

# Seattle Shores Chorus



Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter of 2011/2012

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## Quote

'Cause Mister when you start  
 that minor part  
 I feel your fingers slipping and  
 a grasping at my heart,  
 Oh Lord play that Barber shop  
 chord!

From 1910 song called "Play  
 That Barber Shop Chord"



This is our Eighth newsletter. If you received it in the post and would rather receive it thru e-mail; know someone else that would enjoy receiving it; or would like to be removed from our list— Let us know. See contact information on the back page.

## Director's 2011 in Review

Seattle Shores Chorus had another busy 12 months and we finished off the year with a bang! Coming to the end of 2011 made me reflective, and I took a look back on our accomplishments.

We started the year with a wonderful coaching session from the incomparable Carole Kirkpatrick on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Her knowledge of barbershop singing and the overall craft gave us many things to work on. In February, Sandy Marron came to coach us and help us elevate our sound. Her energy and support made us all come away from her

coaching session with renewed enthusiasm.

March brought another coaching with Carole to help us get ready for an earlier-than-usual regional competition the first week in April. With a fun Friends and Family night on March 29<sup>th</sup>, we were off to Spokane the very next weekend.

This was my directing debut on competition stage and the experience was stunning. We stood proudly on the stage and delivered the contest package as planned. I stepped off the stage as proud as could be and flying high. Barbara Fine (Board President at

that time) and I were able to participate in a regional webcast backstage directly following our performance. It was great to see ourselves later on the World Wide Web!

April brought our installation of new Board Members and our yearly dinner to celebrate the start of a new fiscal year. May and June moved along with regular chorus rehearsals, and learning new music. July included our sing-out for the Aqua Sox in Everett, and we started the game with the National Anthem while standing on the field.

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## We Love Sing-Outs!



Since our last newsletter, we have had a few exciting sing-outs: Tacoma Dome Christmas Craft Fair, Pacific Place, Aegis, and The Seattle SeaChordsmen Holiday Show. We love performing and are extremely grateful that we were able to do so many in the holiday season.

We kicked off the season on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, performing at the Tacoma Dome Christmas Craft Fair. This event takes place over an

entire weekend with dancers, singers, and other great entertainment. Traditionally, we have been the first performers on Sunday morning but we changed things up a bit this year and sang at 6pm and 7pm on Saturday night. The audience was larger than we've sang for in the past and very receptive. They laughed at our jokes and were appreciative of our performances. Of course, we had a wonderful time. Our

newest Christmas song, "The 12 Days After Christmas" debuted that night and it was a rousing success. We sang some other music in our repertoire, besides the holiday songs. We also got to enjoy our own 'Seattle Reign' perform a couple of songs. It's always a treat when they sing for us (and our audience). We sincerely enjoy this performance each and every year and look forward to going

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## Vowels, Vowels and More Vowels

During the past few months we have been talking about vowels and vowel placement. This is a short explanation of what we have been doing.

1. Always have your voice relaxed.

2. Stand using good posture, with your feet slightly apart, knees flexed and in a solid stance to allow vocal production and good movement at the same time.

3. Breathe from your diaphragm, using your legs as your strength.

4. Lift your eyebrows, cheek muscles and upper

palliate inside your mouth.

5. Make a 'Doe' position with your mouth and jaw. Be sure you can see your teeth and be able to put your finger between your teeth. Feel the sound move over your palliate and up through your nose.

6. To make a 'Doo' sound, move your lips slightly closer and your jaw slightly up.

7. To make an 'A' vowel, drop your jaw a little, the lips will come out a bit and your tongue will naturally come up behind your teeth. Be sure your tongue stays behind your lower teeth. Be sure to have a finger width between the

upper and lower teeth. Can you see your upper teeth? You should feel the sound coming up along your palliate.

8. To make an 'Ah', just drop your jaw. You still should see your teeth, but the space between the upper and lower teeth will be about 2 fingers now.

9. An 'E' vowel is like the 'Doe' vowel except the lips go out just enough to make the vowel sound. Yes, you still need to see your teeth and have the finger space between your upper and lower teeth.

10. Finally, there is the 'I'

vowel that is really a diphthong of 'I' and 'E'. Take the 'Doe' position and drop the jaw a little to make the 'I' sound. At the very end of the vowel, the jaw will naturally come up to make the 'E' sound. Be sure to have the finger space between the upper and lower teeth. You should still be able to see your upper teeth.

I hope this helps you to look at yourself in the mirror and improve your singing. To improve is our goal.

By Bonnie Jeanne Massey

## We Love Sing-Outs (con't from page 1)

back next holiday season.

Our next holiday performance was a new one for us. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, we sang at the Pacific Place Mall in downtown Seattle. We were very fortunate to land the time slots directly before and after it "snows" inside the mall. (If you've never experienced this, you're missing out.) Due to the "snow", we had a pretty large audience for both performances. This time, our repertoire was entirely Christmas music. The crowd listened intently and cheered wildly. We even caught a glimpse of a few characters from the Nutcracker as they were promoting the ballet. Again, 'Seattle Reign' performed beautifully as did a number of soloists and break-out groups chosen specifically for this show. We hope this sing-out remains in our holiday tradition for years to come.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we made a

visit to Aegis, a retirement home right next door to our own rehearsal space. We have sung there more than a few times in the past and it's always such a joy when we can share our music so close to home. The residents, and some guests, gathered in the main foyer and we performed for about 30 minutes or so. Karen Stark is our resident MC and did a fantastic job of seamlessly moving our audience from one song to the next. Our audience was thrilled with our performance and even invited us to stay for cookies after our show. As always, we treasure the opportunity we had to perform for them. We rounded out the year with the SeaChordsmen Annual Holiday Show. This is our 'brother' chorus, you might say and we so love performing with them. As tradition dictates, we began our portion of the show after intermission by assisting the

gentlemen in an audience participation of singing "The 12 Days of Christmas". When it was our time to shine, we performed our own version, "The 12 Days After Christmas". As with each time we've sung this, the audience loved it. After we sang a few of our own songs, we completed the show by joining the men in singing the Christmas carols that accompany the telling of the birth of Christ. We are so glad that the SeaChordsmen invite us to perform with them and hope to be able to continue to do so for years to come.

