

2023 IC&C FAQs

HOTEL | VENUE INFORMATION

How do I book a hotel room?

You can book your room online at <http://www.experiencegr.com/harmony-inc>

Room rate = \$164 + 15% tax

- Rates will be honored three days pre-and post-convention for extended stays. (11/2 - 11/14).
- There is complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel.
- **Reservations must be accompanied by a valid major credit card.** The amount of deposit required equals the value of the first night's accommodation, including tax.
- **You must indicate your HI roommates when making your reservations.**
- Guaranteed reservations are held for arrival until 6:00 AM on the day following the first night reserved.
- A \$50.00 early departure fee is assessed to anyone leaving prior to their reservation check-out date.
- Deposits are refundable if notice of cancellation is received by the Hotel Reservations Department at least 48 hours prior to the date of expected arrival.
- Guest check-in is 4:00 PM; however, early arrivals will be accommodated based on availability. Check-out time is 11:00 AM. Requests to retain room beyond that hour should be directed to our Front Desk. Depending on room availability, a late departure charge will apply.
- Please be sure to have your credit card number, billing address and names of your roommates with you when you make your reservation.
- **The last date to make your hotel room reservation is October 13, 2023.**

Can I use a debit card to make my reservation?

Yes, you can but please be aware of the hotel's policy on securing funds for incidental charges. It is the policy of the hotel to authorize payment for room and tax as well as \$50/day for incidental charges.

As such, per the hotel: "Use of debit/check card as security or payment for your room immediately places a hold on funds in your checking account. The amount of the authorization/hold request will be for up to 7 days room and tax plus an estimate for incidentals. Your financial institution may continue to hold these funds for three to five business days you check out. The hotel cannot accept responsibility for overdraft charges resulting from holds placed on debit/check card accounts. If you would like to pay for your visit with your debit card, we suggest you use a credit card at check in for the pre-authorized hold. Upon your departure, please see the front desk and we will be happy to process the sales against your debit card at check out."

What is the fair share assessment fee?

To help cover the costs of IC&C expenses and meet our contractual obligations, all members of Harmony, Inc. are required to stay at the convention hotel or pay the Fair Share Assessment Fee: the equivalent of one night's stay at the hotel (including taxes).

Are there restaurants available onsite?

There are a number of food options inside the hotel including a Starbucks and Kitchen Counter which serve breakfast. Click [here](#) for the complete list.

During the contest on Thursday and Friday we will also offer food sales at the Convention Center. Additionally, you can check our [microsite](#) for a list of local area restaurants; including those that can take large group reservations.

I have mobility issues – will it be difficult for me to get around?

All activities in the hotel and convention center are ADA accessible. The contest pattern is roughly 10 minutes of travel time. There is a covered skywalk to get from the hotel to the contest venue. You can rent a scooter for the week at a discounted rate of \$190. This includes delivery and pick-up of the scooter. To reserve your scooter call Amigo Mobility Center at 616-361-7559. The reservation deadline is 12/25/2023.

Can I bring a service animal?

Yes, service animals are allowed at the hotel and DeVos Place. But please email Allison at ICCManager@harmonyinc.org so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Please put *ICC Service Animal Accommodation Request* in the subject line.

What is the smoking policy at DeVos Place and Amway Grand Plaza?

Both properties are smoke free. Smoking inside the convention center is prohibited, including traditional and e-cigarettes. Amway Grand Plaza is a non-smoking hotel.

What is the best airport to fly in to?

The closest airport is Gerald R. Ford ([GRR](#)) in Grand Rapids. The closes major airports are Detroit Metro ([DTW](#)) – 155 mi, Chicago Midway ([MDW](#)) – 178 mi, or Chicago O'Hare ([ORD](#)) – 204 mi.

If you are driving, [click here](#) for directions to the hotel.

Is there parking available?

