

Organization and Expectations



As a prospective member of **The Barbershop Harmony Society** (“The Society”) and the **Western Hills – Cincinnati Chapter**, you should be familiar with our basic organization and expectations.

The **Barbershop Harmony Society** is a musical organization specializing in a particular style of harmony and musical interpretation. Although the “The Society” began with quartets, hundreds of Chapters world-wide now exist and are organized around their respective choruses. Quartets often emerge from singers within the choruses and also from singers who, for a variety of reasons, do not actively sing with their chapter’s chorus. Simply put, “The Society” is divided into Districts. The Districts are divided into Chapters. And each Chapter contains a Chorus as well as other members.

The **Western Hills – Cincinnati Chapter** of “The Society” is composed of those males (singers and non-singers) who are current paid members of “The Society”, our District, and our Chapter. The **Southern Gateway Chorus (SGC)** is the musical performance body within our Chapter.

Each chorus member personally accepts the responsibility of working toward the goal of being the best performer that he can be. Each chorus member understands and accepts that a good deal of time and commitment will be expected. Sometimes, Guests want to know what is *required* of our members vs. what is *encouraged*. SGC takes part in many activities and performances throughout the year. All of these are voluntary. But as chorus members, we are encouraged and expected to participate. We do recognize that occasionally schedule conflicts occur with other priorities (e.g. family, work) and that these may preclude participation in a particular chorus event. However, we sing because we love to perform and to be a part of something greater than we are individually.

If a member chooses to perform in chorus competitions, he must be “performance ready”. This means that for competitions, we must each meet whatever performance expectations are established by our Music Team. For performances other than competitions, each singer needs to evaluate his personal readiness to perform and uphold his responsibility to the mission and goals of the Chorus.

Here are a few more details about expectations for SGC singers:

- ♪ The Southern Gateway Chorus is dedicated to excellence in musical performance. Thus, individually we each must be likewise dedicated.
- ♪ Singing members are required to remit annual dues to The Society headquarters prior to the expiration of the quarter when due. This is absolutely necessary for participation in any performances. To participate in *any* society competitions (aka contests), the renewal card *must* be received at least three weeks prior to the event.
- ♪ Southern Gateway Chorus singers must be able to follow the musical directors and coaches, memorize and perform the chorus music, and demonstrate the required choreography... in other words, perform the complete vocal and visual performance plan for every song.
- ♪ Prior to any performance or competition, the Music Team may require singers to display personal proficiency through the use of a recording or via small group singing. Each member is strongly encouraged to have a digital recorder for his own use at rehearsals. In addition, demonstrations of choreography and other aspects of performance readiness may also be required.
- ♪ Rehearsal attendance is critical! Members should strive to be at rehearsals on time and come prepared. Specific rehearsal preparations are established by the Music Team.
- ♪ Proper riser discipline and etiquette are expected.
- ♪ Practice at home is **extremely** important! When new music is distributed, singers should memorize words and notes within a few weeks or as stated by the Music Director.