



And the judges said . . .

2008 Region 10 Competition  
Comments from the Judging  
Panel

# [ Post-Contest Meeting ]

---

- Happens in every region after every regional competition
- Official Panel meets with Education Coordinator, Directors Coordinator, and Events Coordinator (out-going and in-coming).
- Intended to aid the RMT in planning appropriate classes and experiences to address the areas where improvement is needed

# [ Sound Judge: Sharon Babb ]

## ■ CHORUSES:

- Need to further develop proper breathing and resonance
- Many singers need a greater commitment to accuracy beyond merely learning correct notes – would benefit from a better understanding of the difference between tuning and intonation
- B & B+ levels, singers need to pay closer attention to fine-tuning and to synchronization within each phrase

# [ Sharon, continued ]

---

- Quartets:
  - 85% are singing correct notes and intervals but still singers need additional attention in this area
  - Some nice work on phrase planning and interpretation

# [ Sharon – Quartets continued ]

---

- GOAL AREAS:

- Breath support (as always)
- Matched resonance and better lead/bass match
- Synchronization for better chord lock
- Vocal energy / performance energy

# [ Sharon – Quartets continued ]

---

- To break out of C and C+ levels, singers need to pay more attention to:
  - Locking and ringing chords, especially on octaves
  - Tuning barbershop 7<sup>th</sup> chords
  - Maintaining open resonance
  - Maintaining absolute unity
  - Singing with more energy

# [ Sharon – General Comment ]

---

- “Some fun singing happening here! We need to bring the vocal skills up to match the level of the fun.”

# [ Music Judge – Lynnell Diamond ]

- Comments apply to both choruses and quartets
  - Trends in Music Category are tuning errors, weak vocal skills, lack of solid musical unity, and musical energy not present or inconsistent.
  - There was a lack of commitment to the songs themselves – to the message and the meaning.
  - Some good solid B level performances just need more consistency and attention to details to move into B+.
  - Nobody “got out of the box”. The performances were careful.

# [Lynnell - continued]

---

- Song and Arrangement (0-30 points):
  - Selection of music was mostly okay. However, some song choices were too difficult for the performers.
  - Comment: Swing songs are not strong for barbershop competition as either uptunes or ballads.

# [Lynnell - continued]

---

- Performance (0 – 70 points)
  - Singers need much more work on harmony accuracy. There were lots of problems relating to correct notes and tuning.
  - In terms of tempo and rhythm, singers need more pulse and consistency.
  - Many synchronization errors, resulting in lack of musical unity.
  - Musical energy was lacking in general.

# Expression Judge – Marcia Massey

## ■ Choruses:

- Many choruses need to spend more time strengthening the basics of vocal production.
- Choreographic moves need to enhance the music rather than being separate from the music.
- Character development needs much more attention in most choruses. Characterization is lacking for most groups.
- Comedy is good; good singing comedy is better.
- Performance energy does not equal “loud”.

# [ Marcia - continued ]

---

- Quartets:
  - Many synchronization problems occurred. Everybody needs to understand the planned delivery and interpretation.
  - More consistent vowel-to-vowel singing is needed as well as the need to turn diphthongs together.
  - Lack of breath support adversely affected singers. In particular, ballads suffered especially in the beginning of the song.

# [ Marcia – Quartets - continued ]

---

- Misplaced energy was evident in some performances. Singers must solidify the basic vocal skills first and build from there. This affected those ensembles that planned clever theatrics but needed solid vocal skills to achieve the desired effect.

# Showmanship Judge – Bonnie McKibben

---

- Comments apply to both choruses and quartets:
  - Singers need work on solidifying the vocal foundation across all performance levels.
  - Synchronization issues detracted from overall performances.
  - Character identification needs to be developed further.
  - Grooming needs attention; many singers had messy hair.

# [ Bonnie - continued ]

---

- The makeup was uneven across the members of some ensembles.
- The concept of focal points needs to be understood.
- Ensembles need to perform with more power, passion and freedom.

# [ So, now what? ]

---

- How do we use this information?
- Why should we use this information?
- Who should use this information?
- Is it important that we use this information?
- What can we do to change this report in 2009?
- Why should we do anything to change this report in 2009?

[

]

What is the  
comment made by all  
four judges?

# [ BETTER VOCAL SKILLS! ]

---

- What would better vocal skills get us?
  - Greater personal satisfaction with my own singing
  - Greater personal satisfaction with the sound my chorus is making
  - Creating a product other women want to be a part of

[ Better vocal skills could get us . . ]

---

- Happier singers are happier members
- The opportunity to achieve a higher level of performance in the barbershop craft
- Higher contest scores

[ Improving vocal skills must be part of the plan! ]

---

- More rehearsal time needs to be spent on developing individual vocal skills of our members.
- A higher degree of quality personal vocal skills will help us achieve a higher level of performance in the barbershop craft.

Improving vocal skills must be part of the plan!

Slow down.

Think about what is important.

Costumes and choreography can wait.

Vocal skills is where it's **AT!**

We can all sing better than we do now!

Someone just has to teach us HOW!