

# Synopsis of the SAI Judging Categories

## Sound – The voice and what you do with it (hardware)

### Unit Sound 70%

Vocal Skills (Posture, Breathing, Phonation, Resonation, Articulation)  
Accuracy (Notes, Intervals, Chords, Tuning/Intonation Section/Part Accuracy, Synchronization)  
Barbershop Blend (Tone & Vowel Production)  
Barbershop Balance

### Artistic Sound 30%

Energized Vocal Line  
Tone Flow  
Dynamic Flexibility  
Vocal Style

The focus of the SOUND category is the evaluation of unit sound in the barbershop style. Unit sound occurs when tones are properly produced, accurately tuned, blended and balanced. In barbershop terminology, this is referred to as "lock-and-ring." Although the Sound Judge does not evaluate vocal technique in and of itself, the Sound category does include evaluation of the basics of correct singing. Reasonable proficiency in the basics of correct singing must be achieved before the performer's efforts in any of the four categories will be totally successful. The task of the Sound Judge is to recognize, identify and evaluate the locked, ringing, unit sound inherent in the barbershop style.

## Music – The song and what you do with it (hardware)

### Song & Arrangement 30%

Merit As BBS Material  
Form/Melody/Lyrics  
Arrangement (Harmonization, Voicing)

### Performance 70%

Vocal Skills  
Harmony Accuracy  
Barbershop Style  
(Tempo, Rhythm, Musical Unity, Phrasing, Dynamics, Musical Energy)  
Musical Artistry  
Suitability To Performer

The primary focus of the MUSIC category is the performance of a song arranged in four-part harmony, barbershop style. The Music Judge evaluates the musicality of the performance, the quality of the song and arrangement, and the adherence of the performing ensemble to the barbershop style. While any song can be arranged in the barbershop style, the extent to which a song adheres to the barbershop style is determined by characteristics unique to this form of music: chord structure, arrangement, the cone-shaped sound, untempered tuning, delivery and interpretation, which contribute to the "lock-and-ring" quality of the barbershop style.

## Expression – Decorating and adding artistry to the musical product (software)

### (All combine to 100%)

#### Technical Elements

Vocal Skills	Synchronization/Unity
Vowels	Word Delivery
Diphthongs	Enunciation
Consonants	Musicality

#### Artistic Interpretative Plan

Lyric Flow	Phrasing
Forward Motion	Embellishments
Dynamics	Tempo/Rhythmic Elements
Inflection	Energy
Finesse and Artistry	Characterization
Emotional Communication	

The focus of the EXPRESSION category is the evaluation of the performer's ability to communicate musically and lyrically. In vocal music, communication is strengthened by meaningful delivery of lyrics, musical diction, artistic phrasing, appropriate dynamics, energy, vocal characterization and a projection of sincere emotion. The Expression judge listens to a performance with her primary concentration directed to the evaluation of the degree of artistry achieved in the verbal execution and lyrical delivery of the song. Although many specific areas contribute to the success of an artistic performance, they are inseparable in that blended together the result is an artistically satisfying experience.

## Showmanship – Decorating and adding artistry to the visual product (software)

### Performance 70%

Vocal Skills	Poise And Command
Physical Expression	Posture
Choreography	Unity
Characterization	Audience Rapport
Energy	Chorus Director

### Preparation 30%

Entrance/Break/Exit  
Costume  
Makeup/Grooming  
Choreography  
Creativity

The focus of the SHOWMANSHIP category is the evaluation of the salesmanship of the musical product. This includes the elements of preparation, the visual plan and the creation and communication of onstage magic. With effective showmanship, the performer is able to enhance what the listener hears by reinforcing it with what the viewer sees, creating a total performance. The Showmanship Judge assesses the performer's ability to incorporate the intangible art of showmanship into a performance that creates and communicates magic.

