
HISTORY OF SPEBSQSA/BHS CONTEST & JUDGING

PART 10 – IS CHANGE GONNA COME? 2010-2015

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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



CATCHING UP

- Throughout C&J history, ICJC/SCJC has periodically toyed with the idea of implementing some sort of non-random assignment at International to increase excitement
 - This will continue this decade
- Instituted improved applicant/candidate practices
 - “Wrangler” in the MUS Category (Al Fisk - 2008)
 - Implemented in all categories in 2011
 - Live judging prior to Category School
- Events team at Int’l is looking at improving the video quality of what is in the background



WHERE DID WE LEAVE OFF?

- The categories were maturing
 - In the model of forming, storming, norming, and performing, most were well into norming with respect to category direction
- Penalties reintroduced in 2007
 - This created chaos in the judging system that took several years to address



SOCIETY TRENDS IN THE 2010'S

- SCJC works towards improving transparency of the judging system
- Complaints about Sat night evaluations at District events grow
- Unlike the previous decade, the number of judges invited to Category School is limited to 40 maximum
 - For the first time, all invitations are based upon the judge will certify
- Continuing time delays in the International Chorus Contest (continued from the previous decades)
- The pendulum on judges conferencing swings in a variety of directions
- Technology in the pit
 - Will move eventually from the old software to new software by 2019
 - Approval of tablets vs paper for judges taking notes
 - SCJC approves in concept the use of technology to improve efficiency but the problems are twofold
 - WIFI availability
 - Security



2010

- Harmony Hall/SCJC recommending that choruses at International compete every other year
- First suggestion by Jamison (Chair) to the SBOD/HH to reduce district contests to one for those wishing
- Chart Contestability Committee run by Don Gray
- Statistical Analysis for Judges
- International finals mic test by Lunch Break leads to issues
- Ringmasters and Round Midnight create huge controversy at International with song selection and arrangements



2011

- “Best Seat in the House” at Int’l
 - 2013 at the district level
 - This allows the public who might never know what happens in the pit to witness what it sounds like and ultimately see what happens “behind the curtain”



2012

- Purposeful effort to create more transparency
 - Ask the Judge Blog
 - More Harmonizer articles going forward
 - Best Seat in 2013-2017 at Districts
- Many committees launched with two main focuses
 - Reducing costs of judging
 - Improving the judging experience
- Int'l Choruses asked time on stage in addition to Shared Responsibilities Document
- Attempting to get Int'l contest results uploaded as soon as announcements are made



2013

- SBOD approves single convention concept
- SCJC approves the concept of having video contests
- Variance program implemented
- Approve concept that a member of a quartet can be replaced between Prelims and Int'l
- Category School decisions published to the membership
- Judge Video Library begins
- Time on Stage Defended
 - New Tradition in 2007
 - Circus Set by Alliance in 2013
 - Salem: Cavemen in 2012 and Monks in 2013
 - Many other setup issues throughout the years



2014

- Chorus Manager Walk-on's at International
- Evaluations for the first (and only) time at International for eliminated Quartet Quarterfinalists
 - Choose the judge if available from the 30 judges
- No penalties in Rules
 - Break a rule, get a penalty
 - Otherwise it is an artistic choice that may or may not impact the performance
 - SNG will get Electronic Enhancement
- Improved Category Descriptions and Website information
- GNU Winter Wonderland Set
 - Led to institution of Staging Penalties on props and timing at International for choruses and quartets



2015

- Minimum Score raised to 70
- Dealing with OOD quartets who don't score the number vs in district scoring lower
- Judging Software dies in the Finals
- Position Papers and Overlap Papers are outdated compared to where the categories are today
- Looking at International Judging Certification



2015

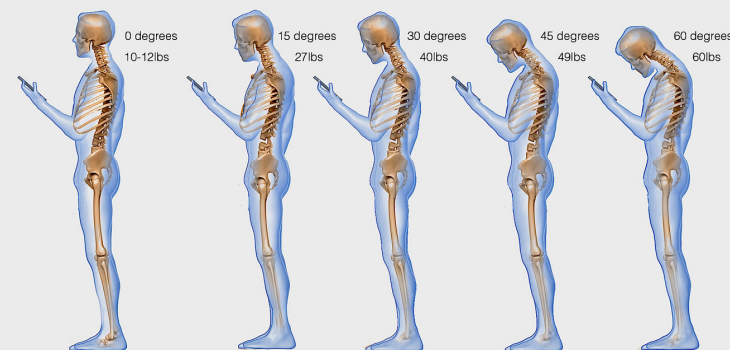
- Scoring levels / ceilings will be raised
- Women will be accepted as applicants to work towards certification as BHS Judges



PRESENTATION WILL CHANGE TO PERFORMANCE

- Since the beginning of the Presentation Category, the category has struggled with shedding old ideas and paradigms and moving towards entertainment and relevance
- Performers and audiences also are struggling with these concepts of what is “barbershop” from a stage

How does what we've been taught with regards to “performing on the risers” by being involved and selling align or not with the tension created with the head and neck?



IN THE CATEGORY OF “I DON’T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHEN”

- At the International Level
 - Competitors are allowed to choose their lighting on a song by song basis
 - Stage Right and Stage Left microphones are added for quartets
 - A person representing the chorus can help call video cues



NEXT TIME

- In our final episode, we will
 - Review the final set of years (2016-2020)
 - Wrap-up: Perspective on where we've been and gazing into a crystal ball
- 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 kkbauri@charter.net

