

# Harmony College Northwest

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## Coaching By Wire(less): Mac Dallman [music@evg.org](mailto:music@evg.org)

Coaching for your chorus or quartet anywhere anytime! No chorus or quartet is too remote to take advantage of this tested idea!!! How to make use of electronic communication for coaching, in an uncomplicated way, for little or possibly no cost!!!

Goal of the course: To provide the barbershop student with an uncomplicated way(s) of utilizing the Internet to receive coaching.

### Background:

When you bring a coach to you the cycle is

- 1 Performers Perform
- 2 Coach observes
- 3 Coach teaches the performers to improve based on his/her observations
- 4 Performers perform implementing the coaches' suggestions

The cycle repeats.

When you receive coaching from a coach electronically the cycle has a couple of more steps:

- 1 Performers perform and the performance is recorded
- 2 Recorded performance is sent to coach
- 3 Coach observes performance
- 4 Coach records suggestions and sends suggestions to performers.
- 5 Performers perform implementing the coaches' suggestions.

The cycle repeats

### Advantages of bringing a coach to you:

- 1 Immediate feedback
- 2 Coach can tell immediately if suggestion is working or not and provide or show a new suggestion based on progress of the performers

### Disadvantages of bringing a coach to you:

- 1 Cost. Travel is expensive and is usually paid for by the performer.. If the performers are in a remote area the cost can be prohibitive.
- 2 Long term performance improvement is contingent on the collective memory of the performers. The time that a coach's advice is retained and used can be woefully short! (Think "short half life.") In three weeks, it is possible to lose any evidence that the coach provided input. Thus, if the performers are only relying on a once a year visit by a coach, there will be much of the year where little improvement is happening.
- 3 Scheduling. Performers and Coaches are busy people. Setting up a coaching session when everyone is available at the same time and place can be complicated. In fact it may take months to arrange a suitable date.
- 4 Relying on an "expert from out of town" may result in a feeling of developing a sense of dependence rather than independence in the Performers.

### Advantages of receiving coaching from a coach electronically:

- 1 Cost: There are no extra travel costs!
- 2 Timing: Performers perform at their own rehearsal or show.
- 3 Timing: The coach can observe the recording at his/her convenience.
- 4 Performers teach themselves to improve based on the coach's suggestions.
- 5 The Performers are proactive and a huge player in the improvement.
- 6 The coach can be anywhere on the planet.

### Disadvantages of receiving coaching from a coach electronically:

- 1 Timing. There is a time lag between the performance and the implementation of the suggestions

It is most important that you keep the process as uncomplicated as possible!! Use the KIS Method.(Keep It Simple) Only use technology with which you are comfortable

### This model that has been beta tested and works!!

The Performers perform and were recorded on an small digital recorder.

A member of the chapter took the recording home after rehearsal and transferred it to his computer.

He then emailed recording to the coach.

The coach made his observations and emailed back to the chorus member.

The director implemented the suggestions with the chorus at the next rehearsal.

The cycle repeated.

### Advice from the Beta testing:

- ✦ It is crucial for the chorus and coach to agree on any coaching fees (if any) that are expected by the coach before beginning this process..
- ✦ It is important that the chorus and the coach agree ahead of beginning this type of coaching to reasonable time lines for sending recordings and sending suggestions.
- ✦ It is important to agree to the length of the recording to be sent. It is better to use as short a recording as possible so that the coaches' time is not wasted with chatter and other time wasters. Also, large files sometimes are rejected by email services.
- ✦ It is important for the coach to focus in a few main points rather than trying to fix everyone in one email.
- ✦ It is crucial for the chorus to implement the suggestions to the best of their ability and provide feedback to the coach on the success or failure of the attempt.
- ✦ Do no use a recording device that automatically levels the sound, or if it does have that ability, turn it off. If the recording device levels the sound, the louds will be softer and the softs will be louder negating any volume changes in the performance and the coach will not be hearing the true performance.

### Variations:

The chorus recording could be uploaded to a private Youtube channel and the link would be emailed to the coach. This works for all three categories: Singing Presentation and Music. And it's free!!

If the time of a coaching session could be agreed up front by coach and performer, the coach could coach in real time using a service such as Skype.

Our chorus member was able to acquire some software that allowed him to select a small phrase or passage that could be emailed to the coach and director. The chorus and the coach could then zero in on one particular area. The carry over was that the director was then the main implementer of the coach's suggestions and many times anticipated the coach's suggestions, based on his own observations.

A Chorus or quartet could use a number of coaches if they desired.

Many smart or Iphones can record and send from one device.

The most basic approach might be to use a cassette recorder and mail the cassette to the coach.....

### Evergreen District's Role:

The Evergreen District Director of Music Improvement will provide support to chapters that wish to implement this program by:

- ⤴ Providing information on how to initiate the program work and have it be successful.
- ⤴ Match the chapter's needs with coaches.
- ⤴ Provide ongoing support and encouragement for the participating chapters.

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Mac Dallman

Evergreen District Director of Music Improvement