

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY
S0334 (SA4581)
ST. LOUIS HARMONY CHORUS RECORDS

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-st-louis). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

Introduction

Approximately 9 cubic feet

This collection contains scrapbooks, CDs, and VHS tapes, documenting the group's history as a volunteer women's chorus, with a specialization in four-part, a cappella harmony. Materials of interest include scrapbooks containing photographs, program booklets, newspaper clippings, correspondence, and histories chronicling the group's yearly activities, including local performances and participation in choir competitions in the United States.

The St. Louis Harmony Chorus was founded in 1961 as the Kirkwood chapter of Sweet Adelines International, a women's a cappella and barbershop harmony music organization. The group changed their name to the St. Louis Harmony Chorus in 1987, while continuing to be a part of the Sweet Adelines International parent organization.

In the late 1950s, three Sweet Adelines members, Betty Oliver, Mary Jo Kelly, and Belle Stott, moved to St. Louis. Not having a Sweet Adelines chapter in St. Louis, they set out to start their one. They met with several other women at Mary Jo's home to rehearse their first song, "My Heart Stood Still," which they performed in front of their husbands.

By early 1961, the group had grown to 22 women, enough to apply for a charter from Sweet Adelines. The official Kirkwood Chapter charter was signed on September 8, 1961. The chapter chorus competed in their first regional competition in April of 1962, in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they placed 7th out of 17 choruses.

Throughout the next 13 years, they climbed the ranks in the regional competitions, obtaining five second place finishes, and five third place finishes. In 1977, they finally won a first-place medal at Regional and given the invitation to compete at the international level. Since then, they continued to perform at the regional and international levels. Their quartets, Ambiance, Tetrachords, and The Weekend Edition, have won first place Queens' crowns in international competitions.

In December of 2021, the St. Louis Harmony Chorus desisted after 60 years. As of 2022, there are 30,000 members of Sweet Adelines International. There are two remaining chapters in the St. Louis area: River Blenders Chorus, in Chesterfield, and City Voices Chorus, in Town and Country.

Donor Information

The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Sandra Wright on June 23, 2022 (Accession No. SA4581).

Copyright and Restrictions

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Box List

Box 1

50th Anniversary Commemorative Album, 1945-1995
Event programs, 1967-1993, 2015
Awards, correspondence, and newspaper clippings, 1985-1989
Calliope News, 1986
Competition programs, 1987-1988, 1990, 1995, 2003, 2016
Competition score sheets, 1987-2016 (2 folders)
Competition publicity, 1993-2006
Certificates and a proclamation, 1994-1995
40th Season of the St. Louis Harmony Chorus, 2001
Artifacts and stickers, no date
Photographs, no date (2 folders)
Region 5
 Events, 1986-1987 (2 folders)
 Chapter news, 1986-1987 (2 folders)
 Contest photographs, 1987
 Events, 1987-1988
 Board of directors meeting minutes, 1987
 Newsletters, 1987-1988
 Chapter news, 1987-1988

Box 2

 Contest photographs, 1988
CD Albums
 Voices, 1998
 Test CD, November 6, 1998
 From the Garden Live, November 15, 1998
 Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, 2000
 Hooray for Hollywood, 2004
 Harmonize the Holidays, no date
 Typically Tetrachords, no date
Digital Photographs
 History book pictures, 1962-2003, 2009-2011
 Marilee Bailey's Pictures through the years, 2006-2007
Videocassettes
 International Chorus Competition, 1986
 C-Contestant #10, 1987
 International Chorus Competition, San Antonio, 1989
 From Beginning to Winning, 1990
 Region 5 Chorus Competition, 1990

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St. Louis Harmony Show, Children's Choir, February 3, 1990
Swan Song, 1991
International Chorus Competition, Baltimore, 1992
St. Louis Harmony Show, *Sizzle*, August 29, 1992
Regional Competition, 1993
Youth Festival, 1993
International Competition, Reno, Nevada, November, 1994 (2 videocassettes)
International Competition semi-finals, 1994
Young Women in Harmony/Young Men in Harmony Festival, 1994
Chorus finals, 1995
Regional competition, 1995
St. Louis Harmony, 1995
International Convention and Competition, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 1996
Regional competition, 1996
Encore, September 12, 1997
Encore, September 13, 1997
Regional Competition, 1997 (2 videocassettes)
Buckeye Invitational, 1998
St. Louis Harmony, 1998
International Competition, Atlanta, Georgia, 1999 (2 videocassettes)
International Competition, Atlanta, Georgia, candid videos and master, 1999 (2 videocassettes)
Quartet Exposition, 1999
Outgoing Champion Performance, 1999
Regional competition, 2000
Street Beat, October 7, 2000
International Convention, Portland, Oregon, 2001
St. Louis Harmony Evaluations, 2001
Regional competition, March 23, 2002
Entertainment, no date
Demo, no date

Oversize

Awards, charter, and photographs, 1961, 1991, 2006, 2011
Plaques, Buckeye Invitational competition, 1998 (2 plaques)
Scrapbooks
 Scrapbooks, 1961-1974, 1977-1980, 1985-2012 (25 scrapbooks)
 Regional competitions, 1957-1976
 Costumes, 1962-2011 (2 scrapbooks)