



## Region 31 Convention: 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### The Sage, Gateshead

Hello again to all Region 31 Choruses, Prospective Choruses, Quartets and CAL members,

#### Welcome to the 3rd 2010 Convention Bulletin!

*This bulletin is intended for **everyone**, not just those who are competing, so please ensure that this is circulated to your chorus and quartet members!*

I hope you had a fantastic Easter break and are now ready for the run up to Convention – always such a busy but FUN time!

There are lots of new quartets competing this year, which is wonderful! We have 22 competing quartets and are very excited to have 27 competing choruses and Forth Valley Chorus performing for evaluation – this will be Region 31's largest chorus contest ever!

This bulletin is packed full of information including Traffic Patterns for competitors, walk on schedules for quartets, maps and lots more! Many of you will know the drill from last year but please do read it carefully. Just a reminder, if this is your first time at convention, check out our Convention Top Tips! <http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk/convention-toptips.htm>



#### **Registration for Convention has now closed!**

All Events Tickets will be mailed out 2 weeks prior to convention – please ensure that Deborah Lambie, our Membership Coordinator ([deborah@lambie.plus.com](mailto:deborah@lambie.plus.com)) has the correct mailing address for all choruses. There will a registration desk (situated at the Sage Gateshead near the Coats Desk on the Main Level, West Entrance) for any late queries - the registration desk will be open from 9:00am until 9.00pm on Friday.

Attached to the bulletin email is the **Convention Seating Plan 2010**. Please note that we are full and members must only sit in the seats allocated to their chorus. Please make sure that chorus members are aware of the rows and seat numbers allocated to them – please do not leave any gaps! Seating has been allocated whenever possible in order of appearance for the chorus competition. If you have any specific questions about the seating plan, please contact Debbie Watson [debbie.watson7@ntlworld.com](mailto:debbie.watson7@ntlworld.com).

Convention programmes will be available for collection at the registration desk.

#### **Wearing your 'All Events Tickets' during the weekend**

Please carry your All Events Tickets with you at ALL times – you will need it in order to enter the auditorium. Competitors should carry their Ticket with you through the traffic pattern in their small bag. This year, All Events Tickets will be printed with each attendee's name.

Just another reminder - please ensure that you bring your Quartet of Nations Lanyards and plastic wallets with you for your All Events Tickets. Lanyards will be available for purchase, for £2 each, to replace those lost or forgotten. New choruses and members will receive a supply of Lanyards automatically when indicating 'First Timers' on the registration form – these will be sent to you along with your All Events Tickets.

## **INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY FOR COMPETITORS**

### **Members in Good Standing**

Choruses are reminded that they are responsible for ensuring that all competing members are in good standing with up to date dues paid to both Region 31 and International HQ by **30th April**. If any competing member is subsequently found to not be in good standing, the Chorus will be disqualified. This also applies to CAL quartet members.

### **\* IMPORTANT: Song Information\***

Please can all competitors, who haven't already, provide me with the names of the songs you intend to sing, their composers, arrangers and the order in which you are going to present them, i.e. up-tune then ballad or vice versa. This is information that is needed for our sound and video team to plan their work and must also be forwarded to International HQ post competition. Please can you send me this information **immediately!**

### **Quartet Walk-Ons**

Please see below times for quartet walk-ons. Set up of Hall 1 will not be completed until 10:15am so competing quartets, please don't arrive before then.

