

Acapella Soundations + A Cappella Joy Chorus + Alaska Sound Celebration + Bridger  
 Mountain Harmony Chorus + Fairbanks Frontier Chorus + Capital City Sound Chorus +  
 Columbia River Chorus + Coeur d'Alene Chorus + Five Valley Chorus + Grand Olympics  
 Chorus + Helena Xpress Singers Chorus + Harmony of the Gorge Chorus + Harmony  
 Northwest Chorus + Inland Harmony Chorus + Jet Cities Chorus + Northwest Harmony  
 Chorus + Olympia Chorus + Pacific Sound Chorus + Pride of Portland Chorus +  
 RiversEdge Chorus + Rolling Hills Chorus + Sound Harmony Chorus + Song of Seattle  
 Chorus + Spirit of Spokane Chorus + Voices Northwest Chorus = **NxNW Region 13**

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# InTune Winter 2026

A newsletter for members of North by Northwest Region 13



SET—Anchorage, AK  
August 20-23, 2026

**Keynote Speakers**

- Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan (Slam-Dunc)
- 2014 Rising Star Champions
- 2019 Queens of Harmony with Class Ring
- Michaela is also part of the 2025 SAI Quartet Champions Dynasty!

**Plus exciting and free educational opportunities!**

Go to [Region 13's website](#) for more information about the cruise and SET ! (You will need to sign into the Members Only site to access this.)

- SET Early Bird registration is now open!
- \$150 for the workshop; layaway options are available!
- Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to learn more or to pay.



# Looking Ahead: Building Capacity and Planning for the Future



Looking toward the next chapter of our work together, the Regional Leadership Team (RLT) is taking several important steps to strengthen support for our chapters and plan thoughtfully for the years ahead. One key initiative was hiring a consultant, Kim Alley, to develop training for our regional faculty to better assist chapters with strategic planning. This investment of our regional THRIVE funding is designed to build shared skills, provide consistent guidance, and help chapters set clear, achievable goals that support long-term success.

Additionally, the RLT will hold a retreat in early February that will focus on planning for the 2026–2028 cycle, and give the team dedicated-time to reflect, align priorities, and map out future strategies. Your voice matters in this process—we welcome comments, ideas, and suggestions as we prepare for the retreat. Input from across the region helps ensure our plans are relevant, inclusive, and responsive to real needs.

I'm also pleased to share a leadership update: Cherie Letts (current Region 13 Marketing Coordinator) will serve as our Team Coordinator for the 2026–2028 term. All other coordinator roles will remain the same, providing continuity and stability, as we move forward.

Thank you to all who continue to serve and support this work. Together we are laying the groundwork for a strong and successful future for Region 13!

*Sally Ryerson,*  
*Region 13 Team Coordinator*



## Let the harmony flow at our 2026 regional convention!

Convention is coming really early this year, isn't it?!? We're used to a whole 'nother month to work on tightening up our songs, learning the visual plan, deciding on costuming, finding room-mates...and the list goes on!

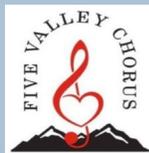
You can find everything you need by signing in to the Region 13 website, then going to <https://sairegion13.org/convention26r13home>

# Directors wanted!

## Five Valley Chorus



Five Valley Chorus is seeking a dynamic, passionate chorus director to provide education and training for its members in singing four-part harmony in the barbershop style. The chorus director would lead weekly rehearsals as well as various performances in Missoula, MT and surrounding areas. The chorus director would also prepare the chorus for, and direct the chorus in, the annual regional Sweet Adelines competition in Spokane, Washington. This year-round position is a fulfilling and fun way to give back to the community, be engaged in producing music, and to connect with like-minded singers on a weekly basis.



Go to [FiveValleySweetAdelines.com](http://FiveValleySweetAdelines.com) to see full position details and application information.

## Spirit of Spokane Chorus Seeks New Musical Director

Spirit of Spokane is a **motivated, high-level, performance-driven chorus** with a proud legacy. In our 35-year history, we've qualified for the **Sweet Adelines International Competition six times**, reflecting our commitment to musical excellence, growth, and teamwork. We're a chorus who works hard and believes deeply in the power of harmony and community.

After 32 extraordinary years of leadership, Spirit of Spokane is preparing to celebrate the retirement of our beloved director, Mike Elliott — and we are looking ahead with excitement to our next chapter. We seek an **inspiring, collaborative, and forward-thinking director** who is passionate about barbershop style, vocal artistry, and building a strong musical culture. Our singers are dedicated, coachable, and eager to grow with dynamic leadership.

