

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES – SOUND CATEGORY

A+ Superior (94-100)	A Nearly Perfect (86-93)	A- Excellent (80-85)
FOCUS AREA: PERFORMANCE MAGIC Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Tuning of all chords is instant and immaculate Ensemble sound is impeccably blended and ringing Flawless delivery of vowels with matched resonance Barbershop balance is always present Seamless vocal lines flow on a river of energy Artistry and musicality showcase the barbershop style Performance is totally captivating	FOCUS AREA: ARTISTRY Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated All chords instantly tuned into locked, ringing, blended ensemble sound Vowels carry continuous sound 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 character Performance consistently transcends technique	FOCUS AREA: MUSICALITY High level of vocal skill mastery is demonstrated Chords consistently tuned into locked, ringing ensemble sound Vowels effortlessly produced with matched resonance Balance usually maintained throughout performance Vocal lines usually seamless and fully energized Strong sense of barbershop style usually evident Performance starting to transcend technique; only fleeting moments of concentration/technique showing
B+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY Strong vocal skills demonstrated; confident delivery Minor lapses in tuning and synch affect chord accuracy Minor errors in vowel production and resonance match inhibit ringing ensemble sound Balance generally consistent throughout the performance Vocal lines well energized and supported with minor lapses Artistry and musicality beginning to outweigh technique Vocal character emerging	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY Vocal skills strong but not habitual Solid sound overall, but chords not consistently locked Minor synch problems affect chord accuracy Most vowels matched/properly resonated; some ring evident Balance may suffer at extreme ranges and dynamic levels Energy and support for vocal lines inconsistent across the ensemble Technique still evident and generally overrides artistry Integration of skills not yet present	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent in performance Vocal lines occasionally supported Occasional minor intonation and tuning problems Occasional synch problems affect chord accuracy Vowels initially matched but not consistently resonated; sporadic ring/overtone Balance adjustments inconsistent Energy inconsistent Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry and character
C+ Satisfactory (54-59)	C Fair (46-53)	C- Poor (40-45)
FOCUS AREA: UNITY Work on vocal skills apparent, but still unreliable Periodic intonation and tuning problems Synch problems affect ensemble sound and unity Errors in vowel production and resonance match Balance achieved in mid-range, but not yet at extremes Energy sporadic, with lack of consistent support Occasional glimpses of vocal artistry and character; attempts sometimes successful	FOCUS AREA: ACCURACY Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent Frequent intonation and tuning errors, some wrong notes Part inaccuracies detract from blended ensemble sound Frequent synch problems impact chord alignment/accuracy Vowels occasionally match in passing, but not sustained Balance inconsistent due to vocal limitations Energy level weak, breath stamina inadequate for the demands of the music Attempts at artistry and character masked by vocal problems	FOCUS AREA: SKILL BUILDING Vocal skills weak Individual vocal qualities override ensemble sound Tuning, accuracy and intonation errors Frequent wrong notes apparent, inhibiting unit sound Synch problems keep chords from aligning Vowels generally lack common approach or resonance Barbershop balance not achieved or maintained Vocal energy rarely demonstrated Attempts at vocal artistry or character not yet apparent
D+ Weak (34-39)	D Very Weak (26-33)	D- Very Poor (20-25)
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

Performances below C- are uncomfortable for the audience. Vocal skills are underdeveloped and chord accuracy is rarely demonstrated, making any real evaluation of the performance difficult. Artistic efforts cannot be appreciated as the performers' level of vocal and performance capability makes it nearly impossible to interpret and perform the music. **Rev 12/21**

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES – MUSIC CATEGORY

A+ Superior (94-100)	A Nearly Perfect (86-93)	A- Excellent (80-85)
FOCUS AREA: PERFORMANCE MAGIC 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	FOCUS AREA: ARTISTRY 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	FOCUS AREA: MUSICALITY 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+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY 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.	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY 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	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT 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
C+ Satisfactory (54-59)	C Fair (46-53)	C- Poor (40-45)
FOCUS AREA: UNITY 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	FOCUS AREA: ACCURACY 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	FOCUS AREA: SKILL BUILDING 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
D+ Weak (34-39)	D Very Weak (26-33)	D- Very Poor (20-25)
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

