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Convention Mailshot #2 Region 31 Convention 11th-13th May 2007

Dear Choruses, Quartets and CAL members,

It's just over a month to go and I hope all your preparations are going well. This year we have 18 choruses competing with Lace City Singers singing for evaluation, and a grand total of 24 quartets. Included with the mailshot are the traffic patterns and a schedule of events.

Registrations

Registrations will be available for collection from 13:00 on Friday in the Symphony Hall Foyer on Level 3 (follow the signs). Please can you ensure that a member of your chorus or quartet is available to collect these as we will not be able to deliver them to hotels. The pack will comprise passes and programs for all registered members. Can I please ask that you remind all your members to bring along their **Region 31 Lanyards, including the plastic wallet**, for passes. There will be a very limited amount on sale, for those lost or forgotten, from the registration desk at a cost price of £1.50p. Any Chapter at Large member who has not received a lanyard will be able to collect one on the day.

Competing Members Form

Could Chorus representatives please bring to the Chorus Director and Quartet briefing two completed "**List of Competing Members**" forms with the total number of members onstage, if you haven't already sent it to me in advance. This briefing is on Friday at 14:00 in the auditorium.

Traffic Patterns

The attached file, **Traffic Patterns.xls**, contains both the chorus and quartet traffic patterns. In Birmingham quartets will have one warm up room, the Artists bar, and Choruses will have two rooms, Halls 6 and 7. Couriers will be on duty to point you in the right direction. There will be twelve four step risers and, as per normal, they will not be available until you get onto the stage. There are about four steps from the main ICC door into the back stage area but apart from this the route is completely flat, no step or ramp to get from backstage on to the stage. The route to the holding area is via escalators and the route from Hall 7 to 6 is down a flight of stairs, however, there is a lift available for any chorus members with mobility issues.

To clarify, in case there is any confusion, choruses and quartets will be entering from your left as you are on stage and exiting to your right, as it has

been for a number of years. I have drawn rough maps of the two routes to help orientation at the venue and these are in the PowerPoint file attached, [Traffic Pattern Maps.ppt](#). They are drawn from my memory so are not completely accurate but should serve to give you an idea.

Bags Backstage

Please can you be strict with the baggage you are bringing backstage. Items should be no more than an A5 size and anything larger the couriers will have the right to refuse to take responsibility for.

Volunteers for the Traffic Pattern

We are still looking for volunteers to courier the traffic patterns. This is a great way for any chorus member or affiliate to become involved in the backstage organisation and see things from the other side of the curtains. Please let me know if you any of your members would like to take up this opportunity. Timings can be arranged to fit around chorus warm-ups and performances.

Walk Ons

For choruses, walk ons will take place from 09:00 on Saturday morning in the order of appearance on stage to give a chance to sing a few bars of music and time to get used to the atmosphere and acoustics. Please respect the other competitors and do not run over your 5 minutes allocation; I will be timing to help you with this! Quartets can walk on immediately after the briefing on Friday afternoon and will also have a maximum of 5 minutes. These are the allocated times for choruses:

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 09:00 | Riverside Harmony | 09:50 | Stockport Liberty Belles |
| 09:05 | Hillfoot Harmony | 09:55 | City of Roses |
| 09:10 | Sheffield Harmony | 10:00 | Classic Harmony |
| 09:15 | Apple County U.K. | 10:05 | County Connection Harmony |
| 09:20 | Phoenix | 10:10 | Spinnaker |
| 09:25 | Lincoln Sounds | 10:15 | Champagne Cornwall |
| 09:30 | Forth Valley | 10:20 | Aberdeen |
| 09:35 | Coastline Harmony | 10:25 | Somerset Hills |
| 09:40 | Surrey Harmony | 10:30 | Lace City Singers |
| 09:45 | Plymouth Mayflowers | | |

Photography, Film and Sound

We have a new photographer this year, Dave Page, who will be doing candid on stage shots of choruses and quartets and will be available for formal quartet poses in the Symphony Hall foyer during the quartet contest. George Hyde will be filming both contests and the showcase again this year and will be providing a DVD copy of your performances as soon as possible during the weekend. Sound will be recorded by Eddie Evans and audio CDs will also be available after performances to be collected with score sheets.

Song Details

Please, if you haven't already sent me the details of the songs you are singing and the order, i.e. ballad then up tune or vice-versa, and that's most of you naughty people so far (!), then please can you email me these details as soon as you can. This applies for Quartets as well as Choruses.

