

## **BARBERSHOP BASICS #3**

### Rehearsal Expectations/Riser Etiquette

You come to your first rehearsal and you don't know where to go, who to ask and you feel slightly intimidated?

Usually at a Sweet Adeline rehearsal, the membership chair (or just about anyone) will quickly see that you are a new face and will come to your aid. She will want to know who you are, if you have a friend in the chorus already and what part you sing (even if you don't know yet). Never fear, you will be taken care of handsomely!

You will be given a guest folder full of music to use for the evening. This will, most likely, need to be given back at the end of the rehearsal. Once they know you're there to stay, you will get your own set of music to take home and work with. Each chorus handles this a bit differently so don't be afraid to ask.

A chorus rehearsal is generally two to three hours in length. Again, this depends on the individual chorus. Usually you will be on risers and will be expected to stand while singing. There will be times, like the business meeting, where you will be allowed to sit down. If you have physical needs where you must sit more, please talk to your director as accommodations are readily made for those situations.

#### **TALKING ON THE RISERS**

This is a big NO-NO. It doesn't mean that it doesn't happen; it's just not encouraged. As you know, when someone is having a side discussion, those around that area have a difficult time hearing direction from the Director or whoever is up front, assisting.

If you have questions over the music, you may want to first ask your section leader, whom we will assume has already been introduced to you. Some things may have changed during previous rehearsals that didn't get noted on your written copy. Have a pencil handy to circle those areas. If you are given direction and you can't hear it or don't understand it, feel free to raise your hand to get the director's attention. You are probably not the only one with the question and this will benefit others as well.

#### **WATER ON THE RISERS**

Yes, you may bring water onto the risers with you as long as the water is in a contained bottle. This means, no open glasses that can tip and spill. Most choruses rent their rehearsal space and leaving it as clean as they can is a requirement. Also, you will want to make sure you keep it close to your space and not left where others may knock into it or trip over it during choreography. Please don't leave it on a side table and expect to be able to get up and down the risers whenever you feel the need. This will be a major disruption. Let's call attention to ourselves for positives, not negatives!

#### **PERFUME**

This, too, is a NO-NO! Many of our ladies are very allergic to scents and we have required that no one wear perfume to a rehearsal or performance. Sweet Adelines are scent-free. If you wear perfume to work and go straight to rehearsal, you may find that rinsing off in a bathroom will alleviate any unnecessary allergic reactions (or verbal reminders).

#### **FOOD**

Food is not allowed on the risers. If you have physical need to have food frequently, please discuss your situation with your director and accommodations will be made. You may be given a spot close to the end of a riser row so that you can easily get down and eat off to the side that will minimize disruptions and/or distractions.

Any business that needs to be done, like paying your dues or getting costumes checked, is usually done before or after rehearsal at designated locations (back of the room, in another room, etc.). If you don't know where this is to be done, feel free to ask. There is always someone who knows.

The rest of the time is filled with learning through singing, listening and performing. Do your best and you will fit right in.