

February 29th, 2016

Greetings!

Here is the "official" information packet for the 2016 Harmony Sweepstakes.

We have already received a one-paragraph bio and a digital picture from each group. If you would like to update either of those items, you can send new versions to sweeps@blenderful.com. They've been posted at www.harmony-sweepstakes.com



We will need each group to provide us two more items, outlined below. We would prefer to receive them ahead of time (for peace of mind), but you *can* bring them on show day. But please be aware that your group will *not* be able to compete without these two items:

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.

2. Group Photo: We have already received one group photo from you, but we will also need a *hard copy* version. Your digital photo and your hard copy photo do not have to match. Please do *not* include the name of your group on your photo. This photo will be displayed in our lobby before the show.

(NO NEED TO MAIL ANYTHING THIS YEAR – just bring the photo and entry fee to the show!)

You can also send us some additional information, if you like:

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. This is very helpful in establishing the flow of the show, especially if any groups are planning to sing the same song!

Please e-mail your optional intro or song list (and bio or picture updates) 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 at 847-809-0808.

Arrival time:

Please arrive at the theater by **11:00 am**. 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 **3:00 pm** and should end about 6:00 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. And here's a [MAP](#).

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 is a discount rate for Harmony Sweepstakes participants – you can view their flyer at www.blenderful.com/sweeps/hotel.pdf. 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.

ADDENDUM THIS YEAR: Unlike the past few years, we will *not* be doing Afterglow at Jameson's Charhouse next door (we can't reserve the whole restaurant on a Sunday) But the restaurant is a natural after-show dinner place. If you go there for a meal, you may run into a lot of a cappella fans, and you could sell some CD's there (and avoid the theater's 25% commission).

Competing Groups:

Last year's Chicago Sweeps winner, **Remedy** (www.facebook.com/remedyacappella), will be the hosts of the show. The competing groups (in alphabetical order) are:

Group Name	Contact	State	Men	Women	Web Site
80's A Cappella Prom	Tim Jones	CO	3	2	www.vocalitysingers.com/80s
The Double Agents	Mariam Torruella	IL	2	2	www.facebook.com/DoubleAgentBand
Double Date	Ravi Raghuram	MO	2	2	www.doubledateqt.com
Fermata Town	Dan Campagna	MA	4	4	www.fermatatown.com
The Innocent Men	Kaynen Harris	WI	6		www.theinnocentmen.org
The Northsiders	Loren Shevitz	IL	4		www.facebook.com/northsidersquartet/
ShadowVox	Chad Bahr	WI	5		www.shadowvoxmusic.com
The Vocal Liberation Front	Eric Skalinder	IL	4	4	www.kellyhs.org

Tickets:

Tickets are \$25.50, or \$18.50 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 arrange the comp ticket with 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 (www.harmony-sweepstakes.com), or my local "mini-site". (www.blenderful.com/sweeps)

We hope this answers most of your questions. If not please call Andrew at 847-809-0808 (I'm easiest to reach during the day), or e-mail us at sweeps@blenderful.com.

See you April 3rd,

Andrew Blendermann
Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival
Chicago Regional Producer