		<b>Has:</b>	<b>Needs more:</b>	<b>To move up:</b>
<p><b>C</b></p> <p>"me"</p> <p>(some)</p> <p>acceptability</p>	<p><b>C- • 40-45 • 80-91</b> Fair, low average</p> <p><b>C • 46-53 • 92-107</b> Acceptable, average, mechanical, cautious</p> <p><b>C+ • 54-59 • 108-119</b> Satisfactory, more right than wrong, "nice"</p>	<p>Can be uncomfortable, noisy</p> <p>More exuberance than skill</p> <p>Dodgy notes and words</p> <p>Low breath stamina</p> <p>Low energy</p> <p>Poor posture habits</p> <p>Have the basics, but don't really know how to apply</p> <p>More social than musical focus to membership</p>	<p>All singers committed to the same musical plan</p> <p>Increased vocal skills, stamina, motivation</p> <p>Be more engaged</p> <p>Smarter song choices, that showcase the voices and skills</p> <p>Less movement, if it affects musical stability</p>	<p>Continue learning and practicing good vocal production</p> <p>Develop unity</p> <p>Learn more about BBS style</p> <p>Develop skill with dynamics</p> <p>Build a continuous wall of sound</p> <p>Balance</p> <p>Moving without interfering with the sound</p>
<p><b>B</b></p> <p>"us"</p> <p>(most)</p> <p>achievement</p>	<p><b>B- • 60-65 • 120-131</b> Promising, risk-taking, a little sizzle</p> <p><b>B • 66-73 • 132-147</b> Good, solid, wall of sound</p> <p><b>B+ • 74-79 • 148-159</b> Very good, commanding, strong</p>	<p>Good skills, but technique is overriding feature</p> <p>Inconsistent everything</p> <p>Director leads the action</p> <p>Synch problems</p> <p>Choreo-driven movement</p> <p>Fine-tuning errors rather than gross inaccuracies</p> <p>"Conscious competence"</p> <p>Good, but can be boring</p> <p>Unity, but some glitches</p> <p>Commanding singers</p>	<p>Performance centered on the audience</p> <p>Precision in all technical aspects</p> <p>Increased vocal skills, stamina</p> <p>Visual enhances musical plan</p> <p>Every singer, every song!</p>	<p>Continue practicing good vocal production</p> <p>Learn about and use vocal and visual energy</p> <p>Finesse and artistry</p> <p>Learn freedom from tension and technique</p>
<p><b>A</b></p> <p>"them"</p> <p>(all)</p> <p>mastery</p>	<p><b>A- • 80-85 • 160-171</b> Excellent, outstanding</p> <p><b>A • 86-93 • 172-187</b> Near perfect, phenomenal, no doubt!</p> <p><b>A+ • 94-100 • 188-200</b> Flawless, perfect</p>	<p>Commanding unit</p> <p>Consistent wall of sound</p> <p>Personal commitment to driving the sound</p> <p>Technique fades into the background</p> <p>Natural movement enhanced by planned moves</p> <p>Ringling chords</p> <p>Singer Driven</p> <p>Director provides cues, not pulling it out of them</p> <p>Tones free, open, rich, focused and fully resonant</p> <p>Sounds like a big quartet!</p>	<p>Total consistency</p> <p>Instant accuracy</p> <p>Totally authentic, natural</p> <p>Performance experienced rather than heard</p> <p>Combine technique and artistry with emotional abandon</p>	<p>Make vocal skills habitual and intrinsic, effortless</p> <p>Build a performance image that's congruent with the music and visual plan</p> <p>Sing as one voice, and don't make the audience thing about technique!</p>

Quick entry score sheet for judging sample videos -- enter either a score or a level in the category of your choice

