HISTORY OF SPEBSQSA/BHS CONTEST & JUDGING

PART 4 – CALM BEFORE THE STORM

1961-1970

KEVIN KELLER

SPEBSQSA/BHS MEMBER SINCE 1978
BHS CERTIFIED MUS JUDGE, 1998-PRESENT
MUS BOARD OF REVIEW, 2001-2007
MUS CATEGORY SPECIALIST, 2008-2010
CHAIRMAN, CONTEST & JUDGING 2012-2015
PAST CHAIR, CONTEST & JUDGING 2016-2019
C&J HISTORIAN
2020 BHS HALL OF FAME



WHERE DID WE LEAVE OFF?

Things are beginning to stabilize

Still need judge training and raising the bar on the

 We've changed the competition structure at Interknow today (quarters, semis, finals)

Post contest education is accomplished through

We're about to see aggregate scores for all comp

There are universal concerns about complexity and more diversified



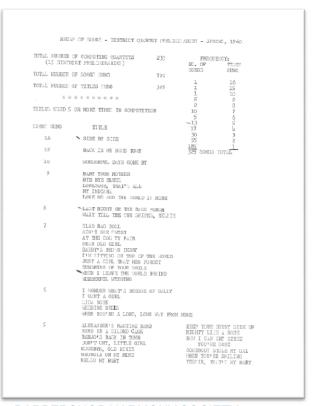
A BIT OF CATCHING UP!!!!

 1952: Only sacred (not the word religious) number disqualified. By 1957 the rule had been changed patriotic music

 1952: Announcing from stage the song(s) disqualification

1955-1956: On the chorus contest, there we disband it. Frank Thorne and others spoke in haven't looked back since!

FOLLOWUP FROM 1960 PRELIMINARIES





BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

A BIT OF CATCHING UP!!!!

Ties:

We see officially in the 1964 scoresheets the indicated
 attempting to break ties by not assigning the same

Although it officially shows up in the C&J Handbook in that it goes back into the 50's. There is no official or unpractice during these times.

- This practice lasted until the mid-70's
- More to come on this today!



OVERALL REFLECTION/TRENDS OF THE 1960'S

Each year the expectations/duties of all judges is being more refine documented

Numerous judges are de-certified to raise the bar of the judges/

Certification and recertification requirements are continuous refined

Category Descriptions will be more defined for judge translation

 Judge costs always an issue because out of district judge full coverage of in-district judges

International By-Laws restricted multiple changes to the H
years)

Lots of concerns evolving about the style becoming even more diversified

require

STARDS ASHOP HARMONY 50

1961

We now know exact scores (summarized) and ranker competitors in all contests (and published in the competitions).



The big scoreboard at Philadelphia was another of our innovations. It proved to be highly successful. The publishing of scores in the Harmonizer has removed the cloak of mystery from our International Contests. Both innovations occasioned lively discussions, but the overall comment among the membership has been highly favorable even to the point of being complimentary.



1961

Judges can only be certified in two categories unless already certified

The word "regionals" is dropped – now preliminaries

Amplification appears

Prior to this time, amplification for chorus contests was not all

The rule about judges in actual earshot of the quartet is removed front to allow for amplification of the quartets more effectively

Chorus semis proposal rejected because of adding time

In the Fall, C&J experimented with having non-visual score quartet with their backs to the quartet (announced by #)

Although in practice, C&J promotes that the same scoring contests (a 78 is a 78 at District or International)



DEAC MARTIN POINTS OUT THAT MOST MEMBERS DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ARRANGEMENT CATEGORY (JAN 61 HARMONIZER)

"Out of the Dusk"

The way I see it, the editor of a district publication did a service to the membership by criticizing the Arrangement judging in a '60 regional quartet contest. In so doing he revealed the thinking of the majority of our members who haven't delved into practices in judging arrangements. Later the International chairman of judges offered a rebuttal in that same publication. Supplementing what has been published, I shall quote here several points made by the Arrangement judge who was criticized. In combination this might illuminate some dark corners and help take judging in that classification "Out of the Dusk". (Remember it?)

The original editorial said in part: "Some of the boys are confused". The cause of their confusion was a 56 and 65 point Arrangement score on two songs harmonized by two of the Society's well known arrangers, numbers on which this quartet had received 80 and 82 points when sung at the Chicago International. "They sang the same arrangements note for note". Two other songs by the same arrangers were scored lower in the regional than at Chicago.

Said the editorial: "If the numbers used are approved by the Song Book Committee, that approval should go as far down as the judging of contests. It is without reason for the Society to recommend a song and arrangement, and then have the judge throw out a quartet because he doesn't know or doesn't approve the official SPEBSQSA song (arrangement)."

It said that quartets accept what is published by the Society as material suitable for contests. It then quoted from the Foreword of of Book XI, Songs for Men, that an arrangement published by the Society offers no assurance that it is right for contests. "In other words, songs approved, published, and distributed by the Society are not worth the paper they are printed on, in the estimation of some of the judges . . ." . It added that quartets relying upon the arranging integrity of Society specialists in that field had better look elsewhere, "they can't trust their own Society's stamp".

Such an indictment of our arranging and judging could hardly escape notice of the International chairman of judges. In a later issue of this district publication he said in part: "There is a good answer to the quartet's perplexity. It did not sing either of those two songs as well at the regional as at Chicago. There is more to judging arrangements than mere composition . . . the arrangement judge does not judge merely the way the arranger has put the notes on staff paper. Arrangement judging considers the presentation of the over-all number.

"Quartets that get careless as they sing often produce chords which are not recognizable. Slow tempo is often dragged to the point of becoming unpleasant. Sometimes the rhythm is badly broken in spots". He cited the comment of arranger John Hill who has also done much judging. Hill once said that, as a judge, he had scored his own arrangement of "Son of the Sea" all the way from 41 to 82 in a contest where five quartets sang his arrangement.

The chairman pointed out that a quartet does not invariably present a song identically on two or more occasions. "Some quartets just don't seem to realize that they sound better one time than another. . . . I have heard the same people who criticize the judges say 'Such-and-such, a famous quartet, was lousy tonight. How did they ever get to be champions?"



