

The Standing Ovation Package

Song 1 – The interest catcher – Usually a song familiar to the audience that is upbeat in tempo and content and results in “Ah Ha”s around being familiar in memory and in evoking the style.

Song 2 – The confirmer – Another familiar song, usually in an easy beat or swing beat tempo that gets toes tapping and encourages pleasant emotions.

MC Spot

Song 3 – The mellower – Now that the audience is with you, an MC usually sets up the ballad of the set that moves people more emotionally rather than with rhythm. More serious moods are expressed by the singers and experienced vicariously by the listeners.

Song 4 – The extender – Usually this song explores new areas of mood with the audience. Popular choices are inspirational or comedic songs, or those that feature soloists or small ensembles. After this spot, or sometimes in place of it, we have a quartet sing a song or two, or engage the audience in singing. In any case, novelty is the purpose here. Sometimes this section is extended to make a longer package.

MC Spot

Song 5 – The beginning of the end – To attain a standing ovation usually requires considerable lifting of the mood, even if the audience has enjoyed and appreciated the first four songs. The MC begins it by starting the mood build up. A joke often works well, and so does hearty appreciation of the audience. Song 5 begins the musical buildup and it ought not to be disturbed by any more talk. Choose a lively song with your third best tag.

Song 6 – On towards excitement – This song should be quicker in tempo than song 5 and have an even better tag.

Song 7 – Expect a Standing “O” – This should be the most impressive, quickest song in your repertoire with the best tag. Let out all the stops and expect everyone to be leaping to their feet. A lot of the success of this is the expectation, so work on that!

Of course, the performance is given with the highest degree of professionalism and engagement that you can manage. They need to be sung and performed at your highest level. The audience will know that you have outdone yourself, unless of course you haven't and they'll know that too. Any casual chat between singers is completely out of line.

Note that any lack of songs for any of the spots in the package is an obvious opportunity to select a more fitting song for your repertoire! Quartets, please take note for your own performances!