Rehearsal Rooms at the ICC

There are six 1 hour rehearsal slots available in the ICC complex between 08:45 and 11:45 on the Saturday morning. Please contact Deborah Wheeldon, deborah.wheeldon@tiscali.co.uk, should you wish to book a room. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Family Chorus and Mass Sing

The Family chorus will be performing directly after the completion of the Chorus competition. If you have members that qualify for the family chorus or YWIH they should contact Alyson Chaney, alysonchaney@yahoo.co.uk, if they haven't already so they can receive the music and teach tapes.

The Mass Sing will be held in Centenary square directly after the chorus results have been announced and will be directed by Master Director Glenn Chaney.

Eating and, dare I say, Drinking!

Café Vite is a public restaurant at the venue serving a variety of hot meals, snacks and drinks.

Foyer bars are open an hour before the start of a concert and stay open for the interval and post concert on Level 3, serving a variety of drinks and snacks.

The **Afterglow** will be held in the foyer bars at the Centenary Square end of the complex. There are many eating places in and around the Symphony Hall in this popular entertainment district. Please note that the Broad Street area gets very busy on a Friday and Saturday evening so you may wish to book a table on arrival in Birmingham.

Harmony Bazaar

The Harmony Bazaar will be located on level three of the complex above the Halls. This will be open for business from 9am on Saturday and you are welcome to setup from 8am. If you have not booked your stall yet, please complete the form sent out in the first mailshot and return it to Deborah Wheeldon with your £15 cheque as soon as possible.

Show of Champions

We are very proud to have the fabulous 2006 International Champion quartet **Spotlight** in the show. This will be held as usual on Saturday night with the retiring Champion Chorus, first place chorus and first place quartet allocated a 15 minute slot of time for their package. Everyone else, please be prepared to limit your package time to 10 minutes – equivalent to two songs. This time includes getting on and off stage.

Enclosed with this mailing is the schedule for the Show of Champions, **Show of Champions Schedule.doc**. It would be appreciated if all choruses and quartets are in the auditorium seated by 19:45 for the start of show. Last year the auditorium was empty at the start of the show because the first four performers were in a traffic pattern and the rest of the convention were in the pub!! For fairness to all performers we would like to ensure we start with a full house.

Sunday Education


We are delighted that Spotlight will be leading education sessions for Sunday morning, beginning at 09:30. There will be a Schedule of Events sent detailing these sent once all times have been confirmed.

Nearly there!

Well that's it! This turned out to be a longer letter than I was expecting for the second mailshot but I hope you find the information useful and comprehensive. I will email you all should there be any changes or anything that I find out which you need to know but other than that, have a fantastic build up to competition and I'll see you all there at the briefings and beyond.

