



MIXED VOICE
BARBERSHOP
CHORAL
COMPETITION

Monday 29th May 2017
**Bournemouth International
Centre**

Contest Information and Entry Details

British Association of Barbershop Singers
A company limited by guarantee
registered in England and Wales.

Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court, Corunna Road,
Warwick, United Kingdom CV34 5HQ

Registered Company No: 3823721
Registered Charity Ref No: 1080930

SING BARBERSHOP

Open Mixed Voice Barbershop Choral Contest

DATE

Monday 29th May 2017

VENUE

Bournemouth International Centre, Exeter Road,
Bournemouth BH2 5BH

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INTRODUCTION

As interest grows in mixed voice a cappella singing, the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) seeks to encourage the wider performance of songs arranged in the barbershop harmony style. Coincident with its annual national convention, BABS will host the 2nd Open Mixed Voice Barbershop Choral Contest for ensembles on Monday 29th May 2017 at the Bournemouth International Centre.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. To provide opportunity for barbershop singers to perform in a competing mixed voice ensemble.
2. To enable mixed voice ensembles previously unfamiliar with the barbershop style to demonstrate and benchmark their expertise and ability.
3. To popularise the event such that demand requires it to be repeated in subsequent years.

CONTEST CONTACT

Please direct all enquiries and Entry Forms to:

Colin Roper, the Mixed Voice Choral Contest Coordinator:

Email: mixedchoralcontest@singbarbershop.com

Telephone: 07397 934012

Postal address: 34 Stonehouse Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6LP

Website: www.singbarbershop.com

CONTEST CLASSIFICATION

There will be one class only, for ensemble singing and with no differentiation for age or previous barbershop experience.

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ENTRY PROCESS AND DATES

Contest registration fee is £2 for each participant in a competing ensemble. By Saturday 8th April 2017 each ensemble shall have provided the Contest Coordinator with an Entry and Declaration form (Page 6 of this document) with Part One completed. The completed Entry form may be scanned and attached to an email or posted to the Contest Coordinator, contact details on Page 1 of this document.

By Friday 28th April 2017 each ensemble shall have provided the Contest Coordinator with final confirmation of its part one entry details and payment, as per part two, of the total registration fee of £2 per competing participant by BACS or by cheque. Only when full payment has been made will the ensemble be eligible for inclusion in the running order of performances.

On Friday 5th May 2017 the running order of performances shall be communicated to the ensemble contacts by email.

On Monday 29th May 2017 the contest will take place in the main auditorium at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC), Exeter Road, Bournemouth BH2 5BH

It is anticipated that the contest will commence at 10.30am and be concluded by 2.00pm. Every effort will be made to run on time, however this may be impacted by various factors inherent in the nature of the event.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Ensembles shall be essentially 'hobby' singers and comprise between 18 and 80 participants, including the Director who may also sing.
2. Minimum age 14 at date of contest.
3. Individuals shall participate in the contest with one ensemble only.
4. No more than 70% of an ensemble shall be of the same gender.
5. Each of the four voice parts may include both genders.
6. Following final confirmation of entry detail and full payment of fees, if an ensemble then finds its number has fallen below the requisite minimum number of participants it may still be allowed to compete at the organiser's discretion, provided that the Contest Coordinator has been notified by 12 noon on Friday 26th May 2017 and has responded by 10pm. No other conditions of eligibility shall be variable.

CONTEST MATERIAL

An ensemble shall perform two contrasting songs of its own choice in the 'barbershop' style of unaccompanied four part harmony as defined on Page 5 of this document.

By entering the contest participants declare that they shall comply with copyright and all other laws in all aspects of the acquisition, arranging, provision for learning and use for performance of songs and all other materials used for this contest. Any breach of compliance risks disqualification.

Ensembles shall hand one copy of the sheet music for their performance songs to the Contest Steward at the time they present themselves for the contest, or risk disqualification.

BABS will be pleased to provide advice on any aspect of the suitability of songs and their performance, as promptly as possible on a first come first served basis, so please do not delay in emailing queries to the Contest Coordinator. If in doubt ask.

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CONTEST DRAW

To allow the latest entry of contestants, the draw will be made by random allocations of Positions at the BABS AGM on Sunday 19th March and then Contestants on Friday 5th May when the running order will be communicated by email to the ensemble contacts.

CONTEST PERFORMANCE

1. The provision of warm up rooms is not guaranteed.
2. Separate changing facilities available for male and female contestants.
3. Ensembles shall gather in a holding area prior to performance.
4. A Master of Ceremonies will announce each ensemble.
5. Each ensemble is allotted 10 minutes stage time for entry, performance and exit. Extraordinary requests for more time shall be made to the Chorus Coordinator by Saturday 8th April 2017 and a written decision received by Friday 28th April 2017 which shall be adhered to.
6. Ensembles needing to establish pitch at the start of a song should use a portable single-note source, eg. Pitch Pipe, there is no piano on stage.
7. All ensembles shall perform on the same set of four step risers arranged in a curve.
8. There will be no curtains.
9. Stage lighting will be fixed during the contest and dimmed during entry and exit of the performance area.
10. Sound enhancement will be fixed and the same for all ensembles.
11. All 'props' brought on stage by an ensemble shall be completely removed by it on exit. If an ensemble proposes to use any materials that, after its exit, may delay the contest by requiring action by stage crew to provide an unencumbered environment for other contestants and/or the audience, it shall notify the Contest Coordinator by Saturday 8th April 2017 and shall have received a written decision by Friday 28th April 2017 which shall be adhered to. Any breach of the above will risk disqualification. If in doubt ask the Contest Coordinator without delay.
12. All ensembles shall exit the performance area into a reserved area of the auditorium and shall remain there until the winner's award has been presented and the event concluded.

