



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Here and Now Quartet members Linda Morrison (from left), Martha DeClerq and Stephanie Foley practise with their chorus. Ms Foley is curator of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. Missing is Nancy Watson. They've qualified for an international event in Seattle next month.

PEOPLE: Sings way to Seattle

Curator gets kicks with barbershoppers

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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By day, Stephanie Foley is the caretaker of Whitchurch-Stouffville's history. By night, she is dancing across the stage and belting out barbershop songs as part of the Here and Now quartet and York Highlands Chorus.

"I love performing. It's very different than the job I have at the museum. It's a totally different side of me," said Ms Foley who is the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's curator. "I'm not myself. I take on whatever character I'm trying to portray on stage. It's usually somebody way more outgoing than me."

She joined the York Highlands Chorus in 2000 after seeing an ad in the paper recruiting singers. A few years later, four women, including Ms Foley branched out to form the barbershop quartet Here and Now.

"People think of men when they hear barbershop," said lead singer Martha DeClerq. "It's basically a four-part a capella harmony. As women, the chords are higher and there is a brightness in our voice."

Another difference between a tra-

ditional barbershop quartet and the Here and Now vocalists is the addition of a fifth note, where the music only reads four notes to a chord.

"The fifth note makes the chord ring," Ms DeClerq said. "When the hairs on your arms stick up, it's a good sound. That's what we aim for."

And it's these bright voices that create harmonic sounds.

"Usually, it's the instrument that creates the harmony with the singer," Ms DeClerq said. "We create harmony with our voices. We create the instrument sound."

Arrangers are creating four-part harmonies for songs in different genres, such as jazz, swing, pop and rock. Any song can be done in four-part harmony, Ms DeClerq said.

"We sing a lot of songs people already know, like The Beatles," she said. "Sometimes we change lyrics in older songs. We want to attract younger voices."

Ms Foley, who hails from South Carolina, grew up surrounded by music and dance. Her mother was a piano teacher and Ms Foley was a ballet dancer.

She was working towards a career in dance - either on stage or as a choreographer while in high school, but then she dislocated her knee. She turned to the school's show choir, which blended dance and song.

SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE

In university, Ms Foley continued to sing in a choir. When she graduated, singing took a backseat to her career.

Ms Foley's career as a curator started in university. She has an undergraduate degree in American history from Furman University in Greenville, S.C. She went on to get a master's degree in American history with a certificate in museum management from the College of William and Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

As part of the program, students had to complete internships at Williamsburg.

"That really got me excited. I think I could stay interested in making a career out of this," she said. "I had a calling for history. ... I love my job at the museum."

When not sifting through by-gone eras, Ms Foley and the other members of Here and Now teach harmony singing to young women.

Their quartet and the York Highland Chorus are part of Sweet Adelines International, a non-profit association with more than 25,000 members worldwide. In April, the quartet won the regional title for northern New York and southern Ontario. They'll travel to the internationals in Seattle next month.

For more information, go to www.yorkhighlands.com/default.html and www.sweetadelinesintl.org

with files from Amanda Persico

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In Our Community

On Saturday, September 18, 2010, The Markham Fair held their annual Ambassador Contest. There were 4 contestants competing to become Markham Fair's 2010 Ambassador. From left to right, Leslie Morrison, The Ambassador Team: Victoria Campbell, 2010 Ambassador Winner Kristen Miller and Christine Blizzard.

ECONOMIST & SUN Sun-Tribune

CHILDREN'S PET SHOW Friday, October 1st

MARKHAM FAIR 2010
Sep. 30, Oct. 1, 2 & 3

Entertainment Tent
Open to Children 14 years & under

Registration - 4:00 - 4:30 pm Judging - 4:30 pm

Classes:

1. Dog With Most Waggly Tail
2. Dog With Longest Hair
3. Dog With Curliest Tail
4. Dog Most Obedient
5. Cat With Fluffiest Tail
6. Cat With Softest Coat
7. Cat With Most Colours
8. Guinea Pig - Smoothest Coat
9. Biggest Hamster
10. Rabbit With Farthest Hop
11. Rabbit With Longest Ears
12. Best Farm Pet - not entered in classes 1-11
13. Most Unusual Pet - not entered in classes 1-12
14. Pet Showing Most Markham Fair Spirit - open to all
15. Best Dressed Pet - open to all
16. Pet With Best Trick - open to all
17. Best in Show - Special Award

Visit www.markhamfair.ca to print your entry form and bring it to the fair on October 1, 2010 after 3:30 pm.

For ride all day passes, event times and location visit www.markhamfair.ca