

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

| SOUND CATEGORY | SOUND CATEGORY | SOUND CATEGORY |
|---|--|---|
| <u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u> | <u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u> | <u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u> | <u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u> | <u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u> | <u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u> | <u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u> | <u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u> | <u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u> |
| 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

| MUSIC CATEGORY | MUSIC CATEGORY | MUSIC CATEGORY |
|--|--|---|
| <u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u> | <u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u> | <u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u> |
| 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. |
| <u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u> | <u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u> | <u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u> | <u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u> | <u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u> | <u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u> | <u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u> |
| 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

| EXPRESSION CATEGORY | EXPRESSION CATEGORY | EXPRESSION CATEGORY |
|--|--|--|
| <u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u> | <u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u> | <u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u> | <u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u> | <u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u> | <u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u> | <u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u> |
| 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 |
| <u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u> | <u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u> | <u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u> |
| 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

| SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY | SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY | SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY |
|--|--|--|
| <u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u> | <u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u> | <u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u> |
| 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 | 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 | 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 |
| <u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u> | <u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u> | <u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u> |
| 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 | 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 | 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 |
| <u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u> | <u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u> | <u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u> |
| 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 | 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 | 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 |
| <u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u> | <u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u> | <u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u> |
| 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 | 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 | 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 |

Colored Sheet Key

- White—Notes & words
- Pink—Singing skills
- Blue—Accuracy
- Purple—Interpretation/phrasing/forward motion
- Green—Rhythm, tempo, pulse
- Orange—Synchronization
- Yellow—Energy

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - SOUND

| LEVELS | Vocal Skills | Accuracy | Unit | Balance | Blend and Resonance | Vocal Energy |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| A+: 94 - 100 Flawless | Complete mastery | Total accuracy achieved | Flawless unit delivery | Perfectly balanced barbershop sound | Seamless unit, totally matched | Energized tones appear effortless |
| A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect | Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique | Chords tuned accurately and locked consistently throughout | Voices achieve total unity with notes and word components precisely aligned | Cone consistently balanced by all voices throughout range and at all dynamic extremes | Consistent unit approach to well-produced vowels and matched resonance | Consistent, high level of vocal energy from all with vocal line energized and forward moving |
| A-: 80 - 85 Excellent | Highly proficient | Consistent, high level | Consistent unit evident | Balance generally consistent | Generally consistent unit | Energy level generally high |
| B+: 74 - 79 Very Good | High level of mastery | Occasional minor tuning problems | Occasional minor synch problems detract from unit | Occasional minor balance problems | Occasional vowel or resonance mismatch | Consistent, but need to increase energy level as a unit |
| B: 66 - 73 Good | Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend | Notes generally accurate, but many need more precise tuning to lock and ring | Not all voices arrive at targets on time so chords don't always align properly | Inconsistencies due to demands of range or dynamics beyond performer's comfort zone | Some vowels lack resonance match from part to part or from one vowel to another | Energy level varies during performance and from each individual—unable to sustain high level |
| B-: 60 - 65 Promising | Need to integrate into performance | Frequent minor tuning problems | Frequent minor synch problems | Need awareness of position in chord | Inconsistent vowel resonance | Consistent energy and support needed |
| C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory | Progress evident but more needed | Consistent minor tuning problems | Consistent minor synch problems | Inconsistent due to vocal limitations | Lack of common approach | Inconsistent vocal skills affect level |
| C: 46 - 53 Acceptable | Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary | Intonation and tuning errors, and some wrong notes prevent locked chords | Frequent problems with chord alignment affect chord accuracy and overall unity | Balance good in mid-range, but deteriorates when outer ends of range are required | Unmatched vowel resonance, production, or placement affects blend and overall unit sound | Sporadic vocal energy, each performer unable to maintain consistent, high level |
| C-: 40 - 45 Fair | Beginning to work to strengthen | Consistent, major tuning and accuracy errors | Consistent synch errors detract | Unable to maintain barbershop balance | Occasional blend, unable to maintain | Attempts masked by consistent vocal problems |
| D+: 34 - 39 Weak | Brief glimpses of beginning work | General lack of chord accuracy throughout | Unit delivery rarely achieved | Cone-shaped balance achieved only occasionally | Occasional blend appears accidental, not on purpose | Unable to sustain energized vocal delivery |
| D: 26 - 33 Poor | Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level | Major accuracy and/or tonality problems make most chords impossible to identify | Consistent major problems with chord alignment make most chords difficult to isolate or identify | Barbershop cone seldom recognized due to consistent problems in other areas, especially lack of vocal skills | No apparent attention given to unit approach to production of well-resonated, matched vowels | Lack of good breath support and stamina makes achieving and maintaining vocal energy impossible |
| D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor | No apparent understanding | Chord accuracy rarely achieved | Consistent lack of unit vocal delivery | No understanding of barbershop style | Impossible due to lack of vocal skills | Need to improve vocal skills |
| F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable | Basic vocal skills need immediate attention | Total lack of accuracy with no chords identified | Need to build basic skills to achieve unity | Need to build basic skills to achieve barbershop balance | Need to build basic skills to achieve barbershop blend | Need to build basic skills to develop vocal energy |

