



The Singing Buckeyes

Dual Chorus Concept



Guiding Principles

Singing Buckeyes Vision (Modified)

- To be a nationally recognized fraternal organization of choral musicians centered on the promotion of Barbershop Harmony while dedicated to service in the local community.



Guiding Principles

Aspirational Goals for the Chapter

- To be the largest barbershop chapter in the world.
- To be the best singing chapter in the BHS society.
- To perform at least 1 show each year to a crowd of 1000 or more patrons.
- To be fiscally whole and develop an endowment for the future.
- To establish forums for young singers to experience barbershop music.
- To create a philanthropic partnership with a local non-music based non-profit organization.



Dual Chorus Concept

Form Two formal singing groups within the Chapter:

- A Performance Chorus &
- A Contest Chorus

Objectives of the Dual Chorus Concept

- To allow the Singing Buckeyes to provide the right musical experience to the broadest group of singers possible.
- To encourage singers intimidated by our current audition process and contest intensity to have a simplified acclimatization into chapter activities.
- To encourage membership from those highly proficient singers not currently engaged in chorus activities due to time constraints and/or a desire for a higher degree of musical excellence.



Chorus Descriptions

Performance Chorus

- This group is the **primary chorus** of the Singing Buckeyes with a goal of growing into **the largest chapter** in the society. **Men of any age or experience** are welcome to participate in this chorus. **The focus** of this chorus **will be to teach** singing skills, **develop** individual craft, **prepare** for community performances, **compete** occasionally, and **foster fellowship** among its members.



Chorus Descriptions

Contest Chorus

- As the name suggests this chorus is primarily **focused on competition**. The individuals that make up this group will be **expected to learn** music, **rehearse** and **perform at the highest levels**. This will be a **smaller group** and may be made up of chapter members that sing in either both groups, or perhaps solely in this chorus.



Performance Chorus Details

Entry Criteria

- Entry into this chorus will be **solely at the discretion of each individual singer**. There will be **NO FORMAL CHAPTER AUDITION CRITERIA** and all singers interested in choral music will be invited to become members. A voice placement will be conducted with each interested singer.



Performance Chorus Details

Rehearsal Schedule - Regular Rehearsal

- Generally to be held every Tuesday from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm with exceptions during times of concentrated contest prep. In years when the performance chorus competes, the regular schedule applies. In years when the contest chorus competes, rehearsals will be held twice a month during the 3 months leading up to the contest. NOTE: This will amount to roughly 40 rehearsals per year.



Performance Chorus Details

Rehearsal Schedule - Pizza Night

- The last Tuesday of each month will end early at 8:45 where the membership is encouraged to go for an evening of pizza and socialization.



Performance Chorus Details

Rehearsal Schedule - Coaching Events

- This group will continue to have coaching sessions with guest coaches but will not be asked to attend special rehearsals outside of the normal schedule unless participating in contest that year.



Performance Chorus Details

Rehearsal Schedule - Educational Evenings

- During the nights when the contest chorus is rehearsing, the performance chorus members will be encouraged to still attend rehearsal. Special educational activities will be planned to teach such topics as sight reading, music theory, arranging, judging basics, vocal production, tag teaching and tag singing, personal voice instruction, etc.



Performance Chorus Details

Other Schedules

- **Performance Schedule** – The primary goals of this chorus are growth, inclusion, fellowship and community involvement. There will be 6 to 8 planned performances a year at local venues.
- **Contest Schedule** – Contest would not be the primary focus of this chorus. This concept is designed so that the performance chorus will continue learning show music throughout the year and not get bogged down in contest preparation. However, the musical leadership believes that the contest experience is a vital part of our chapter and the development of singers. Given that, the general membership chorus will compete in periodic district competitions as well as international conventions.



Performance Chorus Details

Music

- The musical selections for this group will be barbershop focused with some choral pieces woven into the repertoire. The music will be selected to ensure a diverse and entertaining show in the community. Music will be fun and engaging but less rigorous to learn. New music will be released one song at a time every 2-3 months based on difficulty level so the group will learn roughly 5 new songs a year. Old songs will be replaced with new ones in the repertoire. An annual survey will be distributed to the membership to help chose which songs will be replaced.



