a busy month of sing-outs.

By Shirley Valentine, TIWT Correspondent

Panther City Chorus Fort Worth, TX

Panther City Chorus has been busy! Our Fall Fashion Show was a huge success. Many thanks to Coldwater Creek, who provided the clothes and narration, and to our Show Chair Extraordinaire, Sharon Welch. Our models had a wonderful time running back and forth, changing clothes and modeling for our audience! Our tables were decorated by Teresa Cabral, and were absolutely beautiful. Thanks also to our Director, Charlotte Hoffman and to all of our chorus members for a great show!

We were the main attraction at the Conservatory's Christmas party and sang for a full house. They

welcomed us with such enthusiasm. For four months this past year, the Conservatory allowed Panther City Chorus to lead sing-along groups and introduce barbershop to the ladies there. We were quite a hit!

Also on our Christmas Carol list was a singout at a private home, where we entertained a shut-in and her autistic son. They were thrilled to have us sing for them!

Panther City Chorus is eagerly awaiting our coaching session with Vicki Dennis, and another coaching session with Sheri Strawther and Jane Schlinke. What a great way to start a New Year!

As always, Panther City is working to improve our vocal skills and to increase our membership.

By Pam Tineo, TIWT Correspondent

Sparkling City Chorus Corpus Christi, TX

Sparkling City Chorus has been rockin' with the oldies. Our "Fun Fab Fest" was indeed a fun performance of the best of the Fab Four Beatles' tunes as well as the uniquely American Beach Boys' classics. Many guests went home with door and raffle prizes thanks to the hard work of chorus members in securing donations from the community.

Janie Macchiaroli, one of our favorite ladies, once again shared her knowledge and experience in a coaching session. We were all ears, and we're keeping our ears over our shoulders, Janie!

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Christmas caroling by the chorus and various quartets filled the month of December, including our 8th annual participation in the Tree of Angels ceremony honoring victims of violent crimes. We are honored to be asked back each year.

We're thrilled to welcome our newest member, Dr. Jessica Maloney. Jessica, a veterinarian, sings lead and relocated to the Texas coast from Indiana with her husband and family.

The New Year is before us, and the chorus is ready to hit the ground running for contest! Until then, we wish you many blessings for the holidays, and a very happy, healthy 2011.

By Lela Gallo, TIWT Correspondent

Spirit of Southeast Texas Chorus Beaumont, TX

The Spirit of Southeast Texas Chorus had a ball in Seattle. It was such a great experience and we will know what to do when we get there again. We appreciate the region for all its support. Houston Horizon, Bayou Blend and Alamo Metro were very helpful as well. There is one chorus that we would especially want to thank and that is Lone Star. They really took us under their wings! Between letting us share their breakfast time and opening their hospitality room to us we were well fed. It was wonderful and saved us bunches of money. They are a super group of ladies.

This month we have done a couple of sing outs, which we always enjoy. We also had a free Christmas show that was so much fun. At the show we had a bake sale and silent auction that brought us some extra money. We also sang On Redd Vision TV, Fox 4 for their Christmas special. Jazzie Redd and Super Dave came to our practice to film us for the program. After it airs it will be on Youtube and Facebook.

We wish the entire region a Merry Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are looking forward to a new year of regional events and contest. See you in 2011.

By Natalie Lockhart, TIWT Correspondent

Texas Harmony Chorus Irving, TX

OUTSTANDING SHOW RECIPE
2010 Texas Harmony/Chisholm Trail Joint Show

1 motivated DART Team
35 crazy chorus members
9 new songs most with choreography
70 dedicated singers
2 fabulous directors
1 Out of Town Retreat
1 spicy coach
2 Performance Venues
Lots of audience members
20 songs and Larry Bling Live!
(optional) additional spices –
YOU!

Start with 1 motivated DART Team as a foundation of the recipe. Add 35 crazy chorus members to the mix. Add 9 new songs, blend well with learning, fun, and

choreography for 5 months (5/10 to 10/10). Set aside to unify. Once unified add to the remaining ingredients below.

