



APR 2024



# THE QUARTER NOTE

EDITION #042024



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM THE GRAND RAPIDS SWEET ADELINES

## Winter Works

by Elaine Martin

Winter 2024 has been all about working together to improve our barbershop skills and prepare for our Region 17 competition in May. Although we had no performances this quarter, we've been busy with our regular weekly rehearsals and many extra coaching and learning opportunities.

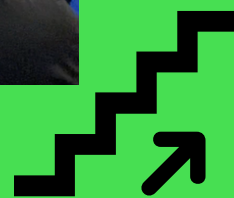
In January, barbershop singer, coach, director, and judge Rob Mance came to Grand Rapids for the weekend and thrilled us with one-on-one coaching sessions and whole chorus instruction. The affects of his recommended postural changes on our vocal quality were amazing!

February was highlighted by a two day coaching session with Nathan Ogg. Nate is a barbershop, A Cappella and choral voice coach and a former Sweet Adeline chorus director. Who knew that working so hard could be so much fun!

In April, we welcomed former GRSA director Ann Jarchow back for another all day coaching session to help us with our final preparations for competition in May. Ann is a real task master and helps guide us to just a little higher level of performance each time she comes. She expects the very best from us and always finds a way to move us there.

Our winter calendar was also filled with extra "member led" practice sessions and sectional offerings. Our amazing lead section started the Leading Ladies group, hosting 2 hour "extra" weekly rehearsals in their homes. The Northern Lights, a mixed group of all voice parts who all live north of Grand Rapids, also held extra rehearsals in the home of one of our members.

And many thanks to our music team members who provided extra "before rehearsal" rehearsals. The extra time for learning notes, lyrics, choreography and visual communication skills for our two regional competition songs has been invaluable! Look out Region 17 because HERE WE COME!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE NEWS, HIGHLIGHTS, & VIDEOS!!



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GRAND RAPIDS  
CHORUS  
Sweet Adelines

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## Winter Harmony Weekend

by Elaine Martin

Several GRSA members (and one granddaughter) represented us at the Winter Harmony Weekend in Cleveland on January 26th-28th. They showed their colorful style as they joined the Red, Blue, Purple and Butterfly Choruses to perform some unique renditions of "Lazy Day"!



## Coming Attractions

by Elaine Martin

Singing on stage for an audience full of smiling faces! That's what we love to do, and we already have several performances scheduled for the 2024 season starting with the Region 17 convention and competition in Cleveland May 10th and 11th.

On June 5th, you can find us welcoming another group of new citizens with a set of patriotic songs at their Naturalization Ceremony in Forest Hills. Then we will be returning to the Calder stage for the Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts on Sunday, June 9th and Meijer Gardens on Tuesday evening, June 25th. We will have an exciting set of songs ready to perform including some new Disney numbers and some of our favorite show tunes and oldies.

On Sept. 4th, a motor coach tour will be coming to Grand Rapids and we have been asked to provide an evening of entertainment for them. Now that should be fun! Then on Sept. 20th, we fly away for a ten day singing and sightseeing tour ... in Ireland!! Stay tuned for more coming attractions!

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## Erin Go Bragh-Ireland Forever

*Written by Colleen Pierson*

Their Irish eyes will be smiling as members of the Grand Rapids Chorus of Sweet Adelines travel on their performance tour of Northern Ireland and Ireland on September 20-30 2024. Husbands, friends and family members are also in attendance on the trip.

May the road rise to meet all of the singers as they perform in Armagh, Galway, Killarney and County Cork. I am sure, knowing GRSA, there will be spontaneous performances elsewhere as well.

Some members are electing to extend their trip with a Tour of Scotland until October 3rd.

The performance trip is organized by Witte Travel. Many of the members work at VanAndel Arena, manning the concession booths as a great way to absorb costs of travel-- as well as many other expenses that being a member of the chorus requires.

Team Ireland is made up of the coordinators- Sandy Cheeseman, Colleen Pierson, Wendy Meyers and Jeannine Schuurmans. If anyone has any questions, they can contact any of these fine broth of lasses for answers.

Bringing the art of barbershop to the Emerald Isle is an opportunity that many look forward to. Performances will educate viewing audiences of all ages, the fine art of barbershop singing.

May the wind be always at their backs and may the sun shine warm upon their faces as The Grand Rapids Chorus of Sweet Adelines perform with great joy in Ireland.



## Costume Corner

*by Elaine Martin*

Costumes are an essential element of any Sweet Adeline performance and GRSA have had some real winners! Many thanks to the talented and creative costume, hair, and make-up committee chairs and members past and present. They design costumes that suit our wide variety of personalities and body types AND help to tell the story of our songs. Here is a favorite competition photo that features many of our current and long time members! Gotta love the long gloves and sparkling red scarves! Can you guess the year by their hair and make-up?



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