

REGION 5
QUARTET TRENDS FOR 2011

SOUND JUDGE – BETH SMITH

- Some really good voices in the region!
- There are a lot of young voices singing in great quartets but they're singing in such high ranges that it loses the barbershop flavor
- Shaky starts, even from good quartets – start confidently, with full-voiced presence
- Pitch taking – please do it! Several quartets started out of tune – you don't get extra point for skipping the pitch!
- Need some guidance on choosing music that showcases voices rather than moving pitch up/down to accommodate vocal ranges.
- Develop realistic breathing plans, develop better breath stamina

- Tension and pushing muscle in sound at times, especially high chords.
- A surprising number of wrong notes.
- Lots of flair and creativity with regard to vocal style

MUSIC JUDGE – MARGE BAILEY

- I have a feeling that this contest was not a representation of your strongest singers.
- There were quite a few chord and interval accuracy problems.
- Some music choices were far above their ability at this time.
- Some good vocal skills apparent but tuning needs help and more finesses in handling of the musical line.
- The quartet competition ran very smoothly.
- Good house!

EXPRESSION JUDGE – MARSHA FULTON

- Very pleased to hear that the vocal skills are definitely in a good state – that does not give the singers permission to lessen their focus on improving individually.
- The competitors and their coach/advisers have a pretty good grasp of the forward motion aspect – still needs to be considered a priority in the movement related to lyric flow and phrasing – convert your thoughts!
- Encourage the continuance of your plans for each singer's vocal capabilities.

- Become better acquainted with the basic requirements of this category namely – synchronization, vowels, diphthongs, consonants and enunciation.

SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE – CATHY CONLEY

- Lots of young singers – that’s great!
- New ideas about new styles, costumes. They do fit their era and attitude!
- Entrances and Exits exhibit confidence and set them up in the eyes of the audience.
- Choreography needs better flow and finesse. It doesn’t matter if the plan is cute or fun, it has to be practiced and practiced and practiced!

CHORUS TRENDS FOR 2011

SOUND JUDGE – BETH SMITH

- Wow! Some great choruses here!
- Need to build breath stamina and understand how to maintain full-voiced presence at all volume levels.
- Use your best sound all the time not just on the last note of the song!
- A lot of good work on vocal skills.
- Work further on the accuracy portions of this category – intonation, synchronization, and vowel production.
- Continue to work on Dynamic Flexibility – not enough supported variance.

MUSIC JUDGE – MARGE BAILEY

- My! My! What good singers are in this region.
- The vocal skills are coming along fine!
- Appreciate the attention that is given to chord and interval accuracy.
- Work needed on musical unity. Section work would be helpful at all levels.
- Music choices are mostly good.
- A few choices are a bit out of barbershop style but most choices are suitable for the contestants.
- Good things happening in Region 5!

EXPRESSION JUDGE – MARSHA FULTON

- Vocal skills and their value to the overall musicality is definitely a plus in this region – don’t stop your focus!
- Smaller choruses are doing a fine job in the interpretive area and recognizing their current skill levels – not trying to sing beyond their capabilities in order to try to compete with their larger sister choruses.

- Continue to emphasize the need for a total “clean unit” in all aspects – each singer needs to invest in this and recognize the “why of it”!

SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE – CATHY CONLEY

- Every chorus was B- or above!
- Good vocal education pays off!
- Could use some acting lessons in lower scoring choruses to try to get everyone involved in the story and sell it as a unit.
- Costuming was basically good but some didn’t show the image that they wanted or were trying to portray.
- The audience likes to see what they are hearing!