Ample parking is available at the hotel. All attendees will receive a 50% discount of off the advertised price at the time of the convention. **Bringing a commercial bus?** The hotel has a large parking lot that can accommodate your buses. The rate is \$75 per night.

The parking lot is located at the corner of Fulton and Market, about an 8 minute walk to the hotel. There is a shuttle van that can be requested for pick up and drop offs to the lot.

Does the hotel have a shuttle?

Experience Grand Rapids will be providing Harmony, Inc. IC&C attendees **complimentary airport transportation** from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport to the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel on the dates and times below; transportation will be by full-size motorcoach departing from the airport every hour, to take the shuttle please exit through door #3 (across from Baggage Claim). Return trips will depart from the Amway Grand Plaza, Lyon Street entrance on the hour.

Arrivals:

Wednesday, November 8th

10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Departures:

Sunday, November 12th

4:00 AM – 2:00 PM

If you are traveling outside of the dates and times that the shuttle is running, click [here](#) to see ground transportation options available from the airport.

Is there a place onsite I can nurse?

The hotel has a dedicated nursing mothers' room located on the main level of the hotel within the exhibitors building.

What is the weather like in Grand Rapids?

In November, temperatures in Grand Rapids average between 32 – 48 degrees F. You can get the most current forecast along with monthly temperature averages by clicking [here](#).

Is there anything to do around the hotel?

Grand Rapids is a thriving community with lots of things to do and see – many of which are close to the hotel. Check out this [website](#) for a list of things to do in the area including several museums perfect for a November day and special offers for Harmony Inc members.

No car? No problem. You can easily get round the area using the Grand Rapids [Dash](#) Bus service. Free DASH routes run every 15 minutes from Wednesday through Sunday

Also check out the [Grand Rapids Attendee Exclusive](#) program to enjoy special attendee-only discounts at local restaurants and attractions, just by showing your smartphone!

CONVENTION INFORMATION

How do I register for IC&C?

Registration will be done [online](#) again this year and you will register for the Saturday night dinner at the same time you purchase your All Events Pass (AEP). Payment can be mailed, or made through PayPal, or for payment in Canada, by E-Transfer through your Bank. All prices are in US funds but may be paid in Canadian equivalent with exchange calculated on the day of payment.

For instructions on how to fill out the AEP forms please click [here](#).

We ask that all choruses register their members at the same time vs having member register individually. This ensures you will be seated together at dinner.

While there is no cut-off for purchasing an AEP, we ask that you follow the below guidelines; especially for groups:

- Early bird pricing for AEP's ends September 1st. The price for All AEP's (including youth) will increase by \$10.00 after this date.
- The deadline to purchase dinner tickets is September 30. We request that you purchase your dinner ticket at the same time as your AEP but understand that plans may change and so you can add a dinner ticket up until this date.
- Online AEP sales will close on November 3rd. You may still purchase AEP's and tickets on-site after this date.

What is the cost to attend IC&C?

All prices are listed as U.S. Dollars. Payment is due in U.S. Dollars or the Canadian Equivalent. To convert to CAD, go to [U.S. to Canadian Dollar Converter](#).

Prices below are the Early bird pricing. **After September 1, all prices will increase by \$10:**

- Adult Performing Member AEP = \$165
- Adult Non-Performing Member AEP = \$125
- Adult Non-Member AEP = \$135
- Youth Performing Member AEP = ~~\$95~~ (this cost is being covered by Harmony, Inc)
- Youth Non-performing Member AEP = ~~\$95~~ (this cost is being covered by Harmony, Inc)
- Youth Non-Member AEP = \$95
- Single Event Tickets = \$35
- Single Event Youth/Child Ticket = \$20 (25 and under)

What is the COVID Policy for IC&C?

As of January 8, 2023, Harmony, Inc. has removed the 2022 COVID restrictions for all Harmony, Inc events. Harmony, Inc. reserves the right to reinstate on an event-by-event basis if the federal and/or

state/province government guidelines change for that location.

What is the Saturday Dinner?

