

The British Association of Barbershop Singers



MIXED CHORUS
COMPETITION

CONTEST BRIEFING DOCUMENT

National Mixed Chorus Contest
24th May 2020

SING BARBERSHOP
2020
HARROGATE
The British Association of Barbershop Singers



Harrogate 22nd to 25th May 2020

www.sing2020.com



MIXED CHORUS COMPETITION

SING 2020

BABS 46th Annual Convention

Information in this document is intended to provide you with all the necessary information needed for you to plan your time for the mixed chorus contest.

BRIEFING DOCUMENT CONTENTS

* Contest and Awards Information

Three pages covering everything from stage set up to evaluations.

* General Information

Other relevant information and outline timetable for the weekend.

* Stage Risers & Mood Lighting

Riser layout and information on the introduction of mood lighting.

* Sound & Vision Technical Information

An insight in how the technical aspects of this event are implemented.

* Convention Centre Plan

Floor plan.

* Contestant Declaration

Details on how to declare your participation.

* Convention Show Declaration

Details on how to declare your participation.

* Contest Recording & Social Media Policy

Details of who owns the copyright and what you can upload.

* Contest Schedule

Timing schedule for the Mixed Chorus Contest on Sunday 24th May at 11.00am.

* Chorus Divisions

Mixed Chorus Contest Divisions.

Contest Queries - If you have any questions relating to your contest performances please contact the BABS Mixed Chorus Contest Manager, Email: mixedchoruscontest@singbarbershop.com

Convention Queries - Any general convention queries should be referred to: Laurie Whittle, the BABS Convention Manager. Email: conventionmanager@singbarbershop.com

Sound/Lighting Test Chorus

There is an opportunity for all competing choruses (if in Harrogate on Thursday evening) to send a few representatives to the sound and lighting test on the Thursday evening. This will be on the convention contest stage at 20:00 and could last up to a couple of hours. Apart from providing us with a chorus to test the technical set-up, it will allow someone from your chorus to see and experience the contest stage and so report back to your singers of their experience. If you have anyone available for this opportunity, please send their names (and singing part) to Ali Jack at registrationsmanager@singbarbershop.com, and then ask them to report to the BABS Reception Desk at 19:45. Please use the subject heading "sound-test chorus".

All contestants must have registered for convention before the 31st March 2020. These can be bought online from the BABS Box Office at www.sing2020.com

The British Association of Barbershop Singers
A company limited by guarantee
registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: 29-30 Fitzroy Square,
Fitzrovia, London W1T 6LQ
Registered Company No: 3823721
Registered Charity Ref No: 1080930

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Contest Information

MEMBERS ON STAGE

All performers must be a BABS member/Dual member. If in doubt, please check with the BABS Membership Secretary membershipsecretary@singbarbershop.com. Remember it is the responsibility of your club to ensure that all singers are BABS members and have a valid Convention Registration.

STAGE FAMILIARISATION

Two representatives of your chorus are invited to attend this brief slot on Friday, immediately following the Quartet semi-finals.

THE STAGE

There will be 12 four-step 4ft risers on the contest stage and no acoustic shell. Foldback will be present. At the midpoint of risers there is 5.60 metres of clear performance space to the front edge of the stage. See page 8 of this document for stage and riser layout. There are no stage Tabs/Curtains. Enter stage left, exit stage right.

CONTEST RULES

Please note the rule which bans the use of confetti or explosions on stage and would be subject to disqualification. A full set of Contest Rules can be found in the Document Centre on the BABS Guild of Judges web site www.babsguildofjudges.com

COURIERS

Please Report to the Couriers Desk (located outside Studio 1) at the time stated on the schedule (Column headed "Report Time"). A Courier will then take you to your allocated Changing Area at the time stated on your schedule. A contestant bag-drop facility will be available for storage of any stage uniforms. Do not leave any valuables in your dressing area and leave the dressing area in full stage attire. Please note that there will be no pre-performance photographs nor risers.

CONTEST CYCLE

From this point you are on a timed contest cycle. Please observe the timings for your chorus.

