



Flesher-Hinton MUSIC COMPANY presents

the
2006

HARMONY
Sweepstakes
A CAPPELLA FESTIVAL

22ND ANNUAL
COMPETITION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL

Saturday, March 18, 2006

produced by the Colorado Vocal Jazz Society

Information for Interested Groups

Groups of any style are welcome, but they must be between 3 and 7 members. The rules on page 3 and 4 explain many of the details of the event. All groups must audition in order to compete. Generally, this is done by sending a current CD or tape and photo, although live auditions can be arranged. The purpose of the audition is to make sure the group is appropriate for the Festival and to help the Regional Producer determine performance order. If a group has competed previously, the audition process may be waived.

Purpose

To help broaden interest in a cappella music by providing a larger audience for groups of all styles to perform, to have fun and to create new fans.

Requirements

Groups may have no less than three nor more than seven performing members and they must perform a cappella or unaccompanied. Groups of any style are welcome.

How To Enter

All groups are requested to submit the entry form (page 2). Groups also need to send a sample of their music and photo to the Producer of the region they wish to enter. Please note you may only submit to **one regional show**. The entry fee is **\$10 per group member** (to be refunded if you don't win a spot on the regional show).

Prizes

Regional winners win a set of *Shure SM 58 microphones*, *CD duplication by Discmakers*, *CDs from Primarily A Cappella* and *free airline tickets* plus two nights accommodation* in the San Francisco Bay area to compete in the Finals.

** up to \$250 per performer, round trip*

Application Deadline

The deadline for submitting your group's application to participate is **January 10, 2006**. Plan to submit the Sweepstakes Entry Form, with enclosures, in plenty of time to meet this deadline.

Philosophy and Goals

Purpose

The purpose of **Harmony Sweepstakes** and its **A Cappella Festivals** is to promote the appreciation and performance of vocal harmony. It achieves this purpose by showcasing groups in the exciting atmosphere of a competition and by attracting audiences that are largely "a cappella friendly" to provide singers with an exceptional performance experience.

Our essential purpose is twofold:

- To put on a highly entertaining show.
- To provide performers with a positive experience, and with tools to help them progress in the performance of vocal music, especially contemporary a cappella.

Philosophy

Although it is a competition, the Festival should always be a friendly and supportive one, where the common goal is to create a special evening of camaraderie and intimacy for singers and audience alike. The majority of participants already have this attitude and do not have to be asked to cooperate. However, on occasion, individuals can carry the competitive position to such an extreme that they actually become rude and derogatory -- even malicious. This is not acceptable behavior and will not be tolerated by the Festival.

Goals

The Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival is a widely recognized showcase for vocal musicians, enabling its participants to achieve their goals through exposure to growing audiences. The Harmony Sweepstakes goal is to broaden the scope and appreciation of a cappella as an art form. Our hope is that the Sweepstakes will serve as a tangible objective for all vocal harmony enthusiasts. We aim to keep the Harmony Sweepstakes competitions friendly and supportive, emphasizing the spirit of **"harmony through harmony."** These events should offer growth experiences for singers in all stages of their careers, through competitions, conferences and in ever increasing groups of regional events.

(See Rules on page 3)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL HARMONY SWEEPSTAKES ENTRY FORM

Group name: _____

(Please do not use aliases! Use the name you intend to use in the future. There has been confusion in the past.)

Name, address, phone and e-mail of group contact or manager:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

ENCLOSE A BRIEF PROFILE OF THE GROUP ATTACHED TO THIS FORM. THIS PROFILE WILL BE USED IN THE PROGRAM. ALSO, PLEASE INCLUDE OR EMAIL 2 GOOD PHOTOS, PREFERABLY DIGITAL AND IN COLOR, OF YOUR GROUP TO BE USED FOR OUR LOBBY DISPLAY AND FOR MEDIA PROMOTION.

GROUP MEMBERS:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____

SONG LIST:

EACH SONG YOU PLAN TO PERFORM MUST BE LISTED, PLUS ONE ADDITIONAL DESIGNATED AS ENCORE OR FOR THE AUDIENCE FAVORITE AWARD. YOU MAY ALSO SELECT ANY SONG FOR BEST ORIGINAL SONG OR ARRANGEMENT, BEST SOLO OR VP AWARDS. YOUR FINAL PROGRAM MAY BE MODIFIED PRIOR TO MARCH 18. BE SURE TO NAME THE ARRANGERS/COMPOSERS.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ Encore: _____

By signing this form, and for valuable consideration contained herein, we hereby grant permission to the HSACF to record our performance on audio and/or video tape, and to use these, the group name and the likenesses of any member, as well as the photos provided, for non-sale promotional purposes. Such recordings and videos are the property of the HSACF, and the HSACF is expressly granted the right to manufacture, sell and publicly perform a commemorative recording of the finals including our performance contribution. Performing groups will receive promotional copies of the commemorative recording.

