



FORWARD MOTION

(excerpt from the *Judging Category Description Book*)

Because music in the barbershop style is performed without instrumental accompaniment, constant forward motion of the singing tone is required. Occasional periods of rest are necessary, both for vocal effect and/or relief to the ear of the listener and to build toward an effective climax of the story line. Within each phrase smooth connection of sounds is necessary for artistic delivery.

The musical term for the desired style of delivery is legato, a basic style of vocal technique consisting of a seemingly uninterrupted, flowing vocal line with corresponding non-interfering articulation and pronunciation.

Choppiness within words and phrases occurs when a legato delivery is not present. This may result from one of the following:

1. Failure to support tones with the breathing mechanism
2. Tension in the jaw and interference from the swallowing muscles
3. Incorrect use or overuse of the articulatory mechanism
4. Over-enunciation
5. A directing style that lacks flow or that stresses beats rather than phrases

FORWARD MOTION is achieved by connecting phrases with energized breath support. In an attempt to achieve forward motion, it is important to avoid rushing through phrases, or singing faster without connection to the lyrical or musical intent.

When musical flow and forward motion are not present, the listener's attention is drawn to each individual syllable or word rather than to the overall story. The objective is a performance that effectively communicates a story, not a vocal exercise.

Vickie J. Maybury
Certified International Faculty
Certified Expression Judge
Master Director 700, Skyline Chorus
VickieMaybury@yahoo.com
www.Linkedin/in/VickieMaybury