WARM-UP ROOMS

Your courier will collect you from the Changing Room at the time shown in the Column "Changing Room Out" and escort you to your allocated warm-up room (approx 20 mins). Please note there will be NO water coolers and there will be NO risers in the warm up rooms.



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CONTEST TIMING

Each contestant has been allocated an 12 - minute cycle to allow for entering the stage, performing their contest songs and exiting. If you need longer than the allocated 12 minutes, need longer than the allocated 12minutes, please indicate how much time you will need on the online Declaration form.

ACCESSIBILITY

The convention centre is a fully accessible building. Please notify us in advance on your Contest Declaration Form of any accessibility needs. Also inform the Courier Team on your arrival of these needs, so they can allow extra time for those concerned to move through the contest cycle, as routes may vary from direct walking routes. If you need any equipment such as a wheelchair, please bring yours with you.

STAGE ACCESS

Entry to the stage area will be at the discretion of the Stage Manager.

- Enter Stage Left. All contestant access is from backstage. This is via a short flight of 8-10 steps.
- Exit Stage Right. All contestant egress will be from the front of the stage on to the floor of the Auditorium, this is also via a short flight of 8 -10 steps. Your Courier will then lead you to the changing room.
- Wheelchair access & egress is stage left. A small lift is available from the backstage area.

As soon as you are in position on the risers, the Stage Manager or his assistant will ask you to indicate when you are ready. Your readiness will then be signalled to the MC.

CONTESTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The MC will then commence your announcement on the lines of:
Stewards please close the doors - Can we have the house lights down. Contestant number... From... Under the direction of ... Chorus Name...
At this point the stage lights will come up and you will be judged for Performance. There will be no further signal to start singing in either song, or to make your exit. In the interests of the timetable, please keep acceptance of applause to a courteous minimum. If there is a false start to either song, stop and restart. Performance judges will continue to judge but other categories will restart their marking with your fresh start.

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VERBAL COMMENT

Non-singing dialogue is generally not part of a contest performance. However, relevant brief comment with supporting visual communication is permitted, to help establish a mood and/or theme, before, in between and at the end of the performance package. Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be penalised by the Performance Judge(s) up to and including forfeiture. If required please use the Lecturn microphone positioned stage left.

END OF CONTEST PRESENTATIONS

All competing Club Chairmen and Chorus Directors are asked to assemble in the allocated seats at the front of the auditorium (stage left) in preparation for the results and trophy presentations. Only the winning Chorus representatives will be called onto the stage.

JUDGES

Judges are not permitted to talk with competitors nor members of the audience during the contest and the award presentations. Please do not approach the Judges area for scoresheets these will be available from the BABS Reception Desk, and on the BABS App, after the contest.

CONTEST RECORDINGS

Individual chorus performances will be made available on line for post event viewing. Full instructions on how to access these will be circulated to clubs separately to this document.

Please Note: There will be no Directors Cam.

EVALUATIONS

- Following a review of "Post Contest Evaluations", to bring the Mixed Chorus Contest in line with the Male Chorus Contest, all Choruses will be offered the opportunity to pre-select one of the following Evaluation options:
- A traditional Post-Convention visit to a Chorus by a Judge of the Club's choice. This option will be at the expense of the Chorus.
- A written Evaluation delivered post Convention
- A verbal evaluation at Convention delivered by a single panel of judges to selected chorus members

Please indicate your preference on the online Mixed Chorus Declaration Form.



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RIGHT OF APPEAL

If you have cause for any complaint about the conditions whilst competing please advise your courier immediately you leave the stage. Any repeat performances will be at the discretion of the Chairman of Judges. Should an emergency situation arise which, in the opinion of the Chairman of Judges would adversely affect your performance or your safety, s/he may stop the contest.

PHOTOGRAPHS

There will be no pre-performance photographs on risers before going to the warm up rooms. Only live action photographs will be taken during your contest performance. All photographs will be available to purchase from the official Convention photographer Event Photos. Their stand will be located on the ground floor in or near the main reception area.