Participation in the Saturday dinner helps us to lower the price of our AEPs – and it's a lot of fun! The cost for this year's dinner is \$57.00. Vegetarian? Special dietary needs? No worries – we will have a special plated dinner for you – just be sure to indicate your dietary restrictions when you register.

Anyone who purchases a dinner ticket will get priority seating at the Showcase this year.

Menu

- Crisp baby iceberg wedge lettuce with carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, bacon crumbles, white cheddar and ranch dressing (gf)
- Rosemary roasted French cut chicken breast herb-roasted fingerling potatoes/green beans/red peppers/herb jus (gf)
- Black forest stout cake with malted cream and cherry compote
- Freshly baked rolls and butter, coffees, a selection of hot teas and unsweetened iced tea
- Cash bar

Please note: there will be no dinner ticket sales on-site. You must pre-purchase your seat. If you purchase a seat, then determine you can no longer attend the dinner, it is your responsibility to sell your ticket to someone else. You can post the information on Facebook via Harmony Chat or the IC&C event page, or you can post it on the bulletin board in the Hospitality Suite at ICC. Remember, the person buying your ticket is also buying your seat assignment, we will not re-assign seats after they have been posted.

How are seats assigned for dinner?

After the September 30 deadline, we will randomly draw table assignments for the Saturday dinner. Each chorus will get a select number of seats based on their dinner orders. We will notify choruses of their table and seat numbers – but they can determine who sits where. Individual or small group orders will be placed at extra seats where available. We will post the table assignments in IC&C mobile app and on our IC&C website but it is up to the individual members to remember what their table/seat assignment is.

Can I bring a guest?

Yes, family and friends are invited and encouraged to attend IC&C. The cost to attend contest is \$35 for adults, \$20 for youth (per contest). They are also invited to attend dinner for the \$57 fee. All guest tickets can be pre-ordered on the AEP form.

What happens at the Opening Ceremonies?

You don't want to miss the opening ceremonies and annual membership meeting! We will have our annual introduction of the new Board and Assistants, officer installation and our awards. You'll also enjoy two special guests that will be welcoming us to their city; Lisa Knight, Grand Rapids Commissioner and founder of the [Girls Choral Academy](#), as well as the [Grand Rapids Chorus](#). Following the opening ceremonies is our **Welcome Reception** combined with our Sing with the Queens event!

Opening Ceremonies Raffle!

Don't miss an opportunity to win a gift card for a FREE Night's Stay! A name will be drawn at the Opening Ceremonies and you **MUST BE PRESENT** to win.

What is the Parade of Champions?

One of the highlights of IC&C, the Association of Harmony Queens will entertain you with their annual Parade of Champions show. You'll get to hear many of our past Quartet Champions sing some of your favorite songs as well as this year's champion chorus – Northern Blend. Please note the cost to attend this event is included in your AEP. We will have an open bar available for drink purchases.

What is the Saturday Showcase?

All members and guests are invited to the annual showcase event. It's a great way to close out ICC as we recognize and hear from our top medalists. Anyone attending the dinner will have assigned seating to ensure they get the best seats. For all others seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Doors open at 8:00 pm.

What is the International Chorus?

One of the best parts about IC&C is getting to meet so many people from so many places who share your love of singing. This is exemplified in our International Chorus – comprised of our associate members as well as select members of each chorus that come together to learn a song and perform on the IC&C stage after the Chorus Contest on Friday. An email will be sent to all associates and choruses about participating in the International Chorus. We encourage you to sign up for this incredible experience. You will be sent the music ahead of time and there will be a rehearsal on Thursday morning.

What are education classes?

Want to be a better singer? Need help getting your chapter off the ground? IC&C is more than just contests and singing. We are fortunate that our talented members and panel volunteer of their time to help us all become *Harmony Stronger*. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity during IC&C. Classes will be offered on Thursday and Saturday mornings. Once the classes are finalized, they will be posted on the IC&C page of our website and mobile app.