<i>1b</i>	<i>SHINDIG</i>	<i>10:30am</i>
<i>1a</i>	<i>Backchat</i>	<i>10:33am</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Steren</i>	<i>10:36am</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Tempo</i>	<i>10:39am</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Finesse UK</i>	<i>10:42am</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Elixir</i>	<i>10:45am</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Let's Be Frank</i>	<i>10:48am</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Blonde Ambition</i>	<i>Withdrawn</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>Déjà vu</i>	<i>10:51am</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>Simply 4</i>	<i>10:54am</i>
<i>9</i>	<i>Mac 4</i>	<i>10:57am</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>Eu4ia</i>	<i>11:00am</i>
<i>11</i>	<i>Hunky-Dory</i>	<i>11:03am</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>Blush UK</i>	<i>11:06am</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>Footlights</i>	<i>11:09am</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>Zest!</i>	<i>11:12am</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>Miss-Demeanour</i>	<i>11:15am</i>
<i>16</i>	<i>Fahrenheit</i>	<i>11:18am</i>
<i>17</i>	<i>Storm</i>	<i>11:21am</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>Carousel</i>	<i>11:24am</i>
<i>19</i>	<i>Pandora</i>	<i>11:27am</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>Tabasco</i>	<i>11:30am</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>Encore!</i>	<i>11:33am</i>

### **Chorus Director and Quartet briefing – a little different this year**

As you know we will not be having a formal briefing this year, however I will be sending out a briefing document a week prior to Convention.

However, it is imperative that I receive from choruses **2 copies of your List of Competitor forms** (preferably printed typed copies) which must be signed by your Chorus President and Director. Attached to this bulletin is a copy of this form – **List of Competing Members Form 2010**. Please can your Chorus contact hand these into me, by the stage in Hall 1, on **Friday between 12:00 – 12:30pm**.

If you know you will be unable to get to venue on time it is imperative that you send them to me beforehand, by scanning and emailing, as the Panel Chair requires the information about size of chorus.

Due to the tight scheduling, **we will not be conducting chorus walk-ons this year** – this will hopefully make for a more leisurely start to your Saturday morning. However, we realise that many choruses who are competing this year have not stood on this stage before. **If you didn't compete at the Sage last year**, Directors will have an opportunity to stand on the stage between 12:00noon – 12:30pm on Friday. There will also be a member of the team available to take you round the traffic pattern if you wish.

### **Traffic Patterns/Order of Appearance**

Firstly, you will notice that the start time of the Chorus competition has been amended. **The chorus contest will now start at 11.00am.**



The enclosed file (**Traffic Pattern (Quartets) 2010** and **Traffic Pattern (Choruses) 2010**), contains detailed timings for all competitors – this year the actual route through the venue for quartets and choruses is the same. From entering the Sage Gateshead (at the West Entrance), the route to the backstage door is very straightforward. Competitors will make their way to the Northern Rock Foundation Hall warm-up room on Level 1 where they will have 10 minutes and following that, they exit the warm up room to a corridor, which leads directly onto the stage. Plenty of water will be provided in the warm-up so there is no need for competitors to bring their own.

We will be entering and exiting the stage in the same direction as last year. So, for those of you who weren't there, we will enter from your left as you are on stage looking out to the audience and exiting to your right. I have drawn rough maps of the two routes to help orientation at the venue and these are in the enclosed file (**Traffic Pattern Map 2010**).

### **Couriers**

We have a great team of professional couriers who are helping us out this year - they are experienced barbershop couriers and will be stationed throughout the traffic pattern. They will be able to communicate with each other through their intercom, so everything should run very smoothly. Each quartet and chorus will move through the Traffic Pattern from one courier to the next, rather than being allocated their own courier.

### **Competitor Assistance**

Choruses with competitors needing special assistance should notify me prior to Convention weekend.

### **Rehearsal Rooms**

There are still a few slots in the Barbour Room, available for rehearsal hire on Saturday morning/early afternoon – please let me know immediately if you would like to book the space.

## **Meet the Judges!**

Here is a little information about our judges – they are all very excited about coming to Region 31...they have heard great things!

**Joan Boutilier** is our **Sound** Judge. Joan has been a member of Sweet Adelines International since 1989 and the front-line director of the Choral-Aires Chorus since 1996. Since 1997 when Joan earned the title of Master Director, she's taken the Choral-Aires Chorus to six international competitions, placing in the top tier each time. In the fall of 2008, she began directing the River City Sound Chorus of Rockford – the current chorus champions in Region 22, competing in Seattle later in the year. She is also a member of SAI-appointed committee, the Director Education Coordinators. Joan sings tenor with the Four Bettys Quartet, which were thrilled to capture the 2008 international championship.