NO OTHER PHOTOGRAPHY OR RECORDING OF ANY KIND/TYPE IS PERMITTED DURING THE COMPETITION

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Contest Awards

CHORUS TROPHIES & AWARDS

The following trophies and awards will be presented at the end of the chorus contest. All Club Chairmen and MDs to be on stage, so as to be ready to receive these awards if won.

First Placed Chorus

Second Placed Chorus

Third Placed Chorus

Small Chorus Award

Most Improved Chorus - The Roy Phillips Award

Divisional Two Winner Award

Divisional Three Winner Award

Divisional Four Winner Award

AWARD WINNING BURSARIES FOR 2020

To encourage clubs to further develop their skills, bursaries will be given to award winners in the chorus contest. These are as follows:

First Placed Chorus - £1,500

Divisional Two Winners - £1,000

Divisional Three Winners - £500

Divisional Four Winners - £100

Small Chorus Award Winners - £250

Most Improved Chorus Winners - £250

CHORUS CHAMPIONS EXPECTATIONS

SHOW PERFORMANCE - SUNDAY

The 2020 National Mixed Chorus Champions will be expected to perform a package of songs, lasting no more than 20 minutes (including dialogue), on the Sunday Evening Show.

In the event of the first placed chorus being unable to appear on this show, the second placed chorus will be asked to perform.

If you are aiming to achieve either of these positions, please complete the Show Package Declaration by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.gle/nM9CmYQNm2gN9t1XA>.

Your form should be submitted by Midnight on 31st March 2020.

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General Information

CONTEST LOCATION

All contests will take place in the main auditorium.

ENTRY TO AUDITORIUM

Entrance to and from the Auditorium will only be permitted between performances. Whilst we have never banned children or set a minimum age, we would ask you to consider carefully if you wish your members to bring children under the age of 5 into the auditorium during your performance. A "Barbertots" live screen viewing area for children under 5 will be made available.

CONTEST SEATING

All contest seating is unallocated except for those people who bought an Early Bird Premium Package in Bournemouth for whom seats are reserved for both contest and shows. These are located in the centre section of the stalls. There is adequate seating available for anyone wishing to watch the remainder of the contest.

VENUE CATERING

Hot and cold food will be available throughout the weekend in Hall D with cold food also available in Level 5 bar area. Full bar service is available in Hall D and Level 5 Bar.

BABS RECEPTION & REGISTRATION DESK

This will be open in the main foyer from Friday morning and throughout the weekend. We recommend that family and supporters purchase registrations and show tickets online, prior to arrival at convention. Registrations are cheaper when bought in advance.

Contestants must register by 31st March 2020.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS CONTEST SESSION TICKET

Only available to buy on the day at Convention. Entitles an individual to enter the session in which the competitor they want to watch is performing. The badges will be clearly marked for security purposes, and only applies to that particular session. The ticket holder will be expected to leave the auditorium and the Conference Centre at the end of the session. Entry to other events is not permissible. Cost: £15 Friday and Saturday. £20 Sunday.

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General Information

COPYRIGHT & SOCIAL MEDIA

To comply with copyright rules only officially approved visual recording, audio recording and photography may take place in the Auditorium. This includes any form of digital photography whether by camera device, mobile telephone or IPAD/Tablet devices.

Anyone found infringing this ruling will be asked to leave. The competition will be stopped if this happens, which could have a serious impact on a competitor's performance. Please remind your members and supporters to ensure that they are not the one to jeopardise a performer's chances on the competition or show stage. Please note that there will be official BABS Media Team members who have permission to use their equipment during contest.

So as not to interfere with any performance, please ensure that mobile phones, watch alerts or any other electronic communication equipment with an audible facility are switched off at all times.

Uploading of any unofficial recorded material to social media sites is strictly prohibited.

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Weekend Timetable

A guide to the weekend is shown below. All timings subject to change.