Located in the heart of the Inland Northwest, Spokane Washington offers an exceptional quality of life with vibrant arts, scenic outdoor recreation, affordable living, employment opportunities and a welcoming community spirit. It's a beautiful place to live, create, and make music.

**Come experience the Spirit.** If you're ready to lead a chorus with history, heart, and ambition, we'd love to meet you. Send questions / letter of interest to: [DirectorSearch.SOS@gmail.com](mailto:DirectorSearch.SOS@gmail.com)



# Do you love to Cruise?!

**It's not too late, but it's getting close!  
Here is a "bucket list" opportunity for you to add  
to your summer 2026 plans the week before SET!**

**Join some Sweet Adeline friends on a 7-day cruise to  
Anchorage aboard Princess' Coral Princess.**

**Sailing dates: Wed. Aug. 12- Wed. Aug. 19, 2026**

**Everyone is welcome!**

**Deposit is required.**

**Register now at: [travelbyelisa.com/group/Region13SET2026](https://travelbyelisa.com/group/Region13SET2026).**

**Please direct any cruise questions to:**

**Cruise Planners / Travel by Elisa / 562-225-7623**



Scan for more cruise info.

# Heart of the Northwest Award

It's been a busy time of year for all of us, filled with performances, rehearsals, events, and time spent with our Sweet Adelines community. I hope you'll take a moment to consider nominating a member for the Heart of the Northwest Award. This award is presented each year by the Regional Management Team (RLT) during our convention weekend to a deserving Region 13 member who truly exemplifies the spirit of Sweet Adelines. Nominations are due by **February 15, 2026**.



The criteria and nomination form can be found [here](#). If you prefer, I'm happy to email you the link; contact me at [disingsak@gmail.com](mailto:disingsak@gmail.com). Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. Wishing all members of Region 13 a happy, healthy, and musical 2026!

*Submitted by [Diana Jordan](#),  
Region 13 Membership Coordinator*

## Chorus Chatter

### Acapella Soundsations Chorus



**Acapella Soundsations Chorus** just had a wonderful weekend retreat at Seabeck Conference Center! It's a wonderful place to stay, with great accommodations and meals, as well as beautiful views of trees, mountains, and water. We had the pleasure of being coached by the very talented Sweet Adelines Queen of Harmony and director of A Capella Joy Chorus, **Nikki Blackmer**

—who was kind enough to let us try on her crown!

Our sound is becoming amazing! We worked hard, and we played hard, too. We had a lot of fun and games with a flannel party, silly cookie names, trivia, board and card games, bunco night, and Karaoke. We even had a guitar and song performance by one of our members. But best of all was the laughter, the camaraderie, and the love and care we show for each other. We created memories of a lifetime. It's great to be Soundsational!

*Submitted by [Margie Gabe](#),  
Acapella Soundsations Secretary*

# *more Chorus Chatter*

## **Capital City Sound Chorus**

**Good Things Come In Twos!** A record 19 guests were welcomed on the first night of our Holiday Chorus Opening Night, surpassing our previous record of 17 guests, and setting an exciting tone for our annual show. Guests were invited to learn six songs and perform on-stage with us. We were delighted to have **four mother-daughter pairs** among them!



Presently, our chorus has two mother-daughter pairs, including our director and her adult daughter, and we've seen how special it is to experience learning and performing together. Adding more family duos made the season even more meaningful. Two mothers brought daughters ages 11 and 12, who quickly became friends—just as their moms did. Beyond singing, they found shared interests as connections grew throughout the rehearsal period.

One of our adult lead singers invited her mother to join and we enjoyed their fun and loving interactions and finally meeting the woman behind her daughter's lively personality. And lastly, a fifth mother-daughter duo joined in late October and quickly learned enough to perform in our show. A sixth pair arrived in early December and joined our Day of Caroling.

Audience members especially enjoyed watching the young singers. These special duos added energy, heart, and sparkle—making this Christmas season truly unforgettable.

***Submitted by Valerie Bridges & Judy Craig,***  
*Capital City Sound Chorus*

## **Coeur d'Alene Chorus**

The Coeur d'Alene Chorus had a fantastic fall /winter season starting with our 12-week membership drive. Guests had the opportunity to learn several tags while developing showmanship and technical barbershop singing skills. Then in culmination the guests had the opportunity to perform in our Ugly Christmas Sweater Program. We were absolutely thrilled that six guests performed with us and two of them even attended the Missoula Area School. From our membership drive, we had three people pass their audition, and two more who are still interested.



