

British Association of Barbershop Singers



CONTEST BRIEFING DOCUMENT

National Chorus Final
Saturday 28th May 2016



SING **2017**

www.sing2017.com



CHORUS COMPETITION

The British Association of Barbershop Singers
A company limited by guarantee registered in
England and Wales
Registered Office: 6 Corunna Court, Corunna
Road, Warwick, United Kingdom CV34 5HQ
Registered Company No: 3823721
Registered Charity Ref No: 1080930



SING 2017

Welcome to the BABS 43rd Annual Convention

The information in this document is intended to provide you with all the necessary information needed to plan your time during the chorus contest at convention. There will be no contest briefing at the event.

All competitors are required to purchase and be in possession of a valid Convention Registration.

BRIEFING DOCUMENT CONTENTS

* **Contest Information**

Three pages covering everything from stage set up to evaluations.

* **Contest Awards & Bursaries**

Details of the Chorus Awards and Bursaries.

* **General Information**

Other relevant information regarding the weekend.

* **Convention Centre Plan**

Floor plan of Bournemouth Convention Centre.

* **Contestant Declaration - Appendix A**

This form needs to be completed and returned by 30th March 2017.

* **Convention Show Declaration - Appendix B**

Only the 2017 National Chorus Champions will be asked to perform on the Sunday Evening Finale show. Please complete the Declaration Form if you are aiming to achieve this position.

In the event of the First placed chorus being unable to appear on this show, the second placed chorus will be asked to perform. If they can't fulfill this request, then the spot will go to the third placed chorus.

* **Contest Recording & Social Media Policy - Appendix C**

Details of who owns the copyright and what you can upload

* **2017 European Convention - Chorus Nominations - Appendix D**

Qualification details

If you have any questions relating to your contest performances please contact the BABS Chorus Contest Manager, Samantha Roberts
Email: choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com

Any general convention queries should be referred to Alan Bithell the BABS Convention Manager.

Email: conventionmanager@singbarbershop.com

MEMBERS ON STAGE

A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more members on stage, with or without the director. All performers on stage must be a fully registered and paid up member of BABS, including female directors.

The member list will be sent to you in February/March 2017. Please complete and return to us by post or email by 25th April 2017.

Postal address: Samantha Roberts, BABS Chorus Contest Manager, 60 Fulwood Heights, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9AW

Email: choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com



CHORUS COMPETITION

SING 2017

Contest Information

Please note **All** competitors are required to purchase and be in possession of a valid Convention Registration.

THE STAGE

There will be eleven four-step 4ft risers on the contest stage and no acoustic shell. Foldback will be present. At the midpoint of risers there is approximately 4.9m (16ft) of clear performance space to the front edge of the stage. There are no stage Tabs/Curtains. Enter stage left, exit stage right.

CONTEST RULES

Please note the new rule which bans the use of confetti or explosions on stage and would be subject to disqualification. A full set of Contest Rules can be found in the Document Centre on the BABS Guild of Judges web site www.babsguildofjudges.com

CHANGING ROOM

This will be in the Solent Hall (see plan on page 7). Contestants must report to the Courier Team on arrival, their desk will be located at the entrance to the Solent Hall. All contestants are allocated a timed schedule for entry to the changing area. A contestant bag drop facility will be available for storage of any stage uniforms prior to and following your vacation of the changing areas. Please note this is a limited space and will be unsupervised.

A separate changing room is available for female directors.

CONTEST CYCLE

From this point you are on a timed contest cycle. Please observe the timings for your chorus.

COURIERS

You will be collected by a contest courier from your changing area and taken for a photograph on risers (prepare your pose in advance, you will only have approximately 10 mins). Do not leave any valuables in your dressing area, please leave the dressing area in full stage attire.

WARM UP ROOMS

From photography you will be escorted to your allocated warm-up room (approx 20 mins). Please note there will be NO water coolers and there will be NO risers in the warm up rooms.

PHOTOGRAPHS

As well as the off stage photograph before the contest, live action photographs will be taken during your contest performance. All photographs will be available to purchase from the official Convention photographer.

NO PHOTOGRAPHY OR RECORDING OF ANY KIND/TYPE IS PERMITTED DURING THE COMPETITION





CHORUS COMPETITION

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Contest Information

CONTEST TIMING

Each contestant has been allocated a 11 minute cycle time to allow for entering the stage, performing their contest songs and exiting. If you feel that you need longer than the allocated 11 minutes, please contact the Contest Manager as soon as possible so that the final timing schedule can be produced.