FRIDAY 22ND MAY

- 0930 - 2030 BABS Reception Open
- 1000 - 1200 Quartet Contestant Stage Time
- 1100 - 1110 Official Opening by BABS Chairman
- 1110 - 1150 Convention Interview
- 1200 - 1230 Early Arrival Delegate Sing Time
- 1300 - 1705 Quartet Semi-Final Contest
- 1500 - 1530 Breakout Session
- 1545 - 1615 Breakout Session
- 1815 - 1845 Chorus Contestants Stage Familiarisation
- 2030 - 2230 Friday Show (No interval)
- 2230 - 0100 Afterglow

SATURDAY 23RD MAY

- 0800 - 1900 BABS Reception Open
- 0915 - 1900 Male Chorus Finals
- 1030 - 1100 Workshop
- 1115 - 1145 Workshop
- 1200 - 1230 Workshop
- 1400 - 1430 Workshop
- 1445 - 1515 Workshop
- 1530 - 1600 Workshop
- 2100 - 2230 Saturday Show
- 2230 - 0200 Afterglow

SUNDAY 24TH MAY

- 0900 - 2030 BABS Reception Open
- 0930 - 1000 Interdenominational Church Service
- 1100 - 1400 Mixed Chorus Contest
- 1130 - 1150 HCPod
- 1200 - 1220 HCPod
- 1230 - 1250 HCPod
- 1415 - 1435 HCPod
- 1445 - 1505 HCPod
- 1515 - 1535 HCPod
- 1600 - 1800 Quartet Finals
- 2030 - 2215 Sunday Show
- 2230 - 0200 After Glow including the new Sing Zone

MONDAY 25TH MAY

- 0930 - 1015 On Demand Preview - Videos of 2020 Winners
- 1030 - 1145 Monday Morning Delegate Events
- 1200 Convention closes

Visit www.sing2020.com for the latest details on the Biggest Annual Barbershop Event outside North America

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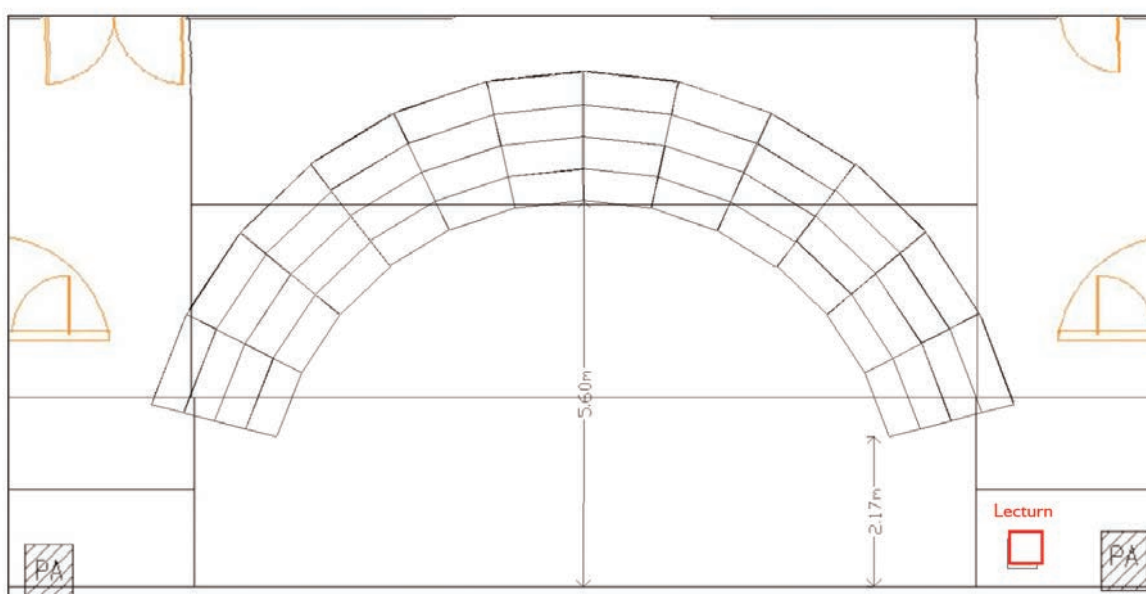
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Stage Risers and Mood Lighting

STAGE

12 risers on the contest stage. The distance from the centre of the risers to the end of the stage is approximately 5.60 metres and 2.17 metres from the edge of the front riser to the edge of the stage. The performance area will be lit to provide an even "face light" so the performers may be seen easily. The background of the stage will be lit with colour "mood" lighting (see heading below).



