

## Glossary of Terms Found on Score Sheets

- 1) **Articulation**: the physical process involved in the method or manner of enunciating any utterances
- 2) **Artistry (musical)**: describes a performance that shows great skill and outstanding interpretive ability
- 3) **Chord**: a group of notes played simultaneously. Chords in barbershop harmony are built on intervals of the third and have three or four tones
- 4) **Cone**: the balance of sound in a barbershop quartet or chorus that distinguishes it from a singing group with a different style
- 5) **Coning**: the vocal adjustment necessary to maintain the proper balance of a barbershop sound. It will primarily involve singing lighter in both volume and quality in the upper range and with more breadth, depth and volume in the lower range
- 6) **Diphthong**: a combination of two vowel sounds
- 7) **Dynamics**: in barbershop harmony, dynamics refers to the variance in louds and softs that are being sung
- 8) **Embellishment**: a tone or group of tones applied as decoration to a principal melodic line
- 9) **Enunciation**: in singing, the manner of pronouncing words clearly and distinctly
- 10) **Focus**: a term of imagery implying a connected point of tonal vibration
- 11) **Finesse**: extreme delicacy or subtlety in action, performance, skill and discrimination
- 12) **Flow**: to proceed continuously and smoothly throughout the phrase line so as not to over enunciate consonants and thus become choppy
- 13) **Form**: the overall pattern of structure of a song or an arrangement
- 14) **Inflection**: variations of the voice in pitch; in barbershop, inflection refers to the use of consonants to add emotion to the interpretation
- 15) **Intensity**: energy of a sound wave; an energized quality of tone or of sound
- 16) **Interpretation**: the communication of mood and thought values
- 17) **Interval**: the distance between two notes
- 18) **Intonation**: singing in tune
- 19) **Overtone**: any frequency heard that is higher in frequency than the fundamental
- 20) **Legato**: a basic style of vocal technique consisting of a seemingly uninterrupted flowing vocal line

- 21) Parody: a humorous set of lyrics used as a replacement for the original words
- 22) Phonation: the act or process of generating vocal sound at its point of production at the glottis (the vocal cords)
- 23) Phrase: a musical thought analogous to the sentences of a literary composition; division of a piece of music into small units for some artistic purpose, especially into unity that can be sung in one breath
- 24) Pickup: a stylistic device in barbershop arranging used to embellish either the beginning of a song or the rests between phrases
- 25) Pronunciation: to utter or articulate words or sounds in the required manner. It includes both enunciation and articulation.
- 26) Resonation: the intensification and enrichment of a musical tone by means of supplementary vibration
- 27) Secondary Chords: chords built on the second, third or sixth degree of the scale; in barbershop arranging, chords other than the major triad
- 28) Swipe: a barbershop style device which uses chord changes on one or more voices moving to make the change
- 29) Synchronization: all singers singing at the same time, or coincide or agree in time giving strength to the unit
- 30) Tag: the end of a song; usually an additional line or two which has been added as a finishing touch prior to the actual conclusion of the song
- 31) Tension: the act of stretching or straining
- 32) Tonal Center: the tonic which forms a center of gravity from which the musical action springs and to which it ultimately returns; i.e. "Do"
- 33) Tonality: created by the peculiar quality of our scale which makes us feel the need to return to "Do"
- 34) Tremolo: an abnormal pulsation of the voice, marked by a perceptible variation in pitch due to a lack of proper coordination of the vocal mechanism because of incorrect use of the breath or unnatural physical tension
- 35) Tuning: refers to the ability to sing both "in key" and "on pitch"
- 36) Vowel: a speech sound articulated so that there is a clear channel for the voice through the middle of the mouth

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
<p>Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Tuning of all chords is instant and impeccable</p> <p>Flawless delivery of vowels with matched resonance</p> <p>Barbershop balance is instinctive and always present</p> <p>Seamless vocal lines appear to float on a pillar of energy</p> <p>Artistry and finesse epitomize the barbershop style</p> <p>Performance completely transcends technique</p>	<p>Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>All chords instantly tuned into locked, ringing unit</p> <p>Vowels consistently produced with matched resonance</p> <p>Balance maintained at all dynamic levels and ranges</p> <p>Seamless vocal lines consistently energized and flowing</p> <p>Strong sense of barbershop style with artistry and finesse</p> <p>Performance consistently transcends technique</p>	<p>High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Chords usually tuned into locked, ringing unit</p> <p>Vowels usually produced with matched resonance</p> <p>Balance usually maintained throughout performance</p> <p>Vocal lines usually seamless and fully energized</p> <p>Strong sense of barbershop style usually evident</p> <p>Performance usually transcends technique</p>
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
<p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Minor tuning problems affect chord accuracy</p> <p>Synch problems occasionally affect chord accuracy</p> <p>Minor errors in vowel production and resonance match</p> <p>Balance generally consistent throughout performance</p> <p>Vocal lines generally well energized and supported</p> <p>Artistry beginning to emerge over technique</p>	<p>Vocal skills strong but not habitual</p> <p>Solid sound overall, but chords not consistently locked</p> <p>Minor synch problems affect chord accuracy</p> <p>Most vowels matched and properly resonated</p> <p>Balance suffers at extreme ranges and dynamic levels</p> <p>Energy and support for vocal lines inconsistent</p> <p>Technique still evident and generally overrides artistry</p>	<p>Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent</p> <p>Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems</p> <p>Frequent internal synch problems affect chord accuracy</p> <p>Vowels initially matched but not sustained as tuned unit</p> <p>Singers need better awareness of balance adjustments</p> <p>Vocal lines occasionally supported and energized</p> <p>Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry</p>
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
<p>Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress</p> <p>Consistent minor intonation and tuning problems</p> <p>Consistent minor synch problems affect overall unity</p> <p>Frequent errors in vowel production and resonance match</p> <p>Balance inconsistent due to vocal limitations</p> <p>Energy sporadic, with lack of consistent support</p> <p>Fleeting glimpses of at vocal artistry</p>	<p>Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent</p> <p>Intonation and tuning errors, and some wrong notes</p> <p>Frequent synch problems impact chord alignment</p> <p>Vowels occasionally match in passing, not sustained</p> <p>Balance good in mid-range, but not at extremes</p> <p>Energy level weak, need for improved vocal stamina</p> <p>Attempts at artistry masked by vocal problems</p>	<p>Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent</p> <p>Consistent tuning and accuracy errors</p> <p>Consistent synch problems keep chords from aligning</p> <p>Vowels generally lack common approach to resonance</p> <p>Unable to maintain consistent, cone-shaped balance</p> <p>Vocal energy rarely demonstrated</p> <p>No discernible attempts at vocal artistry</p>
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<b><u>D- LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
<p>Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work</p> <p>General lack of chord accuracy with many wrong notes</p> <p>Vertical alignment rarely achieved</p> <p>Vowel match generally not achieved</p> <p>Cone-shaped balance rarely achieved</p> <p>Energized vocal line impacted by weak support</p> <p>Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level</p>	<p>Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here</p> <p>Major accuracy and/or tonality problems</p> <p>Consistent major synch errors</p> <p>Individual voices rather than musical unit</p> <p>Barbershop cone not recognized</p> <p>Energized delivery lacking due to poor breath support</p> <p>Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level</p>	<p>No apparent understanding of vocal skills</p> <p>Chord accuracy rarely achieved due to wrong notes</p> <p>No apparent effort to sing together as a unit</p> <p>Blend impossible due to lack of vocal skills</p> <p>No understanding of barbershop cone</p> <p>No evidence of vocal energy</p> <p>Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level</p>