

The ABC's of SHOWMANSHIP!

Presenting a Thoughtful and Entertaining performance without looking silly! ☺

SHOWMANSHIP/CHOREOGRAPHY – DO IT NATURALLY; BUT DO IT BIG! The judges (and audiences) want to see meaningful physical enhancements, with lots of confidence. Let's have fun seeing what that means!

We can divide showmanship into two categories...**PREPARATION** and **PERFORMANCE**.

PREPARATION!

The terms Showmanship or Choreography tend to bring forth images of Gene Kelly or Danny Kaye. In quartets, unless you are a member of THE DAPPER DANS OF DISNEYLAND, Choreo is more of an extension of natural body movement. Although the “jazz hand” is occasionally seen, poses and gestures that enhance the music are the norm.

Using “Moves”, much like a chorus would, tends to look ridiculous or corny. Physical Showmanship is more about attitude than moving one's right arm forward on beat 3. The movement should ALWAYS be natural.

Subtle movement can also be used to enhance the textures/dynamics or your sound or to set the emotional feeling of the song. Your body should be the backdrop of the picture you are painting with voices. Remember, no one tends to notice what color the curtains are when they see Mona Lisa's smile...

♪ Entrance / Break /Exit _____

♪ Costume _____

♪ Makeup / grooming _____

♪ Choreography _____

♪ Creativity _____

PERFORMANCE!

As I tell my students, ALWAYS practice how you play. The performance aspect of your rehearsals is JUST as important as the musical aspects. Never “go through the motions” or “phone it in”! Confidence is born out of sufficient practice and faith in yourself and your quartet.

Get out and perform for others in different venues as much as possible! Spend time “Imagineering” so that the surroundings and happenings on “The Big Day” won’t be an added distraction.

Always be in control of yourself, your emotions, and your performance. Be exciting, not excited. If you don’t rehearse emotionally, you are taking an unknown element on stage with you. The more you practice “getting into it” the easier and more natural it will become. (Be sure to practice with your quartet in a circle or with mirrors to make sure everyone is visually on the same page!)

♪ Vocal Skills _____

♪ Poise & Command _____

♪ General Entrance / Break / Exit _____

♪ Pitch Pipe Technique _____

♪ Physical expression _____

♪ Unity _____

♪ Choreography _____

♪ Audience Rapport _____

♪ Energy _____

