

How many Quartets are in that Chorus?

How to help promote quartet singing in your chapter.

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For Region 13 SET 2011

How many quartet singers are in the room?

- Why did you start quartet singing?
 - Someone dragged me into a quartet once to sing a tag
 - It looked like fun
 - I wanted to hear my voice in the barbershop sound
 - You can really hear how the harmonies evolve
 - Enjoy having my voice blend with the other parts
 - Makes you a better singer

If you have a Quartet in your chorus....Let them Perform!

Chorus support

- "Being able to sing in front of the chorus was awesome. Even if you flubbed the chorus applauded and cheered us on."
- "Singing in front of the chorus may be the hardest but best audience to sing for."
- "Strong support from the music team and members helped me improve and feel safe in my quartet singing"

How to get your singers ready to quartet?

- Teach Tags
- End rehearsals with tag quarteting on sections of the music you just rehearsed.
- Teach Tags and have quartet members pull in non quarters to experience the "fun of the sound".
- Have a "Speed Dating" quartet night
- Building into your policies opportunity for all types of quarteting

Quartet Policy?

- The decision to form a quartet is an exciting event that opens the door to new levels of music education and enrichment. Alaska Sound Celebration Chorus encourages the development and musical growth of quartets, and supports their efforts to reach a level of vocal production that maximizes each member's talents and abilities. It fosters a sense of excellence, and a primary devotion to the chorus.

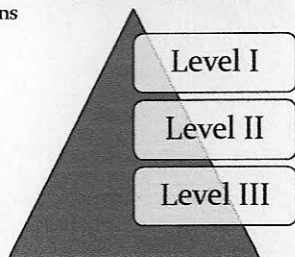
International Guidelines

- "participation in a quartet provides a unique opportunity for four singers who share similar interests with respect to their goals and development as a musical, performing unit. Quartet members must work both individually and as a unit on all aspects of vocal production and performance skills."



Opportunity

- Create an opportunity for all types of quartet singing.
- Consider three options or types of quarteting situations



Quartet Levels



- Quartets who choose to participate in Chorus Singing Valentines, Chorus Singing Christmas Cards or other special occasions must be evaluated and receive approval by the Directors for the event. Previously-auditioned and approved registered quartets are exempt from this evaluation.



- Quartets who would like to perform within a chorus performance must present a two-song package with costuming for evaluation to a designated committee which includes the Directors. (example: Downtown Market, Alaska State Fair, etc)



- If a quartet chooses to perform independent of the chorus, it must complete a practice audition in front of the director(s) before it presents a three-song package with emcee work and costuming in front of the chorus. At least one of the three songs must be of contest level. A designated committee, which includes the Directors, will evaluate the performance.

Quartet Speed Dating

- Set up a special night or a portion of your regular rehearsal to have a Quartet Speed Dating Game
- Have current quartets perform
- Teach a tag or work on a Regional Song
- Set up a questionnaire for the speed dating
- Give each station a 3-5 minute time allotment to interview perspective quartet members
- End the evening with non quarteters singing with current quartets or with organizer/director putting voices together

Sample Speed Dating Questions

- How fast do you learn music?
- What are your performance goals?
- Name?
- Part you would prefer to sing?
- What type of music do you like to sing?
- Have you ever sung in a quartet before?

Other Suggestions?

PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- It is a great privilege for a quartet to hear the applause and cheers of other chorus members. In turn, it is each quartet's responsibility to cheer others as well. This tangible, mutual support is a structure on which musical achievement flourishes.

Other responsibilities:

- Demonstrate a personal responsibility to contribute equally.
- Handle disagreements in an appropriate manner, and discuss expectations and disappointments openly.
- Select music that is suitable to the quartet in terms of musical capabilities of the quartet, vocal range of each part, etc. (Chorus songs that are "retired" may be released at the discretion of the Director).
- Set up finances according to the goals of each quartet, keeping in mind music selection, costumes and coaching. If funds are collected, disbursement must be discussed in the event an individual leaves or the entire quartet disbands.
- Schedule rehearsals on a regular basis in order to accomplish the balance and blend needed to develop the musical product and visual presentation

**Encourage mutual respect
and support**

- Director's Reception at Contest
- Annual initiation for first time competitors
- Quartet promotion that encourages fifth ear coaching and bringing in outside vocal coaches or teachers for quartets

**Get out there and
Quartet!**
