

CONTEST BRIEFING

Sunday 19 April 2026 UK time: 18.00 Swedish/Netherlands time: 19.00

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Please contact us if you have any issues, we are happy to help:

Barbro: barbro3007@gmail.com / +46 70639 1111

Sarah: sazzle21_5@hotmail.com / +44 7795554096

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Competitor Forms

- All song information (*only required where there are changes*) must be submitted by noon on **Wednesday 6 May 2026** to email sazzle21_5@hotmail.com

[click here](#) to access the form.

- Open Division Cue Sheets to be submitted by noon on **Wednesday 6 May 2026** to email sazzle21_5@hotmail.com

[click here](#) to access the form.

- Chorus Member Lists are required to be provided as follows:
 - One electronic copy by email to sazzle21_5@hotmail.com by noon on **Wednesday 6 May 2026**
 - in triplicate to Barbro Jansson at the Chorus Stage Walk on (one must be the original document). The walk on begins promptly at 9am, so please arrive sufficiently in advance to hand these in.

[click here](#) to access the form.

Venue requirements

- No food or drink to be brought into Bridgewater Hall which has not been purchased there, except for water.
- All personnel entering the backstage area must be signed in and then signed out again as they leave backstage. No personnel other than members of the quartet or chorus (and all designated volunteers) will be permitted into the backstage area.

Contest personnel: Full details of the convention team, Regional Manage Team and the Judging Panel can be found in the Convention Bulletin linked here: [Convention Bulletin Click Here](#)

Awards

The following groups are eligible for specific awards. Please let us know if any groups are missing: Region 32 Most Improved Quartet/Region 31 Nicky Salt Bursary.

R32 Most Improved/R31 Nicky Salt Bursary	Region 31/32 Novice Quartet Award	Region 31 Diamond
Vivacity	Let's Go Bananas	Songbirds
Glow In The Dark	4Fun	
Nova	Shortcuts	
Off The Dots	Four In Line	
Rough Diamonds	The Note Makers	
Polyphonix	Diva	
Edge of Chaos	The Baristars	
Tempo	Fuse	
Rock The Boat		
Take It To The Bridge		
Songbirds		
Stepping Up		
Maverick		
Smile		
Of Chords		
Coda		
Stella		
Avalanche		
Geist		
Gimmick		
Starlet		

Region 31 and Region 32 Most Improved Chorus
Lace City
Singing Unlimited
Aberdeen
Ignite
Solent Sounds
Harmony Heights
Snowflakes Singers
Stockholm Starlight
Copper Town
Västerås Show
Key Town Eskilstuna
Sunlight

Contest

There is a team working behind the scenes (including all those who have volunteered from amongst our quartets and choruses) to make sure you have an enjoyable experience on stage.

We want to say a big Thank You to all those who have been able to put themselves forward to volunteer this year.

Should you notice something we may have overlooked, please bring it to our attention, and if something does go wrong, please be flexible; we will attempt to correct things as quickly as possible. Simply flag any issues to one of the convention team (who will be wearing a coloured sash) so they can be promptly addressed. We will handle any problems that may arise, leaving you free to give your absolute best performance.

Friday

There will be no opportunity for the usual 2 minute stage time for quartets. However, all quartets are invited to attend the Pit Inspection in order to form a mic testing chorus. You should arrive promptly to enable the inspection to begin at 8.30. There is **not** enough room for all 184 quartet members to stand on stage at the same time, however, we will ensure that each quartet member who attends will have an opportunity to stand on stage and sing with the mic testing chorus. It would be helpful if you can confirm if you are not intending to attend the Pit Inspection: please email barbro3007@gmail.com and sazzle21_5@hotmail.com.

The songs to be sung for the mic test chorus will be Anthem and/or How We Sang Today.