Agent/Representative: _____ Date: _____

Be sure to include:

1. This form with your media samples
2. Entry fee of \$10 per person
3. Two color or b&w photos (digital?)
4. Your contact list (optional)

Mail to: Rocky Mountain Harmony Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 18535
Boulder, CO 80308-1535
888-949-2857

Deadline: Jan 17, 2006 Information: rjsharett@cvjs.org

HARMONY SWEEPSTAKES RULES

2006 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COMPETITION

General

Harmony Sweepstakes International tries to remain flexible, and if something is not working, changes will be considered. If a question comes up and there is no written rule for it, the guideline is: 1) Is it in keeping with the HS philosophy and purpose, and 2) Is it fair to all groups? When in doubt, ask!

Auditions

All groups must audition in order to compete. Generally, this is done by sending a current CD, tape or video and a photo, although live auditions are sometimes arranged. The intention of the audition is to make sure the group is appropriate for the Festival and to help the Producer determine performance order. If a group has competed previously, the audition process may be waived. Please send materials to:

The Rocky Mountain Harmony Sweepstakes
PO 18535, Boulder, CO 80308-1535
888-949-2857

--- or to your alternatively chosen regional competition.

Group Size

Competing groups must consist of at least three and at most seven members. Larger groups may select combinations of their performers to compete, but only seven members will be allowed to compete and, if they win, only the competing members will be eligible for the finals.

Entry Fees

An entry fee of *\$10.00 per singer per group* (e.g. \$40.00 for a quartet, etc.) is due at the time of registration and will be returned if the audition is not successful. Checks should be made payable to "CVJS."

Multiple Entries

One person singing in more than one competing group is permitted. If one or two singers bring a couple of good groups that will be positive additions to the program, that's terrific. A group may not, however, rename itself and compete twice just by adding or deleting a member.

Competing Again

If a group wins its regional competition but does not win the national finals, it must skip a year before competing in the regional again (they may host their Regional following their winning year). If a group wins its Regional and the Finals, it will not be eligible to compete again, but may certainly host, or guest at Festivals when appropriate.

Time Limit

Performance time limits may vary with different regional competitions. Usually, ten minutes per group is permitted. Timing begins when a group starts its first tune and ends when it finishes its last song. A group may use its time any way it likes (e.g. three songs; one long medley; five short songs). Audiences will be instructed to keep applause between songs to a minimum. If the performance time limit decided upon by the Regional Producer is exceeded, groups doing so may lose up to 50% of their overall scores. Strict timing enforcement keeps the show to a reasonable length and makes the competition fair to all groups.

Song List

Groups should let the Regional Producer know which songs they will be performing as far in advance as possible. A list needs to be made for the judges reference, as well as for group scheduling, to avoid back to back song duplication. A group may change its song selection up until the show call

(about 1-1/2 hours before show time), but the more advance preparation time, the better. Each song on the show list should be noted as an original arrangement, original song or cover, with composer and arranger identified.

Instruments

A cappella means without musical accompaniment, so no instruments are permitted. Some hand-held percussion enhancements may be allowed, such as tambourines, maracas or the occasional kazoo. The basic guideline here is that, if the instrument is an integral part of the number as opposed to an incidental enhancement, it would not be acceptable. Please discuss these options with your Regional Producer at the time of audition or well in advance of performance.

Music Style

Any style of music will be considered, but the event is geared toward performance and innovation. Also, keep in mind that this is a family show and, though your material doesn't have to be 'Disneyland clean', all lyrics and movement should be kept within the realm of good taste and PG acceptability.

Order of Appearance

The order is determined by the Regional Producer and will be announced to the groups at the show call (see above). Groups are scheduled carefully, to avoid similar groups or performance material back to back. Groups are welcome to indicate a preference for performance order, providing they understand that it is not guaranteed they will get it.

The show order is kept unknown for two reasons:

1. There may be upwards of 70 performers in a competition. The Producer, as well as stage and sound crews, will all need your group available to run through your segment order, rehearse the closing tune, tour the theater and give any other info related to the evening. This stage rehearsal period is also the only time that you will be given a chance to run a sound check. Groups are advised to arrive as early as possible. The Regional Producer will determine target arrival times and schedules.
2. Contact from groups complaining about their program order are specifically discouraged. Groups have won the competitions from all different positions in the program. If your group is good, it doesn't matter if you perform first, last or anywhere in between.