Mix together the 70 dedicated singers (Chisholm Trail and Texas Harmony members) and the two fabulous directors (Carol Scherer and Darlene Rogers). Quickly blend in the spicy coach (Sylvia Alsbury) with the Out of Town Retreat (Summer's Mill Retreat and Conference center, in Salado, TX on 8/20-8/21) and mix well. Make sure that there is adequate time for the 70 singers to mix well so that all parts are optimally blended and integrated.

Using both Performance Venues, (Friday night 10/15 in Irving, TX and Saturday 10/16 in Temple, TX) fill the venues with lots of audience members. When the time is right (7:30/8:00, respectively), pour the mixture in the Performance Venues. Generously, add in the 20 songs and Larry Bling Live! Finally, sprinkle with hot pink, yellow and turquoise (costume accents worn by both choruses).



It was a recipe for HUGE success! Texas Harmony had a lot of fun preparing for this show – it was a lot of hard work and teamwork! We thank the Chisholm Trail chorus for their participation, cooperation and harmony as we were able

to present "Barbershop Ain't Square" to our Irving, TX audience. The rewards were endless and we look forward to embarking on our next great adventure to Carnegie Hall with Chisholm Trail in May, 2011. It is not too late for YOU to add your *additional spices* to our mix – Sign up to go with us to Carnegie Hall in May 2011. Contact Donna Reeves for more details. seveerd@gmail.com or www.texasharmony.org.

By Karla Callaway, TIWT Correspondent

Voice of Vermilion Chorus Lafayette, LA

Voice of Vermilion Chorus wishes all Region 10 members a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!



We entertained during the Christmas holidays with performances at Paul's Jewelry for the Oil Center's "Festival of Light," in Grand Coteau for the "Le Grand Noel" and twice at Lafayette General Medical Center for their volunteers.

The chorus had a very successful garage sale in November. Not only did we bring in funds for the chorus treasury but garage sales always give us a chance to "clean out our closets." We did find time to enjoy our chorus' Christmas party, hosted by Bev Colomb, in mid-December. Keeping in the

Christmas spirit, the chorus donated 2 large bags of toys to the Toys for Tots campaign.

VOV was pleased that Margaret Kresse, Nelda LeJeune, Patricia Broussard, Catherine Sarwar and Karen Bernard attended the Winter Regional. Congratulations to Margaret Kresse – she is now a Certified Director. Margaret completed the DCP program and received her certificate and pin at the January meeting.

Voice of Vermilion was fortunate to have had Vickie Dennis coach us in November and we will welcome Bron Dixon in January and February. Next on our agenda is Great Gulf Coast Region 10's 50th Anniversary Competition in March 2011.

By Karen Bernard, TIWT Correspondent

Prospective Heart of the Pines Chorus

Nacogdoches, TX

Prospective Heart of the Pines (Nacogdoches) is only about 7 months old, but we are having a really fun Holiday Season already. We've been singing for local organizations such as the Symphony Club and United Daughters of the Confederacy, along with being asked to sing with the men's Timbretones Chorus at their various nursing home performances and their own Christmas party. From this exposure we have obtained a prospective new member who has informed us she wants to audition in January. What enthusiasm! We seem to be getting positive feedback from everyone.

After some of our performances many of the girls (and guys) congregate at a pizza parlor or IHOP for munchies and camaraderie. Our own Christmas party



featured several of our members in sensational Karaoke solo performances. We had a blast, and ended the evening singing in quartets.

When our director, TJ Reed, had a very serious back surgery in September, we weren't sure what kind of holiday season we would have. But our assistant director, Loraine Young, stepped up to the plate and brought us a very busy season. We are pleased to have very talented directors. And we are excited to become 'official' Sweet Adelines...hopefully February or March. See you at Regional!

