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Subject: Quartet Partnership Agreement

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QUARTET PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

A Meeting of Four Minds!

The Concept: After discussing each individual's personal views, the Quartet should attempt to reach a consensus on each of the following questions. Each individual should then set aside his individual desires, and commit to support the consensus for the specified term of the Agreement. At the end of the term, any issue is open for discussion and the forming of a new consensus. This approach is designed to permit a framework for the quartet to operate as a unified group, and will permit the quartet to function with a minimum of misunderstanding and miscommunication.

1. Do we all want to sing in a Barbershop Quartet of some kind?
2. If sound were the only consideration, are we satisfied enough to make this group a quartet?
3. In what type of quartet are we each interested in singing?
 - a. Show?
 - b. Competition?
 - c. Comedy?
 - d. Fun Only?
 - e. Semi-Professional?
 - f. Other, or some combination of the above?
4. What are our individual goals for quarteting?
5. What kind of quartet image do we want to project?
6. How much time do we want to devote to quarteting?
 - a. Rehearsal?
 - b. Performance?
 - c. Combined Rehearsal and Performance?
 - d. Exceptions for Competition?
7. What days and times can we rehearse and/or perform?
8. Where can we rehearse that is mutually agreeable?
9. How long should our rehearsals be?
10. Will our personal commitments (family, church, work, school, social activities, etc.) permit this schedule?

11. What level of interest, support, and involvement in quartet activities do we anticipate and/or desire from our families, spouses, and significant others?
12. Are we aware of any potential compatibility problems involving quartet members, spouses, families, and significant others?
13. Do we want to use an outside coach (or coaches)?
 - a. Paid?
 - b. Unpaid?
 - c. Reimburse for expenses?
 - d. Pay way to conventions?
 - e. Occasional gift?
14. What kind of coach do we want?
 - a. Specialist(s)?
 - b. A single coach?
15. How often should we have a coach at rehearsals?
16. Should we take individual voice lessons?
 - a. How long?
 - b. Reimbursed by quartet or individually financed?
17. Can we take constructive criticism?
 - a. from a coach?
 - b. from each other?
 - c. from a voice teacher?
 - d. from contest judges?
18. What will be our relationship to our barbershop organization (BHS, HI, SAI) and to our chapter(s), individually and as a quartet?
19. What kind of performances do we want? - Paid, free, or expenses only for:
 - a. Our own chapter Show(s)
 - b. Other performances of our chapter(s)
 - c. Other chapter Shows
 - d. Charitable organizations
 - e. Profit-making organizations
 - f. Churches
 - g. Other
20. How much should we charge for our performances?
 - a. Flat fee?
 - b. Expenses plus fee?
 - c. Expenses only?

21. How should we handle our finances?
 - a. Business Manager? (external or internal?)
 - b. Quartet checking and/or savings account?
 - c. Financial Dissolution - What will be the arrangements if one or more members leave the quartet? (Use of formal written agreement is recommended.)

22. How should we select our uniforms/costumes?
 - a. By mutual consent, or by one individual?
 - b. Uniforms to be used for performances only, or is personal use permitted?
 - c. Street clothes or stage outfits?

23. What should be the split of responsibilities within the quartet?
 - a. Musical Leader:
 1. Provides direction in musical areas of rehearsal when no coach is present.
 2. Sets agenda for the next rehearsal at the conclusion of each rehearsal.
 - b. Business Manager:
 1. Keeps financial and other records
 2. Responsible for business relationship with our barbershop organization and the Internal Revenue Service
 - c. Contact:
 1. Keeps quartet calendar
 2. Calls quartet members
 3. Handles correspondence for performances
 4. Confirms quartet bookings
 5. P.R. for the quartet
 - d. Librarian:
 1. Keeps arrangement changes current in music
 2. Makes available 5 copies of all arrangements (including set for coach)
 - e. Spokesman:
 1. M.C. for the quartet at performances
 2. May also share microphone with others

24. How will disputes within the quartet be settled?
 - a. One of us?
 - b. Coach?
 - c. Another third party?
 - d. Simple majority?

25. Are there any personal traits that may cause problems?
 - a. Health/drugs?
 - b. Drinking?
 - c. Smoking?
 - d. Profanity/Vulgarity?
 - e. Religious Beliefs?

- f. Temper?
- g. Bossy/know it all?
- h. Other?

26. Do we have any personal hang-ups?
a. - about the quartet?
b. - about each other?

27. Can we become friends and show consideration toward one another's needs and problems?

28. What will be the length of our commitment to this Agreement before we reopen the discussion to form a new consensus?

29. Is there anything else we should discuss that this Agreement does not cover?

You really need to keep the flow of communication open at all times. Make sure you all know what's going on and when. Make sure you know when you are together as a quartet and when you're on your own. Make time for personal commitments too. Be conscious of each other's feelings and let each other know if something is bothering you. These things eat away at the foundation of the quartet.

Love,
Debbie
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