



HOLLAND HARMONY CONTEST RULES

to be used for the
Holland Harmony Barbershop Convention 2019

Article 1: Scope

- a. These contest rules apply to all contests in the Holland Harmony Barbershop Convention 2019:
 - (1) female quartet contest
 - (2) male quartet contest
 - (3) mixed quartet contest
 - (4) female chorus contest
 - (5) male chorus contest
- b. These contest rules are based on "Contest Rules" in the "Contest and Judging Handbook" of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS)¹, dated 23 May 2018

In case of conflict of the above-mentioned rules, the Chairman of Holland Harmony, having considered the opinion of the Chairman of Judges and/or the Convention Manager, will make the final decision.

Article 2: Eligibility**A Choruses**

- a. Everyone on stage in a female contest must be female. Everyone on stage in a male contest must be male. The only exception shall be for the Chorus Director, who shall not be heard to sing when being of the opposite sex.
- b. All choruses in a contest must be registered with Holland Harmony at least half a year before the contest and have fulfilled their financial obligations to Holland Harmony.
- c. Two or more choruses shall not combine to form one competing chorus.
- d. It is permitted to compete in more than one chorus, provided that one is a regular member of both choruses.
- e. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.
- f. A Novice Chorus is considered to be one which has never previously competed in a Barbershop Contest. A chorus that changes its name and stays registered at the Chamber of Commerce under the same number and which previously entered a convention under the old name is not considered to be a Novice Chorus.
- g. The "Most Improved" chorus is the one which shows the largest improvement compared to the last contest held. In defining improvement, the score of the Chorus in the last contest held, is taken into consideration using the formula: increase in score between the current and last contest held, divided by the score in the last contest held. Scores will be recalculated for different panel sizes.

B Quartets

- a. A female quartet can only consist of female singers, a male quartet can only consist of male singers. A mixed quartet consists of female and male singers.
- b. All quartets in a quartet contest must be registered with Holland Harmony at least half a year before the contest and have fulfilled their financial obligations to Holland Harmony.
- c. It is not permitted to compete in more than one quartet in the same quartet contest.

¹ <http://www.barbershop.org/files/documents/contestandjudging/C&J%20Handbook.pdf>

- d. Professional quartets may not enter. A quartet is defined 'professional' if the major part of the income of its members is derived from the public performances of the quartet. If this yields a point of difference, an appeal can be lodged at the Board of Holland Harmony. The board will make the final decision.
- e. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.
- f. A Novice Quartet is considered to be one which has never previously competed and may not include more than two members who have previously competed in a Barbershop quartet contest.
- g. The "Most Improved" quartet is the one which shows the largest improvement compared to the last contest held. In defining improvement, the score of the quartet in the last contest held is taken into consideration using the formula: increase in score between the current and last contest held, divided by the score in the last contest held. Scores will be recalculated for different panel sizes.

Article 3: Entry to Contest and Provision of Contest Rules

- a. Entry must be made only on the proper form which is available on the website of Holland Harmony. The completed form must be submitted via the website to arrive no later than the published closing date.
- b. Late entry may be accepted at the discretion of the Convention Manager. The order of appearance on stage during contest might be different than determined officially, at the discretion of the Convention Manager.
- c. Contest Rules must be placed on the website of Holland Harmony. The adjustments must be sent to every registered chorus or quartet.
- d. The contestant reserves the right to alter songs until twelve hours prior to the start of each contest, and must inform the Chairman of Judges accordingly.
- e. In the case of too few entries, the Board of Holland Harmony may cancel a contest. This decision may only be taken by at least half of the plenary Board of Holland Harmony.

Article 4: Scoring categories

- a. Judging of contestants' performance will be carried out in three categories:
 - Music
 - Performance
 - Singing
- b. Each category will be separately judged by one judge, the threesome will be one panel. One or more panels may be used, as advised by the Chairman of Judges. Each scoring judge awards a score from 0 to 100 points for each song.

Music

The Music judge evaluates the song and arrangement, as performed. She/he adjudicates the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form and embellishments. She/he judges how well the musical elements of the performance establish a theme, and the degree to which the performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to that theme. She/he adjudicates the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

Performance

The Performance judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life – that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. She/he responds to both, the vocal and

visual aspects of the presentation, but she/he principally evaluates the interaction of those aspects as they work together to create the image of the song. She/he adjudicates the quality and appropriateness of the overall effect. The Performance judge evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

Singing

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. This is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements also creates a feeling of fullness, ring or expansion of sound throughout the performance. When artistry is present, this element will be natural, unmanufactured and free from apparent effort, allowing the performer to communicate fully the theme of the song.

