Getting To The Next Level

The Categories (SAI)

The Levels (SAI)

C – Satisfactory

- A basic grasp of the art form.
- Emerging vocal skills.
- Some sense of unit
- “We are singing.”

B – Good

- Understanding of bbs craft; not always able to deliver consistently.
- Vocal skills and unit well established.
- Still very rooted in technique.
- “We are singing a song together.”

A – Excellent

- Model of the bbs art form
- Artistry over-rides technique consistently
- “We are telling a story and moving our audience.”
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Handout – HCNW 2016

What the Categories Have in Common

- Vocal Skills
- Tuning
- Unity
- Energy
- Artistry

Improve These...
Improve Everything!

Vocal Skills

- Sing with skill. It’s on every category score sheet.

Rapport difficult to establish if vocal skills not established.

Chords won’t ring without common resonance.

Message difficult to convey without sufficient vocal skill.

Chords aren’t consistently tuned.
Tuning

- In-tune affects every category.

Accuracy is a fundamental aspect of the Sound category. Chords won’t ring if they’re not in tune.

Audience rapport is inhibited when singing is not in tune.

Harmony accuracy is a fundamental aspect of the Music category.

Out of tune makes it difficult to establish emotional communication.

Unity

- Sing and perform together as one. Referenced in every category.

Unity - across the physical unit. Character delivery, physical delivery, grooming and appearance (common approach).

Unit sound. One voice. A common approach to vocal production.

Musical Unity – music is executed together as one; chords are aligned.

Synchronization / Unity in word delivery and in emotional intent / communication.
Energy

- Perform with intention and commitment. Every category references energy.

  Energy. An essential visual characteristic of the barbershop style.

  Vocal line is energized, properly supported and conveys a positive mental attitude.

  Phrasing, dynamics, tempo and rhythms infused with energy. Energy is what keeps the listener listening.

  Musical energy. Vitality to convey mood, dynamic, rhythmic intensity, story.

Artistry

- A performance that shows great skill and outstanding interpretive ability. The ultimate achievement in every category!

  A performance that creates an illusion so real that all are caught up in the magic of the performance.

  Artistic sound: Energized vocal line, tone flow, dynamic flexibility, vocal style.

  Finesse and Artistry. Using consonant delivery, enunciation, dynamics to evoke emotion.

  Musical Artistry. The well-planned performance plus the ‘heart’.