

Introduction

It is very difficult to do justice to fifty years of history in a small booklet. Not only is the space limited, but the sources are limited as well.

The material in this booklet was gathered from fifty years of chorus scrapbooks, twenty ears of weekly chorus newsletters, fifteen years of chorus yearbooks, and from the memories of a few members, none of whom were in the chorus when it began in 1955.

This history leans heavily on contests and shows, because they are the most obvious activities. What it doesn't capture are all the small things that make the chorus such a warm and supportive place to be.

The achievements of individual members, the opportunities for people to try new things, and the feeling of teamwork and camaraderie that pervades rehearsals, meetings, and social events are hard to portray. So are those nights away from home, happily crammed into a hotel room, singing songs and tags until the wee hours, and the silliness and laughter that permeate our times together.

With many apologies in advance for things missing and any errors that may be included, I still need to explain the conventions used in compiling this history.

- Every current member of the chorus is mentioned in the approximate time frame in which she first joined the chorus.
- As much as possible, every former member of the chorus who attended the 50th anniversary celebration is mentioned in the approximate time frame in which she first joined the chorus.
- Members whose names have changed are listed, for the most part, by their current names.
- No distinction is made between former members and members who are currently in the chorus as of December 2005. The list of current members can be found on a separate page near the end of the booklet.
- A separate section lists all competitions the chorus has entered, starting in 1956.
- Another separate section lists the Director, President/Team Coordinator, and the Sweet Adeline of the Year winner for each year of the chorus's history.
- Photos were, for the most part, scanned from the history books. I would like to credit the many members who created these books over the past 50 years, and also to acknowledge E. R. Lilley Company for the Regional competition photos and Jon B. Peterson Company for International competition photos.

Many thanks to Julie Starr and Peg Keenan, who reviewed the contents of this brief history on short notice.

Each of the printed booklets is an original, to allow the colored photos to be reproduced. The electronic version of this document may be found on the chorus web site www.singharmony.org.

Georgia Sutherland
Team Coordinator and History Buff
December 2005