

ROOKIE FAQ'S

Q. When can I audition?

- A. The chorus by-laws require that you attend three (3) consecutive rehearsals in order to be eligible to audition. If, however, you have a particular circumstance that would require an earlier audition, subject to Management Team and Music Staff approval, an exception can be made.

Q. What is the audition like? Will I have to sing in front of the whole chorus?

- A. NO! You will be asked to sing a piece of music the chorus is currently working on in a quartet composed of members of the Music Staff for the Music Staff ONLY. In advance of your audition, you will be given an opportunity to sing in a quartet situation with “seasoned” members so that you can hear and “feel” what it will be like before you actually audition and you are welcome to hold the music. When you feel ready, let the membership chairperson know and she will arrange the audition for you.

Q. What if I have to miss a rehearsal?

- A. Unfortunately, there are times when we just can't be there---vacations, family events, work situations, etc. Please let your section manager know in advance that you will be unable to attend and ask someone in your section to either tape the rehearsal for you or touch base with you prior to your return to find out what you missed and need to know prior to the next rehearsal.

Q. When can I perform with the chorus?

- A. There are performance opportunities throughout the year. As you learn the repertoire, we require that you a tape of yourself singing with the chorus on the risers periodically and asking your section manager or someone on her tape evaluation staff to review your tape to ensure that you are singing the right notes and are prepared to perform. No one sings wrong notes on purpose but it happens occasionally!

Q. I can't read music. Is that a requirement?

- A. Absolutely not! We provide learning media (tapes or CD's) for most music that is “part predominant”. For those pieces that we do not have learning media available, the music is taught during rehearsal to the chorus as a whole—one section at a time. If you do not already have a tape or digital recorder, we strongly recommend that you get one and tape the teaching sessions to work on at home.

Q. Are there some events during the year that have particular significance?

- A. You bet!

The Sweet Adeline calendar runs on a fiscal year beginning in May and ending in April. The culmination of our year is the **Regional Competition** generally held sometime in April, but may be as early as late March or as late as early May. Choruses in the region (our Region #9 encompasses the state of Florida and a portion of South Carolina) perform two songs for a panel of 4 Internationally Certified Judges, each a specialist in Sound, Music, Expression or

Showmanship. The chorus awarded the most collective points becomes the regional champion and is entitled to compete in the **International Competition** occurring between October or November of the following year. In preparation for this contest, our chorus will contract with several Internationally Certified Faculty members to come and coach us. While all coaching sessions are important, our **regional competition retreat** requires *mandatory* attendance throughout the *entire* retreat in order to perform with the chorus on the **competition** stage. This retreat takes place sometime in March, runs from Friday evening through Sunday noon and is normally out of the Jacksonville area, generally St. Simon Island or Jekyll Island, near Brunswick, Georgia. Sometime during the weekend we manage to get some partying in, too! Be sure to check the chorus calendar for this year's dates.

After our **Regional Competition**, sometime in June, is our annual show.

Being a high achieving, medaling chorus, we are frequently eligible to compete in the **International Competition**, generally as a "Wild Card" entrant or as one of the top 5 worldwide choruses in the Harmony Classic – Midsize Division. In preparation for this **International Competition**, we will contract for coaching and another retreat, generally in September or October, depending on the date of the **competition**. Again, attendance at this retreat is *mandatory* for the *entire* retreat for all competing members and takes place outside of the Jacksonville area. And did we mention there would be partying?!!

The end of the calendar year brings us to our annual holiday show, generally the early part of December.

Several times during the year, our Regional Faculty provides an educational opportunity that we refer to as "Regional" or "Regional Weekend". These are not competitions but rather workshops for furthering your barbershop education in the craft. Classes range from vocal production, choreography, arranging, directing, judging, script writing and everything in between. Registrations are very reasonably priced and locations are usually in the middle of the state (mostly Orlando but occasionally elsewhere). Oh---and very important!----did we mention partying?!!

Now, all (or most) of these events happen every year. While we always want everyone to attend everything, if not for the education, but also for the fun, we recognize that we have families, jobs and other commitments and sometimes it's just not possible to do it all! We know that! So check the chorus calendar frequently. Read the Jax Fax. Decide what you are able to do and GO FOR IT!!!