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PRESS RELEASE

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SINGING HONS EXPLORE "THE AVENUE" IN BALTIMORE

BROOKLYN PARK, MARYLAND, JUNE 17, 2009: A bass, a baritone, a tenor and a lead hopped in the car, dressed in their Sweet Adeline finery, and drove to Hampden in Baltimore. They expected to spend the afternoon singing on a few street corners, hoping to entice a singer or two to visit the next Harbor City Music Company (HCMC) Show Chorus rehearsal. What they found was a HonFest¹. What's a HonFest, you ask? The HonFest is a local tradition. The Bawlmer term of endearment, Hon, short for Honey, embodies the warmth and affection bestowed upon our neighbors and visitors alike by historic working-women of Baltimore. HonFest is an annual celebration in honor of these women.



Singing HONS croon a tune for 2009 Miss HON

¹ Since 1994, HonFest has grown from a tiny Baltimore's Best Hon pageant behind Café Hon, to a nationally recognized festival that covers four city blocks on Hampden's very own 36th Street. In recent years, the festival has been acknowledged by The New York Times, Rachel Ray's Tasty Travels, Nightly News with Brian Williams, The New York Post, Southern Living, The LA Times, HGTV, CNN, and just this April by The New Yorker.

"I now know what it feels like to have a paparazzi!" says Donna Coakley, baritone, of the pick-up quartet. Not only was the quartet able to share the joy of barbershop, they were also high in demand for photo shoots. It was beyond all of their imaginations to have 20 – 30 cameras pointing in their direction at one time for that "ultimate" shot. And, it was an absolute hoot to watch the people's expressions change to delight when the singing HONS burst into song. The quartet plans on making this an annual event!



Singing HONS new found friends

Harbor City Music Company Show Chorus is planning their annual show, "Painted Lips," for September 26, 2009 at Anne Arundel Community College, Pascal Center and their annual Holiday Show on December 5, 2009. The chorus is slated to compete in the Sweet Adeline International Competition in

Nashville, Tennessee in 2009 and will also be appearing at the International Harmony Classic in Seattle, Washington in 2010. Members of the chorus hail from Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Frederick, Montgomery, Worcester, Charles, Baltimore County and City. Members also commute from Virginia. The Chorus also supports local non-profits including Anne Arundel County's North County Emergency Outreach Network (NCEON), CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS, Chesapeake Center for the Creative Arts and MARYLAND FOOD BANK.

HCMC is a part of Sweet Adelines International (SAI). SAI is a highly respected worldwide organization of women singers committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance. This independent, nonprofit music education association is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women. Members extend over five continents and belong to more than 600 choruses and 1,200 quartets. Women belonging to the organization state that singing the powerfully balanced sounds of barbershop harmony provides a rich, rewarding experience.



If you are interested in singing with HCMCSC, rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings, 7:25 – 10:00 p.m. at the Chesapeake Performing Arts Center (one mile from exit 5 on the Baltimore Beltway; a 15 – 30 minute commute from surrounding counties of Howard, Baltimore, Anne Arundel). If you would like to have the chorus or an ensemble perform for you, call **800-856-9868**. More information can be found on our website:

<http://www.harborcitymusiccompany.org/>

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