

Growing Through the B Levels

Progressing from B- to B **Focus Area: Good**

- Require 100% notes, words, rhythms and breaths from all singing members
- Make vocal production skills a primary focus on ALL chorus repertoire to build skill retention and stamina in delivery
- Incorporate physical, vocal and facial energy into every song
- Concentrate on synchronization within the delivery of phrases (internal synch) as well as at phrase beginnings and endings
- Chorus needs to become responsible for internalizing the interpretive plan
- Introduce different kinds of breathing – urgent breath, tempo breath, twitch breath, character breath, etc.
- Build individual part responsibility within chords and phrasing plans
- Develop characterization in the musical and visual plan delivery

Progressing from B to B+ **Focus Area: Very Good**

- Require 100% notes, words, rhythms, inflections, dynamics and breaths from all singers
- Work **individual** vocal skills to make them habitual with singers and to build individual confidence and consistency
- Perform in small performance groups to develop a greater sense of responsibility in the unit and to foster individual artistic performance
- Apply phrase flow skills to artistic delivery of the lyrical message of the song
- Encourage the chorus to perform without the director and remain in synch – becomes chorus driven instead of director driven
- Expect characterization and energy in ALL repertoire. Theatrical skills become more consistent in every performance

Breaking through from B+ to A- Focus Area: Musicality

- Vocal skills need to display a high level of consistent artistry
- All parts, all singers are fully energized – breath energy becomes compelling much of the time
- Strong sense of characterization and authentic emotional performance is evident much of the time
- Lock and ring of chords are the norm – singing with resonant, matched space and produced forward in the mask
- Technical elements are there yet unnoticeable, allowing the communication of the music and the message to become the focus
- Chorus becomes a focused unit that performs to communicate their message as a unit
- Artistry is usually evident making effective use of all Barbershop style elements
- High degree of vocal and physical energy

Remember...

“We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein

“Things are only impossible until they’re not.”

Jean-Luc Picard

***Big Results
Require
Big Dreams!***

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES - SOUND CATEGORY		
B+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT
<p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated; confident delivery Minor lapses in tuning and synch affect chord accuracy Minor errors in vowel production and resonance inhibit ringing ensemble sound Balance generally consistent throughout performance Vocal lines well energized and supported throughout the performance Artistry and musicality begin to outweigh technique Vocal character emerging</p>	<p>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 vocal 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</p>	<p>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/overtones Balance adjustments inconsistent Energy inconsistent Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry and character</p>
PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES - MUSIC CATEGORY		
B+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES - EXPRESSION CATEGORY		
B+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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 as artistry</p>
PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES - VISUAL COMMUNICATION CATEGORY		
B+ Very Good (74-79)	B Good (66-73)	B- Promising (60-65)
FOCUS AREA: MASTERY	FOCUS AREA: CONSISTENCY	FOCUS AREA: ACHIEVEMENT
<p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated and musically 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 that generally supports music</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>