

"SOUND RULES"

*The Category Building a sound - floor to roof*

**I. UNIT SOUND - 70% of score**

**A. VOCAL SKILLS - *hierarchy of skills***

1. Posture
2. Breathing
3. Phonation
4. Resonation
5. Articulation

**B. ACCURACY - *individual + teamwork***

1. Notes
2. Intervals
3. Chords
4. Tuning/Intonation
5. Section/Part Accuracy
6. Synchronization

**C. BARBERSHOP BLEND**

1. Tone Production
2. Vowel Production

**D. BARBERSHOP BALANCE**

**II. ARTISTIC SOUND - 30% of score**

**A. Energized Vocal Line - sound must *first* be correctly produced, i.e. technical proficiency**

1. "Tones possess energy"
  - breath support
  - positive, confident mental attitude
  - "life" imparted to voice by lifted facial countenance
2. There is "heart" in the sound to "convey a sincere feeling for message"

**B. Tone Flow -**

1. "*Tones move easily from syllable to syllable and note to note with as little interruption of the sound as possible*", as if sung "*on a sustained 'ah.'*" JCDB
  - impeded by overuse of lips and jaw
  - must flow and support to end of each phrase
  - impacted by director's conducting techniques

**C. Dynamic Flexibility** - does not evaluate the *propriety of dynamics* but does evaluate:

1. High volumes done with good quality
2. Low volumes done with sufficient energy and support and clarity
3. Ability to maintain BBS balance at all dynamic levels
4. Ability to maintain BBS balance throughout dynamic changes

Note: *"If a performer fails to demonstrate these abilities, the sound just has not been given a basis for a complete evaluation." "...the sound judge will be listening for good, quality singing, not for mere volume. She will be alerted to the chorus that exceeds its vocal limitations for the sake of volume and will not be influenced by the size of the chorus." "Chorus size is not a factor in the evaluation." JCDB*

#### **D. Vocal Style**

1. Ballad vs. Uptune - style may differ (texture)
2. Creative devices - unified and technically proficient
  - chord swipes
  - bell chords
  - embellishments
  - echoes
  - key changes
  - patter - 2 sets of lyrics at one time effects vowel uniformity

#### **Special Sound Effects**

- A. Ratio of tone vs. air is intentionally adjusted
  1. Diamond - velvet
  2. Spike - velvet
  3. Aspirate - to articulate so as to produce an audible puff of breath
- B. Onomatopoeia - formation of a word from a sound associated with what it is names (e.g., cuckoo, sizzle, grand)
- C. Dominance vs. Elegance - all songs have some combination of both

The BIG FOUR - common to all four categories

- I. VOCAL SKILLS
- II. ACCURACY
- III. UNITY
- IV. ENERGY