ACCESSIBILITY

The convention centre is a fully accessible building. Please notify us in advance on your Contest Declaration Form of any accessibility needs. Please also inform the Courier Team on your arrival of these needs, so they can allow extra time for those concerned to move through the contest cycle, as routes may vary from direct walking routes.

STAGE ACCESS

Entry to the stage area will be at the discretion of the Stage Manager.

- * Enter Stage Left. All contestant access is from backstage. This is via a short flight of 8-10 steps.
- * Exit Stage Right. All contestant egress will be from the front of the stage on to the floor of the Auditorium, this is also via a short flight of 8 -10 steps. Your Courier will then lead you to the changing room.
- * Wheel chair access & egress is stage left. A small lift is available from the backstage area.

As soon as you are in position on the risers, the Stage Manager or his assistant will ask you to indicate when you are ready. Your readiness will then be signalled to the MC.

CONTESTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The MC will then commence your announcement on the lines of:

Stewards can you close the doors please - can we have the house lights down. Contestant number..... From..... Under the direction of Chorus Name.....

At this point the stage lights will come up and you will be judged for Presentation. There will be no further signal to start singing in either song, or to make your exit. In the interests of the timetable, please keep acceptance of applause to a courteous minimum. If there is a false start to either song, stop and restart. Presentation will continue to judge but other categories will restart their marking with your fresh start.

VERBAL COMMENT

Non-singing dialogue is generally not part of a contest performance. However, relevant brief comment with supporting visual communication is permitted, to help establish a mood and/or theme, before, in between and at the end of the performance package. Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be penalised by the Presentation Judge(s) up to and including forfeiture. If required please use the Lectern microphone positioned stage left.





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Contest Information

END OF CONTEST PRESENTATIONS

At the end of the chorus contest all competing Club Chairmen and Chorus Directors will be asked to assemble on stage for the results and trophy presentations. Please make your way to the front of the auditorium (stage left) in preparation for announcement to the stage.

JUDGES

You are reminded that Judges are not permitted to talk with competitors or members of the audience during the contest and the award presentations. Please do not approach the Judges area for scoresheets these will be available from the BABS Reception Desk after the contest.

CONTEST RECORDINGS - NEW SYSTEM

- * Individual chorus performances will be made available on line via an "On Demand" streaming server for post event viewing. No USB sticks will be issued.
- * There will be an option to "save" (download) your performance for offline viewing as needed.
- * Audio recordings will also be available as a Dropbox link to download files.
- * A Director Cam for a private and personal recording of your director will be available to your chorus director.

Full instructions on how to access video and audio files will be circulated to clubs separately to this document.

EVALUATIONS

Evaluations will be conducted at your club, by a member of the Guild of Judges. Date to be agreed following the contest.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

If you have cause for any complaint about the conditions whilst competing please advise your courier immediately you leave the stage. Any repeat performances will be at the discretion of the Chairman of Judges. Should an emergency situation arise which, in the opinion of the Chairman of Judges would adversely affect your performance or your safety, he may stop the contest.

INDIVIDUAL SCORESHEETS

These will be available for collection from the Couriers Desk on Sunday morning.

COMPETITOR T-SHIRTS

These will be available to pre purchase, information will be circulated separately to all clubs.





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Contest Awards

CHORUS TROPHIES & AWARDS

The following trophies and awards will be presented at the end of the chorus contest. All Club Chairmen and MDs to be on stage, so as to be ready to receive these awards if won.

First Placed Chorus - The Crawley Plaque

Second Placed Chorus - The Bristol Cup

Third Placed Chorus - The Wearside Trophy

Small Chorus Award - The Jim Carter Trophy

Most Improved Chorus - The Cambridge Scroll

Divisional Two Winner Award

Divisional Three Winner Award

Divisional Four Winner Award

Entertainment Award - LABBS Trophy

AWARD WINNING BURSARIES - NEW FOR 2017

To encourage clubs to further develop their skills, bursaries will be given to award winners in the chorus contest. These are as follows:

First Placed Chorus - £3,000

Divisional Two Winners - £500

Divisional Three Winners - £500

Divisional Four Winners - £500

Small Chorus Award Winners - £250

Most Improved Chorus Winners - £250

CHORUS CHAMPIONS RESPONSIBILITIES

SHOW PERFORMANCE - SUNDAY

The 2017 BABS National Chorus Champions will be expected to appear on the Sunday Evening show. In the event of them being unavailable then the second placed medallist will be invited to perform. Please see Appendix B for requested show package information.

