

## SCORING

The primary responsibility of a Sweet Adelines International judge is to determine the level of proficiency for each competitor's competition performance and to place each competitor in the proper ranking in relationship to the other competitors in the contest.

The methods outlined in the General Principles of Scoring apply to the scoring of the contest song included in the Entertainment Package. Scoring the entire performance of the entertainment package differs slightly in that each judge evaluates the performance from an overall point of view, rather than from the aspects of her individual category. Each performance may be awarded a maximum of 200 points by each judge on the panel. This score includes a maximum of 100 points for the contest song and a maximum of 100 for the overall performance package. Information regarding the scoring of the contest song is included in the category descriptions located elsewhere in this book. To aid the judges in arriving at an accurate score for the Entertainment Package, the following method of scoring has been adopted. The standard is as follows:

### **0-39—BELOW ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS D+ and below (0-19 F; 20-25 D-; 26-33 D; 34-39 D+)**

Performances in this range are uncomfortable for the audience. Vocal skills are weak making any real evaluation of the performance difficult. Artistic efforts cannot be appreciated as the performers' level of vocal ability and performance capability makes it nearly impossible to interpret and communicate the message of the music.

### **40-45—POOR C-**

A poor performance lacks the ability to fully illustrate the integration of musicality and entertainment. The performance is inconsistent and may demonstrate a high level of incongruence along with a lack of basic skills and showmanship.

### **46-53—FAIR C**

A fair performance illustrates an attempt at general musicality and audience entertainment but does not reach above the ordinary. It may include an obvious lack of thorough preparation, an internal rather than an audience focus, too many awkward or "inside" references and standard jokes. It may be characterized by self-conscious reactions. The audience may exhibit nervous or uncomfortable reactions and tepid applause.

### **54-59—ACCEPTABLE C+**

An acceptable performance is characterized by practiced singing and recognizable structure but is only Ordinary in its result. It reveals an advantage over a fair performance in its organization, but still lacks creativity. Tuning and accuracy issues are still problematic, affecting the overall musical product. A greater sense of security in stage demeanor is apparent, but the performers are not fully engaged in the performance effort. Audience reaction and applause is polite but restrained.

### **60-65—SATISFACTORY B-**

A satisfactory performance presents moments of real enjoyment for the audience. There can be a sense of work being done by the performer, rather than the offering of a gift to the listener. Planning is evident, but lapses in energy, musicality and characterization prevent the audience from becoming totally engaged. There is a sense of the emerging skills and creativity of the ensemble, but total confidence and involvement is not yet apparent. The audience is not totally relaxed, but is aware of the performers' efforts and will be encouraging in their response.

### **66-73—GOOD B**

A good performance is one that demonstrates obvious work on singing skills, barbershop technique, planning, and consideration for the specific conditions of the event and the requirement for audience diversion. Additionally, the performance has a sense of destination and builds to a high point musically and theatrically. Areas that need to be further coached and highlighted are relatively easy to spot, e.g. timing mistakes, white spaces, weaknesses in the script, less-than-exciting visual work. Performers appear grounded, secure, fully prepared and comfortable with the stage. Audience reaction is gratifying and energized.

### **74-79 VERY GOOD B+**

A very good performance demonstrates the performer's devotion to vocal skills and to the category requirements of accomplished barbershop musicians. It showcases the structure, creativity and planning of the performance and the utilization of the unique talents within the chorus personnel. The performance is met with enduring and enthusiastic applause and audience reaction.

### **80-85 EXCELLENT A-**

An excellent performance engages the audience's attention at the outset and continues to develop in its musical skill, variety and artful delivery. Because the quartet or chorus is performing with such excellent vocal skill, they are now in a position of being a conduit between the composer/lyricist/arranger and the audience to deliver a message that leaves a lasting impression. The performers are individually involved in the performance, continuously in touch with both the plan and the audience. Audience response is appreciative and sincere.

### **86-93 NEARLY PERFECT A**

A nearly perfect performance is an experience shared by the performer and the audience. There is a sound that seems to flow effortlessly from the singers and draws the listener into the story, the music and the emotions of the performance. Freedom and spirit are evident on stage and each element blends into a unified presentation, so there is no awareness of segments, but rather an experience of the performance as a whole. The performance exhibits what in French is termed *je ne sais quoi*, that certain something which is elusive and difficult to express in words but which is apparent to the audience. The audience reaction is unrestrained; they seemingly cannot wait to comment to each other about the joy of the performance. Genuine, extended applause and enthusiastic, appreciative audience reaction are the result.

### **94 -100—SUPERIOR A+**

A superior performance is spectacular. It draws seemingly incessant applause and excited feedback from the audience. The stage is alive with ring, color, spectacle, and vibrancy. The performer, as well as the audience, experience true synergy, as both are equally engaged in a partnership of focus, enjoyment, and unique, transformative experience. The performance is seamless and the performers are charismatic, almost in a remarkable collaboration with the audience. This is the kind of performance that truly merits an encore, is unforgettable and sets a hallmark for future performances by that group and others. A judge may award any number within these parameters, which she feels characterizes accurately the performance level. Individual comments on the scoresheets should reflect the description of that performance level in specific terms and references.