

CHOOSING CONTEST MUSIC:

IS IT SUITABLE FOR YOUR QUARTET/CHORUS?

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR QUARTET OR CHORUS:

For each voice part:

Full range

Comfortable range (tessitura)

Bad notes (register change)

Breathing capabilities

Tempo and rhythm capabilities; do you feel the backbeat or the downbeat?

Difficult vowels

Personality/Image

SONG & ARRANGEMENT RED FLAGS THAT AFFECT ALL FOUR CATEGORIES:

Part lines outside any part's comfortable range

Part lines that fall mainly in the register break

Jumpy part lines

Rangy part lines

Melody switch to other parts

Odd intervals

Abundance of accidentals

All four parts on an octave (no chord)

Lots of chord changes

Wide spread chords (2-octave spread)

Octave + gap between adjacent parts

Chromatic runs

Fast tempo

Rhythm demands (backbeat or odd rhythms)

Not enough natural breathing places

Abundance of hard consonant sounds

Abundance of short vowels

Wordy passages

Baritone above lead for extended passages

Baritone & lead crossing back & forth repeatedly

Cross relationships (one voice part has to find a note just $\frac{1}{2}$ step away from the note another voice part just sang)

Cross-part jumps (one voice part has to find a note that's higher or lower than the note just sung by the adjacent voice part)

Parallel motion (all 4 voice parts moving the same direction at the same time)

Tag "hangers" in the voice part's register break

Tag "hangers" beyond the comfort zone for breath support

Other considerations:

Are there opportunities for appropriate dynamic variations?

Does it tell a story we all can buy into?

UNLESS YOUR GROUP HAS BEEN SCORING AT B LEVEL OR ABOVE, KEEP YOUR CONTEST MATERIAL WELL WITHIN YOUR COMFORT ZONE!

These issues will impact:

Demonstration of vocal skills (all categories)

Unity (all categories)

Note accuracy (Sound, Music)

Balance (Sound)

Tuning (Sound, Music)

Execution of tempo (Music, Expression)

Execution of vowels, consonants, diphthongs
(Expression)

Creation of overtones (Sound)

Comfort level on stage (Showmanship)

Jan Meyer

**Sweet Adelines International Published Music--
Contest Worthy and Suitable for Groups Currently
Scoring at C Level and Below**

Ain't We Got Fun
Baby Face
Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree
Every Street's a Boulevard
Give My Regards to Broadway
I'm All Alone
I'm the One You're Looking For
Lucky Day
Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone
Side by Side
Sunny Side Up
That's My Weakness Now
When I Leave the World Behind

**This list is not necessarily exhaustive—there may be other suitable arrangements on the published music list. Competitors should also take into consideration their own group's strengths and weaknesses in choosing music. What is each voice part's range and tessitura, what are your breathing capabilities, what is your style and personality, are you a downbeat or backbeat group, are there some vowels you consistently have problems with, etc.

CONTEST SONGS FOR C and C+ CHORUSES & QUARETS

These songs are also appropriate for higher scoring choruses and quartets. The list is not intended to recommend these song choices over others, it only lists several contact appropriate selections that have been performed successfully by choruses at this level.

(Compiled by Marge Bailey with the disclaimer that this is only one music judge's opinion. The songs still must be performed well to score well- regardless of how well the arrangement is written!)

UPTUNES:

Back in Those Says Gone By
Bring Back Those Horse and Buggy Days
By the Beautiful Sea
Ev'ry Street's a Boulevard in Old New York
Everybody's Crazy Over Dixie
Floatin' Down to Cotton Town
Give 'em a Show They'll Never Forget
He's a Devil in His Own Home Town
Tomorrow (I'll be in my Dixie Home)
I'm Sitting on Top of the World
Oh, How we Roared in the Twenties
The Showboat Came to Town
Take me Back to the 1920's

BALLADS

All by Myself
April Showers
Chase the Rain Away
Grandmother's Love Letters
I Tired to Forget You in Vain
Just a Baby's Prayer at Twilight
Memories in Vain
That Wonderful Mother of Mine (*this is not Pal of my Cradle Days*)
When I Leave the World Behind
You Can Have Every Light on Broadway

This list is from Sharron Babb:

Easier ballads:

Those Old Love Letters
Even I need Love
Back in the Old Routine

Easier Uptunes:

Give my Regards
Who's Sorry Now?
Side by Side
Smile

Easier Swing:

When my Baby Smiles
I Know a little bit about a lot of things

Challenging Ballads:

Oh How I Miss you Tonight
I'm Alone Because I love You
Bandstand in Central Park
What'll I Do
If you Love me Really Love Me
Once Upon a Time
When You Come Home
If I Had My Way
Old Songs, Old Friends
I Never Meant to Fall in Love
Crying Myself to Sleep
Dancing this Dance in the Wrong Romance
When I Lost You
Sing Me that Song
Singing Love Songs/Somebody Else
Sweet Adeline
Call me Back, Pal of Mine
My Mother's Rocking Chair
My Mother's Eyes

Challenging Uptunes:

Ya Gotta Know how to Love'em/
I Can't Give You Anything but Love Medley
Changes Medley
Jeepers Creepers
How's Ev'ry Little thing in Dixie
Flirty Eyes
How Many Hearts Have you Broken
Two Tickets to Georgia
South Rampart Street
Dixie One-Step
Dixieland Band
Smile Medley
Moment I Saw Your Eyes
Cry Baby
Honey's Lovin' Arms
Ya Better Stop Babyin' Baby
After You've Gone Medley
Undecided