



Welcome back to another Peninsulares night. As excited as we were to see you last week, we're doubly excited this week. Most of the Frequently Asked Questions of a return visitor are answered on this sheet.

## Rehearsals:

We meet virtually every Tuesday evening at Sunnyvale Methodist Church, 535 Old Francisco Road, Sunnyvale. Members are encouraged to be at every rehearsal possible. Rehearsal meetings start at 7:30 pm, and sing until 10:15 pm., with early choreography and sectionals occasionally at 6:30 pm.

Before contests and shows, rehearsals may be extended until 10:30, and mandatory extra rehearsals may be scheduled. No more than once per quarter, we have an all-day Saturday "Peninsulares College," often with a special Guest Coach to give us new ideas and bring out our best singing. An attendance of 70% is a minimum requirement to be eligible for public performances and contests.

## Music:

You will be issued copies of all current music. This music should be placed in a loose leaf notebook or three-hole binder and brought to every rehearsal. Label your folder and each sheet of music so it can be returned if lost.

You do not necessarily need to read music. The Chapter frequently produces or purchases Learning Tracks to help members learn their music by listening. These feature a designated voice part on the Left Channel, the other parts are placed on the Right Channel. By adjusting the level of left/right speaker, the listener is able to hear their part at many different levels in relation to the other parts. Digital Learning Tracks are available on the group organizer website, and CDs are available. Failure to learn the correct words and notes to songs will result in loss of eligibility for public performances and contests.

Recording at rehearsals with a digital recorder smartphone App greatly helps in learning the songs, as well. A copy of our part learning method is available under CACM Documentation on the group organizer website.

## Administration:

Each member is encouraged to become an active member of a chapter administrative committee. Select, volunteer, and become active in one of these committees.

## Contests:

The Peninsulares is an improvement oriented chorus, and as such, competes every Spring in the Northwest Divisional competition, where we usually place in the top three of the Division. When we place with a sufficiently high score, we then go to the Far Western District Fall Convention, singing with the best choruses of the District, which includes California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and southwestern Utah. The Peninsulares Chorus has qualified to compete at district every year since 1996.

Most fall contests are out of town and require at least overnight accommodations. Many of us go to these contest/conventions with pleasurable anticipation to listen to the best choruses and quartets, and share time with many friends from the district and the barbershop world.

Quartets and choruses that qualify then go on to compete at the International level the first week of July.

## Performances:

The Peninsulares loves to sing for special events in the community, including community barbecues, sporting events, and two chapter shows. Again, chorus members are expected to be participants in these events when these events do not conflict with a member's religious, familial, or employment obligations.

## Mentoring:

You will be assigned a Peer Mentor. Your Mentor will guide you through the many smaller questions you may have about subjects from riser etiquette to feeding the Kitty (treats for each meeting)! Your mentor will be an experienced member who can also help with singing and learning techniques as well as making sure you can navigate the groupanizer website and stage makeup tips.

## Other Resources

The Peninsulaires chorus maintains a public website, and a private website, called Groupanizer. Our groupanizer site is password protected, and contains digital song learning media, as well as a calendar for members to indicate their attendance at performances and mandatory events. All official documents are archived at the groupanizer site, including monthly BOD minutes, our Chapter Bylaws, and song choreography. As a Peninsulaires member, you will be given a username and a password, and will be expected to know that the groupanizer site is the home of all important chorus documents.

Not all barbershop choruses are the same. Some are more social, some more focused on contest, and some more are more philanthropic. We encourage you to visit one or more barbershop choruses in the area to find the one that best fits you.

- Golden Gate <http://marinbarbershopchorus.org/>
- New Dimension Chorus <http://www.ndchorus.com/>
- San Francisco Cable Car Chorus <http://www.sfcablecarchorus.org/>
- San Mateo Golden Chordsmen <http://www.goldenchordsmen.org/>
- The Gold Standard Chorus <http://www.scbardershop.org/>
- Voices In Harmony Chorus <http://www.vihchorus.org/>

Many email lists serve barbershop and bay area a cappella music.