*(continued on next page)*

## *more Chorus Chatter*

*(continued from previous page)* Finally, the Cd'A Chorus wrapped up the holiday season by caroling at the beautiful Coeur d'Alene Resort, as the Victorian Singers perform for much of the month of December. Year after year, caroling is the highlight of our season.

Now we are gearing up for our annual retreat in February with our wonderful coach Paula Davis and are excitedly looking forward for all the things we plan to do in 2026.

*Submitted by Anna Esqueda,  
Coeur d'Alene Marketing Coordinator*

## **Jet Cities Chorus**



Jet Citizens were honored to perform on the 2025 International stage in Columbus, OH this past October. We are thrilled with what we put on the stage, getting to share the story of our chorus with an incredible audience of Sweet Adelines from all over the world. Having a whole week of non-stop barbershop was intense!

We returned home to Washington for a whirlwind holiday season—singing carols for the Pacific Northwest Ballet, the Argosy Christmas Ships, and doing a guest performance at a concert with the Lake Washington Singers in Woodinville.

We're delighted to have added seven new members since June: Jenn Peranzi, Linda Brown, Jeanne Burrirt, Tina Werden, Yuko Ogata, Michelle Thompson, and Janine Ray.

We look forward to reconnecting with each other at our retreat next month with the fabulous Paula Davis as we get ready to debut a new ballad for regional contest in April.

*Submitted by Michelle Smith,  
Jet Cities Communication Manager*

# more *Chorus Chatter*

## Pacific Sound Chorus



Pacific Sound Chorus celebrated harmonious holidays singing with friends on the Argosy Christmas Ship in Lake Washington, the Garden d’Lights in Bellevue, and for our hosts at The Belletini. We were delighted to be joined by [Could Be Worse](#) quartet and some wonderful Pacific Sound alumnae for these performances.

Come sing with us in 2026! We rehearse weekly on Thursdays at The Belletini in Bellevue, WA from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. P.S. We Love You!

*Submitted by Terri B’Hymer,  
Pacific Sound Chorus*

### Sweet Adelines official songs

Did you find yourself stumbling along at our Kickoff when it came time to sing together? You weren’t alone!

You can remedy that for next year by clicking [HERE](#) to find sheet music, learning tracks and instructional videos for each of SAI’s organizational songs: *Come On And SING!*, *The Voice Of Harmony*, and *How We Sang Today*. And an added bonus: They are FREE! Plus, you can share the music with family members and friends, too!



# *more Chorus Chatter*

## **Pride of Portland Chorus**



As we welcome 2026 after a break for the holidays, we are refreshed and energized. And like many choruses, POP basked in the joy of bringing a cappella and barbershop music to our community. We invited singers to join us for a Holiday Chorus, and we wrapped up our performance season at The Grotto in Portland – always a rewarding event for us and the audience alike.

We closed out 2025 with a holiday party filled with love, laughter, camaraderie, and delicious treats. We even decorated gingerbread gnomes and people, resulting in many beautiful and some hilarious creations (see photo above!).

In addition to cookie-decorating, chorus members, holiday guests, and family members joined together to play a “right-left” gingerbread story game. Everyone went home with a prize. There may have been kazoos and some glorious singing involved that added to the merriment.

The new year is starting off with the excitement of welcoming new members. So far, at least five Holiday Chorus guests have chosen to join our chorus family. POP is looking forward to catching up with everyone in Spokane in April. See you all there!

***Submitted by Linette Finstad,  
POP Team Coordinator***

# more Chorus Chatter

## RiversEdge Chorus



We enjoyed a wonderful fall season filled with performances all around Spokane. Sharing our music with the community is one of our greatest joys, and we're grateful for every opportunity to sing for the public.

After beginning our holiday music last summer, we were thrilled to present our December Christmas show, "**Humbug to Harmony.**" We were delighted to welcome a few new singers who joined us on stage for the Christmas show. We hope they enjoyed the experience and will choose to become full members of our chorus family. Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope you enjoyed the performance as much as we loved bringing it to life! As we head into the new year, we're turning our focus toward refining our contest pieces. With several exciting coaching sessions scheduled this spring and the possibility of debuting some new costumes, it's shaping up to be an exciting season. Stay tuned!

**Submitted by Carrie Webbenhurst**  
RiversEdge Marketing Coordinator

A Cappella Academy & Queens' College

Registration opens January 30, 2026.

