

Sylvia Karpinsky

Master Director*

Great Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adelines International



**Sweet Adelines master directors earn that designation after having directed a chorus in regional competition that achieved more than 600 points, or a B score.*

Personal history

- graduate, Mott High School, Warren, MI
- 1978 - Graduate, Michigan State University, Bachelor's Degree, Elementary Education, Major-Fine Arts
- 1983 - Master's Degree, Wayne State University, Bilingual Education, Bilingual Endorsement
- 1974-1985 - Private Flute Instructor
- 1978- until retirement in 2012 - teacher, Hamtramck Public Schools - 2nd, 3rd, 4th grades, general music K-6, and my final position was teaching limited English Language Learners grades 1-6
- 1996 - Teacher of the Year Award for Wayne County

As a teacher, I have served on a multitude of committees for school improvement, curriculum development, community involvement, and supported the teaching staff as building representative to the union. As the general music teacher (16 years) I was the only person in the vocal department and responsible for organizing performances at three elementary buildings, including program design, decorating, costuming, and choreography. I also coordinated taking students to the senior home and nursing home in Hamtramck to perform, and organized the talent shows. I sang in my church choir and I play the flute. I am married and have two sons and two adorable puppies. My hobbies are waterskiing, walking, reading and wave-running.

Sweet Adelines history

As member, and director since 2002, of Great Lakes Chorus, I have served as singer, section leader, board member, recording secretary, and assistant director. During my more than three decades in the organization, I have taught classes both regionally and locally, taught music, planned weekly rehearsals, chosen music, scheduled coaching, planned shows, and set the chorus on a solid road for musical success. I joined Sweet Adelines in 1978 and was an interim director for the Spirit of Detroit Chorus. I have been a master of ceremonies for Sweet Adelines competitions in Michigan, Ohio and Ontario and a coach for Sweet Adelines choruses throughout the local Sweet Adelines region that covers much of Michigan and parts of Ontario.

I sang tenor in Sweet Adelines International's first-place (also called Queens of Harmony) international "Swing Street" quartet (1991) and SAI medalist quartet, "Top Priority." I currently sing baritone with the quartet "Dream On!"