Hosts

A host group (preferably, but not necessarily, the previous year's champs) will open the show with one tune. The host group may also welcome the audience, announce performers, fill time when necessary and lead the closing song. Its role will be determined by the Regional Producer.

Judges

A panel of three or more recognized professionals will assess groups and award placement. They will be selected from representatives in the music, media and educational fields who are especially qualified to evaluate vocal music with great expertise. Most judges volunteer their services.

Judging

Groups are judged 50% on musicality and 50% on performance, with an emphasis on originality. Good performance does not necessarily mean flashy costumes and tricky choreography. It simply refers to the degree in which the audience

(continued on next page)

Harmony Sweepstakes Rules (continued)

was entertained. Judges are encouraged to provide evaluations that will help improve the various group performances in the future and provide an overall score to use in the final placement, as opposed to scoring minute technical points that may or may not affect entertainment value. Each group will receive a copy of their comments by the judges.

Complimentary Passes and Tickets

Each group will be provided one complimentary ticket per member for their guests. Please remember that the shows tend to sell out and any family and friends should purchase tickets early. Check with your Regional Producer to find out if volunteers are needed if you have folks that are interested in seeing some of the show and are willing to help out.

Dressing Rooms

Each venue has its own attributes, of course, but it is safe to say that groups will have to share dressing room spaces and warm-up areas. Obviously, common courtesy will be appreciated here, and if the dressing areas are crowded, the group that is "on deck" will take priority over the others.

Printed Programs

These will be geared toward the performing groups, with as much space as possible for each group's biographical information. Each group will be allotted at least a short paragraph, which should include the name of the group, its members and a bit of history or a description.

Sound Checks

Groups will need to provide a 'mic plot' to the Regional Producer (how you want competition mics set up for your first number, how many you need, etc.). There will be time to do sound checks in the order indicated by a published schedule before the house is opened. Each group will be allowed a specified time on stage. Please be aware that levels and placements will change throughout the evening so this will serve only to give you a feel for how you sound in the hall.

Sound System

It is imperative, and every effort will be made to ensure, that the sound system used in each competition is of top quality and emphasizes sufficient and high quality monitors. All sound, including the highest quality mics available, will be provided by the regional producer. Sound technicians will be instructed to keep mixing to a minimum once levels are set, allowing groups to do their own mixing vocally. Sound technicians will be warned against high decibel sound and minimizing the bass mix for these a cappella performances.

Special Effects

Because this is a competitive event, special effects are discouraged. However, if a group wants to use special light or sound techniques, the Regional Producer should be consulted well in advance of the performance date. General guidelines are that any approved effects may be used only if made available to all groups and if technical staff has time available to work on them.

Awards

Performance: The overall first place winner of the Regional competition, as selected by the judging panel, will constitute the **2006 Rocky Mountain Harmony Sweepstakes Championship**. A **Runner-Up Award** will also be named, which group will be designated to replace the winning group if that group cannot compete in the Finals. An **Audience Favorite** will also be awarded, to be selected by secret ballot of the members of the audience.

In addition, the Rocky Mountain Harmony Sweepstakes will provide the following competitive awards:

The Best Staged Performance: The judges will select a group to receive this acknowledgment on the basis of all around presentation: choreography, personality and continuity.

The "Jerry Lawson" Best Soloist: This award will go to the singer who the judges believe to have performed the best solo as part of a group's presentation.

The "Deke Sharon" Best Original Arrangement: This award will recognize an arranger (group member or other) who the judges believe provides the best group arrangement. The song need not be original. No chart is required.

The "Jeff Harris" Best Original Song: This award will recognize a composer (group member or other), who the judges believe provides the best original song performed by a competing group. No chart or lead sheet is required.

The "Wes Carroll" Best Vocal Percussionist: This award will go to the group vocal percussionist who the judges feel has performed the best VP as part of a group's presentation.

Closing Song

At the end of the competition, groups will be brought back on stage for the award ceremony. Following this, the show will close with groups and audience singing together. An arrangement of **"Goodnight Sweetheart"** will be provided to performers; it will be rehearsed briefly before the show.

Finally . . . It is impossible to answer here every question that may come up, so please feel free to call the national office at **415-455-8602**, or make contact with your *Rocky Mountain Sweepstakes Regional Producer* personally at **888-949-2857**.



Music means everything at Flesher-Hinton where we're proud to have been part of Colorado's musical heritage for over 50 years.

And the harmony that music brings to life appears in many aspects ~

We are pleased this season to be part of the 17th year of another tradition.

The Rocky Mountain Harmony Sweepstakes is an important event in the a cappella world. The folks here are glad to help!

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