

British Association of Barbershop Singers



# CONTEST BRIEFING DOCUMENT

**National Chorus Final  
Saturday 26th May 2018**



[www.sing2018.com](http://www.sing2018.com)

The 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



CHORUS  
COMPETITION

# SING 2018

## Welcome to the BABS 44th Annual Convention

The information in this document is intended to provide you with all the necessary information needed to plan your time during the chorus contest at Convention. There will be no contest briefing at the event.

**All competitors are required to purchase and be in possession of a valid Convention Registration.**

### BRIEFING DOCUMENT CONTENTS

\* **Contest Information: Pages 2 to 4**

Three pages covering everything from stage set up to evaluations.

\* **Contest Awards & Bursaries: Page 5**

Details of the Chorus Awards and Bursaries.

\* **General Information: Page 6**

Other relevant information regarding the weekend.

\* **Stage Risers & Mood Lighting: Page 7**

Riser layout and information on the introduction of mood lighting.

\* **Sound & Vision Technical Information: Page 8**

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

\* **Convention Centre Plan: Page 9**

Floor plan of Harrogate Convention Centre.

\* **Contestant Declaration - Appendix A**

This form needs to be completed and returned by 30th March 2018.

\* **Convention Show Declaration - Appendix B**

The 2018 Chorus Champions and the Silver Medal Chorus will be asked to perform a 15-18 minute package of songs, including dialogue, on the Sunday Evening show. Please complete the Declaration Form if you are aiming to achieve these positions.

*In the event of either the First placed or Second placed chorus being unable to appear on this show, the third placed chorus will be asked to perform.*

\* **Contest Recording & Social Media Policy - Appendix C**

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

If you have any questions relating to your contest performances please contact the BABS Chorus Contest Manager,

Email: [choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com](mailto:choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com)

Any general convention queries should be referred to Alan Bithell the BABS Convention Manager.

Email: [conventionmanager@singbarbershop.com](mailto:conventionmanager@singbarbershop.com)

### MEMBERS ON STAGE

A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more members on stage, with or without the director. All performers on stage must be a fully registered and paid up member of BABS, including female directors.

The member list will be sent to you in March. Please complete and return to us by post or email by 25th April 2018.

Postal address: Alastair Taylor-Payne, BABS Chorus Contest Manager  
c/o Tradeway (Shipping) Limited, 146 Lowton, Pudsey, Leeds  
West Yorkshire, LS28 9AY

The British Association of Barbershop Singers  
A company limited by guarantee registered  
in England and Wales  
Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court, Corunna Road,  
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## CHORUS COMPETITION

# SING 2018

## Contest Information

Please note **All** competitors are required to purchase and be in possession of a valid Convention Registration.

### 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 7 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](http://www.babsguildofjudges.com)

### CHANGING ROOM

This will be in the Hall H (see plan on page 9). Contestants must report to the Courier Team on arrival, their desk will be located at the entrance to Hall H. All contestants are allocated a timed schedule for entry to the changing area. A contestant bag drop facility will be available for storage of any stage uniforms prior to and following your vacation of the changing areas. Please note this is a limited space and will be unsupervised.

A separate changing room is available for female directors.

### CONTEST CYCLE

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

### COURIERS

You will be collected by a contest courier from your changing area and taken for a photograph on risers (prepare your pose in advance, you will only have approximately 10 mins). Do not leave any valuables in your dressing area, please leave the dressing area in full stage attire.

### WARM UP ROOMS

From photography you will be escorted 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.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

As well as the off stage photograph before the contest, 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 is in Hall D.

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





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## Contest Information

### CONTEST TIMING

Each contestant has been allocated an 11- minute cycle time to allow for entering the stage, performing their contest songs and exiting. If you feel that you need longer than the allocated 11 minutes, please contact the Contest Manager as soon as possible so that the final timing schedule can be produced.

### ACCESSIBILITY

The convention centre is a fully accessible building. Please notify us in advance on your Contest Declaration Form of any accessibility needs. Please 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 ensure you bring yours with you.

### STAGE ACCESS

Entry to the stage area will be at the discretion of the Stage Manager. There are no Tabs/Curtains. You will enter Stage Left and Exit Stage Right. All contestant access & egress is from backstage and is via two short flights of stairs. Wheel chair access is via a lift to the backstage corridor, and then it is level all the way to the stage.