- ba-acappella · Bay Area A Cappella Music Community <http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/ba-acappella/>
- bbshop · A Discussion List For Those Interested in Barbershop Harmony  
<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/bbshop>
- HarmonetLite · A moderated, "lite" version of the Harmonet, for discussing barbershop harmony  
<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/HarmonetLite>

As the largest men's singing organization in the world, the Barbershop Harmony Society has assembled a self-guided Music Theory class, starting with the basics of reading music, progressing to basic barbershop harmonization. The class is available free at <http://barbershop.org/education/music-theory.html>



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## Uniforms/costumes:

As a Peninsulaire, you are expected to maintain two uniforms. The chapter subsidizes the cost of uniform leasing and storage. The Uniform actually costs more than \$500, but each member is responsible for a one-time uniform co-pay of \$200.00. Terms of payment can be made with the Chapter Treasurer. Our goal is for this hobby to be affordable to everyone. If you ever decide to leave the Peninsulaires Chorus (we hope not!), the uniform must be returned to the Treasurer.

Your formal uniform includes a dinner jacket, slacks, vest, tie, pocket handkerchief, shirt, cuff links, and shoes. You need to provide black socks and any other suspenders or support garments required. The whole formal uniform is called the **Class A** uniform; when worn without the dinner jacket, it is the **Class B** uniform. Instructions on where to get your formal uniform will be given to you after you are accepted for membership. Getting a complete uniform can take up to six weeks; depending on timing you may need to jump on this sooner than later.

You will also receive a blue, button-down short-sleeved shirt as part of your Travel Uniform. You need to provide black socks, black shoes, a belt, and khaki slacks to complete the travel uniform. The Travel Uniform is worn at community events and during non-singing periods at contest events.

Shows may require unique costumes or props. Member are responsible for providing their own costume or props.

Both contests and shows call for stage makeup to keep our faces from appearing dull and washed out under the bright lights. Your mentor will be able to guide you to a theatrical or costume shop to find stage makeup; not the makeup counter at Macy's. Ask for help to obtain the correct shade for your skin tone.

## Quarteting:

Though certainly not required, singing in a quartet is highly recommended. One gains experience and confidence when singing with three other guys. When the singer is ready, the quartet will appear.

Discover the "Barber Polecat Songs." Every member of every chapter is encouraged to learn these 12 songs, so that they can sing with other guys outside the chapter meetings. Our Chapter Development team will give you the polecat book and a disc with all of the songs in your singing part. We sing these "Polecats" before and after the meeting and at breaks. Once you know your part to a Polecat, ask any member to sing with you and a quartet can be formed on the spot.

## Costs:

Membership is not without monetary expenses, and they are subject to small annual change. District and Barbershop Harmony Society membership is required.

### One-time Fees:

Registration:	\$ 10.00
Uniform Fees:	\$ 200.00

### Annual Dues:

Barbershop Harmony Society:	\$ 110.00
Far Western District:	\$ 25.00
Palo Alto-Mountain View Chapter:	\$ 45.00
Total Annual dues:	\$ 180.00

New members under 26 pay society fees of only \$10 for the first year. Discounts are available to senior members.

There are several options to pay your dues, including installment payments on a credit card.

## Contest Registration:

Northwest Divisional Contest	\$ 40.00
Far Western District Contest, Spring Prelims	\$ 50.00

International Convention and Contest	\$ 175.00
Far Western District Fall Contest	\$ 40.00
Mid-Winter Convention and Contest	\$ 125.00
Harmony University	\$ 725.00

Not all events are required, and discounts are available for early registration. Obviously, lodging, travel and meal costs will vary according to your tastes and budget.

## **Chorus Member Expectations**

Chorus member expectation sheet will go here.

## **Music Team**

Brief paragraph about why we have a music team and what they do.

## **Board of Directors**

Brief paragraph about why we have a BOD and what they do.