



SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL
2017
REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

Chorus Competitor Information

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS December 9, 2016

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NOTES OF INTEREST

- Open Division competitors are placed in the random order of appearance draw with International Division competitors. Evaluation Only competitors will still compete first in their respective riser configurations.
- Competitors disqualified from any competition, in any division, will not receive scoresheets.
- Performance time for International Division (including Evaluation Only) is not to exceed seven minutes, while performance time for Open Division is not to exceed ten minutes.
- The International Board of Directors continues to reaffirm the policy requiring that only copyright music is sung at the regional competitions. By signing the entry form, choruses warrant they have obtained appropriate clearance permission for the arrangements they plan to sing.
- For a complete explanation of the requirements and category weights of each of the four judging categories, along with the Open Division elements, refer to the Judging Category Description Book.
- If you have questions specific to your regional convention, please contact your events coordinator or chair of the regional convention.
- If you have questions regarding the competition, please feel free to contact [Competition Services](#) at international headquarters.

CONTACTING SWEET ADELINES

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Important Documents

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- **[2017 Entry Form:](#)**

[Registering Online](#) is the quickest, most convenient way to register for competition. If you choose, you may mail or fax your completed entry form to Sweet Adelines International. You can print a hard copy of the [competition entry form here](#).

- **[2017 Regional Dates and Deadlines:](#)**

This chart lists important dates for your competition, including the date you can first register online, the date the order of appearance is drawn and the date of the competition (available in region numerical order and contest date order). **Please note the 60-day entry submission deadline.** Additional mailings from your region are sent closer to the competition date in regards to housing and convention registration deadlines.

- **[2017 List of Competing Members Verification Form:](#)**

Two copies of this alphabetical list of each competing member (including director), their ID number and signature **must** be turned into the region's competition coordinator at the briefing. Please **DO NOT** mail this list to international headquarters.

- **[2017 Open Division Cue Sheet:](#)**

A copy of this form **must** be turned into the region's competition coordinator at the briefing.

- **[Regional Chorus Competition Timetable:](#)**

A timetable of important dates, such as mailings and deadlines, in terms of how many days they occur before or after competition.

- **[Regional Competition Eligibility Requirements:](#)**

Information for choruses/quartets to determine eligibility for regional competition.

- **[Guidelines for Evaluation or Open Division by Video Recording](#)**

- **[Basic Criteria for Public Performance:](#)**

Criteria used in determining if a prospective or established chorus may perform in public.

- **[Evaluating Your Contest Performance:](#)**

An informative guide on how you and the judges evaluate your contest performance.

- **[Performance Level Guidelines:](#)**

These charts, separated by judging categories (sound, music, expression, showmanship) and levels (A+ through D-), help you evaluate your scoresheet comments.

- **[Entertainment Package Guidelines:](#)**

These charts, separated by judging categories (sound, music, expression, showmanship) and levels (A+ through D-), help you evaluate your Open Division scoresheet comments.

- **[Copyright Matters Q&A:](#)**

Instructions addressing copyright issues; an informative guide on copyrights/arrangements of music.

- **[Single-Copy Sheet Music:](#)**

A list of single-copy sheet music available from International Sales.

- **[Competition Handbook:](#)**

Sweet Adelines International's [Competition Handbook](#) explains official rules and regulations for all competitions. The handbook is also available through International Sales.

- **[Open Division FAQ Sheet](#)**

Entering the 2016 Competition

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Rules to Enter:

- A minimum of 15 members, not including the director(s), must be on stage when competing in a regional chorus competition. A chorus with fewer than 15 members on stage performs for Evaluation Only or Open Division and receives a written evaluation of their performance from each judge, provided that all other requirements for entering the regional chorus competition are met.
- In accordance with the competition procedures in the [Competition Handbook](#), it is your region's responsibility to notify Competition Services if a member or chorus has not paid their regional assessment. Any chorus delinquent in paying its regional assessment as of 60 days prior to regional competition is not in good standing with the region and is ineligible to compete. If it is paid, Competition Services must receive notification from the region that the member or chorus is in good standing and eligible to compete.

Chapter Membership Renewal:

- As a reminder, a chorus must have competed at least once in a regional or international competition in the preceding three years in order to renew chapter membership. This means that your chorus must have competed in 2015, 2016 or 2016 in order to renew chapter membership for the 2017/2018 fiscal year.

Entry Fee:

- Chorus Registration: \$150.00 (up to 60 days prior to competition)

Late Fee:

- Chorus Late Fee: \$100.00 in addition to standard registration fees (59-45 days prior to competition)
- Entries received after 45 days prior to contest are not processed.

