

Apple County Chorus



Information Booklet



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About Apple County Chorus

APPLE COUNTY CHORUS was founded in 1984 – the first ladies barbershop chorus in Somerset. The Chorus was originally part of the Ladies Association of British Barbershop Singers – but joined Sweet Adelines International in 1989.

Membership is drawn from a wide area – ladies from all occupations and ages drawn together by a love of singing and the friendship generated by the Chorus.

The Chorus is directed by Anya Peat – assisted by Isabel Denovan-Smith and an enthusiastic music team – their aim to help the chorus to deliver a polished musical package and to enjoy the journey!

The chorus also competes regularly at regional Contest – achieving some success in their Class and winning the ‘Most Improved Chorus’ award on 3 occasions. Quartets have also featured in the Chorus History – with chorus founders - ‘Whisperwood’ - securing ‘first place’ four times and competing twice in the USA representing the UK in the Sweet Adelines International Convention. There is currently one quartet singing in the Chorus – ‘Topnotch’

Apple County is very popular in the Somerset Area – frequently requested to sing at Charity events, shows, country fairs, National celebrations, fetes and special occasions, as well as regular summer seasons.

The most ‘special’ days have been to sing at member’s weddings, anniversaries and other family celebrations. The Chorus ‘family’ provides a great support network too – looking out for each other in times of ill health and sadness.

Some more relaxed performances are also useful recruiting and promotional tools – Carol singing, Children in Need, Comic Relief etc. Here the Chorus can be seen throughout the town singing in time to the jangle of coins falling into the collecting buckets -

As with all groups fund raising is always a major issue for costumes, travelling, music and education

The Chorus continues to develop as a unit – it is now approaching it’s 29th Anniversary – several members have been a part of the chorus for many years (two are founders members). Apple County is always ready to welcome new singers to join the friendly group – and long may it continue.

Who's who in Apple County?

We are delighted that you have decided to join Apple County Chorus as a singing member. You will now be aware of the part you sing and should know who your section leader is. Your section leader is part of the Music Team within the Chorus – this team comprises:-

Chorus Director -	Anya Peat
Assistant Director -	Isabel Denovan-Smith
Lead Section Leaders -	Mary Lowe, Angie Beale, Caroline Orr, Liz Hutchin
Bass Section Leaders -	Chris Parker, Kerry Gilding
Baritone Section Leaders -	Isabel Denovan-Smith, Angela Barber
Tenor Section Leader -	Heather Addicott

Your section leader is always available to help with any queries you may have. Your section leader will also provide you with learning tapes or cd's.

The Chorus is run by an admin board – this comprises

President -	Mary Lowe
Treasurer -	Heather Addicott
Secretary -	Angela Barber
Membership-	Tina Stone
Performance-	Bridget Clark and Christine Joiner
Publicity and IT	Val Wright
Board Members-	Liz Hutchin, Wendy Fitz-avon
Chorus Director -	Anya Peat

The Board can give you any information that you may need regarding the Chorus, Sweet Adelines International and our UK Region.

The Chorus is a 'performing' group – we also take part in our Regional Contest each May. Members are expected to attend all Chorus functions and Convention wherever possible.

Funding

Apple County Chorus is a 'self funding' group – financially supported by Member subscription, paid performances and fund raising events (social events, car boot sales, stalls, fetes etc) We tend to organise special fund raising events for costumes, convention transport etc.

Our annual subscription is £ 240:00 - payable at £60:00 per quarter. Monthly Direct Debit facilities are also available - the monthly payment is just £20:00.

For information on this speak to Heather Addicott (Treasurer).

The annual subscription covers membership of the chorus plus full membership of Sweet Adelines International. The cost also covers our Regional Dues - a small annual fee to support the UK Region (Quartet of Nations – Region 31).

Chorus membership covers the day to day operation of the chorus - primarily costs for music, rehearsal venue and educational visits to Chorus.

Apple County takes part in the Region 31 Annual Convention – usually held over a weekend in May – this event is paid for by Members, but is subsidised from Chorus funds

Educational events are also organised within the Region – these are designed to coach and help us to become better singers. Such events occur all over the Country and are usually led by Educators from Sweet Adelines International. As with Convention these are paid for by Members, but often supported from Chorus funds.

Apple County Chorus is a proud supporter of Local Charities

Sweet Adelines International

Sweet Adelines International is a worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art-form of barbershop harmony through education and performance.