What is the Minor Chords?

Minor Chords is a chorus made up of Harmony's youth members, that are age 25 and under. They meet at IC&C to rehearse their latest piece that they will perform after the Chorus Finals. Every year a new director is chosen to provide an unforgettable experience for these talented young singers.

What is the IC&C mobile app?

Everything you need to know about this year's IC&C will be at your fingertips using the mobile app! You can see the full agenda and chat with other attendees all from your mobile device. Instructions on how to download and use the app will be sent out prior to IC&C.

Will I be able to volunteer at IC&C?

There are many jobs available on our signup – we encourage everyone to look and see what appeals to them. Friends and family members are welcome to sign up as well. Visit our [website](#) for an example of some volunteer opportunities and instructions on how to sign up.

My Chorus/Quartet received an award at the last IC&C. Where and when shall we return it?

If your chorus or quartet is in possession of one of the following awards, it will need to be returned at IC&C in Grand Rapids, MI. Awards must be returned in their travel cases or bags, be in good condition and be engraved if this is required.

Return the Award to the hospitality room as soon as you arrive. Awards are required to be returned no later than Thursday November 9th. If your chorus or quartet is not attending IC&C this year, it is still the responsibility of the award holder to make the necessary arrangements to return the award as required.

CHORUS AWARDS

- The Jerry Dunlop Award
- The G. Ruth Giels Award
- The L.A.B.B.S Trophy
- The MacIntosh Award
- The Tait Trophy
- Skidge Heath Award
- Jeanne O'Conner Championship Chorus Award

QUARTET AWARDS

- The Accord Award

- The Findlay Plaque
- The Susan C. Trenchard Award (formerly Image of Harmony Award)
- The Audience Entertainment Award

GENERAL AWARDS

Sandi White International Membership Award (*to be returned prior to the Opening Ceremony, Wed. Nov. 8th*)

If you have questions please contact the Convention Team Assistant at ICCTeamAsst@harmonyinc.org

CONTEST INFORMATION

The official contest rules can be found in section 10 of the [Corporate Manual](#) (you will need your members only password to access it).

What paperwork is needed for chorus and quartets?

IC&C Contest Entry Forms and the required Contest Entry Fee (\$40 Quartet / \$65 Chorus) made payable to Harmony, Inc. (US Dollars or Canadian Equivalent) must be submitted **no later than 15 days** following your respective Area's AC&C and sent to the Executive Assistant, Administration. Entries submitted after the contest entry deadline will be required to sing first in the contest. **NO entries will be accepted after September 1.**

- Area 6 – May 1
- Area 2 - May 8
- Area 3 - May 22
- Area 5 - June 12
- Area 1 - June 19
- Area 4 - June 26

In addition, all contestants must submit a song registration form including a copy of the page that shows the correct title and copyright information for any arrangement to be performed two weeks prior to contest (October 25, 2023). Failure to return the composer and publisher information, or if the information given is found to be incorrect, following adequate research by the ICJ Committee, the contestant may be disqualified.

[HAR-059 Official International Quartet Contest Entry Form](#)

[HAR-060 Official International Chorus Contest Entry Form](#)

[HAR-082 Contestant Song Registration Form](#)

Will there be a curtain on the stage?

No, there is not curtain on the stage.

Will there be a ramp up to the stage?

Yes, there will be an ADA ramp on both sides of the stage for safe, easy access and exit.

What is a Quartet Celebration Room?

The Quartet celebration Room is an opportunity for our competing quartets in the semi-finals to “re-group” after they leave the stage and before they return to the audience. It’s a private place for you to celebrate your great accomplishment! The celebration room will be included in your pattern schedule, but it is optional.

How is the order of appearance determined?

A live drawing for the order of appearance will take place September 11. Information on how to watch the live drawing will be sent to all membership once the drawing date and time is finalized. After the drawing, the order of appearance will be added to the IC&C webpage.