Saturday

Chorus Directors (plus up to a maximum of 4 chorus members) are invited to walk the stage between 09:00 and 09:30, which is an opportunity for stage familiarisation. Additionally, the chorus members who attend can form a small chorus on the stage so that the Directors can also hear the sound from the risers. This session must end promptly to enable the contest to begin on time. It would be helpful if you could let us know if you are not intending to attend the Stage familiarisation – please email barbro3007@gmail.com and sazzle21_5@hotmail.com

Traffic Pattern:

Helpful links:

[Traffic Pattern Link](#)

[Quartet Order of Appearance Link](#)

[Chorus Order of Appearance Link](#)

Please note that there is step free access throughout the traffic pattern if required, and your requests should have been noted on your competitor information forms.

The Traffic pattern begins when you arrive at The Artist's Entrance at Bridgewater Hall where the first courier will be waiting to greet you and direct you inside. We will require you to confirm that the list of competing members you provided is accurate as this will be used to sign you in to (and then back out of) the backstage area of Bridgewater Hall. Only persons listed on your list of competing members are permitted to proceed to backstage.

Please ensure that your bags are no larger than A5/small evening purse, as your couriers will be bringing your bags to stage exit ready for you to collect when you leave stage. If you are bringing your stage shoes and need to place your walking shoes in the IKEA bag, please be

mindful not to wear heavy boots/footwear. Also, if the weather is poor and you have had to bring umbrellas or coats, please aim to bring small umbrellas and lightweight waterproof coats.

Your first check-in point once you are inside is the bag drop.

Following bag drop, a courier will escort you to the warm-up room which is upstairs. In the event that you arrive early you will be held in the appropriate space either outside, at bag drop, or the pre warmup area upstairs. When you enter warm up you will have 10 minutes from the time the last competitor enters the room. You will be given a 2 minute warning before the end of your warm up. There will be water in the warm up room.

Please note that before entering warm up, there is a pre warmup area where the toilets are located. Your last opportunity to go to the toilet before you head to stage is whilst you are in this area and before you warm up time in the warm up room is complete. It is recommended that you use these facilities prior to entering warm up, if required.

After you've had your allocated time in the warm up room a courier will be ready to escort you back to level 1 and towards the stage entrance. Once on level 1 there are two backstage areas, prior to you entering the stage, where you may be held until it is your allocated time to enter the stage. Any member of your ensemble who has travelled via the step free route will meet you at either of these backstage areas and before you proceed to enter the stage. SILENCE must be maintained in all backstage areas after the warm up room.

Please remember that you may be kept waiting briefly before your stage time. Please respect your fellow competitors and remain silent between the warm up room and stage. Everyone will enter stage right, and exit stage left.

Quartets: the toe line and centerline guide is taped in front of the microphone. Sound is set with the mic-tester quartet standing with their toes on the toe line, so be sure you don't end up with your heels on it or your sound may be distorted.

Choruses: the announcement is made in this manner: "We are ready for Contestant number [no.], from [location], under the direction of [name]: [chorus name]!" The stage lights come up to full lights upon the announcement of the chorus name. At the end of your performance, please take your final pose for the official photograph, when the stage goes completely dark this confirms the picture has been captured, the house lights will remain at about 25% so that you can see to exit the stage in order to exit. You should exit the stage to the left at this moment.

Reminder for Directors: your individual foot tapping (particularly as the floor is wooden) or singing may be heard by the judges and picked up on the official recording.

IMPORTANT Please can you ensure that within your plan to exit from stage that your webcast personnel come to the front of the line, followed by any bag collecting personnel. You should allow 1 person per IKEA bag, noting that 1 IKEA bag should hold the belongings of 10 chorus members. Your designated representatives will be escorted from the stage exit to collect your bags. Please note that there will be no stopping within the traffic pattern at this point, other than for those persons who are collecting the IKEA bags. The IKEA bags must be taken

directly to the foyer before any distribution takes place as there is no space in the pattern for you to collect your individual bags and you must remain silent in this backstage area. You will be signed out from backstage. Quartets – all members will take your IKEA bag and be directed straight to the auditorium, via the webcast. Choruses – ideally only 2 people (maximum of 4) chorus members shall be permitted to attend the webcast. Those members will exit direct to the auditorium to join the webcast. All other chorus members (and bag collecting personnel) must exit from the backstage area into the foyer.

