



HOLLAND HARMONY CONTEST RULES

to be used for the
Sing! 2023 International Barbershop Festival

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Article 1: Scope

- a. These contest rules apply to all contests in the Holland Harmony Sing!2023 Festival:
 - (1) Holland Harmony chorus contest (women, men, mixed)
 - (2) Holland Harmony quartet contest (women, men, mixed)
- b. These contest rules apply to all contests in the International Sing!2023 Festival:
 - (1) International chorus contest (women, men, mixed)
 - (2) International quartet contest (women, men, mixed)
- c. These contest rules are based on 'Contest Rules' in the 'Contest and Judging Handbook of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), July 2022 (new version)

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 Festival Manager, will make the final decision.

Article 2: Eligibility

Gender Identity

Ensembles in the Sing!2023 Contest are classified by the individual members' self-identification in the Holland Harmony Member database. Individuals describe for themselves how they gender identify, and that description is stored as a part of the member record. Holland Harmony strives to treat all individuals equitably and with a presumption of good character and integrity in accurately maintaining their own member records.

Holland Harmony

Ensembles in the Holland Harmony Sing!2023 Contest are classified by the number of members: an ensemble of 4 persons is a quartet and only competes in the Holland Harmony Quartet competition; an ensemble of more than 11 members is a chorus and only competes in the Holland Harmony Chorus Contest.

International

Ensembles in the International Sing!2023 Contest are classified by the number of members: an ensemble of 4 persons is a quartet and only competes in the International Quartet Contest; an ensemble of more than 4 members is a chorus and only competes in the International Chorus Contest.

A Choruses

Holland Harmony contest

- a. A women's chorus consists only of members who identify themselves as female; a men's chorus consists only of members who identify themselves as male. A mixed harmony chorus consists of members who identify as a combination of gender identities that are not all-male or all-female.
- b. There will be no difference between judging female, male and mixed choruses. Regardless of gender or composition, Holland Harmony choruses will compete together in one contest. Results will be announced in the same way.
- c. A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more participants on stage, excl. the MD.
- d. A chorus 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.
- e. Each competing chorus member must be registered with Holland Harmony.
- f. Each competing chorus member shall hold a registration for the festival.
- g. Two or more choruses shall not combine to form one competing chorus.
- h. It is permitted to compete in more than one chorus, provided that one is a regular member of both choruses for at least six months prior to the contest. Competing choruses may not be composed of more than 75% of the same members on stage.
- i. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.
- j. The 'Most Improved' chorus award is a prize for the chorus which shows the largest improvement compared to the last Holland Harmony 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 Holland Harmony contest held, divided by the score in the last contest held. Scores will be recalculated for different panel sizes.

International contest

- a. A women's chorus consists only of members who identify themselves as female; a men's chorus consists only of members who identify themselves as male. A mixed harmony chorus consists of members who identify as a combination of gender identities that are not all-male or all-female.
- b. There will be no difference between judging female, male and mixed choruses. Regardless of gender or composition, international choruses will compete together in one contest. Results will be announced in the same way.

- c. A competing chorus must be composed of 5 or more participants on stage, excl. the MD.
- d. All members of the chorus must be members in good standing of BHS or in a BHS Alliance organization that has an agreement with BHS which allows for automatic qualifications.
- e. Each competing chorus member shall hold a registration for the festival.
- f. Two or more choruses shall not combine to form one competing chorus.
- g. It is permitted to compete in more than one chorus, provided that one is a regular member of both choruses for at least six months prior to the contest. Competing choruses may not be composed of more than 75% of the same members on stage.
- h. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.

B Quartets

Holland Harmony Contest

- a. A women's quartet consists only of members who identify themselves as female; a men's quartet consists only of members who identify themselves as male. A mixed harmony quartet consists of members who identify as a combination of gender identities that are not all-male or all-female.
- b. There will be no difference between judging male, female and mixed quartets. Regardless of gender or composition, quartets in the national quartet competition will compete together in one contest. Results will be announced in the same way.
- c. Each competing quartet member shall hold a registration for the Festival.
- d. 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.
- e. No quartet member may be replaced during a contest. Replacement of one or more quartet members who began the first song of the contest, will result in being declared ineligible and disqualified.
- f. 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.
- g. If a member is competing in two quartets, each quartet in which they are competing must be comprised of no more than two of the same members.
- h. The national Quartet competition will consist of prelims and finals.