ADJUDICATION

A panel of judges will adjudicate on contestants' performance in accordance, where applicable, with standard BABS Contest Rules. They will judge in three categories: Music, Performance and Singing.

Each category may use up to a maximum of 100 points per song per judge. For the Contest Rules and Adjudication Criteria refer to the Category Descriptions in Appendix B or visit the BABS Guild of Judges website www.babsguildofjudges.com

- (a) Contestants shall be ranked in accordance with the total score of points awarded by the judges.
- (b) If two or more contestants are awarded the same total score, ties will only be broken for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.
- (c) In the event of a tie, the decision of the adjudicating panel shall be final.

AWARDS

A non-returnable trophy and a prize of £500 will be awarded to the overall winning ensemble.

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AUDIENCE

Persons with full weekend registration to the BABS Convention or who are registered participants in the contest may gain free entry to the auditorium to watch the event on presentation of the appropriate pass, otherwise there shall be an entry fee of £5 per person to be paid on the door.

RECORDING

1. The use of any form of photographic, audio or video recording equipment by participants or audience members that is not pre-authorised in writing by BABS shall not be permitted in any location or under any circumstances associated with the event. Breach of this condition may result in disqualification of the participants ensemble or ejection of the audience member from the auditorium.
2. By entering the contest, all participants give their unconditional consent to the rights reserved by BABS to photograph or audio/video record all performances and to use, free of charge, any such material for educational, marketing or resale purposes.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Handbags and the like should not be taken on stage and contestants are responsible for the safekeeping of their personal property in all circumstances.

SAFEGUARDING OF YOUNG PERSONS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Contestants and their associated parties shall, in all circumstances, be responsible for the provision of safeguarding for young persons and vulnerable adults in their group.

DATA PROTECTION

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1984, the British Association of Barbershop Singers shall use the contact details of non-BABS members solely for the purpose of communication regarding this contest.

COPYRIGHT

Contestants must comply with copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging and learning of songs for contest performance.

AGREEMENT

1. By entering the contest all participants (or their Responsible Persons on their behalf) confirm their understanding of, and agreement to be bound by, the terms and contents contained in this document.
2. In all matters of organisation, the decision of the organiser (BABS) shall be final.

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Barbershop Harmony - Style and Performance Guidelines

STRUCTURAL ASPECTS

1. Barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied vocal music characterised by four-part chords for every melody note in a predominantly homophonic texture.
2. The melody is sung primarily by the lead voice, with the tenor harmonising above the melody, the bass singing the lowest harmonising notes, and the baritone completing the chord.
3. Other voicings may briefly be used where musically and artistically valid.
4. Barbershop music features uncomplicated songs with understandable lyrics and singable melodies having a clear tonal centre implying a high proportion of major, minor and major minor seventh (dominant seventh) chords along with other moderately simple chord nomenclatures.
5. Chords typically resolve around the circle of fifths through secondary dominants but may use other credible progressions.
6. Barbershop music features a balanced form and a standard meter.
7. The song is harmonised and embellished by the arranger, using generally strong voicings (root positions and second inversions) to support its theme and to close it effectively.

ARTISTIC (PERFORMANCE) ASPECTS

1. Ensembles should strive for perfectly tuned chords, with well-matched, volume-balanced and resonant voices, resulting in a fullness or expansion of sound (“lock and ring”) that is a hallmark of the style.
2. Songs should be performed in a believable and heartfelt manner, using appropriate musical and visual expression to bring them to life for the audience.
3. Good vocal quality, expressive singing and unity of the ensemble will be rewarded.
4. Performers are encouraged to choose music that they enjoy and can perform well; there is no reward for difficulty.

GENERAL ASPECTS

1. The selected use of a soloist, quartet or smaller group of singers is acceptable providing it is brief and appropriate.
2. At no time should the musical texture exceed four parts.
3. Brief and appropriate spoken introductions to songs will be permitted provided they have some creative value and neither distract from the overall performance nor extend stage time. They shall be adjudicated as an aspect of performance.
4. The use of sheet music on stage is permitted but not encouraged and shall be adjudicated as an aspect of performance.

ASSISTANCE

BABS will be pleased to provide advice on any aspect of the suitability of songs and their performance, as promptly as possible on a first come first served basis, so please do not delay in emailing queries to the Contest Coordinator. If in doubt ask.

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British Association of Barbershop Singers

Contestant Entry Form

Part One shall be completed and returned to the Contest Coordinator by Saturday 8th April 2017 and reconfirmed by Friday 28th April 2017 along with Part Two completed.