MOOD LIGHTING FOR CONTESTS

Choruses will have background lighting for each of their contest songs. Coloured lighting will NOT be focussed on the stage performance area, this will be lit with a general stage wash as in previous years. This will permit proper lighting for video.

There are 7 choices of colour:

Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet.

- The chosen colour will be displayed on a "cyc cloth" behind the performance area.
- You may choose the same colour for both songs or a different one for each song.
- The colour you choose for the first will be displayed at the introduction of the chorus and will continue until the applause ends after your first song.
- The colour you choose for the 2nd song will be displayed at the end of the applause for the first song and will continue until the stage lights go down at the end of your performance.
- The background colour cannot be changed mid-song. It remains in place for the entire song.
- If you do not request a specific colour, the technicians will choose one at random.



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Sound and Vision

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The sections below are designed to give competitors, an insight in how the technical aspects of this event are implemented.

SOUND

As in previous year's, an active line array foldback system is in use on the stage to provide an ambient acoustic environment for performers.

The chorus contest is amplified to the main auditorium in the following way: A selection of DPA microphones are suspended above the chorus risers. These microphones provide the audio source for both the amplified sound and the recording, audio and video. The audio signals are split into two defined systems, one to amplify the sound for the auditorium and one to provide the audio for recording of the videos.

All the amplified feeds are provided into the auditorium in a mono format to ensure as even coverage as possible for all spectators in the audience. For the avoidance of doubt, NO compression is used anywhere in the audio chain.

Recorded Audio!

Sound to a barbershop person is clearly the most important thing! When we record this audio for the video we DO NOT alter this in any way. Please bear in mind that when you watch the video back on a computer, iPhone, YouTube etc, the playback device you are using may alter the sound in many ways. For example, the speakers on an iPhone are very small and will sound very different to the sound through a home hi-fi system. With all of this in mind; we do hope you enjoy the record of your performance from this event.

VISION

What's the Purpose of the Videos?

It is created to give you a record of your performance on the day. We use High Definition cameras and recording equipment to give the best possible picture. We do not use any "artistic" video work, such as panning the picture, so that the best possible overall record is made for the club to review their performance.

The videos take a few days after the event to edit, title and check. A copy of the individual contest performance is made available to the club to view and download. Details to follow.