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - MUSIC

| LEVELS | Vocal Skills | Song and Arrangement | Chord Accuracy and Unity | Ballad Interpretation | Uptune Interpretation | Musical Artistry |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| A+: 94 - 100 Flawless | Complete mastery | Highly creative arrangement | Flawless accuracy and musical unity | Captures essence of barbershop style! | Captures essence of barbershop style! | Highest degree of finesse and artistry |
| A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect | Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique | Very strong song and arrangement that showcases performer's musical strengths | Chords accurately tuned and locked into precisely aligned, total musical unit | Interpretive plan so well designed and performed that it is woven right into the musical fabric | Strong sense of tempo, pulse, and rhythmic delivery appropriate to song and arrangement | Consistent, high level of artistry and finesse from all, painting a musical picture for listener |
| A-: 80 - 85 Excellent | Highly proficient | Strong song, arranged with some creativity | Consistent unit with high level of chord accuracy | Creative design with high level execution | Appropriate to song with high level execution | High degree of artistry enhances musical plan |
| B+: 74 - 79 Very Good | High level of mastery | Good song, arr. shows creativity | Occasional minor problems | Minor flaws in unit delivery of plan | Minor stumbling blocks in execution | Artistry and finesse inconsistent |
| B: 66 - 73 Good | Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend | Good song, well arranged and appropriate to performer's capabilities | Occasional synch and/or tuning errors affect chord accuracy, clarity, and alignment | Well designed, but performers too involved in plan itself to make it a part of the music | Good plan in place but occasional interruptions in tempo, pulse, and rhythmic flow | Some artistic ideas, evident, but not all performers able to convey effectively and naturally |
| B-: 60 - 65 Promising | Need to integrate into performance | Good arr. of acceptable song | Consistent minor problems | Frequent lapses in delivery as a unit | Stronger unit delivery needed | A few glimpses of artistic delivery |
| C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory | Progress evident but more needed | Some challenges for performer | Sense of unit apparent | Plan lacks unit delivery | All singers need to internalize plan | Delivery appears controlled |
| C: 46 - 53 Acceptable | Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary | Acceptable song and arr. but not the best choice for vocal abilities of performer | Frequent synch and/or tuning errors affect chord accuracy, clarity, and alignment | Plan evident, but greater stamina and support needed for effective phrasing and dynamic levels | Inappropriate tempo or problems with musical unity detract from intended delivery | Problems in other areas make any attempts at artistry difficult to recognize and evaluate |
| C-: 40 - 45 Fair | Beginning to work to strengthen | Demands of arr. beyond skills of this performer | Consistent lack of aligned, accurately tuned chords | Plan needs higher level of vocal skill to be effective | Plan needs higher level of unity to be effective | No apparent attempts at artistic musical delivery |
| D+: 34 - 39 Weak | Brief glimpses of beginning work | Musical demands exceed abilities | General lack of accuracy/unity | Vocal skills need strengthening | Vocal skills need strengthening | Vocal skills need strengthening |
| D: 26 - 33 Poor | Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level | Not suitable for performer's present abilities; need to establish sense of four-part chord delivery | Consistent major problems with accuracy, unity, and sense of tonality | Lack of good vocal skills obscures any creativity in planned phrasing and dynamic levels | Lack of good vocal skills obscures effectiveness of any plan for tempo or rhythmic interest | Artistic delivery requires a higher level of vocal skill than exhibited in this performance. |
| D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor | No apparent understanding of vocal production | Not suitable for performer's present abilities | Four-part chord accuracy never achieved | Performers lack skills needed for effective delivery | Performers lack skills needed for effective delivery | Need to strengthen vocal skills before addressing this area |
| F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable | Basic vocal skills need immediate attention | Gross errors prevent accurate evaluation | No clearly identifiable chords presented | No understanding of barbershop style evident | No understanding of barbershop style evident | Need to build basic skills to develop vocal energy |