PART ONE

Ensemble Name: _____

Location: _____ Chorus Director: _____

Web Site (if applicable): _____

Contact Person and Signatory to the declaration below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Email: _____

Number of Singers

Ladies:

Men:

Total:

Song Title Declaration

Song	Song Title/ Composer/Arranger	Time
One		
Two		

Accessibility Assistance to and from the stage? Yes/No

Use of Stage Props? Yes/No

Request for Extra Stage Time? Yes/No

(If you have entered Yes to any of these three, please complete Appendix A with full details and return it with this Entry Form.)

PART TWO

Part Two shall be completed and returned to the Contest Coordinator, and the registration fee of £2 per participant paid in full by Friday 28th April 2017. The Declaration shall also be signed.

No of Participants	Total Fee Due £	Payment Method/Tick	Office Use
		BACS: Date: Cheque: Enclosed	Payment: Form: Other:

BACS: Account Name: British Association of Barbershop Singers - Account No: 00022751 Sort Code: 40-52-40
Quote reference: [MIX2017 - MCB] Cheque: Payable to The British Association of Barbershop Singers.

Declaration

Participants in this ensemble agree to be bound by the terms and conditions contained in this document.

Signed on their behalf: _____ Date: _____

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Schedule of Dates

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017

The deadline to:

- * Provide the Contest Coordinator with an Entry and Declaration form (Page 6 of this document) with Part One completed.
- * Notify the Contest Coordinator of any proposed use of any materials that may delay the contest by requiring action by stage crew to provide an unencumbered environment for other contestants and/or the audience
- * Make an extraordinary request to the Chorus Coordinator for more stage time than the 10 minutes allotted for entry, performance and exit.

FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 2017

The deadline to:

- * Provide the Contest Coordinator with final confirmation of Part One entry details, Part Two completed, full fee payment made and the Declaration signed. Only then will the ensemble be eligible for inclusion in the running order of performances.
- * Receive a binding written response from the Contest Coordinator to a proposal to use materials that may delay proceedings following exit from the performance area.
- * Receive a binding written response from the Contest Coordinator to an extraordinary request for extended stage time.

FRIDAY 5TH MAY 2017

- * The day the Contest Coordinator will communicate the running order of performances to the ensemble contacts by email.

12.00 NOON FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2017

The deadline to:

- * Notify the Contest Coordinator if, since final confirmation of entry details and full payment of fees on Friday 28th April, an ensemble finds its number has fallen below the requisite minimum and still wants to compete.

10.00PM FRIDAY 26TH MAY 2017

The deadline to:

- * Receive a binding response from the Contest Coordinator to a request made by 12 noon on the same day to be allowed to compete with numbers below the requisite minimum.

MONDAY 29TH MAY 2017

The contest will take place in the main auditorium (see photo below) at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC), Exeter Road, Bournemouth BH2 5BH. It is anticipated that the contest will commence at 10.30am and be concluded by 2.00pm.



*Bournemouth
Auditorium*

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British Association of Barbershop Singers Contestant Entry Form

This section only needs to be completed if you have indicated YES to any of the questions on the main Entry Form. Please return with your main entry.

APPENDIX A

Ensemble Name: _____

Use of Stage Props

You have indicated that you will be using stage props in your performance.
Please give full details for each song.

Song 1:

Song 2:

All 'props' brought on stage by an ensemble shall be completely removed by it on exit.

Request for Extra Stage Time

Each contestant has a 10 minute timeslot for entrance, performance and exit. Consideration will be given to reasonable requests, but cannot be guaranteed. Please indicate below the reason why you need extra time.

Accessibility Assistance

Please indicate the number of people who will require Accessibility Assistance to and from the stage.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

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Barbershop Harmony Judging Category Descriptions

A panel of judges will adjudicate on contestants' performance in accordance, where applicable, with standard BABS Contest Rules. They will judge in three categories: Music, Performance and Singing. A brief summary for each category is shown below

MUSIC CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

Judges in this category adjudicate the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo and rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. They judge the extent to which the musical performance displays the hallmarks of the barbershop style, and the degree to which the musical performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to the music's primary theme.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

These judges evaluate entertainment within the Barbershop style. Vocal and visual elements, in the context of the song choice and delivery, are evaluated for their contribution to the overall entertainment effect of the performance.

SINGING CATEGORY DESCRIPTION

Judges in this category evaluate the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style: the production of vibrant, rich, resonant, technically accurate, and highly skilled sound, created both by the individual singer's use of good vocal techniques, and by the ensemble processes of tuning, balancing, unity of sound and precision. They listen for a sense of precise intonation, a feeling of fullness or expansion of sound, a perception of a high degree of vocal skill, a high level of unity and consistency throughout the performance, and a freedom from apparent effort that allows the full communication of the lyric and song.

CONTEST RULES AND ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

To view the full Category Descriptions visit the BABS Guild of Judges website:

<http://www.babsguildofjudges.com/downloads/judging-system/>

2016 MIXED VOICE CHORUS CHAMPIONS

Strictly Barbershop from Hertfordshire



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