

VOCAL WARM-UPS
FOR
CHORUS UNITY

The JUDGE CATEGORY DESCRIPTION BOOK states: “Vocal Skills are an integral part of all aspects of the barbershop style, and all four categories are affected by the degree of proficiency in this area.”

A thorough warm-up session **begins** with instruction, exercises or reminders about:

1. Posture, body alignment
2. Breathing

and **proceeds** to:

3. Phonation
4. Resonation
5. Articulation

These are considered by vocal experts to be the basic elements of Vocal Production and are listed in hierarchical order. When planning vocal warm-ups, review and explain the **purpose** of each warm-up you've chosen.

A well-planned warm-up session **progresses** from:

mid-tessitura notes ----- to ----- notes in the outer extremities of range
intervals of a step ----- to ----- intervals with skips
single vowel sounds ----- to ----- multiple and mixed vowel sounds
simple rhythms ----- to ----- complex rhythms
unison singing ----- to ----- harmony (rounds, then 4-parts)

Singers are encouraged to vocalize before coming to rehearsal. Use vocal warm-ups which can directly transfer into chorus songs, or find ways to connect them to songs. Vocal instruction continues throughout a chorus rehearsal through reference to the vocal warm-up session. Listening skills are also a part of the warm-up session; focusing on accuracy, particularly interval singing, is key to building a foundation of voice part and harmony accuracy.