

Email to Chorus ICC Contacts – September 18, 2025, revised September 25

Hello, Chorus contact person as noted on your CIF for IC&C 2025 –

The sugar rush begins! Chocolate in November...

We have all received lots of useful information from our convention manager, Allison Thompson, through Harmony, Inc. social media and email blasts. And the webpage is terrific! [Harmony, Incorporated - IC&C 2025](#) Be sure to check out the FAQ tab, with its link to the Know Before You Go session recorded last month. The website also includes information specific to the contests ([Harmony, Incorporated - IC&C Contest Information](#)) - many of the documents described below, and more. As ICJC, though, I have a few things to reiterate or to pass along to ensemble contacts about contest activities. And so...

To begin with, the **pattern schedule** for the chorus contest is on the contest information page of the website.

The schedule for the entire weekend, labeled on the IC&C main webpage as “agenda,” shows the **chorus stage viewing** on Wednesday, beginning at 5:00 and lasting for sixty minutes. We are very hopeful that it will be shorter.

In the name of efficiency, we are asking choruses to send *no more than five people to the stage viewing*. Fewer than five is fine, too! With 24 choruses eager for first-hand information about the performance venue, we need to keep numbers crossing the stage manageable. Stage viewing is intended as an opportunity for the chorus representatives to get a feel for the walk pattern, the curtainless stage, and the room, and to report back to the chorus.

In fact, it would be helpful if your chorus representatives attend the stage viewing by way of the contest **walk pattern**, starting at the Lodge gift shop near the escalator and elevator. If you’ve already opened the IC&C Contest Information link, you’ll have seen the **map** showing the walk pattern, and you’ll have seen that there is only one elevator available in the pattern. There is a ramp option for those using **scooters**, but the ramp is a long ride away, and it would be best if we can avoid using it. To that end, if you have members who will be using scooters, could you please email me, [judging@harmonyinc.org](mailto:judging@harmonyinc.org), to let me know the number of scooters your chorus uses. We’d like to be able to keep choruses together, and that will help us develop a plan, if necessary, to keep stress levels manageable!

Once your chorus representatives familiarize themselves with the route and reach the ballroom for the stage viewing, we will be ready to begin.

The doors for stage viewing will open at 4:55 so that chorus representatives can be seated. At 5:00, Linda Hilko, our stage manager, will start the stage viewing with a brief introduction. I say “brief” because it is our hope that this email and the website will have answered all of your questions before you get to the stage viewing. But just in case you or we missed something, Linda, the panel chair, the administrative judge, and I all expect to be there to answer questions.

Please ask your chorus representatives to be there promptly at 5:00 to hear Linda's introductory remarks and to ask any remaining questions.

Once questions are answered, chorus representatives will proceed to the stage door entrance and up the ADA ramp onto the stage for a quick look around. We intend to keep a flow going, with several groups moving across the stage at the same time. On the stage, the four-step risers will be set as for the contest, with fourth row back safety rails on. The plan is that the lights will be set as for contest, as well. The **stage specs** are (surprise!) on the contest information web page. If the chorus stage representatives would review them in advance, everyone will be one step ahead when the stage viewing takes place. Please note that everyone will be using the ADA ramp on the stage right side to enter and to leave the stage. Space constraints mean that there is no main curtain, and the stage left side has no ramp and no stairs.

When the chorus representatives leave the stage, they will be guided by volunteers to the spot where chorus members will enter the ballroom after performing.

When choruses arrive backstage on the day of contest, members will be asked to place all **personal belongings** on a table or in a small cart, and chorus members will be able to retrieve their belongings as they leave the backstage area. Note: Time spent picking up belongings post-performance has been the cause of many a contest delay. Please encourage chorus members to carry the *absolute minimum*, to combine belongings of several members into one (closed) bag if at all possible, or to leave belongings with trusted friends in the audience. If members' belongings include liquids, a reminder to tighten caps to prevent spills would be much appreciated. And please ask chorus members to leave any valuables in a safe location elsewhere. Paying attention to these details will make the contest experience better for everyone, so thank you in advance!

Those of you who have been in the chorus contest before know that we make a strong effort to balance chorus travel and preparation needs with audience expectations and the overall weekend schedule. Most of our delays result from choruses that are not ready to head to the stage when their time in the warmup room is over. To address that, our contest pattern comes with a complimentary three-minute warning in the rehearsal room! This is the signal to the chorus that it is time to wrap up singing, gather your (very few!) belongings, take that last swig of water, check lipstick, exchange final pre-performance hugs or elbow bumps, and proceed directly toward the stage as soon as the volunteer opens the warmup room door again.

When our choruses are prepared to leave their warmup room when called, we are able to run a contest that stays on schedule and respects our audience, the later contestants, and the start of subsequent activities. Choruses that have rehearsed entrances, exits, and the use of any props (or other set up) with mindful efficiency support a positive contest experience for our audience and our later performers. Please be part of that chorus!

Harmony, Inc.'s policy, in place since 2003, continues to be that **there will not be feedback from judges** for IC&C performances. The policy recognizes that our Area contests offer our primary on-stage education opportunities, and that, try as we might, it is usually impossible to create space for contestant feedback in our IC&C schedule. Please use your chorus performance

at IC&C this year simply to experience the joy of performing, and please do not contact judges for further feedback after the convention ends. Remember, our panelists are all volunteers, and many have day jobs and families to attend to once they get home. They are going to be putting in some long days on our behalf, and I have assured them that we will respect their personal time.

Having said that, I will add that, if your director and music team feel that your scores are in some way inexplicable, perhaps based on the feedback that you received from audience members, coaches, or knowledgeable friends after your performance, please ask your director to contact me with your questions or concerns, and I will see whether there are options available.

Speaking of directors, if someone other than the person or persons indicated on your Contest Information Form will be **directing** your chorus, and if you haven't already notified the Corporate Office or me of the change, please submit an amended CIF right away so that the ADM team and the convention program designers have that information.

As in the last three years, **photos** will be taken on stage immediately following your chorus performance. It would be good to have a pose rehearsed! If you plan to purchase photos, please be sure to have your photo form ([2025Harmonyincorderformrevised.pdf](#)) completed and ready to turn it in when you are in your warmup room during the pattern. *[Update September 25: After the contest weekend, the photographer will email the chorus contacts a link to a webpage, where you will be able to choose your official photo.]*

And finally, although the **song registration** forms ([Harmony, Incorporated Contestant Song Registration Form](#)) are not due yet, there is no time like the present for getting this done, if you haven't already.

See you in Hershey!

Kathy Greason, ICJC