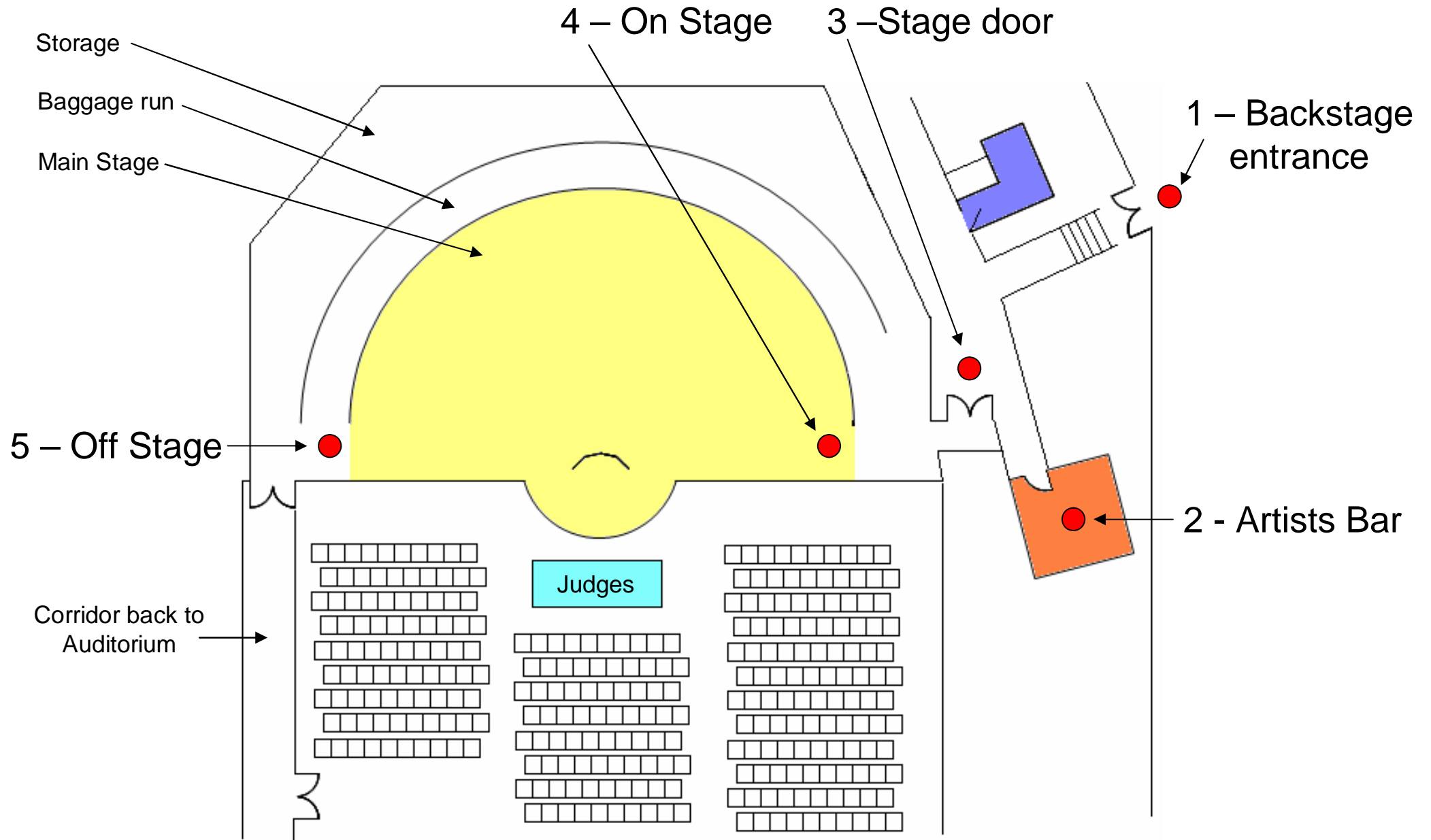
Again, if you have any questions, comments or anything else I can help you with then please do not hesitate to contact me either via email, emma.riley@lexisnexis.co.uk or my mobile 07771 562962.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Riley', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Emma Riley