#	Contestant	# onstage	Sound		Music		Expression		Showmanship		Total	Place	My Score	My Place
			Score	Level	Score	Level	Score	Level	Score	Level				
1	Metro Nashville Swanee	49												
2	Pacific Sound What Kind of Fool Am I	64												
3	Celebrity City Hot Time in the Old Town	53												
4	Rich Tone Berkeley Square	112												
5	Greater Cleveland From the First Hello	71												
6	Greater Richmond Anything But Love/Steppin' Out	65												
7	Melodeers Wee Small Hours of the Morning	129												
8	River City Sound My Foolish Heart	49												
9	Buffalo Gateway Dixie One-Step	88												
10	St. Louis Harmony Yes Sir, That's My Baby	41												
11	Pearls of the Sound If Ever I Would Leave You	46												

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUND**

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contestant # \_\_\_\_\_

Contest: Region # \_\_\_\_\_ Chorus Region # \_\_\_\_\_ Quartet Date \_\_\_\_\_

Int'l Quartet Semifinals  Int'l Chorus Semifinals  Int'l Quartet Finals  Int'l Chorus Finals  Harmony Classic

## JUDGING CRITERIA

### UNIT SOUND (0-70 points)

#### VOCAL SKILLS

Posture  
Breathing  
Phonation  
Resonation  
Articulation

#### ACCURACY

Notes  
Intervals  
Chords  
Tuning/Intonation  
Section/Part Accuracy  
Synchronization  
BARBERSHOP BLEND  
Tone Production  
Vowel Production  
BARBERSHOP BALANCE

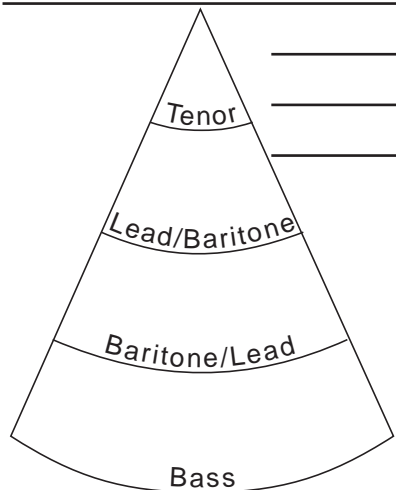
### ARTISTIC SOUND (0-30 points)

Energized Vocal line  
Tone Flow  
Dynamic Flexibility  
Vocal Style

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

SONG #1 \_\_\_\_\_ SONG #2 \_\_\_\_\_

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score  
song 1

SCORING LEVELS (for one song)		
94 - 100	A+	
86 - 93	A	
80 - 85	A-	
74 - 79	B+	
66 - 73	B	
60 - 65	B-	
54 - 59	C+	
46 - 53	C	
40 - 45	C-	
34 - 39	D+	
26 - 33	D	
20 - 25	D-	
0 - 19	F	

**Bonus Points**  
awarded for  
performance  
package.  
International Finals  
and Harmony  
Classic only.

score  
song 2  
  
**BONUS POINTS**

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE**

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contestant # \_\_\_\_\_

Contest: Region # \_\_\_\_\_ Chorus Region # \_\_\_\_\_ Quartet Date \_\_\_\_\_

Int'l Quartet Semifinals  Int'l Chorus Semifinals  Int'l Quartet Finals  Int'l Chorus Finals  Harmony Classic

## JUDGING CRITERIA

**SONG & ARRANGEMENT (0-30 points)**

- Merit as Barbershop Material
- Form/Melody/Lyrics
- Arrangement
  - Harmonization
  - Voicing

**PERFORMANCE (0-70 points)**

- Vocal Skills
- Harmony Accuracy
- Barbershop Style
  - Tempo
  - Rhythm
  - Musical Unity
  - Phrasing
  - Dynamics
  - Musical Energy
- Musical Artistry

