



'SHOP FOR THE RING EVENT DETAILS:

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2012

Check-in Time: 8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Singing, Dancing & Fun: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Evening Show: 6 p.m.

Registration Fee: Early registration is \$20 by December 28. \$25 for registrations post-marked after December 28 (includes lunch, dinner, and an event t-shirt).

Festival and Show Location:

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Road, Ellisville, MO 63011-2330. Registration is limited. Visit us at www.riverblenders.org to learn how to register now!

The River Blenders will provide music and learning tracks to registered participants prior to the event.

Presented by The River Blenders Chorus



Entertaining Audiences For More Than 30 Years!

For More Info: www.riverblenders.org

The River Blenders Chorus is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, and 2010 Region 5 Chorus Champions!



'Shop For The Ring is partially funded by a generous grant from the Young Singers Foundation.

Your students will definitely enjoy shopping for the ring — that awesome sound when a cappella chords sung in the barbershop style lock and ring, and thrill audiences. Join us for an all-day cappella harmony workshop and festival, and watch your students perform in an evening show with The River Blenders Chorus.

'SHOP FOR THE RING CLINICIANS VOICE 4 VOICE



Jaime Opfer: Bass

Dennery Martinez: Baritone

Mary Kate Rebello: Lead

Stephanie Clonts: Tenor

These 4 young women have 40 years of Sweet Adelines experience between them. Mary Kate, Jaime and Dennery first sang together in the quartet *Little Women* and placed 4th in the Rising Star competition in 2001. They also sang together in the quartet *Chatterbox 4* and were 6th and 7th in the Rising Star competition in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

Mary Kate, Dennery and Jaime continued singing together and formed *Voice 4 Voice* in August of 2007. They came in 1st place at the Region 5 quartet competition in May, 2010 and competed for the first time on the international stage in Seattle in fall of 2010 placing 30th.

Voice 4 Voice placed 2nd in the 2011 Region 5 Quartet Competition, and have welcomed Stephanie Clonts as their new tenor.

The River Blenders are so proud of these ladies and know that their international competition was the first of many more to come!



November 28, 2012

Dear Parents & Educators:

We hope your girls (25 and under) can join us for the 3rd Annual "Shop for the Ring" a cappella harmony festival sponsored by The River Blenders Chorus (www.riverblenders.org), a 501c3 chapter of Sweet Adelines International.

Important facts about the Festival

- Date: February 4, 2012
- SNOW DATE: February 18, 2011
- Where: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011-2330
- Check-in: 8:30am
- Evening Show: 6:00 pm
- Fee: \$20.00
- What's Included:
 - Learning Tracks (available for download from website)
 - Event T-Shirts
 - Sheet music
 - Lunch
 - Dinner
 - Morning & Afternoon clinics and rehearsals; small groups and large group with 2010 Region 5 Quartet Champions, Voice 4 Voice
 - Evening performance with River Blenders Chorus, the 11-time Sweet Adelines Region 5 Chorus Champions
- We welcome teachers and/or parents at the event to enjoy the music and observe rehearsals. However, parents and teachers are not required to attend.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please complete the enclosed **Student Application**. Return the completed forms along with the \$20 registration fee, **NO LATER THAN December 28, 2011**, or \$25 if postmarked after **December 28:**

Tiffany Bates, 507 Wyncrest Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011

- You and your family and friends are cordially invited to join the girls and the River Blenders for 45 minute performance at 6 p.m., at St. Martin's.

We look forward to receiving your application for this fun-filled, action-packed day!

In Harmony,

Dennery Martinez
River Blenders Chorus – www.riverblenders.org
shopforthering@riverblenders.org



Enclosures: Application, Parental Consent/Medical Emergency Form



Introduction to Barbershop Harmony

Feb. 4, 2012: 'Shop For The Ring' Festival

Presented by The River Blenders Chorus

www.riverblenders.org

History: The barbershop style of four-part *a cappella* singing is a uniquely American musical art form. It had its beginnings during the late 1800s, and enjoyed great popularity through Vaudeville and the mid-1920s. It originated prior to the advent of radio and television, a time in which people found ways of entertaining themselves by singing. The popular songs of that era were written to be sung by the common person, rather than the experienced musician. Barbershop melody lines were simple, and lyrics were “down to earth” and easy to understand and appreciate.

Voicing: In barbershop harmony, the four voice parts have different names and functions than in other vocal styles. Although the ranges for the four voice parts are similar to traditional music, the strength of the barbershop chord structure lies in its cone-shaped sound. The lightest production, without sacrificing clarity or brilliance, must come in the top part; each of the three lower voices sing with increased depth and intensity. The Tenor sings the highest note in a chord, the Bass sings the lowest, the Lead sings the melody, and the Baritone sings the all-important missing note to complete the chord.

