

## SECTION 1: ACP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Arranger Certification Program (ACP) is an educational program designed to provide additional training and further develop skills for Sweet Adelines International potential arrangers, as well as directors, quartet members and musical leaders who would like a better understanding of how to analyze and arrange music in the barbershop style. The program is broken into three skill levels: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. It provides opportunities to develop and validate the skills and knowledge required to evaluate and create arrangements for barbershop singers.

### 1.1 GOALS

- a. To support and supplement regional programs of arranger education while making arranging education available to all members in all regions.
- b. To prepare members interested in barbershop arranging for arranging assignments and strengthen the pool of advanced arranging candidates.
- c. To promote a better understanding of barbershop for all members, particularly those who need to choose music for competition purposes. This might include directors, quartet members, music team members and anyone who would like a better understanding of how barbershop is constructed and what makes it strong.
- d. To provide recognition to validate the skills of those who meet the requirements of the program at each level.

### 1.2 ARRANGER CLASSIFICATIONS

ACP participants are classified as follows:

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Description</b>
Candidate	A participant at any level of the ACP (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced)
Approved Music Arranger (AMA)	A Candidate who has successfully completed both the Beginner and Intermediate levels of the ACP.
Certified Music Arranger (CMA)	An arranger who has completed participation in the Advanced Level of the ACP and successfully applied for the title of CMA by submitting three barbershop arrangements for evaluation to the SA ACP Coordinators.
Master Music Arranger (MMA)	An arranger who has completed all levels of the program. This title recognizes leadership qualities in the field of SA barbershop arranging.

### 1.3 PROGRAM LEVELS

There are three levels in the Arranger Certification Program:

#### **Beginner Level**

This level consists of self-study with testing based on the current SA Arranger's Guide and supplemental materials to be provided by the program. The format of the ACP Beginner Level program closely mirrors the format of the Director Certification Program (DCP) with testing conducted in-Region. Beginners will register with HQ, pay a registration fee, conduct self-study on nine study modules and begin taking exams at their own pace. Participants who successfully complete the Beginner level will receive a Certificate of Completion.

#### **Intermediate Level**

This level will consist of small group (cohort) study with facilitation, using online meeting technology. It will be a practical module with arrangement analysis assignments and hands-on arranging of one or more common vehicles. The Intermediate level will be managed by the ACP using Certified Music Arrangers (CMA) and Master Music Arrangers (MMA) as faculty. Registration will be required. Completion of beginner fundamentals is a prerequisite, but a "challenge" has been designed for those wishing to bypass the beginner level. Participants who successfully complete the Intermediate level will earn the title of Approved Arranger.

#### **Advanced Level**

The format of the ACP Advanced Level program closely mirrors the format of the former IMAP program. ACP Scholarship funding will be provided by SA for a period of up to two years to qualified individuals. Individual mentoring will be provided by a CMA or MMA. Candidates will have the opportunity to apply for advancement to CMA status upon successful completion of their scholarship.

This ACP Guide is concerned with the Beginner Level of the program exclusively. For further information about the Intermediate or Advanced levels of the program, please contact SA headquarters.