

**Barbershop Blueprint**  
**You Too Can Be A Judge**  
(two classes, same handouts)

# Handouts

## Scoresheets

1. Sound (pink)
2. Music ( blue)
3. Expression (yellow)
4. Showmanship (green)

## Performance Level Guidelines

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUND**

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contestant # \_\_\_\_\_

Contest: Region # \_\_\_\_\_ Chorus Region # \_\_\_\_\_ Quartet Date \_\_\_\_\_

Int'l Quartet Semifinals  Int'l Chorus Semifinals  Int'l Quartet Finals  Int'l Chorus Finals  Harmony Classic

## JUDGING CRITERIA

### UNIT SOUND (0-70 points)

#### VOCAL SKILLS

Posture  
Breathing  
Phonation  
Resonation  
Articulation

#### ACCURACY

Notes  
Intervals  
Chords  
Tuning/Intonation  
Section/Part Accuracy  
Synchronization  
BARBERSHOP BLEND  
Tone Production  
Vowel Production  
BARBERSHOP BALANCE

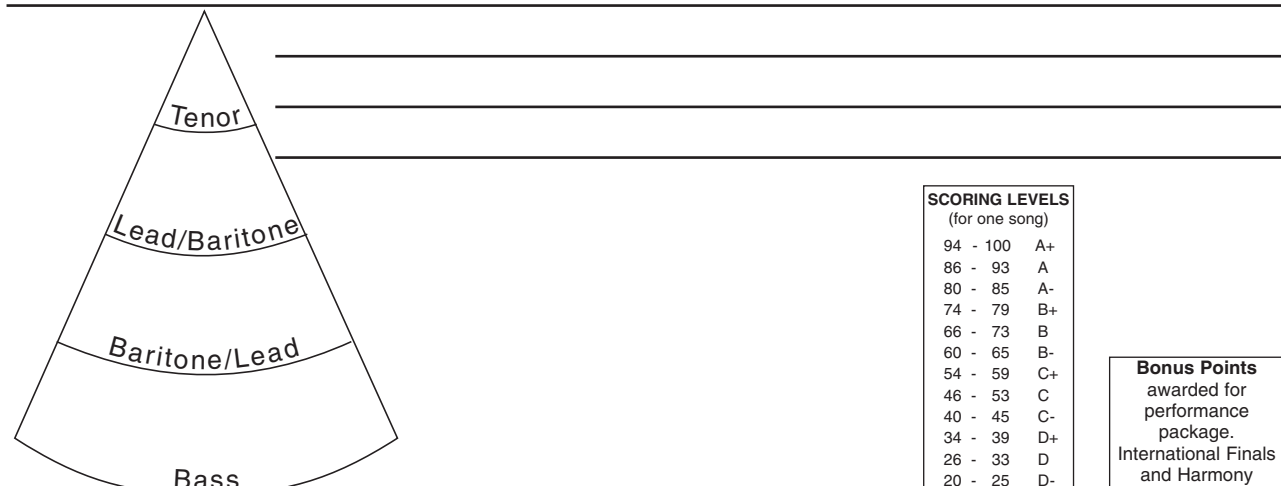
### ARTISTIC SOUND (0-30 points)

Energized Vocal line  
Tone Flow  
Dynamic Flexibility  
Vocal Style

## PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

SONG #1 \_\_\_\_\_ SONG #2 \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



score  
song 1

\_\_\_\_\_

score  
song 2

\_\_\_\_\_

**BONUS  
POINTS**

\_\_\_\_\_

SCORING LEVELS (for one song)		
94 - 100	A+	
86 - 93	A	
80 - 85	A-	
74 - 79	B+	
66 - 73	B	
60 - 65	B-	
54 - 59	C+	
46 - 53	C	
40 - 45	C-	
34 - 39	D+	
26 - 33	D	
20 - 25	D-	
0 - 19	F	

