

“Clues in the Music”

Specifics to look for:

- Octave locks (top voice must sing high)
- When do you sing “DO”
- “P” notes (scale notes 2, 3, 6, 7, and all notes that go “north”)
- Awkward intervals
- Who’s on first (understanding the chords)
- Chromatics/ series of chromatics - Big steps up, little steps down
- “Rubs” with other voice parts
- Tenor under the lead (broaden the tone)
- Coning factors (ALL sections)
- Details that confuse non-music readers – A-sharp is the same not as B-flat, etc
- Sustained chords that will need “lift”. “If you hold it, build it.”
- Tricky rhythms or runs. Syncopation, varied rhythmic treatments.
- Implied melodies/ prominent passages for your part.
- Dynamic & interpretive factors. Arrangement tells a lot. Reinforce the Director’s plan if know. Difficulty if plan opposes arrangement.
- Phrasing notations.
- Breathing plan. Also, NO BREATH places!
- Moving parts predominate over sustained parts.
- What’s happening in other part-lines? Know when you’re important and when you’re not.
- Areas that invite tempo problems. Segues into new parts of a medley. Lots of “words”. Later parts of a medley (energy lags).
- Louds and softs. In loud passages, “sound” takes over. In soft passages, “lyrics” take over.
- Vowels and diphthongs.
- Pick-ups in any part (usually lead)
- Repeated passages arranged differently.
- Passages requiring high degree of vocal production, energy or musical artistry.
- Spread voicings (balance)
- Tuning or harmony accuracy factors. If you have trouble singing it, so will your section!
- Anchors – lack of anchors.
- Possible disturbance from choreographic plan
- Difficult pitch? (Get the first note SOLID!)
- Key changes
- Page turns!
- All transition measures. Every chorus could improve their performance level by spending time on the transition measures: Before key changes, each new “part” of a song, each new song in a medley.
- Range extended for any part while maintaining quality.

SONG SELECTION TOOL – Analyze the Arrangement

Song: _____ Key: _____ Key Change: _____ Arranger: _____

	Tenor	Lead	Baritone	Bass
A+				
Ab / G#+				
G+				
F#+				
F/ E#+				
E +				
Eb /D# +				
D +				
Db / C# +				
C +				
B / Cb				
Bb / A#				
A				
Ab / G#				
G				
F#				
F/ E#				
E				
Eb /D#				
D				
Db / C#				
C - middle				
B / Cb -				
Bb / A# -				
A -				
Ab / G# -				
G -				
F# -				
F/ E# -				
E -				
Eb /D# -				
D -				
Db / C# -				
C -				

Times Baritone is above Lead: _____ Length of Intro _____ measures. Length of Tag _____ measures.

Primary vowel sounds: EE _____ EH _____ AH _____ OH _____ OO _____ IH _____ UH _____ A _____

Other vowels: _____ Voice crossing (T/L) _____ Phernets _____ Pnotes (+) _____ Octaves _____

Spread chords 10+ _____ OTHER: _____