



Quartet Guide

A guide to the Region 11 Quartet Competition

March 2019

**Whether
this is your
1st Regional
Quartet
Contest or
your 21st ...
enjoy your
moment
in the
spotlight!**



Troubadour –
2018 Region 11
Quartet Champions

THURSDAY NIGHT in Bakersfield

❖ Why should we get to Bakersfield Thursday when the contest doesn't start until Friday?

The Quartet Briefing is held on Thursday night – that's where you'll get last-minute instructions and a revised backstage schedule, if necessary. Even if your whole quartet can't make it to the Briefing, you **MUST** have a representative there to get this important information. Also, with hotel check-in time being late in the day (3:00p), it's important for you to check in on Thursday so you have access to your room all day on Friday. Otherwise, you won't be able to check in until 3:00 on FRIDAY, and that may be too late, depending on your contestant number.

❖ What's the Winners' Circle reception on Thursday evening?

The Winners' Circle is composed of past Region 11 champion quartets. Each year, on the Thursday night of contest weekend, Winners' Circle sponsors a reception for the competing quartets. Look for information from the Winners' Circle about the reception. You should decide as a foursome if you want to attend the Winners' Circle reception together. It's a good opportunity to shake out some nerves and sing a song for an appreciative audience. However, if all 4 of you can't be there on Thursday, the others can still attend – and receive lots of "good luck" wishes from your fellow competitors.

CONTEST DAY

❖ How should we spend the day?

Every quartet – and every quartet member – needs to decide what's best for you. Talk in advance about how much time you want to spend alone, as a foursome, or with other friends. Will you have a rehearsal? Will your coach be there? When will you eat? How much time do you need to do make-up/hair? Do you want time to relax in the spa? Is it OK for your friends come to your room to bring you good luck wishes – and when is the best time?

❖ Can we test the microphones on stage?

On Friday morning at the Convention Center, each quartet will have the chance to enter the stage as per their plan, and sing 4-5 measures of ONE song. Decide ahead of time the best part of the song to try out on stage (intro, tag, or something in the middle). This is optional, but if you plan to participate, you must be prompt (refer to the schedule in the Convention program).

THE CONTEST

❖ Can friends/relatives come with us in the pattern?

Unless your friend/relative is your coach or Hostess, he/she may NOT ride in the van or accompany you backstage. And you must have submitted a Quartet Needs Assessment Form ahead of time giving the region that information.

❖ How should we spend our time in the warm-up room and backstage?

Everyone handles nerves differently. Some people work off nervous energy by laughing and talking; others prefer solitude and quiet. Talk about which type of person you are, and be respectful of those who do not share your same style. In the warm-up room, some people like to sing the package all the way through as a final rehearsal; others like to sing intros and tags, or a non-contest song, to relax themselves. Consider asking your coach to meet you in the warm-up room to offer last-minute reminders or just to help you get focused. However you choose to spend your time, come up with your plan in advance.

❖ What if we have a problem in the pattern?

If you have a medical emergency or other serious problem, have your Hostess notify the Competition Coordinator ASAP so she can determine if the contest needs to be stopped. Be sure that your problem is serious enough to warrant this – contestants risk a penalty for causing a delay in the contest without a very good reason.

❖ What happens if there's a delay in the contest?

The contest could be delayed for various reasons – delays in the judging process, a traffic jam or accident on the streets between the hotel and the Convention Center, or technical issues with the sound system in the auditorium. Hotel hostesses are responsible for checking with Transportation on the timing of the contest before you load the van. The Hostess will let you know if the contest is running behind schedule. You can then determine if you'd rather wait in your hotel room or in the hotel lobby.

❖ What if we can't get the pitch on stage?

Work with your coach to determine ways to be sure everyone has the pitch before you start (eye contact, nodding your head, etc.). If you start the song and realize that you've got a problem, you may stop, take the pitch again, and start again. Because judging starts when you start to sing, how you handle this may not be detrimental to your score, especially if you stay composed. Beware that you do face a potential time penalty situation – once you start singing, the stop watch starts on your 3- to 7-minute time allotment, and continues even through stops and restarts. However, according to Bobbette Gantz (Certified Sound Judge), "You are still better off to start over, than to have the entire song scored down because you aren't all in the same key."

❖ What do we do if there is a major problem on stage (lighting issues, sound system problems, costume malfunction, etc.)?

If there are major technical problems, the Judges' Panel Chair will make decisions about stopping the contest or allowing a contestant to sing again if their performance was impaired. This is an extremely rare situation – one that you really shouldn't worry about or plan for in advance.

