



New Singer Guide

For more than 70 years, the San Diego Chorus has distinguished itself as a passionate advocate of music, education and community.

The San Diego Chorus furthers the American artform of a cappella and barbershop music through dynamic performances, high-quality music education and regional / international competition.

Chartered in March of 1952, the San Diego Chorus is an award-winning chapter of Sweet Adelines International and a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Our chorus is a two-time International Chorus Champion of Women's Barbershop Harmony. We are composed of members from across Southern California as well as out of town members who travel from central California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii to sing with the chorus.



Region 21 Golden West

The San Diego Chorus is part of the Golden West Region 21 of Sweet Adelines International. The Regional Management Team oversees events and management for choruses in region 21, including annual Conventions, competition, educational events and workshops.



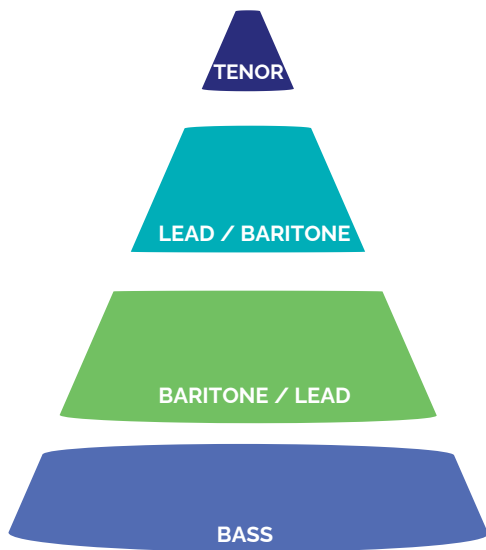
Sweet Adelines International

Sweet Adelines was founded in 1945 and is dedicated to empowering women and preserving and celebrating the unique sound of a cappella barbershop harmony. Since it was founded, the organization has grown to include more than 20,000 singers worldwide

Barbershop 101

Barbershop singing is one of the trickiest yet most rewarding accomplishments of a vocal ensemble. Imagine performing a song with three other harmonizing singers, each hitting the perfect pitch when bam—you hear it. An overtone vibration, a resonant ring, a different sound than any one tone being sung by any one singer! This overtone produces a visceral experience and is unique to four-part barbershop harmonies!

Although the voice parts in treble barbershop harmony have different names and functions than they do in other SATB or SSAA vocal styles, the foundation is the same—beautiful music, stunning chords and a passion to create the intangible, essence of music that brings us together.



THE BARBERSHOP CONE

Barbershop harmonies have a different balance than the traditional cylindrical balance of SATB or SSAA ensemble music. Our top voices sing with less weight and intensity than our lower voices.

TENOR is a harmony part sung consistently above the lead. The tenor should have a light, sweet, pure tone that will complement the lead voice. Light lyric sopranos generally make good tenors. The range for tenor is from G above middle C to high F on the top line of the clef.

LEAD is the melody and must be sung with authority, clarity and consistent quality throughout the lead's range. The lead adds color and warmth to the sound. The lead is responsible for conveying the interpretation, emotion and inflections of the song.

BARITONE covers a similar range to lead. Aligning with a traditional Alto I part, baritones typically have a good ear for complex harmonies and add a finishing touch to the unmistakable barbershop sound.

BASS is the lowest note in the barbershop chord. Singers should have a rich, resonant voice and generally sing the root and fifth of each chord. The range is from E-flat below middle C to G above middle C. The bass part provides chord foundation and rhythm.

Musical Repertoire

The San Diego Chorus performs a mix of contemporary a cappella arrangements and traditional barbershop music. As an organization committed to musical education, performance and competition, our music selections fall into several categories.

Competition

The Chorus performs a barbershop ballad and an uptune when we compete. These two songs usually change with each 2-year competition cycle, and showcase our musical excellence, resonance and blend. These numbers are polished to perfection.

General

The Chorus maintains a selection of "general rep" music that is often used in shows, double quartets, media appearances and educational events. These tunes are often used as 'palette cleansers' during rehearsal and are a lower priority.

Entertainment

The Chorus has a 15 minute Entertainment Package that blends two contemporary a cappella selections of our choice along with one barbershop song. These numbers are chorus staples and may also be performed at International depending on ranking.

Holiday & Special

The Chorus maintains a collection of holiday & special songs, typically adding a few new numbers to our rep yearly. These may be numbers performed jointly with other organizations or music featured at holiday and other performances.





Auditions

Our year-round, soft audition process helps you take the next steps toward membership with the San Diego Chorus at your own pace. Starting with an informal, private vocal assessment we'll share some details about the characteristics of each voice part in Barbershop Music and help you identify the best fit with your range.

- Prospective members receive digital access to music and learning tracks. On your 3rd or 4th visit, you'll be assigned a mentor who will help you prepare for your auditions.
- After about 3 to 4 weeks of attendance, you'll make an informal recording on the risers while singing with the chorus as a Riser Audition.
- At around six weeks, you're ready for a private Quartet Audition for evaluation, which is usually 2 weeks after your riser audition.

