

Peggie Miller: The Woodlands Show Chorus keeps its winning ways

By Peggie Miller, Performing arts columnist

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Members of The Woodlands Show Chorus, lady barbershop singers, wait backstage to perform in Las Vegas where they won ninth place trophy in Sweet Adelines International Competition last week. Left to right singers are: Keturah Moller, Alice Haagen, Elaine Phillips, Faline Christanson, Gail Gibson, and Kate White. All live in The Woodlands area except Phillips, who is from Richmond, Tex. The Woodlands Show Chorus has more than 80 a cappella singers directed by Betty Clipman of April Sound. [less](#)

The Woodlands Show Chorus, about 80 members strong, continues to accumulate awards and honors for excellence, according to member and volunteer publicist [Brenda S. Anderson](#).

Last week in Las Vegas the a cappella singing ensemble won ninth place medal at the Sweet Adelines International Competition. They are the youngest chorus ever to win a top ten placement in Sweet Adelines competition. Just as remarkable is that this is only the second time they have sung in an international competition. The performers placed 14th during their first contest in Baltimore in 2012.

"Our members are sharing Face Book photos of their medals, and wearing them to bed," Anderson said.

They praise their master director and Sweet Adelines International coach Betty Clipman who came out of retirement to lead TWSC against choruses from around the world. Some are as close as Dallas, others hail from Sweden, New Zealand, Australia.

Clipman leads the lady barber shoppers in sweet harmonies, but also in dazzling showmanship, jazz hands, sparkling costumes, and snappy dance maneuvers.

Next up is a regional competition in March.

The women rehearse on Monday evenings. Some drive from Austin, Lufkin, Beaumont, League City and South Houston to participate with the local Woodlands area residents.

"People want to belong to a winning chorus," member Mary Smith observed.

"Our color is royal purple, our mantra is 'sharing the joy of singing' and our goal is to sing on A level, always," Anderson explained.

Members range in age from 17 to 79, Anderson added. In addition to barbershop harmonies they sing some modern songs.

But these performers are not idle while awaiting the big stage experiences. They often are featured entertainers for clubs and organizations, during holidays, and at The Woodlands Fourth of July celebration.

In fact, a small ensemble from TWSC will present a Christmas program for the Ladies Association of Walden luncheon on December 2 in Walden Yacht Club, where they have sung and danced before.

The Woodlands Show Chorus welcomes new members.

"We are just beginning to plan for our next international competition, so this is a perfect time to join," said Sally Ison, who lives in Cyprus.

Joining is not rigorous. Prospective members merely have to commit to weekly rehearsals and be motivated to perform, achieve and enjoy. To qualify, vocalists need to be able to sing while holding their own vocal range in four-part harmony, although performances often include duets with even an occasional solo woven into the mix.

Each weekly rehearsal is for three hours at a location in The Woodlands area. Rehearsals include developing vocal skills, music, and choreography.

For additional information contact TWSC at (713) 208-0863 or www.thewoodlandsshowchorus.org.

Sweet Adelines International was founded in 1945. The nonprofit has more than 23,000 members, composing about 600 choruses on five continents. Its purpose is to promote barbershop harmony for women through education, performance and competition.