Article 5: Qualification of the Judges

- a. Judges invited to judge the contests, must be qualified according to the Judging System as defined by BHS and can be recruited from barbershop organisations using this system.
- b. All judges must conform to the system mentioned in Article. 4.a (i.e. the Judging System as defined by BHS).
- c. Judges must conform to the Holland Harmony Contest Rules.
- d. If the imposing of both Article 5.b. and 5.c. causes a misunderstanding, the Chairman of Holland Harmony having heard the Convention Manager and the Chairman of Judges shall make the final decision.
- e. No judge shall be involved in any way with any chorus or quartet that is contesting, within 30 (thirty) days before the contest.
- f. Any judge violating Article 5.e. will not be allowed to judge the contest.
- g. Shadow judges can be invited by the Board of Holland Harmony and must register beforehand.

Article 6: Publications of Results

Results shall be made known by the Chairman of Judges as follows:

- a. An official Scoring Summary shall be displayed at the contest site, showing the score per category and per song; details of any penalties or disqualification, including the Article number violated; details of any ties and the names of the judging panel(s).
- b. Following the public announcement and publication to the satisfaction of the Chairman of Judges, there can be no change to ranking or scores, unless a major mistake (including copyright violations as described in article 9.A.) will be discovered after the publication in which case the Chairman of Holland Harmony, with approval of the Chairman of the Judges, can change the ranking and scores.

Article 7: Ranking of Contestants

- a. Contestants shall be ranked within their contest in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the panel of judges.
- b. The judges shall report their scores immediately following each contestant's performance.

- c. The chorus/quartet with the highest total of scores within their contest is ranked first and therefore the winner.
- d. A tie for first place shall be broken by ranking the contestants according to their overall scores in the **Singing** category or, only if that does not break the tie, according to their overall scores in the **Music** category. If a tie still exists, the tie shall stand.
- e. Except for first place ties, tie scores shall not be broken, and the official scoring summary shall list the tied contestants in alphabetical order by the name of the quartet or chorus, as appropriate.

Article 8: Order of Appearance on Stage

- a. Contestants shall sing in the order in which their names are drawn by lot during the meeting of the boards at least 3 (three) months before contest; except as allowed in Article 3.b., 8.b. and 8.c.
- b. Choruses or quartets, who register after the draw has been made, but at least half a year before contest, will sing in order to be drawn by the convention manager.
- c. Any contestant failing to appear in its assigned order when called, shall be excused by the Chairman of Judges if circumstances were beyond the control of the contestants and shall appear at a time decided by the Chairman of Judges.

Article 9: Songs and Arrangements

A Songs

- a. All songs performed in contest must be arranged in the barbershop style. [See style definition in Appendix 1 and the BHS Category Descriptions in the Contest and Judging Handbook.] A song performed in contest must be in good taste, be neither primarily patriotic nor primarily religious in intent, and have a melody and harmony consistent with the barbershop style.
- b. Jurisdiction, Adjudication and Penalties: Songs not consistent with the barbershop style will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Music judge(s). Actions by any contestant that are not in good taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s). Violation of the provision relating to patriotic or religious intent will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Performance judges(s) only.
- c. Songs must be sung without any kind of musical accompaniment and without instrumental introduction, interlude, or conclusion. The latter provision applies to both the entire performance and each individual song. Violation of this provision will result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Music judges(s).
- d. In chorus contest performances of songs, selected use of a soloist, duet, trio or quartet is acceptable as long as it is brief and appropriate. At no time should the musical texture exceed four parts. The spoken word, brief and appropriate, is not considered an additional "part" in this context. Compliance with this provision will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Music judge(s).
- e. Copyright Compliance: Contestants must comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs for contest. Violations of this article relating to copyright law compliance are subject to post-contest action deemed appropriate by the Chairman of Holland Harmony.

- f. **Song Repetition:** a contestant may not repeat a song or a substantial part of any song. In the context of these rules, the term song may refer to a single song or a medley in which major portions of two or more songs are used. A parody of a song previously sung would be considered repeating a song.
A Music judge shall recommend forfeiture to the contest administrator if a contestant repeats a song or a substantial portion from one of its songs in another song.
If there are two or more Music judges, the decision to forfeit must be unanimous. When the decision to forfeit is unanimous, the contest administrator shall record as zero the contestant's entire score in all categories for the repeated rendition of the song(s). When the decision to forfeit is not unanimous, the score(s) for the recommending judge(s) shall be recorded as zero.
- g. Songs used in contests should be sung in the English language except for the occasional word or phrase which may occur naturally as part of the song.

B Number of Songs

- a. Contestants shall be judged on two different songs in one appearance.
- b. There is no limit to the performance time.