**Carolyn Healey** is our **Music** Judge. Carolyn has been a member of Sweet Adelines International for over 43 years and was fortunate enough to win the International Chorus competition in 1981 with Seven Hills. Quartetting was always part of her Sweet Adeline experience and two of her quartets (Silver Sounds and Changing Times) won six regional competitions and placed in the top 20 three times. She started arranging in the 70's to provide music for quartets that was different from what other quartets were singing. Carolyn has been a music judge for over twenty years and is currently the music category specialist.

**Nancy Field** is our **Expression** Judge. Nancy joined Sweet Adelines in 1966 as a member of the Spirit of Syracuse Chorus in Region 16. She recently retired as Musical Director of this many time international chorus competitor. Under her direction, the Spirit of Syracuse received numerous regional and international awards. In recognition of her contributions to Region 16, the region established the Nancy Field Leadership Excellence Award, which is awarded annually. She has served as Region 16's Competition Coordinator and member of the Convention Team for many years. In her work with Sweet Adelines International she served as a member of the International Board of Directors, including that of International Treasurer and Secretary. She also served as a Judge Specialist, International Faculty Coordinator, and faculty at annual Education events.

**Sue Beck** is our **Showmanship** Judge. Sue joined Sweet Adelines International in 1972 and has been in 4 choruses of every size. Sue founded Pacific Sound and Voices Northwest and currently directs the latter. She has sung in 4 quartets (3 of them regional champions - Seattle Times, Legacy, and SoundDesign) and has twice served on the International Board of Directors as well as being on the Education Committee.

We are also very excited to welcome **Kathy Carmody** to our Region as Panel Secretary. Since joining Sweet Adelines in Alaska in 1968, Kathy Carmody has served in too many capacities to count. She's been our International President twice and was recently recognized as one of the only three Master Faculty members in our organization. In Nashville in 2009, as a Master Director, she led The Velvet Hills Chorus from Colorado Springs to their 5th placed international medals.

## **Competitor Packs**

Competitor packs containing score sheets, audio CD, and DVD can be picked up approximately 30 minutes following the close of the contests. Both Quartets and Chorus Directors/Team Leaders/Presidents should pick the packs up from the Northern Rock Room.

### **Prize funds for Champions**

Just as a reminder, winning choruses are awarded £2000 as are the winning quartet. If the second place chorus/quartet attends International in place of the winners, they will receive the £2000. It was also agreed that £300 will be given to any International wildcard entries.

### **Presentation of Results and Medals**

Like last year, we would like to invite all competing quartets on stage during the announcement of results, so please can all quartets be available for this. Competing quartets, before the awards, will sing "Fame" under the Direction of Mike Taylor.

We also need to carry out a sound and lighting check for the chorus competition once the quartet contest is over on Friday night. This year, we are asking all competing quartets to please stay on stage after the results have been announced on Friday evening to form a scratch chorus for the sound and light check. To get the right balance, some tenors and baritones may have to step out and watch! This will take approximately 20 minutes.



On Saturday, Chorus Directors and Presidents will also be asked to stay on stage, following the presentation of participation certificates, for the announcement of results.

### **Song for our Champions!**

Can I also remind you that Jenny Lawson, Master Director of Surrey Harmony Chorus, has kindly written and donated a new song for the region for us to sing to our regional chorus Champions. Music and learning tracks are available on the regional songs part of our website. Be sure to learn this great song so we can join together in celebrating the success of our chorus champions on Saturday!

### **Show of Champions**

As detailed in the last bulletin, we have a fabulous line-up for our Show of Champions.

Please note below the number of songs that the medallists are required to sing.

