

PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES – COMPETITION JUDGING CATEGORIES

Level	SOUND	MUSIC	EXPRESSION	SHOWMANSHIP
D+ 34-39	Vocal skills weak Lacking cone-shaped balance Little energy or forward motion Recognizable barbershop style Major tuning problems Breath problems readily apparent	Vocal skills lacking Many wrong notes Lack of musical unity Infrequent glimpses of identifiable chords Some hints of BBS style Arrangement too demanding (usually)	Varying level of vocal skills Musical problems cause ineffective dynamic plan Musical problems overcome phrasing plan Lack of open resonance and target vowel production Unity impaired by inadequate vocal skills Emotional communication lacking	Undeveloped vocal skills Weak musical presentation Nerves detracting from performance No attempt at character involvement Energy level inconsistent Little attempt at unity Visual plan extremely limited or inappropriate
C- 40-45	Frequent sync problems Blend / balance inconsistent Melody line & key recognizable Frequent tuning problems Breath control lacking Wrong notes, words, chords	Some evidence of interp plan Performance lacks energy Some attempt to implement vocal skills Seldom exhibits musical unity Musical artistry not apparent Arrangement too demanding	Evidence of beginning work on vocal production Louds not resonated, softs not supported Phrase delivery choppy, lack unity Lack of unit approach – vowels Consistent sync errors No clear understanding of emotional commitment to lyrics	Vocal skills weak Insecure/tentative stage persona Musical message not believable Physical/vocal energy weak Lack of unity in all areas Visual plan does not support the music
C 46-53	Tuning problems – notes, chords Greater degree of 4-part chords Some sense of unit apparent Frequent sync errors Most words/notes correct Some sense of bass-y BBS cone Lacks vocal freedom	Gen'ly correct notes & words Some understanding of vocal skills Chords usually identifiable Occasional musical unit Arrangement meets reqmts	Vocal skills inconsistent thru group Dynamic plan needs stronger vocal support & stamina Phrase delivery choppy, lacks flow and forward motion Vowels need unit approach to resonance and production Sync errors detract from performance Vocal energy & emotional communication weak	Vocal skills inconsistent Performance controlled More confidence needed to cross the footlights Little/no attempt at characterization or identification Vocal and physical energy weak Unity weak in all areas Lack of visual creativity
C+ 54-59	Accuracy problems Vocal skills inconsistent Intervals & notes gen'ly correct Sync problems Sense of unit apparent – not consistent Glimpses of overtone patterns	Correct notes & words Some proficiency in vocal skills Chords generally in tune Inconsistent musical unity Interpretive plan evident Arrangement meets reqmts	Work on vocal skills apparent, still in process Dynamic plan evident; needs to be executed as a unit Interp plan evident, needs stronger unit delivery Vowels not aligned as unit, consonants overdone Problems with internal sync Vocal energy and involvement not consistent	Vocal skills apparent Technique dominates presentation Audience rapport not clearly established Glimpses of personality and characterization – inconsistent Sporadic energy, lack of consistent stamina Basic unit performance evident Some attempt to visual creativity / plan

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B- 60-65	Vocal skills inconsistent Energy inconsistent Occasional vowel mismatch Some tuning errors Lacks artistic/finesse Overtone pattern inconsistent Some sync errors	Gen'lly consistent vocal skills Mostly consistent chord accuracy Unit consistent thru most of songs Controlled performance Glimpses of musical artistry Acceptable song, well arranged	Gen'lly good mastery of basic vocals Dynamic plan good; lacks consistent unit execution Vowels initially matched but not sustained as a unit Some artistic planning evident Inconsistent vocal stamina causes sync errors Emotional involvement overshadowed by technique	Commendable vocal skills requiring add'l development Audience not involved in perform. Some understanding of personality and characterization Evidence of beginnings of artistic approach Inconsistent energy levels – vocally and visually Lack of consistency within unit Minor flaws in visual plan
B 66-73	Minor sync problems Solid sound evident Good vocal skills Tonal center may float Chords don't consistently lock Overtimes present-not consistent Energized vocal line-inconsistent	Clear display of musical and lyrical intent Tempo/dynamics appropriate Evidence of fine-tuning capability Some artistry evident Good song, well arranged	Consistently good vocal skills Good dynamic plan, needs consistent vocal energy Most vowels well matched, some consonant interference Fleeting glimpses of artistry/finesse Minor errors in internal sync Inconsistent unit involvement in message	Consistent good vocal skills Audience not completely drawn into performance Musical, visual artistry and finesse Moments of identification with story and character Energy present but needs develop. Further refinement of unit needed Creative visual plan to support music evident
B+ 74-79	Solid vocal foundation Consistent vowel match Breath support maintained Minor tuning problems maybe Balance maintained Many glimpses of artistic sound	High level vocal skills Evidence of musical artistry Consistent musical unity Fine tuning consistent Artistry frequently apparent Strong arrangement –good song	Vocal skills gen'l well established Dynamic plan well designed and executed Some problems with alignment of vowels Greater artistry & finesse in delivery of message Occasional minor flaws in unit Genuine involvement, consistent musical energy	Vocal skills well established Technique evident in places Consistent level of audience rapport Strong sense of personality Seamless performance which flows smoothly in character High energy level Unity evident vocally, visually, and emotionally Strong and creative visual plan
A- 80-85	Fully resonated Wall of sound Tones are free, open, clear Strong overtime pattern Energized vocal line Artistry evident	Vocal skills maintain integrity of arrangement Minor unit problems Strength n BBS style evident Artistry consistently evident Arrangement showcases performer	Strong sense of unit delivery of BBS Strong interpretive plan, minor flaws in unit execution Strong character identification and involvement Excellent vocal skills apparent Consistent vertical alignment of word elements Occasional minor inconsistencies in unit presentation	High level of vocal and dramatic skills Strong rapport with audience Fleeting moments of technique Personality well-defined A real feel for emotion of story Energized performance Clearly established visual unit Visual plan works well to enhance music

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A 86-93	Instant tuning Instant vowel match Cone consistently balanced Vocal skills obvious Strong overtone structure High level of energized sound Strong artistry and finesse Flowing musical vocal line	Creative interpretive plan High degree vocal skills Fine tuning evident Captures nuances to enhance performance Creative arrangement of strong song	Strong sense of BBS style with artistry and finesse Excellent interpretive plan performed as a unit Vocal line continuously energized and forward moving Artistic use of dynamics and appropriate vocal texture Vowels & diphthongs fully resonated and matched Total mastery of vocal skills supports interpretive plan	Highly developed vocal and theatrical skills Total command of stage Performance transcends technique most of the time High level of audience rapport Strong emotional projection Strongly energized performance High degree of unity Illusion created to capture audience
A+ 94-100	Performance transcends the technique Strength in all facets – vowels and tuning Overtime structure present and obvious on all chords All components of Sound category performed with total artistry, finesse, and energy Vocal skills intuitive	Performance transcends the technique Captures essence of BBS Performed with total accuracy High degree of musical artistry Highly creative arrangement of very strong vehicle	Performance transcends the technique Audience totally captivated by performance Flawless unit delivery of masterful interpretive plan Total vocal energy maintained thru – out performance Appropriate use of musical tension and vocal drama	Excellent vocal skills with highest degree of artistry Performed with highest degree of artistry Superb command of stage Performance consistently transcends technique Captivates audience throughout Total emotional commitment to story Fully and artistically energized Complete unity; vocally, visually and emotionally Impeccable visual plan