

TAG WRITING TIPS

Excerpts from the **2018 Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW** session
"The Art of Writing Tags" by Paul Olguin

Most tags have a melody that serves as inspiration. The melody is often sung by the Lead part, but not always. Tag melodies can start with four-part chords, a part solo, a unison or harmonized pickup, etc.

Are you thinking about entering a tag in the **First Ever Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW Tag Writing Contest**? Contest details are at www.harmonycollege.org. Here's the 3rd set of Tips from Paul:

(1) Tags entered in the Tag Writing Contest can be built around your own original melody or one from a public domain song (generally, songs first published before 1923 are now in the public domain). You can find lists of public domain songs at www.pdinfo.com.

(2) A tag can include a "hanger" in any part, sometimes with a "hand-off" to a different part.

(3) A tag is fun to sing for the singer and often includes a special embellishment or "tiddlie" that features a particular part.

Here's an example of a tag based on a public domain song that starts with a unison pickup followed by a Lead hanger that is handed off to the Tenor, ending with a Bass slide, arranged for women's voices:

SWEET ADELINE TAG

Arranged by **Janice Wheeler**

The musical score is for a four-part women's voice tag. It begins with a unison pickup of the melody. The Lead part then has a hanger (a long note) that is handed off to the Tenor part. The Tenor part then has a hanger that is handed off to the Bass part, which ends with a slide. The lyrics are: "Sweet A - de - line!" for the Tenor, "Sweet A - de - line." for the Lead, "Sweet A - de - line." for the Bari, and "Sweet A - de - line." for the Bass. The score includes first, second, and third endings for the Tenor part.

Inspired by the 1903 song, "You're The Flower Of My Heart Sweet Adeline"
Music by **Harry Armstrong** Words by **Richard H. Gerard**
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Are you "hearing" a tag of your own? Go ahead – write it down or record it – full mix and each of the 4 parts -- and enter it -- Your Barbershop Friends would love to sing it with you!