Small Chorus Gold medallists (2 songs)  
Mid-size Chorus Gold medallists (2 songs)  
Quartet Gold medallists (3 songs)  
Chorus Gold medallists (3 songs)

And below is the 'Traffic Pattern' for our Champions:

<b>Approximate Time on Stage</b>	<b>Report to Northern Rock Room (Level 1)</b>
8:30pm Small Chorus Champions	8:15pm
8:40pm Mid-Size Chorus Champions	8:25pm
8:50pm Quartet Champions	8:35pm
9:05pm Forth Valley Chorus	8:50pm
9:20pm IVY League Chorus	9:05pm
9:30pm Chorus Champions	9:15pm
9:45pm Ringmasters	9:30pm

Performers are requested to remain in the auditorium until they are required backstage and should avoid leaving during a performance. Performers will be directed as appropriate on arrival at the

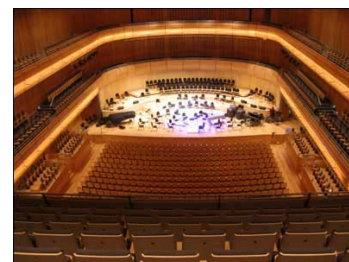
Northern Rock Foundation Hall. If the mid-size or small chorus champions are overall chorus winners, then they will perform once at the spot allocated to 'Chorus Champions'.

**Partaay!!**

Both bars on Level 1 and Level 2 will be open for the Afterglow on Saturday until 1am! Remember though...we have several fantastic Education sessions bright and early on Sunday morning so have FUN but remember to keep that head as clear as possible!

**What a great way to end the weekend!**

Talking of **Education**, we are delighted that our judges and Panel Secretary Kathy Carmody, will be leading the sessions, kicking off at 9:30am – you are certainly in for a treat! We are, of course, also looking forward to a spectacular performance from our young women’s chorus as well as Ringmasters Quartet to finish off the weekend! If you have any questions at all about the Education Sessions, please don’t hesitate to contact Valerie Taylor, our Education Coordinator [valerie.taylor@privacysolutions.co.uk](mailto:valerie.taylor@privacysolutions.co.uk)



Here is the schedule for the morning:

Main Hall	Barbour Room	Northern Rock Foundation Hall
9:30am Doors Open		
9:45am Welcome and announcements		
10:00am-11:00am Class with Joan Boutilier ' <b>Vocal Production and Vocal Blend</b> '	10:00am-12:00noon DCP Training with Kathy Carmody*	10.00am-12:00noon YWIH chorus Rehearsal and Coaching with Sue Beck**
11:00am-12:00noon Class with Nancy Field ' <b>The Cone Shaped Sound</b> '		
12:00noon-12:15pm BREAK		
12.15pm-12:45 pm YWIH chorus/Ringmasters performance, closing announcements, evaluations and wrap up		
12:45pm End		

\* Anyone who is interested in the DCP is also welcome to attend this class

\*\* If you have any questions about the songs you will be rehearsing, please don’t hesitate to contact Ellie Mills at [mills\\_ellie@hotmail.com](mailto:mills_ellie@hotmail.com).

**Event Photos**

We are very excited that Event Photos are on board and they are very much looking forward to snapping away all weekend!

As usual the quartet photo booth on Level 2 will be open from around 2.00pm on Friday. All photos will be displayed on both display boards and computer screens. On-site printing is available in various sizes so there are plenty of options for you to buy your favourite prints in every size (Credit Card

payment will be an option). A CD of all photos taken of any chorus will be available. However, if choruses would like to buy this CD, ALL members have to pay £10.00 each in contribution (or indeed choruses can pay £10.00 x the number of members they have). This allows any chorus member to access or print any of the photos taken throughout the weekend, in full resolution. These can be used on websites and newsletters too! For £10.00 each this is extremely good value – there are many online and high street photo printing services around, so that members can print at their leisure. Event Photos will have order forms for these CD's available during the weekend and they will be shipped within 10 days of Convention.

All photos taken during the weekend will be displayed on [www.event-photos.co.uk](http://www.event-photos.co.uk) shortly after Convention and many photo products can be purchased there, including various sizes of prints.

