

TAG WRITING TIPS

Tag Writing Tips from Tag Contest Judge Kevin Keller 2019-2020 Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW Tag Writing Contest

In this issue of Tag Writing Tips, **Judge Kevin Keller** generously offers some advice to Tag Writers entering the **2019-2020 Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW Tag Writing Contest**. Here is his advice:

- (1) **Fewer chords are better than more chords** – don't try to write an entire coda – many great tags are just 4 measures long.
- (2) **Smooth vocal lines are best** – make the vocal line for each part easy to sing as much as possible – familiar intervals in part lines from one note to the next are especially helpful for singer success.
- (3) **Make it a tag that others would want to teach** – this is most important for tag rooms at conventions and contests.

Kevin's advice fits right in with the Purpose of the contest – ***"To encourage Barbershoppers of Region 13, Evergreen District and HCNW to get involved with composing and arranging tags for men's, women's and/or mixed voices and freely sharing their tags with fellow Barbershoppers for copying, singing and performing" – and we should probably add "teaching".***

No surprise then, that the official **2019-2020 Judging Criteria** are:

- (1) **Is the Tag easy to teach?**
- (2) **Is the Tag easy for singers to learn?**
- (3) **Is it the kind of Tag that barbershoppers will stand around and sing after it has been taught and learned?**

Head on over to the websites of HCNW www.harmonycollege.org & Region 13 www.SAregion13.org (public site page) where updated documents are posted for the **2019-2020 Region 13 Arrangers WorkShop at HCNW Tag Writing Contest**:

- (1) **Terms and Conditions** (Cash Prizes information is TBD – will be updated as soon as available)
- (2) **Official Entry Form** (Entry deadline is January 31st, 2020)
- (3) **Suggested Vocal Ranges and Staff Notation** (same as last year)

And while you're there, if you haven't already done so, download and print your copy of the **Award Winning Tags 2018-2019**. The Grand Prize Winning Tag from last year is a great example to illustrate Kevin's advice! ***Happy Tag Writing!!*** Past issues of Tag Writing Tips are also available there.