

Note to Quartets, September 18, 2025

Hello, Quartet contact person for IC&C 2025 contestants –

Chocolate! I mean, greetings.

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 quartet semifinal contest is on the contest information page of the website. The pattern schedule for the finals – with blanks to be filled in – is there, too.

The schedule for the entire weekend, labeled on the IC&C main webpage as “agenda,” shows the **quartet stage viewing** on Wednesday beginning at 4:00 pm and ending at 5:00 pm. That will require a certain level of efficiency. Here’s the plan.

On your way to the stage viewing, we strongly recommend that you follow the contest walk pattern, starting by the gift shop. If you’ve already opened the IC&C Contest Information link, you’ll have seen the **map** showing the walk pattern.

Doors will open at 3:55 pm so quartets can be seated. Then at 4:00, 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 plan to be there at 4:00 to hear Linda’s introductory remarks and to ask any remaining questions.

Once questions are answered, the quartets will proceed directly to the backstage door, up the ADA ramp, and onto the stage for a quick look around. Our best guess is that each quartet will have about a minute and a half on stage. The lights and mics should be fully set for the stage viewing, and there will be tape on the stage as a guide for quartets at the mic. We expect to have the monitors in position, too. The risers will be on the stage, because the chorus stage viewing comes next. Reminder: stage viewing is not “onstage time” with an opportunity to sing, as we have at AC&C. It is simply an opportunity to get a feel for the (curtainless) stage set up and for the room.

The pattern has quartets entering AND leaving from stage right. Ordinarily, our quartets have options for customized entrances and exits on both sides of the stage, but space constraints in the stage area this year mean that all entrances and exits must be stage right.

When you arrive at the stage door on the day of the contest, you will be asked to place any **personal belongings** on a cart or table, from which you will retrieve them right after your performance, before you proceed to the lobby. Our convention team notes that a frequent cause of contest delay is backups at the “personal belongings” table. So, as always, please keep belongings to an *absolute minimum*, be sure any bag containing belongings is closed, and leave valuables in a safe location elsewhere. In fact, if all four quartet members can put belongings in a single bag, so much the better. And if you must carry liquids, screw the cap on tightly! The convention team, the audience, and I thank you for attention to these important details.

After you have been on the stage at the Wednesday viewing, volunteers will guide you to the ballroom entrance. Quartet members who are also part of their chorus stage viewing team can choose simply to circle back into the audience to join their fellow chorus representatives for the 5:00 chorus stage viewing.

The pattern schedule puts a new quartet on stage every 9 minutes. Past experience suggests that, with cooperation from every contestant, this will allow us to maintain break and meal schedules that will keep our contestants, judges, and other audience members fresh to appreciate your performances. So please take care of your preparation rituals – huddles, hugs, fist bumps, whatever – in the warmup room after you receive your three-minute warning so that you are prepared to step out and sing as soon as you reach the backstage area. This small courtesy supports a positive contest experience for our audience and our later quartets.

Consistent with Harmony Inc.’s policy, in place since 2003, **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 quartet 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, if you 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 contact me with your questions or concerns, and I will see whether there are options available.

If you have **changed personnel** since you submitted your Contest Information Form, please be sure that you have updated your quartet registration, AND that you have submitted an amended Contestant Information Form. We want the convention program and the award eligibility information to be accurate!

Are you ordering **photos**? Please be sure to have the completed photo form ([2025Harmonyincorderformrevised.pdf](#)) and payment with you when you start the pattern on contest day.

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