

sweet  
adelines  
new zealand

# the addaline

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*Congratulations to Greater Auckland Chorus and BOATS on their winning performances!*



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Founded in 1945, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Sweet Adelines started as a small group of women who loved to sing. Since then, it has evolved into an organisation that spans the globe. [www.singunited.org](http://www.singunited.org)

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# From Your Team Coordinator...

What an extraordinary few days we shared together in Palmerston North/Papaioea!

Our 2026 convention and competition, so warmly hosted by Manawātū Overtones reminded us once again why Sweet Adelines (and as of May 20 SingUnited International) continues to hold such a special place in our lives. The weekend was filled with excitement, harmony, laughter, learning, friendship, inspiration and an unmistakable sense of belonging.

To everyone involved in bringing convention to life, a huge thank you!

To our first-time host chorus Manawātū Overtones, and Convention Coordinator Stephanie Greaney, thank you for your hospitality, organisation and generosity. You created an event that felt both professional, and reflected the uniqueness of your fabulous chorus and community and we loved it! Your members worked tirelessly behind the scenes, often unseen, ensuring every detail ran smoothly. We are enormously grateful.

To all of our competing choruses and quartets, congratulations on an outstanding weekend of competition. Every performance reflected months of dedication, courage, preparation and teamwork. Whether taking the stage for the first time or returning as experienced competitors, each group brought something unique to the energy, heart and excitement of the event. The calibre of musicality, visual communication and entertainment across the region continues to grow, and Region 35 should be incredibly proud of what was presented on stage..

Special congratulations to our winning chorus, Greater Auckland Chorus under the direction of Jocosa Bruce, and to our winning quartet, Based on a True Story (BOATS), also representing Greater Auckland Chorus. We wish you every success as you prepare to represent our region on the international stage.

A special acknowledgement also goes to our newest members and first-time competitors. Taking the stage can feel daunting, but you embraced the experience with enthusiasm and heart. You are the future of our organisation, and seeing your joy and growth was one of the highlights of the convention.

Our Education Faculty and coaches also deserve heartfelt thanks. The learning opportunities throughout the weekend were inspiring and practical, reminding us that growth is a lifelong journey in this art form.

*"we are at our best  
when we continue to  
learn from one another,  
support one another  
and celebrate  
each other's successes."*

Of course, the convention is about far more than scores and medals. It is about reconnecting with friends from across Aotearoa New Zealand, meeting new members, sharing stories in hallways and foyers, singing tags late into the evening (or morning in some cases) and creating memories that sustain us long after the weekend ends. Those moments matter deeply to all of us.

This convention also provided an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary leadership and service within our region. We honoured Virginia Humphrey-Taylor as she retires as Director of Christchurch City Chorus, acknowledging more than forty years of dedicated service to both her chorus and Region 35. In recognition of her lasting impact, we were proud to announce the creation of the Virginia Humphrey-Taylor Director's Award, which will be presented for the first time in 2027.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the many members



who generously give their time behind the scenes, through chorus management, music leadership, event coordination, membership support and regional governance. Your dedication, often unseen, is the foundation of our organisation and makes everything we do possible.

One of the most powerful aspects of this year's convention was the sense of optimism across the region. Choruses continue to adapt, build, welcome new singers and strive for excellence. The commitment shown by members throughout New Zealand is something truly worth celebrating.

As we move into the second half of the year, we encourage every member to carry the convention spirit back home - the energy, encouragement, inspiration and connection that make this organisation unique.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Harmony Manawātū such a memorable and uplifting convention.

We are excited about all that lies ahead for our region. See you all in Kirikiriroa Hamilton next year.

Ngā mihi nui

**JULIE EARL**  
**TEAM COORDINATOR**

# SANZ Upcoming Education Events

Get these events in your diary now and stay tuned for more. Any questions, email Leanne: [education@sweetadelines.co.nz](mailto:education@sweetadelines.co.nz)

**MONTH OF**  
**AUG**

**BEC HEWITT**  
**COACH IN RESIDENCE**  
New Zealand

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We're thrilled to welcome internationally respected coach Bec Hewitt for her New Zealand coaching tour. Bec will be working with several choruses around the country, bringing her wealth of experience, fresh perspective, and world-class musical insight to our members.

**Meet Bec Hewitt:**  
"I'm a coach and teacher of Vocal Production, Music/Vocal Interpretation, Balance/Blend and Practice Techniques. I love using my skills with singers, quartets and choruses to help them release their free and resonant voices and realise their potential. I'm also a member of both Region 34 and International Education Faculties for Sweet Adelines International."

**NOV**  
**20-22**

**REGIONAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP**  
Christchurch

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Lead by our Regional Faculty team this will be a fantastic weekend of learning, connection, and musical growth for all members.

**Registration, venue, workshop songs and programme highlights will be released shortly.**

**JUL**      **AUG**  
**26 & 9**

**ONLINE EDUCATION SERIES**  
(1.30PM - 2.30PM)  
Assorted Sessions

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Zoom sessions will include: Two important DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) sessions open to all members, dedicated Marketing and Team Coordinator/Finance Zoom sessions designed to support our leadership teams and strengthen chorus operations behind the scenes.

**Registration details to come.**

**APR**      **MAY**  
**29-02**

**2027 HARMONY KIRIKIRIROA REGION 35 CONVENTION**  
Hamilton

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*More education!*

Exciting events coming in 2027. Look forward to a Directors, Visual, and Music Leaders Workshop early in the year, along with a Coach in Residence programme in June/July.

**More details coming soon!**



## upcoming international events



Keep up to date with SingUnited International events here: <https://singunited.org/competition-events>



Sweet Adeline's International has rebranded to SingUnited International. FAQ's can be viewed [HERE](#)

# Region 35's Historical Collection of Badges

To finish off my term as Regional 35 Membership Coordinator, I made a commitment to find a way to display our collection of the many and varied badges, in such a way that they could easily be displayed at our future regional conventions.

I had received quite a collection when I took over the role some years before. About a third of them were mounted in two small wooden boxes with perspex lids screwed on, and the remainder were just loose as there was no room for mounting them, without getting several more boxes.

This was not conducive to air travel. The solution I came up with was mounting them on a vertical hanging banner. This was made from a strip of black upholstery fabric with all the badges attached and labelled with iron on fabric labels. Easy to add another badge every year and extra fabric has been allowed for many more years of Region 35 conventions and events.

While I was doing this, I realised I needed to protect the badges when they were on display as some of the badges are definitely 'one-offs'. With this in mind I made a cover from a thin clear plastic, about the weight you might use to protect a dining table. This prevents the display being touched and allows it to be folded.

Below is a sample of the unique badges we have:

- Sweet Adelines International President badge.
- 50th Anniversary Sweet Adelines International badge.
- Workshop badge 1991 Gisborne First City of the Sun which is hand woven.
- Convention badges from 1992 to 2026.

I hope this display will be of interest to many of our members in the years to come.

**MIRIAM SPRAGG**  
**CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS**



*NB. Some badges I have created where none were available and some from records held where the event for various reasons did not have a badge made.*



## trans-tasman conversations: exploring shared opportunities

We have wonderful relationships and rapport with our friends across the Tasman in Australia (Region 34). We are close in so many ways, and we believe it makes sense to explore potential synergies and opportunities for both New Zealand and Australia.

Planning is underway for a small group made up of RMT members from both countries to be formed in the next few months to have those conversations, explore and bring back ideas and opportunities for consideration. Whilst no decisions have been made, it could include things like sharing resources, exploring the feasibility of running a joint convention, sharing online learning opportunities (which we have started to do) or creating new opportunities for members (we love a bit of blue sky thinking).

One thing that has already been agreed is that any opportunities would need to be mutually beneficial for both Australia and New Zealand and we undertake to communicate and consult with members before any significant decisions are made. And of course, if you have ideas, we would love to hear from you!