Quartet Traffic Pattern Route

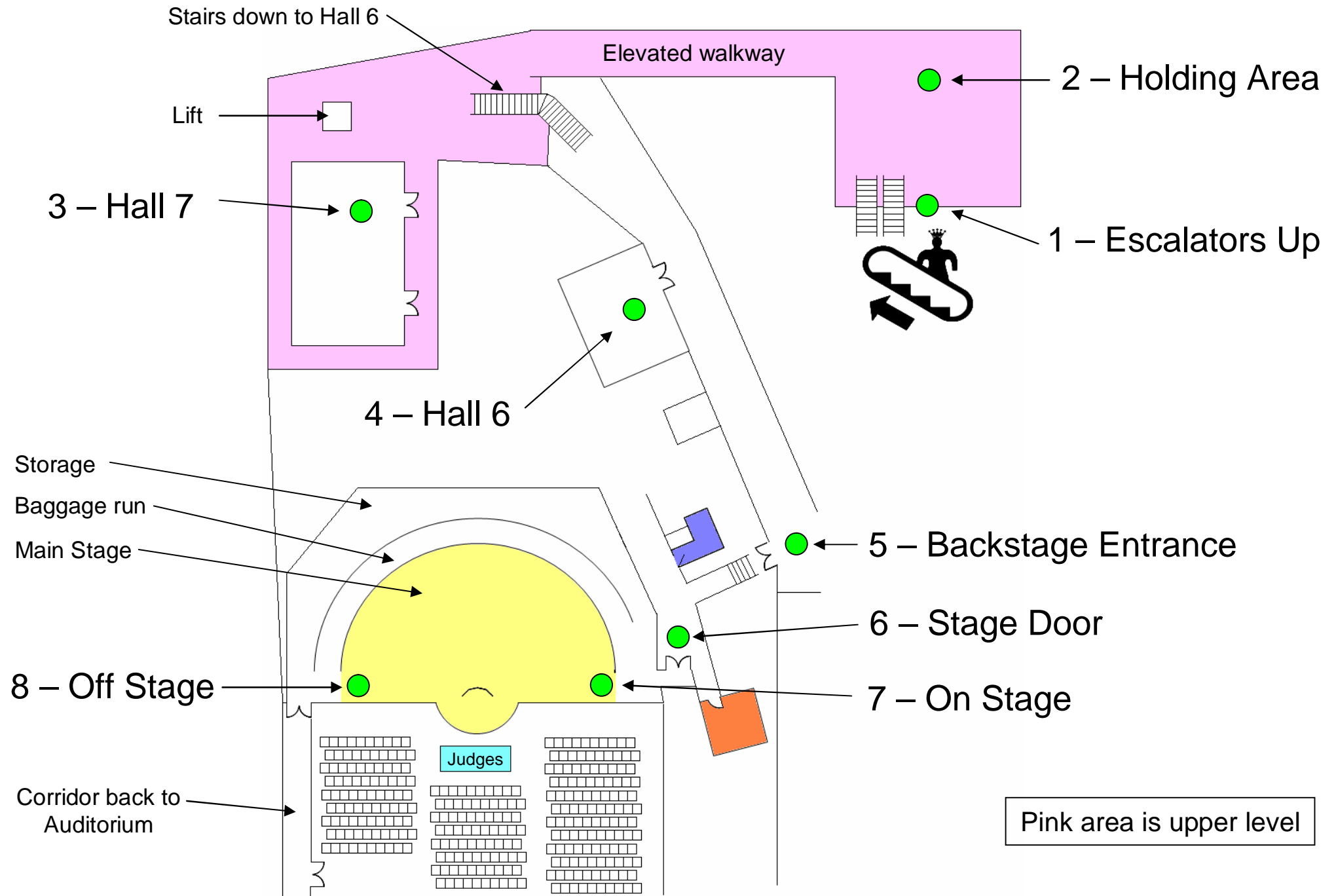


Quartet Traffic Pattern

| # | Quartet Name | Arrive at Venue | Door to Stage area | Artists Bar (10mins) | Backstage | Time On Stage |
|----|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1A | Tone-Acity | 16:35 | 16:40 | 16:45 | 16:55 | 17:00 |
| 1 | Octavia | 16:45 | 16:50 | 16:55 | 17:05 | 17:10 |
| 2 | Rouge | 16:55 | 17:00 | 17:05 | 17:15 | 17:20 |
| 3 | Moonstone | 17:05 | 17:10 | 17:15 | 17:25 | 17:30 |
| 4 | Amethyst | 17:15 | 17:20 | 17:25 | 17:35 | 17:40 |
| 5 | Breakthrough | 17:25 | 17:30 | 17:35 | 17:45 | 17:50 |
| 6 | Topaz | 17:35 | 17:40 | 17:45 | 17:55 | 18:00 |
| 7 | Vocal Zone | 17:45 | 17:50 | 17:55 | 18:05 | 18:10 |
| 8 | Twist! | 17:55 | 18:00 | 18:05 | 18:15 | 18:20 |
| 9 | Cornish Lace | 18:05 | 18:10 | 18:15 | 18:25 | 18:30 |
| 10 | Chantilly | 18:15 | 18:20 | 18:25 | 18:35 | 18:40 |
| 11 | ms.behavin' UK | 18:25 | 18:30 | 18:35 | 18:45 | 18:50 |
| | Interval 30mins | | | | | 19:00 |
| 12 | Bobby Dazzlers | 19:05 | 19:10 | 19:15 | 19:25 | 19:30 |
| 13 | 4 Tune | 19:15 | 19:20 | 19:25 | 19:35 | 19:40 |
| 14 | FrUSUKa | 19:25 | 19:30 | 19:35 | 19:45 | 19:50 |
| 15 | Upbeat | 19:35 | 19:40 | 19:45 | 19:55 | 20:00 |
| 16 | Hunky-Dory | 19:45 | 19:50 | 19:55 | 20:05 | 20:10 |
| 17 | Sounds Familiar | 19:55 | 20:00 | 20:05 | 20:15 | 20:20 |
| 18 | Flaunt! | 20:05 | 20:10 | 20:15 | 20:25 | 20:30 |
| 19 | Mac 4 | 20:15 | 20:20 | 20:25 | 20:35 | 20:40 |
| 20 | Just THEM | 20:25 | 20:30 | 20:35 | 20:45 | 20:50 |
| 21 | Ricochet UK | 20:35 | 20:40 | 20:45 | 20:55 | 21:00 |
| 22 | Semafour | 20:45 | 20:50 | 20:55 | 21:05 | 21:10 |
| 23 | Zig-Zag | 20:55 | 21:00 | 21:05 | 21:15 | 21:20 |
| | Finish | | | | | 21:30 |