- i. Each quartet will sing two songs in prelims.
- j. The five quartets with the highest total score will be invited to perform in the finals.
- k. If a quartet refuses to take their place in the finals, the competition managers can decide to invite the 6th placed quartet.
- l. In the finals, each quartet must perform two songs.
- m. each quartet is obliged to sing at least one new song in the finals. The second song can be a repeat of the prelims. Only the new song and the scores of the prelims together form the total score for the competition.

Quartets who want to qualify for BHS will sing two new songs. Only the highest score of these two songs together with the two songs from the prelims will count for the total score of the competition.

- n. 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.
- o. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.

International Contest

- a. A women's quartet consists only of members who identify themselves as female; a men's quartet consists only of members who identify themselves as male. A mixed harmony quartet consists of members who identify as a combination of gender identities that are not all-male or all-female.
- b. There will be no difference between judging male, female and mixed quartets. Regardless of gender or composition, quartets in the international quartet competition will compete together in one contest. Results will be announced in the same way.
- c. Each competing quartet member shall hold a registration for the Festival.
- d. No quartet member may be replaced during a contest. Replacement of one or more quartet members who began the first song of the contest, will result in being declared ineligible and disqualified.
- e. 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.

- f. If a member is competing in two quartets, each quartet in which they are competing must be comprised of no more than two of the same members.
- g. The International Quartet competition will consist of prelims and finals.
- h. Each quartet will sing two songs in prelims.
- i. The five quartets with the highest total score will be invited to perform in the finals.
- j. If a quartet refuses to take their place in the finals, the competition managers can decide to invite the 6th placed quartet to the finals.
- k. In the finals, each quartet must perform two songs. Quartets are allowed to repeat one song from their prelims set.
- l. In the finals, the ranking will be based on the highest scoring song out of the two songs that the quartet performs in finals.
- m. Failure to comply with the above will result in forfeiture by the Chairman of Judges.

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 Sing!2023. The completed form must be submitted via the website to the Registration Manager to arrive no later than the published closing date.
- b. Late entry may be accepted at the discretion of the Convention Manager.
- c. Contest Rules must be placed on the website of Holland Harmony/Sing!2023 at least six months prior to the competition.
- d. The contestant reserves the right to alter songs until two 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. Two panels will 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.

Artistic singing is accomplished through precise intonation, a high degree of vocal skill and appropriate vocal expression, and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble.

Mastering these elements creates a fullness and expansion of sound, and when combined with expressive vocal skills will convey a feeling of genuine emotion to support the message 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. 5.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. The winner will be called Champion Chorus or Gold Medal Quartet.
- 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 Performance 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. After the closing date of the Registration procedure, the Festival Team will draw the order of appearance of the chorus competition and the quartet competition. Choruses have the right to exchange their place of appearance with another chorus, when both choruses agree. They both have to inform the Chairman of Judges within two weeks after the draw has taken place, otherwise the order of appearance shall be as drawn.
- b. Contestants shall sing in the order in which their names are drawn by lot during the meeting of the Festival Team as mentioned in article 8a or after exchange 6 weeks prior to the contests except as allowed in Article 3.b.
- c. The order of appearance on stage during the contest might be different than determined officially, at the discretion of the Competition managers.
- d. 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

Songs

- a. Songs performed in the 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.]
- b. Songs performed in the 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. Barbershop performances should not contain vulgar, suggestive or otherwise distasteful actions or lyrics.
- c. 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).
- d. 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.
- e. 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).

- f. 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).
- g. 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.
- h. 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.
- i. The 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.
- j. 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.
- k. 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. Choruses shall be judged on two different songs in one appearance.
- b. Quartets:
 - Prelims: quartets shall be judged on two different songs in one appearance.
 - Finals: During the final, each quartet is obliged to sing at least one new song. The second song can be a repeat of the prelims. Only the new song and the scores of the prelims together form the total score for the competition.

Quartets who want to qualify for BHS will sing two new songs. Only the highest score of these two songs together with the two songs from the prelims will count for the total score of the competition.
- c. The time limit for choruses to be on stage is: 10 minutes
- d. The time limit for quartets to be on stage is: 9 minutes.

- e. The time limit is an indication. If a participant needs more time, this can be requested in advance via the application form.

C Duration of judging the contestants

If the chorus contest takes place with a curtain:

- Judging will commence from the moment the curtain starts to open.
- Judging will end the moment the curtain is fully closed.