For now, we want members to know that exploratory conversations are underway. There is a real sense of excitement about what might be possible for the future, while also recognising the importance of looking after what we each value most about our own regions.

**JULIE EARL**  
**TEAM COORDINATOR**



# BOATS' Maiden Voyage

This article is brought to you by a rash promise made to Shelley Phillips that if we 'accidentally won', I would write her an article for the Addaline... although this does mirror the throwaway promise\* between sisters which catalysed the formation of Based On A True Story Quartet! In reality though, BOATS is the culmination of many different stories leading us to the loft room at my house on a Monday night in June 2025, trying to see a) whether our voices worked together and b) who out of the two tenors and one baritone was going to sing lead. We initially settled on a shared lead situation, and got to work finding music and a name, two of the biggest challenges a quartet faces!

Early on we agreed that we weren't interested in singing songs just because they would score well, choosing to prioritise songs that we genuinely enjoyed but still fitted the barbershop style. We generally rehearsed on a weekend afternoon once every 2-3 weeks, with Steph cracking the whip in the group chat in between times to make sure everyone was doing their homework; with six kids and a whole bunch of activities between us, it was impossible to find a regular weekly slot. As contest got closer, we snuck in before or after chorus sing throughs (sorry to our GAC fam who must be thoroughly sick of our songs!). We also utilised reciprocal coaching with Uncalled Four (shoutout to them for their 5th place this year, whoop whoop!) which we all really enjoyed.

Just when we thought we were on track, there was a plot twist... at her March workshop, Glenda Lloyd agreed that our fun song - There Are Worse Things I Could Do - actually had more sparkle and soul than the ballad we had originally planned to take to contest. Poor Kathy (self assigned baritone in chorus) would have to sing lead for both songs and Steph and I would be matching 'wing nuts', one sister on each side. Armed with our updated set, we decided we needed to scare ourselves to test out any possible stage nerves, arranging a friends and family quartet show with any quartets we could ring-in to perform with us. Mayday (BHNZ men's), Gloss and Uncalled Four joined us to perform for what quickly became an audience threatening to exceed the 80 person hall capacity!

Our main goal for our first contest together was to entertain the audience, knowing how fickle the contest stage can be on your first hit.

*"we were stoked to come off stage going, 'we did the plan and we didn't screw anything up!'"*

The audience was incredibly supportive and we were overwhelmed by the positive feedback we had from everyone as soon as we got offstage - especially those singers we have competed alongside in the past and, winners we have looked up to. The placing and points were the icing on

the cake. However, as we all know, it's not over until the afterglow! Kate is always one for a good dress up, and somehow convinced us to go as sheep... my revenge was arranging and forcing us to learn our 'ear tag' baa baa baaaarbersheep. Kate may have regrets however, as the sheep costume could feature in an emergency top 10 package... but going in ranked 20-something she is probably fairly safe!

We are so very grateful for all the messages of support we have had since our win in Palmerston North, the love and encouragement definitely played a big part in our decision to go to International this year. Also, a big ngā mihi to our coaches Rowena Harper, Jocosa Bruce and Glenda Lloyd. If you're interested in learning more about us, or following our journey to Columbus, there are plentiful stories (and overshares) on our Facebook page Based On A True Story Quartet.

*\*When I was singing with MOLTO! Quartet in 2015, Steph made me promise that if we hadn't sung together again in 10 years time, our next quartet would be with each other.*

**KRISTINA ROPER  
BOATS QUARTET**





# From Kansas City to the Almighty Manawatu: Two Extraordinary Years for Greater Auckland Chorus

The last two years have been pretty incredible for the Greater Auckland Chorus.

After heading to Kansas City in 2024 for Harmony Classic, the chorus returned home with far more than the Division A World Champions title. The experience brought a renewed sense of energy, confidence, and connection that has completely shaped who we are now.

Since then, the chorus has grown in every way. New singers started showing up, drawn in by the excitement and by the welcoming culture our director Jocosa Bruce has worked so hard to create, alongside the music and management teams. Rehearsals became a place where people felt safe to try new things, take risks, and just enjoy singing together. That spirit really showed when we decided to start our set sitting down - with no director in front of us - which definitely felt bold at the time, but ended up being a huge success.

Our experience at Harmony Manawatu was one of those weekends we'll never forget. With 34 singers on stage,

including five first-time competitors, we scored 633 points and took out Overall Chorus Champions for the first time in 12 years, along with Most Improved Chorus. Watching newer members and long-time singers celebrate together made it feel even more special.

Another really exciting thing this year has been the rise of new quartets within the chorus. Three brand-new groups stepped onto the competition

stage for the first time, and every one of them brought something unique. Based on a True Story (BOATS) took first place and even set a new New Zealand record, Uncalled Four landed an impressive fifth place, and Mind The Gap achieved their goal of competing as a novice quartet with the full support of their 'song-migos' cheering them on from the audience.

(CONTINUED OVER PAGE)



Five newbies with Ali, Kim and Jocosa



BOATS Quartet



Uncalled Four Quartet



Mind The Gap Quartet

What's been so cool is seeing people back themselves, try new voice parts, and give quartet singing a go!

This contest also carried a lot of emotion. It was our first competition without Melody Lowe, whose influence still runs deeply through the chorus. Having Jocosa step onto the risers to sing bass during the uptune felt incredibly meaningful, and throughout the weekend there were little reminders of Melody everywhere — from shared memories to the fun of bringing classic choreo back to the stage.

Now the chorus is looking ahead and planning to compete internationally again in Seattle in 2027.

*"whatever happens next, there's a real sense that this group keeps getting stronger because we move forward together."*

Before then, we're excited for our next public performance at Auckland's VoCo Concert in August — an annual event that celebrates choirs, creativity, culture, and community at the Auckland Town Hall.

The awards are exciting, but they're only part of it. What really keeps people coming back is the chance to make music together, support each other, and share experiences that stay with you long after contest weekend is over.

**ALEXIS BROOK & NATALIE ROFFEY  
GREATER AUCKLAND CHORUS**

# From the Inside: My Convention Weekend as Your Marketing Coordinator

Gosh, I can't believe it's already been a few weeks since our fantastic convention in Palmerston North. What a wonderful location and venue for a first visit - and so close to Wellington, just over an hour and a half from home.

My convention started with a hiss and a roar, leaving Wellington early on Thursday morning (with my 10-year-old Caitlyn opening her birthday presents in the car on the way to 'Aunty' Claire's house, so I could share a bit of her special day).

After one essential coffee stop, we headed straight to the Regent to unload the Wellington City Chorus

(WCC) risers and set up the stage for the weekend. Then it was a quick dash to the library for an RMT meeting, back to the venue for soundcheck, and already I was thinking about capturing footage—especially those lovely reunion moments when everyone arrives, and gets to sing in the sound check together.

I caught up with our fantastic photographer, Neil Mackenzie, and rounded up the RMT and Faculty for quick headshots before heading into RAMM. The rest of Thursday is a bit of a blur, but let's just say my laptop didn't leave my side for the rest of the weekend!

Friday was busy and fun. I spent most of it backstage with my old pals Claire Takács and Emcee Liz Moncrieff, gathering behind-the-scenes content and pitching in with whatever needed doing. I started filming more backstage footage last year and loved how much people enjoyed it, so I was keen to do more.

From the audience, everything might look seamless—but backstage can be frantic, especially during the international awards when no one knows the results in advance and there's often a rush to get everything on stage.

*(CONTINUED OVER PAGE)*

Kim Cairns (Chapter at Large Member) does an incredible job managing all of this each year.

Last year I couldn't hear the announcements from backstage - lesson learned! This year I stationed myself at the front of the auditorium (yes, with the laptop), posting results as they were announced, which worked much better. While I prep as much as possible beforehand, I still find out the winners at the same time as everyone else.

A big shoutout to Jo Maxwell (Faultline Chorus and Regional Faculty) who creates all the award graphics I post on social media platforms before and during contest. She does a fantastic job with our branding.

