



Contest & Judging – Applicant Information

SINGING CATEGORY

“The voice teachers of the barbershop harmony society”

WELCOME!



Thank you for your interest in the BHS Contest and Judging (C&J) program and especially in the *Singing* category! There are several expectations and requirements involved with the application process.

Success through the entire process from a high level looks like this:

Applicant status (Application accepted and initial tests passed)

Candidate status (Invited to and pass candidate school, progressing through coaching and scoring skill growth in many areas)

Certification (Training on going, invited to and successful passing of Category school held once every 3 years)

We set the bar high to represent C&J. This informational document is provided as an overview of those expectations and the process.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS OF A SINGING JUDGE?

- ***Personal Responsibility*** – willingness & availability for judging assignments; continuously shows progress as a judge (self study, personal growth); is on-time, reliable, and responsive to requests for feedback; willingness to take on extra tasks; demonstrates strong personal character
- ***Attitude/Demeanor*** – overall deportment as a judge; general positive attitude displayed during both judging and "non-judging" activities; overall "impact" (positive/negative) on others; a desire to give back
- ***Evaluation/Coaching*** – solid knowledge of vocal pedagogy; exemplary teaching & communication skills; coaching effectiveness; contest evaluation & feedback effectiveness; ability to provide insightful (and correct) analysis to competitors
- ***Scoring*** – demonstrated level & record of scoring accuracy consistency; effective methodology for maintaining scoring consistency

Each of these 4 areas are evaluated by the CS & BOR as follows:

5-Outstanding | 4-Very Good (*above average*) | 3-Good (*average*) | 2-Marginal (*below average*) | 1-Unacceptable

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE FOR THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS?

Read the ***entire*** BHS **Contest & Judging Handbook** located here:

<http://www.barbershop.org/competitions/contest-judging-system/>

Become ***thoroughly*** familiar with:

- ✓ Chapter 4 (The Judging System);
- ✓ **Chapter 7 (Singing Category Description);**
- ✓ Chapter 12, Section VI (Applicant & Candidate Regulations) &
- ✓ Chapter 12, Section VII (Category School)

HOW DO I BECOME AN **APPLICANT**?

PRE-REQUISITE:

- Must be a Member or Society Associate in good standing

APPLICATION:

- Form is obtained from your District Representative for Contest & Judging (DRCJ)
- Must include letters of recommendation from 2 certified Singing judges
- Form is returned (along with the recommendation letters) to the DRCJ

DUE DATES:

- Applications are accepted no earlier than **July 25th, 2016** – but must be received by the DRCJ no later than **December 15th, 2016**.

*** A BHS Member or Society Associate will not be considered an **Applicant** until the Singing Category Specialist has **received and approved the application***

WHAT ARE THE INITIAL APPLICATION PROCESS STEPS?

Get started on this early in the fall of 2016. Work with the DRCJ: The application process must be completed through the DRCJ and to sent to the CS by Dec 15, 2016. So complete your form and submit to the DRCJ by December 15th, 2016.

You

- Get application form from your DRCJ
- Solicit recommendation letters from 2 SNG judges
- North American (NA) applicants submit completed application (including the 2 letters) to your DRCJ. Outside NA applications will go to the Category Specialist.

DRCJ

- Solicit feedback from the 5 listed references in the application
- Offer recommendation (or non-recommendation) and forwards the application (with the recommendation letters and reference forms) to the Category Specialist

CS

- Determines whether or not to accept the application. If accepted, the Member or Society Associate officially becomes a Singing Category Applicant

NOW THAT I'M AN APPLICANT, HOW DO I BECOME A CANDIDATE?

WRITTEN TEST

- Take a written test (to be administered during January or February 2017)

VIDEO RECORDINGS

- Submit video recordings of at least one coaching session with a quartet or chorus - involving vocal production and ensemble unity coaching

BOARD DECISION

- Board of Review (BOR) and the CS will determine those that will be invited to attend the 2017 Candidate school (currently scheduled for late July)

CANDIDATE SCHOOL

- Attend & pass Candidate school

The written test covers:

- BHS Singing category terminology
- Fundamental music theory concepts
- Vocal pedagogy knowledge
- Your understanding of ensemble singing techniques and coaching skills

The video recording(s):

- Should include the ensemble singing one or two songs (uninterrupted)
- Should be edited to reflect a 20-minute follow-up coaching session

**** Candidate status is evaluated based on criterion in four key areas:**



Now That I'm a Candidate, How Do I Become a **CERTIFIED** Judge?

CANDIDATE STATUS:



- You will be engaged by a small team of certified SNG judges Mentoring Team - (MT) for the candidate cycle
- You will attend several BHS contests and participate with the official panel in all activities to include scoring, contestant evaluations, and feedback from judges
- You will have additional exercises, projects, and tests to complete during the cycle
- Successful candidates will receive an invitation to attend the 2019 Category school (scheduled for late July 2019)



CANDIDATE CYCLE:

- The two-year cycle begins immediately following Candidate school (**July 2017**) and ends upon successful graduation from Category school (**July 2019**).

WHAT ARE THE OTHER EXPECTATIONS?

- You are expected to remain actively engaged with the **Mentoring Team (MT)** for the entire candidate cycle – *(leveraging advice and expertise for your training needs and growth as a candidate)*.
- The absolute minimum requirement will be for you to attend and practice judge 4 contest weekends during the 2-year cycle, while the recommended minimum is 6 contests.

1 Fall '17 contest / 1-2 Spring '18 contest(s) / 1 Fall '18 contest / 1-2 Spring '19 contest(s)

Unfortunately, these practice contest weekends are at your own expense – and, (depending on your skill set and progress with your candidacy), you may wish to schedule ***more*** than these minimum number of contests. However you are encouraged to take advantage of contests in your home district (and nearby districts). You should also work with the MT and your home district to investigate other funding options or cost-saving ideas.

- The MT (led by and in conjunction with the SNG candidate coordinator, the BOR, and the CS) will have additional tasks for you to complete. This will include scoring practices, written project assignments, coaching/evaluation recordings, or other exercises designed to assist with your training as well as to help us with our evaluation of your progress.
- Candidates and certified judges ***must*** successfully pass Category school in order to be a certified judge for the next 3-year certified judge cycle. *[Expenses are covered by BHS and your home district]*

WHAT IS EXPECTED IN ORDER TO CONTINUE AS A **CERTIFIED** SINGING CATEGORY JUDGE?

GENERAL C&J REQUIREMENTS:

Must remain current with your BHS dues ***at all times***

Must serve on **at least one BHS** panel each year

Should normally be available to judge 3 contests each year - *(2 Spring contests and 1 Fall contest)*

Must compete with a quartet or chorus at least once each 3-year certified judge cycle

Must support and represent both BHS and C&J in a positive manner at all times

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

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