

TROPICAL HARMONY Travels to Greece

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Can you imagine anything better than travelling abroad with lots of good friends, AND getting to spread our love of harmony, too? Well, Patsy Meiser, Associate International Faculty member and member of the Spirit of the Gulf Chorus has perfected it!

Tropical Harmony, a 60-voice chorus made up of members from eight choruses and CAL in Region 9 and members from regions 14 and 17, travelled to Greece on May 15, 2006. This was a long-awaited trip since we had first planned to go in 2002. The 9/11/02 tragedy forced us to forgo a trip to that section of the world at that time.

Now, after all this time, our trip to Greece is a beautiful memory. The trip began in Athens at our hotel, which was at the foot of the Acropolis. The view from most of our windows was of the Parthenon, high above the city! We were met at the hotel by Barbara Gray, director of Voices of the Aegean, who accompanied us to a welcome dinner at a lovely local taverna. The food was a feast! During our stay in Athens, we were also invited to sing at the **American Embassy**. Our host at the embassy, Jeff Olesen, is an American Barbershopper and has actually started a men's chorus in every country in which he has been stationed. He even had his own quartet in Athens - Achilles and the Three Heels! The next evening we performed with his quartet and several other a cappella groups at the **American Community School**.



Our next stop was Mykonos island in the Aegean Sea. The cruise over on the semi-hydrofoil was quite an experience - we were in the company of hundreds of Greek college spring breakers! The hotel there was built into the side of a mountain overlooking the Aegean - totally breathtaking! Our **concert at the hotel** drew townsfolk as well as leaders of the Mykonos choral group, who were thrilled with the 4-part harmony. They made Patsy promise to let them know if we were ever to return so we could plan a joint concert!

After four relaxing days of sun, shopping, and awe-inspiring scenery on Mykonos, we boarded the Ocean Monarch for a 4-day cruise of the Greek Islands. Our ports of call included Kusadasi, Turkey and the Islands of Patmos, Rhodes, Crete and Santorini. The tours were incredible - seeing the sites we had seen in books and hearing our guides tell us all the stories and history. We were invited to join the **Gala Show** on Thursday night and entertained our fellow passengers in the barbershop style.

The trip was more than any of us could have dreamed - seeing the sights of Greece, tasting the best in Greek cuisine, singing barbershop harmony for many people who had never heard it, and getting to know so many Sweet Adelines from choruses all over Florida, Ohio, Virginia and Canada.

Next year Tropical Harmony will be travelling to England. For more information, please email Patsy Meiser at patsymeiser@nctv.com.