After the Friday quartet contest, while many of you enjoyed the mass sing, I was reviewing competitor photos. I had a brilliant team sharing content via a very active WhatsApp group - thank you all! My roomies kindly grabbed me dinner while I worked, followed by chorus rehearsal with Wellington City. I wrapped up the day editing and uploading a Friday highlights reel.

Saturday - chorus contest day! I had my chorus to focus on first, but as soon as we were done, it was straight back into content mode. Luckily, WCC performed third, so I was soon back side-stage, quietly cheering and filming.

The energy during medal presentations was incredible, and I couldn't have



Myself, Claire and Kim outside the Theatre

been happier for the wonderful Greater Auckland Chorus. After performing in the winners circle, it was straight into pack-up - dismantling risers (WCC has trailer-stacking down to a fine art!), returning hi-vis vests, and then back to the hotel for a quick chorus debrief while uploading photos of our top place-getters.

Saturday night involved not quite enough sleep (how good was that afterglow?!), but with family in town especially, I made time for breakfast before heading into Sunday's education classes.

You may have spotted Sharon Connor (Dunedin Harmony Chorus/Wellington City Chorus) and me in the foyer of the hotel where the education classes were held. Sharon (the legend!) updating the website and helping people find

their education class bookings, while I uploaded the remaining "sneak peek" chorus photos from the day before.

I was also lucky to take part in the Coaching Under Glass session with WCC—a real treat, especially as it's the first time in 25 years our chorus has been selected.

By this point, I was highly caffeinated and a little sad it was all nearly over. Back home, I wrapped up post-contest tasks and then finally took a short break.

We captured so much fantastic content over the weekend, and I'm excited to share it in the coming months to showcase what a great hobby this is. Confession time: during our biggest weekend of the year, the social media 'team' is... me

It's exciting, a little hectic, and seriously fun—but it would be even better with someone to share it with. If you thrive on energy, love capturing the moment, and want a fun way to give back to this wonderful community, come be my 'social media partner'!

The **Social Media Team Member** role is currently vacant, and with a bit of extra support, we could do even more—think interviews, member stories, and an even stronger social media presence.

If you're even slightly interested, I'd love to chat: [marketing@sweetadelines.co.nz](mailto:marketing@sweetadelines.co.nz)



Sharon and I working away at our laptops

**SHELLEY PHILLIPS**  
RMT MARKETING COORDINATOR



# Christchurch City Chorus Celebrates Miriam Spragg's King's Service Medal



Christchurch City Chorus is delighted to celebrate the awarding of a King's Service Medal (KSM) to long-time member Miriam Spragg for services to barbershop singing and music administration.

A member of Christchurch City Chorus for 27 years, Miriam was both surprised and humbled by the honour, saying she was "floored by the whole thing" and incredibly grateful for the many messages of congratulations she has received.

The King's Service Medal recognises New Zealanders who have made outstanding contributions to their communities. Miriam's award reflects more than 25 years of dedicated voluntary service to the barbershop community in New Zealand.

Throughout her time with Christchurch City Chorus, Miriam has held numerous leadership and management roles. She has also coordinated the complex logistics for chorus members and supporters attending international competitions in the United States, managing accommodation, transport, rehearsal facilities, and meals for large groups.

Her contribution extends well beyond Christchurch. Within Sweet Adelines New Zealand (SANZ), Miriam has served in a range of key positions, including Region 35's Events Coordinator, Regional Convention Chair, Convention Facilities Coordinator, and Membership Coordinator. She has also assisted with the organisation of international conventions in Canada and was recognised with the Region 35 Spirit of Sweet Adelines Award in 2018.

For many chorus members, however, Miriam is best known as the driving force behind the chorus costumes. For over twenty years, she has overseen the design, sourcing, manufacture, and fitting of costumes for up to 140 singers. Her creativity, resourcefulness, and ability to solve last-minute challenges have helped countless performers take the stage with confidence.

Beyond her many practical contributions, Miriam is treasured for her friendship, wisdom, and unwavering support of others.

She is often the calm voice in challenging situations and is always

willing to share her time, knowledge, and encouragement.

*when asked why she dedicates so much of herself to the barbershop community, her answer is typically modest: "if i can, then why wouldn't i?"*

Christchurch City Chorus is immensely proud of Miriam and all she has contributed to our organisation and the wider barbershop community. Her King's Service Medal is a fitting recognition of her exceptional commitment, generosity, and service.

Congratulations, Miriam, on this richly deserved honour.

# (Quay) Notes for Quartet Novices

On the 2026 deadline for registering Sweet Adelines quartets before regional competitions, Quaynotes held its collective breath and filled in the form to create a new quartet.

Choosing the name was the first in an avalanche of small decisions ahead: choosing a ballad, choosing an up-tune, ditching the up-tune when it couldn't be licensed in time, choosing another up-tune, choosing a dress, choosing who was going to blow the pitch pipe, and then on the morning of competition, choosing purple eyeshadow.

Fresh from the regional quartet education weekend with Glenda Lloyd, Quaynotes searched for its unified sound, and for its unified story. The learning curve was steep and littered with naïve intentions. Sometimes it is easier to try something hard when you don't realise quite how hard it is!

Standing around a microphone centre stage is very different to standing on the risers surrounded by singers-in-arms. Being part of a chorus is more than a seven-minute performance, though. It is years of technique learning, rehearsing, dancing, and laughing together. All that training carries through to quartet singing, and being a part of Wellington City Chorus is foundational to Quaynote's identity and story.



*"It was not just four of us up on stage, really, because our Chorus was right there with us. We attached heart charms given to us through the Quartet Bags to our bracelets, so we could carry their support with us through the performance." - Jami*

One thing holds true across the barbershop community: it is a willing and kind audience for those who are new to sharing this art form. As well as performing for their own chorus, Quaynotes performed in the month before convention for Pacific Connection, and at a public concert hosted by Faultline Chorus. Each time, the quartet's nerves were met by a warm welcome and generous encouragement.



*"I will always remember that beautiful, heartfelt hug from Carolyn Currington during the medal presentation. It was the best feeling, and just one of the many lasting memories we brought home from the Harmony Manawātū Competition." - Sandra*

On the day at the wonderful Regent Theatre in Palmerston North, Quaynotes received the fourth place medals, and were thrilled to also take home the Novice Quartet trophy. Then, the quartet turned into 'Cow-notes' for the Rural Rave-themed afterglow. It was a highlight to spend time during the weekend with other quartets, after admiring their performances on the competition stage for several years.

To anyone who is reading this and thinking that maybe, just maybe, they could give quarteting a go on the competition stage, consider this your sign. It is as terrifying and exciting as you think it will be, and maybe you will surprise yourself with how much fun you can have. See you on stage in 2027.

## QUAYNOTES QUARTET



*"Time was not on our side for developing our technique. We knew having a clear story would drive the music. For our ballad If I Had My Way, the story came to me in the shower. We were saying an emotional "goodbye for now" to our sweetheart, as they rushed off and away on a steam train." - Colleen. L-R: Sandra (baritone), Jo (lead), Jami (bass), Colleen (tenor).*

*"We would encourage anyone to jump right in and give it a go. That's what we did - made a plan, worked on our strengths with the time we had, and listened to all the advice we received, especially from David Brooks who coached us a month before the convention. Now to choose our songs for Hamilton in 2027..." - Jo*



# Congratulations to our 2026 Chorus Award Winners!

**1st place** - Greater Auckland  
**2nd place** - Wellington City  
**3rd place** - Nelson Bays Harmony  
**4th place** - Manawatū Overtones  
**5th place** - Dunedin Harmony

**Division A (Small Chorus)**  
**1st place** - Dunedin Harmony  
**2nd place** - Taranaki Harmony  
**3rd place** - Sounds of Hawkes Bay

**Division AA (Midsize Chorus)**  
**1st place** - Greater Auckland  
**2nd place** - Wellington City  
**3rd place** - Nelson Bays Harmony

