

Making the “BIG FOUR” Work at Your Level

Vocal Skills, Accuracy, Unity, Energy

To Go from C to C+

- **Vocal Skills:**

Make Vocal Production Skills a focus of every rehearsal, especially giving attention to alignment and breathing

Develop supported, open resonance for individuals to begin section blend

- **Accuracy:**

Focus on singing correct notes, words and intervals

- **Unity:**

Concentrate on singing together and develop a unified phrasing and breath plan

Breathe together to unify phrase onsets and releases

Unify vowel sounds

- **Energy:**

Work on maintaining a consistent tempo

Concentrate on keeping faces and bodies energized and involved in the message of the song

Reinforce the need for vocal energy at all volume levels

Plan little choreography

To Go from C+ to B-

(in addition to the above)

- **Vocal Skills:**

Include clear phonation and open resonance

Stress coning within the range

- **Accuracy:**

Focus on correct notes, words and intervals

Tuning, careful listening

Key integrity

- **Unity:**

Breathe to sing together, and execute clear, precise rhythms together

More attention to vowel resonance match

Sing as a sectional unit

Better phrase finish

Better internal synchronization (within phrases)

Forward motion

- **Energy:**

Better tempo establishment and maintenance

Stress continuous sound with vowel-to-vowel tone flow, minimal consonant interference

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To Go from B- to B

(in addition to the above)

- **Vocal Skills:**

Continue to build consistency on ALL chorus music

- **Accuracy:**

100% correct notes, words, **rhythms**, intervals, and **breaths**

- **Unity:**

Concentrate on synchronization within delivery of phrases as well as at phrase beginnings and endings

Start working on characterization in the visual plan and its delivery

Make chorus responsible for part responsibility within chords and phrasing plan

- **Energy:**

Incorporate physical, vocal and facial energy into all aspects of every song

To Go from B to B+

(in addition to the above)

- **Vocal Skills:**

Work on individual vocal skills for added confidence and to make them habitual

- **Accuracy:**

Evaluate for correct inflections and dynamics (in addition to other accuracy responsibilities)

- **Unity:**

Pay more attention to musical plan: dynamics, lyrical meaning, structure understanding of arrangement

Understand and execute embellishments together

Work in small groups to develop greater sense of responsibility to unit and foster artistry at the individual level

Apply phrase flow skills to artistic delivery of message striving for constant sense of forward motion

Have chorus perform without director and stay in synch

Strengthen characterization in all songs; theatrical skills are a consistent part of performance

Give more attention to costume fit, design and detail

- **Energy:**

Increase level of energy as individuals and ensemble

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To Go from B+ to A-

(in addition to the above)

- **Vocal Skills:**

Strive for a level of quartet proficiency and total freedom for each singer

- **Accuracy:**

100% correct and checked notes, words, rhythms and breaths from all singers with faces and bodies fully engaged in the effort to sell the musical message

- **Unity:**

Apply phrase flow skills to artistic delivery of the message of the song striving for constant sense of forward motion **and message delivery**

Chorus can perform without director, staying in synch and **in tune**

Musical message is delivered with heart

Intuitive choreography delivery

Chorus develops style, congruence and finesse

Entertainment and audience contact is the principle consideration

-**Energy:**

Higher energy is apparent

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