By Lorna Laster, TIWT Correspondent

Prospective A Cappella Unlimited Chorus San Marcos, TX

Prospective A Cappella Unlimited is off to a great start. We had our kick-off meeting in late September

Prospective
A Cappella
Unlimited

with 22 people and an average of 15 are making it to rehearsals that

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Quartet Notes

Reunion Street Quartet

Alice Williams, tenor; Vicki Wyont, lead; Anna Mae Garner, baritone; Carin Williamson, bass

Reunion Street is alive and well. It seems like yesterday that we were sharing the contest stage with many of you at Regional Competition. Following competition we began working on new music and singing every opportunity we could get. Our new repertoire included some Christmas music that we shared with groups throughout the Houston area. One arrangement we debuted was Wooden Soldiers on Parade arranged by Penny Hartmann from Brazos Crossing Chorus. Following the Christmas break we will set our sights on Regional Competition with a quartet retreat in January. We are looking forward to seeing each and everyone one of you at Winter Regional Weekend.

KCKC Quartet

Kate Sutton, tenor; Corla Lindsey, lead; Karen Bernard, baritone; Carla Bay, bass

KCKC wishes all competing quartets a great competition in March 2011!

We had the honor of singing "Friends" at the memorial service of one of our long-time Sweet Adelines this past year. Letha Griffin was the bass of Three Sharps and a Flatt. KCKC sang at several Christmas performances for Bayou Blend Chorus and performed in the chorus' Second Annual Christmas Concert. We're



getting ready for Bayou Blend's 50s Show in April 2011. We are also part of a VLQ in Bayou Blend Chorus called The 7-UPs. This group has performed during the Christmas season and also at the Second Annual Christmas Concert.

High Five Quartet

Natasha Callaway, tenor; Karla Callaway, lead; Laura Jenks, baritone; Marlys Nelson, bass

High Five has had a very busy summer and fall of coaching, coaching and more coaching! One of the highlights for us has been to be a part of Region 25's Summer Music Camp (SMC) held in Denton on June 25-26, 2010. Not only was The Buzz the faculty, but the weekend included Zing!, our international quartet Champions AND Jean Barford. We were able to sit in on coaching with Jean Barford and many region 25 quartets such as Timeless, Myst, Rendition, Cabaret and Zing! It was



wonderful to watch a "master" at work and learn so much!

The Buzz did a great job with vocal production classes, part classes etc and they also performed on the Saturday evening show. Our absolute **favorite** part of the weekend was that we were able to spend a couple hours of one-on-one time with Zing! for mentoring/coaching. They us gave some tips about how to raise our level and shared with us one of the concepts that Jean Barford is using with quartets she is coaching. It was a wonderful experience to have Melynnie, Michelle, Mary and Susan up close and personal with us and is true testament of their gracious spirits to take the time to help us grow musically.

In July, we were also able to travel to Houston to coach with Region 10's own, Vickie Dennis, for more – you guessed it – coaching! It is a long day but we like to go on road trips and enjoy working with Vickie. We also feel blessed to be able to coach with Darlene Rogers on a regular basis – we just cannot get enough "teachings" on Monday nights (chorus) so we go Sunday afternoons as well!

We were invited to sing as a guest quartet on the Joint Chisholm Trail/Texas Harmony Show. It was a good experience and had fun at both performances. We are busily learning Christmas songs for chorus and quartet and plan to participate in a few performances. We wish everyone in Region 10 a wonderful New Year full of love, harmony and family! See you in January!

Mix & Match Quartet

Marci Haack, tenor; Rosemary Calderon, lead; Pat Murray, baritone; Marlene Snare, bass

Christmas miracles do happen! Who would have thought that three baritones plus one tenor would find each other and form a quartet! Yes, Region 10, there is a Santa Claus! This quartet is now a remixed version of Mix & Match and a mixed up bunch we certainly are.

You may have heard us sing at the regional meeting few months ago, when Mix & Match had a Rich-tone, Hope Hunter, singing lead and a baritone, Marlene Snare, Texas Harmony, singing bass.



