SELECTING CONTEST MUSIC

Consider the following regarding the appropriateness for **YOUR** Chorus/Quartet

THE LYRICS

THE MELODY

EACH PART LINE (Voice Leading)

ACCIDENTALS

LEAD-INS, BASS PICK-UPS, BELL CHORDS, CHROMATIC RUNS, EMBELLISHMENTS

"TOO BUSY" – OVER-ARRANGED – UNNECESSARY CHORD CHANGES

<u>HIGH POINT</u>

<u>INTRO AND TAG</u>

STAMINA AND ENERGY (Especially in an up-tune)

If any of the above causes concern, it may not be right for "you".

Remember what is good for one group may not be good for another!!

The best arrangements have a degree of "predictability" and therefore can be easier to sing. A "trouble spot" that shows up during the first three rehearsals will probably continue to be troublesome <u>IF</u> the fault lies in the song and/or arrangement. If the arrangement is "almost perfect" – is it possible to modify it?

NOTE:

The ideal BBS contest song calls for a primarily major vs minor mode and includes a predominance of the three strongest BBS chords; major triad, BBS seventh and dominant ninth. Phrase endings, points of resolution, and emphasis words should all have strong chords. If in doubt ask a Music Judge or Certified Arranger.

MUSIC SELECTION CHECKLIST

Rate the following from 1-5 with 1 being weak and 5 being strong.

| Memorable melody line |
|---|
| Clear message – interesting, meaningful story |
| Appropriate message to sing as well as for the audience to hear |
| Rise and fall of the melody line fits the lyric line |
| Frequent accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals, double flats or sharps) |
| Frequent lead-ins and/or bass pick-ups |
| Challenges in each voice part match the strengths of your group |
| Each voice part generally lies within their optimal range (rate each part, use average) |
| LeadBassBaritoneTenor |
| Strong "singable" part lines (rate each part, use average) |
| LeadBassBaritoneTenor |
| Strength of Intro (style and lyrical content appropriate to set up the story line) |
| Strength of Tag emotionally and lyrically reinforces the ending |
| Evidence of potential for dynamics |
| Effective tempo possibilities |
| Potential for effective visual plan |
| Complexity of any key changes |
| Embellishments add interest but do not hinder the performance potential |
| Strength of chord voicings and harmony choices |
| Rhythmic and dynamic patterns match the lyrics |
| Physical energy/stamina demands match your abilities |
| Vocal energy/stamina demands match your abilities |
| |
| YOUR SCORE (100 POINTS POTENTIAL) |

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