Watch & Listen

Sweet Adelines International's  
**A CAPPELLA ACADEMY** and **QUEENS' COLLEGE**  
with The Coronet Club

Learn more about this educational opportunity by visiting  
[sweetadelines.com/acappella-academy-queens-college](https://sweetadelines.com/acappella-academy-queens-college)

# *more Chorus Chatter*

## **Song of Seattle Chorus**



2025 was a phenomenal year for Song of Seattle Chorus! While we were bummed to miss Region 13's competition and convention, the chorus was excitedly preparing for our first trip to meet our sister chorus in Felixstowe, England.

This trip began with a fortuitous friendship in an online game and led first to an original collaboration between Song of Seattle, PrimeTime Quartet, Felixstowe Harmonies, and Stellar Acapella—Across the Borders. You can see a video here: [https://youtu.be/Ftq\\_gLtCoIA?si=VAzTYrkwUepAceDA](https://youtu.be/Ftq_gLtCoIA?si=VAzTYrkwUepAceDA).

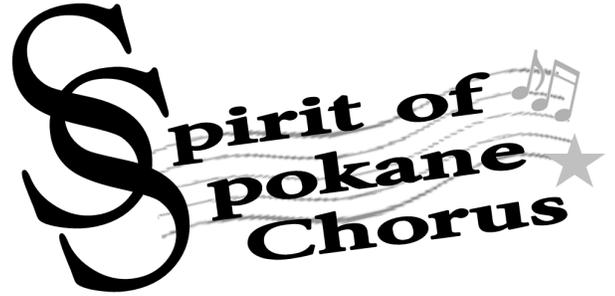
We knew we had created a special bond, and after a highly successful send-off performance in June aptly named **A Journey of Joy**, we packed our bags and headed to England. We were so honored to perform with both host choirs in two sold-out shows this past July. We formed lasting friendships and hope to welcome these two wonderful choirs over to our side of the pond soon.

We start 2026 out with more excitement, as we celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> year as a Sweet Adelines chorus, host our signature Spring Fling (we are delighted to cohost with Jet Cities Chorus this year!), and prepare to take the stage in open division once again. We look forward to seeing you all in Spokane in April!

***Submitted by Diana Love***  
*Song of Seattle Chorus*

# more Chorus Chatter

## Spirit of Spokane Chorus



It's been quite a journey for the Spirit of Spokane Chorus since qualifying as a wildcard contestant for International in Columbus this past October. With inspiring coaching from Ann Downton and Caitlin Castelino, and valuable evaluation from our region, we took feedback to heart and worked diligently to elevate our artistry and skills.

To keep momentum high, our Events Coordinator Jenn, and her Inspiration Team, created a "Road Map to Columbus." Each member received a tiny suitcase, collecting charms at every "stop" while learning fun facts about each city. At journey's end, our suitcases returned as completed charm bracelets — meaningful keepsakes of a remarkable experience.

We are deeply grateful for the outpouring of support from the Region 13 Leadership Team, fellow choruses and quartets, and our friends, family, and community. Thank you for lifting us up every step of the way.

Columbus was unforgettable. We improved our International score by over 70 points since Phoenix 2022 and proudly placed 27th.

Now a new chapter begins. After 32 years of dedicated leadership and six International appearances in our 35-year history, our beloved Director, Mike Elliott, has announced his retirement. The search for our next director is underway — and we are already planning how to honor his extraordinary legacy.

**Submitted by Cherie Letts**  
*Spirit of Spokane Marketing Coordinator*



The  
**Pitch Pipe**

### Did you know?

It's a new year and there's a new **The Pitch Pipe**! Relive the 2025 International Convention and Competition with highlights from Columbus, profiles of our new champions and award recipients, competition updates, and much more in the January 2026 issue.

[You can read it here](#), along with past issues!

## Regional Leadership Team

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The next **InTune** for members of North by Northwest Region 13 will be published in June 2026.

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or Carol Drew,

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Check us out on the web: [sairegion13.org](http://sairegion13.org)



## SET Early Bird registration is now open!

On August 20-23, SET will be held at the Lakefront Hotel in beautiful Anchorage, AK.

If you register by April 30, 2026, the registration fee is only \$150. Lay-away plans are also available. To reserve your space, go to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-set-in-anchorage-alaska>. Airline rates are good right now, so book early.

Special hotel reservations block is also open and must be reserved online. Go to <https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/anchorage/the-lakefront-anchorage> and use CODE: **2608SUMMER**.

We're excited to have Michaela Slamka-Johnston and Mary Duncan of Slam-Dunc Coaching as our special guest faculty. You won't want to miss these amazing coaches (check out their accolades on page 1!).

Information on classes is coming soon. Stay tuned!

**Submitted by Cherie Letts,  
SET 2026 Chair**