One Interval

Chorus Traffic Pattern Route



Chorus Traffic Pattern

| # | Chorus Name | Arrive at Venue | Holding area (top of escalator) | Hall 7 (10 mins) | Travel Time | Hall 6 (10 mins) | Backstage | Time on Stage |
|----|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1A | Riverside Harmony | 11:50 | 11:55 | 12:00 | 12:10 | 12:15 | 12:25 | 12:30 |
| 1 | Hillfoot Harmony | 12:00 | 12:05 | 12:10 | 12:20 | 12:25 | 12:35 | 12:40 |
| 2 | Sheffield Harmony | 12:10 | 12:15 | 12:20 | 12:30 | 12:35 | 12:45 | 12:50 |
| 3 | Apple County U.K. | 12:20 | 12:25 | 12:30 | 12:40 | 12:45 | 12:55 | 13:00 |
| 4 | Phoenix | 12:30 | 12:35 | 12:40 | 12:50 | 12:55 | 13:05 | 13:10 |
| 5 | Lincoln Sounds | 12:40 | 12:45 | 12:50 | 13:00 | 13:05 | 13:15 | 13:20 |
| 6 | Forth Valley | 12:50 | 12:55 | 13:00 | 13:10 | 13:15 | 13:25 | 13:30 |
| 7 | Coastline Harmony | 13:00 | 13:05 | 13:10 | 13:20 | 13:25 | 13:35 | 13:40 |
| 8 | Surrey Harmony | 13:10 | 13:15 | 13:20 | 13:30 | 13:35 | 13:45 | 13:50 |
| 9 | Plymouth Mayflowers | 13:20 | 13:25 | 13:30 | 13:40 | 13:45 | 13:55 | 14:00 |
| | Interval 30mins | | | | | | | 14:10 |
| 10 | Stockport Liberty Belles | 14:00 | 14:05 | 14:10 | 14:20 | 14:25 | 14:35 | 14:40 |
| 11 | City of Roses | 14:10 | 14:15 | 14:20 | 14:30 | 14:35 | 14:45 | 14:50 |
| 12 | Classic Harmony | 14:20 | 14:25 | 14:30 | 14:40 | 14:45 | 14:55 | 15:00 |
| 13 | County Connection Harmony | 14:30 | 14:35 | 14:40 | 14:50 | 14:55 | 15:05 | 15:10 |
| 14 | Spinnaker | 14:40 | 14:45 | 14:50 | 15:00 | 15:05 | 15:15 | 15:20 |
| 15 | Champagne Cornwall | 14:50 | 14:55 | 15:00 | 15:10 | 15:15 | 15:25 | 15:30 |
| 16 | Aberdeen | 15:00 | 15:05 | 15:10 | 15:20 | 15:25 | 15:35 | 15:40 |
| 17 | Somerset Hills | 15:10 | 15:15 | 15:20 | 15:30 | 15:35 | 15:45 | 15:50 |
| 18 | Lace City Singers | 15:20 | 15:25 | 15:30 | 15:40 | 15:45 | 15:55 | 16:00 |
| | Finish | | | | | | | 16:10 |

One Interval

SHOW OF CHAMPIONS¹

| TIME ON STAGE | REPORT TO STAGE DOOR ² |
|--|--|
| 07:45 Third place chorus | 07:15 Hall 6 |
| 07:55 Third place Quartet | 07:35 Artist Bar |
| 08:05 Small chorus champs ³ | 07:40 Hall 6 |
| 08:15 Second place quartet | 07:55 Artist Bar |
| 08:25 Second place chorus | 08:05 Backstage corridor |
| 08:35 Midsize chorus champs ³ | 08:15 Hall 7 |
| 08:45 Lace City Singers | 08:15 Hall 6 |
| Interval 20 minutes | |
| 09:20 First place quartet | 09:00 Backstage corridor |
| 09:35 Showstoppers | 09:00 Artist Bar |
| 09:45 Spotlight | 09:00 Dressing Room (Level 4) |
| 10:25 Chorus Champs | 09:00 Hall 6 (available from interval onwards) |
| 10:40 Show ends | |

NOTES FOR PERFORMERS

¹ Previous year chorus champions, 2007 chorus and quartet champions are allocated 15 minutes onstage (typically a 3 song set). Special guest performers are allocated 40 minutes. All other performers are allocated 10 minutes (2 songs). The time allocation includes time for getting on and off stage.

² Performers are requested to remain in the auditorium until they are required backstage and should avoid leaving during a performance. Rooms are subject to change. Performers will be directed as appropriate on arrival at the stage door.

³ If the mid-size or small chorus champions are amongst the top 3 choruses overall, then they will perform once at the spot allocated to their chorus position. Any time saved will be used for catch-up time if needed, and/or an extra 10 minutes at the start of the interval