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 can you close the doors please - 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.

### 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.





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## Contest Information

### END OF CONTEST PRESENTATIONS

At the end of the chorus contest all competing Club Chairmen and Chorus Directors will be asked to assemble on stage for the results and trophy presentations. Please make your way to the front of the auditorium (stage left) in preparation for announcement to the stage.

### JUDGES

You are reminded that Judges are not permitted to talk with competitors or 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 after the contest.

### CONTEST RECORDINGS - NEW SYSTEM

- \* Individual chorus performances will be made available on line via a private link for post event viewing. No USB sticks will be issued.
- \* There will be an option to “save” (download) your performance for offline viewing as needed.
- \* Audio recordings will also be available as a Dropbox link.
- \* A Director Cam for a private and personal recording of your director will be available to your chorus director.

Full instructions on how to access video and audio files will be circulated to clubs separately to this document.

### EVALUATIONS

In order to continually improve the service to competing members, each contestant is now offered the choice of three evaluation options.

- \* A Coached Evaluation - covering comments from all three judging categories, delivered by one member of the BABS Guild of Judges, which would take place in June or July
- \* A Written Evaluation - covering comments from all three judging categories, delivered by email within 3 weeks of contest.
- \* No Evaluation Required.

Please indicate your preference on the Contest Declaration Form (Appendix A) or online at:

[www.singbarbershop.com/contest-application/chorus-dec-eval-light.htm](http://www.singbarbershop.com/contest-application/chorus-dec-eval-light.htm)

### 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, he may stop the contest.







## CHORUS 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 - The Crawley Trophy\*

Second Placed Chorus - The Bristol Cup

Third Placed Chorus - The Wearside Trophy

Small Chorus Award - The Jim Carter Trophy

Most Improved Chorus - The Cambridge Scroll

Divisional Two Winner Award

Divisional Three Winner Award

Divisional Four Winner Award

Entertainment Award - LABBS Trophy

*\* Due to wear and tear and age, the Crawley trophy has had to be replaced. The new trophy will still retain the original title.*

### AWARD WINNING BURSARIES FOR 2018

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 - £3,000

Divisional Two Winners - £500

Divisional Three Winners - £500

Divisional Four Winners - £500

Small Chorus Award Winners - £250

Most Improved Chorus Winners - £250

### CHORUS CHAMPIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

#### SHOW PERFORMANCE - SUNDAY

The 2018 BABS National Chorus Champions will be expected to appear on the Sunday Evening show, as well as the Silver Medal Chorus. Please see Appendix B for requested show package information.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONTEST - 2019

The BABS Chorus Champions now receive an automatic invitation to compete at the Barbershop Harmony Society's (BHS) International Contest.

The 2019 Convention will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, from 30th June to 7th July. If the BABS 2018 Chorus Champions decide to take up their place, then they will receive £2,000 towards their costs, plus a reduction on their July 2019 BABS subscription payment. Full details available after the contest.





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## General Information

### 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" viewing area for children under 5 will be made available.

### CONTEST SEATING

All contest seating is unallocated. 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.

### CONTEST LOCATION

All contests will take place in the main auditorium.

### BABS RECEPTION & REGISTRATION DESK

This will be open in the main foyer from Friday morning and throughout the weekend. We recommend that registrations and show tickets are purchased prior to arrival to avoid queuing. Contestants should not leave it to the last minute before registering, as this may delay or prevent entry to the contest stage.

