

British Association of Barbershop Singers

MIXED VOICE
BARBERSHOP
CHORUS
CONTEST

Sunday 27th May 2018

**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

**44th Barbershop Convention
25th - 28th May
Harrogate International
Centre**



SING BARBERSHOP

Mixed Voice Barbershop Chorus Contest

DATE

Sunday 27th May 2018

TIME

12.00 Noon. Every effort will be made to run on time, however this may be impacted by various factors inherent in the nature of the event.

VENUE

Harrogate International Centre, Kings Road, Harrogate HG1 5LA

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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. Coinciding with its annual national convention, BABS will host the 3rd Open Mixed Voice Barbershop Chorus Contest for ensembles on Sunday 27th May 2018 at the Harrogate 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:

Yvonne Hughes, BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager

Email: mixedchoralcontest@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

You are invited to enter the Mixed Voice Barbershop Chorus Contest, using the Application Form accessed from the home page of the BABS web site www.singbarbershop.com

The entry process will open on Sunday 1st October 2017 and will be limited to a maximum of eight Contestants. Entries will be accepted in the order they are received.

The entry process will close on Wednesday 28th February.

The BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager will acknowledge every Entry Form received to confirm whether or not their Application into the Contest has been successful.

There is no contest entry fee, however, **EVERY** member of the ensemble is required to Register to attend the BABS Annual Convention. Anyone who is only attending on Sunday, needs to purchase a One-Day Sunday Registration.

REGISTRATION

Convention Registrations can be purchased through the BABS Box Office, which is managed by Venue Cymru in Llandudno. There are three types of registrations available; Full Weekend, Two-Day (Saturday & Sunday) and One-day (Saturday or Sunday). Convention details, registration costs and purchasing information are available on the BABS Convention web site www.sing2018.com

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, 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 BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager has been notified by 12 noon on Wednesday 23rd May 2018. 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.

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 BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager. If in doubt ask.

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CONTEST DRAW

The draw will be made no later than Sunday 4th March 2018. The running order will then be communicated by email to the ensemble contacts. If you don't receive an email by the 11th March, please check your SPAM file or contact the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager.

CONTEST PERFORMANCE

A detailed time-table will be sent at a later date, identifying the time you will need to report to Couriers, where/when to warm-up, and when you will be taken to the stage for your performance.

You should also note:

- * There will be separate changing facilities for male and female contestants.
- * A Master of Ceremonies will announce each ensemble.
- * Each ensemble is allotted 10 minutes stage time for entry, performance and exit. Extraordinary requests for more time shall be made to the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager by Saturday 28th April 2018 and a written decision received by Monday 30th April 2018 which shall be adhered to.
- * Ensembles needing to establish pitch at the start of a song should use a portable single-note source, eg. Pitch Pipe.
- * All ensembles shall perform on the same set of four step risers arranged in a curve.
- * There will be no curtains.
- * Stage lighting will be fixed during the contest and dimmed during entry and exit of the performance area.
- * Sound enhancement will be fixed and the same for all ensembles.
- * 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 BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager by Saturday 28th April 2018 and shall have received a written decision by Monday 30th April 2018 which shall be adhered to. Any breach of the above will risk disqualification. If in doubt ask without delay.
- * 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 A 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 judges will refer to the BABS Contest Rules.

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AWARDS

A prize of £500 will be awarded to the overall winning ensemble. All contestants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

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. Persons who are not registered for Convention will need to purchase a One-Day Registration to gain entry to the auditorium.

RECORDING

1. The use of any form of photographic, audio or video recording equipment by participants or audience members that is not pre-authorized 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 BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager. If in doubt ask.

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Schedule of Dates

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

The deadline to:

- * Provide the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager with an Entry form available on the BABS web site www.singbarbershop.com

SATURDAY 28TH APRIL 2018

The deadline to inform the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager of the following:

- * Provide final confirmation of Part One entry details, Part Two completed and the Declaration signed.
- * Notify 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 for more stage time than the 10 minutes allotted for entry, performance and exit.

MONDAY 30TH APRIL 2018

- * Receive a binding written response from the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager to a proposal to use materials that may delay proceedings following exit from the performance area.
- * Receive a binding written response from the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager to an extraordinary request for extended stage time.

FRIDAY 4TH MAY 2018

The deadline for:

- * The BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager to communicate the running order of performances to the ensemble contacts by email.

12.00 NOON WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 2018

The deadline to:

- * Notify the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager if, since final confirmation of entry details, an ensemble finds its number has fallen below the requisite minimum and still wants to compete.

10.00PM FRIDAY 25TH MAY 2018

The deadline to:

- * Receive a binding response from the BABS Mixed Voice Chorus Contest Manager to a request to be allowed to compete with numbers below the requisite minimum.

SUNDAY 27TH MAY 2018

The contest will take place in the main auditorium (see photo below) at the Harrogate Convention Centre.



Harrogate Auditorium

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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/>

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