C Duration of judging the contestants

If the chorus contest takes place with a curtain:

- a. Judging will commence from the moment the curtain start to open.
- b. Judging will end the moment the curtain is fully closed.

If the chorus contest takes place without a curtain:

- a. Judging will commence from the moment the lights on the chorus are on.
- b. Judging will end the moment the lights on the chorus are off.

Curtains will not be used for quartet contests and:

- a. Judging will commence when any quartet member is visible on stage.
- b. Judging will end the moment the last quartet member has left the stage.

Article 10: Sound Equipment and Stage Setting.

- a. The stage setting shall be set up sufficiently in advance of the starting time of the contest so that the sound equipment and lighting may be tested to the satisfaction of the judges. The contest shall not start until the Chairman of Judges has given her/his approval.
- b. Contestants may not use their own equipment to electronically amplify or alter their voices. Contestants may use electronic means to take pitch or to provide limited, brief, and relevant sound effects. Electronic sound effects deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s).
- c. Violation of Article 10.b. may result in penalties up to and including forfeiture by the Singing judge(s).

Article 11: Staging

- a. Persons who are not members of the competing chorus or quartet may not appear on stage during the performance. Violation of this rule in contest will result in being declared ineligible and disqualified.

- b. Barbershop groups are free to employ a wide variety of dramatic staging plans, interpretive or staging devices, postures, motions, props or standing formations, as long as these do not detract from the barbershop sound and are appropriate to the song.
- c. Contestants should leave the stage in the same good condition as they would wish to find it for their own performance and props should be chosen accordingly. Anything that can be quickly cleared by a stage hand is acceptable. When in doubt, it is strongly recommended to ask the advice of the Chairman of Judges beforehand.
- d. Actions by any contestant that are deemed suggestive, vulgar or otherwise not in good taste will not be allowed. In addition to adjudication by the Performance judge(s), the performance may be stopped by the Chairman of Judges.
- e. The Performance judge(s) shall have jurisdiction over issues of staging (see the Performance category description). Actions by any contestant that are not in good taste will be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s). The test for poor taste is whether, by today's standards, the lyric and/or manner of presentation is likely offensive to a significant number of reasonable adults.

Article 12: Verbal Comment

- a. Non singing dialogue is generally not a part of the contest performance. However, brief comments made with supporting visual communications may be permitted to more clearly establish mood/theme, to assist the transition of package songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme.
- b. Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be adjudicated in terms of the quality of the performance by the Performance judge(s).

Article 13: Disturbances during Contests

- a. Should any event occur which, in the opinion of the Chairman of Judges adversely affects the contestant, such contestant shall be offered the chance to sing again after the last contestant has finished and at least 15 (fifteen) minutes after the disturbed contestant has left the stage.
- b. The contestant shall be given a reasonable period of time to make a decision.
- c. If the contestant accepts the offer, the scores from the first performance will be discarded and the contestant will be judged on the second performance.

Article 14: Penalties and Forfeitures

- a) A scoring judge indicates forfeiture by awarding a score of zero. Forfeiture or any penalty is appropriate only when specifically provided for in these rules.
- b) Penalties and forfeitures will be published as part of the official scoring summary, with citation of the rule that was violated, if appropriate.
- c) There will be no public announcement of any penalty or forfeiture.

Article 15: Operation of the Contest.

- a. Once the contest begins, and until the contest results are announced, the Chairman of Judges is completely in charge of the operation of the contest.
- b. Announcement of the results of the contest shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of Judges.
- c. The Chairman of Judges is responsible for ensuring that the contest environment is as fair and consistent as possible for all contestants, and Right of Appeal is available through the Stage Manager.
- d. The Chairman of Judges alone has the authority to stop the performance and judging, and re-schedule part or all of the performance later in contest.
- e. At her/his sole discretion, the Chairman of Judges may allow a contestant to repeat part or all of a performance later in the contest.
- f. If the Chairman of Judges must cancel a round or an entire contest, that round and/or contest shall be re-scheduled by the Chairman of Judges.
- g. In making these decisions, the Chairman of Judges shall consult with scoring judges as appropriate.
- h. If any event occurs during the contest which is not covered by these contest rules, the Chairman of Judges, having consulted the judging panel, makes the final decision.

