



Who Are We?

Bella Vocé is an award-winning, non-profit, competitive women's barbershop chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines, International with members spanning from Centennial, CO to Fort Collins to Salt Lake City. Originally chartered in 1982 and centered in Craig, CO as the Yampa Valley Chorus, Bella Vocé has been making beautiful music for 40 years. We love to blend our voices in harmony, friendship, and fun!

In addition to occasional singing opportunities in the area, Bella Vocé strives to prepare a very high level musical package for Rocky Mountain Region 8's annual regional competition every spring. We currently hold the small chorus champion title (15-30 members) and are the 2nd place overall medaling chorus in our region. We are also thrilled to begin preparation to compete on the international stage in 2023 as a wildcard. It is our continual goal to be one of the very best small barbershop choruses in the world.

See our Bella Voce Show Chorus Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bella-Voce-Show-Chorus/118615924837806?fref=ts>



Region 8's 2022 1st Place Small Chorus

How Do We Work?

Practicing Together

Because of our rather unique geographical spread, Bella Vocé operates differently than most other small choruses across the globe. We only meet all together 4 times a year before contest for special coaching and rehearsal weekends during the competitive season. These weekends are planned in different locations to accommodate our member spread. We carpool where we can and sometimes we stay in hotels together, but for those concerned about travel costs., there are usually opportunities to be housed in members' homes.

**Due to the extremely limited number of times our chorus has together, these few coaching/rehearsal weekends are of vital import and every member should make attendance at every one of these a very high priority.

In between those weekends, we get together semi-regularly for small group rehearsals and one-on-one practice with directors as needed.

Passing Off with the Directors

Qualifying with a director to compete with Bella Vocé can be accomplished either through singing live (in person, video call, etc.) or via audio recordings. Audio learning tracks of our music are sent out for practice purposes at home and members can choose to sing their part with the four-part track, their part dominant, or their part missing. It is expected that each member will be passed off on specified music and skills before each coaching session.

What Members Can Expect From Bella Vocé

- A high level vocal experience in instruction and performance
- A positive and upbeat learning environment with new friends!
- Expert coaches in the barbershop style to help not only the chorus members be better singers, but the directors to improve, as well
- Strong and unified Management Team
- Sheet music of the songs for the year
- Quality vocal learning tracks for practice at home in MP3 format
- Any extra costume accents/props necessary for contest
- Choreography videos for practice at home
- Some local, small group rehearsals as opportunity provides
- Directors eager to help every single member succeed



Are you crazy enough to sing with us? I don't know ...

What Bella Vocé Expects Of Its Members

- Member dues for necessary functioning of the chorus
- First half chorus dues paid by Aug 1; see attached dues schedule for further payment details
- Planned attendance at every coaching/rehearsal weekend and all of contest weekend
- Memorizing/practicing the music and choreo on your own so vital chorus time can be used to its maximum efficiency on high level performance and unity skills
- An enthusiastic work ethic (Working hard together to achieve something exceptional is FUN!)
- Purchase of chorus costume (plan for about \$50) plus chorus shoes if not already owned
- Own transportation to the coaching weekends and contest (We often carpool together.)
- Purchasing/preparing own personal food needs minus the lunches Bella Vocé provides on Saturday rehearsal days
- Purchasing own basic, black character shoes for the stage; these usually run about \$30; we might have some in your size that you can borrow or buy cheap off someone else

Bella Vocé 2022~2023 Scheduled Dates

October 7-8 (Fri-Sat) Rehearsal Weekend in Craig. We will rehearse together Friday night about 7-10 pm, then again on Saturday about 9-3 pm.

November 18-19 (Fri-Sat) Coaching Weekend with Vickie Maybury in the **Denver** area. We will rehearse together Friday night about 7-10 pm, then coach with Vickie on Saturday about 9-3 pm.

Between Dec-Jan Regional Rehearsal Day with your area members, date/time/location TBD by each group.



