

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY

I. Introduction

Performers entertain their audiences in ways that can be as varied as the personality, abilities, and creative skills of the performers themselves. Using their own creativity, ability and skills, performers interpret the opportunities present in each song to create a unique performance for the audience. The most meaningful performances engage the audience members' senses, experiences, memories, and imaginations enabling an emotional journey that delivers a high level of entertainment.

The Performance Judge evaluates entertainment in the barbershop style (as defined in the Contest & Judging Handbook). While the judge evaluates performance elements for their contribution to the overall entertainment value of the performance, the perceived impact and effect on the audience is the primary consideration in determining a performer's level of success in the Performance Category.

II. Elements of Barbershop Performance

Rapport

A successful performance hinges on the performer's ability to inspire attentiveness and openness from the audience, and the ability to cultivate a relationship that enables open communication of ideas and feelings. Performance judges evaluate how successfully the performer establishes and maintains rapport with the audience.

Creativity

Performers are encouraged to explore and develop their own styles and identities; there is no "one way" to perform. The innovative use of other art forms in appropriate balance with the barbershop style is also encouraged. Performance judges evaluate how well performers design and deliver unique performances in the barbershop style.

Artistry

Meaningful performances communicate the emotional content of the song and engage the audience in the performance. Performers may rely on their own innate performance abilities or make use of dramatic arts technique in the delivery of an expressive and artistic performance. The Performance Judge determines how well the performer's artistic and expressive choices contribute to an entertaining performance.

Honesty

Audiences perceive genuine, authentic, earnest, or heartfelt performances to be more entertaining. Within the context of an honest performance, performers can run the gamut of using simple but effective mood creation to profound or exuberant expressiveness while performing. The Performance Judge determines how successful the performer is in delivering an honest performance.

Shared elements

A performer's skills and abilities in singing and musicianship may influence the overall entertainment value of a performance. The Performance Judge assesses the impact of elements judged by other categories in holistically determining the level of entertainment.