

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY
<p><b>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</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>A LEVEL (86-93)</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>A- LEVEL (80-85)</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>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</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>B LEVEL (66-73)</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>B- LEVEL (60-65)</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>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</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>C LEVEL (46-53)</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>C- LEVEL (40-45)</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>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</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>D LEVEL (26-33)</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>D-LEVEL (20-25)</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>

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SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY
<p><b>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</b></p> <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><b>A LEVEL (86-93)</b></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><b>A- LEVEL (80-85)</b></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>
<p><b>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</b></p> <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><b>B LEVEL (66-73)</b></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><b>B- LEVEL (60-65)</b></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>
<p><b>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</b></p> <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><b>C LEVEL (46-53)</b></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><b>C- LEVEL (40-45)</b></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>
<p><b>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</b></p> <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><b>D LEVEL (26-33)</b></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><b>D- LEVEL (20-25)</b></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>

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<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>	<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>	<b>EXPRESSION CATEGORY</b>
<p><b>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</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>A LEVEL (86-93)</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>A- LEVEL (80-85)</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>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</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>B LEVEL (66-73)</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>B- LEVEL (60-65)</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>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</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>C LEVEL (46-53)</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>C- LEVEL (40-45)</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>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</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>D LEVEL (26-33)</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>D- LEVEL (20-25)</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>

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SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY
<b>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</b>	<b>A LEVEL (86-93)</b>	<b>A- LEVEL (80-85)</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>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</b>	<b>B LEVEL (66-73)</b>	<b>B- LEVEL (60-65)</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>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</b>	<b>C LEVEL (46-53)</b>	<b>C- LEVEL (40-45)</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>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</b>	<b>D LEVEL (26-33)</b>	<b>D- LEVEL (20-25)</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>