INTERNATIONAL CONTEST - 2018

If the 2017 BABS Chorus Champions decide to compete at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Contest in Orlando, Florida, in 2018, they will receive £2,000 towards their costs, plus a reduction on their July 2018 BABS subscription payment. Full details available after the contest.

EUROPEAN CHORUS CONTEST - 2017

The 2017 Chorus Champions will also be invited to represent BABS at the European Convention in October 2017. See Appendix D for details.





CHORUS
COMPETITION

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General Information

ENTRY TO AUDITORIUM - WINDSOR HALL

Entrance to and from the Auditorium will only be permitted between performances. Whilst we have never banned children or set a minimum age, we would ask you to consider carefully if you wish your members to bring children under the age of 5 into the auditorium during your performance. A "Barbertots" viewing area for children under 5 will be available in the Bayview Suites on the first floor.

CONTEST SEATING

All contest seating is unallocated. There is adequate seating available for anyone wishing to watch the remainder of the contest.

VENUE CATERING

Hot and cold food will be available throughout the weekend.

CONTEST LOCATION

All contests will take place in the main auditorium - Windsor Hall.

BABS RECEPTION & REGISTRATION DESK

This will be open in the main foyer from Friday morning and throughout the weekend. We recommend that registrations and show tickets are purchased prior to arrival to avoid queuing. Contestants should not leave it to the last minute before registering, as this may delay or prevent entry to the contest stage.

COPYRIGHT & SOCIAL MEDIA

To comply with copyright rules only officially approved visual recording, audio recording and photography may take place in the Auditorium. This includes any form of digital photography whether by camera device, mobile telephone or IPAD/Tablet devices.

Anyone found infringing this ruling will be asked to leave. A competition will be stopped if this happens which could have a serious impact on a competitor's performance. Please remind your members and supporters to ensure that they are not the one to jeopardise a performer's chances on the competition or show stage.

Please note that there will be official Media Team members who have permission to use their equipment during contest.

So as not to interfere with any performance, please ensure that mobile phones, pagers, watch alerts or any other electronic communication equipment with an audible facility are switched off at all times.

Uploading of any unofficial recorded material to social media sites is strictly prohibited.

