

“DAY-OF” SHOWBAND COMPETITION TIPS

by Garrett Breeze

You’ve been rehearsing for months, but to really take it to the next level you’ve got to be focused on competition day. There are five things your band can do to turn in their best performance yet.







Photo by Stephen Stair Photography / Vestavia Hills Singers

Listening to Other Groups First

First, listen to other groups before you perform. One of the reasons show choir is such great preparation for a professional career in music is that you learn how to take your show on the road and re-create it in different environments.

Bands especially have to learn how to adjust their performance to fit the acoustics of the venue. Gyms are going to make things sound muddy, and so will stages with heavy curtains. Smaller rooms or stages with sound shells make it more likely that the band will cover the vocals.

Bigger venues require more effort to be loud and really nail the dance breaks. The location of floor mics, stage mics, and ceiling mics are all factors that can make or break a performance.

Make sure your band has the chance to listen to other groups before they perform to get a sense of the room. Have band members sit in different spots in the audience and observe how the sound changes depending on where you're sitting. If you hear multiple groups having the same problem, you can take steps to make sure it doesn't happen to you.

Setting Up For Success

Secondly, the way your band sets up has almost as much impact on your sound as the room itself. Sets and props sometimes get in the way, but the drummer should always be as close to center stage as possible, so there's no delay between what stage right and stage left hears.

HIGH QUALITY SHOW CHOIR ARRANGEMENTS

SHOWCHOIRSTOCK.COM

We sell high quality stock arrangements at affordable prices that **DON'T** need any further licensing! That's right—you'll never have to go through the extra hassle and expense of using a third party company in order to perform the music you buy from **ShowChoirStock.com**.

ShowChoirStock.com — the only website that sells nothing but show choir arrangements you can purchase and use immediately!

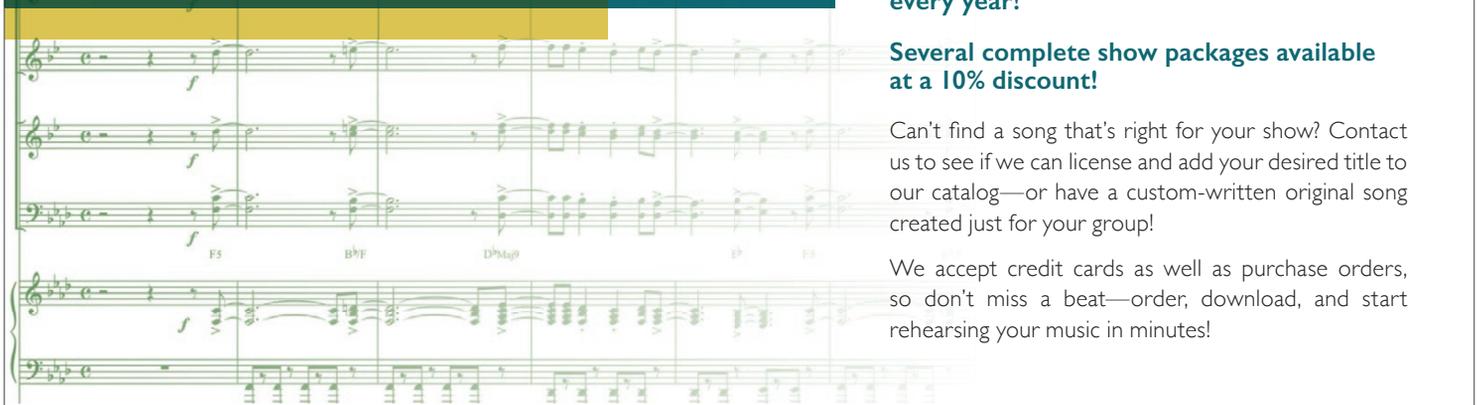
Professionally produced rehearsal tracks for every chart!

Dozens of brand new arrangements every year!

Several complete show packages available at a 10% discount!

Can't find a song that's right for your show? Contact us to see if we can license and add your desired title to our catalog—or have a custom-written original song created just for your group!

We accept credit cards as well as purchase orders, so don't miss a beat—order, download, and start rehearsing your music in minutes!





SCHERMER - PECANS -

OUR FAMILY'S
FARM FRESH PECANS

*A Fundraising Favorite
For Over 70 Years*

NEW!

FUNDRAISING APP
for EASY ORDERING

Download now on
IPHONE - IPAD - DROID

Always have someone you trust at the sound board. The audio engineer (or “sound guy”) is the most important person at a show choir competition, yet they are often the least understood.

The bass player should always be next to the drummer, and the horns should always be facing out toward the audience (taking care to avoid playing directly into stage microphones, of course). Don’t spread out more than you need to—the closer the band is to each other, the more in sync they’ll be.

If you are forced to set up on the side, for whatever reason, make sure that all instruments and amps are pointed in the same direction, to avoid individual instruments sticking out.

Making Good Use of Warm-Up Time

Next, one of the best things you can do is make setup and strike assignments for the band and crew, so you don’t have to worry about how you’re getting everything on stage. Instead, you can focus on the upcoming performance.

