

N&NW

North by Northwest Region 13

September 13, 2020

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QUARTETS - SPECIAL EDITION

Alchemy



Alchemy Quartet are all members of **Northwest Harmony Chorus** in Vancouver WA. We formed in June 2019 to compete in the 2020 Regional Competition as a Novice Quartet.

In May we started Zoom rehearsals and in June we met in person outside. We all have masks but

are able to sing from 4 corners of the patio without masks. It is so wonderful to hear one another again!



Alchemy meets every couple weeks and is looking for some new music. Amy is recording songs on Smule so chorus members can join her to sing along. This has been great fun!

Submitted by Judy Larsen

Amplify



Amplify has been working on Christmas music, in the hopes we will be able to do lots of caroling this year. We have also used this time to discover new music and work on the the progression of our sound.

Like everyone else, the events of this year have disrupted our normal routine and caused much disappointment & isolation, and we struggle with the "new normal."

Amplify continues to remind each other that we will get through this, to be kind to ourselves, and above all, we are Sweet Adelines.

Submitted by Shellie Flood

Happenstance



...have this year's contest and show season cancelled due to the pandemic, the ladies of **Happenstance Quartet** are all grateful for our health, and for the amazing sunny weather in Portland which has allowed us to meet regularly in our baritone's backyard! The highlight of our summer was giving a socially distanced outdoor concert downtown in Pioneer Square, as part of the



"Polka Dot Courthouse Square" live performance series. These days we are learning (and arranging!) new music, and we can't wait to see and hear everyone singing in harmony together again.

Submitted by Kristin Ring

Highlight

Hello from **Highlight Quartet!**

We're missing Region 13 terribly, but have had a busy and productive quarantine so far! We welcomed a new **TwinkleLight** (baby!) to our **Highlight** Family, and have celebrated birthdays and holidays both together and apart!

We have chosen some INCREDIBLE music to work on during this time, and cannot wait to practice in person again, AND perform our new set(s) for an audience! We're so grateful for the BandLab App that allows us to work on our music: in our own time, and still feel connected in song!



We hope this update finds you well!
~Highlight Quartet~

Submitted by Kat Erickson

In Cahoots



In Cahoots members have had a challenging summer (along with everyone else), with job changes, working from home unexpectedly, and limited-to-nonexistent travel with/to family. Happily, we four wanted and were able to stay connected, and we found that sometimes the heart-time and friend support were needed more than singing!

Practically, we rehearsed using Zoom in March and April, but with good weather, have met in our backyards to REALLY sing, while trying to keep safely



distant. And to work on actually improving (!) we had our first outdoor coaching session with **Pride of Portland** Director Drew Osterhaut in late August. Working with Drew was such a blast, and a great shot of adrenaline for us! That coaching session will give us plenty to digest and work on as autumn and winter approach. But we're sure looking forward to when we can actually sing to an audience!

Kismet



On April 24th, when we would have been competing on stage in Spokane, **Kismet** met outside at a school parking lot to sing. We distanced 15' and sang, without masks, everything we know. It was amazing!

Since that Friday we have continued weekly rehearsals singing outside. In May we moved to a golf course that has a large picnic pavilion. Still

outside, still 15' apart, still without masks, but with a roof overhead. We have spent the summer learning new music and dusting off our rep. We are discussing safe options for when the snow flies. We are Sweet Adelines!



Submitted by Jan Matthews

Next Contestant

Hi Region 13! We send warm greetings from a safe distance!



Next Contestant has had one masked and sanitized rehearsal/gab session in Jennifer's backyard this summer. And we've gotten together semi-regularly on Google Meet.

Our Open Division debut is still planned for the next regional contest. But because we can't keep our silliness to ourselves for that long, we plan to make a holiday video to post on facebook in December.

So stay tuned for **Next Contestant!**
Terri, Jami, Kim and Jennifer

Submitted by Jami Thomas

Rave

Rave was ready: new songs, new costumes, coached with Drew Osterhout at our retreat at a friend's chalet near Mt. Hood surrounded by 3' of snow—beautiful! Then BOOM! Everything changed.

Since then we have rehearsed on Zoom, focusing on learning 5 new songs while developing the independence of our separate parts with feedback from the other three.

Now we are able to socially distance in person as we work on matching our resonance and synch. It feels so good to hear four parts again.



We missed sharing the stage at Contest with our Region 13 buddies. Hope to see you next spring.

Gail, Shirley, Katy and Nancy

Submitted by Nancy Kurth

Rewind



Rewind Quartet (formerly Vocalocity), like everyone else, had a much different summer than imagined. But we've made the best of it! We recently announced our new quartet name and are loving the wonderful feedback from our supporters.

We've been lucky enough to do some safe rehearsing while enjoying our first quartet retreat with our adventurous new lead, Amanda. We explored the great outdoors in Denali National Park while hiking, singing, and watching the northern lights dance. We look forward to the day we can sing for our sisters in song in **Alaska Sound Celebration** and the region.

