

BASIC CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

Each chapter 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 chapter and quartet must present a professional performance that enhances the music and emphasizes the appropriate image.

In order to ensure the quality of our public performances, the Educational Coordinator (ED) is responsible for evaluating the musical abilities of chapters and prospective chapters, including their readiness for public performance. In addition, chapters are expected to establish quality control and auditioning procedures for quartets which represent their chapters. 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 EDs in determining if a prospective or established chapter may perform in public. The International Board of Directors strongly urges chapters to use these same basic criteria when auditioning quartets.

BASIC CRITERIA FOR PUBLIC PERFORMANCE

I. PERFORMANCE

A. Musical Performance

1. 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 barbershop style as defined in the Judging Category Description Book.
2. Public performances should include the following musical skills
 - a. Correct notes and words
 - b. In sync and in tune
 - c. Energy and forward motion

B. Visual Performance

1. Correct stage stance and posture
2. Even spacing between chorus and quartet members
3. Synchronization of planned movement
4. Display of appropriate facial expression and poise
5. Energy and emotional connection with the audience

- C. Appropriateness
 - 1. Subject matter, lyrics or presentation should not be offensive to members and/or audience
 - 2. Length of performance should fit the occasion and the audience
- D. Emcee
 - 1. Material is planned ahead and relevant to the audience
 - 2. Delivery enhances the performance and creates a sense of continuity throughout the program
 - 3. Uses appropriate material in good taste. Good singing is the emphasis; joke telling should be minimized and used with caution

II. UNIT APPEARANCE

- A. Costume
 - 1. Proper fit
 - 2. Clean, pressed and in good repair
 - 3. Appropriate for venue and audience
- B. Grooming
 - 1. Hair that is neat, clean, and styled suitably for the costume
 - 2. Appropriate stage or street makeup applied in a uniform manner

III. MEMBERS AS AMBASSADORS

- A. All performance related contacts between Sweet Adelines and the public should be business-like and pleasant. A generic plan, either formal or informal, should be developed that assigns responsibilities and ensures that all performance related administrative details are properly handled.
- B. Each chorus and quartet member should be aware that any interaction is a chance to make a positive impression. Of particular importance are:
 - 1. Interaction between the performance coordinator and those who hire the group to perform
 - 2. Interaction between the performing group and the audience, before, during and after the performance
 - 3. Interaction with personnel at the performance site