1962

Society further restricting members jumping choruses to compete

Non-scoring Chairman of panels is added

Recommendation is to have double panel for all contests but no category

English language being specified with exceptions if the original song

Overlap of categories creating confusion (ARR and VE

2000 word thesis required from each judge (including Second

Explored judging using headphones in the middle of the

OR SHOP HARMONY SO Val Hicks rewriting the ARR Category to describe evaluating performance and how they integrate

IMPACT OF VAL'S REFINEMENT ON PENALIZATION

(4) Embellishments:

- * (a) Rhythmic vocal patterns or effects expressed through words or neutral vowel sounds may be sung by the bass at any time, when consistent with the character of the song, and they may be sung by any and all voices for occasional brief passages.
- * (b) Mechanical devices which produce or modify sound shall not be used, other than the optional use of a pitch-pipe or its alternate for initial pitch-taking purposes.
- * (c) Vocal imitations of common sounds, such as musical instruments, may be used briefly and infrequently if the song requires the effect.

Arrangement is providing more clarity on what is barbershop and not and by how much.

These are in the areas of Composition (Song),

Harmonization and Voicings, and

Embellishment



(c) It is realized that most rule violations involve the question of <u>degree</u> of violation; therefore, those rules marked with * indicate that if a majority of voice category judges feels a flagrant violation of the particular rule has occurred, disqualification may be imposed. The Arrangement judge or judges shall be responsible for initiating any vote on disqualification. The panel chairman shall conduct the poll of the voice judges.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

1962

Willis "Bill" Diekema publishes internally a position describing differences between "what is accepted and what is being sung on stage by high profits sometimes not detected during performances as considered for publication there are "technical error degrees.

In response to a question from Al Burgess, Chorus Development Coordinator, as to how many Arrangement Judges are actually arrangers, the Executive Director reported that at a recent meeting of the International Contest & Judging Committee there was discussion of plans to have each Certified Judge conform to the current Arrangements Judge Candidate requirements which provide for submission of two of the Judge's own arrangements for review by the Arrangements category Board of Review.

BOB JOHNSON HAS JOINED HEADQUARTERS STAFF. AN INTERESTING NOTE FROM THE MUSICAL ACTIVITIES MEETING NOTES

Item VI B - "What is Acceptable Barbershop Harmony (arrangement-wise)?"-was covered in considerable detail resulting in the following conclusions.

- That definition of "acceptable barbershop harmony" should be the province of the Musical Activities Planning Committee, not the Contest & Judging Committee.
- 2. That the proposed meeting of Arrangement Judges, arrangers and quartet coaches at the June 1962 International Convention should be of great help in establishing clearer understanding of this subject.
- 3. The Contest & Judging Committee, the Harmony Education Program and the Society's music publishing program are the three avenues of musical education insofar as good barbershop arrangements are concerned. It is imperative that the same basic principles and rules must be taught in all cases.



1964 FIRST FULL C&J HANDBOOK, COMPLETE WITH DESCRIPTIONS ABOUT ALL THINGS JUDGING

Rules

Complete Category Descriptions, with details on how it is to be judged

Secretary duties

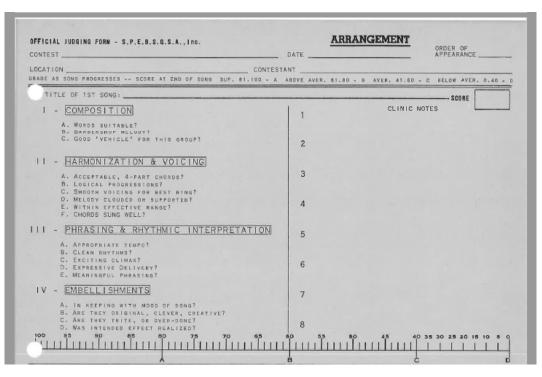
Forms

Organization

Note in Nov 64 Harmonizer suggests it takes abore certified (Wes Meier article)



1964 SCORING FORMS



		VOICE E	XPRESSION
OFFICIAL JUDGING FORM - S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.			
			ORDER OF
NTEST	DATE		APPEARANCE
OCATION	CONTESTANT		
RADING (PER SONG) SUPERIOR 81.100 - A ABOVE			BELOW AVERAGE 0.40 -
FIRST SONG: TITLE			
00 P5 P0 P5 P0 75 70	65 60 55	50 45	40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 C
. SHADING GRADE (MUST BE APPROPRIATELY INTERPRETIVE) EFFECTIVE	DYNAMIC CONTRAST?		
. ATTACKS - RELEASES - DICTION (MARK OFF OBVIOUS ERRORS)		CLINICAL COMMENT	
20 28 30			
SUBTRACT A,R & D			

SCORING FORMS FROM 1964-1970

DEFICIAL JUDGING FORM - S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.	OFFICIAL JUDGII	IG FORM - S.P.E.B.S.	Q.S.A., Inc,		BAL	ANCE & BLEND
ORDER OF APPEARAN LOCATION CONTESTANT				CONTESTANT	Ε	ORDER OF APPEARANCE
GRADING (PER SONG) SUPERIOR 81.100 - A ABOVE AVERAGE 61.80 - B AVERAGE 41.60 - C BELOW AVERAGE FIRST SONG	E (=====	ONG) SUPERIOR 81				- C BELOW AYERAGE 0.40 - D
1. FIDELITY RATING WERE THE CHORDS GENERALLY ON PITCHT WERE THEY 'SOLID' - DID THEY 'RING'T FREE FROM 'MUDDINESS' EXCESSIVE VIBRATOT 100 95 90 65 60 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20		TOO LOUD TOO SOFT USE OF INTENDED UNBALANCE	TENOR LEAD	BASS BARI		
2. PITCH ERRORS (MARK OFF OBVIOUS ERRORS) 5 10 15	BLEND	SHADING BALANCE CONTROL MATCHING VOICE QUALITY ENUNCIATION TONE FORMATION				
20 25 30 35 40 1 1 80 55 60		SHADING BLEND				SCORE
SUBTRACT LAST MARK-OFF SCORE	100 95		7.5 	70 65 66		6 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 4

