

MAKE THE MUSIC COME ALIVE!

ANALYZE THE ARRANGEMENT

- What is the arranger telling you?
- Look for ascending/descending chords; chromatics
- Embellishments: echoes, swipes, solos, patter, bell chords etc.
- Identify tight & spread chords; coning considerations
- Key change(s)
- Tempo changes & tricky rhythms or syncopations
- Key changes
- Major vs minor chords
- In uptune, is it backbeat or downbeat?
- Are there 'built in' dynamics?

ANALYZE THE LYRICS

- What is the emotion/story of the lyrics?
- Identify the peak (and minor peaks) as well tender areas
- Are the lyrics a stream of questions?
- Where are breaths needed lyrically?
- Where can breaths be input for drama? Rapid breaths? Character/artistic breaths?
- Where can the lyrics come alive with vocal textures and nuances?
- What character should the singer embrace?
- Is there a journey with a beginning/middle/end? How can this be capitalized upon?

TRAPS/OPPORTUNITIES

- Repetitious words – how to keep the lyrics fresh (not boring)
- Demanding vocal ranges – are the singers able to comfortably produce resonant sound at the desired volumes or spread chords?
- Does the group have enough vocal support/stamina skills for hangers?
- Is there vocal authority for lead-ins/swipes?
- 'Difficult' words i.e. 'heart'; 'your'; 'park' etc.
- Singable consonants/diphthongs
- Tempo changes & unusual rhythms
- Is the chorus better at downbeat vs backbeat?
- ????? (this list could be endless...yikes/yea!)

For the best results, showcase what you **CAN** do, rather than what's not yet in your skillset.