Feb 3-4 (Fri-Sat) Coaching Weekend with Tori Postma in the **Salt Lake City** area. We will rehearse together Friday night about 7-10 pm, then coach with Tori on Saturday about 9-2 pm. **THEN put on a Friends & Family Show at about 3 pm.**

March 24-25 (Fri-Sat) Rehearsal Weekend and Performance in Craig. We will practice Friday night about 7-10 pm, then Saturday about 9-3 pm.

I don't want to say that some of our members have big heads, but ...

May 4-6 (Thur-Sat) REGIONAL COMPETITION IN FORT COLLINS. We will

rehearse together Thursday 2-4 pm before contest meetings begin. Contest events end Saturday night.

Oct 30-Nov 4 (Mon-Sat) INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN LOUISVILLE, KY! More details to come.

What It Costs

Chorus Dues 2022-23

\$200 per adult

\$100 per youth (25 yrs and younger)

Regional Dues

\$130 adult

\$105 youth

International Dues

\$100 adult

\$50 youth

Total for the year

\$430 adult primary members*

\$255 youth primary members*

*Dual members pay their regional and international dues through their primary chorus, so they only owe chorus dues. **THESE TOTALS DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COSTUME PURCHASING NEEDS.** See previous page.

PRIMARY MEMBERS: Pay your regional and international dues when they come due. (You will be alerted when that is.)

All payments go to Brenda Hershiser, Finance Manager (contact and payment options on next page under “Contact Information”).

FAQ's

What is Barbershop?

Barbershop is the musical art of four-part vocal harmony with no instrumental accompaniment. Traditional barbershop is different from modern a cappella singing in that its music clearly denotes a tonal center with emphasis on Barbershop (dominant and secondary dominant) seventh chords that resolve primarily around the circle of fifths. Barbershop music is also known for its symmetrical form and standard meter.

For more information go to:

<http://www.rmr8.org/about/barbershop>

What is Sweet Adelines, International (SAI)?

Sweet Adelines, International is a highly respected worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education, competition and performance. This independent, nonprofit music education association is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women at over 23,000 members.

For more information go to:

<http://www.sweetadelineintl.org>

What is Rocky Mountain Region 8?

Rocky Mountain Region 8 is one of many regions spread across the world under the SAI parent organization. Region 8 encompasses the states or parts of the states of Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Utah. Every region is responsible for hosting an annual competition in the spring.



For more information go to:

<http://www.rmr8.org>



What is Regional Competition?

Under the direction of Sweet Adelines, Int'l, every region hosts an annual competition for its members in the spring anywhere from mid-March to late May. This is for chartered quartets and choruses. Choruses compete with each other according to size: 15-30 members (small), 31-60 members (mid-size), and 61+ (large).

Contest can happen in different locations each year as determined by the regional board. The first official orientation meetings always begin on a Thursday evening for quartets and chorus leaders. Friday is when the quartets compete and the choruses compete on Saturday. Celebration and fun with our regional friends go late into that night and members usually stay the night to return home Sunday morning.

The actual time on stage before the judges is very short—JUST ENOUGH time to perform TWO contest barbershop songs OR your audience choice package. After that the members head out to the audience to enjoy watching the rest of the competition together. However, that isn't the end of the singing in general. There are regional songs that everyone sings together during and after the contests as well as extra opportunities throughout in formal and casual settings all over the host hotel. It is a unique experience for sure!

Winners or those earning a high enough score from the judges during regional contest are eligible to then compete at the international level the next year in the fall (which also takes place in different locations).

What kind of singing experience do I need to have?

No formal music or vocal education is necessary. You don't even have to be able to read music. Choruses use

audio learning tracks for convenient learning and practice at home. Four-part a cappella is a great challenge to do well, but if you love to sing and can carry a tune, you will likely have no problem passing Bella Vocé's simple audition process. We have a lot of fun at rehearsals working hard together to make a great unit sound.

Am I too old or young to sing with the chorus?

Because of the nature of the focus and maturity required to conquer this genre, we mostly cater to teens and adults with no upper age limit. If you can pass the audition process and make it to necessary rehearsals, you are welcome to join.

So, come sing with us now!