**Most Improved Chorus (International Award)** - Greater Auckland (+26 points)

*Panel Chair				Rhea			*Gutenson			Hunszinger			Williams			Naresh			
Contestant		# on		Sound			Music			Expression			Visual Communication				Grand	Final	
#	Name	Status	stage	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Total	Plty	Total	Place
8	Greater Auckland Chorus		34	82	79	161	77	78	155	82	80	162	78	77	155	633		633	1
3	Wellington City Chorus		42	77	78	155	78	81	159	77	79	156	78	80	158	628		628	2
5	Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus		37	73	70	143	73	74	147	71	73	144	73	75	148	582		582	3
10	Manawatu Overtones Chorus		33	68	67	135	71	70	141	68	66	134	69	70	139	549		549	4
2	Dunedin Harmony Chorus		24	67	69	136	67	66	133	69	67	136	66	68	134	539		539	5
6	Taranaki Harmony Chorus		16	66	64	130	64	65	129	65	63	128	62	64	126	513		513	6
1	Sounds of Hawkes Bay Chorus		19	62	61	123	58	59	117	62	63	125	60	61	121	486		486	7
4	Waikato Rivertones Chorus	EVAL	38																
7	Christchurch City Chorus	EVAL	69																
9	Faultline Chorus	OPEN	35	B+	B+		B	B+		B+	A-		B	B+					



**Greater Auckland Chorus - 1st place overall & 1st place Midsize Chorus**



**Wellington City Chorus**  
 2nd place overall & 2nd place Midsize Chorus



**Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus**  
 3rd place overall & 3rd place Midsize Chorus

# Congratulations to our 2026 Quartet Award Winners!

- 1st place - Based On A True Story
- 2nd place - Renew!
- 3rd place - Chordiality
- 4th place - Quaynotes
- 5th place - Uncalled Four

- Novice Quartet Award - Quaynotes
- Most Improved Quartet (Regional Award) - Not Too Shabby (+34 points)

*Panel Chair		Rhea			*Gutenson			Hunszinger			Williams			Naresh			
Contestant		Sound			Music			Expression			Visual Communication				Grand		
#	Name	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Song 1	Song 2	Total	Total	Pity	Total	Place
5	Based On A True Story	83	81	164	82	79	161	81	82	163	82	80	162	650		650	1
7	Renew!	74	75	149	75	77	152	76	74	150	75	76	151	602		602	2
2	Chordiality	74	76	150	74	75	149	74	72	146	74	76	150	595		595	3
3	Quaynotes	66	68	134	70	69	139	66	68	134	70	71	141	548		548	4
9	Uncalled Four	69	67	136	71	70	141	66	64	130	68	69	137	544		544	5
11	Measured 4 Sound	67	68	135	68	66	134	67	65	132	67	69	136	537		537	6
6	SoL!	66	64	130	66	68	134	64	62	126	65	66	131	521		521	7
10	Not Too Shabby	62	64	126	67	65	132	63	62	125	65	64	129	512		512	8
13	Gloss	60	58	118	61	58	119	60	58	118	59	58	117	472		472	9
1	FreeRange	57	59	116	55	54	109	57	59	116	58	56	114	455		455	10
8	Mind The Gap	43	46	89	45	43	88	46	48	94	42	43	85	356		356	11
4	EUPHORIA	WD															
12	Off The Wall	WD															



Based On A True Story - 1st place



Renew! - 2nd place



Chordiality - 3rd place

# Thanks to our Harmony Manawatū Convention Volunteers



Our Harmony Manawatū Convention was only possible because of the fantastic volunteers working behind the scenes. Thank you all so very much!

## Convention Team & Helpers

**Jacqui Fletcher**  
Competition Coordinator

**Stephanie Greaney**  
Chair Regional Convention

**Sharon Connor**  
Website Guru

**Cindy Naresh**  
Panel Secretary

**Keren Lusty**  
Page

**Helen Linssen**  
Official Panel Liaison

**Shelley Bascand**  
Event Coordinator

**Shelley Phillips**  
Marketing Coordinator

**Jo Maxwell**  
Design

**Manawatū Overtones Team**  
Registrar

**Claire Takács**  
Facilities Coordinator

**Elizabeth Moncrieff & Joyce Liang-Ridley**  
Emcees

**Kim Cairns**  
Awards Coordinator

**Lisa Williamson**  
Afterglow Coordinator

**Chris Thompson**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Measured 4 Sound Quartet**  
Quartet Goodwill Bags

**David Brooks**  
Statistician

Plus a huge thank you to Wellington City Chorus for the use of their risers and help with assembling them.

Also grateful thanks to current, past members, and friends of Manawatū Overtones for work backstage, as drivers and escorts, and for help with all the odd jobs involved in running a convention.

## 2026-27 Regional Management Team

**Julie Earl**  
Team Coordinator

**Shelley Bascand**  
Communications Coordinator

**Carolyn Currington**  
Directors' Coordinator

**Leanne Wheeler**  
Education Coordinator

**Claire Takács**  
Events Coordinator

**Leigh Agnew**  
Finance Coordinator

**Shelley Phillips**  
Marketing Coordinator

**Nikola Worrall-Bader**  
Membership Coordinator

Supported by our fabulous Regional Resource Team!





Arrangers at the Afterglow



# Shooting Star Award



**Congratulations to Heather Bentall from Christchurch City Chorus who is our 2026 Shooting Star Award winner.**

*The annual Shooting Star Award recognises a newer member who has made a great impact in a short time. A burst of energy, they have brought fresh enthusiasm, passion, talent and ideas to their chorus and great leadership potential. This award is for SANZ members of less than 3 years.*

**Congratulations to all our 2026 Shooting Star Award Nominees:**

**Emma Wright-McHardie** - Waikato Rivertones

**Landa Van den Berg** - Wellington City

**Lorna Fox** - Taranaki Harmony

**Sharyn Richardson** - Faultline

**Susanne Muller** - Nelson Bays Harmony

# Rock Star Award



**Congratulations to Jenni Masters from Manawātū Overtones and Christchurch City who is our 2026 Rock Star Award Winner.**

*The annual Rock Star Award recognises a member who is a 'rock star' behind the scenes. They have contributed a huge amount to their chorus, and undertaken many tasks, team or support roles over the years. They are hardworking, dependable, and make chorus life easier. This award is open to members of Sweet Adelines NZ with more than 3 years' of membership.*

**Congratulations to all our 2026 Rock Star Award Nominees:**

**Carol Egan** - Waikato Rivertones

**Jo Andrews** - Taranaki Harmony

**Julie Scoggins** - Nelson Bays Harmony

**Mel Brewer** - Wellington City

**Melanie Fowke** - Faultline

**Sarah Lowery** - Christchurch City



# Spirit Award



**Congratulations to Leigh Whitelaw from Faultline Chorus who is our 2026 Spirit Award Winner.**

*The annual Spirit Award recognises a member who epitomises the spirit of our organisation. They have not only contributed to chorus life, but also taken that extra step to carry the 'spirit' of Sweet Adelines beyond their chorus, within the region and as a great ambassador in the wider community.*

**Congratulations to all our 2026 Spirit Award Nominees:**

**Rowena Harper** - Waikato Rivertones

**Sharon Connor** - Dunedin Harmony & Wellington City

**Suzanne Berresford** - Greater Auckland

# Merit Pins



Congratulations to **Chika Deane** from Greater Auckland Chorus, who has been awarded a Region 35 Merit Pin for her service to Region 35 through her work in Membership on the Resource Team.

*Merit Pins are awarded by the Regional Management Team to members who have made an outstanding contribution to Region 35.*

# DCP (Directors Certification Program)



The Director Certification Program (DCP) is an educational, self-paced programme, designed to provide opportunities to validate the skills and knowledge required to direct a Sweet Adelines chorus.