If the chorus contest takes place without a curtain:

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

Curtains will not be used for quartet contests and:

- Judging will commence when any quartet member is visible on stage.
- 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.
- c. 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).
- d. 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 the 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 stagehand is acceptable. If 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 the 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 rescheduled 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

National chorus contest

- Trophies for the top three choruses in the national 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 winning chorus and the MD shall be given a pin to wear on the travel outfit. This pin is a barber pole 1.
- 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.

International chorus contest

- Trophies for the top three choruses in the international chorus contest. These trophies shall belong to the chorus
- All members and the Musical Director of the winning chorus shall be given a gold medal on a ribbon.
- All members of the winning chorus and the MD shall be given a pin to wear on the travel outfit. This pin is a barber pole 1.
- 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.

Article 17: Awards –quartets

National quartet contest

- Trophies for the top three quartets in the national quartet contest. These trophies shall belong to the quartets.
- Medals for the top three quartets in the national quartet contest:
 - 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 quartets.

International quartet contest

- Trophies for the top three quartets in the international quartet contest. These trophies shall belong to the quartets.
- Medals for the top three quartets in the international quartet contest:
 - 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 quartets.

Article 18: Challenge Cups - National competitions

The following Challenge Cups belong 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 result 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.

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

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

APPENDIX

DEFINITION OF THE BARBERSHOP STYLE

The barbershop style can be viewed as having two major components: technical and artistic. The technical aspects of the style relate to those elements that define the style regardless of how well it's performed. The artistic aspects relate to those performance aspects that are equally essential to the style's preservation.

A. Technical (Structural) Aspects

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

2. Barbershop music features songs with understandable lyrics with melodies that 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. The chords are almost always in root position or second inversion, with a predominance of barbershop sevenths and major triads. The Judging System Contest and Judging Handbook page 4-2 of 4-6 01/21/2022

B. Artistic (Performance) Aspects

1. Barbershop singers adjust pitches to strive for perfectly tuned chords in just intonation, while remaining true to the established tonal center. When chords are sung in tune with matched and resonant sounds, a "lock and ring" results. Locking, ringing chords are the hallmark of the barbershop style.

2. The use of similar word sounds sung in good quality and with precise synchronization, as well as optimal volume relationships of the voice parts, creates a unity that helps produce the most desirable barbershop sound.

3. The barbershop style is typified by natural, resonant, full-voiced singing, though tenors may be singing not in full voice.

4. Performers have the freedom to bring a variety of styles, interpretations, and performance preferences to the stage.

5. Performers should strive to present the song to the audience in an authentic, sincere, and heartfelt manner.

6. The music and the performance of the music must reflect the fact that barbershop music features relatively straightforward, ingenuous songs, sung from the heart, that are easily understandable to the audience. The delivery should be believable and sensitive to the song and arrangement throughout.

7. Barbershop music typically has a balanced and symmetrical form. As long as these are recognizable, the performer is free to be creative within the forward motion of the music.

8. Arrangements in the barbershop style use various embellishments. The devices chosen, as well as their performance, should support and enhance the song.

9. The performance of barbershop music features appropriate musical and visual methods to enhance and support the song and provide the audience with an emotionally satisfying, entertaining experience.

10. 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.

11. A song may have a simple or complex setting and still be in the barbershop style. Performers are encouraged to choose music that they enjoy singing and that features the strengths and minimises the weaknesses of the ensemble.

BHS Qualification

Choruses

- a. The chorus is responsible for meeting BHS qualification rules.
- b. Choruses that wish to qualify for BHS convention are responsible for meeting the [BHS qualification rules](#).

The chorus must:

- score 80% or higher
- all members of the chorus must be in good standing of BHS or in a BHS alliance organization that has an agreement with BHS which allows for automatic qualifications.
- if the chorus wishes to compete at BHS in 2023, please contact BHS before 1st of December 2022.

Quartets

- a. The quartet is responsible for meeting BHS qualification rules.
- b. Quartets that wish to earn an 'automatic' qualification to the BHS International Quartet Contest must sing in two separate rounds of 2-song performances (in each round). They must win a place in finals and compete in the finals with a set of two unique songs.
- c. Be adjudicated by a double-panel (or more) of BHS-certified scoring judges.
- d. Achieve an average score of 77.0% (or better) across all 4 songs.
- e. The quartet must be properly registered (in advance) in BHS or in a BHS Alliance organization that has an agreement with BHS which allows for automatic qualifications.
- f. All 4 members of the quartet must be members in good standing of BHS or in a BHS Alliance organization that has an agreement with BHS which allows for automatic qualifications.

For more information on entering a BHS contest:

<https://www.barbershop.org/contests/how-to-enter>