Those first few minutes on stage while the choir is still setting up is valuable time for the band to be tuning, checking levels, testing monitors, and playing through things to get a feel for the stage. You don’t want to give the show away, of course, but that doesn’t mean you can’t play at all.

Setup time is a great opportunity for individuals to do some last-minute spot checks and make sure everything is working correctly for the top of the show.

Having Someone Trusted at Sound Board

Additionally, always have someone you trust at the sound board. The audio engineer (or “sound guy”) is the most important person at a show choir competition, yet they are often the least understood.

All groups should have a director or assistant at the sound board during their performance to make sure that technical problems don’t get in the way of a good show. Here are some things they can do during the show:

- If you give the sound guy a heads-up on which solo mics are to be used, they can adjust the volume depending on which soloist is singing. (A solo that’s too loud can cover up the choir’s sound, and a soloist not using proper mic technique might need a boost at the sound board to be heard.)
- Depending on the setup, the engineer may be able to adjust the volume of ceiling or stage microphones. Sometimes this is useful if a certain mic is consistently picking up individuals, or if some mics pick up the band more than others, causing balance problems.
- If your band is using an instrument that has been provided by the venue (such as an acoustic piano), the engineer may be able to adjust the volume of that instrument.

BAND-MART **CHOIR-MART**

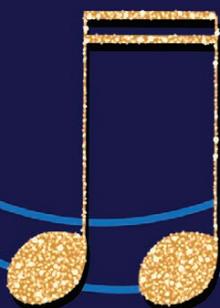
Concert Wear & Accessories

Mention the code 'BCM20' when ordering.

bandchoirmart.com
support@bandchoirmart.com
888-345-1848



Keep your show choir
winning with
*Music Arrangement
Services, Inc.*



EXISTING
ARRANGEMENTS
ARE ONLY
\$149

*Does not include licensing or edits.

Nearly 2,000 fully detailed
scores to ensure your show
choir is always moving ahead!

105 Grand Champions/
First Place Winners
and 115 Second Place
Winners since 2016.

It all begins with a song...

615-491-2187 jeff@showchoirmusic.com



FOR A LIST OF TITLES, PLEASE VISIT WWW.SHOWCHOIRMUSIC.COM AND CLICK "ARRANGEMENTS"

"Like" the Music Arrangement Services, Inc. page on Facebook



Photo by StephenStairPhotography / Vestavia Hills Singers

- If there is a problem with the monitors (speakers used on stage for the performers to hear themselves), this should be communicated to the engineer.
- Most importantly, (if permitted) this person should be in constant communication with the band director to make sure balance issues between the band and choir are addressed as quickly as possible. Many competitions provide headsets or walkie-talkies specifically for this purpose.

Conducting Dynamics, Not Tempo

Finally, the single biggest challenge showbands face during a performance is effective dynamics. Yet most conductors on stage don't do anything other than keep the beat. The fact is this: If the rhythm section is doing its job, the conductor should not need to do very much conducting at all, leaving them free to focus on communicating dynamics and expression.

The conductor is almost like a sound mixer, constantly listening and making sure each instrument in the band is tucked into the mix where it needs to be. Furthermore, if you as the conductor are animated and expressive, that enthusiasm will rub off on your band, resulting in a more exciting and expressive musical performance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Garrett Breeze arranges for many of the top show choirs in the country. He is a sought-after clinician and adjudicator for showbands and has previously been band director for North Central High School “Descants” and Belmont University “Company.” For more tips on working with show choir bands, sign up for his mailing list at breezetunes.com.



show choir arrangements

we offer:

- New Custom Arrangements
- Previously Arranged Titles
- Rehearsal Clinics
- Video Critiques
- Tracks Made With Studio Musicians
- Adjudication at Competitions

Breeze Tunes Productions specializes in creating high-quality, competitive arrangements tailored to fit your choir's show design, skill level, and budget!

breezetunes.com garrett@breezetunes.com



The top show choir competition in America for America's top show choirs!

2019 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL THE POINTE SINGERS & CAROLL HIGH SCHOOL SELECT

FAME



2020 DATES & LOCATIONS

FAME New York	March 5-8
FAME Orlando	March 12-15
Show Choir America (Orlando)	March 19-22
FAME Chicago	March 26-29
FAME Branson	April 2-5
FAME Hawaii	April 15-19
Show Choir National Finals	April 25

www.fameproductions.com

A special thank you to our sponsors:



The Show Choir National Finals, held May 4, 2019 at the Genesee Theater in Chicago, presented the annual **Aspire Awards** to the following industry professionals:

Lifetime Achievement Award	Shelley Johnson
Vocal Vanguard	Aaron Childress (Huntington North HS)
Visual Vanguard	Jarad Voss
Best New Director	Kay Dick (Chelsea HS)
Best New Choreographer	Joynell Carr
Best Arranger	Nick Brockamp
Best Costumer	Gail McInnis Productions
Spirit of Service	Damon Brown (Thirst Project)
Most Promising New Program	Milard North HS Infinity (Megan Tantillo)
Best Regional Competition	Sing ALL About It (Sioux City East HS, WI Thomas Hales, director)

Be sure and submit your vote for the 2020 Aspire Nominees beginning Feb. 1! Log onto www.showchoirs.org and select ASPIRE to vote.