Congratulations to the following members who were awarded



Directors certification presentations:

DCP Certified Director Award - **Rachel Cadwallader**, Sounds of Hawkes Bay Chorus

DCP Approved Director Award - **Adeline Teo**, Christchurch City Chorus

*(Pictured with Leanne Wheeler, Education Coordinator).*

# Arrangers Certificate

Congratulations to **Kristina Roper**, Greater Auckland Chorus who is the recipient of the Arrangers Certification Program (ACP) Beginner Arranger Level Award.



# Education Scholarship

Congratulations to our 2026 Education Scholarship recipient — **Carol Egan** from Waikato Rivertones Chorus!

Carol has been a dedicated member of Sweet Adelines NZ for almost 10 years, contributing to chorus life in so many ways, including roles such as membership coordinator, quartet coordinator, and a range of bass section leadership positions, now serving as bass section leader. She is also currently working towards completing the Director Certification Program (DCP).

Carol will use the scholarship to support her attendance at the upcoming International convention in Columbus, Ohio this October, where she is



looking forward to making the most of every educational opportunity and chorus rehearsal possible.

Congratulations Carol! We can't wait to see where this opportunity takes you!

# Membership Milestones

Congratulations to all our members who are celebrating 25 and 30 years of membership in 2026

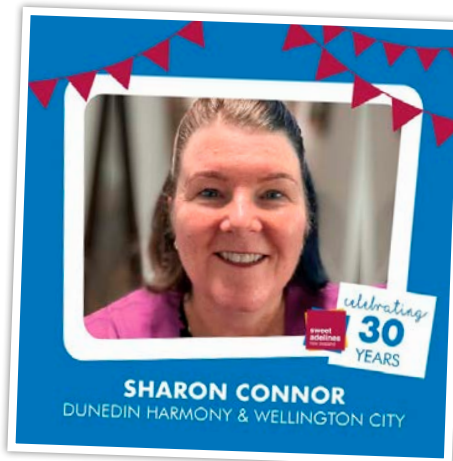
Celebrating  
25 Years  
of Membership!



# Celebrating 30 Years of Membership!



**LEIGH WHITELAW**  
FAULTLINE CHORUS



**SHARON CONNOR**  
DUNEDIN HARMONY & WELLINGTON CITY



**JAN DAVIES**  
DUNEDIN HARMONY

## Honourable Mentions



Congratulations to **Lesley Standing**, Sounds of Hawkes Bay Chorus who has been recognised by Region 35 with an Honourable Mention for services to Sweet Adelines New Zealand for her many years organising the convention photo boards. (Pictured with Julie Earl, Team Coordinator).



Congratulations also to **Patricia Veen**, Wellington City Chorus who has been recognised by Region 35 with an Honourable Mention for services to RMT resource team (leadership role).

*Honourable Mentions are awarded by the Regional Management Team to recognise the contribution of a member who has assisted the region on a temporary basis or one-off project.*



Congratulations to **Selena Bernath** from Faultline Chorus who is our Services to Youth Award Winner for 2026. (Pictured with Youth Coordinator, Kim Miller).

## Services to Youth Award

Selena is a driving force behind youth barbershop in Aotearoa, working tirelessly behind the scenes to support rangatahi and help shape a strong future for our artform.

From governance and event delivery to fundraising, grant coordination, and everything in between, Selena consistently steps up wherever needed—always with warmth, humility, and genuine care for young people and their development through Young Singers in Harmony NZ.

Her work has helped create meaningful opportunities for hundreds

of young singers across Aotearoa, while also strengthening the connection between Young Singers in Harmony NZ and Sweet Adelines NZ. We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and heart Selena gives to our community.

Congratulations and thank you, Selena—this recognition is so well deserved!

*The annual Services to Youth Award is presented in recognition of dedication to supporting young singers in barbershop in New Zealand.*



# Christchurch City Chorus – Continuing the Directing Legacy

## VIRGINIA HUMPHREY-TAYLOR

Christchurch City marked a significant milestone at the Regional 35 convention in Palmerston North in May, with Virginia Humphrey-Taylor officially passing the directorship of the chorus to Ryan Heller.

Virginia's extraordinary contribution to Christchurch City and Region 35 was also recognised with the announcement of the Virginia Humphrey-Taylor Directors Award. The award will honour an outstanding director within Region 35 each year, beginning at the Hamilton 2027 convention.

Virginia became Christchurch City's director in 1988 and over the following decades, she helped shape the chorus into one of Australasia's most respected and successful choruses. Under her leadership, Christchurch City achieved consistent regional success and multiple top-ten placings at the Sweet Adelines International competition, including two fifth-place finishes.

In 2016, the chorus earned the title of Most Entertaining

Chorus at the international convention in Las Vegas, while its most recent fifth-place finish came in Kansas City in 2024.

Virginia also became the first director in New Zealand and Australasia to achieve the distinction of Master Director 700, recognising sustained excellence at the highest level of competition.

Alongside directing, Virginia has enjoyed an outstanding quartet career, representing Region 35 internationally eight times. She has won quartet gold in New Zealand eight times and placed in the top five on 22 occasions. She believes active quartet singing has helped make her a stronger director.

Virginia's influence extends far beyond Christchurch City. She has coached and taught singers, quartets, and choruses throughout New Zealand and Australia and is widely respected for her musical expertise, enthusiasm, and ability to inspire others.

Members past and present describe her as inspirational, passionate, and visionary. Ruth Carson, a member for 28 years says, 'Virg's energy, her passion for barbershop, her desire to educate others, her participation as a quartet singer and her competitive spirit make her special as a chorus leader.' Angela Blank, a 33-year member says, 'When I walked in that door 33 years ago, I could never have imagined the impact this musician would have on my life.'

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Miriam Spragg, a 27-year member, adds, 'By the time Virginia introduces a new piece of music to the chorus she will have already spent multiple hours planning what she wants to achieve vocally, expressively, visually and dramatically.'

Newer member Fran Dakin says, 'Virg is such an integral part of what drew me to the chorus. She's always encouraging and knowledgeable. She is so inclusive and passionate that her teaching makes you fall in love with barbershop.'

Virginia has also inspired singers beyond Christchurch City, encouraging members from across Region 35 and Australia to join CCC as OOTMs (Out of Town Members), either full-time or for specific international contests. Jenni Masters from Manawatū Overtones, one of CCC's longest-serving OOTMs says,

*"virginia has always been the driving force and welcoming face of christchurch city chorus, embodying warmth, dedication, hard work, and friendship".*

She reflects the very heart of the people she directs. Forty years of directing choruses is an extraordinary

achievement, but Virginia's legacy reaches far deeper than musical excellence alone. She has changed lives, inspired confidence, created lifelong friendships, and drawn countless women into the joy of barbershop harmony.'

Virginia's impact on Christchurch City and the wider barbershop community is undeniable, and her legacy will endure for many years to come. Although retiring from directing Christchurch City, she plans to continue singing, teaching, and coaching within the barbershop community. She remains director of He Tangata Voices, who will compete at the PanPac Barbershop Convention in Hawaii later this year.

#### RYAN HELLER

Christchurch City is excited and privileged to welcome Ryan Heller as its new Music Director. Ryan, along with New Zealand-based co-director Heather Bentall, is committed to building on Virg's directing legacy. He says he is looking forward to 'Standing on the shoulders of Virg's legacy to continue the chorus's upward trajectory.' He is keen to continue educating the chorus, growing CCC's membership, and welcoming OOTMs from New Zealand and Australia to join Christchurch City.



Ryan Heller hails from Austin, Texas, and brings extensive experience and success in barbershop. He speaks warmly of both Christchurch and the chorus and when asked about the commute from the United States to New Zealand, simply replies, 'It's really nothing, because it's worth it.'

Ryan is also a Master Director 700 and brings an array of musical and creative skills, along with tremendous energy and positivity. Over the coming years, he plans to spend increasing amounts of time in New Zealand and is looking forward to returning at the end of June 2026 for a month-long visit. During that time, he will share his skills not only with Christchurch City, but is also available to coach other Region 35 choruses.

