



All you need to know!

Welcome!

The Regional Management Team are delighted that you will be joining us for this year's fantastic Quartet of Nations education event featuring the BUZZ! We can't wait!

This document will provide you will all the information you need for the weekend!



Where to Check-In and Register?

On Friday, please report to the Lakeside Residences reception on arrival to collect your room keys. **Check-in** is between 14.00 and 18.00 and if you arrive after 18.00, please report to the Aston Business School Conference Centre Reception and you will be escorted to the Lakeside Residences.

On Sunday, all rooms must be vacated no later than 11.00 and keys returned to the reception desk at the Lakeside Conference Centre.

You may contact Reception via the University Security Department by dialling '2222' from the telephone in your bedroom and the Reception at the Aston Business School Conference Centre will be able to assist with any queries, it is manned 24/7. Please note that a charge of £20 will be made per lost card or/and key.

The accommodation is very comfortable, however we would recommend bringing the essentials such as hair dryers, an alarm clock, radio etc. There are kitchens with tea and coffee making facilities on all floors but please remember to bring your own tea, coffee and milk if you wish to brew!

Registration for the event will be open from 18.00 on Friday 17th July, outside the Great Hall in the Aston University Main Building. **Please remember to bring your Quartet of Nations Lanyards** with you to hold your printed name badges – if you need one or have lost it, they will be available for sale at £2.

If you have any registration queries before the event, please contact Debbie Watson (debbie.watson7@ntlworld.com).



Catering

Below are the times and venues for all meals being served during the weekend. Please note that dinner on Friday night and lunch on Sunday will not be provided.

Saturday 18th

Breakfast is from 07.00 - 08.45 in the Lakeside Centre

Lunch* is from 13.00 - 14.00 in the Main Building, Room G63 next to the Great Hall

Dinner** is from 18.00 – 20.15 in the Lakeside Centre

Sunday 19th

Breakfast is from 07.30 - 09.00 in the Lakeside Centre

* Lunch will be a finger buffett including sandwiches, wraps, hot and cold ‘nibbles’ and a yummy desert! Vegetarian options will be available.

** Dinner will be a 3 course buffet style meal (with a meat, fish and vegetarian option for the main course).

All Tea and Coffee breaks will take place in the Main Building, Room G63

For any snacks during the weekend, there is a mini market and newsagent situated on Aston Street.



Programme

Attached to the email is the programme for the weekend and also full class descriptions so that you can pick your preferred classes in advance! If you have any questions about the contents of the classes, then please contact Valerie Taylor, the Education Coordinator (valerie.taylor@privacysolutions.co.uk)



Symposium Choruses

We are very excited to have two Symposium Choruses this year.

Chorus 1 will be directed by Carolyn Cotton, Director of Prospective London City Singers Chorus. Carolyn will be directing “It’s my song” (arranged by Jim Arns). The costume for Carolyn’s chorus will be Black with lots of “bling” (sparkly jewellery and accessories).

Chorus 2 will be directed by Ally Law, Director of DaleDiva Chorus. Ally will be directing “Big Spender” (arranged by Bev Sellers). The costume for Ally’s chorus will be all black (any combination – dress/skirt/trousers/top) and ONE colourful accessory that will stand out e.g. feather boa, colourful jewellery, coloured gloves, bright coloured scarf etc. Think BIG SPENDER, sexy but classy, fun loving and carefree!

As you will see from the programme, members of the BUZZ will work with both choruses throughout the weekend, in preparation for the show on Saturday!

Attached to this email is the list of singers in each chorus. We know many of you are itching to get learn the songs, so please download learning tracks and sheet music (please

remember to bring your copy of the sheet music with you!). You will now have received the download information in your mailshot pack that was emailed to you.

Please also note that the sheet music for "It's My Song" is available now and the learning tracks will be available by 27th June.

This music is for registered attendees of the workshop and must not be copied or shared with others without permission from copyright holders.



Saturday Night Show featuring The BUZZ!

You are certainly in for a treat at our Saturday night show, it's going to be fabulous! The show will feature the BUZZ and we will also have performances from our two Symposium choruses as well as an exciting performance from a very special group of young women. We are especially delighted that **Tone-city**, our 2009 Quartet Champions, are going to dazzle us with their favourite songs! It will be a fantastic evening!

For those of you who have not yet met the BUZZ, here is a little bit more about these four very talented ladies!



Nancy sang **tenor** with the 1992 Champion Quartet **City Lights**, with whom she travelled and performed extensively. She was an active member and section leader in the International Champion Ramapo Valley Chorus and in 2002 spent time singing and teaching vocal skills in China. Nancy makes her home in Long Valley, NJ with her husband Cameron and their four boys. She is a sought after coach and vocalist and works for Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.



Debbie is a high school choral director and frequent clinician for Youth Harmony events. She sang **lead** with the 1994 International Quartet Champion **Showtime** and is a member of the faculty of Sweet Adelines International. A popular coach, vocalist and soloist, Debbie makes her home in Tampa, FL with her talented children.



Karen is on the faculty of Sweet Adelines International and a past President of the organisation. She also directs the International Competitor Spirit of the Gulf Chorus based in Fort Myers, FL and is a popular coach. Karen was the **baritone** of 1985 International Champions Jubilation and has sung in several other International Finalist quartets. Karen and husband Bob (also a singer) call both North Carolina and Florida home, splitting their time between the two.



