



January 2012

Dear all Chorus and Quartet contacts

I am delighted to be resuming the role of Competition Coordinator for the Region 31 Convention in May. To clear up any confusion at the outset, I got married last year and have changed my name from Wheeldon to Pollard – so although the name is different, I am the same person.

Now that the Christmas and New Year frivolities are over it's time to start thinking about this year's Convention which will once again be held at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. Those of you who had the chance to sing on the stage last year will know that this is one of the finest concert halls in the world. Those of you who haven't experienced it before are in for a real treat. Visit the Symphony Hall's website at [www.thsh.co.uk/page/symphony-hall-birmingham](http://www.thsh.co.uk/page/symphony-hall-birmingham) for more information.

This is the first mailing for the 2012 Convention and includes:

- information about early bird registration available for registrations before the end of February 2012
- information about Harmony Bazaar
- an introduction to the Convention Team and contact details
- key dates for you to be aware of, including some of the things we will be needing from you between now and Convention.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. My full contact details are given below.

With best wishes

Deborah Pollard  
Region 31 Competition Coordinator  
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Quartet of Nations – Region 31

# CONVENTION 2012

10 – 13 May 2012 at Birmingham Symphony Hall

## Contents

1. The Venue
2. Schedule of Events
3. Registration
4. Competition Rules
5. Harmony Bazaar
6. Your 2012 Contacts
7. Keeping on Track – convention plan

## 1. THE VENUE

We are back at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham for a second successive year. Information about the venue can be found on their website: [www.thsh.co.uk/page/symphony-hall-birmingham](http://www.thsh.co.uk/page/symphony-hall-birmingham) - the 'Planning your visit' page provides useful information on parking, dining and links to local accommodation. The SH is in the heart of Birmingham's entertainment district, it is surrounded by bars, restaurants and a number of hotels all within easy walking distance. Our HQ hotel is the Hyatt Regency which is linked by a walk-way direct to the Symphony Hall.



## 2. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The full schedule of events for the weekend will be finalised in March/April 2011, but here are the provisional timings of key events.

|                      |                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 12:00<br>Noon | Contest briefing for chorus directors, presidents/team coordinators and competing quartets. Followed by timed Quartet walk-ons. |
| Friday 15:00         | Quartet contest starts<br>Curtain call, and auditorium open to audience 14:30                                                   |
| Saturday 11:00       | Chorus contest starts - Due to early start time, there will be no chorus walk-ons this year                                     |
| Saturday 20:00       | Show of Champions<br>Followed by the Afterglow                                                                                  |
| Sunday (tba)         | Educational classes                                                                                                             |

### 3. REGISTRATION

Providing that you pay for your registration before 29 February 2012, we are offering a £5 discount on adult member and non-member registrations. Registration is now open.



| Registration Type                                        | Early bird registration (before 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2012) | Final registration (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2012) |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All Events Pass: Sweet Adeline Members                   | £60                                                             | £65                                                                |
| All Events Pass: Non-members (incl. prospective members) | £70                                                             | £75                                                                |
| All Events Pass: Youth member                            | £30                                                             | £30                                                                |
| Quartet contest ticket                                   | £30                                                             | £30                                                                |
| Chorus contest ticket                                    | £30                                                             | £30                                                                |
| Show ticket                                              | £20                                                             | £20                                                                |
| Replacement of lost pass                                 |                                                                 | £2                                                                 |

*Please ensure that dual members (i.e. those who are members of more than one chorus) only register with the chorus that pays their International and regional dues.*

To register complete the form included in this mailing and send it **by email** to Sam Todd, our Registration Coordinator for 2012; Email: [samantha.todd@bluefingroup.co.uk](mailto:samantha.todd@bluefingroup.co.uk). Please include the name of your chorus/quartet in the subject line. Wherever possible we would like you to pay by bank transfer. Full details are provided on the form. Single event tickets will also be available to purchase for guests, prices as shown above. We'll let you know when these go on sale and how you can order them. Please note that single event ticket holders will be seated separately from All Event ticket holders. Competing members are expected to purchase All Events tickets.