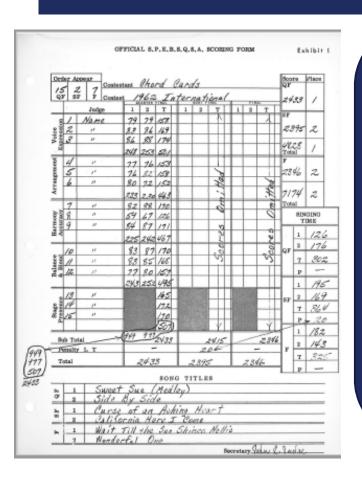
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

STAGE PRESENCE FROM 1960'S

FFICIAL JUDGING FORM - S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.	STAGE PRESENCE		
ONTEST	DATE	ORDER OF APPEARANCE	
OCATION	CONTESTANT		
1. ENTRANCE - LINEUP		CLINICAL COMMENTS	
PLANNED	ORIGINAL		
ENTHUSIASTIC	EFFECTIVE		
2. COSTUME			
OR181NAL	APPROPRIATE		
APPEALING	GROOMED		
3. FIRST SONG			
EXPRESSION	GESTURES		
EASE SMILE	SELL		

CRE	TARY			JUDGE	NO,
8)	ABOVE AVERAGE	121 - 160	(D) BELOW AVERAG	DE 0 . 80	
A)	SUPERIOR	161 - 200	(C) AVERAGE	81 - 120	SCORE
	ENTHUSIASTIC		EFFECTIVE		
	PLANNED		ORIGINAL		
	BREAK - EXIT				
	EASE	SMILE.	9ELL		
	EXPRESSION		GESTURES		
	SECOND SONG				
	APPROPRIATE		GRACIOUS		
	PLANNED		ORIGINAL		
100	BREAK - ACCEP	PTANCE			

SECRETARY DUTIES EXPANDED



There is a LOT of paperwork.

Each contestant will have a scoring form that the Secretary fills out. In addition there is a "Control" Sheet that has all of the contestants and scores.

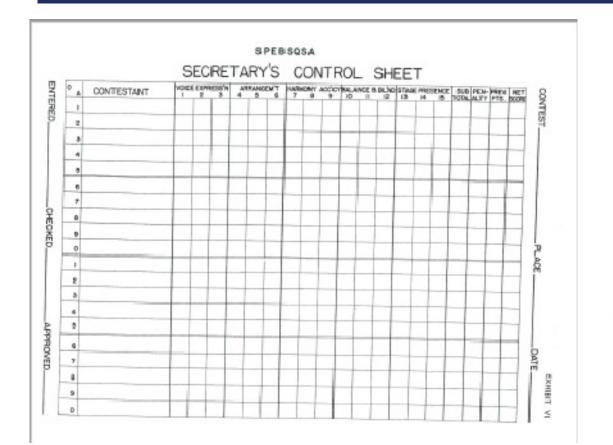
On the right is an example of a scorecard from an Int'l Finalist sometime between 1976-1993!

Note that scores are far more variable than what we experience today.

Q	uarter-Fi	nal		Semi-Fin	al		Final	
1	2	Т	1	2	Т	1	2	T
80	84	164	79	74	153	79	82	161
70	74	144	70	58	128	73	75	1.48
75	78	153	75	67	142	79	80	159
225	236	461	224	199	423	231	237	468
76	77	153	79	68	147	78	83	161
76	81	157	82	77	159	75	72	147
80	75	155	81	73	154	80	81	161
232	233	465	242	218	460	233	23.6	469
	.0	145	AMER	42.	147	SINC	24	145
WE	C	137	-469	In.	142	260	Ika	139
1.		138	Vision		151	214		155
		420			440			43.9
457	469	1346	466	417	/323	464	473	1376
+1	+/	42	0	-2	-2-	+1	0	+1
+2	-2	0	+2	+1	+3	+4	+2	+6
+1	0	+1	+2	0	+2	+2	+2	+4
+4	-1	+3	+4	-/	+3	+7	4.4	+11
		1349			326			1387
		1349			1326			1387

SONG TITLES

SECRETARY DUTIES EXPANDED



Quartet or Chorus: Chord Card	
Time of first song	Total time two songs: Min240 sec. Max360 sec. Penalty is 5 points per sec. under min. or over maximum.
John Z. Zuick Timekeep	ar.

ADMINISTRATION

Forms – handed in and handed back (multicolors)

Time keepers

 Two at all contests – if there is a difference in time the competitor (over or under)

Secretary must tell timekeepers to reset to zero – not

Although at International scores are summarized by contests

1964 - WHAT DO SCORES MEAN?

The Balance and Blend Judge will, as in the past, first listen to a performance, placing it mentally in "A", "B", "C", or "D" classification based on the overall SOUND of the contestant, rather than upon any of the individual components of sound (such as balance, blend or projection). It is necessary for the Judge to draw on his experience at this point to make a proper starting classification. An "A" score is of Medalist caliber. A high "B" score is District winner caliber capable of high placement in International competition. A low to middle "B" score has won many a District championship. In any level of competition, the "A" and "B" scores should be maintained strictly at International-competition level. A high "C" score will often make District finals, win area or sectional contests, etc.

A "D" score is a real novice - and there is no score below 20 points per song (unless you have already given your "bottom", and someone appearing later deserves a 19). (Give 'em a little credit for showing up!)

No TV Man

1964 – WHERE ARE WE ON STYLE?

ORIENTATION OF THE ARRANGEMENT JUDGE

Judging must always be done OBJECTIVELY. Personal likes and dislikes--either of the personnel of the quartet or chorus or of the song being sung--must be dispelled the moment you take your place in the judging panel.

Our Society theme song speaks of the "old songs", but no preference should be given with regard to the era from which the song is selected. A song from one of next year's musical shows might be perfectly adapted to the Barbershop style; whereas we know that certain "old songs" do not lend themselves to the Barbershop style. The pertinent criterion here with regard to song selection is whether or not it is Barbershop—and our definition of the Barbershop style specifies no composition date.