Well as fate would have it, Hope left us due to health issues. The baritone, Rosemary Calderon (former lead in El Paso) switched to lead and we invited a Texas Harmony baritone, Pat Murray to join us. The only member who is not so mixed-up is our tenor, Marci Haack. So, Mix & Match is now even more mixed-up but we are definitely a good match. And you, the reader, are probably totally mixed up just reading this!

We plan to make our regional debut this January at the Region 10 meeting in Houston and look forward to competing this spring. If

you run into us, feel free to request a song because we sing at the drop of a napkin....and we carry our own napkins.

SoundWise Quartet

Heather Harmon, tenor; Jane Schlinke, lead; Denise Fly, baritone; Ronda Perez, bass

Wow this year is going by so fast. 2011 here we come. Registering late June has put us on a fast track. As we build a song repertoire, building friendships and also working, higher education for Heather and all family. Oh yea and chorus for three of us doesn't leave many evenings free. However we are loving every step along the way.

SoundWise has been squeezing in rehearsals and coaching amongst our busy schedules. Heather has been traveling to San Antonio and the three of us Jane, Denise and Ronda travel to Houston. We have a sweet deal in Schulenburg so we can meet half way a few times a month. Highlighting our year has



been singing for Jane's dear friends' 50th anniversary party here in San Antonio. The privilege to

sing on the Alamo Metro Chorus send off show and then the Christmas show was a real treat. Big thank you to Melissa Trevino for filling as tenor at the last minute, for the Christmas show. We are looking forward to seeing all of our friends in January for Region 10 Winter Event in Houston. Hope to see you all there. Follow SoundWise Quartet on [Facebook](#).

Voilà! Quartet

Hilda Mancillas, tenor; Nancy Bourell, lead; Bebe Caldwell, baritone; Heather Harmon, bass
We have so much to be thankful for and feel extra blessed by singing together! The 'go between' miles through Austin and Boerne seem so much shorter now but un-



fortunately, so do the hours we spend rehearsing...yikes! We sang Christmas carols for a lovely retirement community in New Braunfels and performed on AMC's 'The Magic of Christmas' show...oh what fun! We hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! See you in January!

Vocal Trax Quartet

Elizabeth McCurdy, tenor; Janie Macchiaroli, lead; Denise Tazumi, baritone; Kay Hammett, bass

Howdy! Since regional competition last spring, Vocal Trax has undergone a change of personnel. Our friend Susie Chirafis resigned

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- We'll have that bulletin board for you to post your hosting parties after Show of Champions.

It is recommended that each chorus appoint a Competition Coordinator who is responsible for sending in the forms and money by the deadlines printed in the competition handbook and send their name to me (eunapooole@msn.com) so I can send you updates quickly. You may download the complete handbook and individual forms at the Region 10 webpage: www.region10sai.org.

The deadlines for the forms are clearly indicated. February 11 is the REGIONAL deadline for almost everything -- please pay attention to the SAI HQ deadlines, which are a month earlier.

Please make the deadlines a **priority** on your calendars. For everything to run smoothly, all forms and money need to be in on time. These pdf forms can be filled out in soft-copy format or they can be printed and hand-written depending upon their chorus and/or their particular comfort with using a computer.

We also always need about 200 volunteers to make Regional a success so please get with your competition coordi-

nator and tell her when you can volunteer.

Another common question is, "Do I fill out forms if I am CAL or an individual or a family member?" The answer is YES -- refer to the Individual Forms, Housing Forms, Registration Forms and Information for All Members as indicated in the Handbook.

If you are an individual asking to volunteer, please send the form directly to Jodi Ceasar. The deadlines are the same for every member.

I encourage everyone to join the Regional mailing list so they can receive updates from me on a regular basis. I plan on addressing something each week starting February 1 until Contest weekend. Send an email to Region 10 Communications Coordinator Carol Mouché at Region10Comm@aol.com with the subject line, "add me to yahooogroup."

The Steering Committee is here to serve and help in any way possible to make your contest experience enjoyable. We look forward to seeing you!