Please can all IKEA bags be returned to the Welcome Desk in the foyer once you have retrieved your belongings.

A note on timings: Please make sure that you know exactly where you need to be well before the contest start time and that you arrive at the designated point promptly. Any contestant not ready to perform at the designated time is penalised 25 points, loses their running position and performs at the end of the competition. The penalty may be withdrawn at the discretion of the Panel Chair and the majority of the judges. If lateness is judged to be premeditated, the competing group will be disqualified.

For Open Division contestants there is a penalty for not following the sequence of your cue sheet. Deviation from submitted prepared program results in disqualification. Open Division contestants, if disqualified, will be given a scoresheet with levels removed

IMPORTANT: All mobile phones must be turned off (not just on silent) while backstage or in the hall to avoid interference with the sound systems. Please also make sure that you silence any alarms because smart phones can turn themselves when an alarm is set.

Photography and videography: Only photography and videography by the official personnel is permitted within the auditorium. Choruses are asked to hold an end pose as referred to above, until the stage lights go dark. There is no flash. As well as photographs taken on stage, there will be opportunities for quartets to have candid, off stage, photographs throughout the weekend. See website for more information regarding photography and collection of photos.

Quartet Results Announcement: At the end of the quartet contest (just for the results), rows G-Q in the Stalls area become reserved seating for quartets in order to have them seated at the front as they will not be onstage for the results. Quartets will be asked to move from their chorus seating to this seating at the end of the contest. We ask the choruses that are allocated in this area - Pearls of the Sound, Vocal Dimension, Milltown Sound, | Västerås Show Chorus and part of Rönninge Show to kindly move to any other empty seat in the venue and overflow seating has been reserved in the gallery (P Holds area). Refer to the seating communication & maps provided for more information. Volunteers will be assisting with the clearing of the seats to enable the Quartets to be seated for the announcement of results. Results will be announced following the end of the contest, following a brief break to enable tabulation of the results. Both regions will be announced for each placement before moving to the next. Quartets will be invited onto stage (stage right) to accept their award and have a photograph and can exit to the auditorium (stage left). Should any quartet member feel that they will have difficulty getting onto stage via the steps at the front of the stage, or exiting the stage to the auditorium via the steps, please let Barbro Jansson know (email: barbro3007@gmail.com). There will be no performance by either of the winning quartets, but each are invited to perform in the Saturday night show as organised by Rönninge Show Chorus. All details the Champion Quartets will need, will be included in the Quartet envelopes.

A note on social media - please do not post or share results until after the official R31 and R32 channels have posted, out of respect for other competitors and to avoid any confusion.

At the end of the chorus contest there will be a mic cooling performance by Milltown Sound, after which all Directors and Team Coordinators (including of those choruses who sang for Evaluation only) should line up at the front of stage right, ready to be invited on to stage for the announcement of results. You enter stage from the auditorium (stage right). Please remain on stage for the announcement of results, save for those chorus Directors and Team Coordinators who sang only for Evaluation, you can be announced on to stage in the order of appearance and then immediately walk to stage exit on the left back into the auditorium. Once the winning choruses are announced, all other Chorus Directors and Team Coordinators must leave the stage (stage left) into the Auditorium). Should any Chorus Director or Team Coordinator feel that they will have difficulty getting onto stage via the steps at the front of the stage, or exiting the stage to the auditorium via the steps, please let Barbro Jansson know (email: barbro3007@gmail.com). The chorus members of the winning choruses will also be invited on to stage (stage right) from the auditorium. Stage left can also be used by the winning choruses for access to the stage once all of the Directors and Team Coordinators have left the stage. Once the chorus members for both winning choruses are on stage, they will take the risers and their directors will lead us in a mass sing of Anthem and Brave.

Judging packets can be collected straight after the results have been announced at the registration desk and will be available for 20 minutes. Only a quartet member for Quartets, or the Director or Team Coordinator of the chorus is permitted to collect the results packet.

Please note that this year we will be emailing contest recordings to all competitors AFTER the contest. There are no USB sticks. Choruses and quartets should expect to receive a fully edited version of their performance within two weeks following the contest.