

**What if I don't read music?** Being able to sight-read and having formal music education are certainly assets but are not membership requirements. Digital audio learning tracks are available on our members only section of our website so you can listen and learn your part, and legal copies of the sheet music are distributed from there, too. Members are also encouraged to bring a recording device to rehearsals to record themselves. We also divide up by sections meeting privately to fix any problem spots. We rely on our ears to tune and we do not use musical accompaniment when we perform, so it is essential to be able to sing with different sounds around us. This can be an odd experience at first, but once you hear and feel the harmonies, it is awesome, and you will be hooked. Once you are a member of Maine-ly Harmony, we hope you will continue for decades to come!

**Do I have to get involved in fundraising activities?** Our operational budget is covered from the dues we collect from our members; however, occasionally we may have an unexpected expense, which requires additional funds. Members are given the option to participate in the designated fundraising activity (for example a yard sale) or make a specific cash contribution. Whenever we can, we prefer to raise funds with our singing.

## CONTACTS

Please feel free to contact our section leaders or membership chair for more information about our chorus.

**Tenor:** Catherine Anderson  
([revanders2@roadrunner.com](mailto:revanders2@roadrunner.com))

**Lead:** Ann Danforth ([dan4tha@aol.com](mailto:dan4tha@aol.com))  
and BJ Sylvester-Pellett  
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**Baritone:** Dotti Meyer  
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**Bass:** Sue Staples  
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**Membership Chair:** Candace Pepin  
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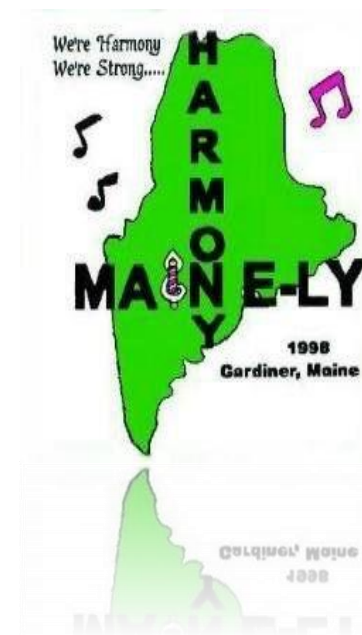


Harmony, Inc.

<https://www.harmonyinc.org/>

## MAINE-LY HARMONY MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

*LET US HELP YOU FIND  
YOUR VOICE!*



<https://www.maine-lyharmony.org/>

## INTRODUCTION

Maine-ly Harmony is a women's chorus that sings four-part unaccompanied music in the barbershop style. We love to perform for different types of audiences, and we compete yearly at our area contest. If you love to sing in harmony, Maine-ly Harmony may be the perfect organization for you!

## WHO ARE WE?

Maine-ly Harmony was chartered in 1989 as a chapter of Harmony, Inc an international women's barbershop organization. We rehearse under the direction of Kathy Greason every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 9pm at the Emmanuel Episcopal Lutheran Church located on Route 17 in Augusta, Maine. Our membership is open to all women, regardless of age, who value singing as an important part of their lives, are committed to developing their vocal skills, and recognize the value of active participation.

## WHY JOIN US?

Because singing is our passion, learning our music and singing well makes our rehearsals a lot of fun. Humor is an important part of learning, so we always make sure we have a laugh or two. You will meet new people and make friendships that can last a lifetime! The sound produced by our chorus comes from the commitment every member brings to the riser each week. Each person's contribution is critical to the final product—beautiful, harmonious singing.

## HOW TO JOIN US

Come visit our rehearsal and listen or join us on the risers. You will be placed with the section that fits your voice the best: Tenor, Lead, Baritone or Bass. Section leaders will be happy to assist you on the riser and introduce you to other singers around you. You will be given a guest book of music to sing from. After coming for several weeks and when you are ready, you will be asked to sing, in a quartet, a song you have been rehearsing with the chorus. This will be done privately with our director and a couple of section leaders. You will know your results right away! If it doesn't work out the first time, we'll figure out how to help so you can try again.

## OUR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

We are a chapter of Harmony, Inc., a vibrant international singing organization of women who are dedicated to the performance and promotion of four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style, the celebration of friendship, personal growth and development through education, and the practice of democratic principles. Harmony, Inc. was founded in 1959 to promote those ideals. Harmony, Inc. is divided into six geographic areas throughout Canada and the USA. Our chapter is in Area 2, which includes choruses throughout the North East. We are the only chapter in Maine.

## THE FACTS

**Dues:** The cost is \$15 per month for 12 months. Dues can be paid in one lump sum, quarterly, or monthly.

**Travel:** We attend our annual Area 2 Contest and Convention (AC&C) and occasionally our International Contest and Convention (IC&C). Member expenses may include travel, registration, food and accommodation.

**Costumes:** There is a one-time fee of \$25 for music/costume paid when you join. Most costumes are purchased and owned by the chorus members. Costumes purchased by the chorus are returned when a member retires.

**Music:** Our repertoire is available to members on our website and can be downloaded for printing. CD's can also be made. The cost of music and learning tracks is covered by dues.

**Time Commitment:** Attending our weekly rehearsals is key to your contribution to the chorus. Learning new music and the choreography will take additional time outside rehearsal. The amount of time varies with each person. Members who will be absent for extended periods of time (for example, Snowbirds) discuss their plans with their section leader and Director to plan ways to learn their music and stay current on music and performance changes and updates.

**Important Events:** We are a performing and competitive chorus.

Area 2 Contest and Convention usually takes place each year on the last weekend of April. Members are encouraged to be available to attend from the Thursday to Sunday. We also gather for an overnight retreat one weekend every year for intensive coaching and lots of laughter.

**Performances:** Most years we present a stage show or concert as a means of skill development, fundraising, community building and recruitment. All members are expected to participate in the preparation, promotion and presentation of this event. Our chorus also performs in a variety of settings throughout the year. Before a commitment is made to organizers to perform at an event, members are surveyed to indicate their availability, so we can ensure an appropriate balance of voices.

## FAQS AND ANSWERS

**Is there an age restriction?** Women of all ages are welcome. Our youth and student members are eligible for student rates. Depending on the age, the youth's family may need to provide adult support and sign a consent form. Harmony, Inc., has a youth chorus comprised of young women who belong to various chapters. They learn a song and then perform it together at our Area and International conventions. They have a blast working and performing together and always get a standing ovation.

**What is a rehearsal like?** Our rehearsals are very full and include: Vocal exercises to improve our sound production, breath support, vowels, volume, dynamics and pitch. We rehearse current repertoire we are working on, and any new music. There is also time for breaks and announcements/business.

**How will I know what to prepare for each week's rehearsal?** After each rehearsal you will receive an email from our director which will include the rehearsal summary, important chorus information and the plan for the next week's rehearsal.

**Will I learn the terminology?** Yes! As with any hobby or activity, barbershop has its own language. We encourage you to ask questions and we try to explain the lingo and new terms as we go. Your section leader will help also.