

SING YOUR PART SMART

All

Hierarchy of Sound

- Posture
- Breath (support & management)
- Phonation (vocal fold movement: speaking and/or singing)
- Resonation (amplification of sound in resonating chambers)
- Articulation (tongue, lips, teeth)

Singing skills

- Good sense of pitch
- Resonance
- American English vowel sounds
- Ring and roundness: brightness and depth: focus and space
- Controlled vibrato (one that is regular, not too slow, not trill-like)
- Open-throated sound

Barbershop style

- Cone-shaped balance
- Unaccompanied
- Director shapes vocal line
- Vowel to vowel singing
- Rubato style delivery in ballads
- Pythagorean tuning
- Unity of sound
- Memorized literature
- Performance based art form

Characteristics of a trained/developed voice

- Well-coordinated sound. One instrument with even quality from lowest register to highest register. Singer is aware of differences but listener is not.
- Clarity and roundness; tone always shimmering, buoyant and expressive.
- Forward quality, words seem to move naturally.
- Flexibility; more than one type of tone available. Singer adds vocal color and texture, becomes a musical actress. Use of tone colors and textures.
- Same vocal quality with wide variety of dynamics. Warmth of interpretation results with ability to command constant change in dynamic.
- Controlled, pleasing, regular vibrato (singer controls it, not the other way around!)

Ryan's Rules

- Maintain singing posture
- Know what you're singing about
- Use color
- Sing phrases and line
- Listen with musicians' ears
- Breathe silently
- Stay relaxed and free
- Think ahead
- Keep your face on and perform
- Maintain the life of the sound (music is alive and moving - sing through and give shape to long notes, lift phrase endings, support softs, etc.)
- Fill-up and command your space
- WATCH!
- Make every night a chorus night!!