

## REGION 5

### QUARTET TRENDS FOR 2013

#### **SOUND JUDGE – JANIE MACCHIAROLI**

- Continue to reinforce essential Vocal Skills, Posture and Breathing.
- Accuracy – mostly good, lots of room for improvement in Intervals, chords , tuning and intonation.
- Artistic Sound-High scorers need greater risk taking.
- Barbershop Blend-Focus some education on the relationship between blend and balance.
- Much good singing in C+ and above groups. You may need a two-pronged approach to address the various levels of need. C+ groups and lower need to work on posture and breathing to get the complete physical sensation of correct vocal freedom and support. There's room for greater resonance and solidly, instantly matched vowels.
- Some balance concerns related to lower range need attention.

#### **MUSIC JUDGE – JEAN FLINN**

- Keep strengthening vocal skills.
- Lower level quartets need to continue to work on basic vocal skills, paying attention to accurate intervals.
- Some quartets chose music that was beyond their current vocal skills.
- Upper level quartets need more commitment to the storyline and more dynamic variation.

#### **EXPRESSION JUDGE – CHAR GURNEY**

- Vocal Skills-generally good
- Synchronization/Unity –Many problems at all levels
- Vowels-Need more resonance
- Diphthongs-Not using to your benefit with singable consonants
- Enunciation-Mostly okay
- Musicality-Problems at most levels, often due to lack of support.
- Lyric Flow, Phrasing, Forward Motion-These are related and more instruction needed here.
- Embellishments-Need work here
- Dynamics-not used at most levels
- Tempo/Rhythmic Elements-not consistent
- Energy-More needed, as usual
- Characterization-not happening yet
- Basic vocal skills were good but more instruction needed to use the same approach to vocal resonance in order to match vowels.

- Maybe you should hold classes on lyrical interpretation and how that fits in with the musical arrangement. So much of the messages or intent of each song is being lost. The same applies to dynamic variety that is often lacking.
- All of these things can lead to more characterization(?) which has to be there to achieve emotional communication.
- We appreciate all the hard work that went into your performances. Now challenge yourselves to go to the next level.

#### **SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE – IDA BILODEAU**

- Energy-Need more consistency
- Poise and Command-Some lipsticking show lack of confidence
- Characterization-Work
- Physical Expression-free up bodies
- Unity-More in facial expressions
- Posture-Add more strength and unity
- Costume-Most costumes good. Some ill fitting ones distract from the performance.
- Makeup/Grooming-More attention to hair styles
- Creativity-Use more in costuming wherever possible

#### **CHORUS TRENDS FOR 2013**

#### **SOUND JUDGE – JANIE MACCHIAROLI**

- Posture/Breathing-Attention here would be helpful
- Vocal Skills always need to be reinforced.
- Accuracy on Notes, Intervals, Chords need greater precision in most choruses.
- Barbershop Blend: Tone and Vowel Production need greater consistency here.
- Higher scoring choruses need to enrich their energy and stamina. Lower scoring choruses may need some additional help placing voices on risers for greatest effect.
- Many singers are controlling their volume by opening and closing resonators instead of singing with the whole voice all the time.

#### **MUSIC JUDGE – JEAN FLINN**

- Vocal Skills-keep building and strengthening
- Phrasing-work on more conversational phrasing
- Dynamics-some extremes lost musicality
- Musical Energy-add more
- Overall, song selection was appropriate to the skills of the group performing.
- With the exception of the first place chorus all choruses need to work on forward motion. Many

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- times, the breaths between the phrases needed to be a bit quicker to connect one phrase to another.

(B-toB level) Many choruses have the basic vocal skills. Now they need to add the artistry, characterization, passion and freedom to score even higher.

#### **EXPRESSION JUDGE – CHAR GURNEY**

- Vocal Skills continue to build
- Synchronization/Unity-problems exist
- Vowels-unify through similar approach to vocal production
- Diphthongs-use them to your advantage
- Consonants-use singable ones
- Musicality-Problems still exist due to lack of support
- Lyric Flow and Phrasing-This makes Forward Motion work.
- Embellishments-Make more of these
- Dynamics-Expand Range
- Tempo/Rhythmic Elements-Often need more pulse
- Inflection-seldom used
- Energy-More. More.
- Finesse, Artistry, Characterization, Emotional Communication-Need so much more of this.
- With a few exceptions, your choruses have a working knowledge of vocal skills. However, the incorporation of the artistic areas of the expression category are often lacking.
- Areas such as using diphthongs, singable consonants and forward motion to tie phrases and words and thoughts together.
- Embellishments are part of the excitement of barbershop and so much is being lost in the treatment of these.
- The purpose of this category is to enhance emotional communication with the audience and so it's worth the time and effort to perfect these skills.

#### **SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE – IDA BILODEAU**

- Energy-Need more consistency
- Pose and Command-Some lipsticking (?) show lack of confidence
- Characterization-Work
- Physical Expression-Free up bodies
- Unity-More in facial expression
- Posture-Add more strength and unity
- Costume-most costumes good. Some ill fitting ones distract from the performance.
- Makeup/Grooming More attention to hair styles
- Creativity-Use more in costuming wherever possible.

- There is definitely evidence of the thrust of education has been on vocal skills and rightly so.
- Focus also on characterization to add to the vocal skills. Delve more deeply into this area so that all members understand the full meaning of the lyrics. As members grasp this, the music will also improve as well as the connection with the audience. Need more individual confidence. Within preparation, the entrance/break/exit is listed (as well in the 70pts.) This needs rehearsed generally so that each member is confident on what to do, as well as accepting applause. Rehearsal of this breeds confidence and helps to support the music.