

## Quartet of Nations: Online Barbershop Bootcamp – 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Date	6 pm	7:30 pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<p><b>Valerie Taylor – Understanding the Updated Sound Category: What’s New and What It Means for You</b></p> <p>Join us for a clear and practical walk-through of the updated Sound Category. Whether you’re a director, section leader, musical leader, or an interested singer, this session will break down the key changes, explain the current scoring focus, and show how the updates connect to great barbershop artistry. You’ll learn what judges are listening for, how the category aligns with our organisation’s musical direction, and what singers can do to apply the principles in rehearsals and performance.</p>	<p><b>Kim Vaughan – Vocal Skill Requirements to Move from One Level to Another</b></p> <p>Kim Vaughan is a Master 700 Director of the San Diego Chorus and a three-time International Quartet Champion. In this practical and insightful class, Kim breaks down the vocal skills that distinguish each level of barbershop performance. You’ll explore what judges listen for, how singers can develop and refine the techniques that lead to higher-level scores, and the most effective ways to strengthen your own vocal performance. Perfect for anyone striving for personal improvement, preparing for evaluations, or keen to understand the pathway to advancing through the levels with confidence.</p>
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<p><b>Alyson Chaney – Voices in transition: singing through hormonal changes</b></p> <p>Explore how hormonal changes - during puberty, pregnancy, menopause and post-menopause - can influence vocal tone, range, and stamina. This session offers insights into the physiological impact on the singing voice and introduces targeted exercises to help maintain vocal clarity, flexibility, and health through every life stage.</p>	<p><b>Zac Booles – Tags - A Gateway to Arranging</b></p> <p>An under-glass session to see the thought process (both musical and emotional) behind writing a tag. We’ll write a new tag (or two!) and discuss how to test its accessibility. No arranging experience needed! (An early understanding of music theory is useful, but not essential)</p>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<p><b>Sandra Lea-Riley &amp; Nancy Kelsall – The Choreographer–Director Partnership</b></p> <p>Join Nancy and Sandra as they dive into one of the most important relationships in any competitive chorus: the partnership between choreographer and director. This session explores how to build a shared vision, maintain clear communication, and create a seamless blend of musical and visual storytelling. This class is perfect for directors, choreographers, visual teams, or anyone interested in how great collaboration elevates performance to the next level.</p>	<p><b>Sarah Netherton – Inside the Quartet: Skills for Success</b></p> <p>A practical and interactive workshop designed for singers interested in exploring or improving their quartet experience. Sarah will share insights on vocal and ensemble skills, how to rehearse effectively, and what successful quartets do differently. Perfect for new, forming, or aspiring quartets — or anyone wanting a deeper understanding of the craft.</p>

Date	6 pm	7:30 pm
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Elaine Hamilton and Deborah Pollard – Beyond the Risers</b> Discover the bigger picture of Sweet Adelines International. This informative and engaging session explores how the organisation is structured and governed and the strategic direction shaping its future. Whether you're simply curious about how things work behind the scenes or you're considering getting more involved at Regional or International level, this class will give you valuable insight into the people, processes, and vision that keep our organisation thriving.	<b>Peggy Gram - Succeeding in the Visual Communication Category (and Reaching Your Audience with Your Performance).</b> Peggy brings her extensive international experience as a performer, coach and judge to this engaging session focused on succeeding in the Visual Communication category and, more importantly, truly connecting with your audience. This class explores how visual choices support musical intent, enhance storytelling and elevate overall performance impact. Participants will gain practical insight into performance clarity, authenticity and consistency, learning how to move beyond "doing choreography" to communicating with purpose. Ideal for performers, section leaders, directors and quartets who want their visuals to strengthen engagement and help their message land with confidence.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Nicky Salt – Understanding how to express the music</b> Unlock the heart of barbershop performance as Nicky talks us through how expression can elevate every phrase we sing. In this engaging and practical session, Nicky will guide you through the cord elements of vocal delivery, storytelling, musical line, artistry and emotional connection giving you clear accessible tools to bring more authenticity and impact to your performances.	<b>David Sangster – Friday Night Music: What Makes an Inspiring Performance?</b> Settle in for an easy-going, interactive evening with David as he shares some of the most inspiring performances from barbershop and other musical genres. Together, you'll explore the magic behind those goosebump moments and uncover what truly connects us to music at its best.

Date	10 am	12 pm	4 pm
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Rosalind Johnson – Young Voices, Stronger Choruses: Building the Future Together</b> How do we create a barbershop environment where young singers don't just join, but genuinely belong, contribute and stay? This interactive session is for chorus leaders, music teams, YSIH coordinators and anyone invested in the future of barbershop. Moving beyond recruitment, we'll explore what young singers tell us they need, the unintended barriers adult-led choruses can create, and the practical	<b>Jo Oosterhoff – Listening with Intention: Coaching Ensemble Sound</b> Jo is a multi-award-winning Master Director, international faculty member and sought-after coach with over 30 years' experience teaching barbershop and contemporary a cappella across Australia, the UK and North America. In this workshop for Directors, Assistant Directors, Section Leaders and quartet singers, Jo explores how to listen with purpose at rehearsal - identifying what really matters, diagnosing common unity and sound issues, and responding effectively in the moment. Participants will	<b>Lori Lyford – the Magic of Communication</b> In this session, Lori reveals how barbershop harmony becomes more than just the sound of notes - it becomes a true conversation between singers. Drawing from her extensive experience as a Master 700 director and internationally-acclaimed coach, she'll guide you through what it means to shift from "communication of sound" to the "sound of communication." Expect insights into ensemble connection, clarity in word delivery and consonants, and how to build a unified chorus voice where every singer contributes to the shared musical story.

	<p>changes that support meaningful youth engagement.</p> <p>Drawing on regional work, youth voice and international frameworks, the session considers involvement within choruses, pathways into quartets and leadership, and the impact of repertoire and rehearsal culture. The discussion links to wider regional goals, including a joint Region 31 &amp; 32 youth performance at Convention, future youth projects, and the long-term aim of a sustainable youth chorus - offering practical ideas and a shared, joined-up vision.</p>	<p>develop critical listening skills and practical tools to move from aural overwhelm to confident, dynamic direction.</p>	
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