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A Cappella Showcase invites you to sing along

Prospective members can drop into group's Tuesday night practices

By **Stephanie Hounsell**
 CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF



IN PERFECT HARMONY: Members of A Cappella Showcase perform in Halifax.

"We're living the dream." Those are the words Judy Comeau used to convey just how passionately she feels about the award-winning women's chorus she directs, A Cappella Showcase.

Sure, the accolades are nice. For the seventh year in a row, the group has netted gold medals in regional competition, and six consecutive silvers in international competition.

But what Comeau said she treasures most is the camaraderie.

"There's the most wonderful sisterhood you'll ever encounter," she said.

The 70-women chorus sings without accompaniment in four-part harmony. Although it practices in Milton — every Tuesday night at the Masonic Hall on Regional Road 25 — and has local members, it draws members from as far away as

Hamilton, Kitchener, and Ancaster.

Incredibly, there's even one member who flies in for practice each week from Montreal.

The varied musical selection — which includes everything from Broadway numbers to rock 'n' roll tunes — keeps the audience involved.

"I try to keep our repertoire as audience-friendly as possible," Comeau explained, adding, "I like to keep it light, happy and upbeat."

Although A Cappella Showcase is just 11 years old, the competitive chorus's accomplishments are many, represented aptly by its gold and silver dynasties.

It's part of an organization called Harmony Incorporated, which holds competitions twice each year.

A Cappella Showcase president Lynne Crellin said the group is unique for a number of reasons, including that the door's open to anyone who can carry a tune.

"You do not have to be able to read music

or have a trained voice to stand and sing with us," she explained. "We will teach you how to sing and perform and we warn you that once you step into our midst and hear the music around you, it will grab you."

Those interested in checking out A Cappella Showcase are invited to drop in on any practice.

The coming year will hold many adventures for the women, including a trip to St. Petersburg, Russia, where they've been invited to give a week-long series of summer concerts.

"We're the first women's chorus from Canada to go," Comeau said, adding, "It's a tremendous honour to do this."

Residents can support the upcoming trip to Russia by sponsoring the chorus or individual members, Crellin said. Charitable receipts will be issued. They can also participate in numerous fundraising events the chorus will hold in the new year.

For more information, visit www.acappellashowcase.ca.

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