Jeannie has a gold medal for singing **bass** with the 1992 champs City Lights and chorus gold with the Ramapo Valley Chorus. She also serves on various Sweet Adelines International committees and assignments. Jeannie is an accomplished soloist and guitarist who began singing professionally at the age of sixteen. She and husband Brian are the proud parents of five children and make their home in Spring Lake, NJ. Jeannie spends many hours volunteering for various organizations and is also a successful chorus and quartet coach.

There will be some tickets available for the show if you wish to invite family, friends, or those unable to make it to the event. This ticket does not include access to any education session and costs £10 - tickets will be available for sale at the door. Please note you're your delegate registration gives you automatic access to the show.



Partaay!

The Afterglow will be held after the show in the Lakeside Centre - the bar will be open until 12.30am!



Quartet Coaching Opportunity

There are still some quartet coaching slots for the Sunday afternoon – if you and your quartet want a once-in-a-lifetime experience, please contact Valerie Taylor (Valerie.taylor@privacysolutions.co.uk) to secure your spot as soon as possible! These places will be filled on a first come, first served basis and are included in your full registration.



“Are we there yet?!”

We thought it would be useful to provide you directions to the venue including parking information.

Conference Aston, Conference Aston, Aston Triangle, Birmingham, B4 7ET



Conference Aston boasts a leading portfolio of specialist conference centre and event venues in the city centre of Birmingham. All Conference Aston venues are located on the green, self contained campus of Aston University.

Using Sat Nav Systems

Some visitors to Aston have reported that their satellite navigation systems have directed them off the motorway too early, onto ring roads and less obvious routes. Conference Aston recommends that you use maps initially and try to adhere to the directions below. Aston University's postcode is B4 7ET.

Road Directions

From M6 North and South

- Exit at Junction 6 and follow A38M towards City Centre
- Take lane 2 of the A38M for almost 2 miles and take the 3rd exit off (at the 'end of motorway' sign before the flyover) and Aston University will be on your left hand side
- Stay in the left-hand lane alongside the University and then at the round-about with the Fire Station on the left, take the 1st exit – follow directions below for day delegates and visitors

From M42 East Midlands

- From the M42 join the M6 northbound heading towards Birmingham Central. Leave the M6 at junction 6 and follow the directions from M6 North and South above

From M5 South-West and City Centre

- Leave the M5 at Junction 3 and follow the A456 for about 5 miles towards the City Centre
- As you approach the City, the road broadens to three lanes. Take the outside lane following signs for Convention Centre and Broad Street. Take the underpass into Broad Street
- Drive all the way along Broad Street and follow the signs at the round-about for Inner Ring Road, North and M6, Lichfield A38. Take the 2nd exit from round-about following the same signs. Keep in the outside lane and take the underpass (St Chad's Circus Queensway) signed Lichfield A38. At the end of the underpass, exit left before the flyover
- Go to the round-about and take the 3rd exit off past the Fire Station - follow directions below for delegates and visitors

From M40 Oxford and the South

- Take M40 northbound and join the M42 westbound towards the M5
- Travel north on the M5, leaving at junction 3 and follow directions from M5 South-West above

Travelling by Train?



Birmingham New Street Station is the nearest main-line station to Conference Aston, a short, flat 15 minutes walk away through the main shopping areas of the city. The station has direct lines to most parts of the UK and many local services. Some regional and national services arrive at Birmingham Snow Hill and Moor Street stations, which are a short ten minute walk from campus.

Visit <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk> to plan your train journey, or call National Rail Enquires on +44 (0)845 484 950.

Taxi from Birmingham New Street Station

Taxis can be hired from the taxi rank at New Street Station and cost around £5 to the University. There is also a taxi rank on campus to get back to the station.

Travelling by Coach?

Coach services, including motorway services to London, operate from Digbeth coach station, which is a short taxi ride or 20 minutes' walk from the campus through the city centre.

Visit www.nationalexpress.co.uk or call National Express enquiries: +44(0)990 80 80 80 for further information.

Travelling by Bus?

Because of our central Birmingham location many bus routes pass close to the Aston University campus.

To plan your journey, visit the Travel West Midlands website at www.travelwm.co.uk.

Travelling by Air?

Several trains an hour run from Birmingham International Airport direct to New Street Station and take less than 10 minutes. Alternatively, the airport is approximately 20 minutes away by car or taxi.

We wish you a safe and pleasant journey!



Parking Facilities

There is a staff car park (number 6), located on the corner of Woodstock Street and Jennens Road that is available from Friday 18.00PM until end of day Sunday, free of charge from 18.00 but part charged until that time.

If this car park becomes full, you may use the Millennium Point car park on Jennens Road – it costs £4.50 per day and conveniently located only 5 minute walk from Lakeside Residences.



Any questions?

That's all from me, and if you have made it all the way through this mailshot, congratulations!

Please don't hesitate to contact either myself (emma.riley@reedelsevier.com) or our Education Coordinator, Valerie Taylor (valerie.taylor@privacysolutions.co.uk) if you have any questions – we are more than happy to help.

All of this information will be available on the Quartet of Nations website page for the event, http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk/buzz_2009.htm.

Have a fabulous weekend and we look forward to seeing you all at Aston!

Emma Riley

Events Coordinator

Quartet of Nations – Sweet Adelines Region 31

Surrey Harmony Chorus | Encore! Quartet

www.sweetadelines.org.uk