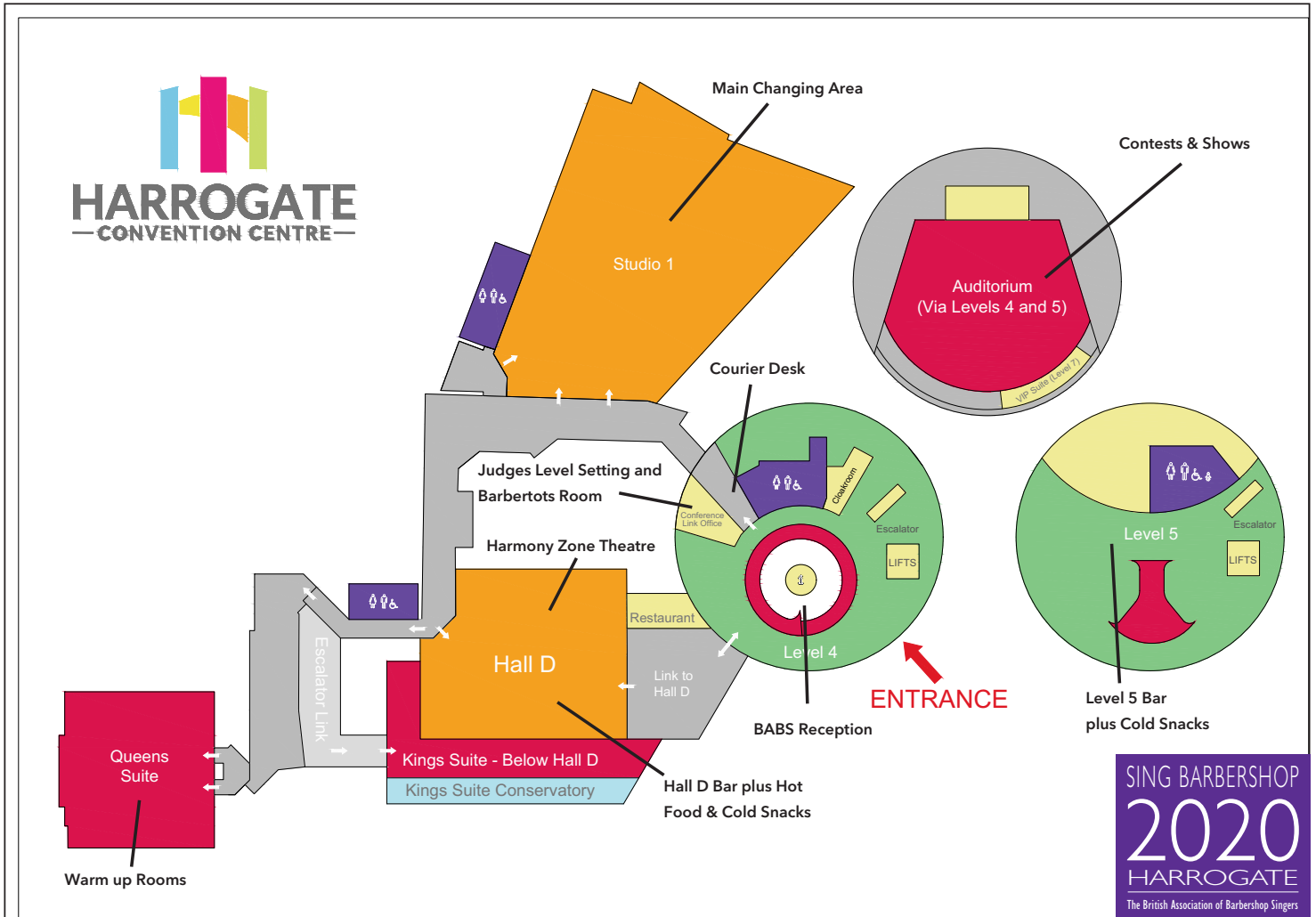
Every competitor's performance will again be made available, free of charge, to all members via the BABS On-Demand Free-to-View service. Full details to be published separately.



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Venue Plan



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ADDRESS
Harrogate Convention Centre
King's Road
Harrogate
HG1 5LA



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Contest Declarations

MIXED CHORUS CONTEST DECLARATION

Submit your song and mood lighting Declaration by clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/CcK6RJnCFKponetM8>. Your form should be submitted by Midnight on 31st March 2020.

SHOW PACKAGE AND DECLARATION

The 2020 Mixed Chorus Champions will be asked to perform a package of songs, lasting no more than 20 minutes (including dialogue), on the Sunday Evening Show.

In the event of the First placed mixed chorus being unable to appear on this show, the second placed mixed chorus will be asked to perform.

If you are aiming to achieve this position, please complete the Show Package Declaration by clicking on this link:

<https://forms.gle/nM9CmYQNm2gN9t1XA>

Your form should be submitted by Midnight on 31st March 2020.

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Contest Recordings Policy Social Media Usage

We would like to draw your attention to the BABS policy on uploading contest videos on to YouTube and sharing across Social Media Platforms.

The BABS Board of Directors has sought external legal advice, and our adviser has confirmed that copyright of BABS contest performances has two elements: Copyright of the Recording and Copyright of the Music.

1. Copyright of the Recording

BABS owns the copyright of all the contest videos and approval for use is required from BABS.