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - EXPRESSION

| LEVELS | Vocal Skills | Unity | Vowels/ Diction | Ballad Interpretation | Uptune Interpretation | Barbershop Style | Emotional Communication |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| A+: 94-100 Flawless | Complete mastery | Flawless unit delivery | Exemplary unit performance | Flawless execution! | Flawless execution! | Excellent use of stylistic effects | Audience totally captivated |
| A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect | Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique | All notes and word components aligned and performed with total unity | Vowels and consonants matched and fully resonated at all times | Excellent design using phrasing and dynamics to support and enhance story | Excellent design with appropriate tempo, dynamics, and strong rhythmic pulse | Artistic use of stylistic vocal technique adds musical tension and drama | Involvement in message with strong character identification to reach listener |
| A-: 80 - 85 Excellent | Highly proficient | Rare departure from total unity | Consistent unit performance | Minor flaws in unit execution | Minor flaws in unit execution | High level of stylistic use | High degree of involvement |
| B+: 74 - 79 Very Good | High level of mastery | Some internal synch problems | Occasional misalignment | Occasional flaws in unit execution | Successful delivery of plan | On the verge of artistic delivery | Genuine involvement |
| B: 66 - 73 Good | Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend | Internal synch problems with diphthongs and consonants detract from unit | All vowels need consistent unit approach to production to achieve match | Good design but lack of freedom and musical drama in unit execution | Good plan, but occasional interruptions to tempo and/or rhythmic flow | Fleeting glimpses of artistry, but concern for mechanics of plan apparent | Involvement genuine but inconsistent within group as story unfolds |
| B-: 60 - 65 Promising | Need to integrate into performance | Frequent internal problems | Consonants and diphthongs interrupt flow | Technique overshadows artistry | Stronger unit with rhythmic pulse needed | Apparent only as part of technique | Technique overrides involvement |
| C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory | Progress evident but more needed | Unit apparent, but inconsistent | Vowel match and alignment inconsistent | Plan evident, but lack of unit delivery | Need to sing tempo, not words | Need stronger support to be successful | Concern overrides sincerity |
| C: 46 - 53 Acceptable | Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary | Frequent internal and external synch errors from over articulation and variance in word stress | White space in vocal lines from interference by consonants and diphthongs | Plan emerges, but delivery mechanical; need vocal stamina for dynamic plan | Plan evident but synch problems impair successful delivery; minimal dynamic interest | Stronger vocal skills needed to successfully convey stylistic vocal effects | Communication rarely goes beyond foot-lights to reach audience |
| C-: 40 - 45 Fair | Beginning to work to strengthen | Synch problems throughout | Need free, unit approach | Word delivery choppy | Unable to set and maintain as unit | Attempts lack musicality | Nerves impair communication |
| D+: 34 - 39 Weak | Brief glimpses of beginning work | General lack of unity throughout | Consistent major problems | Choppy, lack of forward motion | Consistent lack of unit delivery | Attempts unsuccessful | No attempt to communicate |
| D: 26 - 33 Poor | Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level | Consistent major synch problems result from lack of basic vocal skills, support, and stamina | No apparent attempt to use unit approach to matched and resonated vowel production | No evidence of dynamic plan or smooth phrase flow; need to develop strong vocal foundation | No evidence of dynamic plan; tempo unsteady and lacks proper downbeat or backbeat stress | No evidence that stylistic elements in arrangement are recognized or technique needed to perform | Audience concern for performer bars successful, emotional communication |
| D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor | No apparent understanding of vocal production | Constant lack of unity | Need stronger vocal skills to achieve here | Need stronger vocal skills to achieve here | Need to improve vocal skills to succeed here | No attempt to incorporate | Audience unable to relate |
| F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable | Basics vocal skills need immediate attention | Need to build basic skills to achieve unit | No evidence of work on vowel production | No evidence of phrasing or dynamic plan | No evidence that singers know plan for delivery | No evidence barbershop style is understood | No understanding of audience communication |