There is a widespread feeling among contestants that they are obliged to select two entirely different types of songs for contest—for example, a fast rhythm number and a slow ballad. There are two considerations involved here. First, the Arrangement Judge demands that the choice of a contest song be one that can be performed well by the contestant—that is, one that provides a good vehicle for the particular quartet or chorus. This fact would indicate that a contestant would make a mistake (and lose points) by choosing a song beyond their capabilities. For technically each song is judged separately on its merits without reference to the song sung previously.

On the other hand, the Arrangement Judge, like the judges in the other musical categories, is looking for, and will reward, good musicianship. And since versatility is an aspect of good musicianship, the choice of two types of songs is likely to win plus points if both are done well.



1964 ARR CATEGORY - CARBON COPY NOT DESIRED

F. Originality of Treatment

The Arrangement Judge should be on the lookout for any evidence of originality in the treatment of harmonization, voicing, and the handling of embellishments. His object should be to reward any original treatment that results in improving or enhancing the presentation of the song. Contestants often use published arrangements under the mistaken conviction that they could not be improved upon. If there is room for improvement musically, or if a change might make the arrangement more suitable for the particular potentialities of the contestant, advantage should be taken of these points. The critical appraisal of an arrangement by a quartet or chorus, and the revision of it when such a revision is indicated, are parts of good musicianship and should be rewarded. (See also Section II.-F, "Original or Carbon Copy")

Encouraging rearranging to make unique





Original or Carbon Copy

The Arrangement Judge is looking for a good arrangement through the manner in which the notes-on-paper are performed or interpreted. This is another way of saying that he is expecting the quartet or chorus to prove its musicianship. Section I.F "Originality of Treatment" deals with evidences of originality in the work of the arranger. This section deals with evidence of originality in the manner in which the contestant presents the work of the arranger.

There has been a growing trend in the last few years for competing quartets and choruses to select an arrangement with which another quartet or chorus has recently won the International Championship, and then attempt to sing this number exactly as the Champs did. There is nothing wrong with the selection of the very same arrangement used by another quartet or chorus. But a completely, and obviously imitative manner of presentation proves nothing to the Arrangement Judge about the musicianship of the present contestant; it proves only their ability to imitate in a parrot-like fashion. It leaves him wondering if they would be able to perform an arrangement from which they had no model to copy.

It should also be remembered that an imitative performance will reproduce the shortcomings as well as the achievements of the prototype. So unless the performance that is being copied attained a perfect score in every category, there is nothing to be gained by imitation.

Encouraging delivery different than the original

TIES (1964 C&J HANDBOOK)

All scoring judges are provided a similar sheet that they can track the contest.

There was a strong belief that ties should be avoided at all costs (at least for the upper half of the contestants)

Although an individual score can be reused for a round, the directive was to not reuse a total score already provided.

District	he retained by Judge until close hen turned in to Chairman of	(Contact)	_	(Jedge)	No
1		(Held of)		[Dete]	- To
1					J Sec
2			let Same	100.00	Che
1					5
3 of feep					1 :
3			2nd Song		10
24 forg			1st Song		1 :
2nd Song			2nd Song		15
20 d Song			1st Song		1 :
201 Seq			2nd Song		20
204 force			1st Song		1 :
Part Part Part					25
Te Seq					30
10				-	30
8					35
10 2nd Song					1 1
9 10 Surg 10					40
10 20 20 20 20 20 20 20					1
10					45
11					1 :
12 2nd Sung			2nd Song		50
20			1st Song		1 :
12 2 2nd forg 1 13 2nd forg 2 2nd forg 2 2nd forg 3 2nd forg 3 2nd forg 4 2nd forg 4 2nd forg 5 2nd			2nd Song		55
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14 1e Seng 2nd Seng 1e Seng 1e Seng 1e Seng 2nd Seng			-		65
2nd Serg					- 03
15 1e Seq 2nd Seq 16 16 17 17 18 18 18 19 18 18 18 18					70
15 2nd forg 16 2nd forg 17 2nd forg 18 2nd					1 1
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10 2nd Sung 17 17 18 5mg 2nd Sung 18 18 10 5mg					1 :
17 1s Seng			-		80
2rd Sorg 18 Sorg					1 :
18			2nd Song		85
			1st Song		1
2rd Song			2nd Song		90
19 Ist Song					:
2nd Seeg					95

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

TIES (1964 C&J HANDBOOK)

Voice expression

SCORING LEVELS

When determining the shading score, the judge must keep in mind that the score sheet is a tool which is used to place the quartet in its proper position in relation to the others in the contest. Always start the first quartet at a level low enough so that you will have points to work with when a better quartet comes along, and high enough to allow for proper positioning of quartets not so good.

Use a wide enough point spread so that your score will have its full share of influence on the result of the contest. The judge who places the quartets one or two points apart is producing a score too weak to be effective.

Don't give a zero score. On the other hand, don't upgrade a ragged performance for the sake of mercy. The beginner is entitled to as accurate a score as the winner.



TIES (1964 C&J HANDBOOK)

HA

Be sure to use a wide enough point spread so that your scores will have a definite "say-so" on the outcome of the contest. Remember that it is your point spread which determines placement rather than your scoring level. However, it is well to pay attention to level so that we do not confuse our quartets and choruses. Don't forget that a fidelity rating in the "A" classification should be reserved for a chorus or quartet of potential Championship or Medalist calibre.

ARTICLE 22. Ranking of Quartets - Breaking of Ties. Quartets shall be ranked in accordance with total scores of points awarded by the fifteen judges. The judges shall report their scores to the Secretary of the Judges immediately following each contestant's presentation, and shall remain at their posts until the Chairman of Judges has verified the findings of the Secretary. If a tie score occurs, the Secretary of the Judges shall award the place to the quartet scoring highest in Harmony Accuracy; if a tie still exists, the place shall go to the quartet scoring highest in Balance and Blend; if a tie still exists, the place shall go to the quartet scoring highest in Voice Expression; if a tie still exists, the place shall go to the quartet scoring highest in Arrangement; if a tie still exists, the tied quartets shall each sing one number not previously used by them in the contest and the point score of such number shall determine the winner. Minimum singing time shall be two minutes. The Secretary's Score Card shall not be altered, but shall indicate the winner of the tie by notation. Scoring summaries shall also be so noted. The loser shall automatically be ranked in the next lower place.