2. Copyright of the Music

The copyright of the songs remains with the copyright holders of those songs, but YouTube in the UK has a blanket agreement with music publishers and separate approval is not required. However, should the owner of the copyright of a particular song not be part of this agreement, then that copyright owner may ask Google, owner of YouTube, to remove that song. It is not however necessary for whoever uploads that recording to get specific permission.

It is still a prerequisite that Clubs get full approval from the copyright holder to sing their songs in contest, and as part of their repertoire.

Uploading to YouTube

The Board of Directors, given the legal clarification, has decided that we will upload contest videos to YouTube via the BABS account and will make links available to Clubs. The videos will also be loaded onto our SingOnDemand platform (Vimeo). BABS will hold the original contest videos.

Clubs may further share such material on social media, conditional upon them being responsible for any and all liabilities incurred as a result of any legal action regarding copyright.

Other BABS Events

Any recordings taken at BABS educational events like Harmony College or Directors Academy plus any non-contest activity at Convention or any other BABS organised event, are the copyright of BABS. Any recordings taken at these events, whether taken by BABS or otherwise, may not be shared by Clubs, as permission to do so has not been granted.

Questions

Please refer any questions on the operation of this policy to the BABS Director of Administration email: administrationdirector@singbarbershop.com.

Contest 2020 Mixed Voice Chorus Final										Date: 24 May 2020			
Contestant	Report to Couriers	Dressing Room		Warm Up Room		Hold	On stage	Dressing Room					
		In	Out	In	Out			In	Out				
M/W	Ultraviolet	09:45	09:58	10:28	10:33	10:53	11:00	11:45	11:45				
1	Mosaic	09:58	10:13	10:43	10:48	11:08	11:15	12:00	12:00				
2	The Demon Barbers Chorus	10:10	10:25	10:55	11:00	11:20	11:27	12:12	12:12				
3	The Bristol Mix	10:22	10:37	11:07	11:12	11:32	11:39	12:24	12:24				
4	Endeavour Chorus	10:34	10:49	11:19	11:24	11:44	11:51	12:36	12:36				
5	Southern Acappella	10:46	11:01	11:31	11:36	11:56	12:03	12:48	12:48				
Interval: 20mins													
6	MUBS	11:18	11:33	12:03	12:08	12:28	12:35	13:20	13:20				
7	One Hull of a Chorus	11:30	11:45	12:15	12:20	12:40	12:47	13:32	13:32				
8	Black Cat Harmony	11:42	11:57	12:27	12:32	12:52	12:59	13:44	13:44				
9	Heart of England	11:54	12:09	12:39	12:44	13:04	13:11	13:56	13:56				
10	EQ Rendezvous	12:06	12:21	12:51	12:56	13:16	13:23	14:08	14:08				
M/C	A Kind of Magic (Swansong)	12:18	12:33	13:03	13:08	13:28	13:35	14:20	14:20				

Mixed Chorus Contest Divisions 2020

Division 1

(70% or above and new choruses)

The Bristol Mix^
Cameo^
The Demon Barbers Chorus^
Endeavour Chorus
EQ Rendezvous
MUBS
Southern Acappella

Division 2 (65% to 69.9%)

Black Cat Harmony
Mosaic
One Hull of a Chorus

Division 3 (60% to 64.9%)

Division 4 (below 60%)

Heart of England

Mixed Chorus Contest Bursaries - 2020

Chorus Champions: £1,500

2nd Division Winners: £1,000

3rd Division Winners: £500

4th Division Winners: £100

Small Chorus Award: £250

Most Improved Chorus Award: £250

How choruses are placed into divisions

Choruses are placed into divisions according to the score they achieved in their most recent BABS contest, namely the 2019 contest. If a chorus is competing in a BABS contest for the very first time, they have been placed into Division 1, and are denoted by ^.

Choruses are listed in alphabetical order, not their 'seeded' order.

Please note this is the first year that divisional awards have been given in the BABS Mixed Chorus Contest.