Check out our Facebook page for more information and updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristchurchCityChorus>

**SARAH LOWERY**  
CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS





# Wellington City Chorus

## Experience Coaching Under Glass

The experience of being Coached under Glass at the recent Harmony Manawatū Convention in Palmerston North was a fantastic experience for all members of Wellington City Chorus.

Wellington City Chorus has never before been selected for Coaching under Glass, and directors and members alike were absolutely buzzing after being informed of their selection!

After a quick pivot for travel plans for some members we managed to ensure the vast majority of us could stay for the Coaching under Glass session. We had never worked with Jen Williams (visual communication) and Mary Rhea (sound/former international president) before and it was an absolute privilege to have the chance to show them what we can already do and, perhaps more importantly, show ourselves how we can take it to the next level.

Clearly communicating the strong tie between moving our bodies and the sound that we produce hit home for a lot of chorus members with the judges working together to enhance both elements across our up-tune, Deed I Do. The jazz band analogy certainly seemed to do the trick for one area, keeping us deliberately moving, freeing up the voice and allowing us to both physically and vocally build over a section of the song.

The sound judge encouraged us to 'follow our director' - I know, what a revelation! Mary shared small suggestions to complement the existing plan by making certain aspects bigger, such as the contrast from loud to soft and back again, and in conjunction with Jen's suggestions, this came a lot more naturally to chorus members than sound suggestions have in the past on their own.

Overall, being presented with the idea that continual motion is, in fact, desired, in terms of enhancing our visual plan, definitely upped the game for a lot of chorus members, both visually AND vocally.

One member noted later on 'I wasn't sure that we wanted to move all the time because of other comments made in the past about making sure the set moves popped out deliberately.'

*"this just shows the value of talking about things multiple times and in different ways - you never know quite what will work for different people!"*

A big thank you from Wellington City Chorus to Jen Williams and Mary Rhea for providing us with such great feedback and enhancements! Make sure to drop by if you're ever in Wellington on a Monday night!

### CHORUS MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Jen Williams ended the session by saying she wanted to take us all home with her - highest praise!

We walked away with quite a few enhancements which made the musical product even better!

I loved the fact that everything was tips we could apply to future songs and make a huge difference to our future performances. Maybe even worth coming in second for this opportunity?

It was a massive boost knowing that while we had done a great job on stage, we can take it higher and better. And also get a real workout in at the same time when you're in the front row!

**CHARMAINE HENWOOD  
WELLINGTON CITY CHORUS**

# It's Nelson Bays Bubbling with Enthusiasm!



## SHIRLEY:

Lots of fun in the new venue of Palmy and seeing old friends. Always neat to see the newbies enjoying the excitement which is still there for me after 18 years!

## INEKE:

Our acrobat. After hours of practice, trying not to pull an adductor muscle every time I attempted a cartwheel, I finally got to do the real thing on stage in Palmy! There was also some fairly ruthless measuring of the stage dimensions during rehearsals to make sure we were practising with the exact right spacing—and when it came time to perform, my legs were straight and the photographer managed to capture the moment!

## ALEX:

Director.

So amazing to have our hard work rewarded, catch up with friends old and new from around the region, and seeing our wonderful chorus bond with each other and reaffirm friendships..

## TRISH:

Outgoing TC. PRAH-OOD! So proud to walk up with Alex and receive our medals.

## SUSANNE:

New TC. 2026 was my second convention and I found it just as thrilling as the first. I am so proud to be part of this group. Lighthearted fun and camaraderie, coupled with surprisingly strong emotions and increasingly deeper bonds with my chorus-mates.

## CAROLE:

Top of my highlights list has to be sitting at the glorious Regent Theatre with chorus friends viewing and discussing the quartet and chorus performances. They seem to get better each year. We loved being able to watch our own quartet, SoL!, do well at their first contest. Next day, we were donning our chorus shoes to return to the stage as third place getters and winners of a round medal.



## CHERYL:

It's the connections—not just within our own chorus but with the whole SA community. Being front row, my fear that I would trip and go flying into the judges' pit while singing 'World here I am' was, I am relieved to say, unfounded!

## KAY:

Loved all the physical and vocal activities during Music in the Morning.

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**MARILYN:**  
Between the hotel conference room where we rehearsed, and the afterglow party, we sang our hearts out. We came for the contest, stayed for the friendship, and left with sore feet and happy hearts.

**LEE-ANNE:**  
First timer. In awe of all the talented quartets. WOW, just amazing!

**CLAIRE:**  
First timer. The most wonderful part of the weekend was the camaraderie, teamwork, support, and the inclusivity of all our members. We laughed, we cried, we threw our hearts and souls into our performance, and we came away with two well-earned accolades, a mountain of memories, and a huge sense of pride and achievement.

**EILEEN:**  
Director. Performing in the winners circle with our third place medal was a moment filled with pride, joy, and gratitude. Sharing our song, our passion, and our achievement with the audience made every effort worthwhile. The applause, smiles, and support reminded us that music is not only about winning, but about connecting hearts and celebrating the journey together.



**CHERIE:**  
SoL! Bass. Performing for the first time as part of a quartet has been a huge ride and is the highlight of contest weekend for me this year. The love and support from our chorus mates blew me away.

**RUTH:**  
Harmonising with oldies and newbies ... soul food!

**SAL:**  
First timer. What was unforgettable was the incredible sense of connection and inspiration shared throughout the weekend. The warmth, encouragement, passion, and unity within the harmony community created an atmosphere that was both uplifting and deeply moving.



COLLATED BY CAROLE BROWN  
NELSON BAY HARMONY CHORUS



# Community In Song – A Day that Lifted the Roof and Our Hearts

When Waikato Rivertones Chorus joined forces with Harmony Waikato's men's chorus, Mighty River Harmony for their recent **Community in Song** day and invited five Waikato community choirs to join them to workshop Can You Feel the Love Tonight (Elton John/Tim Rice arr. June Dale) from Lion King, something special happened. It wasn't just a workshop. It was a reminder of why we sing.

From the ice-breaker activity, there was a buzz in the room — that unmistakable energy that comes when 140 + voices gather with purpose. 'I really enjoyed singing with such a big number of singers,' one participant shared. The richness of the combined harmonies was evident even in the simplest exercises. 'I enjoyed the rich harmonies even just in the warm-ups,' another commented.

The day offered so much more than notes on a page. It was connection, inspiration and growth. Singer's

spoke of how much they learned and how uplifting it was to be guided by directors who were both skilled and motivating. 'All the directors were so inspiring,' came one reflection, while another added,

*"your vocal leaders are exceptionally gifted and are able to poke and prod us to reach the highest levels of excellence."*

At the helm of the day was Kate Sinclair Master Director Waikato Rivertones, whose leadership ensured everything ran seamlessly. 'Kate did amazing running the whole day,' one singer noted. Behind the scenes, careful planning and teamwork created an event that felt both polished and heartfelt.

'We don't do this enough,' someone reflected. 'I hope it could become an annual event.' Another simply asked, 'When's the next one?'

The community choirs expressed gratitude that was heartfelt and sincere. 'We are truly grateful for the experience you planned for us and for all the hard work you and your team put into the day.'

**Community in Song** wasn't only about music. It was about what happens when community and courage meet — when singers step outside their usual circle and discover the power of standing shoulder to shoulder in harmony.

Why wouldn't you go to one of these workshop days?