**Bonus Points**  
awarded for  
performance  
package.  
International Finals  
and Harmony  
Classic only.

**TOTAL  
SCORE**

\_\_\_\_\_

Judge \_\_\_\_\_







## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
<p>Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated            Tuning of all chords is instant and impeccable            Flawless delivery of vowels with matched resonance            Barbershop balance is instinctive and always present            Seamless vocal lines appear to float on a pillar of energy            Artistry and finesse epitomize the barbershop style            Performance completely transcends technique</p>	<p>Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated            All chords instantly tuned into locked, ringing unit            Vowels consistently produced with matched resonance            Balance maintained at all dynamic levels and ranges            Seamless vocal lines consistently energized and flowing            Strong sense of barbershop style with artistry and finesse            Performance consistently transcends technique</p>	<p>High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated            Chords usually tuned into locked, ringing unit            Vowels usually produced with matched resonance            Balance usually maintained throughout performance            Vocal lines usually seamless and fully energized            Strong sense of barbershop style usually evident            Performance usually transcends technique</p>
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
<p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated            Minor tuning problems affect chord accuracy            Synch problems occasionally affect chord accuracy            Minor errors in vowel production and resonance match            Balance generally consistent throughout performance            Vocal lines generally well energized and supported            Artistry beginning to emerge over technique</p>	<p>Vocal skills strong but not habitual            Solid sound overall, but chords not consistently locked            Minor synch problems affect chord accuracy            Most vowels matched and properly resonated            Balance suffers at extreme ranges and dynamic levels            Energy and support for vocal lines inconsistent            Technique still evident and generally overrides artistry</p>	<p>Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent            Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems            Frequent internal synch problems affect chord accuracy            Vowels initially matched but not sustained as tuned unit            Singers need better awareness of balance adjustments            Vocal lines occasionally supported and energized            Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry</p>
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
<p>Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress            Consistent minor intonation and tuning problems            Consistent minor synch problems affect overall unity            Frequent errors in vowel production and resonance match            Balance inconsistent due to vocal limitations            Energy sporadic, with lack of consistent support            Fleeting glimpses of at vocal artistry</p>	<p>Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent            Intonation and tuning errors, and some wrong notes            Frequent synch problems impact chord alignment            Vowels occasionally match in passing, not sustained            Balance good in mid-range, but not at extremes            Energy level weak, need for improved vocal stamina            Attempts at artistry masked by vocal problems</p>	<p>Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent            Consistent tuning and accuracy errors            Consistent synch problems keep chords from aligning            Vowels generally lack common approach to resonance            Unable to maintain consistent, cone-shaped balance            Vocal energy rarely demonstrated            No discernible attempts at vocal artistry</p>
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<b><u>D- LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
<p>Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work            General lack of chord accuracy with many wrong notes            Vertical alignment rarely achieved            Vowel match generally not achieved            Cone-shaped balance rarely achieved            Energized vocal line impacted by weak support            Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level</p>	<p>Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here            Major accuracy and/or tonality problems            Consistent major synch errors            Individual voices rather than musical unit            Barbershop cone not recognized            Energized delivery lacking due to poor breath support            Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level</p>	<p>No apparent understanding of vocal skills            Chord accuracy rarely achieved due to wrong notes            No apparent effort to sing together as a unit            Blend impossible due to lack of vocal skills            No understanding of barbershop cone            No evidence of vocal energy            Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level</p>

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY
<p><b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b></p> <p>Highly creative arrangement of strong barbershop song Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated Tuning of all chords is instant and impeccable Interpretive plan captures essence of barbershop style Interpretive plan flawlessly executed Artistry and finesse epitomize the barbershop style. Performance completely transcends technique</p>	<p><b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b></p> <p>Creative arrangement of strong song Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated All chords instantly tuned into locked, musical unit Interpretive plan fully supports song and arrangement High level execution of interpretive plan Strong sense of barbershop style with artistry and finesse Performance consistently transcends technique</p>	<p><b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b></p> <p>Strong song, arrangement shows some creativity High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated Chords usually tuned into locked, musical unit Creative interpretive plan appropriate to song Strong execution of interpretive plan Strong sense of barbershop style usually evident. Performance usually transcends technique.</p>
<p><b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b></p> <p>Good song, arrangement shows some creativity Strong vocal skills demonstrated Minor tuning problems affect chord clarity Synch problems occasionally affect chord alignment Interpretive plan well designed for song and performer Minor flaws in execution of interpretive plan Artistry beginning to emerge over technique.</p>	<p><b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b></p> <p>Good song, well arranged Vocal skills strong, but not habitual Chord clarity inconsistent Minor synch problems affect chord alignment Good design for interpretive plan Focus on technique interferes with delivery of plan Some achievement in artistry and finesse evident</p>	<p><b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b></p> <p>Good arrangement of acceptable song Vocal skills generally good, but inconsistent Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems Frequent internal synch problems affect chords Plan good, but some lapses in forward motion Delivery of plan controlled, lacks freedom Focus on technique inhibits artistry</p>
<p><b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b></p> <p>Good arrangement, presents challenges for performer Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Consistent minor tuning problems impact chord clarity Sense of musical unity apparent, but inconsistent Interpretive plan evident Interpretive plan needs to be internalized for unit delivery Mechanical delivery overrides attempts at artistry</p>	<p><b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b></p> <p>Song and arrangement good, but may be difficult Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent Tuning errors and some wrong notes impact chords Frequent synch errors, but some sense of unit apparent Interpretive plan sometimes apparent Delivery of plan needs stronger support and stamina Vocal problems make artistry difficult to recognize</p>	<p><b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b></p> <p>Good arrangement, too difficult for performer Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent Consistent tuning and accuracy errors affect chords Consistent lack of chord alignment Interpretive plan sometimes difficult for performer Stronger vocal skills needed to deliver plan effectively No apparent attempts at musical artistry</p>
<p><b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b></p> <p>Musical demands of arrangement exceed abilities Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work Many wrong notes cause major tuning problems Infrequent glimpses of identifiable, aligned chords Energy level weak and inconsistent Occasional hints of interpretive plan Stronger vocal skills needed to support musical plan</p>	<p><b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b></p> <p>Arrangement not suitable for performer's abilities Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here Major note accuracy problems make chords indistinct Consistent synch problems obscure four-part chords Energized delivery non-existent No interpretive plan clearly evident Stronger vocal skills needed to execute a musical plan</p>	<p><b><u>D- LEVEL (20-25)</u></b></p> <p>Arrangement beyond abilities of performer No apparent understanding of vocal skills Wrong notes consistently sung Chords not defined due to synch and vocal problems No apparent understanding of barbershop style Interpretive plan beyond performer's capabilities Stronger vocal skills needed to explore interpretive plan</p>

**PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES**

<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>	<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>	<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>
<p><b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b></p> <p>Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated                      Exemplary performance of open, matched vowels                      Flawless unit word delivery                      Flawless execution of masterful interpretive plan                      Excellent use of barbershop style and vocal drama                      Strong emotional communication captivates audience                      Performance fully transcends technique</p>	<p><b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b></p> <p>Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated                      Vowels and diphthongs fully matched and resonated                      Total unity evident in word delivery                      Excellent interpretive plan consistently performed as unit                      Artistic use of stylistic elements and vocal textures                      Strong character and genuine involvement in message                      Performance consistently transcends technique</p>	<p><b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b></p> <p>High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated                      Vowels consistently matched as a unit                      Consistent vertical alignment of word elements                      Minor flaws in execution of strong interpretive plan                      Strong sense of unit delivery in barbershop style                      High degree of involvement in character and message                      Performance usually transcends technique</p>
<p><b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b></p> <p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated                      Minor internal synch problems                      Occasional problems in vowel alignment                      Interpretive plan well designed, minor flaws in execution                      Artistry and finesse frequently evident                      Genuine involvement in communication of message                      Artistry beginning to emerge over technique</p>	<p><b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b></p> <p>Vocal skills strong but not habitual                      Internal synch problems with consonants and diphthongs                      Most vowels well matched, some consonant interference                      Good interpretive plan, but inconsistent unit delivery                      Some glimpses of artistry and finesse                      Inconsistent unit involvement in message                      Technique still evident and generally overrides artistry</p>	<p><b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b></p> <p>Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent                      Frequent internal synch problems with word elements                      Vowels initially matched but not sustained as unit                      Good interpretive plan, but stronger unit needed                      Artistry only evident as part of technique                      Emotional involvement overshadowed by technique                      Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry</p>
<p><b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b></p> <p>Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress                      Consistent problems with internal synch                      Vowels not aligned as a unit, consonants interfere                      Interpretive plan evident but not executed as a unit                      Sporadic energy with lack of consistent stamina                      Insufficient support for effective stylistic use                      Concern with technique overrides sincere involvement</p>	<p><b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b></p> <p>Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent                      Frequent internal and external synch errors                      Vowels need unit approach to resonated production                      Interpretive plan emerges, but stronger support needed                      Vocal energy weak, choppy delivery results                      Stronger vocal skills needed to convey barbershop style                      Communication rarely reaches beyond footlights</p>	<p><b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b></p> <p>Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent                      Consistent synch problems                      Vowels need free, unit approach to production                      Interpretive plan needs stronger vocal skills                      Phrase delivery choppy due to lack of energy and support                      Attempts at style lack musicality                      Nerves impair successful emotional communication</p>
<p><b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b></p> <p>Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work                      Unity impaired by inadequate vocal skills                      Lack of open resonance and target vowel production                      Interpretive plan ineffective due to lack of vocal skills                      Lack of vocal energy in phrase delivery                      Emotional communication not evident                      Need to focus on strengthening vocal skills</p>	<p><b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b></p> <p>Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here                      Consistent major synch problems                      No evidence of unit approach to vowel production                      Singers lack vocal skills to execute interpretive plan                      Energized lyric and phrase delivery non-existent                      Musical problems prevent emotional communication                      Need stronger vocal skills to raise performance level</p>	<p><b><u>D-LEVEL (20-25)</u></b></p> <p>No apparent understanding of vocal skills                      Consistent lack of vertical unity                      Consistent lack of vowel alignment                      No evidence of interpretive plan                      No evidence of energized lyric delivery                      High level of audience discomfort                      Need stronger vocal skills to raise performance level</p>