JUDGE ACCOUNTING AT END OF CONTEST

Number of contestants in each of the following: High Score Low Score Spread (Difference between high and low score) Level or Average Score___ (Add all scores together and divide by number of contestants) (Score of contestant in dead center of final scoring) (Difference between high score and middle score of the upper half in your final scoring - should be 1/3-1/4 of spread) Number of Tie Scores After each contestant, in appearance order, list the placement as you scored them. Do this on the face of this sheet as follows: Stench-aires (9) 1-9-20, or whatever Apple-knockers Four Flats



BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

STAGE PRESENCE - "SELL"

Sell: This is the final summation of the Stage Presence Judge's overall appraisal of your group. If you have done all of the things heretofore mentioned, and done them properly, you have SOLD. If you have maintained proper eye contact and personality projection with the audience, you have SOLD. You are not singing to the Judges - you are singing to the audience. They are over the Judges' heads,

- 4 -

they are in front of you; to the right and left of you. Make them feel like they are a part of your performance. If you have accomplished this, you have SOLD, and the audience's response soon tells you how well you have done. True, you are being graded by the Judges, but you are more apt to be graded down for singing to them, since it reflects no self-confidence in your performance, and more important, you will have ignored the audience. Climb out over the footlights and over the heads of the Judges and SELL the audience. The "Sell" to exit, and the Judge takes all factors into consideration. Did you SELL, or just go through a performance?



MORE IN '64!

- Props are allowed; what is eligible is described
 - Inanimate objects
 - No sound except pitchpipe
 - Easily transported
 - Effective
- Director can only make one entrance and exit; must always be visil
 - Members must remain on stage at all times except initial entrance and final
- Details on emergency judges (relatively constant through today)
- Currently different chorus panel than quartet panel at Int'l. Exploring finals and one panel for the semis, finals and chorus to even out the real
- Explored the idea of fixing the order of competitors at International by if first" having a huge impact on the results
- Can only be certified in one category



1965 – EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN THE CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS IN THE HARMONIZER

- Jan 65 Sam Stahl ARR
 - Makes mention of penalties plus for originality
- Mar 65 Wayne "Doc" Ruggles Voice Expression
 - Some language implies a singular meaning to a song; a correct way
- May 65 Emmett Bossing Harmony Accuracy
- Sep 65 Bill Fitzgerald Balance and Blend
 - Discusses "Projection" Aliveness Reaches audience
 - Although "holistic", it discusses amount and severity/weaknesses
- Nov 65 Charles Abernethy Stage Presence
 - Fairly wide open interpretation; nothing prescriptive
- Jan 66 "Sev" Severance Secretary-Timer



BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

1967 – JUDGING SYSTEM RECOGNIZING OVERLAP PUBLICLY (STAHL ARR & MESECHER VE)

- An important article is published in March-April 1967 Harmonizer
- It reveals that "stay in your category" is no longer embraced by C&J at a ICJC level, but is widely believed to be true
- Prior to this VE had "lyrical phrasing" and ARR had "musical phrasing"
 - Eliminated both categories have phrasing through different lenses
 - Shading will now be dynamics, although it is being lumped into "phrasing" with both categories evaluating

mandoook to tace the fact realistically.

WHO SAYS CATEGORIES DON'T OVERLAP

To push this point a little further, the C&J Handbook, in the Arrangement category, forbids the Arrangement Judge to be affected by shading. It says, "Phrasing and Shading must be related, must operate together to bring interpretation to maximum effectiveness. But of the two means of expression, only Phrasing is evaluated by the Arrangement Judge; Shading is the concern of the Voice Expression category entirely." On the next page, however, the Arrangement Judge is charged with determining whether the contestant created the mood of the song for the listener. Can you imagine a contestant that jumps back and forth abruptly from fortissimo to pianissimo with no rhyme or reason (as a good many do) creating any mood except irritation?

The gobbledegook just quoted was there for a purpose. It was a valiant if vain attempt to convey the impression that categories do not really intertelate or "overlap." It was there as if to say, "Look, we each stick to our own categories." It is high time, at our present point in the evolution of the C&J system, for contestants to recognize, and for judges to stop apologizing for, the fact that all five categories are interrelated. It is true that specific points in a performance directly affect one category and only indirectly affect others. But this is of little practical importance. In other words, if one error cost a contestant two points in this or that category, or both categories, it makes little difference whether he lost them directly or indirectly.



determining whether the contestant created the mood of the song for the listener. Can you imagine a contestant that jumps back and forth abruptly from fortissimo to pianissimo with no rhyme or reason (as a good many do) creating any mood except irritation?

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SERSHOP HARMONY SOC

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

WHAT CAN YOU BE DISQUALIFIED FOR IN THE ARRANGEMENT CATEGORY – SOME MINOR TWEAKS BUT IN PLAY FOR THE 60'S

E. Barbershop Style

Preservation of the Barbershop style is a most important function of the Arrangements Judge. Non-Barbershop harmonization deserves to be severely penalized. Here are brief explanations of non-Barbershop Harmony.

- Glee Club: melody is often carried by the top voice. The use of triads with very noticeable doubling, in places where Seventh chords would be logical harmony. An empty sound to the chords compared to Barbershop.
- 2. Blue: conspicuous or predominant use of minor Seventh chords, especially where they are not implied by the melody note. Ending on an unresolved tonic (12 o' clock) Seventh chord, often called the blue chord. Melody frequently carried by top voice.
- 3. Modern: unrestrained use of major and minor Sixth and Ninth chords. Use of Sixth chords when the Sixth is not the melody note, resulting in "dance band" flavor. Major Sevenths in places of emphasis. Phrase endings featuring hard dissonances.
- 4. Solo with Background: one voice singing words, the others humming or providing a "doo wah" or bell-chord rhythmic background.