These are the 2011 Contest Forms that are currently available via the regional website:

[2011 Competition Handbook](#)
 (ALL information and ALL forms)
[2011 Competition Program](#)
[Information For All Members](#)
[Hotel Map](#)
[Hotel Housing Instructions](#)
[Registration Information Flyer](#)
[Schedule of Events](#)
[Quartet Traffic Pattern](#)
[Chorus Traffic Pattern](#)
[Chorus Rehearsals & Meals](#)
[Silent Auction Flyer](#)
[Steering Committee](#)
[Thursday Night Mixer in the Atrium Info](#)
[Individual Registration Form](#)
[Hotel Room Registration Form](#)
[Volunteer Sign Up Form](#)
[Quick Competition Checklist Form](#)
[Vendor Form](#)
[Chorus Breakfast Request Form](#)
[Chorus CC Authorization Form](#)
[Chorus Coordinator Checklist](#)
[Chorus Dinner Request Form](#)
[Chorus Information Form](#)
[Chorus Member Verification Form](#)
[Chorus Pose Form](#)
[Chorus Recording & Film Rights](#)
[Chorus Rehearsal Request Form](#)
[Master Registration Form](#)
[Quartet Information Form](#)
[Quartet Reception Form](#)

Stay Connected With Region 10

All active and CAL members are encouraged to sign up for the Region 10 Yahoo e-group and/or our Facebook page. The e-group is our most timely method for disseminating information that is important to you — registration and flyers for area schools and contest, updated links on our regional website, this TIWT newsletter and valuable information for your chorus leaders, directors and quartets.

It's easy and free to join. Just send an email Region10comm@aol.com and we'll do the rest.

If you're on Facebook, find us under
 "Great Gulf Coast Region 10."
 Join the discussion!



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Next Deadline: June 1, 2011

Region 10 Website:

<http://www.region10sai.org/>

Cradle of Texas is Out of This World!

Cradle of Texas chorus was given the wonderful opportunity to send Christmas wishes to the International Space Station! "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" was performed for the 6-person crew of Expedition 26!

How on Earth did we do it? Well, we did it on Earth and a video was made by one of our singers, Beth Turner, who works for NASA, who was able to send it to the space station.

The International Space Station just celebrated its 10th anniversary. It has been visited by 196 individuals from 8 countries and now barbershop music!

See a Christmas message from the crew: http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html?media_id=41399511

By Holly Ritter and Char Cummings, Cradle of Texas Chorus



The Soyuz TMA-20 spacecraft approaches the International Space Station, carrying Russian cosmonaut Dmitry Kondratyev, Soyuz commander and Expedition 26 flight engineer; along with NASA astronaut Catherine (Cady) Coleman and European Space Agency astronaut Paolo Nespoli, both flight engineers. Docking of the two spacecraft occurred at 3:11 p.m. (EST) on Dec. 17, 2010.

Wall Of Fame & Scrapbook Pages Reminder

By Karen Bernard, Region 10 Historian

Scrapbook pages & information on the **Eighteenth Annual Wall of Fame** were given out during the Winter Regional Meeting in Houston. This information will be mailed out to Team Leaders/Presidents of choruses with no representative at the Winter Regional. I encourage all choruses to honor **only one** special member on this year's Wall of Fame and to be

included in the Regional Scrapbook for 2010-2011. Wall of Fame Certificates will be presented and Scrapbook Awards will be announced during competition weekend, probably on Saturday night.

Be sure to visit the Historian's tables in the Regional Boutique at every meeting and especially at contest. You'll find snapshots and chorus/quartet photos for sale at very low prices. **Many are now free for the**

taking. Some Region 10 scrapbooks are on display as well as the Region's Chorus and Quartet Champion Albums.

Get in touch with me if you have any questions. My contact info is as follows:

841 Hwy 182; Sunset LA 70584. Phones, fax, and email are: (home) 337-662-3247; (fax) 337-662-2274; (e-mail) kbsings@centurytel.net

Great Gulf Coast Region 10 Needs Your Support

By Marilyn A. Douglas, Region 10 Finance Manager

We have asked each chorus in Region 10 to have a fundraiser, such as a catalog sale, to financially support our region. The chorus would keep half of the proceeds for itself and donate half to the Region.