Riser Change Fee:

- Any change in your riser configuration after the initial Order of Appearance has been drawn results in a **\$25.00** fee.

Entry Deadline:

- Entries **MUST** be received at international headquarters by the entry deadline. Refer to the [2017 Regional Dates and Deadlines](#) to view your region's schedule.

Sending in Your Entry Form:

- Competition entries are accepted on the Sweet Adelines International [website](#) beginning December 9, 2016. *Online registration is limited to the chorus president, director, or treasurer on file at headquarters; all must be in good standing.*
- Entries may also be printed and mailed or faxed to Sweet Adelines International. Both the entry fee and completed form must be received by international headquarters no later than 60 days prior to regional competition to avoid late fees. Allow ample time for the materials to be processed through the postal system.
- **Be sure to include your region number and chorus ID on the entry form.**
- Submitting your entry late affects your order of appearance. Entries received during the late period (59-45 days before competition) will not appear in the initial order of appearance drawing, but instead in a second drawing placing your chorus at the beginning of your chosen division of the competition.
- All mailed entry forms should be addressed:
Sweet Adelines International
c/o Competition Services
9110 S. Toledo Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74137
- NOTE: Please do not mail an entry that has already been processed online or faxed; this could result in duplicate charges.

Paying for Your Entry:

- Include payment in U.S. currency only. You can pay by check (mail only), Visa, MasterCard or Discover (online).

Withdrawing Your Entry:

- Anyone withdrawing must submit a written notification to international headquarters via email to [Competition Services](#).
- Competition entry fees are non-refundable.

Competition Options

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International Division

- International Division is the traditional competition option.
- Contestants in the International Division should prepare to sing two separate competition songs or medleys.
- Competing in the International Division, including Evaluation Only, meets the 3-year competition requirement for choruses.
- International Division serves as qualifier for international chorus semifinals and Harmony Classic competitions.
- Competitors have seven minutes to sing their two contest songs.
- Contestants may choose to perform for placement or evaluation within the International Division.
- Performing for Evaluation Only:
 - The International Board of Directors provides that all choruses, including prospective choruses, current regional champion, current international champion chorus, and/or current international wildcard choruses may perform in a regional competition for **Evaluation Only** or **Open Division**. This should be indicated on the entry form.

Open Division

- Open Division is an evaluative competition option.
- Contestants in the Open Division should prepare to sing one competition song performed as part of the entertainment package.
- Competing in the Open Division meets the 3-year competition requirement for choruses.
- Only level scores are given.
- Level scores are posted in performance order. They are posted alongside the International Division scores.
- Competitors have 10 minutes to complete their Open Division package.
- Contestants choosing to compete in Open Division shall present an entertainment package that includes:
 - One song or medley appropriate for use in a Sweet Adelines International competition;
 - At least one other song; and
 - Emcee material

Evaluation or Open Division by Video Recording

- The regional competition policies give choruses the options of evaluation through Evaluation Only or Open Division by video recording. *Choruses choosing these options are required to pay the competition entry fee.*
- The official panel evaluates the video recordings after viewing the level DVD, prior to judging the contest.
- Evaluation or Open Division by video recording *does not* fulfill the existing requirement that choruses must compete every three years to maintain their charter. Refer to Section VI of the [Competition Handbook](#) for complete guidelines. See also [Guidelines for Evaluation or Open Division by Video Recording](#).

Competition Specifics

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Procedure and Guidelines

- Chorus indicates on the entry form its desire to perform in the Open Division, International Division (placement) or Evaluation Only. *The full entry fee is required even when performing for Evaluation Only and Open Division.*
- Prospective choruses may only enter regional chorus competition for Evaluation Only or Open Division.
- Choruses performing for Evaluation Only, unless serving as mic-tester or host chorus, are automatically part of the drawing for first appearance.
- A current regional champion chorus's bow-out performance is not evaluated. The chorus must perform a second time at the beginning or end of the competition for Evaluation Only or Open Division in order to receive a scoresheet.
- Each judge writes comments on her category scoresheets and indicates a level score for each song. **No numerical score or total score is given for Evaluation Only or Open Division.**
- Only the competition assistance/host chorus has the option of performing either first or last, when performing for Evaluation Only.
- Choruses performing in the International Division, Evaluation Only or Open Division fulfill the 3-year competition requirement. Only video submissions do not count towards the 3-year competition requirement.
- Choruses competing for Evaluation Only are **not** eligible for awards presented by the international organization or for regional awards determined by total score or final placement.
- Competitors may not change from International Division to Open Division (or vice versa) after the final draw for order of appearance has been conducted at headquarters.
- Open Division competitors will be in the random order of appearance draw with International Division competitors. Evaluation Only competitors will still compete first in their respective riser configurations.

