

How to pose a chorus for your photograph

If you are standing on normal Risers they are curved. This is so that as you go to the outside of the chorus the member can turn inward slightly to be better able to see the director. This is fine for singing. It is not FINE for photos!

It is better to have all of the members looking and facing full forward, not toward the director OR to the sides. This allows more faces to be seen and makes the spacing as seen from the audience more even.

With “normal” risers the people on the outer edges become more “sideways” to the camera and overlap their neighbors more; the bigger the chorus the stronger this effect. To combat this effect your chorus has to practice the “outward turn” to face the audience. It is like trying to create a “wall of sound” for the audience rather than for the director.

You CANNOT judge head overlaps on a wide chorus from the director’s position. You need to go as close to the audience as you can and walk across the stage viewing how full forward the members are looking. In a ballroom situation I am 40 to 50 feet away and have a totally different view than you do standing 10 feet in front. Sometimes in an on-stage shoot I am 150 feet away! When you practice in rehearsal stand 50 feet in front to get a better view of how it will look in the photo.

When using hand or arm gestures be aware of hands or arms crossing in front of faces. Have the people in the back rows tell the person in front of them if they are being blocked.

When doing on-stage photograph the Director has to check if the microphones on stage are in front of **their face** relative to my position. The only thing I can do is yell “MICROPHONE” to let you know. In that case look for us and adjust your position left or right.

Think outside the box! Use the foreground. There is a lot of room to work with!

Try a “selfie” of the chorus. Everybody gathers inward like a pig pile looking out. It works!

If you are using props onstage you have to tell me what to include in the shot! Sometimes the props make the chorus twice as wide as normal and the faces smaller. Make a note on the order form to show the props fully OR to concentrate on the faces.

Watch out for short beautiful women in the second row covered up by the tall beautiful women in the first row! Have them exchange positions for the photo only.

Be aware that members don’t always wear their glasses on stage and can’t see very well!

Practice Practice Practice

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Any questions, please give us a call at 727-474-2385
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