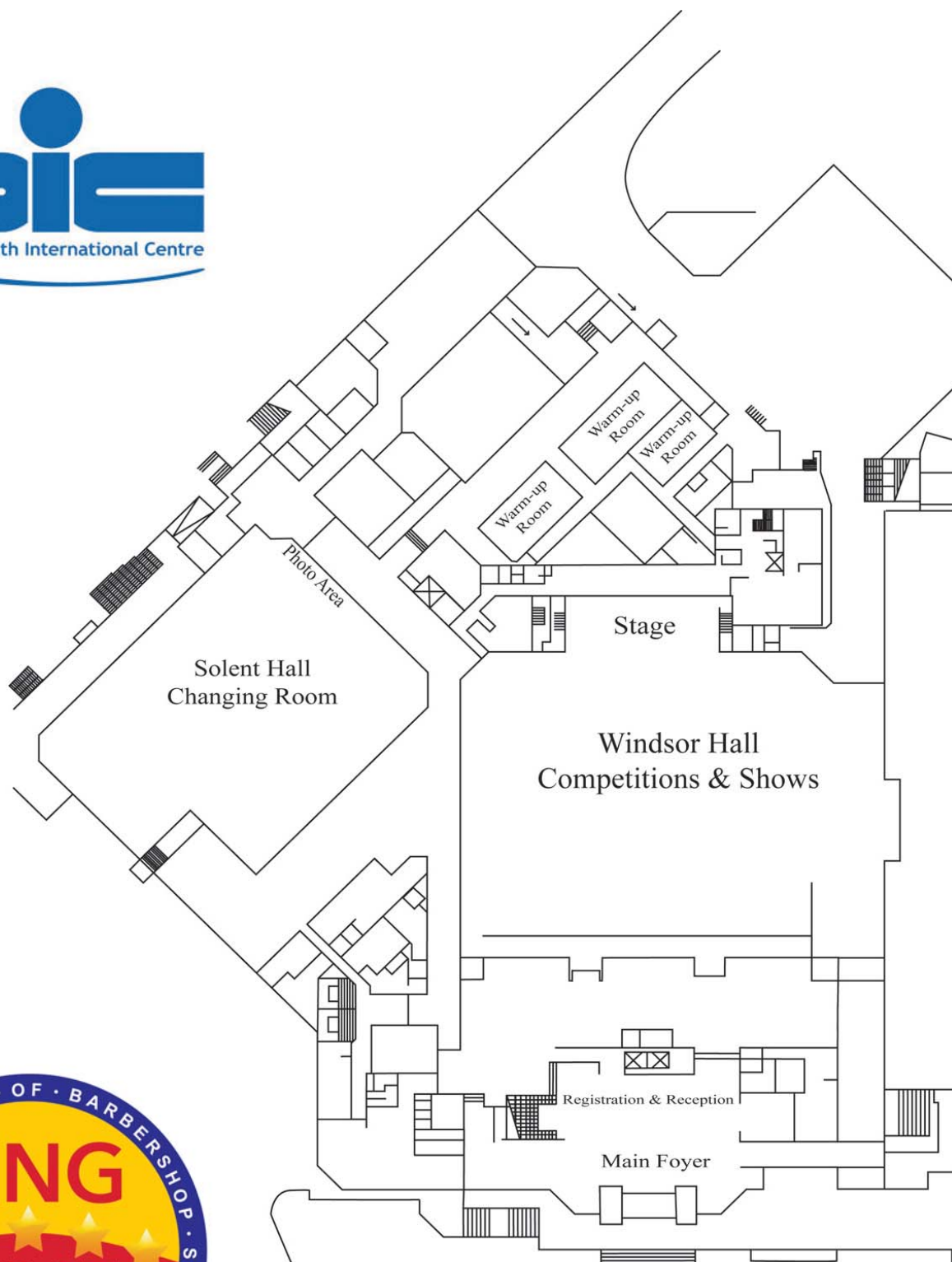




CHORUS
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Venue Plan



Please note all competitors are required to purchase and be in possession of a valid Convention Registration.



NEW CONTEST RULE

Please note the new contest rule which bans the use of confetti or explosions on stage and if used would be subject to disqualification.

A full set of Contest Rules can be found in the Document Centre on the BABS Guild of Judges web site www.babsguildofjudges.com

SING 2017

Contestant Declaration Form

This is to register the TWO song titles your chorus is planning to sing at Convention in the UK National Chorus Finals to be held on the 27th May 2017 at the BIC in Bournemouth.

Song titles **Must** be received no later than 30th March 2017. Please advise any subsequent changes (if any) as soon as possible.

Please remember it is the responsibility of your club to ensure that all singers are BABS members and have a valid Convention Registration. A competing chorus must be composed of 12 or more members on stage, with or without the director.

Chorus Name: _____

Club Name: _____

Chorus Director: _____

Number of Members on Stage: _____

Each contestant has been allocated a 11 minute slot to allow for entering the stage, performing their contest songs and exiting. Please indicate the estimated performance running time including any non singing time.

Song Title Declaration

Song	Title	Time
One		
Two		

Use of Stage Props: Yes/No (If Yes, please provide details)

Please return this form by 30th MARCH 2017 to:

Samantha Roberts
BABS Chorus Contest Manager,
60 Fulwood Heights,
Fulwood,
Preston
PR2 9AW

Email:
choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com

Tel:
01772 460269
Mob: 07472 134413

PLEASE NOTE BY FILLING IN AND SUBMITTING (OR POSTING) THE ABOVE INFORMATION, YOU ARE AGREEING TO THE BELOW.

Declaration:

We understand that the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS) may wish to use recordings of our competition performances for educational use and/or commercial resale. We give our unconditional consent for all such recordings to be used for such purposes.

“Contestants must comply with copyright laws in the acquisition, arranging and learning of songs for contest performance”.

The above named chorus agrees to abide by the current BABS Contest Rules.

We also certify that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our contest songs/arrangements. We understand that ineligibility will be the consequence for violation of this statement.

It is understood that any recorded material taken from convention is not to be used for uploading to social media networks, duplicated or resold by the performer(s).

