

How to Sing a Good Line

Instructor - Will Fox, musicatwill100@gmail.com, 503-750-7179

Fabulous Demo Quartet:

PrimeTime - Sylvia Posso, Patti Burklund, Katy Hawley, and Sonja Mejlender

There are lots of ways to sing a line of music. We'll explore different approaches to convey different emotions or stories as well as tips and tricks to sing beautifully.

Good **musical phrasing** is essential for a compelling performance.

Phrasing means how the singer “shapes” each line of the song. It’s a combination of pitch, volume, tone, enunciation and more. Consistency is the foundation for a good performance but it is phrasing which makes the singer sound like a person rather than a robot!

From the BHS Contest and Judging Handbook:

A. The Music Category

Music is defined as the song and arrangement, as performed. Music category judges the suitability of the material to the barbershop style and the performer’s musicianship in bringing the song and arrangement to life. The Music judge is responsible for adjudicating the musical elements in the performance, the extent to which the musical performance displays the hallmarks of the barbershop style, and the degree to which the musical performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to the music’s primary theme.

1. Think about the story and lyric content, and act out the story
2. Phrasing and Interpretation
3. Always sing through the Lead
 - a. Role of the Lead
 - b. Role of supporting parts
4. Dynamic movement
5. Diction
6. Rubato/Ebb & Flow
7. Rise and fall of the line
8. Persistently accurate in pitch and rhythm

- a. Pitch and Intonation
 - b. Rhythmic accuracy
9. Energize phrasing, especially at end in to new phrase (on purpose vs. natural)

Other factors which affect the singing of a good line:

10. Singing Category

- a. Good placement (head quadrant model)
 - i. Sing tall - high soft palate
 - ii. Resonance - Chest, Larynx, Pharynx, Mouth, Nasal
 - iii. Etc. (more points to be added here)
11. Performance Category - Physical posture and movement - expressive with face and body
12. Confidence

Contact Information -

Will Fox

musicatwill100@gmail.com

503-750-7179

Tigard, Oregon (SW suburb of Portland)

Like me on Facebook - Will Fox, Music at Will

Director of Music -

- Choirs (Westside Voices, Soli Deo Gloria, and Concert Choir)
- Eagle Concert Band
- Eagle Beat Drumline
- IGNITE Worship Team



Westside Christian High School

8200 SW Pfaffle Street, Tigard, OR 97223

www.wchsonline.org



Associate Director - Oregon SenateAires Barbershop Chorus

Current Evergreen District Chorus Champions

**Meet at Salem First Presbyterian Church,
7:30-10:00 p.m., Thursdays**

Private Businesses -

Music At Will - 503-750-7179

- Professional teacher of voice, piano, and guitar lessons for all ages and experience

Coaching and Retreats - Quartets, Choruses and Choirs

- Barbershop, choral, vocal jazz