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

SONG #1 \_\_\_\_\_ SONG #2 \_\_\_\_\_

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score  
song 1

score  
song 2

**BONUS POINTS**

**SUITABILITY TO PERFORMER**

**Song 1**

**Song 2**

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

SCORING LEVELS (for one song)		
94 - 100	A+	
86 - 93	A	
80 - 85	A-	
74 - 79	B+	
66 - 73	B	
60 - 65	B-	
54 - 59	C+	
46 - 53	C	
40 - 45	C-	
34 - 39	D+	
26 - 33	D	
20 - 25	D-	
0 - 19	F	

**Bonus Points**  
awarded for  
performance  
package.  
International Finals  
and Harmony  
Classic only.

**TOTAL SCORE**





<b>Category → Level ↓</b>	<b>Sound</b>	<b>Music</b>	<b>Expression</b>	<b>Showmanship</b>
<b>C+</b>  54-59	Work on VS apparent, but still in progress Consistent minor intonation & tuning problems Consistent minor synch problems affect overall unity Frequent errors in vowel prod & resonance match Balance inconsistent due to vocal limitations Energy sporadic, with lack of consistent support Fleeting glimpses vocal artistry	Good arrangement, presents challenges for performer Work on VS apparent, but still in progress Consistent minor tuning problems impact chord clarity Sense of musical unity apparent, but inconsistent Interpretive plan evident Interpretive plan needs to be internalized for unit delivery Mechanical delivery overrides attempts at artistry	Work on VS apparent Consistent problems with internal synch Vowels not aligned as a unit, consonants interfere Interpretive plan evident but not executed as a unit Sporadic energy with lack of consistent stamina Insufficient support for effective stylistic use Concern with technique overrides sincere involvement	Work on VS apparent Consistent problems with internal synch Vowels not aligned as a unit, consonants interfere Interpretive plan evident but not executed as a unit Sporadic energy with lack of consistent stamina Insufficient support for effective stylistic use Concern with technique overrides sincere involvement
<b>B</b>  66-73	VS strong but not habitual Solid sound overall, but chords not consistently locked Minor synch problems affect chord accuracy Most vowels matched & properly resonated Balance suffers at extreme ranges & dynamic levels Energy & support for vocal lines inconsistent Technique still evident & generally overrides artistry	Good song, well arranged VS strong, but not habitual Chord clarity inconsistent Minor synch problems affect chord alignment Good design/interpretive plan Focus on technique interferes with delivery of plan Some achievement in artistry & finesse evident	VS strong but not habitual Internal synch problems with consonants & diphthongs Most vowels well matched, some consonant interference Good interpretive plan, but inconsistent unit delivery Some glimpses of artistry & finesse Inconsistent unit involvement in message Technique still evident & generally overrides artistry	VS strong but not habitual Comfortable on stage & generally in command Need to improve unit delivery of visual plan Moments of identification with character & story Audience not completely drawn into performance Inconsistent energy level within group Good visual plan does not interfere with music
<b>A-</b>  80-85	High level of VS demonstrated Chords usually tuned into locked, ringing unit Vowels usually produced with matched resonance Balance usually maintained throughout performance Vocal lines usually seamless & fully energized Strong BBS style usually there Performance usually transcends technique	Strong song, arrangement shows some creativity High level of VS demonstrated Chords usually tuned into locked, musical unit Creative interpretive plan appropriate to song Strong execution of interp plan Strong BBS style usually there Performance usually transcends technique	High level of VS demonstrated Vowels consistently matched as a unit Consistent vertical alignment of word elements Minor flaws in execution of strong interpretive plan Strong sense of unit delivery in BBS style High degree of involvement in character & message Performance usually transcends technique	High level of VS demonstrated Poised/confident stage persona Character & personality well defined & projected Strong rapport with audience High degree of energy consistently demonstrated Visual plan works well to enhance musical plan Fleeting moments of technique evident



## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

<b>SOUND CATEGORY</b>	<b>SOUND CATEGORY</b>	<b>SOUND CATEGORY</b>
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Tuning of all chords is instant and impeccable Flawless delivery of vowels with matched resonance Barbershop balance is instinctive and always present Seamless vocal lines appear to float on a pillar of energy Artistry and finesse epitomize the barbershop style Performance completely transcends technique	Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated All chords instantly tuned into locked, ringing unit Vowels consistently produced with matched resonance Balance maintained at all dynamic levels and ranges Seamless vocal lines consistently energized and flowing Strong sense of barbershop style with artistry and finesse Performance consistently transcends technique	High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated Chords usually tuned into locked, ringing unit Vowels usually produced with matched resonance Balance usually maintained throughout performance Vocal lines usually seamless and fully energized Strong sense of barbershop style usually evident Performance usually transcends technique
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
Strong vocal skills demonstrated Minor tuning problems affect chord accuracy Synch problems occasionally affect chord accuracy Minor errors in vowel production and resonance match Balance generally consistent throughout performance Vocal lines generally well energized and supported Artistry beginning to emerge over technique	Vocal skills strong but not habitual Solid sound overall, but chords not consistently locked Minor synch problems affect chord accuracy Most vowels matched and properly resonated Balance suffers at extreme ranges and dynamic levels Energy and support for vocal lines inconsistent Technique still evident and generally overrides artistry	Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems Frequent internal synch problems affect chord accuracy Vowels initially matched but not sustained as tuned unit Singers need better awareness of balance adjustments Vocal lines occasionally supported and energized Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Consistent minor intonation and tuning problems Consistent minor synch problems affect overall unity Frequent errors in vowel production and resonance match Balance inconsistent due to vocal limitations Energy sporadic, with lack of consistent support Fleeting glimpses of at vocal artistry	Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent Intonation and tuning errors, and some wrong notes Frequent synch problems impact chord alignment Vowels occasionally match in passing, not sustained Balance good in mid-range, but not at extremes Energy level weak, need for improved vocal stamina Attempts at artistry masked by vocal problems	Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent Consistent tuning and accuracy errors Consistent synch problems keep chords from aligning Vowels generally lack common approach to resonance Unable to maintain consistent, cone-shaped balance Vocal energy rarely demonstrated No discernible attempts at vocal artistry
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<b><u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work General lack of chord accuracy with many wrong notes Vertical alignment rarely achieved Vowel match generally not achieved Cone-shaped balance rarely achieved Energized vocal line impacted by weak support Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level	Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here Major accuracy and/or tonality problems Consistent major synch errors Individual voices rather than musical unit Barbershop cone not recognized Energized delivery lacking due to poor breath support Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level	No apparent understanding of vocal skills Chord accuracy rarely achieved due to wrong notes No apparent effort to sing together as a unit Blend impossible due to lack of vocal skills No understanding of barbershop cone No evidence of vocal energy Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