IN 1967 THE POTOMACHORDS WERE DISQUALIFIED AT INTERNATIONAL

Quartet Disqualification: Why?

By Sam Stahl, Arrangement Category Specialist 304 Prospect St., Berea, Kentucky 40403

The "Potomachords" were disqualified at the quatter-finals in the International Quarter Corness at Los Angeles. And that face needs some amplification and elucidation.

The first observation that should be made is that the dis-The first observation that should be made is that the dis-qualification does not imply any subsersive national or nefatious see on the part of the "Putamachords." The second observation is that disqualification simply should not happen at the Inter-national level; any questionable song should have been screened out long before at district level.

How and why were the "Potomschords" disqualified? The procedure is as follows: An Armagement Judge makes the recommendation for disqualification. This awas the concurred in by the other Armagement Judges on the panel. If it is, the Chairman takes a vote of all the other voice enegory judges (Voice Expression, Balance & Blend and Harmony Accuracy)

That's how it was done. As so soly, one song sung by the "Potomachords," "This Is All I Ask," violated the rule that

"Potomochords," "This Is All I Ask," violated the rule that contest songs must be in the harbestop style. The bathership style is briefly defined in the Official Quarter Contest Rules (Articles 18 and 21—4, Artrangement). It is expanded on in the Foreword, "Definition of Barbestop Harmony," of the Contest & Dredging Hardbook, and even more details are given in the Artrangement section of the Handbook.

Briefly, the song "This Is All I Ask" does not lead issued to harmonization in the barbestop agle because of the nature of the melody. This is not so say that it is not a good song or that the artrangement was not expertly done. I think most Barberthoppers would agree that it is not agond song with regard to the beauty of the melody, the richness of the implied harmony and the message carried by the world. It is in the same category and the message carried by the world. It is in the same category and the message carried by the words. It is in the same caregory with many other excellent songs that do not lend themselves to the bathesidep seyle: "Annum Leaves," "Sognember Song." "Sears Pell on Alabams" and "Til Be Seeing You," to name

"Sears Pell on Alabaman" and "Till Be Seeing You," to name a few reason these angis are not suitable for concert is that the harmonization derivanted by the melody (the aerress harmonization derivanted by the melody (the aerress harmonization, mind you) calls for a predominance of sixth and ninth chords (foren minor), major seventh chords, and sometiance even eleventh or chiareemsh chords. And furthermore, these "way-out" chords occur as points of emplassis in the song, not merely as unobstrutive "passing onces." And, so quote from the Rules (Arcicle 21, Section 4, Pasagraph 2-e): "Chords that sound distonant (glaring and offensive cleakes of incervals) may be subject to penalty. The severity of the penalty shall depend upon the degree and duration of the discood. This pessgraph is makeded with an asterisk (*), and later Paragraph 5-c of the Rules astees: "It is realized that most rule violations involve the question of degree of violation; therefore, those rules marked with an asterisk indicate that if a majority of voice seriegory judger feel a flagant violation of the preficular sule has occurrend, disqualification may be imposed."

The disqualification of the "Poromscheeds" polears up what a number of persons consider a need in the Society. The Official Rules are (necessarily and destinably, no doubt) as brief as

a number or persons consider a need an inc society. The Official Rules are (necessarily and desirably, no doubt) as brief as possible. The C&J Handbook, which goes into much greater detail and foiller explanation, is written from the point of view of certified and candidate [odges. What is needed it another handbook that would contain all the exceptory information of

the C&] Handbook (what each judge is looking for in a performance) but written from the viewpoint of the quarter man or chorus director.

per formance) her written from the viewpoint of the quarter man or chores director.

Two other questions concerning the "Potamachoeds" disqualifaction remain. One concerns the announcement, made from the stage, in (appensimately) these words: "The Potamachoeds have been disqualified for a flagrant violation of the bathershop style." This, in my opinion, was a mistake. First, because the terminology (especially the suljective flagraws) implied that the quarter willfully and maliciously flowed the rules of the Society, which I am sure is not the case. Second, the bare announcement, with no further details, did not explain the situation to the large majority of the audience: it simply left them shocked and wondering. Third, the announcement had a delectrious effect on the quarter waiting in the wings for their entrance one. If (as has been suggested) the announcement was intended as a warraing to quarter waiting in the wings for their entrance one. If (as has been suggested) the announcement was intended as a warraing to quarter waiting in the wings for their entrance one effect on the quarter welling in the wings for their entrance one. If (as has been suggested) the announcement was intended as a warraing to quarter waiting in the stage of the contest of the con

The "Posenschords" undoubeedly sang the song at district level before bringing it to International. At district contests we have clinics or critiques, one purpose of which is to discuss the merits of song selection. Quarter couches, choust discrete, judges and judge candidates should be cognizant of, and sensitive to, the requirements of the harbershop sple. If they are not, it is a weakness in the concess and judging program that we should try to correct. Cetatinly no quarter should expend the time, effort and money required to participate in an International concest with a questionable vehicle.

While the duty of the judges on the Los Angeles panel was clear, I am some they would all join me in expressing the hope that the experience was not so travantacit to the "Potomachords" as no discontage their considerable to International compections.

as to discourage their coming back to International competition with good material, good technique and unbounded enthusiasm.

Proof that a grant deal of harmonisou understanding came from a discussion of their dispositivation with interestional CAI Chairmen Winley Holes was displayed when "Rosanachards" Tener Sill Mesty schemistly calcusted in speci in the quested in Wes, who is above harmonism of their single with, it or, i.e. and Desight Discussors, Beat Les Sisserson and Bart Gilbert Anthony, On thereis is Hall Photographe "Cole" Unional Con providing the photos.



THE HARMONIZER-SEPTEMBER-OCTORES, 1967

Briefly, the song "This Is All I Ask" does not lend itself to harmonization in the barbershop style because of the nature of the melody. This is not to say that it is not a good song or that rhe arrangement was not expertly done. I think most Barbershoppers would agree that it is an excellent song with regard to the beauty of the melody, the richness of the implied harmony and the message carried by the words. It is in the same category with many other excellent songs that do not lend themselves to the barbershop style: "Autumn Leaves," "September Song." "Stars Fell on Alabama" and "I'll Be Seeing You," to name a few.