Three choruses have replied with either a donation or already have had a catalog sale. One chorus raised more than \$1700 and donated more than \$800 to the Region from a Pampered Chef catalog sale. Contact me for more information: payday99@swbell.net

Chorus Shows 2011

**Magic Valley Chorus —
February 19**

A reminder that all chapter show dates must be approved by Regional Team Coordinator Cinda Crews before they can be posted to the calendar. Email cindacrews22@yahoo.com to obtain a request form.

YSF On Facebook

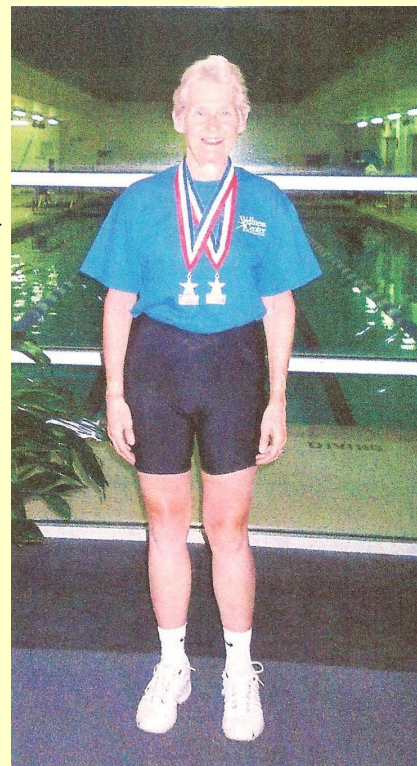
Get more information about the Young Singers Foundation — just search for the page on Facebook and click "like" when you get there. The Young Singers Foundation is committed to enriching the lives of young people by supporting the educational and performance opportunities in vocal music. It is an official charity of Sweet Adelines International.

An Olympian In Our Midst

By June Palmer and Jodi Ceaser, Houston Horizon Chorus

It's not often that we focus on the singular accomplishments of the members who make up our choruses, but we would like to take a moment to do just that, and to spotlight one of our region's many talented women.

After retiring, Marsha Smith, a long time member of Houston Horizon Chorus, began participating in an exercise and swimming program for its health benefits. It wasn't long before she added spinning to her regimen. In 2004, during an MS 150 pre-ride, she fell and broke her wrist, preventing her from riding in her first MS 150 (the MS 150 is a cycling/fund-raising event that benefits the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and involves cycling from Houston to Austin over the course of two days). She hasn't looked back since! Marsha has ridden in the last 5 MS 150 rides. In 2006, Marsha began running so that she could begin competing in triathlons. For those that don't know, a triathlon is comprised of 3 events, a 300-500 yard swim, a 12-15 mile bike ride and a 3 mile run. Averaging 4 triathlons per year, Marsha has won her age category every time she has competed and often beats the "time" of a lot of the younger participants. This year, she competed in the 50, 100, 200 and 500 yard swims at the Senior Olympic Trials held in Houston. Marsha continued her success, winning all 4 in her age category. As a result, she has qualified for and will participate in the Senior Olympics held in Houston in June 2011. At 75 years of age, there is no doubt that Marsha Smith is a true champion!



(Continued from page 11)

from the quartet in April. We all remain friends. Denise, Elizabeth, and



Janie wish Susie well in her future endeavors. So we were bass-less for several months. Then good fortune smiled on us when Kay Hammett came into our lives. Kay fits in perfectly and has added a certain spark to our collective personality. We made our debut at the Houston Horizon Chorus Christmas concert on December 16. What fun! And we

survived the "ordeal" quite well. We pray that your holiday season was full of good health and joy.