**JULIE EARL  
WAIKATO RIVERTONES CHORUS**



# The Directors Certificate Program: An Educational Programme for all Singers

The recent education session on the Sweet Adelines International Directors Certificate Program (DCP) highlighted something many members don't realise: the DCP is not just for directors. In fact, it may be one of the most valuable learning pathways available for singers at every level of experience. The session explored how the program works, what topics are covered, and how members can use the DCP to support their own musical growth — whether they are a brand-new chorus member, an experienced singer, a section leader, or someone considering directing in the future. The DCP is a self-paced online learning programme made up of 11 modules covering a broad range of musical and leadership skills:

- Conducting Skills
- Analytical Listening
- Organisational Knowledge and Director Resources
- Teaching and Coaching Skills
- Management Skills
- Judging Categories and Competition
- Vocal Production
- Communication Skills
- Music Theory
- Rehearsal Planning
- Performance

One of the key takeaways is that there is no single correct pathway through the programme. Members are encouraged to choose modules based on their current interests, goals, or challenges. For newer singers, modules such as Vocal Production, Music Theory, Analytical Listening, and Performance can build confidence and strengthen foundational skills. Experienced singers often find deeper understanding through Judging Categories and Competition and Analytical Listening. For section leaders and assistant directors, modules including Teaching and Coaching Skills, Communication Skills, and Rehearsal Planning provide practical tools for leading rehearsals and supporting singers effectively. Aspiring directors can then expand into areas such as Conducting Skills, Management Skills, and Organisational Knowledge.

Another important point discussed was assessment. Members may feel nervous about the idea of being assessed, but the DCP is designed to be supportive and developmental rather than intimidating. Self-tests throughout the module help you check your learning and monitor your own progress. Assignments can involve

written evaluations and practical assessments, are feedback-focused, and intended to help members grow in confidence and understanding. In addition, there is an option to enroll in the programme and work your way through one or more modules without undergoing assessments, if you simply want to learn the knowledge and skills without becoming certified.

Ultimately, the Directors Certificate Program is about far more than standing in front of the chorus. It is a flexible learning journey that helps singers become more confident, musical, informed and engaged members of their chorus and region. Sometimes the best place to start is simply with one module that sparks your interest.

The recording and slides from the session are available here <https://sweetadelines.co.nz/node/2450> You can find out more here <https://singunited.org/DCP>, or get in touch with myself or the DCP coordinator, Christien Oberholster.

**SUZANNE BERRESFORD**  
REGIONAL FACULTY MEMBER

## Which DCP modules might be most relevant

Module	New singer	Experienced singer	Musical leader	Director/aspiring
Conducting Skills				✓
Analytical Listening	✓	✓	✓	
Organisational Knowledge & Director Resources				✓
Teaching and Coaching Skills			✓	✓
Management Skills				✓
Judging Categories and Competition		✓		✓
Vocal Production	✓	✓	✓	
Communication skills			✓	✓
Music Theory	✓	✓		
Rehearsal planning			✓	✓
Performance	✓	✓		✓

# SANZ Members Supporting our Rangatahi Through Young Singers in Harmony NZ - More Volunteers Needed

Globally recognised as one of the leading barbershop harmony programmes for youth, the New Zealand Young Singers in Harmony Trust is a registered charitable trust officially established on 3 February 2014. It is run solely by volunteers with a mission to encourage musical participation and excellence in the a cappella barbershop singing art form by rangatahi in our secondary schools. Its main focus is to hold the annual YSIH convention which is run by its operational arm, Young Singers in Harmony NZ <https://www.ysihnz.com/> (YSIH NZ). The Trust was stood up with a new structure for governance and operations in March 2025. It now has a number of SANZ leaders and members who volunteer on YSIH NZ management team (MT photo) and governance board, alongside our Barbershop Harmony NZ counterparts. Our SANZ people are profiled below.

## YSIH NZ TRUST BOARD

**David Brooks** has been Chair/Trustee Officer of the Board for the last four years. Active in youth barbershop since 1999, he is an itinerant music teacher by day with a number of Wellington region secondary schools. As a Master-Director David commits a large amount of time to Wellington City Chorus, providing direction, coaching and strategic leadership as well as wise guidance to his fellow YSIH NZ Trustee Officers. David is also a coach, arranger and certified judge with the BHA Australasian Judges Certification Board. He has judged barbershop contests in Australia since 2005. His youth groups have won national and international contests and many of today's



prominent New Zealand barbershop singers came into the style via David's work in schools. David comes from a classical background — in his youth he won the Auckland Piano Concerto contest and was a foundation member of the National Youth Choir. David is also the YSIH NZ, SANZ and BHNZ statistician and has a passion for analysing scores and predicting wildcards!

**Leanne Wheeler** is the SANZ RMT representative and a calm and steady presence on our Board for the last few years. Leanne is assistant director of Waikato Rivertones and baritone section leader. She is also the baritone in Renew! Quartet, a registered music teacher and lives on a lifestyle block just north of Hamilton city.



**Selena Bernath** has been Trustee Officer/Secretary of the Board since October 2023. She is also currently Acting Grants Coordinator until a replacement can be found. A baritone in Faultline Chorus, she received the 2026 Sweet Adelines NZ Region 35 Youth Services Award. She has been the key driver for the recent structural changes in YSIH NZ's governance and operations and continues to support both the Board and YSIH NZ MT with implementing new systems, processes, policies and procedures and providing guidance and mentoring across multiple governance and operational roles. As a past senior leader and learning and development and organisational development consultant in the



public and private sectors, Selena has her own company and is also an ODI Associate <https://www.development.org.nz/about-us/our-people/selena-bernath/> as a facilitator, coach and consultant. Her particular passion is career coaching with 16–26 year olds. She has a passion for mentoring and engaging youth to develop their full potential. Now semi-retired, she loves being involved with YSIH NZ. She'd really appreciate seeing some more volunteers coming forward, so she can focus on the governance space next year!

## YSIH NZ MANAGEMENT TEAM

**Abigail Clarke** has been Communications Coordinator since 2024 and is a valued member of the team. An Approved Arranger and CAL, Abby has been a member of SANZ Region 35 since 2010, placing first in the Quartet Competition (Frankly Scarlet, 2011) and Small Chorus Division (Bella a Cappella, 2017) and competing in the 2018 Harmony Classic. As a former music educator in Northland schools, Abby is always looking to increase opportunities for rangatahi to sing in harmony. Her arrangement of Cover Me in Sunshine was sung by STAR Chorus at 2026 SANZ convention.



**Kim Miller** is the SANZ Region 35 Youth Coordinator and on the Prue Blythe Memorial Trust.



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YSIH NZ Management Team



In YSIH NZ, she has been the Website and Marketing Coordinator since 2025 and Social Media Coordinator until a new person can be found. Kim is primarily a baritone within Christchurch City Chorus and sings tenor in Not Too Shabby quartet. Kim's standards of administration excellence are second to none and she has been a powerhouse in MT since she started with us!

### YSIH NZ MANAGEMENT TEAM VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Brenda Leasi, national Team and Convention Coordinator since 2024 (and baritone in the international award winning BHNZ Chorus Pacific Connection) is looking for additional volunteers to grow the YSIH NZ Management Team (MT) (ie Social Media Coordinator (Operations), Fundraising Coordinator, Sponsorship

Coordinator, Grants Coordinator and Convention Administrator).

If you are ideally planful and organised and like to get things done, induction and mentoring is provided to new MT members as needed. The term will be to 31 December 2027. Do consider being part of this fantastic team, whether as a volunteer or contributing via donations. (The trust is a registered donee organisation).

get in touch

Email [ysihnz@gmail.com](mailto:ysihnz@gmail.com) for the expression of interest form, role profile(s), or donations information. If you want to chat to Brenda about any of these roles and what is involved, contact her by leaving a message on 021 150 6457. She would love to hear from you!

## Reflections From our 2025 SANZ Youth Scholarship Winners



Heather Mitchinson

Being part of the Greater Auckland Chorus has been such a joyful and grounding experience. It's given me a real sense of community and a way to continue developing my love of singing. I've especially enjoyed learning the barbershop style and exploring the beautiful harmonies that make it so special. Although my studies have limited how much I can perform and compete, I've loved every chance to sing, especially during the Christmas sing-outs.