❖ Will we be able to see the audience from stage?

In the Convention Center, you can definitely see the audience from stage. In fact, you may be able to see faces several rows back, so be prepared!

❖ Do we look at the judges at any time?

The judges are part of your appreciative audience, too. It's fine to acknowledge them when you take the stage and between songs. Looking at the judges can also be part of your "eyeball" choreography – talk with your coaches early in your prep work to determine if you'll ever sing directly to the judges.

❖ Is there a best way to take our bows?

You should be practicing taking your bows in the weeks leading up to contest. Work with your coach to determine the best plan for you.

❖ What happens after we exit the stage?

A Hostess will meet you off stage. From there, she will lead you backstage to take your Quartet photo. After that, you can go around to the front of the auditorium to receive the applause of your adoring fans!

AFTER THE CONTEST

❖ What happens during the announcements?

After the Contest, all quartets will move to seats down front (opposite side from the podium). If you are a medalist, go to the stage to receive your medal. If you are the new Region 11 Quartet Champions, you will receive your medals, trophies and flowers, and then sing an acceptance song! After singing an acceptance song, the Quartet Champions go backstage for a trophy photo.

❖ If we medal, do we sing on the Parade of Champions?

The Parade of Champions has been shortened to include only the new Region 11 Quartet Champions. You are asked to sing 2 songs!

❖ Is there transportation back to the hotel after the Quartet Contest?

Winners' Circle drives the Top 5 quartets back to the hotel on Friday night. Non-medalist quartets need to make their own transportation arrangements.

❖ Can all quartets go around to sing in the hospitality rooms?

Most choruses have a hospitality room Saturday night, and they will welcome you with much enthusiasm. Even non-competing quartets can join in the fun! To find the hospitality rooms in each hotel, listen for singing and laughter!

❖ Singing at the Brunch on Sunday morning

If you are our new Quartet Champions, we ask that you share a song with us at the Brunch on Sunday morning.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

❖ Are there other sources of information about the contest?

One of the best things you can do for your quartet is to purchase the Judging Category book from International. Think of it as an open book test for contest!

❖ When does the clock start on our performance?

The stop watch starts when you begin singing. Be sure to time your package – don't risk a time penalty by running short or long on time.

❖ Do we have a choice of ways to take the stage?

Because we are using a quartet shell this year, you may no longer enter the stage from the center curtain as has been permissible for the past several years. Quartets will now enter from stage right (podium side) and exit, as usual, on stage left.

NOTE: It is strongly recommended that all quartets attend the optional Quartet walk-thru on Friday morning at the Convention Center so you know what to expect when you're taking the stage!

❖ Who is our Hostess? What is her role?

There will be Hostesses stationed throughout the traffic pattern. A Hostess at the hotel will put you on the van. When you arrive at the Convention Center, another Hostess will meet you and walk you to the warm-up room, backstage and photo area.

You may also select your own personal Hostess by filling out the Quartet Needs Assessment Form and submitting it by the deadline date. A personal Hostess can serve a variety of roles – candid photographer, keeper of your photo form & check, purse holder, time keeper, and anything else you might ask (within reason!). Please note that your hostess MUST attend the Hostess Walk-Through on Friday morning at the Convention Center – please refer to the Schedule of Events in the Convention program when you arrive.

❖ How do we decide on a photo pose?

To get interesting ideas, check out quartet photos on Facebook, look at old Pitch Pipe magazines, or visit other regional websites. Have someone take digital photos so you can see if you like a pose!

Be sure to turn in your Photo Order Form and check at Thursday night's Chorus/Quartet Briefing.

❖ Do quartets exchange gifts with each other?

Competing quartets typically give good luck wishes to each other. Sometimes it's a little trinket; sometimes just a card with stickers inside. More recently, quartets have been making donations to the Region 11 Young Women in Harmony fund to honor the competing quartets (send donations to Laura La Borde, Region 11 Finance Coordinator). Let your fellow competitors know by creating a little card saying that a donation has been made in their honor.

At the Briefing, you'll find a gift bag for each quartet. If you'd like to exchange gifts with the other quartets, bring them with you to the Briefing – and don't forget to pick up your own quartet bag at the end of the Briefing!

Also, find out if your own chorus quartets typically exchange gifts with each other and when (i.e., the rehearsal before contest weekend). Ask someone about the types of gifts usually exchanged (for budget purposes).

Have a great contest experience!