Article 16: Awards –choruses

a. Female chorus contest

- **Trophies** for the top three female choruses in the female chorus contest. These trophies shall belong to the choruses.
- All members and the Musical Director of the winning chorus shall be given a **gold medal** on a **purple** ribbon.
- All members of the second placed chorus and the MD shall be given a **silver medal** on a **red** ribbon.
- All members of the third placed chorus and the MD shall be given a **bronze medal** on a **yellow** ribbon. These medals shall belong to the chorusmembers.

b. Male chorus contest

- **Trophies** for the top three male choruses in the male chorus contest. These trophies shall belong to the choruses.
- All members and the Musical Director of the winning chorus shall be given a **gold medal** on a **purple** ribbon.
- All members of the second placed chorus and the MD shall be given a **silver medal** on a **red** ribbon.
- All members of the third placed chorus and the MD shall be given a **bronze medal** on a **yellow** ribbon. These medals shall belong to the chorusmembers.

Article 17: Awards –quartets

a. Female quartet contest

- **Trophies** for the top three female quartets in the female quartet contest. These trophies shall belong to the quartets.
- A **gold medal** on a **purple** ribbon for the 1st placed quartet.
- A **silver medal** on a **red** ribbon for the 2nd placed quartet.
- A **bronze medal** on a **yellow** ribbon for the 3rd placed quartet. These medals shall belong to the quartetmembers.

b. Male quartet contest

- **Trophies** for the top three male quartets in the male quartet contest. These trophies shall belong to the quartets.
- A **gold medal** on a **purple** ribbon for the 1st placed quartet.
- A **silver medal** on a **red** ribbon for the 2nd placed quartet.
- A **bronze medal** on a **yellow** ribbon for the 3rd placed quartet. These medals shall belong to the quartetmembers.

c. Mixed quartet contest

- **Trophies** for the top three mixed quartets in the mixed quartet contest. These trophies shall belong to the quartets.
- A **gold medal** on a **purple** ribbon for the 1st placed quartet.
- A **silver medal** on a **red** ribbon for the 2nd placed quartet.
- A **bronze medal** on a **yellow** ribbon for the 3rd placed quartet. These medals shall belong to the quartetmembers.

Article 18: Challenge Cups

a. **The following Challenge Cups** belongs to Holland Harmony and must be handed back in good order, having had the name of the challenge cup winner and the year engraved on the challenge cup (costs for Holland Harmony):

- **LABBS 40th anniversary (2017)**: taking into account the combined results of the chorus contests, the chorus with the highest total score.
- **LABBS Trophy (1985)**: taking into account the combined results of the quartet contests, the quartet with the highest total score.

b. **The following Challenge Cups** shall belong to the challenge cup winner:

- **Most Improved Chorus Challenge Cup**: taking into account the combined results of the chorus contests and the 'improvement' definition (art.2A.g), the chorus with the highest improvement compared with the latest competition
- **Most Improved Quartet Challenge Cup**: taking into account the combined results of the quartet contests and the 'improvement' definition (art.2B.g), the quartet with the highest improvement compared with the latest competition.

c. **The following Trophy** belongs to Holland Harmony and must be handed back in good order, having had the name of the trophy cup winner and the year engraved on the trophy (costs for Holland Harmony):

- **Riet Kosterman Trophy**

This trophy will be awarded in the category Performance.

The trophy will be given to the 4th placed Holland Harmony chorus or quartet with the highest score in the Performance category. The accompanying financial price is to be spend on increasing the quality of the Performance.

APPENDIX 1

DEFINITION OF THE BARBERSHOP STYLE

Barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied vocal music characterized by consonant four-part chords for every melody note in a predominantly homophonic texture. The melody is consistently sung by the lead, with the tenor harmonizing above the melody, the bass singing the lowest harmonizing notes, and the baritone completing the chord. Occasional brief passages may be sung by fewer than four voice parts.

Barbershop music features songs with understandable lyrics and easily singable melodies, whose tones clearly define a tonal center and imply major and minor chords and barbershop (dominant and secondary dominant) seventh chords that often resolve around the circle of fifths, while also making use of other resolutions. Barbershop music also features a balanced and symmetrical form, and a standard meter. The basic song and its harmonization are embellished by the arranger to provide appropriate support of the song's theme and to close the song effectively.

Barbershop singers adjust pitches to achieve perfectly tuned chords in just intonation while remaining true to the established tonal centre. Artistic singing in the barbershop style exhibits a fullness or expansion of sound, precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Ideally, these elements are natural, unmanufactured, and free from apparent effort.

The presentation of barbershop music uses appropriate musical and visual methods to convey the theme of the song and provide the audience with an emotionally satisfying and entertaining experience. The musical and visual delivery is from the heart, believable, and sensitive to the song and its arrangement throughout. The most stylistic presentation artistically melds together the musical and visual aspects to create and sustain the illusions suggested by the music.

Source: Contest and Judging Handbook, Barbershop Harmony Society, version May 2018