



**AUDIO FROM A TO Z**

**RICK CHINN**  
**425.281.9640**  
RICKC@uned-audio.com  
www.uneda-audio.com

## Microphone workshop

- types, categorized several ways
  - a. by generating method
  - b. by pickup pattern
- usage, as it pertains to a quartet
  - a. 1 mike, mono
  - b. 2 mikes, stereo
  - c. 4 mikes, mono or stereo
- monitors
- Q&A

## Buying a Sound System

This is a somewhat annotated laundry list

- Channels: probably 4-6. Extras can be for spares, in case something croaks, or maybe the program you're on has other needs. MC's mike? accompaniment for another group? CD player input?
- features: per channel: at least trim/gain, some sort of tone controls, volume, maybe a couple of sends
- mono or stereo: it should be stereo, even if you use it in mono
- powered mixer or powered speakers or separates
  - separates is probably excessive, and way too much stuff to haul around
  - powered mixers are ok, and they dominate the music store market, just be sure on features.
  - mixer and powered speakers. my preferred method. here the amplifiers are built into the speakers. much better performance than the other methods because a systems approach can be applied.
- power capability: at least 100-watts per channel
- speakers: two, with stands to put them at ear-height, unless your audience's ears are located in their knees.
- Monitors are troublesome, and can make things worse if you don't know what you're doing. If you let them, they turn into a crutch, and can wreck a show for the audience.
- The Bose system that has a single speaker in the form of a long-tall column. It works well for some applications. I don't think that distant miking is one of them. Certainly not with the speaker placed behind you. If you do four singers into four microphones, then yes, you can make this work.

### Microphones

- If you buy four, they should all be the same. Buy an extra, as a spare.
- If you buy two, they should probably be condenser microphones
- I don't think you'll be able to make 4 people singing around one microphone work
- figure on spending between \$100 and \$300 per microphone

### Wires and Cables

- don't waste money on exotic wire or cable. Don't let the sales weasel guilt you into spending a bunch of money on wire. Monster Cable is a cure for which there is no problem, aside from you having too much money.
- Speaker cable needs to be physically robust, and the wires within need to be sufficiently large for the job. At least #16 wire, unless the cables are long, then they should be #14 or #12.
- Microphone cables need to be shielded and (again) physically robust.
- Learn the proper method for coiling your cables. They're your lifeline, and if you damage one from coiling it improperly, then it won't work the next time you go to use it. Can you repair it on the spot?