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PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES – EXPRESSION CATEGORY

A+ Superior (94-100)	A Nearly Perfect (86-93)	A- Excellent (80-85)
FOCUS AREA: PERFORMANCE MAGIC 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	FOCUS AREA: ARTISTRY 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	FOCUS AREA: MUSICALITY 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+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY 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	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY 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	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT 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
C+ Satisfactory (54-59)	C Fair (46-53)	C- Poor (40-45)
FOCUS AREA: UNITY 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	FOCUS AREA: ACCURACY 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	FOCUS AREA: SKILL BUILDING 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
D+ Weak (34-39)	D Very Weak (26-33)	D- Very Poor (20-25)
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

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PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES – VISUAL COMMUNICATION CATEGORY

A+ Superior (94-100)	A Nearly Perfect (86-93)	A- Excellent (80-85)
FOCUS AREA: PERFORMANCE MAGIC Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Impeccable and unforgettable stage presence Magnetically compelling characterization & physical expression Audience totally captivated throughout Energized visual performance breathtaking! Impeccable visual plan supports and enhances music Visual musicality & artistry completely transcend technique	FOCUS AREA: ARTISTRY Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Captivating stage presence and star quality on display Authentic characterization and physical expression High degree of audience connection High level of energy exudes joy of performing Visual plan design strongly enhances musical plan Visual artistry and musicality evident most of the time	FOCUS AREA: MUSICALITY High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated Charismatic and effortless stage presence most of the time Characterization and physical expression well defined and naturally projected Strong connection with the audience High degree of energy consistently demonstrated Visual plan design reinforces musical plan Visual musicality mostly evident; fleeting moments of technique
B+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY Strong vocal skills demonstrated and musicality emerging Strong stage presence and exploring personal charisma Strong visual unity with minor distractions Characterization and engaging physical expression maintained throughout Consistent level of audience connection High level of energy with minor lapses Creative visual plan design that generally supports music	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY Vocal skills strong but still inconsistent Comfortable on stage and generally confident Good visual unity but need further improvement Moments of characterization and natural physical expression Audience connection is good but inconsistent Inconsistent energy level across ensemble Good visual plan design that does not interfere with music	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent Stage presence is evident but inconsistent in group and performance Need higher degree of visual unity to limit distractions Some evidence of characterization and involved physical expression Audience beginning to become interested Energy level shows peaks and valleys throughout performance Minor flaws in the design of the visual plan
C+ Satisfactory (54-59)	C Fair (46-53)	C- Poor (40-45)
FOCUS AREA: UNITY Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Moments of confidence support beginnings of stage presence Inconsistent visual unity across ensemble Lack of consistency in characterization/physical expression Increasing attempts at audience connection sometimes successful Energy sporadic, but frequent attempts evident A visual plan apparent, but not always effective	FOCUS AREA: ACCURACY Vocal skills understood but inconsistent and more stamina needed Stage presence tentative and inconsistent Lack of ensemble approach creates visual distraction Little attempt at characterization or natural physical expression Some attempt at audience connection Energy level insufficient Visual plan evident, but may conflict with musical plan	FOCUS AREA: SKILL BUILDING Vocal skills weak and lack of stamina evident Stage presence is insecure Visual unity lacking and is completely individual in approach No projection of characterization or natural physical expression No attempt at audience connection Some attempts at performance energy Visual plan often conflicts with music
D+ Weak (34-39)	D Very Weak (26-33)	D- Very Poor (20-25)
Vocal skills weak; audience uncomfortable Weak stage presence and nerves detract from performance No attempt at visual unity No attempt at clearly defined characterization or physical expression No attempt at infusing performance energy Visual plan limited and may be inappropriate	No evidence of vocal skills; high degree of audience discomfort Nerves consume performance No understanding of characterization or natural physical expression No understanding of visual unity No understanding of performance energy No evidence of a visual plan	No apparent understanding of need for vocal skills No apparent understanding of need for stage presence No apparent understanding of need for characterization No apparent understanding of need for visual unity Extreme audience discomfort No apparent understanding of need for performance energy No apparent understanding of need for a visual plan

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