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - SHOWMANSHIP

| LEVELS | Vocal Skills | Command of Stage | Imagery, Character | Visual Plan | Visual Unity | Visual Energy |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| A+: 94 - 100 Flawless | Complete mastery | Exceptional! | Flawless unit delivery | Impeccable design and execution | Superb! Joy abounds! | Breathtaking! Amazing! |
| A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect | Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique | Total command with poise, confidence, and charisma in communication with audience | Strong theatrical skills create and project illusion to appropriately enhance musical storyline | Strong design that consistently supports and reinforces musical performance and interpretive plan | Consistent, high degree of unity characterizes all facets of visual performance | High level of energy and intensity consistently exhibited by all; all faces exude joy of performing |
| A-: 80 - 85 Excellent | Highly proficient | Very poised and confident | Well defined with minor lapses | Minor flaws in execution | Minor flaws in unit execution | High degree, very energized |
| B+: 74 - 79 Very Good | High level of mastery | Confidence apparent | Strong sense of personality | Very good, but lapses in delivery | Generally performs as visual unit | Minor lapses in energy level |
| B: 66-73 Good | Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend | Performer seems comfortable on stage and generally in command | Appropriate unit approach to portrayal of character and musical storyline | Good design with some moments of strong support for musical performance | Inconsistent level of visual unity fails to keep audience continually involved in story | Energy level not consistently maintained by all performers from start to finish |
| B-: 60 - 65 Promising | Need to integrate into performance | Inconsistent within unit | Inconsistent within unit | Inconsistent execution detracts | Need stronger unit involvement | Some lapses in energy level |
| C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory | Progress evident but more needed | Some moments of "take charge" | Some attempts at character evident | Stamina inconsistent | Basic unit evident, but inconsistent | Attempts at energy apparent |
| C: 46 - 53 Acceptable | Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary | Performers seem composed, but fail to establish any sense of "ownership" | Performance lacks personality and signs of establishing setting for musical story | Planning evident, but performers need to build physical stamina to present plan effectively | Unity in small details, but missing the bigger picture of unit approach to selling the music | Energy level needs a jump start to add life and reach beyond footlights to grab the audience |
| C-: 40 - 45 Fair | Beginning work to strengthen | Shows signs of insecurity | Stage persona tentative | Impacted by lack of physical stamina | Efforts evident, but unity fleeting | Glimpses of energy, not sustained |
| D+: 34 - 39 Weak | Brief glimpses of beginning work | Nerves override confidence | Attempts in this area appear stifled | Brief glimpses of support for music | Individuals rather than part of unit | Positive energy lacking |
| D: 26 - 33 Poor | Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level | Performance marked by signs of concern and nervousness that performer can't get beyond | Characterization, personality, and acting out a story appear to be unexplored territory | Plan shows limited support for musical story, and overall execution ragged with no emotional involvement | Even small details of costume and appearance need a tighter approach to unity; performers overcome by nerves | Energy level weak, lacks spark; nervous energy consumes performers; seem anxious for performance to end |
| D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor | No apparent understanding of vocal production | Audience feels discomfort and concern | Lack of vocal skill needs attention before attempting | Performer unable to execute plan at this time | Concept of unity seems foreign to this performer | Nervous energy approaches actual fear factor |
| F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable | Basic vocal skills need immediate attention | Unable to demonstrate | Musical problems too great to permit evaluation | No plan observable or manageable | No identifiable concept of visual unity | Stiff and robotic performance lacking energy |

LISTENING HIERARCHY

Overriding factors: choice of material; structure of music, breathing patterns, vocal production

Focus on items one at a time in order of priority

NOTES & WORDS

VOCAL SKILLS

- *Posture*
- *Breathing*
- *Phonation*
- *Resonation*
- *Articulation*

ACCURACY

- *TUNING/INTERVALS*
- *PART/CHORD BALANCE*
- *BLEND*
- *RESONANCE*
- *VOWEL MATCH*

PHRASING/INTERPRETATION/DYNAMIC PLAN

TEMPO/RHYTHM/PULSE

SYNCHRONIZATION/UNITY

ENERGY

ARTISTRY & FINESSE

VISUAL CONSIDERATIONS

- UNIT MOVES
- CHARACTERIZATION
- PHYSICAL ENERGY
- VOCAL/VISUAL CONGRUENCE