

Region 11- 2011 Contest Chorus Trends

Music Category – Lynnell Diamond

- **Song and Arrangement** – mostly good barbershop; no problems noted in harmonization/voicing
- **Vocal skills and harmony accuracy** – keep emphasizing these in your education programs
- **Tempo, musical unity, musical energy** – keep working

With the exception of Santa Monica and Celebrity City, there seemed to be a cap on musical energy this year. Almost all the music was good barbershop, but the performances lacked the solidly energized vocal lines that characterize the barbershop style.

Typically in the music category, the main issues were harmony accuracy and musical unity.

Tempo was also a frequent problem area – often because the tempo was too fast, resulting in:

- Lyrics that couldn't be understood
- Synchronization issues (lack of unity in the music category)
- The wrong approach to the intent of the song

As I told several competitors, it doesn't have to be fast to be exciting

Sound Category – Dixie Dahlke

- **Vocal skills** – strengthen posture, breathing and phonation in particular
- **Accuracy** – notes – okay; need to learn breathing and listening skills and learn to sing to the chord
- **Barbershop blend** – some good sensitivity but needs tone production and vowel production work for solidity

Continue individual vocal development

Develop stronger listening skills

Develop more singer chord awareness in choruses

Work on artistic areas shows; now it's time to revisit sound and vocal skills

Cone - Be aware of each part's place in chord to maintain consistent balance

Expression – Marcia Pinvidic

- Directors: Ambitious plans are ok for the excitement factor, but when singers cannot execute them – it is lost.
- Put vocal skills in place first.
- Transitions in uptunes often cause performance to falter. Rehearse these (examples are ad-lib, tempo changes, double or half time passages, key changes).
- Verses – both in uptunes and ballads need more attention. Often running through them too quickly and you can get more out of these parts of the music.

Showmanship Category – Melanie Wroe

- **Preparation** – intensify everything. These bright lights require theatrical makeup or facial expressions get lost. Rouge needs to be much darker and lipstick should be a truer red to show up
- **Energy** – This is the hallmark of showmanship and needs to be cultivated in every way possible. More personal connection and commitment to character requires energy so make it a focus to learn how to generate it in every single singer.
- **Visual plans** – many effective ones, but a few were too challenging for the individual abilities of the chorus. Focus on attitude first and let the moves come only when the visual product can be maintained.