In Harmony,
Christy, Melanie, Amanda and Molly

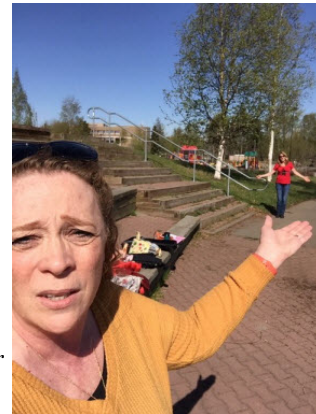
Submitted by Christy Hedrick-Bass

Sweet Chillys

Sweet Chillys quartet met on Zoom once or twice and then when the spring weather hit, we bundled up and rehearsed outside. We've also rehearsed at a distance in a garage.

We were hired in April to sing for a 91st birthday from her driveway while she sat on her porch.

We've also played a little bit with the application Smule. I am now researching Jamulus to see if this might help us rehearse through the winter. The photo is Cheryl and Liesl at a local park in June.



Submitted by Liesl Davenport-Wheeler

Touchstone

Initially **Touchstone** kept in touch with each other on Zoom. It was just too unsatisfying to try to sing our contest songs on Zoom, so we started learning new songs to keep the spark alive. Plus, we thoroughly researched our contest up tune and concluded it doesn't meet our current standards, 100 years after it was written!



We now meet once a week outdoors at a local high school, wearing masks and standing far apart. We bring a keyboard, hand sanitizer and make recordings...of all 4 glorious parts. Learning new songs is a boost to the spirit, but it sure is hard not to hug when we leave!

Robin Osborn, tenor
Debra Aungst, lead
Sydney Thompson, baritone
Paula Davis, bass



Submitted by Sydney Thompson

WALK in the Park

We were honored to sing at a 50th wedding anniversary dinner, which we did while social distancing and wearing matching pink masks. Wendy works in the medical field and had to learn Telehealth to work with patients. Ann teaches 2nd grade and had to teach her kids via ZOOM meetings from her home. Laura is excitedly learning new music for contest. Kari makes masks for everyone (pink ones for us!) and helped coordinate the IDAGONSKA Area School and our chorus' weekly ZOOM meetings.



Submitted by Laura Whitehead

Wink



Wink has spent the last several months learning to navigate our current world and have not been able to meet physically during this time of COVID-19. Kay has been working the front lines at Overlake Hospital in Bellevue, Melanie has been working hard for our state in Olympia, Megan has been busy buying a new home, moving and making baby #2 (due in December) and Connie has gone

back to work in the very busy home loan industry.

We miss each other and our singing friends immensely and look forward to the day we can sing together again in person.

Submitted by Connie Alward



MEMBERS COMMUNICATION SURVEY RESULTS

Thank You to All Who Completed the Members Communication Survey!

The Communications Team met in August to review the results of the survey and to begin developing a list of priority tasks to work on.

We had 263 members complete the survey, which is about a 28% return rate. Of those who responded, 15 requested a personal contact. The team is in the process of contacting these individuals for additional input.

Some Key Survey Results

The top five communication resources are:

1. InTune – 71.82%
2. Convention Website – 64.09%

5. Facebook – 60.45%

The three most important sources for regional information are:

1. Chapter Leader Update
2. eBlasts
3. Convention Website

62% of members who responded to the survey said they keep their member profile updated on the Members Only website.

Of the quartets that responded, 12.62% have recently reviewed their information on the public website, 18.69% have not, and 13.55% reported that they would like to have a Region 13 Facebook group established just for quartet connections.

The areas most used on the public and Members Only website are:

1. Events Information
2. Convention Information
3. General Information
4. Calendar
5. Regional Music
6. Education

Most members responded that they do not use the documents portion of the Members Only website and 13.55% responded that they needed training on the website.

We received many excellent comments related to information that members would like to see on the website. Some examples of the comments are:

- New music.
- Quartet stories.
- New recruitment materials and ideas.
- Maybe info on what other choruses do to raise additional funds.
- Quartets for Hire region-wide.
- A “search” feature.
- Front and center the region’s chapter goals and a diversity/inclusion section. Can you also put something about how to join a chorus.
- Easier to access info.
- Networking for people who would like to quartet.
- Music education, podcasts on vocal techniques, info on current trends in costuming and makeup.
- Anything that would help our chorus with membership recruiting and marketing.
- eBlast archives with an index.

Suggestions received for more effective communications were:

- More welcoming to new members, available resources etc.
- Send emails directly to regional members if the information is pertinent to each member.
- More emails with a single topic. Easy for me to delete if I am not interested, easy for me to find if I am interested, and much easier than wading through multi-topic emails and InTunes.
- Continue to have liaisons in each chorus who can help communicate regional information as needed.
- Simplify the eBlasts. Sometimes they are difficult to navigate and often require going to the website to get the full information.
- Please make it timely and accurate.
- I think current communication strategies are pretty effective. Using more platforms might reach more members. Maybe the biggest roadblock is that members need to actually sign up for communications on their preferred platform.
- The eBlast works great! Having the Chapter Leaders follow up helps make sure all chorus members are informed. Posting the same info on Facebook might be a good option.
- Communicate more often. Bi-monthly.
- More frequent in InTune Publications.
- In person meetings or video communications.