New singers get two tries for each phase of the audition process. Pass both and you're eligible for membership in the San Diego Chorus!

Membership & Costs

After you've passed your audition, you'll submit a completed membership application. The Membership Coordinator presents your application to our Chorus Leadership Teams. The Chorus then votes to accept your membership application.

The San Diego Chorus is a dues-based non-profit organization. We actively fundraise to offset member costs, primarily through grants and performances. Members pay monthly dues of \$45 which includes local and international membership fees. Singers also incur some incremental costs like costume accessories and individual registration and travel costs associated with competitions and events.

Members pay monthly dues of \$45 and incur some incremental costs. Scholarships may be available to offset membership dues for qualified singers.



Time Investment

Monthly

- We rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.
- Our singers support musical growth with weekly practice and by arriving at rehearsals and performances vocally warmed up.
- Once a month we offer early choreography sessions that begin at 6 PM before rehearsal.

A Few Times a Year

- Sectionals and Duet Sectionals are planned during show and competition preparation cycles.
- Twice a year the Chorus hosts a "Recharge Weekend" of in depth vocal / visual coaching with a Guest Director.
- Major performances typically include our Annual Show, a Holiday Show and Balboa Park's December Nights.

Special

- Region 21 Chorus and Quartet Competition takes place annually. Our participation in International Competition runs on a 2-year cycle and is based on Regional results.
- Throughout the year, singers have special performance opportunities like double quartets, media appearances and singing valentines. These are optional.
- If you're excited by a cappella harmony, you may also choose to pursue singing with a practice, performance or competitive quartet.
- Regional and International Educational opportunities and events are available throughout the year and are optional.



Member Support & Tools



The San Diego Chorus provides a thoughtful singer toolset designed to help members build relationships, develop musical skills, deepen knowledge and guide learning for musicians of all levels. In no time, you'll be well on your way to learning our Chorus repertoire and understanding the foundational aspects of a cappella singing and the barbershop sound. Along the way, we'll offer glimpses of the rich history of Sweet Adelines International and the San Diego Chorus.

Rookie Team

You came, you sang, and you want to join! Now what? Never fear - our amazing Rookie Team has a full year of events and opportunities designed to support and equip you with musical production skills, chorus etiquette plus fun social events!

Chorus Mentors

New Members of the San Diego Chorus are paired with a personal mentor. Your mentor is a helpful "go to" person for questions and support throughout your first year of membership. This is one more way we ensure that our singers always have a friendly face, encouragement and someone nearby to guide them.

Section Leaders

Your section leader is your primary contact for musical questions. They provide weekly rehearsal notes, evaluate singer recordings and help set priorities for areas of focus in your personal practice time.

Members Website + App

The San Diego Chorus offers a Members Only Website and an app for Apple and Android Phones called Playback Genius. These tools give you access to view and print music, play part-specific and all parts learning tracks, watch choreography videos and more at home or on the go.

Vocal Warm Ups & Skill Building

Follow Master Director Kathleen Hansen's YouTube Channel, Warm Ups with Kathleen, for access to a comprehensive library of free video content. Whether you have 5 minutes or 20 minutes, you'll find easy to follow sessions that help you build vocal skills and arrive at rehearsals and performances with your best voice.

Private Vocal Instruction (PVI)

New members receive a complimentary Private Voice Lesson with Director Kathleen Hansen. This introductory session is a great way to learn more about your vocal strengths and opportunities for growth. Additional PVIs may be available at an hourly rate based on availability.

Member-Powered Leadership

One of many factors that distinguishes Sweet Adelines International from other musical organizations is that each Chorus is member-led. The Chorus Management Team, Director's Music Team and other key Project Chair and Task Force roles are essential components of organizational success, and provide our members with rich volunteer-based opportunities for personal and professional growth at local, regional and international levels.



Every Voice Matters

The San Diego Chorus of Sweet Adelines International believes that our differences make us stronger! Membership is open to singers from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community and people of varied religions. As leaders and musicians, we are committed to growth rooted in a constant willingness to learn from others. We believe that intention and responsiveness to inclusion and diversity are essential, and help our chorus become a stronger reflection of the beautiful diversity found in our communities.



Master Director Kathleen Hansen

Kathleen joined the San Diego Chapter of Sweet Adelines in 2000, and achieved the level of Master Director in 2015 while directing the San Diego Chorus on the International stage. Kathleen holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, a Master's of Music in Instrumental Conducting, from San Diego State University and is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts from Boston University. Kathleen serves as a Sweet Adelines International Faculty Member in a 3-year teaching appointment. Learn more about Kathleen on her website at KHansenMusic.com.

Rehearsal Location

The San Diego Chorus rehearses in the Casa Del Prado building of Balboa Park, upstairs in room #207. This building is next door to the Casa del Prado Theater, across the courtyard. Plan ahead for parking, which can be tricky

The Casa Del Prado offers a ramp and an elevator, making our second floor rehearsal space accessible to all.



Partnerships



Let's Connect!



Commission for
Arts and Culture

SanDiegoChorus.org

