

Basic Criteria for Public Performance

Each chorus and quartet, as a part of Sweet Adelines International, is committed to advancing the musical art form of barbershop harmony through education and performance. In order to promote this appreciation, each chorus must present a professional performance that enhances the music and emphasizes the appropriate image.

To ensure the quality of our public performances, the education coordinator is responsible for evaluating the musical abilities of choruses and prospective choruses, including their readiness for public performance. In addition, choruses are expected to establish quality control and auditioning procedures for quartets which represent their choruses. Although quality is difficult to specify, minimum standards must be established.

Listed below are the Basic Criteria for Public Performance adopted by the International Board of Directors. These criteria are used by the education coordinator in determining if a prospective or established chorus may perform in public. The International Board of Directors strongly urge choruses to use these same basic criteria when auditioning quartets.

PERFORMANCE

Musical Performance

- Performing groups and their audiences enjoy variety (including novelty or comedy songs, solos, and songs with modern chords) in a performance. However, the performance should include predominant use of barbershop arrangements sung in barber-shop style as defined in the Judging Category Description Book.
- Public performances should include the following musical skills:
 - *Correct notes and words
 - *In sync and in tune
 - *Energy and forward motion

Visual Performance

- Correct stage stance and posture
- Even spacing between chorus and quartet members
- Synchronization of planned movement
- Display of appropriate facial expression and poise
- Energy and emotional connection with the audience

Appropriateness

- Subject matter, lyrics or presentation should not be offensive to members and/or audience
- Length of performance should fit the occasion and the audience

Emcee

- Material is planned ahead and relevant to the audience
- Delivery enhances the performance and creates a sense of continuity throughout the program
- Uses appropriate material in good taste. Good singing is the emphasis; joke telling should be minimized and used with caution.

UNIT APPEARANCE

Costume

- Proper fit
- Clean, pressed and in good repair
- Appropriate for venue and audience

Grooming

- Hair that is neat, clean, and styled suitably for the costume
- Appropriate stage or street makeup applied in a uniform manner

MEMBERS AS AMBASSADORS

- All performance related contacts between Sweet Adelines and the public should be business-like and pleasant. A generic plan should be developed that assigns responsibilities to members and ensures that all performance related administrative details are properly handled
- Each chorus and quartet member should be aware that any interaction is a chance to make a positive impression

Of particular importance are:

- Interaction between the performance coordinator and those who hire the group to perform
- Interaction between the performing group and the audience, before, during and after the performance
- Interaction with personnel at the performance site