<b>MUSIC CATEGORY</b>	<b>MUSIC CATEGORY</b>	<b>MUSIC CATEGORY</b>
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
Highly creative arrangement of strong barbershop song Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Tuning of all chords is instant and impeccable Interpretive plan captures essence of barbershop style Interpretive plan flawlessly executed Artistry and finesse epitomize the barbershop style. Performance completely transcends technique	Creative arrangement of strong song Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated All chords instantly tuned into locked, musical unit Interpretive plan fully supports song and arrangement High level execution of interpretive plan Strong sense of barbershop style with artistry and finesse Performance consistently transcends technique	Strong song, arrangement shows some creativity High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated Chords usually tuned into locked, musical unit Creative interpretive plan appropriate to song Strong execution of interpretive plan Strong sense of barbershop style usually evident. Performance usually transcends technique.
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
Good song, arrangement shows some creativity Strong vocal skills demonstrated Minor tuning problems affect chord clarity Synch problems occasionally affect chord alignment Interpretive plan well designed for song and performer Minor flaws in execution of interpretive plan Artistry beginning to emerge over technique.	Good song, well arranged Vocal skills strong, but not habitual Chord clarity inconsistent Minor synch problems affect chord alignment Good design for interpretive plan Focus on technique interferes with delivery of plan Some achievement in artistry and finesse evident	Good arrangement of acceptable song Vocal skills generally good, but inconsistent Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems Frequent internal synch problems affect chords Plan good, but some lapses in forward motion Delivery of plan controlled, lacks freedom Focus on technique inhibits artistry
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
Good arrangement, presents challenges for performer Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Consistent minor tuning problems impact chord clarity Sense of musical unity apparent, but inconsistent Interpretive plan evident Interpretive plan needs to be internalized for unit delivery Mechanical delivery overrides attempts at artistry	Song and arrangement good, but may be difficult Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent Tuning errors and some wrong notes impact chords Frequent synch errors, but some sense of unit apparent Interpretive plan sometimes apparent Delivery of plan needs stronger support and stamina Vocal problems make artistry difficult to recognize	Good arrangement, too difficult for performer Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent Consistent tuning and accuracy errors affect chords Consistent lack of chord alignment Interpretive plan sometimes difficult for performer Stronger vocal skills needed to deliver plan effectively No apparent attempts at musical artistry
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<b><u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
Musical demands of arrangement exceed abilities Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work Many wrong notes cause major tuning problems Infrequent glimpses of identifiable, aligned chords Energy level weak and inconsistent Occasional hints of interpretive plan Stronger vocal skills needed to support musical plan	Arrangement not suitable for performer's abilities Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here Major note accuracy problems make chords indistinct Consistent synch problems obscure four-part chords Energized delivery non-existent No interpretive plan clearly evident Stronger vocal skills needed to execute a musical plan	Arrangement beyond abilities of performer No apparent understanding of vocal skills Wrong notes consistently sung Chords not defined due to synch and vocal problems No apparent understanding of barbershop style Interpretive plan beyond performer's capabilities Stronger vocal skills needed to explore interpretive plan

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>	<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>	<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Exemplary performance of open, matched vowels Flawless unit word delivery Flawless execution of masterful interpretive plan Excellent use of barbershop style and vocal drama Strong emotional communication captivates audience Performance fully transcends technique	Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Vowels and diphthongs fully matched and resonated Total unity evident in word delivery Excellent interpretive plan consistently performed as unit Artistic use of stylistic elements and vocal textures Strong character and genuine involvement in message Performance consistently transcends technique	High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated Vowels consistently matched as a unit Consistent vertical alignment of word elements Minor flaws in execution of strong interpretive plan Strong sense of unit delivery in barbershop style High degree of involvement in character and message Performance usually transcends technique
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
Strong vocal skills demonstrated Minor internal synch problems Occasional problems in vowel alignment Interpretive plan well designed, minor flaws in execution Artistry and finesse frequently evident Genuine involvement in communication of message Artistry beginning to emerge over technique	Vocal skills strong but not habitual Internal synch problems with consonants and diphthongs Most vowels well matched, some consonant interference Good interpretive plan, but inconsistent unit delivery Some glimpses of artistry and finesse Inconsistent unit involvement in message Technique still evident and generally overrides artistry	Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent Frequent internal synch problems with word elements Vowels initially matched but not sustained as unit Good interpretive plan, but stronger unit needed Artistry only evident as part of technique Emotional involvement overshadowed by technique Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Consistent problems with internal synch Vowels not aligned as a unit, consonants interfere Interpretive plan evident but not executed as a unit Sporadic energy with lack of consistent stamina Insufficient support for effective stylistic use Concern with technique overrides sincere involvement	Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent Frequent internal and external synch errors Vowels need unit approach to resonated production Interpretive plan emerges, but stronger support needed Vocal energy weak, choppy delivery results Stronger vocal skills needed to convey barbershop style Communication rarely reaches beyond footlights	Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent Consistent synch problems Vowels need free, unit approach to production Interpretive plan needs stronger vocal skills Phrase delivery choppy due to lack of energy and support Attempts at style lack musicality Nerves impair successful emotional communication
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<b><u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work Unity impaired by inadequate vocal skills Lack of open resonance and target vowel production Interpretive plan ineffective due to lack of vocal skills Lack of vocal energy in phrase delivery Emotional communication not evident Need to focus on strengthening vocal skills	Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here Consistent major synch problems No evidence of unit approach to vowel production Singers lack vocal skills to execute interpretive plan Energized lyric and phrase delivery non-existent Musical problems prevent emotional communication Need stronger vocal skills to raise performance level	No apparent understanding of vocal skills Consistent lack of vertical unity Consistent lack of vowel alignment No evidence of interpretive plan No evidence of energized lyric delivery High level of audience discomfort Need stronger vocal skills to raise performance level

