

## AREA 2 EDUCATION CLASS – INSTRUCTOR BIOS AC&C 2023

**Instructor – Lynn Blakeney:** Lynn is a 34-year member of Harmony, Inc., as well as a Certified Performance Judge. She is bass section leader of Northern Blend Chorus and has been fortunate to win two quartet championships as both a lead and tenor, as well as two chorus gold medals. She lives in Evans Mills, NY with her husband Jim and has a son, Joshua, who lives in Bloomington, IL. She is excited to be here!

**Instructor – Michelle Dionne:** Michelle is an almost 10-year Harmony, Inc. member and joined Sounds of the Seacoast with her mom when she was only 15 years old. She has practically grown up with barbershop and joined the Area Council as the Youth Outreach Coordinator a year ago. She has a passion for gaining/retaining youth membership within the Area and would love to see the Area continue to expand.

**Instructor – Kathy Greason:** Kathy is a 34-year member of Harmony, Inc. and Area 2; Maine-ly Harmony's musical director; a past quartetter (Maine Magic, Musicality, Sound Connection, Chantez); a Certified Music Judge; and Harmony, Inc.'s current International Contest & Judging Chair (ICJC). Kathy is also a retired lawyer who dealt with public utility law, welfare law, elder law, and mental health law. Singing is more fun!

**Instructor – Ashley Lang:** Ashley is the current Area 2 Quartet Promotions Coordinator and has been an active member of Harmony, Inc. for over 13 years singing with Women of Note. Eleven years ago at a Women of Note holiday party, she started chatting with three other members and they decided to form a quartet to deliver singing Valentines that spring. Life's A Pitch registered as a quartet on February 11, 2012 and has been a very active quartet ever since, competing in Area contests, as well as performing in the community. Ashley has held many positions within her chapter, such as Performance Team Chair, Quartet Development Chair, President, Vice President, Music Team Chair, and Show Chair.

**Instructor – Wendy McCoole:** Wendy grew up in a barbershop family and has been a member of Harmony, Inc. for 36 years. She is a Certified Singing Judge, the director of Sounds of the Seacoast (NH) and has won three International Quartet Championships singing with eXhilaration (2005), Limited Edition (1995) and Heart's Delight (1989). She is currently singing baritone in the quartet SweetLife. Wendy lives in Eliot, ME with her husband Kevin. She is the Manager of Corporate and Community Engagement at a local museum, LOVES being a Nana, and enjoys getting filthy in her gardens.

**Instructor – Angie Morton-Locke:** Using her yoga training (250 hour Certified Hatha Yoga Instructor trained in the Iyengar style), love of singing (as bass of A Cappella Showcase and other groups) and what she has learnt from coaches, teachers and fellow yogis and singers over the last 10 years of teaching, Angie started teaching Singer's Yoga. The more she taught the more she realized the connections between yoga and singing especially with alignment-based yoga. Not just for warm-ups, which are great, but also for better use of your instrument and your breathing. Anyone can practice these poses and exercises. Oh, and she's also an Administrative Judge Candidate in the Harmony, Inc. Judging program.

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**Instructor – Amy Patterson:** Amy is the Assistant Director of A Cappella Showcase, the 2019 Harmony, Inc. International Chorus Champions, and is a Co-Lead Section Leader of Harbourtown Sound. She is a Certified Singing Judge and active coach. Amy has served on the faculties for Harmony College West (ON), HIVE (Harmony, Inc. Virtual Education), and Harmony University. She sings Baritone in the Generations quartet with three youth members, including her daughter. Generations is the 2022 Area 5 Quartet Champion, and is the 2019 Ontario District Women’s Quartet Champion. When not singing or coaching, Amy is an educator specializing in French Language Instruction.

**Instructor – Julie Schwingbeck:** Julie is the Area 2 Director. She has been a member of Harmony, Inc. for over 30 years and is a charter member of Women of Note (1990). During her Women of Note membership, she has held several administrative and musical leadership positions – President, Vice President, Member-At-Large, Section Leader, Music Team Chair, etc. Prior to taking on the Area 2 Director position, she served on the Area 2 Council in the newsletter editor, PR Coordinator, and Development Coordinator positions. She is currently the Women of Note Baritone Section Leader, Chorus Manager, and serves on the Performance Team.

**Instructor – Steve Tramack:** Steve is a 40-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, who proves the adage that barbershopping runs in the blood. Great-grandfather Frank Barker started a chapter in 1946; his father, Dave was a 40+-year member, and his son, Joshua is a BHS member. His wife, Renée, is a 40-year member of Harmony Inc. who directs New England Voices in Harmony (2014 and 2018 International Chorus Champs). Their daughters, Christina and Samantha also sing with Renée in Taken 4 Granite, 2016 Harmony, Inc. International Quartet Champions. Steve is actively involved in several facets of barbershopping, including:

- 10-time International chorus director
- 5-time International quartet competitor
- Certified Music Judge (2010), and current BHS Music Category Specialist
- Over 300 commissioned arrangements, ranging from International champions (BHS, Harmony, Inc. and SAI) to chapter quartets and choruses
- Active coach of men’s, women’s and mixed ensembles worldwide
- 19-year Harmony University faculty member and chair of the Arranging Track

During the day, Steve works for Hewlett Packard Enterprise as a Director of Engineering.

**Instructor – Fatima Whelan:** Fatima is a Certified Performance Judge and coach with Harmony, Inc. She has always had a love of music whether it was in choirs, orchestra or theatre. Fatima is a current member of the Valley Voices chorus as a baritone and Co-Performance Chair. She sings lead in a quartet and you can also hear her having fun hosting a barbershop program called “Shoptalk” on Acaville radio once a month!

**Instructor – Susan Wood:** Susan is a 4th generation barbershopper and has been a Certified Music Judge since 2015. She studied voice performance at Indiana University, but for the last 35 years has served her greater Atlanta community, along with her husband, as your friendly neighborhood optometrist. Susan sings bass with the new Area 6 chorus, Vocal Moxie. Outside of barbershop, Susan is an active church musician, a recently retired Band Mom, and now a devoted grandmother...the best job in town! She looks forward to sharing her MUS insights with her Harmony, Inc. sisters.