COVID update: Masks and social distancing are optional at all rehearsals and coaching weekends in Bella Vocé. We will ask, however, that everyone sign the attached liability waiver at the beginning of the season for the peace of mind of our SAI parent organization.

Contact Information

Jeana Womble, Co-Director
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Brenda Hershiser, Finance Manager
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Anna-Lisa Glad, Co-Director
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Sue McCormick, Team Leader
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Sweet!



We always feel GREAT after a good, hard rehearsal weekend!

BELLA VOCE CHORUS DUES
2022 – 2023 Contest Season
(by Brenda Hershiser, BV Finance)

We are attempting to keep our dues as low as possible, so we are **not** increasing our chorus dues! They will still be \$200. (no \$40 storage fee this year as that covered two years). However, the Regional dues are going back to normal of \$130 for our Primary Members. International dues are still \$100 for Primary Members also, for a total of \$430 for Primary Members.
(Dues are \$255 for Primary youth; \$50 International, \$105 Regional, \$100 Chorus).

Secondary members will only owe \$200 for Chorus dues as their Regional and International dues are paid through their Primary Chorus.

Summary:

Primary Members - \$430
Secondary Members - \$200
Primary Youth - \$255

Along with that, we are planning on a new costume this year! We are planning for around \$50. That will be on top of the above dues. We are planning to collect for those when they are ordered and we have a better idea of cost. Just wanted to give a heads up so you can plan for that also. And you may of course escrow that money at any time!

I am setting up the payment plan thus:

**HARD AND FAST, HOLD MY PLACE COMMITMENT
AUG. 1, 2022 \$100 ALL MEMBERS**

NOV. 19TH, 2022 \$150 PRIMARY MEMBERS

JAN. 3RD, 2023 \$100 ALL MEMBERS

MARCH 24TH, 2023 \$80 PRIMARY MEMBERS

Except for the Hard and Fast, Hold my Place Commitment of \$100, I am always willing to work with any members who cannot meet this schedule and may need extra time. And of course, anyone who wishes to pay ahead or in full is always welcome!

Venmo payments to **hersheyb**
PayPal payments to bellavocefinance@gmail.com

Checks to: Brenda Hershiser, 2854 Pine Ridge Dr., Craig, CO 81625

**ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK AND WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT
RELATING TO COVID-19**

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS — READ AND UNDERSTAND BEFORE SIGNING

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 and agree to voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending and participating in certain singing activities (“Activities”) and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I acknowledge and understand that the circumstances regarding COVID-19 are changing from day to day and that, accordingly, guidelines regarding COVID-19 are regularly modified and updated and I accept full responsibility for familiarizing myself with the most recent updates.

I understand and acknowledge that the Activities are not being offered or required by _____ or its Musical Director. Members of _____ are voluntarily offering Activities to other members, including me, in consideration and exchange for my voluntary agreement to participate in the Activities and to execute this agreement.

In consideration of my voluntary agreement to participate in the Activities and knowing the risks described above, I hereby: 1) assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding my participation in the Activities; 2) waive any and all rights or claims against _____, its musical director and other directors, its officers, staff, managers, members, agents, and assigns (the “Releasees”) that I may have as a result of my participation in the Activities; and 3) fully release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the Releasees against any and all claims, demands, suits, judgments, losses or expenses of any nature whatsoever (including, without limitation, attorneys’ fees, costs and disbursements), arising from or out of, or relating to, directly or indirectly, the infection of COVID-19 or any other illness or injury, which may accrue to me or my heirs in connection with my participation in the Activities (“Claims”), whether a COVID-19 infection, or other illness or injury occurs before, during, or after participation in the Activities.

This Agreement shall, in all respects, be interpreted, enforced, and governed under the laws of _____ without reference to its choice of law provisions.

I HEREBY KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY WAIVE ANY RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL OF ANY DISPUTE ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH THIS AGREEMENT.

I AM AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, HAVE CAREFULLY READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS LIABILITY WAIVER AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING IT I MAY BE GIVING UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS I MAY OTHERWISE HAVE, AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OR COERCION.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____ NAME: _____