### 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. A 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 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, pagers, 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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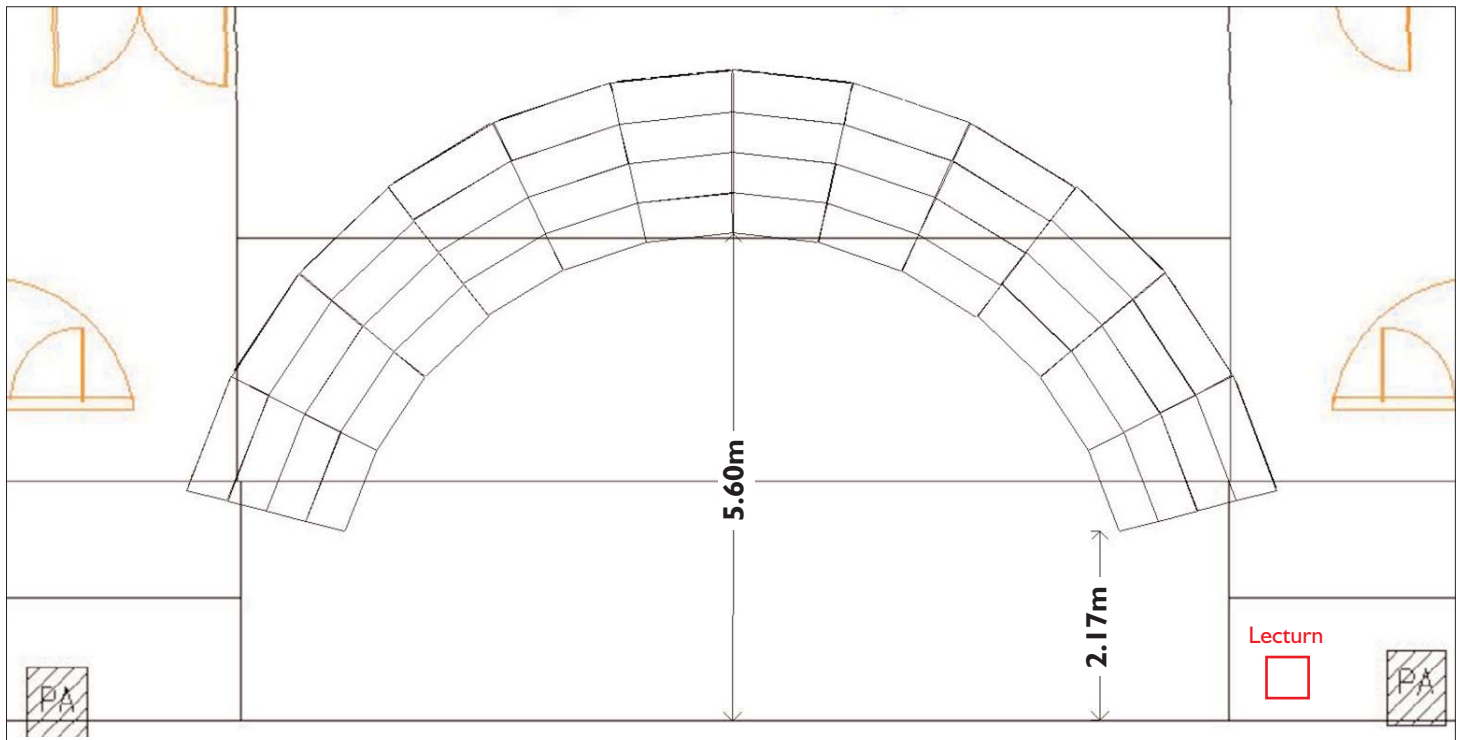
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## Stage

12 risers on the contest stage. The distance from the centre of the risers to the end of the stage is 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).

## Risers Layout



## Mood Lighting

### New for Harrogate: Introduction of Mood Lighting For Contests

Choruses will have background lighting for each of their contest songs. Coloured lighting will NOT be focused 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 & 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 years an active line array foldback system is in use on the stage, to provide an ambient acoustical 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 both audio and the video's.

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. At present we use the in-house loudspeaker system, but this is something that may change in the future. 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! The sound on these recordings is taken from the BABS recording team and mixed by one of the BABS in-house team.

When we record this audio for the video we DO NOT alter this in any way. You may or may not hear a difference in the video audio against the audio file you receive. This is purely down to the way in which the technology encodes the audio, the source is the same and unaltered.

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.

## Video

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 zooming 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, via a private link, to view and download.

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.



