

# PERFORMANCE READINESS

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## Learning Music

- Regular attendance is an important factor in learning our music
- When a new song is introduced, members are given the sheet music. Some members like to study it or play it on a keyboard. If you do not read music or do not play an instrument, never fear! Audiotapes of the song can be made available, recorded with you part predominant – just ask your Section Leader.
- As a new member, you will have many songs to learn. Be patient with yourself. All of us understand the dilemma, for we remember going through it, too. Take advantage of small group sessions, use your tape and your sheet music, and realize that it normally takes six months to a year to learn the whole repertoire. Most people find that concentrating on one song at a time works better than trying to learn several at once. Ask your Section Leader or the Director for guidance about which songs to learn first.

## Attendance Guidelines

- Although each of us finds it necessary to miss rehearsal now and then, **barbershop music relies heavily on regular attendance.** New members often ask, “What happens if I have to miss a rehearsal before the show, or before a contest? Will I still be able to perform?” The answer is “It depends.”
- It is imperative that you notify someone in the chorus if you plan to be absent. It is very important that we track weekly attendance.
- First and foremost, you must be performance ready in order to participate in a show, or community performance. Mastering your music and choreography, obtaining your costumes, and acquiring chorus make-up come only from regular attendance. Songs are often refined and reinterpreted long after they are first taught. Songs you passed long ago need to be practiced regularly to remain vibrant.

## Costuming and Make-Up

- Any costume purchases paid in whole or in part by the chorus, becomes the property of Grand Harmony Chorus.
- Chorus costumes should only be worn for performances, or as directed by the costume committee.
- Costuming costs are handled in different ways. Sometimes the chorus treasury pays part of the expense: other times the member pays the whole amount. In either case the committee strives to keep the price reasonable and information is communicated well in advance so that members have time to plan for the expense.
- Our make-up chair and her committee will help you obtain the materials, and will provide whatever help you need as you learn to apply it.
- New members can obtain most the of the make-up products from Donna Clark at makeup orientation time if she has them in stock, however there will be occasions when it is more convenient/feasible for the member to obtain products.
- The make-up changes between “stage” make-up, and “evening” make-up, depending on the venue. **ALWAYS PAY ATTENTION TO INSTRUCTIONS RE: DRESS AND MAKEUP BEFORE PERORMANCE.**
- Any questions should be directed to Donna Clark (519) 848-3713:e-mail [ddclark@golden.net](mailto:ddclark@golden.net)