

February 19, 2010

Greetings!

Here is the “official” information packet for the 2010 Harmony Sweepstakes.



As soon as you can, we need each group to send us three items – please note the *method* (e-mail or snail-mail) we’d prefer to receive each item:

1. Entry Fee: The entry fee is \$10 per person in the group. For example, if you have five members, the fee is \$50. Please make out the check to Harmony Sweepstakes. Obviously, this can only be sent via *snail-mail*.

2. Group Photo: We would like two photos of each group, a hard copy version, and a digital version. Please send a hard copy photo via *snail-mail*, because we would like to display your picture in the lobby before the show. In addition, please send a digital version of the photo via *e-mail* – having a digital copy means we will be able to put a photo in the program, on the official website, and on the Facebook page.

Please send your check and photo to:

Harmony Sweepstakes
c/o Andrew Blendermann
606 N. Wilshire Dr.
Mount Prospect, IL 60056

3. Group Bio: The program includes information about all the competing groups. We would like you to send a one paragraph bio about your group. Your submission may be slightly edited for space reasons. Also, you can include contact information (for bookings or recordings) – feel free to list a contact name or agent, phone number, e-mail, website, etc. We would prefer to receive your bio via *e-mail*.

Group Intro (optional): If you’d like a specific intro for the host group to read before bringing you on stage, please *e-mail* this to us.

Song List (optional): If you have a song list, or at least an idea of what songs you are going to sing, please *e-mail* that too.

Please e-mail your bio and picture (and optional intro or song list) to:

sweeps@blenderful.com.

Please read this and the rules, philosophy and information sheet carefully. It contains a lot of important information. Please note the time limit on stage is 10 minutes, and complete information regarding this is in the rules. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us.

Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival
606 N. Wilshire Dr., Mount Prospect, IL 60056
847-749-4994 • e-mail: sweeps@blenderful.com

Arrival time:

Please arrive at the theater by **3:00 pm**. You will have a chance to put your things in the dressing rooms, and we will go over the schedule for that night, including the order of performance. Your patience is needed while we do the sound check. Everyone will get a few minutes on stage. Once the sound levels are set, each group will be working with those set levels. You will not be able to leave until we get to do a final song rehearsal. Then you can leave and get dinner or whatever. We will talk more about this on that day. The show starts at **7:30 pm** and should end about 10:30 pm.

Directions:

The North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie is located at 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, IL. It is located about 10-15 miles north of Chicago. Get to I-94 (Edens Expressway) and get off at Old Orchard Rd. (Exit 35). There is only one exit ramp in either direction. Head east a few blocks to Skokie Blvd. Turn right (south) and continue to Golf Rd. The theater is on the east side of the street, one half block south of Golf Rd., next to the Doubletree Hotel. There is ample free parking next to the theater.

Hotel info:

The Doubletree Hotel in Skokie is right next door to the theater. The phone number is 847-679-7000, or for reservations you can call 800-221-4701. There are many restaurants in the area, some within walking distance.

Phone numbers:

On the day of the show, Andrew will have a cell phone that you can call in case of any problems, or if you can't help arriving late because of a MAJOR emergency. Andrew's cell phone number is 847-809-0808. The theater box office number is 847-673-6300.

CD sales:

If you have anything for sale (such as CDs or T-shirts), please let us know what you are selling so we can arrange for tables to be set up in the lobby. There is also a theater policy where the theater takes a **25%** cut of merchandise sold. Because of this policy, we encourage groups to refer customers to their websites, or to Primarily A Cappella. Groups will have to share tables. You will also have to provide someone to sell your merchandise, but the tables only need to be open before and after the show, and at intermission – not during the show.

Afterglow:

There will be an "Afterglow" after the show in the theater lobby. It'll be a chance to talk to the audience, wind down, and sell some more CDs. Usually there's a little more singing, too.

Competing Groups:

Last year's Chicago Sweeps winner, **3 Men & A Melody**, will be the hosts of the show. The competing groups are:

Group Name	Contact	State	Men	Women
The Bradford Trio	Larry Bradford	MO		3
Home Free	Chris Rupp	MN	5	
Jimmy And The Threats	Toussaint Morrison	MN	3	
No Better Cause	Nate Kellison	NE	5	
An Octave Above	Meredith McGuire	IL	4	4
The Offbeats	Jeremy Gussin	IA	5	
'Round Midnight	T.J. Carollo	NY	4	
Sundown	John Stafford	IL	1	4

Tickets:

Tickets are \$19.50, or \$15.50 for groups of 15 or more. The box office phone number is 847-673-6300 and the hours are: Monday-Friday 10-6 and Saturday 12-5. They take Visa, MasterCard and American Express. You can also get tickets through the North Shore website, www.northshorecenter.org.

*Each group gets one complimentary ticket. **You must get the comp ticket from the box office** (not from Andrew!), along with any others you might be buying. To do so, we will have the group contact names (everyone listed above) at the box office (847-673-6300). If you call in for tickets and you need, for example, four tickets, give them the manager's name and you will pay for three tickets and one will be free. If someone else in your group is using the comp ticket, have them use the manager's name when calling in for the ticket.*

The show is not currently sold out, but it probably will be by the day of the show. If you wait until then to tell us you need your free ticket, we're not sure what will be available.

For more information, check out the national web site at: <http://www.harmony-sweepstakes.com/>

We hope this answers most of your questions. If not please call Andrew at 847-749-4994 (I'm easiest to reach during the day), or e-mail us at sweeps@blenderful.com.

See you March 27th,

Andrew Blendermann
Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival
Chicago Regional Producer