

Music Category Applicant Information

BHS Contest & Judging - Music Category



Welcome! Thank you for your interest in C&J and most especially the **Music** category! There are several requirements and expectations involved with the application process that lead to candidate designation, and ultimately to certification. This information document is provided as an overview of those expectations and should serve as a guide for those interested in becoming a certified **Music** Judge.

How Do I Become An APPLICANT?

APPLICATION FORMS:

- Are obtained from your District Representative for Contest & Judging (DRC&J)
- Must include letters of recommendation from 2 certified Music judges
- Are to be returned (along with the recommendation letters) to the DRC&J

ACCEPTANCE DATES:

Applications are accepted no earlier than **July 29th, 2013** – but must be received by the Category Specialist (CS) no later than **December 31st, 2013**.

APPLICATION PROCESS STEPS:

1. You get an application form from your DRC&J
2. You solicit recommendation letters from at least 2 Music judges
3. You submit completed application, including the 2 letters, to your DRC&J
4. DRC&J solicits feedback from the 5 references listed in the your application
5. DRC&J offers his recommendation, up or down, then forwards the application and recommendation letters and reference forms to the Category Specialist (CS)
6. The Category Specialist determines whether to accept the application. If accepted, the you officially becomes a Music Category **Applicant**

A BHS member is not an Applicant Judge until the Music Category Specialist (CS) has received and approved his application.

Now That I am An APPLICANT Judge, How Do I Become a CANDIDATE Judge?

APPLICANT PROCESS STEPS:

1. Take a music dictation and written music theory test in early 2014
2. Submit two original contestable barbershop arrangements
3. Submit video recording of at least one coaching session with a quartet or chorus focusing on musical skills and better song delivery
4. Board of Review (BOR) and the CS will determine those that will be invited to attend the 2014 Candidate school held in Nashville, TN in late July

Criterion for Candidate status includes evaluating 4 key areas:
Scoring – Coaching – Demeanor – Responsibility

5. Attend & pass Candidate school [Expenses covered by BHS & your district]

The written test covers:

- BHS Music Category terminology
- barbershop music theory concepts
- arranging knowledge
- your understanding of Musicianship & artistry 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

It is **imperative** that you read the **entire** BHS Contest & Judging Handbook located here:

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

In addition, you should become **thoroughly** familiar with Chapter 4 (The Judging System);

Chapter 5 (Music Category Description); Chapter 10 (Category Overlap); Chapter 12, Section VI (Applicant & Candidate Regulations) & Section VII (Category School)

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Now That I am a CANDIDATE Music Judge, How Do I Become a CERTIFIED Music Judge?

CANDIDATE MUSIC JUDGE STATUS:

- You will be assigned a certified Music judge as your mentor 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 2016 Category school now held in Nashville, TN – scheduled for late July 2016.

CANDIDATE JUDGE CYCLE:

The two-year cycle begins immediately following Candidate school (**July 2014**) and ends upon successful graduation from Category school (**July 2016**).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- You will stay actively engaged with your mentor for the entire candidate cycle – leveraging his advice and expertise for your training needs and growth as a candidate.
 - You will practice-judge 5 or more contest weekends as a minimum during the 2-year cycle.
 - **1 or more fall of 2014 – 1 or more spring of 2015 – 1 or more fall of 2015 – 2 or more spring of 2016**
- 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 the minimum number of contests. You are encouraged to practice contests in nearby districts, and to work with your home district for other funding options.
- Your mentor, in conjunction with the Music candidate Wrangler, the BOR, and the CS will have additional tasks for you to complete. These tasks 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.
 - All candidates and certified judges **must** successfully pass Category school in order to be a certified Music judge for the next 3-year certified judge cycle. *[BHS and your home district cover expenses].*

So – What Is Expected In Order To Continue As a CERTIFIED Music 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 judging cycle
- Must represent BHS and C&J in a positive manner at all times

MUSIC JUDGE EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Personal Responsibility** - willing and available for judging assignments; show progress as a judge and to self-study; be on-time and responsive to the needs and requests of others; willing to take on extra tasks; demonstrated personal character
2. **Attitude/Demeanor** – overall deportment when a judge; general attitude displayed when judging and not judging; overall impact, positive or negative, on others
3. **Evaluation/Coaching Skills** - knowledge of barbershop harmony and arranging; communication skills; coaching effectiveness; contest evaluation/feedback effectiveness; ability to provide insightful and correct analysis about how barbershop music works
4. **Scoring** – demonstrate level and 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 | 3-Good | 2-Marginal | 1-Unacceptable