Michaela Borja



Joining Wellington City Chorus was definitely the best way to keep my barbershop journey going. I've had a great time with them so far, from the regular rehearsals, to convention, to performances, and more. We're always learning, and while it can be hard work, there's still a lot of fun to be had. Anything chorus-related is always a highlight for me and I'm certainly looking forward to everything in store for this year.



# SingUnited International Aotearoa New Zealand Youth Affiliate Chorus Programme for Secondary Schools

## Applications Open Now

**Bring world-class a cappella and barbershop learning into your school/kura**

SingUnited International is a global organisation focused on barbershop and a cappella singing, vocal education, and leadership development.

We are now offering secondary school choirs in Aotearoa New Zealand the opportunity to become a Youth Affiliate Chorus—a simple way to access high-quality music, teaching resources, and performance opportunities.

### What is a Youth Affiliate Chorus?

It's a school/kura choir (or vocal group) that partners with SingUnited International to access:

- Curriculum related vocal resources
- SSAA (treble/upper voices) repertoire (along with learning tracks)
- Skill development in harmony singing and ensemble work

No prior barbershop experience is needed.

### Who can apply?

- Any secondary school choir or vocal group (individual student membership is not required)
- Singing in SSAA (treble/upper voice) range
- No minimum size and no prior organisational affiliation required.





## Why Join?

### For Teachers/Kaiako and Directors/Kaiwhakahaere Puoro

- FREE Director Membership with SingUnited International
- Access to ready-to-use teaching resources and learning tracks
- A wide library of SSAA repertoire suitable for secondary students
- Support from an established international and local singing organisation.

### For Students/Rangatahi

- Build confidence, teamwork, and musicianship
- Learn close harmony / a cappella singing skills
- Opportunities to perform and compete (optional, no SingUnited International registration fee for national events)
- Access to international scholarships and pathways.

### For Your School/Kura

- Strengthen your music programme and choir culture
- Offer students a unique, contemporary vocal experience
- Connect with a wider singing community across NZ and internationally.

## Cost

- Annual school membership: NZD \$260 (USD \$155)  
**FREE FIRST YEAR** available through a contestable SingUnited International NZ funding pool.

## Key Dates

- Schools can join directly anytime.
- **Applications for funding to join close: 30 June 2026**



Enquiries: [sweetadsnz@gmail.com](mailto:sweetadsnz@gmail.com)



[singunited.org/youth-affiliate-chorus-program](https://singunited.org/youth-affiliate-chorus-program)



[Application Form](#)

SingUnited International  
**YOUTH**   
**OUTREACH**



# NZ CHAPTER CONTACTS

## CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHORUS

Director: Ryan Heller  
NZ-based Co-Director: Heather Bentall  
TC: Sarah Lowery  
sarah@loweryfamily.nz  
Meets: Wednesdays 7pm  
Te Raekura Redcliffs School  
113 Beachville Rd, Redcliffs,  
Christchurch. Ph 021 229 9964  
ccchorus.co.nz

## DUNEDIN HARMONY CHORUS

Director: Robyn Abernethy  
TC: Anna McIntyre  
Anna.dunedinharmony@gmail.com  
Meets: Tuesdays 7pm  
Dunedin Church of Christ,  
3 Prince Albert Rd, Dunedin  
Ph 027 549 8156  
dunedin.harmonysite.com

## FAULTLINE CHORUS

Director: Carolyn Currington  
TC: Leigh Whitelaw  
thegirls09@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Wednesdays 7.30pm  
Salvation Army Crossroads  
Cnr High / Cuba Sts, Petone,  
Wellington. Ph 021 552 583  
faultline.org.nz

## FOVEAUX HARMONY CHORUS

Director: Sarah Rae  
TC: Matilda Phillips  
matildamaephillips@gmail.com  
Meets: Thursdays 7pm  
U.F.S Hall, 76 Tay St, Invercargill  
Ph 021 120 9090  
foveauxharmony.com

## GREATER AUCKLAND CHORUS

Director: Jocosa Bruce  
TC: Kim Ward  
k.ward@auckland.ac.nz  
Meets: Tuesdays 7pm  
Epsom Bowling Club,  
77 The Avenue, Epsom,  
Auckland 1023  
Ph 021 0242 9189  
greateraucklandchorus.com

## MANAWATŪ OVERTONES CHORUS

Co-Directors: Sylvia Fountain & Liz Watts  
TC: Stephanie Greaney  
skgreaney@outlook.com  
Meets: Tuesdays 7pm  
Palmerston North Community Leisure  
Centre, 569 Ferguson St,  
Palmerston North  
Ph 021 616 246  
facebook.com/ManawatuOvertones

## NELSON BAYS HARMONY CHORUS

Co-Directors: Eileen Smith & Alex Charlton  
TC: Susanne Muller  
skiingsue@gmail.com  
Meets: Thursdays 7pm  
Club Waimea, Lower Queen St  
Richmond. Ph 027 654 6923  
nelsonharmony.org.nz

## SOUNDS OF HAWKES BAY CHORUS

Director: Rachel Cadwallader  
TC: Sandra Marsh  
Marshfam0@gmail.com  
Meets: Thursdays 7.15pm  
Clive School, 57 School Rd, Clive  
Ph 021 233 4476  
soundsofhawkesbaychorus.co.nz

## SOUTHCITY SOUNDZ CHORUS

Director: Cheryl Weijermars  
TC: Marion Jones  
marianjones160@gmail.com  
Meets: Mondays 7pm  
Reremoana School, Scotsmoor Drive,  
Wattle Downs, Auckland  
Ph 027 228 6053  
facebook.com/SouthCity-Soundz

## TARANAKI HARMONY CHORUS

Director: Gill Holmes  
TC: Sara Knowles  
sara.knowles75@gmail.com  
Meets: Wednesdays 7pm  
The Mamaku Centre,  
6 Mamaku St, Inglewood 4330  
Ph 021 173 2699  
taranakiharmony.co.nz

## WAIKATO RIVERTONES CHORUS

Director: Kate Sinclair  
TC: Mary Cave-Palmer  
enquiries@waikatorivertones.com  
Meets: Mondays 7pm  
Marian School Hall,  
Clyde St, Hamilton  
Ph 0274 858 675  
waikatorivertones.com

## WELLINGTON CITY CHORUS

Co-Directors: David Brooks & Jo Hodgson  
TC: Carolyn Spackman  
spacks@xtra.co.nz  
Meets: Mondays 7pm  
Wellington Bridge Club,  
17 Tinakori Rd, Wellington  
Ph 027 283 7414  
wellingtoncitychorus.org

Please email [addaline@sweetadelines.co.nz](mailto:addaline@sweetadelines.co.nz) to update any chorus contact info on this page.

## REGION 35 SWEET ADELINES NEW ZEALAND

### Mission:

To create an environment where musical education, performance and competition thrive in a welcoming and vibrant community.

### Vision:

A thriving, leading, women's a cappella and barbershop singing organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand, inspiring and enriching lives through the power of song.

[www.sweetadelines.co.nz](http://www.sweetadelines.co.nz)

[www.facebook.com/SweetAdelinesNZ](https://www.facebook.com/SweetAdelinesNZ)

[www.singunited.org](http://www.singunited.org) | Twitter: @sweetadsnz

Instagram: @sweetadsnz | #sweetadsnz | #sweetadelinesnz

## We are SingUnited International

(Formerly Sweet Adelines International)

Founded in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1945, Sweet Adelines started as a small group of women who loved to sing. Since then, it has evolved into an organization that spans the globe connecting thousands of singers around the world in song. We're dedicated to preserving the unique sound of a cappella barbershop harmony, sharing our passion for music and empowering our community in every area of their lives.

Best wishes to BOATS  
as they set sail for  
Columbus, Ohio  
later this year!



We know you  
will SING your  
hearts out and do  
New Zealand proud!

# COLUMBUS

2026 INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION AND COMPETITION



[sweetadelines.co.nz](http://sweetadelines.co.nz)



[singunited.org](http://singunited.org)