Performance Chorus Details

Musical Leadership

- This group will be directed by the primary frontline chapter director as appointed by the Board of Directors. This group will also be used to develop assistance directors to allow for growth and succession planning. A degree of musical excellence will still be expected for all singers.



Contest Chorus Details

Entry Criteria

- **Music Team Discretion** – At the purview of the music team, individuals may be asked to participate in the contest chorus. The Music VP, the Music Director and the Artistic Director must all agree unanimously on such invitations. These invites will be based on members demonstrating both musical & performance excellence during sectional reviews, rehearsal quartet opportunities, soloist work, submitted recordings, or historical quartet achievement.
- **Quartet Competition** – Any chapter member may automatically qualify for an invite by competing in an active quartet in any officially sanctioned barbershop harmony society contest and achieving a score of 65.0 or better.



Contest Chorus Details

Rehearsal Schedule - Regular Rehearsal

- This group will meet on Tuesday nights from 7:00 until 10:00 pm twice a month in the 3 months leading up to a contest. NOTE: This will amount to roughly 6-18 rehearsals per year depending on the number of contests entered.



Contest Chorus Details

Rehearsal Schedule - Outside Rehearsal Expectations

- The members of this group will be expected to learn music quickly outside of rehearsal time and come with it memorized and performance ready.



Contest Chorus Details

Rehearsal Schedule - Coaching Events

- This group will have planned coaching sessions that will be quite intense and may require an additional night or weekend retreat outside of the normal Tuesday schedule. This group will be directed by the primary frontline chapter director as appointed by the Board of Directors. This group will also be used to develop assistance directors to allow for growth and succession planning. A degree of musical excellence will still be expected for all singers.



Contest Chorus Details

Other Schedules

- **Performance Schedule** – This group has a primary focus of contest preparation; however, should the group desire and have the capacity to attend a chapter performance already planned for the performance chorus, they may be asked to perform a few songs.
- **Contest Schedule** – This group will be expected to compete in all chorus competitions each year with a goal of winning district championships and placing at international conventions. In some years, this group will sit out as the performance chorus will compete to ensure all Buckeye members get the contest experience.



Contest Chorus Details

Music

- **Music** – The musical selections for this group will be barbershop contest focused. The music will likely be quite challenging and complex. New contests sets will be released each year so the group will learn roughly 2 new songs a year. If time permits and membership desires, additional challenging show music might be introduced as well to this group.
- **Musical Leadership** – This group will be directed by the frontline chapter director as appointed by the Board of Directors.



FAQs



- ❑ Q: I don't want to be in a competition quartet but I want to get invited into the contest chorus. How do I accomplish that?
- ❑ A: You can get invited by demonstrating musical excellence and initiative. Examples include singing solos for the chorus, volunteering to sing in small groups in front of the chapter, submitting recordings to the musical leadership for review and critique, volunteering to teach tags to the chorus. Basically, if you demonstrate your ability to sing at a high level and demonstrate the ability to work independently outside of rehearsal, then you can get invited.



FAQs



- ❑ Q: If it's a night when the contest chorus is rehearsing, can I attend the chapter meeting?
- ❑ A: YES. It is highly encouraged for all members to attend all chapter meetings even if your selected chorus is not rehearsing. While you may not be asked sing with the contest chorus, there is much to learn from watching a group work and get coached. There will also be educational activities planned as mentioned.



FAQs



- ❑ Q: I like to compete but I don't think I will qualify for the contest chorus. Does that mean I'll never compete again?
- ❑ A: No. Every member of the Singing Buckeyes will have the chance to compete at least once every couple of years, including the chance to go to international contest.



FAQs



- ❑ Q: When does this take effect?
- ❑ A: Upon board approval on Monday 1/16. So potentially, this April's contest will be the first test of the process.