Prospective A Cappella Unlimited

(Continued from page 9)

started in October. Most are seasoned Sweet Adelines but there are a couple of newbies who have been bitten by the barbershop bug. Prospective A Cappella Unlimited is a "Central Texas" chorus that meets on Wednesday evenings, 7:30 – 10:30 pm in the Music Building at Texas State University in San Marcos. Our focus is quality performance and ongoing learning. We are self-directed and enjoying every minute of our time together. We invite other central Texas women looking for a new singing environment to join us. Call Sandy at 512.327.1827 or email acappellaunlimited@austin.rr.com for more info.

By Kathy Pillmore, TIWT Correspondent

Welcome to our newest Region 10 members

Please note that this information is supplied by each chorus to the regional Communications Coordinator.

Alamo Metro Chorus

Maxine Neil-Johnson
Suzanne Miles

Brazos Crossing Chorus

Evelyn Tyler

Cradle of Texas Chorus

Christina Reyes

Magic Valley Chorus

Isabella Waldschmidt
Cathy Flannery
Eleanor J. Mason

Panther City Chorus

Mandi Tidwell

Sparkling City Chorus

Jessica Maloney

Prospective Heart of Dallas Chorus

Jenna Holmes

(Continued from page 1)

formed. They come into this world with the gift of artistry and sound already in place. People such as Charlotte Church, who without instruction have a natural, fully resonant, well produced sound. Those people are rare and are the exception rather than the rule. Most of us **must learn** to use our instruments.

Countdown to competition is not the best time to begin vocal study — but if you find an understanding coach who will nurture the voice and encourage you to change things that will enhance your competition performance, it can be helpful and exciting. An experienced and knowledgeable teacher will help you polish your skills without starting back at square one.

Pursuing vocal improvement on your own is challenging but progress can be made using vocal warm up cds, dvds and reading about the voice. Self-evaluation is not easy because you cannot hear what you really sound like as you are singing. A good recording device is not only helpful but a necessity for recognizing your progress. Record each session then listen to yourself and evaluate what you have improved. Record the first week of the month, save the recording, record the last week of the month and compare the two and evaluate your progress.

Vocal skill building, flexibility studies, exercises to help stretch your range, exploration of your resonating system are all items that a singer should continually work to improve. As you are preparing your voice for the competition experience daily sessions touching on these areas will increase your skills and your confidence. As you improve, and you will improve if you really work daily, you will discover that your limitations vocally will minimize. You will know how high, how low, and how long you can sing. You will tone the muscles needed to build vocal stamina and ensure a peak performance. Gaining that knowledge of the strengths of your voice will increase your confidence as a performer and a competitor.

Just singing through your competition material will make you more comfortable with the music, and engrain the music in your muscle memory. That is admirable and should be done but why limit your growth to only that music? Why not improve your voice and build your skills by working on all aspects of singing -- not just songs?

MENTAL PREPARATION

So much of singing is controlled, regulated, orchestrated through thought. Training a singer to generate only positive self-talk is a daunting task. Self-talk is that tiny little voice inside your head that constantly provides feedback. Learning to use that editor for good is our goal. When you are warming up the self-talk often goes something like this: "Wow, I can tell I didn't get enough sleep last night, I sound awful. Listen to that high note ! Ugh! Screech again." You get the idea. Soon the voice will do exactly what the self-talk is asking and you will sound tired and screechy. I don't mean you should not be honest with yourself. Just shift to a more positive approach. "Wow, I hear the tiredness in my sound; I will have to warm up carefully and gently. I hear that high note; let's do it again with more support and open throat. That's better, don't push." You get the idea. Your warm up will go better and your voice will perform more readily for you.

I find it amazing how much influence the mind has on the actual sound of the voice. It can also make practicing interesting and less tiring physically. There is a story about a basketball team that the coach divided in half. He sent half the team to the gym for an hour a day to practice free throws. The other half he sent to a room to sit and imagine shooting perfect free throws for one hour. At the end of the experiment both groups improved equally. Why not adapt this to our rehearsal for our preparation for our competition performance

Learn to use mental rehearsal. Using your imagination visualize your competition experience—go through every detail that you can from walking on stage to singing a perfect performance and accepting the applause after the performance. Revel in the moment of your excellent performance, feel what it's like to sing with no interference from nerves or anxiety. See the audience and judges and their positive response to your performance. Keep it upbeat and exciting.

