

TIPS FOR THE CONTEST MC

(Excerpt from the L O'L District Convention manual)

1. The time factor is particularly important to the contest MC because his delivery is controlled by someone else - the Contest Administrator.
2. Comments must be adjusted to fit into the short time available while the scoring of the preceding chorus or quartet is being completed. Subject matter must be handled in a way that continuity of the contest will be maintained as much as possible. The MC must announce the next contestant immediately upon receiving the signals from the back stage and the Contest Administrator.
3. Script material should be written to consume approximately 1 minute speaking time which is about the time required by the Judges to complete their scoring.
4. The MC must be prepared to stop short, when the signals are given. (ie., 2 lights)
5. Be sure the M.C's understand that:
 - a) The only requirement of the MC is to introduce the contestants. Use of "time filler material" is optional, not required.
 - b) When introducing a Quartet, do NOT announce the names of the individual Quartet members. (New C&J rule)..
 - c) No "build-up" of any competing group is permitted.
 - d) All introductions are to be alike, brief and concise.
 - e) He understands the signal from the Contest Administrator & back stage.
 - f) He is to give the rules incidental to the contest before the first competing unit; No flash pictures, no tape recorders or recording devices, no one leave or enter while a contestant is on stage, turn off pagers, cell phones and wrist watch beepers.
 - g) Do not mention the MC light system... Simply say, "We are ready for our next contestant.... Please close the doors and everyone seated".
 - h) Do NOT ask the audience to sing between contestants.
 - j) Often the MC is asked to make special announcements. It's appropriate to make these announcements so long as it does not impede the forward progress of the contest.
 - k) Material, jokes and stories **must be G-rated**. However, it is not required that the MC be a stand up comic.
 - l) One of your highest priorities must be to keep the contest moving ahead.

NOTE: The Contest Administrator has final jurisdiction over the actual Chorus and/or Quartet Contest and its operation. Everything within the realm of Judging is his responsibility and he will make the decision on all points. The MC must consult with the Contest Administrator should any abnormal or unplanned incident occur during the contest.