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
<p>Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Superb command of the stage</p> <p>Strong theatrical skills used to project character of story</p> <p>Audience totally captivated throughout</p> <p>Energized visual performance breathtaking!</p> <p>Impeccable visual plan supports and enhances music</p> <p>Performance completely transcends technique</p>	<p>Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Total command of the stage</p> <p>Complete involvement in character of story</p> <p>High degree of audience rapport</p> <p>High level of energy exudes joy of performing</p> <p>Strong visual plan reinforces musical plan</p> <p>Performance transcends technique most of the time</p>	<p>High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Poised and confident stage persona</p> <p>Character and personality well defined and projected</p> <p>Strong rapport with audience</p> <p>High degree of energy consistently demonstrated</p> <p>Visual plan works well to enhance musical plan</p> <p>Fleeting moments of technique evident</p>
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
<p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Confidence apparent, and usually in command</p> <p>Some flaws in unit delivery of visual plan</p> <p>Character of song maintained throughout</p> <p>Consistent level of audience rapport</p> <p>High level of energy with minor lapses in unit</p> <p>Creative visual plan generally supports music</p>	<p>Vocal skills strong but not habitual</p> <p>Comfortable on stage and generally in command</p> <p>Need to improve unit delivery of visual plan</p> <p>Moments of identification with character and story</p> <p>Audience not completely drawn into performance</p> <p>Inconsistent energy level within group</p> <p>Good visual plan does not interfere with music</p>	<p>Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent</p> <p>Stage command inconsistent in group and performance</p> <p>Need higher energy level in delivery of visual plan</p> <p>Some evidence of personality and characterization</p> <p>Audience has little involvement in performance</p> <p>Energy level shows peaks and valleys</p> <p>Minor flaws in design of visual plan</p>
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
<p>Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress</p> <p>Some moments of command</p> <p>Inconsistent stamina in execution of visual plan</p> <p>Lack of consistency in personality and characterization</p> <p>Audience rapport not clearly established</p> <p>Energy sporadic, but frequent attempts evident</p> <p>Some attempt at creative visual plan</p>	<p>Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent</p> <p>Need more confidence to project past footlights</p> <p>More stamina needed to deliver visual plan</p> <p>Little attempt at characterization or identification</p> <p>Audience communication not securely established</p> <p>Energy level falls short of crossing footlights</p> <p>Visual plan evident, but some conflict with musical plan</p>	<p>Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent</p> <p>Insecure and tentative stage persona</p> <p>Execution of visual plan weak due to lack of stamina</p> <p>No projection of personality or characterization</p> <p>Little evidence of attempt at audience communication</p> <p>Infrequent glimpses of energized delivery</p> <p>Visual plan does not consistently support music</p>
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<b><u>D- LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
<p>Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work</p> <p>Nerves detract from performance</p> <p>Lack of unit execution for visual plan</p> <p>No clearly defined personality or character</p> <p>No attempt at audience communication</p> <p>Energy level weak and inconsistent</p> <p>Visual plan limited and sometimes inappropriate</p>	<p>Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here</p> <p>Nerves consume performance</p> <p>Serious lack of visual and musical unity</p> <p>No evidence of character identification</p> <p>Musical problems prevent effective audience rapport</p> <p>No demonstration of positive energy</p> <p>Visual plan vague and lacks support for music</p>	<p>No apparent understanding of vocal skills</p> <p>No evidence of effective stage presence</p> <p>Little evidence of attempt at visual unity</p> <p>Characterization and personality not explored</p> <p>High level of audience discomfort evident</p> <p>No attempt at energized delivery</p> <p>Little evidence of unit visual plan</p>