This will not only improve your performance but it will also help eliminate stage fright or performance anxiety.

EMOTIONAL PREPARATION

Knowing yourself and what it takes to keep you on an even keel emotionally is very important in the competition setting. Every person handles stress differently and learning what works best for you may take some time and some experimenting

along the way. Communicating your feelings to those people sharing the competition experience will help keep the emotional roller coaster at a slower speed.

Singers are most often expressive people who use their emotions to help give a peak performance. When the excessive display of emotions leaks off the stage and into the everyday life, a Diva is born.

Planning their time and staying on a schedule helps some people keep on that even keel. Others want to feel they are free to alter the schedule or don't want to be tied down to a plan. They prefer to "wing it" on the day of the competition. Learn what works for you and let the emotions continue to be a part of the performance where it can earn you some points. Treat yourself and others kindly and with respect.

Keeping the competition in perspective is a real issue for the singer. We work so hard toward that goal that often when the goal is accomplished there is an emotional as well as a physical reaction. If you met your expectations then the emotional high is exhilarating. Just remember for every action there is a reaction; after that exhilarating high you can expect to bottom out emotionally, physically and you may feel exhausted. If you don't meet your expectations you could skip the exhilaration and go right for the bottom of the emotional roller coaster.

Perspective will help tame that roller coaster into a nice drive in the country. Competition should not define you as a singer. It is one of the elements of your journey. Six minutes on stage compared to a year of pleasurable preparation — the journey is the most important part.

A friend of mine from Sweden stated that competition is one of the rungs on a ladder. Each rung is one of her goals toward vocal improvement and the poles to which the rungs are attached are the vision of where she wants to be vocally. It is a continuing journey of improvement and joy.

The vocal athlete, whether professional or dedicated amateur, should think through their response to the competition. Make a plan that allows you to recuperate and has yet another interesting but different challenge waiting. Give yourself the gift of a vocal vacation for a couple of weeks and then on to the next exciting vocal adventure. The next rung of the ladder looks much closer now.

Great Gulf Coast 5-Year Education Plan As of July 2010

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Jan	Winter Regional Meeting Jan 15-16 Houston, TX Harriette Walters	Quartet Workshop Jan 14-15 Houston, TX Tomi McEvoy	Quartet Workshop Jan 20-21 Houston, TX Faculty Pending	Quartet Workshop Jan 18-19 Houston, TX Faculty Pending	Quartet Workshop Jan 17-18 Houston, TX Faculty Pending
Feb					
Mar	Regional Competition March 25-28 Houston, TX	Regional Competition March 17-20 Houston, TX	Regional Competition March 29-April 1 Houston, TX	Regional Competition March 21-24 Houston, TX	Regional Competition April 3-6 Houston, TX
Apr					
May	Chapter Leaders' Seminar May 21-22 Houston, TX Linda Nishimura, Life Coach	Chapter Leaders' Seminar May 20-21 Houston, TX Kathy Carmody	Chapter Leaders' Seminar May 18-20 Houston, TX Regional Faculty	Chapter Leaders' Seminar May 17-18 Houston, TX Peggy Gram	Chapter Leaders' Seminar May 16-17 Houston, TX Regional Faculty
Jun	Area Schools June 26 3 areas – west, north, east Regional faculty	Area Schools June 25 TBD Regional faculty	Area Schools June 23 TBD Regional faculty	Area Schools June 22 TBD Regional faculty	Area Schools June 21 TBD Regional faculty
Jul					
Aug					
Sept	Fall Regional Meeting Sept 17-18 Houston, TX Tori Postma		Fall Regional Meeting Sept 14-15 Houston, TX Renee Porzel	Fall Regional Meeting Sept 20-21 Houston, TX Gail Jencik	Fall Regional Meeting Sept 19-20 Houston, TX Faculty Pending
Oct		International Competition Oct 18-22 Houston, TX			
Nov					
Dec					