

# Elements of Clean Singing (Directors Class)

## Handouts

Elementary Rules for a Clean Performance

How the Judging Categories Relate to  
Clean Singing

How Synchronization Affects Clean Singing

Other Factors Affecting a Clean  
Performance

## ELEMENTS OF A CLEAN PERFORMANCE

### Elementary Rules for a Clean Performance

- **Correct notes and words**
- **Pitch maintains relationship to “DO”**
- **Part line intervals are accurate**
- **Intervals and resulting chords are tuned correctly to encourage lock and ring**
- **Sufficient resonance is used to create good vocal alignment, encouraging blend and balance and enhancing accuracy**
- **Vowels are produced within good quality sound and in the same manner by all singers to encourage compatible vowel sounds without distorting individual resonance or pitch**
- **Synchronized delivery enhances unit accuracy, encouraging chord lock**
- **Sufficient listening skills are applied to create a well-resonated, blended ensemble**
- **Sufficient breath energy and control is applied to maintain a consistent accurate and energized tone flow**
- **Appropriate register mix is applied by each singer to avoid distinctive quality changes from register to register**
- **The same mental mood/mental energy is applied across each phrase line by all singers**
- **Sufficient air pressure is applied to support movement (wall of sound) within the phrase line, creating forward motion and a sense of vitality**

## **ELEMENTS OF A CLEAN PERFORMANCE**

### **HOW THE JUDGING CATEGORIES RELATE TO CLEAN SINGING**

**Clean singing depends upon many elements of our craft that can be directly related to good vocal production. If you look at each of the category score sheets, you will note that VOCAL SKILLS is the unifying factor of all four categories, along with UNITY as relates to each individual category.**

- **MUSIC CATEGORY:**
  - **Strong, singable arrangement – and most importantly, an arrangement that is within the capabilities of the performing group**
  
- **SOUND CATEGORY:**
  - **Well defined and developed vocal skills with all singers approaching vocal production in a like manner. Voice free of vocal tension with strong ability for accuracy and tuning.**
  
- **EXPRESSION CATEGORY:**
  - **Strong understanding and application of unity as applied to vowels, diphthongs, diction – and all to be delivered with a meaningful phrase plan full of heart and soul of the performer.**
  
- **SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY:**
  - **Physically energized, unified visual and free vocal delivery that makes an emotional and honest connection with the audience and transcends all technique.**

## ELEMENTS OF A CLEAN PERFORMANCE

### How Synchronization Affects Clean Singing

- **Complexity of the arrangement:**
  - **Jumpy line parts**
  - **Too high/low for one or more parts**
  - **Phrase length demands**
  - **Dynamic demands**
  - **Fast tempo – lots of words – percussive application**
- **Tempo/meter agreement**
- **Vowels**
  - **“Chewed”; distorted; slow to target; diphthong omission; different formation; too long/short**
- **Breathing**
  - **Different patterns; different styles; gasping; tension**
- **Difference in internal phrase emphasis**
- **Mushy or poor articulation**
- **Varying emphasis on consonants or missing consonants**
- **Choppy tone flow**
- **Tension in jaw & tongue**
- **Bouncy choreography**
- **Lack of energy and inconsistent breath pressure**
- **Over singing**
- **Unlike mental focus**
- **Inconsistent listening skills**
- **Stage fright**
- **Note and word insecurity**

## **ELEMENTS OF A CLEAN PERFORMANCE**

<b>Other Factors Affecting a Clean Performance</b>
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- **Interpretation not compatible with current abilities of ensemble**
- **On-stage concentration on individual responsibilities**
- **Interpretative plan does not fit abilities and presentation skills of all members of ensemble**
- **Blend and unit are affected by conflicts within the ensemble**
- **Quality is sacrificed for quantity of music sung**
- **Visual presentation not synchronized with vocal delivery**
- **Directing signals not clear to all members of the ensemble**