



## AcappellaFest 2009 Chicago – High School Contest

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **AcappellaFest 2009 Chicago High School Contest!** This is an opportunity for the best high school groups to compete! The winner gets to perform live on stage during the Matinee Showcase concert at AcappellaFest 2009 Chicago!

### FEES

There is no separate fee for entering the contest.

### ENTRY PERIOD

All contest entries must be received between September 21, 2009 12:00 AM and October 12, 2009 11:59 PM. Contest entries received on or after October 13, 2009 12:00 AM are ineligible.

### ENTRY MATERIAL

To enter, send an MP3 or a link to a YouTube video depicting your high school group to **hscontest@acappellafest.com**. Include the information described below. If you have questions about Entry Materials (format, size, etc.) please contact the producer using the same e-mail address as above.

### REQUIRED INFORMATION

The following information is required as part of the contest submission:

- 1) Group name
- 2) High school name
- 3) Title of the song
- 4) Composer
- 5) Arranger
- 6) Soloist(s), if any
- 7) Vocal Percussionist(s), if any
- 8) Whether the piece is an original song or arrangement
- 9) Contact information including email and phone

### WHO MAY ENTER

Any group consisting exclusively of high school students of any size, style or composition may enter this contest. Performers may appear on the recording of more than one group.

Groups must consist of permanent, full-time, full-fledged participants who are full-time students enrolled at your school. Open to all high schools in Midwest area (including Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky and Ohio). Direct all questions about eligibility to the producer.

### GROUP SIZE REQUIREMENTS

Although this is not a performance competition, the winning group will perform on stage and thus the size of the winning group must accommodate the performance space. Groups may be of any size from a minimum of just 1 person, up to a maximum limited only by the reasonable restrictions of the performance space as determined by the producer. As a guideline, most stages can easily accommodate a choir of 100 or more. If the recording you submit depicts a high school group consisting of 25 or more students, please contact the producer.

### TIMING

The winning group's live performance shall not exceed 5 minutes.

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Official Rules

**GENERAL**

Repertoire and choreography should be appropriate for family audiences. The song performed live by the winning group must match the song selection depicted in the audio or video recording used in the contest submission.

All performances must be completely a cappella. No instruments or tuned percussion of any kind are permitted, with the exception of pitch pipes or similar devices used solely to generate a starting pitch. Vocal percussion, beatbox, etc. are, of course, permitted. Please direct any questions about this to the producer.

**JUDGING PROCEDURE**

Once the submission deadline has passed, the contest judging panel will review the submission recordings. For all submissions, each judge will award points for different aspects of Vocal Performance (blend, intonation, solo interpretation, etc.) as well as a rank for Overall Impact. For video submissions, each judge will additionally award points for different aspects of Visual Performance (effectiveness, energy, etc.). Points and rankings will be weighted appropriately to account for groups with and without a video submission.

The group with highest point total shall be declared the winner. If there is a tie, then the producer shall exercise a tie-breaking power to decide the issue.

**SOUND**

Up to 9 microphones may be provided for use by the winning group for their live performance. Mics may be wireless or wired. Group may perform on mic or off mic at their discretion. Additional sound equipment, including effects, may be used if approved by the producer and made available to all performers at their sound check.

Requests regarding mixing and effects made to the sound engineer will be honored where possible, including the request to enhance bass, vocal percussion, leads or to "use your best judgment". In the absence of any contrary instructions, the engineer will be instructed to provide microphone responses of approximately equal volume and NOT to do any mixing which would affect the balance of parts during the show.

A sound check is not absolutely guaranteed. If a sound check is provided, the amount of time to sound check shall be at the producer's discretion.

**CONDUCT**

All participants and judges agree to abide by the highest ethical standards and not to publicly criticize the participants, judges, producers, staff, decisions or rules of this competition, but instead to direct any statements to the producers in private correspondence.

**MERCHANDISE**

At the discretion of the producer, the winning group may sell merchandise immediately following the show.

**ORIGINAL SONGS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

An arrangement may be noted as "original" if prepared for the group by a member of the group or if prepared solely for the exclusive use of the group. A song may be noted as original only if written in whole or in part by a member of the group.

**PRODUCERS' DISCRETION**

Any open issues, vague or confusing terms, or disagreements of any kind relating to this competition shall be resolved by the producers in their sole discretion and their determination shall be final and binding on all persons.

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### Official Rules

#### **RIGHTS**

By performing and competing, and by accepting the benefits of publicity derived from appearing in the event, which all parties agree is of value, and by accepting any awards, if any, all participants agree to abide by these rules and that the producer has the following rights in addition to any others which it may have:

The producer may use the name and likeness of the winning group or any of its members or directors or other supporting persons to promote a cappella generally, to promote a cappella or charity events, or to promote any of our programs or materials.

The producer may record in analog or digital video, photograph, audio or by any other means, the winning group and/or its members and support persons for archival, promotional or distribution, whether digital or analog, whereby all proceeds shall be paid to producer, producer's affiliate or partner or another 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.

All participants agree to hold the producers harmless and indemnify them from any and all claims which may arise in connection with any of producers' events.

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Portions modified for AcappellaFest.