As you can see, we had a busy holiday season. Thank you so much for your time. We sincerely hope that your holiday season was blessed and full of joy. Here's looking forward to many more great things in the year to come!

By Jamie Miller



## Upcoming Events

**January 24 6 PM** Guest Night with our Chorus - Come see what we are all about. (See Page 4)

**February 7** Coaching by Nikki Blackmer

**March 6** TAG Coaching session

**April 24** Friends and Family Night ( dress rehearsal for competition)

**April 26—29** Region #13 Competitin in Spokane

**June 16** Our SHOW—keep date open—more details to come!!

## Newest Member—Megan!

On September 10, 2011, **Megan Paulson** visited Seattle Shores Chorus at the urging of Miranda MacLaren. The two met at St. Benedict School where both worked in the after school and summer program.



Megan is now the director of a new after school program created solely for the middle school students. She schedules field trips and cooking classes along with helping the teens with their homework. This is the second year of this program and she loves working with the kids.

Megan was born in Seattle and went to Bishop Blanchet High School and then

graduated last June (2011) from the University of Washington in Anthropology with a minor in Philosophy. She is interested in teaching and hopes to go to graduate school in the future. She loves sports and played soccer and track in school. She also has had experience coaching sprinters and hurdlers. She enjoys crafts such as knitting and crocheting and has recently been introduced to cross stitching by Miranda.

Megan's experience in music comes from her school days, including appearing in grade school plays." When she was a sophomore in high school, she sang soprano in the school choir for one year. Since Megan knew Miranda had been in the chorus for about eight years, she decided to check out Seattle Shores after the two moved in together. Megan

finds singing barbershop fun and loves learning all about the craft. She is especially drawn to the support the members give each other and how connected the members seem to be.

Megan's mom lives in the Seattle area as does her dad, stepmom and stepsister. She said after seeing the Chorus perform her mom was very impressed with Seattle Shores.

By Linea Croly

*NOTE: In the next article the three Chorus Quartets are mentioned—Look for more information on: Seattle Reign, Delighted and Mostly Mischief in our next Newsletter!!*

Visit our Website

[SEATTLESHORES.ORG](http://SEATTLESHORES.ORG)

And find us on

[FACEBOOK](#) too

Search: SEATTLE SHORES

## Party Report

The Christmas party was a blast! Three quartets serenaded us with song. The quartets were Seattle Reign, Delighted, and Mostly Mischief. The food was delectable. We had mouth-watering, cheesy lasagna accompanied by wonderful pasta, plus delicious bread and salad. After our lovely meal, and astounding performances everyone had fun participating in our annual white elephant gift exchange. For five minutes after grabbing our mystery gifts from under the tree, we enjoyed swapping our gifts for others'. After we all sang together, Judy received a very special Christmas gift from the chorus, a gift card to Sweet Adelines International. Judy loved her gift and was very excited to receive it. We are anticipating next year's party in hopes that we can organize it again.

By Angela and Ashley

*Thank you Young Ladies for hosting the Christmas Party this year, it was FUN!*

## Director's 2011 in Review (con't from page 1)

Then, our very own Angela Philippi threw out the first pitch!

During August there was SET (summer enrichment training) in Richland, and the Taste of Edmonds sing-out which has become one of our favorites. In September we organized a "new member" night and after a fun evening of meeting new singers and sharing with them our wonderful hobby, two new women joined our ranks!

October was our annual

sing-out at the Tacoma Dome Arts and Crafts Christmas Festival and we had Lea Beverley coaching us in November. In December we had several performances including Aegis Retirement Home (with a very appreciate and kind audience), the SeaChordsmen annual Christmas show, (big fun) and Park Place Mall where it snowed inside halfway through our performance. It was magical!

We also found time in

December for our third annual Christmas bazaar, and our own Christmas party.

We welcomed several new members during 2011, and learned several new pieces of music. A few members had some challenging health issues including our beloved Opal Hicks who is a 60 year member of Sweet Adelines International and a charter member of Seattle Shores. With time and healing, she is planning on being on stage with us at regional

competition this year.

Seattle Shores chorus is and continues to be a busy, productive, and performance loving group. The love and respect members have for each other shines through in everything we do.

It truly is a privilege to be a part of it all, and I am so lucky to say I am the director of this amazing group of talented women. Here's to another wonderful year!

By Judy Cooper-MacLaren

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## Seattle Shores Chorus

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**Sweet Adelines International would like to Teach the World to Sing**

***Seattle Shores Chorus is looking for YOU!***

**Join us for guest night**  
**Tuesday, January 24,**  
**2012 at 6 pm.**

Learn about and enjoy  
a cappella music in  
four-part harmony!

*Discover Your Own Voice*  
*Part!*

We Rehearse at:

**Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**14724 First Avenue NE**  
**Shoreline, WA, 98155**



We are a member of



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Watch the Sweet Adelines  
International link!

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