

## **Barbershop Definitions**

### **LOCK and RING:**

The ultimate barbershop sound. To achieve it requires excellence in all phases of singing -- a good musical arrangement, good vocal technique, well balanced and blended voices and accuracy of intonation. In combination, these qualities can create an audible overtone that sends a chill up the spine of singers and listeners alike.

### **MASS SING:**

A Sweet Adelines tradition. This is a public event integrated into the business of a convention. Everyone in attendance is invited to gather in a public place and present listeners with a sample of barbershop harmony. It is often used as a way to thank the city hosting the gathering.

### **PITCH PIPE:**

A chromatic scaled instrument which is blown to establish a pitch or key tone. The one most generally used by a cappella quartet singers is small and round, containing 13 pitches. Choruses often use electronic pitch pipes which also have the chromatic tones, but are louder in sound. (It is also the name of the Sweet Adeline Int'l magazine sent to all members from the International organization.)

### **A CAPPELLA:**

Choral music without instrumental accompaniment. Cappella (Italian) chapel; a cappella in the manner of the chapel.

### **WOODSHEDDING:**

An impromptu gathering of singers who improvise the harmony of a song by ear. This is the very heart of barbershop singing and is the essence of barbershop's heritage.

### **HANGERS:**

A note held by one of the vocal parts while the other three parts are not singing or are singing something different. Generally speaking, the leads, tenors and/or the basses get the 'hangers'.

### **TAG:**

The final portion of a barbershop arrangement, usually containing very interesting chord progressions that are fun to sing. Tags may be sung separately from the song and are often used both by quartets and choruses for the purpose of practicing to achieve complete chord excellence. Many barbershoppers may not remember entire songs, but many will memorize hundreds of tags.