The reason rhese songs are not suitable for contest is that the harmonization demanded by the melody (the correct harmonization, mind you) calls for a predominance of sixth and ninth chords (often minor), major seventh chords, and sometimes even eleventh or thirreenth chords. And further-

Bob Johnson's favorite song of The Four Renegades



1968

Wes Meier, 1968
SPEBSQSA
President, and for
the past 4 years
Chair of C&J
Interview in the Jan
1968 Harmonizer

BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIET'

- Q. The Contest & Judging Committee, which you chaired for the past four years, is one of the most important in the Society. Do you think there may be drastic changes in our present modus operandi as far as judging is concerned?
- A. I don't look for any drastic changes in the immediate future. However, the C&J Committee has always kept a warchful eye on its own operation. This Committee, in the past and presently, constantly looks for new and more efficient methods of doing its work. I don't believe there's another committee in the Society more cognizant of the seriousness of its responsibility to the Society. There are bound to be some changes evolve in the future as they have in the past. You can rest assured, however, any changes that may come about will be the result of thorough study and a careful appraisal of our current system. No, I don't look for drastic changes. The Committee just doesn't operate that way
- Team looking at a different way of judging Arrangement
 - Pilot Testing in 1969 revealed no significant changes in placement
- New approach to judging Voice Expression
 - By 1970, the Interpretation category was being crafted for the replacement of VE and to pick up the performance side of ARR
- In the 1968 HEP schools, 50% of classes will be focused on judging categories (Jan 68 Harmonizer)
 - Judging School will accompany vs at Int'l
- 14+ Arrangers met at Harmony Hall to create new arrangements (>100) but could not agree on a definition of the barbershop style
- Challenges to the Johnson Temperament
 Test

1969

 ICJC is recommending having the same panel at choruses and quartets and that they be reimbuted

For the chorus contest, the District Chorus @ have to be linked with the Preliminary Chor

 Again, the HEP schools are spending sign judging categories

P school Similarly, Judges are having their own school at ex

Arrangers are once again meeting in a weekend

Once again, they can't agree on a definition of the barbershop style

Sionshi

DICK FLOERSCHEIMER – 1969 REACTION TO IMPENDING ARR CATEGORY

--- Tenate Jane tout a wordt one ITBK OI ITHIGHING OUL. Let's talk about arrangements for a moment. From information gleaned lately from HEP School, the Arrangers' School, discussions in person and via correspondence with judges, it seems apparent that the Arrangement Category is undergoing a thorough review with an eye toward revising and improving the "ground rules. Certain hitherto acceptable chords and harmonic patterns are being closely scrutinized from the viewpoint of some contemporary concept of their Barbershopping propriety, and consideration is even being given to their possible elimination from the traditional language of Barbershop. If this review results in a revision of the rules which is too conservative in its content and too restrictive in its approach, it could, regardless of all the sincerity and dedication of its proponents, relegate Barbershopping to the status of a sterile, withering museum piece, like Chamber Music, with nothing new to nourish it. This review could have a direct, permanent, and not necessarily beneficial effect upon all the material that you will thereafter sing and hear in contests.

While I have been assured on good authority that nothing definite has as yet been formulated regarding any rule changes in the Arrangement Category, I cannot help but gather an inference from little evidences and symptoms here and there that any prospective rule changes will be more, rather than less, conservative and restrictive than those presently in effect. I am mightily concerned, as you should be, that those charged with the responsibility of clearing up the equivocal or questionable aspects of the Arrangement Category may in their zeal sweep the category too clean...removing too much that is vital and interesting. Should this come to pass, Barbershopping will not only grind to a halt, it will actually regress as interest wanes and rigor mortis sets in.

If we eventually adopt a plethora of hard and fast confining or restrictive rules governing Barbershop Harmony, we will be doing something that even Grandad wouldn't have done, and he was directly and personally involved with it. He just stood up with three other kindred spirits and sang it, sixth chords, passing major sevenths and all....and without any feelings of guilt whatever. And now, seventy-odd years later, we seem to have the temerity to infer that the songs that original Barbershop quartets sang are not good Barbershop (?)! On what authority? Very interesting...but dull!



Was sent to the Harmonizer for publication – The Harmonizer wanted to reflect some "facts"; Dick refused and the article was not published. It was only in the MAD area that it received any press

Dick was one of the faculty members at the 1969 Arrangers School



DICK FLOERSCHEIMER – 1969 REACTION TO IMPENDING ARR CATEGORY

Another unintentional by-product of the present C & J system is the dreary vocal similarity among the bulk of Society quartets. Coaches and judges, in their well-meaning efforts io improve the sound of the foursomes with whom they come in contact, are unwittingly attempting to force all quartets into the same mould, comparing and reshaping them in the vocal image of a non-existent ideal. Although the vowel sounds may become flawless, articulation perfect, attacks and releases exquisitely accurate, balance and blend creamy smooth, the coach/judge in the process is amputating most of the vocal traits which invest in each quartet its own singularity and identity. This trend toward standardization, embodies in the more recent International contests by the distressing lack of distinguishing vocal characteristics among competing quartets, may now be extended to the arrangement category, thereby rubbing off a few more of the vestiges of individuality left to the performers. In our attempts to eliminate the gray areas of equivocation which make judging more difficult, we are in effect creating other problems which may turn out to be far more formidable: assembly line quartets, rubber stamp arranging-Barbershopping by computer.

These are the problems, and they are much more easily stated than the solutions which I don't pretend to have. However, I can suggest that quartets be allowed to retain some of their own identity in contests by the relaxation of the standards which inadvertently foster similarity. I can suggest that the Arrangement Category rules be left intentionally non-specific to reverse the ultra-conservative trend before it strangles the Barbershop harmony we know is meant to be unrestrained traditionally. I can add my recommendation to a proposal which advocates a contest wherein contestants sing one pure Barbershop selection (like school figures in figure skating competition), and one free-style selection per session, thereby striking a compromise between safety and entertainment. I can



DICK FLOERSCHEIMER – 1969 REACTION TO IMPENDING ARR CATEGORY

merely want to keep Barbershop Harmony the free thing it was seventy-five years ago in its original hevday.

