

## UNIT SOUND

Unit sound occurs when TONES ARE PROPERLY PRODUCED, ACCURATELY TUNED, BLENDED and BALANCED. We are talking LOCK AND RING.

The sound judge rewards a performance wherein:

**All singers consistently apply** techniques of good vocal production

**Total accuracy** exists both **horizontally** within individual part lines and **vertically** within individual chords. Vocal qualities are blended both within chorus sections and within the overall quartet or chorus unit, culminating in a composite, well-produced, musical sound

**Cone-shaped balance** of voices or sections is maintained. Overall application of vocal and stylistic technique enhances the identifiable characteristics of the barbershop style, resulting in a musical performance in the sound category.

### POSTURE

#### BREATHING

Relaxed jaw, relaxed, open throat and erect, expanded rib cage.

**Mastery of breathing will accomplish more than any other single factor in improving the caliber of vocal production in all four categories.**

#### PHONATION

Swallowing muscles, bearing down muscles, locked knees (not ever)

#### RESONATION

Relaxed jaw, open throat and elevated soft palate

It will feel different to each singer

#### ARTICULATION

Notes, intervals, chords, tuning, intonation

Intonation in the sound category refers to the physical production of the tone

Focus and clarity

### SECTION/PART ACCURACY

#### SYNCHRONIZATION

Instant locking of the chord

#### VOWEL PRODUCTION

“Vowel modification” to achieve barbershop balance and blend

Brighter more forward vowel as the pitch descends

More neutral approach at the high end of the tenor range

#### SECTION BLEND

#### SECTION TO SECTION BLEND