



The Belles of Three Spires

Coventry Ladies Barbershop Club



Welcome to our Chorus!

The Belles were originally formed by a handful of enthusiastic singers in 1989. We now have a thriving group of over 40 talented singers who share a common love of singing in four part harmony.

Our motto is ...'Enjoy Singing Well', and under the inspiration of our new Musical Director, Paula Williams, who joined us in January 2004, and we have had a fabulous time working hard to improve our music. At our Convention in November 2004 we were thrilled to be promoted to Division I!

Barbershop is the first love of the chorus, but the repertoire also includes a great diversity of songs modern and old, jazz and gospel, doo-wap and rap (ok maybe not the rap, but you never know!) We just love singing and any get together of the Belles would not be complete without a song or two.

The Belles perform regularly around the Coventry area. In the last year we have shared our love of singing at various birthday parties, charity dinners, Christmas parties, fund-raising concerts and at one of our own member's wedding reception. The bride took part in her usual front row position dressed in beautiful gown and red bow tie! After the wedding this year, we may get to sing at a christening next year, with two young mum's in the chorus. The babies are already auditioning for the tenor section regularly at home!

Our Director...Paula Williams

Our Director has been with the chorus since January 2004. Paula has been involved in making music since an early age but her love of singing four part harmony in the barbershop style began with Second City Sound a barbershop chorus in Birmingham, where she was lead section leader and assistant director. Paula is also training to be a singing judge.



About Barbershop

Barbershop is an unaccompanied style of singing which is one of the most exciting and challenging ways for someone who loves singing to use her voice. Forget the outdated public image of handlebar moustaches, haircuts, and humming round a lamppost on a street-corner, barbershop singing today is enjoyed by men and women from all walks of life and of all ages, all over the world.

Barbershop harmony involves four parts and so the simplest format is a quartet of men or women. However, many people enjoy singing in a larger group with several people joining together to sing the same part. There's nothing quite like singing in a barbershop chorus!

- The TENOR sings the high notes
- The LEAD sings the tune under the tenor– this is what's different about barbershop harmony
- The BARITONE sings above or below the lead to pick up all the notes in the chord no one else wants to sing
- The BASS sings all the really low notes

The "ring" of barbershop chords is unmistakable. This is what makes our music so exciting to sing and to listen to. It is quite possible when things are just right for several additional notes to be heard in a chord, which are not being sung by anybody! Once you've heard it you'll be hooked!

Barbershop is also about entertainment. The presentation of a song is looked at as a whole, and the outcome is a treat for the eyes as well as the ears.

Getting involved with a barbershop club is a very cheap way to improve your voice! We believe that improving our ability as singers is really important and so we work on developing the craft of singing at our weekly rehearsals, at special chorus education days and at education events organised by [LABBS](http://www.labbs.org.uk) (www.labbs.org.uk) the organisation that we belong to.

Finally, barbershop is also about friendship and fun. The spirit of harmony pervades the barbershop movement and attracts people of all ages and all walks of life. Although we work hard to do what we do well, we never take ourselves too seriously. We are all there to have fun - and that is something we have a lot of. Your local barbershop club is full of friends you haven't met yet!

About The Belles

The chorus is passionate about growing and developing in all aspects of performance. Several members have attended workshops and courses up and down the country to enhance their individual knowledge and skills, and as a chorus we have been especially lucky to have worked with Madeline Jeory and Mike Taylor; both acknowledged experts in the barbershop world. They have become great friends of the chorus.

Barbershop is a wonderful hobby and as you will see our membership consist of young and old from all walks of life. We are a really friendly bunch of ladies and enjoy a thriving social calendar. The chorus is going from strength to strength, but we are always looking to recruit new singers. If you love music and singing we could be just what you're looking for.

These are some of things that The Belles believe in:

FUN

LEARNING

ACHIEVEMENT

GROWTH

FRIENDSHIP

We have a TACTIC to help us achieve these aims

Turn-out

Attention

Commitment

Trust

Individual Responsibility

Communication

How do I join the chorus?

It's easy!

All you have to do is a short vocal audition with our director .



Our aims!

To enjoy singing well

To be the best we can be

To entertain our audiences

To enjoy friendship and harmony

To grow as a chorus

What will it cost me?

We rehearse at..

Stoke United Reformed Church,
Harefield Road
Stoke,
Coventry

How to contact us...

Telephone Pauline Bonsor on
01788 832606
or
e-mail
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Subscriptions: £12 a month (reviewed every year)

Where does your money go? Your subscription goes towards: room hire; sheet music; LABBS membership fees (currently £33); contributions to costumes; training; coach hire for travel to contests; risers; insurance and other running costs. The list is endless, but you get the general idea!

We try to keep additional costs to members to a minimum.

Convention: This is the highlight of our year! It costs around £150. Some members save each month with our treasurer to spread the cost over the year.

Costumes: Some are paid for out of club funds and some are paid for wholly or partly by the member. We do ask for a £25 refundable deposit on joining the chorus.