A fact of which some non-competing members and the general public are probably unaware is that competing quartets are now paradoxically obliged to build two repertoires, one for contests and another for shows, and the two are growing Page - 3

more and more dissimilar in their respective makeups. The content and execution of contest songs are becoming less interesting because contestants are "playing it safe," and, consequently, quartets are using pure contest songs on shows considerably less often than other material, which, for a variety of reasons, is unacceptable for contest. It follows that "safe" contest songs are less interesting because the narrowing standard fosters a general lack of variety, ingenuity and sparkle. No show audience can endure $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours of contest Barbershop. Even hard-core contest listeners are delighted when the winning quartet lets its hair down with an acceptance number that is anything but contest material. This is a pretty sad commentary on contest standards which promote such deviation by contestant-performers. Why should any society quartet be required to make a choice between what is "safe" for contest and interesting for shows? Why can't contest standards be yielding enough to include at least some of the material now suitable only for show performances?



1970

May 70 Harmonizer new categories (ARR and INT)
 Howard Mesecher for Fall 1971

 Lots of exploration of film and audio recording to use with judge training

 New judges for ARR and INT categories me College to hammer out new category description



1970 – TEST JUDGING PROGRESSES

4. TEST-JUDGING

a. Arrangement - The following men participated in this program this spring at the International Quartet Preliminaries: Burt Szabo, Val Hicks, Dennis Driscoll and Lou Perry. Several songs and/or arrangements would have been dis-qualified had our new system been

Int'l C & J Committee Report (Cont'd)

in use. I would like to quote from a report received from Burt Szabo, our Arrangement Category Specialist, after he returned from test-judging the Cardinal District contest. "I am more convinced than ever that we are on the right track with this scoring system". Our men that have been test-judging are becoming more knowledgeable all the time and will be able to move into this area confident of their ability when the time comes to adopt this system.

b. Interpretation - Ken Johnson and Bob Craig have test-judged two contests and report some problems with the score sheet that had been designed for the new category. We will design a new score sheet before beginning our training program this summer. Scoring outcome would not have been changed at these two contests when the Interpretation Category scores were interpolated for the Voice Expression scores.

Interpretation is moving towards being Voice Expression without attacks and releases (Balance and Blend) plus the musical delivery elements of the 1951 ARR category



1970 MIDWINTER REPORT TO THE BOARD

It has been agreed by the members of our committee that have been investigating the Arragement Category that the main job and purpose of the Arrangement Judge should be the "Guardian of the Barbershop Style". To do this he must have some idea of what the barbershop style is and a method of guarding this style. We have tried to provide the Arrangement Judge with these tools so that he can perform the function that he was intended to do.

First of all here is a list of the duties of the Arrangement Judge.

The Arrangement Judge is concerned with the Arrangement in four ways:

- He determines whether the song is in good taste and free from patriotic or religious connotations. In addition he determines whether the arrangement of the song, as a unit, is acceptable and representative of the barbershop style.
- 2. Next, he is charged with safeguarding the barbershop style as it has evolved to the present day. The judge's responsibility is to evaluate the arrangement he hears and to penalize the intrusion of non-stylistic elements which tend to weaken the barbershop style as generally practiced.
- It is the duty and responsibility of the Arrangement Judge(s) to recommend disqualification of any song or arrangement which is not acceptable under the conditions set forth above and in the Official Contest Rules.
- 4. Finally, the Arrangement Judge must recognize and reward musically artistic and intelligent use of embellishments, exceptional harmonic progressions, and other features of the arrangement as long as they are consistent with the barbershop style.



The following is a quote from the Arrangement Category Description:
"It must be re-emphasized that these points are not presented with the intention of limiting further development of the barbershop style, nor with the thought that the style should be restricted and forced to conform to some arbitrary patterns out of the past. Rather, this Arrangement Category Description is written with the hope that these paragraphs will promote the development and evolution of the style along natural lines consistent with concepts based on the past history and traditions of barbershop singing."



1970 - NEW ARRANGEMENT CATEGORY TAKING SHAPE

ne was test-judging the new Arrangement Category.
"So what it boils down to is this: I did not influence the ultimate outcome or final placement to any marked degree. My "highest" penalty was a "minus 5" and my "highest" bonus was a "plus3". This doesn't bother me one bit, though, because every group sang within the Barbershop style and, after all, isn't that the purpose of the Arrangement Category."

Yes, we firmly believe that this is what the Arrangement Category should be doing. We have many complaints from contestants, many of them very qualified musicians, that they cannot understand our Arrangement Category. It seems to mean something different to every Judge. And of course, by encompassing as much of the "Presentation" as it has, each Arrangement Judge would probably talk about different factors in the presentation and not talk about the song or arrangement at all. This has been very upsetting to contestants and we feel that the proposed system will eliminate this problem. In the critique, the Arrangement Judge will talk to the contestant about the song and the arrangement. If either received "minus" points, the Judge will be able to show the contestant exactly where he violated the Barbershop style and how to correct it so that he won't get "minus" points again, at least not for that particular error.

We realize that it will be no ordinary Judge that will be able to be certified in this new Arrangement Category. He must be a musician, with a solid musical background. He must have written barbershop arrangements. He must understand the "Barbershop Style". He must be capable of hearing violations of that style as they are being sung. He must also be able to recognize variations of our style that add extra interest to a contest performance and be taught how to award bonus points for these efforts. Surely a large percentage of our



NEXT TIME

In our next episode, we will

Review the rules from 1971-1980

Review the changes leading to "Sound"

Review the outcomes of the new ARR category and new relation

Video Series is "free"

 Donations in the name of this series are gladly accepted to https://give.barbershop.org/preserve

Any new information you may have, please contact me at





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