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- This survey is great start. Also, have really enjoyed the Saturday education sessions.
- Video messages, more frequent messaging.
- Provide more frequent articles in eBlasts
- RMT Q&A sessions covering specific topics submitted by members
- Mass emails for emergent issues

Stay tuned to the next eBlast which will highlight some of the tasks that were created from the survey results. Thanks again to all the Region 13 members – YOU ROCK!

*Submitted by Sandy Smith
Region 13 Communication Coordinator*

MARKETING TIPS & TRICKS

Region 13 Marketing Coordinators will be meeting monthly through the winter to learn in more detail how to create effective marketing plans and tools. Our first session on September 26, 2020 will feature Jen Zucker, Region 11 Marketing Coordinator. Jen's topic for discussion will be "How To Market to Your Ideal Member". If you would like to attend, please reach out to BethAnn Bock, Region 13 Marketing Coordinator for personal assistance, (360) 773-5638 or bockbethann@gmail.com.

For marketing resources, login to the Region 13 **Members Only** website and go to [Documents/Member Resources/Chapter Leadership Resources/Marketing/Miscellaneous Marketing Materials](#).

*Submitted by BethAnn Bock
Region 13 Marketing Coordinator*

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

This past June, Sweet Adelines International openly recognized its racist history and committed to taking steps NOW to make our organization one that celebrates our differences and makes ALL its members feel welcomed.

This commitment to addressing and condemning racism, discrimination, and other forms of inequity is guided by the following principles:

Guiding Principle: Diversity and Inclusion

We celebrate our differences as essential to the rich harmony that unites us. As we recognize barbershop's African American origins and learn from our exclusionary past toward women of color, we reject discrimination and unwaveringly strive toward greater awareness, openness, and understanding of each other.

Guiding Principle: Culture of Belonging

We create harmony where every voice matters. We foster a culture that provides a joyful place to share our uniqueness within a global community united in song.

North by Northwest Region 13 supports these principles and will be taking steps to help our membership navigate some of the new information and tools being provided by Sweet Adelines International. One such tool assists choruses and quartets in researching and evaluating songs to determine if they are admissible for performance as Sweet Adelines. Several songs have already been assessed and are available in the database. If your song is not already reviewed, the tool walks you through how to research and submit the song for review.

Here is a link to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion resources currently available on the Sweet Adelines International website (you will need to be logged in to access this information): <https://sweetadelines.com/dei-member-resources>.

As part of the *N by NW Presents* initiative, our own Paula Davis, provided a walk through of the **Song Assessment Tool** and the questions to consider while researching and evaluating songs. If you missed this presentation, it is available on our regional Facebook page through this link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3607572879263593&extid=6qwO5j7uLxLMCQU4>.

North by Northwest Region 13 is in the process of forming a task force to evaluate ways we can continue to support these guiding principles within our region. If you are interested in

Submitted by Shelly Pardis
Region 13 Education Coordinator



The Region 13 Management Team is looking for women to fill a variety of jobs in our region. Some are "one and done" positions, others are short-term spots, and still others are for a two-year position.



Featured Resource Staff Openings:

**Convention Communications Chair
Assistant Webmaster
Social Media Administrator**

Please decide to get more involved in your region. If you're interested in any of the open positions, we'd like to hear from you! sairegion13.org/JoinOurTeam

Take a few moments to read the detailed Job Description you are interested in and complete an application today! Both documents are found on the Member's Only [website](#).

Submitted by Sandy Smith
Region 13 Communications Coordinator

MEMBER INFO UPDATE REQUEST

Please take a moment to login to the [R13 Members Only](#) webpage to update your member profile information.

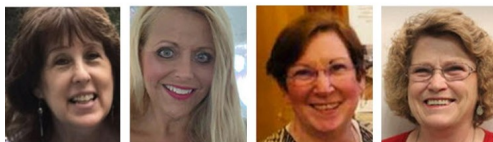
If you have any login issues, please contact [Mindy Engelberg](#) or [Diana Jordan](#).

Submitted by Sharon Stockstad
Region 13 Membership Coordinator

RMT MEETINGS



Have you ever wondered what your RMT actually does? Members are welcome to visit monthly meetings which are held via Zoom. If you plan to attend, you will need to register **at least 3 days prior to the meeting**.



NOTE: Meeting times have changed. All meetings begin at **2:00 pm** Pacific time and last approximately one hour.

The next meeting is scheduled on **September 27 2020**. Register in advance for this meeting at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvc--qrT8uGtHFgoGpCJysSZs6GgPoz-on>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Submitted by Sally Ryerson
Region 13 Team Coordinator

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