

Education Report 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 Sweet Adelines year was a game of two halves for education with covid restrictions having a major impact on the activities of our choruses and quartets.

In person education

We were very fortunate in being able to hold the Harmony Aotearoa convention in Christchurch and share in some great education delivered by our regional faculty and regional education quartet and visual communication teams.

The convention education sessions included:

From Barbershop to Broadway – Virginia Humphrey-Taylor and Richard Marrett

The Rhyme and Reason of Rhythm – Carolyn Currington

Quartet Coaching – ROXY! Quartet

Visual Communication – Shelley Bascand, Cecelia Lockley, Nicky McCaughan and Sarah Rae.

The convention also included a Friday morning ‘music in the morning’ session featuring:

Vocal warmups – Kate Sinclair

Teaching of Haere Mai – Patti Cook, Toni Griffin and Bella A Cappella Chorus

Teaching of A Million Dreams – Richard Marrett and Rowena Harper (arranger)

The other in-person event held in 2021 was the first quartet workshop in Auckland delivered by our current champion quartet ROXY! This event was very well-received by participants and we are still planning to offer the second occurrence of this workshop in Nelson in 2022.

Our YWIH programme also managed to sneak in a workshop during an easing in covid restrictions. Thank you to Leanne Wheeler and Suzanne Berresford for designing and delivering the Hamilton event. We look forward to the opportunity to repeat this session way down south later this year.

Virtual education

Earlier in the year two virtual education sessions were offered:

- Goodbye Showmanship, Hello Visual Communication – an update on changes to the judging category presented by Judy Pozsgay
- Arranging 101 – presented by Rowena Harper

ROXY! Quartet also delivered the region’s first virtual quartet coaching prior to contest and we plan to make this education available to our quartets on an ongoing basis.

For chorus virtual education the RMT has recently agreed to offer each chorus up to \$200 to support virtual or in-person education of their choice.

Looking ahead to 2022-2023 I extend a very warm welcome to our new regional Education Coordinator, Leanne Wheeler and hope for a more settled education programme now that covid appears to be retreating and we can plan events with more certainty.

My thanks to the wider regional education team for your support, advice and educational delivery – regional faculty (Jocosa, Suzanne, Kristina, Melody, Carolyn, Toni and Virginia), quartet specialists (ROXY! Quartet), visual communication team (Shelley, Nicky, Sarah and Cecelia), arrangers coordinator (Nicola), leadership specialist (Trish) and YWIH Coordinator (Leanne).

Kerry Stewart
Education Coordinator