How do I find out when I am onstage and the pattern schedule?

The International Contes and Judging Chair (ICJC) will send the contest pattern and related information to each competitor after the order of appearance is published and prior to contest.

Who is on the panel?

We will have one panel judging all of the contests. This year's panel includes:

ADM	MUS	PER	SNG
Randy Rensi (PC)	Cary Burns	Joe Hunter	Rob Mance
Rob Arnold	Adam Scott	Mark Kettner	Nate Ogg
	Rod Sgrignoli	Theresa Weatherbee	John Ward

Where can I get contest scores after contest?

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly, we will only be printing the Official Scoring Summary for contestants (one per quartet, four per chorus). Scores will be posted online shortly after each contest as well as posted in the mobile app.

My chorus wants to rehearse before we compete. Will there be rooms available?

All choruses will have an opportunity to schedule rehearsal time on Thursday and Friday. Friday's time will be pre-assigned based on the order of appearance, and you will be notified of that time via email. If you are interested in signing up for a time on Thursday, please email the ICCTeamAssistant@harmonyinc.org.

How are contestants scored?

There are three judging categories in the Harmony Inc. contest. For more information on judging and scoring refer to the [Contest and Judging Program sections](#).

- Music
 - Music is defined as the song and arrangement as performed. The Music judge evaluates the suitability of the song and arrangement to the barbershop style, and the performer's musicianship in bringing the song and arrangement to life.
 - Major elements in the category are consonance; theme; delivery and musicality; execution; and embellishment.
- Performance
 - Performance is defined as the net impact of the performance upon the audience. The Performance judge evaluates to what degree the audience is entertained through the performer's communication of the story/message/theme in its musical and visual setting.
 - Major elements in the category are entertainment; audience rapport; expressiveness; vocal/visual unity and believability.
- Singing
 - Singing is defined as quality, in-tune vocalization accomplished with a high degree of unity, ensemble consistency and artistry. The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style.
 - Major elements in the category are intonation; vocal quality; unity of word sounds, flow, diction and synchronization; expansion and "ring"; artistry.

Will I get to practice on the stage before contest?

Due to the size of our contests, and time constraints, we are not able to allow all choruses and quartets time to practice on the actual stage. We are able to offer a brief stage “viewing” which will allow up to five people from a chorus and quartets to walk onto the stage. Please note, there is no singing allowed during this time. Times for the stage viewing will be included in the IC&C schedule, as well as your contestant packets.

Can I bring personal belongings with me backstage before I compete?

We encourage all contestants to **not bring your personal belongings with you in the pattern**, as they will not be allowed backstage. If you must bring something, please make it small, consolidate chorus belongings etc. We will provide a table in a hallway that will be monitored by volunteers. You can drop your belongings on the table before going on stage, and pick them up after you compete.

COMMON ACRONYMS (updated as of 4/1/23)

AC&C - Area Convention & Contests
ACJC - Area Contest & Judging Chair
ADM – Administrative Judge
AEV - Advance Expense Voucher
AEP - All-Events Pass
AICJC - Assistant International Contest & Judging Chair
AHQ - Association of Harmony Queens
BHS - Barbershop Harmony Society
CS - Category Specialist
CTS - Category Training School
C&J - Contest and Judging
EC - Executive Committee
GKT - General Knowledge Test
GOC - Geographically Outlying Chapter
GPM - Guest Panel Member
IBOD - International Board of Directors
IC&C - International Convention & Contests
ICJC - International Contest & Judging Chair
ICJ Committee - International Contest & Judging Committee
MBHA - Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association
MUS - Music Category
OJF - Official Judging Form
OPM - Official Panel Member
OSS - Official Scoring Summary
PC - Panel Chair
PPM - Practice Panel Member
PER - Performance Category
SA - Scoring Analysis
SNG - Singing Category
SWTQ - Singing with the Queens
TC - Training Coordinator
VP C&C - Vice President of Convention & Contests