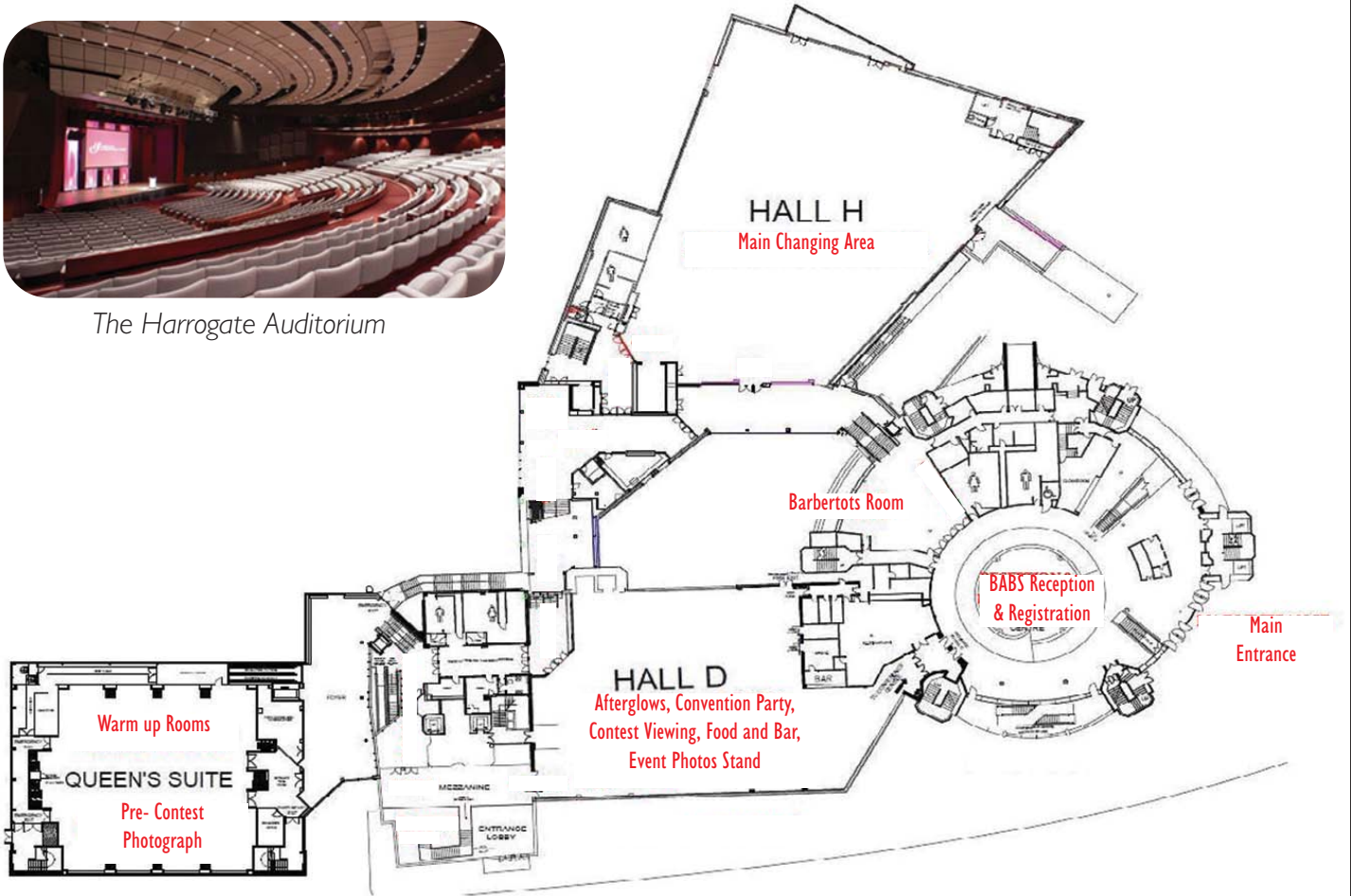
# CHORUS COMPETITION

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## Venue Plan



The Harrogate Auditorium



**Address:**  
 Harrogate Convention Centre  
 Kings Road  
 Harrogate  
 HG1 5LA

**BABS SING 2018**

**HARMONISE**

**HARROGATE**



### ON STAGE TIMING

Each contestant has been allocated an 11-minute slot to allow for entering the stage, performing their contest songs and exiting.

Please indicate alongside the total time in minutes, that you will be on stage, from the first person entering to the last person leaving the stage.