### 4. COMPETITION RULES

The 2012 edition of the Competition Handbook is now available on the Sweet Adelines International Web site. It contains the rules and regulations that pertain to competition and replaces all prior handbooks. The handbook and other competition information and resources can be found at: [www.sweetadelineintl.org/index.cfm?id=28](http://www.sweetadelineintl.org/index.cfm?id=28).

Major content changes this year are:

- Quartets may submit video recordings for evaluation only at regional competitions.
- The time limit for regional contests and international semifinals performances is increased to a maximum of seven (7) minutes.
- Clarifies policy with regard to the accuracy of reporting number of competing members.

Can I also draw your attention to Section II part 1a (choruses) and part 2a (quartets) which emphasis the requirement to be in 'good standing' in order to be eligible to compete. This means making sure that your chorus is up-to-date with international and regional member dues. If you have any queries on this please contact Nuala Hobden, Region 31 Finance Coordinator, who will be able to advise you. Hard copies of the handbook are available through International Sales. If you have any questions on rules, contact Carol Schwartz, Director of Music Services at [carol@sweetadelineintl.org](mailto:carol@sweetadelineintl.org) or 1-800-992-7464.

## 5. HARMONY BAZAAR

Now is the time to start thinking about whether your chorus would like to have a stall at the Harmony Bazaar for fundraising purposes. Places are just £20 per stall available on a first come, first served basis with a limit of one stall per chorus. A booking form is included with this mailing. Completed forms should be sent directly to Fiona McGlashan with full payment. Contact Fiona directly if you have any queries.

## 6. YOUR 2011 CONTACTS

| <b>ROLE</b>                     | <b>CONTACT / EMAIL</b>                                                                                                                                                         | <b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Events Coordinators</b>      | Trina Bache<br><a href="mailto:trinabache@btinternet.com">trinabache@btinternet.com</a><br>Fiona McGlashan<br><a href="mailto:impact@appleshack.com">impact@appleshack.com</a> | <i>Overall event management, Schedule of events, Convention venue, HQ hotel, Equipment and supplies, ticket sales, contracts, special guests, registration and harmony bazaar</i>           |
| <b>Competition Coordinator</b>  | Deborah Pollard<br><a href="mailto:deb.pollard@btinternet.com">deb.pollard@btinternet.com</a>                                                                                  | <i>Any aspect of the what happens on stage: including movement of competitors, lighting/sound, contest recordings (video/audio), photography &amp; communication of competition results</i> |
| <b>Registration Coordinator</b> | Samantha Todd<br><a href="mailto:samantha.todd@bluefingroup.co.uk">samantha.todd@bluefingroup.co.uk</a>                                                                        | <i>Advance registrations, passes, seating plans and registration desk</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Official Panel Liaison</b>   | Liz Mills<br><a href="mailto:lizashtonmills@hotmail.com">lizashtonmills@hotmail.com</a>                                                                                        | <i>Judging panel liaison, travel, accommodation and hospitality</i>                                                                                                                         |

## 7. KEEPING ON TRACK

Below is a list of some key actions and due dates for you to be aware of in your preparation for May. Those marked INT are International HQ actions and those marked REG originate or require information to be provided to the region.

| <b>INT/REG</b> | <b>What</b>                                               | <b>By</b>  |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| REG            | Early bird registrations closing date                     | 29/02/2012 |
| REG            | Provide song details and order in which they will be sung | 01/03/2012 |
| INT            | Competition entry deadline – quartet                      | 12/03/2012 |
| INT            | Competition entry deadline – chorus                       | 13/03/2012 |
| INT            | <i>Order of Appearance draw</i>                           | 19/03/2012 |
| INT            | Late entry deadline – quartet                             | 27/03/2012 |
| INT            | Late entry deadline – chorus                              | 28/03/2012 |
| REG            | Final registrations due                                   | 31/03/2012 |
| INT/REG        | Ensure all members are in good standing                   | 01/04/2012 |
| REG            | Provide final competitor list by email (chorus)           | 30/04/2012 |
| REG            | Distribute passes                                         | 30/04/2012 |

*Do you know the ‘Song for the Champions’? This and other regional songs for the mass sing are available on the regional website [www.sweetadelines.org.uk](http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk)*