***It is one of the world's largest singing organisations for women with a membership of more than 30.000 singers. Members extend over 5 continents and belong to more than 500 hundred choruses and 1200 quartets.**

***It is an independent, non-profit making music and education association.**

*** It is governed by an elected Board of Directors administered by a professional staff in its Headquarters building in Tulsa, USA . The building is owned by Sweet Adelines International. Lead by an Executive Director, the Staff oversees a wide range of programmes and services for its members.**

*** The "Pitch Pipe" is a glossy, professionally printed and digital quarterly magazine for members.**

***Sweet Adelines believe that music makes the world a better place. Women of all ages enjoy singing together - " Real women , Real harmony – Real fun."**

*** Music includes special arrangements of today's ballads, classic songs, popular show tunes and mainstream music arranged in barbershop style.**

What is 'Barbershop'?

Four-part harmony, barbershop-style, is a combination of several characteristics unique to this form of music such as chord structure (arrangement) . the cone-shaped sound, delivery and interpretation.

These are integral factors which contribute to the "lock and ring" sound of barbershop singing.

Music, Voice Parts and Vocal Skills

Voice parts:-

Tenor

In barbershop music the tenor is the highest part of the 4 voice parts and is a harmony part sung above the melody. Occasionally you will have notes below the lead and will need to change your light, clear tonal quality to being more full and round. You will sing mostly in your upper (head voice) register to complement but not over=shadow, the lead.

Lead

The lead is one of the 2 middle voices in barbershop music and usually sings the melody, always with authority, clarity and consistency. You will be responsible for the colour, warmth , interpretation, emotion and inflections of the song. The other 3 parts follow your lead in delivery of the dynamics, tempo, artistry and finesse.

Baritone

You will be singing a harmony part above or below the melody and will need to alter you vocal tone accordingly. The baritone is written on the bass clef and sung an octave higher than it is written.

Bass

This is the lowest singing harmony part also written in the bass clef and sung an octave higher. The bass sings with a heavier tone quality and more volume than the other 3 parts to provide a firm harmonic foundation for the cone-shaped sound, usually singing the root or fifth of each chord.

Music, voice parts and vocal skills continued

Points to remember

Singing is a whole body experience

You need to be able to sing in tune and eventually hold your own part in the ensemble.

Listening is important.

Warm up at home before coming to rehearsal.

Practise your songs between rehearsals – especially work on flexibility and breathing techniques.

Listen to your learning CD's and work with your Section Leader.

Exercise your voice for consistency and improvement.

Be kind to yourself – don't expect to learn everything all at once – it takes time!

Remember to enjoy your singing!!

Costume and Make-up

What we wear is important and reflects much of what we are about; we are 'smart' women who love to sing!

When we perform, we wear costumes which enhance the musical package, create the mood or atmosphere for a performance and seek to project a professional and attractive chorus image, as well as giving the members a sense of belonging. We also have a more casual outfit, comprising a yellow 'jacket' or sweatshirt with our lovely red apple logo, which can be combined with white top and trousers or skirt in summer or black for the winter months.

For chorus performances we have several unified 'looks'; our recently updated outfits include a red, 'waterfall' cardigan with subtly sparkling shoulders which is worn over a black sequined vest accompanied by black trousers. (Whole chorus costumes are provided and are subject to a small one-off non-refundable hire fee.)

We have some 'character' packaged performances, like 'Oliver' and 'The 20's' and '40's', for which we have great fun assembling our own individual costumes (raiding Charity Shops and our lofts!)

Our professional look is further enhanced by well-applied make-up to accentuate the facial features and more dramatic, full stage make-up when the performance or venue demands this.



Useful Contacts & Websites:

Chorus Contacts:

Mary Lowe – President

Tel 01823 442453 mjlowe49@gmail.com

Anya Peat – Director

Tel: 01626 779231 anyapeat@btinternet.com

Tina Stone – Membership

Tel 01823 490837 martina_stone@hotmail.com

Chorus website – www.applecountychorus.org.uk

All other Members details are on Chorus Contact List

Useful Websites

Sweet Adelines International – www.sweetadelineintl.org

UK Region 31 – Quartet of Nations – www.sweetadelines.org.uk

**Apple County Chorus meets every Thursday from 7.30pm until 10.15pm at The Temple
Methodist Hall, Upper High Street, TAUNTON, TA1 3PY**



Notes

Apple County Chorus