Bass range - F below middle C to G above middle C

- Strong harmony part at the bottom of the chord
- Sing with authority like a lead, forming an accurate relationship
- Provides a firm foundation for cone-shaped sound
- Usually sings root or the fifth of the chord

Baritone range - B flat below middle C to C an octave above

- Same range as lead but as a harmony part
- Sings above and below the Lead
- Full, rich sound in lower range, lighter in the upper range
- Must be flexible and sing very accurately

Lead range - Middle C to D or E an octave above

- Best suited to strong first alto or second soprano
- Sings the melody with authority, clarity, and consistent quality
- Responsible for interpretation, emotion, and inflections of the song

Tenor range- F above middle C to G above the staff

- Harmony above the melody
- Light and clear, mostly in upper register
- No heavy sounds or constant vibrato
- Frequently chromatic

To maximize the effect of the natural overtone series, the roots and fifths of all chords are sung a little louder than the thirds and sevenths. In all cases, the melody is tuned to the tonal center, and the harmony parts are tuned to the melody part. Use of similar word sounds in good quality and balanced volume relationships by each of the voice parts reinforces the natural harmonic series (overtones) to produce the unique “ringing” sound characteristic of barbershop harmony.





Structure and Notation: The barbershop style primarily uses major chords, minor chords, dominant seventh chords, minor seventh chords, half-diminished seventh chords, and fully diminished seventh chords. A good barbershop arrangement should use the "barbershop seventh" (a dominant-quality seventh chord that occurs on any degree of the scale) for at least one-third of its chords. The chord progressions used in the barbershop style

rely on the classical "Circle of Fifths" - with a few interesting embellishments thrown in along the way. Songs with that type of harmonic variation easily lend themselves to the barbershop style.

The written form of barbershop style uses much of the same notation as other forms of music. A grand staff comprised of two staves is used to notate the music. The Tenor and Lead parts are notated on the treble staff. The Baritone and Bass parts are notated on the bass staff and are sung an octave higher than written.

Benefits of Barbershop Singing: Barbershop music is easy to learn and fun to sing. Singing in a barbershop quartet can help your singers develop and refine their tuning and performance skills, self-confidence, and a sense of teamwork. You can use barbershop singing to achieve a "quick success" for your singers, and as another tool to teach good vocal production techniques. In addition to singing in a quartet, a chorus of many singers on the same voice part can be used to produce a very satisfying barbershop sound, while providing a highly supportive environment for weaker singers.

Festival Clinicians: Voice 4 Voice



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Save the date: Mark your calendars for The River Blenders Chorus 3rd annual *'Shop For The Ring* Festival on February 4, 2012. Visit www.riverblenders.org for location details and to learn how you can register your students and/or daughters for this exciting day of singing, dancing, and fun!



The River Blenders Chorus (www.riverblenders.org) presents
3rd Annual 'Shop for the Ring' Festival – February 4, 2012
St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011-2330
STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

***** Action required***** Please complete this form (including the Parental Permission/ Emergency section) and mail to Tiffany Bates (see below for mailing address). **The fee for attending the 'Shop for the Ring Festival is \$20 per student if registered no later than December 28, 2011, or \$25.00 for late registration.** Although this fee is non-refundable should the student not be able to attend the day of the festival, it is transferable. Personal checks and money orders, payable to "River Blenders" are the acceptable forms of payment.

Applicant's name: _____ **Date of birth:** ____ / ____ / ____

Applicant Parent or Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____
Street address City State Zip Code

Home phone: () _____ **Cell phone:** () _____

Email address (required to send registration information) _____

School name: _____

School Grade: _____ **T-Shirt size (festival t-shirt included in registration price):** _____

PARENTAL PERMISSION & EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name of Emergency Contact Phone Number Relationship

Medical Information – Please inform us of any special medical conditions: (Attach additional pages as needed)

Medication/Allergies

Food/Allergies/Special Dietary Needs

The participant will be traveling to and from the event at St. Martin's Episcopal Church with (check one):

Parent or Guardian

Other Adult Supervision (Specify _____)

Student is authorized to drive by herself

Photo Authorization:

I hereby authorize the Festival coordinators to photograph my child(ren) for Publicity in group activities related to the program.

Participant's Name: _____ has my permission to participate in **The River Blenders Chorus 3rd Annual "Shop for the Ring Festival on February 4, 2011,** and I hereby authorize the Festival coordinators to arrange for any necessary medical treatment in the event of a medical emergency.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

- **Registration fee:** Includes online access to music and learning tracks, lunch, dinner, snacks during breaks, and an event t-shirt.
- **Make Checks Payable to:** "River Blenders" (personal check, school check, or money order accepted)
- **Student Application/Emergency forms, and fees to:** River Blenders Chorus, C/O Tiffany Bates, 507 Wyncrest Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011