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Convention Show Declaration

The National Chorus Champions will be asked to perform on the Sunday Evening show. Please complete the Declaration Form if you are aiming to achieve this position. To assist with the planning for this, please provide details of your provisional song package. The package should not exceed the allotted times shown within the tables below.

You must ensure that all material used on stage is fully legalised. By appearing on a show you are giving your consent for all such recordings to be used for educational use and/or commercial resale.

Name of Chorus:

.....

Our Show Package

As First Placed Chorus - Total performance time 20 mins

Song Titles	Time

**Please return this form by
30th MARCH 2017 to:**

Samantha Roberts
BABS Chorus Contest Manager,
60 Fulwood Heights,
Fulwood,
Preston
PR2 9AW

Email:
choruscontestmanager@singbarbershop.com

Tel:
01772 460269
Mob: 07472 134413

Performance Content

Show performers are requested to keep their non-singing time to a minimum. Personalised thank you's should be kept brief and factored in to your overall stage time. Congratulation messages for other contestants and medal winners will be announced by the Show MC.

Performance Timing

The above named chorus agrees to abide by the convention shows timing allowances.

Copyright Clearance

We also certify that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our show songs/arrangements. By Signing this declaration and or By appearing on any of the conventions shows we give our unconditional consent for all such recordings to be used for educational use and/or commercial resale.

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

Name: _____

Position held in club: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

It is understood that any recorded material taken from convention is not to be used for uploading to social media networks, duplicated or resold by the performer(s)



Contest Recordings Policy Social Media Usage

I would like to draw your attention to uploading contest videos on to YouTube.

The BABS Board of Directors has sought external legal advice, and our advisor has confirmed that copyright of BABS' contest performances has two elements: Copyright of the Recording and Copyright of the Music.

Copyright of the Recording

BABS owns the copyright of all the contest videos and approval for use is required from the organisation.

Copyright of the Music

The copyright of the songs remains with the copyright holders of those songs, but YouTube in the UK has a blanket agreement with music publishers and separate approval is not required. However, should the owner of the copyright of a particular song not be part of this agreement, then that copyright owner may ask Google, owner of YouTube, to remove that song; it is not necessary for whoever uploads that recording to get specific permission.

It is still a prerequisite that you get full approval from the copyright holder to sing their songs in contest, and as part of your repertoire.

Uploading to YouTube

The Board of Directors, given the legal clarification, has decided that contestants may load the recording of their performance on to YouTube. This is conditional upon any person or body that uploads this recording, being responsible for any and all payments incurred as a result of any legal action.

Other BABS Events

Any recordings taken at BABS educational events like Harmony College or Directors Academy, plus any non-contest activity at Convention and any other BABS organised event, are the copyright of BABS. Any recordings taken at these events should not be uploaded to YouTube or any other social media site, as permission has not been granted to do so.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please let me know.

Ashley Baker

BABS Administration Director

administrationdirector@singbarbershop.com



CHORUS COMPETITION



BABS Chorus Nominations European Convention 2017

The next European convention will be hosted within the LABBS convention in Bournemouth 26-29th October 2017.

Further information can be found at www.ebc.labbs.org.uk

CHORUS NOMINATIONS

BABS have been invited to nominate three Choruses as our representatives in the contest..Our nominations will be:

- * BABS 2016 Chorus Champions (Cottontown Chorus)
- * The winning chorus from 2017
- * 2nd placed chorus from 2017

In the event that any of these are unable to accept the nomination, the 2017 3rd placed chorus will be invited to attend.

BABS are unable to offer any support funding for attending the European convention.

CHORUS CONTEST TIMETABLE

The European Chorus contest will be run over two days, Friday 27th October and Saturday 28th October. The Contest draw will be made by LABBS in March for contest singing positions as BABS 1, BABS 2, BABS 3. After the BABS Convention, and once we have confirmation of contestants, these positions will be allocated by BABS and the clubs will be formally notified along with the contest timetable.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION SHOWS

The BABS 2017 Chorus Champions will be invited to appear on the Friday evening show. The new European Chorus Champions will appear on the Saturday evening show.

If you consider that your chorus could meet the qualifying criteria, then you are requested to confirm an expression of interest towards accepting one of the BABS nominations. Please contact:

Alan Hughes, BABS Music Services Director
musicservicesdirector@singbarbershop.com