# SING 2018

## Contestant Declaration Form

This is to register the TWO song titles your chorus is planning to sing at Convention on the 26th May 2018 in Harrogate. Song titles **Must** be received no later than 30th March 2018. Please advise any subsequent changes (if any) as soon as possible. Please remember it is the responsibility of your club to ensure that all singers are BABS members and have a valid Convention Registration.

A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more members on stage, with or without the director.

**Chorus Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chorus Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Members on Stage:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Time on Stage:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluation Option:** Coached Evaluation  Written Evaluation  No Evaluation

### Song Title Declaration

Song	Title	Lighting Colour
One		
Two		

#### Use of Stage Props: Yes/No

(If Yes, please provide details)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form by  
30th MARCH 2018 to:**

Alastair Taylor-Payne  
BABS Chorus Contest Manager  
c/o Tradeway (Shipping) Limited  
146 Lowton  
Pudsey  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS28 9AY

Email:  
choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com

#### Mood Lighting Colour Choice

Choose from 7 colours (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet). The chosen colour will be displayed on a "cyc cloth" behind the performance area. 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.

**PLEASE NOTE BY FILLING IN AND SUBMITTING (OR POSTING) THE ABOVE INFORMATION, WE AGREE TO THE BELOW:**

#### Declaration:

- \* We agree to abide by the current BABS Contest Rules.
- \* We also certify that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our contest songs/arrangements, any violation of which will lead to ineligibility.
- \* We understand that the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) may wish to use recordings of our competition performances for educational use and/or commercial resale. We give our unconditional consent for all such recordings to be used for such purposes.
- \* We give our consent that the official photographs of our chorus, taken by Event Photos before and during our contest performance, may be used for marketing and publicity purposes by BABS.
- \* We understand that any recorded material taken at convention is not to be used for uploading to social media networks, duplicated or resold by the performer(s).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Convention Show Declaration

The National Chorus Champions and Silver Medal Chorus will be asked to perform a 15-18 minute package of songs, including dialogue, on the Sunday Evening show. Please complete the Declaration Form if you are aiming to achieve these positions. To assist with the planning for this, please provide details of your provisional song package. The package should not exceed the allotted times shown within the tables below.

You must ensure that all material used on stage is fully legalised. By appearing on a show you are giving your consent for all such recordings to be used for educational use and/or commercial resale.

**Name of Chorus:**

-----

## Our Show Package

**Total performance time 15 - 18 mins, including dialogue**

Song Titles	Time

**Please return this form by  
30th MARCH 2018 to:**

Alastair Taylor-Payne  
BABS Chorus Contest Manager  
c/o Tradeway (Shipping) Limited  
146 Lowton  
Pudsey  
Leeds  
West Yorkshire  
LS28 9AY

Email:  
choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com

### Performance Content

Show performers are requested to keep their non-singing time to a minimum. Personalised thank you's should be kept brief and factored in to your overall stage time. Congratulation messages for other contestants and medal winners will be announced by the Show MC.

### Performance Timing

We agree to abide by the convention shows timing allowances.

### Copyright Clearance

We also certify that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our show songs/arrangements. By Signing this declaration and by appearing on any of the conventions shows, we give our unconditional consent for all such recordings to be used for educational use and/or commercial resale.

### CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position held in club: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*It is understood that any recorded material taken from convention is not to be used for uploading to social media networks, duplicated or resold by the performer(s)*



## Contest Recordings Policy Social Media Usage

I would like to draw your attention to uploading contest videos on to YouTube.

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

### **Copyright of the Recording**

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

### **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 necessary for whoever uploads that recording to get specific permission.

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

### **Uploading to YouTube**

The Board of Directors, given the legal clarification, has decided that contestants may load the recording of their performance on to YouTube. This is conditional upon any person or body that uploads this recording, being responsible for any and all payments incurred as a result of any legal action.

### **Other BABS Events**

Any recordings taken at BABS educational events like Harmony College or Directors Academy, plus any non-contest activity at Convention and any other BABS organised event, are the copyright of BABS. Any recordings taken at these events should not be uploaded to YouTube or any other social media site, as permission has not been granted to do so.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please let me know.

**Ashley Baker**

BABS Administration Director

administrationdirector@singbarbershop.com