### **Cam3Media**

Cam3Media are looking forward to Convention weekend – they have taken all feedback on board and are raring to go. Their 'booth' on Level 2 will be open for purchasing and ordering on:

**Friday – 11.00am – 8.00pm**

**Saturday – 9.30am – 11.00am, during competition breaks, 6.00pm – 8.00pm**

**Sunday – 9.00am – 12.30pm**

**USB sticks** (with 1 competitor's audio and visual recording) will be available for sale for **£10.00** and the following DVD's will be available for ordering:

**Quartet Competition £18.00**

**Chorus Competition £18.00**

**Show of Champions and Education Sessions £25.00**

**Individual Competitors £7.00**

Postage and Packaging is free of charge for those orders placed during the weekend.

Like last year, you will be able to order anything after the event via their website, [www.cam3media.co.uk](http://www.cam3media.co.uk) (a Postage and Packing charge of £2.50 will apply)

### **Venue and Travel Information**

By now, I'm sure you've been looking online and reminding yourselves of the various things Newcastle and Gateshead has to offer! For generic information, check out [www.newcastlegateshead.com/index.php](http://www.newcastlegateshead.com/index.php) or [www.visitnewcastlegateshead.com](http://www.visitnewcastlegateshead.com) – both these sites are packed full of information!

There is a wide variety of amenities on the Newcastle Quayside – lots of pubs and restaurants including the following:

**Baltic Mill Café Bar and Restaurant** - Gateshead Quays, South Shore Road, Gateshead, NE8 3BA [www.balticmill.com/visit/Eating.php](http://www.balticmill.com/visit/Eating.php)

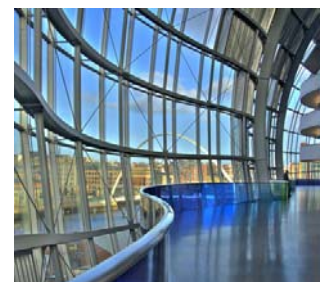
**Pitcher and Piano** - 108 The Quayside, NE1 3DX

**Gusto** - The Quayside, NE1 3DX La Tasca - 106 The Quayside, NE1 3DX

**Living Room** - 12 Grey Street, NE1 6AE

**Coco Mo's** - 26 Side, NE1 3JA Café Vivo - 29 Broad Chare, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3DQ

**Raval (Indian)** - Kent House, Church Street, Gateshead Quays, NE8 2BL



The venue itself has a café selling a great selection of sandwiches, soups, salad and cakes. There will also be extra sandwich/coffee stations set up in the bar areas. In addition, the venue has a brasserie that is open daily from 17:00 until 22:00. The nearest supermarket (for post- afterglow refreshments!) is Tesco in Gateshead town centre, or the Tesco Express on Newcastle Quayside.

For those of you who like to carry a map, I have included a detailed map of Newcastle itself as well a map of the Sage Gateshead. If you would like to see the internal layout of the venue, visit [http://www.thesagegateshead.org/about/thebuilding\\_tour.aspx](http://www.thesagegateshead.org/about/thebuilding_tour.aspx).

Don't forget – if you have any specific questions about the venue and the surrounding area, please ask and we'll do our best to help. There is also a Tourist Information desk on the Concourse Level of the Sage, so feel free to make use of them during the event if you have any questions!

**It now leaves me to say....**

Goodbye until May 7<sup>th</sup>! I would like to wish you all the best for the run up to this exciting weekend!

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me either via email, [duguidemma@gmail.com](mailto:duguidemma@gmail.com) or my mobile +44 (0) 7815 114 476. Look forward to seeing you all very soon!

In harmony,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emma". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**Emma A. Duguid**

Region 31 Competition Coordinator 2010

Region 31 Marketing Coordinator

+44 (0)7815 114 476

[http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk/convention\\_2010.htm](http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk/convention_2010.htm)

Encore! Quartet | Pros. Vocal Dimension Chorus