Riser Configurations

Riser Configuration:

- Each region is given the option of using the standard riser configuration, the alternate riser configuration or both at regional competition. It is the region's decision which configuration(s) are used.
- Each region has the option to choose which riser configuration is used first. [Check to see the riser configuration chosen by your region.](#)
- If two riser configurations are offered in your region, choruses are allowed to make their own decision regarding on which riser configuration they compete.
- Any change in your selection of riser configurations after the initial order of appearance has been made results in a **\$25.00** fee.

Standard Riser Configuration:

Inverted center;

more appropriate for larger choruses.

Alternate Riser Configuration:

No inverted center;

more appropriate for smaller choruses.

Please refer to the [Guidelines for Regional Conventions](#) for riser diagrams.

- NOTE: If your chorus does not designate on the registration form which riser configuration it desires, your chorus is automatically placed on the standard risers. The riser change fee will be assessed if the chorus later decides to change the riser configuration.

Mic-testing

A chorus invited to mic-test may also perform for Evaluation Only or Open Division at the end of the regional contest. Mic-testers choosing to performing for Evaluation Only or Open Division at the end of the regional contest *must complete the entry form and pay the entry fee.*

Qualifying for International

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The 2017 Regional Chorus Champions are eligible to compete in the 2018 International Chorus Competitions held October 15-20, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Wildcards

- The ten highest scoring regional second place choruses are eligible to compete at the next year's international chorus semifinals as wildcards.
- The next highest scoring regional second place chorus is invited if an eligible chorus chooses not to compete.
- Any wildcard chorus that qualifies for the international chorus semifinals by virtue of score and chooses to compete in the next year's international competition is not allowed to compete for placement at the following regional competition.
- Announcement of wildcards is made after all regional contests are complete.
- To aid in the decision-making process, please start discussions early. If you are fortunate enough to receive a wildcard invitation, these prior discussions will help speed up the decision process.

Harmony Classic

- From the first place mid-size (Division AA) and first place small (Division A) chorus divisions, the five highest scoring choruses are invited to compete in the Harmony Classic competition at the 2018 International Convention, October 15-20, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Choruses that qualify for both Harmony Classic and the international chorus semifinals are required to choose one contest in which they will compete. Choruses *may not* compete in both Harmony Classic and the international chorus semifinals in the same year.
- To aid in the decision-making process, please start discussions early. If you are fortunate enough to receive a Harmony Classic invitation, these prior discussions will help speed up the decision process.
- The maximum number of singers for Harmony Classic competition increases to 40 singing members for Division A and 75 singing members for Division AA. *While the qualification for Harmony Classic remains at 15-30 singing members for Division A and 31-60 singing members for Division AA at the regional competition level, this is important to note should your chorus be invited to compete in Harmony Classic at the international level.*
- Refer to the [Competition Handbook](#) for additional qualifications and restrictions.

Open Division Extras

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Audience Choice/Bravo

Only competitors competing in Open Division are eligible for the Audience Choice Award.

- Under the direction of the regional awards chair, and prior to the start of the regional chorus competition sessions, a maximum of 50 members of the audience are randomly selected to determine the Audience Choice Award recipients in their respective sessions. No criteria for this determination are established except the personal preference of the individual audience member. (Audience members participating in this process must be present for all eligible competitors in their respective sessions.) The chorus receiving the highest number of audience votes wins the Audience Choice Award.
- The Bravo Award is given if there is only one qualifying Open Division chorus competing.
- Eligibility for either award is confined to the choruses competing in the Open Division in the regional chorus contest that are not competing in the current year's International semifinals or Harmony Classic.
- Ribbons, purchased from International Sales, may be presented to all competing members of the winning chorus, including the chorus director.
- Ribbons for new or noncompeting members, or replacements for lost ribbons, may be purchased by the member through International Sales.
- The certificate sent from headquarters is presented to the winning chorus.

Penalties Subject to Disqualification

- Time penalty: 30 seconds over or more results in disqualification.
- Competition songs not sung primarily in English.
- Official song of the Corporation.
- Religious or patriotic songs. (Does not apply to non-competition songs.)
- Performance included spoken material and/or noise making devices. (Does not apply to non-competition songs.)
- Throwing object(s) into audience or judging pit from the competition stage.
- Crowns worn by contestant.
- Condition of stage.
- Conduct of contestants, including director, deemed prejudicial to the welfare of the organization.
- Delay of contest.
- Non-singing member, in addition to director, on stage.
- Deviation from submitted prepared program.

If a competitor is disqualified, they do not receive scoresheets and are not eligible for the Audience Choice or Bravo Award.

For more information on Open Division, please visit our [website](#).