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

<b>SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY</b>	<b>SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY</b>	<b>SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY</b>
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
<p>Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated                      Superb command of the stage                      Strong theatrical skills used to project character of story                      Audience totally captivated throughout                      Energized visual performance breathtaking!                      Impeccable visual plan supports and enhances music                      Performance completely transcends technique</p>	<p>Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated                      Total command of the stage                      Complete involvement in character of story                      High degree of audience rapport                      High level of energy exudes joy of performing                      Strong visual plan reinforces musical plan                      Performance transcends technique most of the time</p>	<p>High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated                      Poised and confident stage persona                      Character and personality well defined and projected                      Strong rapport with audience                      High degree of energy consistently demonstrated                      Visual plan works well to enhance musical plan                      Fleeting moments of technique evident</p>
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
<p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated                      Confidence apparent, and usually in command                      Some flaws in unit delivery of visual plan                      Character of song maintained throughout                      Consistent level of audience rapport                      High level of energy with minor lapses in unit                      Creative visual plan generally supports music</p>	<p>Vocal skills strong but not habitual                      Comfortable on stage and generally in command                      Need to improve unit delivery of visual plan                      Moments of identification with character and story                      Audience not completely drawn into performance                      Inconsistent energy level within group                      Good visual plan does not interfere with music</p>	<p>Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent                      Stage command inconsistent in group and performance                      Need higher energy level in delivery of visual plan                      Some evidence of personality and characterization                      Audience has little involvement in performance                      Energy level shows peaks and valleys                      Minor flaws in design of visual plan</p>
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
<p>Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress                      Some moments of command                      Inconsistent stamina in execution of visual plan                      Lack of consistency in personality and characterization                      Audience rapport not clearly established                      Energy sporadic, but frequent attempts evident                      Some attempt at creative visual plan</p>	<p>Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent                      Need more confidence to project past footlights                      More stamina needed to deliver visual plan                      Little attempt at characterization or identification                      Audience communication not securely established                      Energy level falls short of crossing footlights                      Visual plan evident, but some conflict with musical plan</p>	<p>Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent                      Insecure and tentative stage persona                      Execution of visual plan weak due to lack of stamina                      No projection of personality or characterization                      Little evidence of attempt at audience communication                      Infrequent glimpses of energized delivery                      Visual plan does not consistently support music</p>
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<b><u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
<p>Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work                      Nerves detract from performance                      Lack of unit execution for visual plan                      No clearly defined personality or character                      No attempt at audience communication                      Energy level weak and inconsistent                      Visual plan limited and sometimes inappropriate</p>	<p>Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here                      Nerves consume performance                      Serious lack of visual and musical unity                      No evidence of character identification                      Musical problems prevent effective audience rapport                      No demonstration of positive energy                      Visual plan vague and lacks support for music</p>	<p>No apparent understanding of vocal skills                      No evidence of effective stage presence                      Little evidence of attempt at visual unity                      Characterization and personality not explored                      High level of audience discomfort evident                      No attempt at energized delivery                      Little evidence of unit visual plan</p>