



ISSUE 1
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Hi Team CKC,

RE: ONE YEAR UNTIL INTERNATIONAL!

We are just over a year away from the international competition in Columbus Ohio – it's time to don our singers' activewear and start preparing for the 'Barbershop Olympics'. This is a epic opportunity and lifetime experience, and a very exciting time. And for many of us - our first time competing internationally. There is a lot to think about and do, so let's get started!

Preparing for and travelling to International Convention is a significant commitment of time and money, and we realise that some of our members may not be able to join us, but we'd **LOVE** ❤️ for as many of you as possible on this journey. We know that we have a proven track record, now we need to believe in ourselves and take the plunge. We want to sparkle and shine and show the world what we can do!

Recently, we discussed our identity and our values, and we will need to draw on these to complete our mission.

Our TOP FIVE QUALITIES are:

friendly, fun, committed, supportive & competitive

Our TOP FIVE VALUES are:

respect, excellence, commitment, education & fun

These are all great tools to channel for a successful, united and rewarding path to International!

You are probably bursting to know which songs we will be taking to Ohio. Although we love *Almost Like Being in Love* and *I Wish You Love*, and they have served us well - we've heard sentiments - it is time to say farewell to these beautiful and fun songs. (*Drumroll!*) Vicki is liaising with an arranger to create a **NEW BALLAD** for us – very exciting (!!!), and a **NEW UPTUNE** will be available to start learning soon (woohoo!). So stay tuned! We know this will be a big learning curve, but Vicki knows our high standard of skills and amazing abilities, and believes we will have them ready by October - so let's bring to the table our enthusiasm and commitment!

You are also probably wondering what your financial commitment will be. For return flights to Columbus, accommodation and daily expenses, we estimate you will need AUD\$6000. This is just an estimate – costs could be greater than this. The 2025 International Convention & Competition will take place October 20–25 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

There is of course a significant time commitment requirement in the run-up to competition as well. We all want to be on the competition risers fully prepared, with a high standard to support each other knowing that we've left no stone unturned to put in the time and effort required for international competition.

We are starting to plan and lock-in a series of coaches next year to help prepare us. This will be a big expense for the chorus, but we know it is valuable for all and essential for our preparation. Upcoming fundraising will be a must.

In the way of numbers at this time we have 20 members who have indicated that they would like to compete in Ohio - ideally we need 40, for a big full sound and to match other competitors. So we need to recruit members from other choruses. Members who join us from other choruses to compete at International are known as dual members or Ooters. We will begin recruiting Ooters soon, they will also need to be committed with high attendance, and they will start rehearsing with us next year. Our high caliber reputation is impressive to them, they want to come on the journey with us and they will assist us greatly.

We don't have the details nailed down yet, this is our plan so far:

- ★ A new uptune will be available to start working on soon, and we hope that the ballad will be available by early 2025.
- ★ You will need to make time for regular personal practice and come to each rehearsal prepared.
- ★ There will be a qualification process and timeline to achieve.
- ★ There will be extra rehearsals on the first Saturday of every month, and there will be some full weekends as well, especially when we have an external coaches. These dates are not yet confirmed, and will be in addition to our Wednesday night rehearsals.
- ★ Wednesday night rehearsals will comprise of both competition preparation and general repertoire – this is so that all our members can enjoy our regular rehearsals.
- ★ There is the possibility of a concert in late August which all chorus members can be involved in – TBC.
- ★ 12 weeks before contest, you will need to attend all rehearsals unless you are unwell – so please don't book any holidays from 1 August 2025.

If there are some parts of this time commitment that you are unable to meet but you would still like to compete at International, you will need to contact and discuss this with Vicki – there may be a way that you can still be with us. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you are on top of all the material.

So have a good think, sit down and talk with your families, and consider the details. We'll open the floor for discussions on Wednesday night. We know this is a big decision and commitment, but you've all worked very hard to reach this level - you've earned it. This is base-camp, and let's be ready to climb to great heights together. We'd love to have as many of YOU as possible to you join us on this exciting journey - **Ohio Here We Go!**

CKC Management Team