

MUSICALITY DESCRIPTORSSUPERIOR 91-100

Demonstrates distinctive sound that perfectly balances the requirements of power and beauty simultaneously

Tempos are in check, dynamics under control

Demonstrates artistic restraint—keeping the audience “teased” and enraptured—wanting even more, more, more

An intuitive sense of barbershop craft and execution

Establishes a barbershop identity in “making the music theirs.”

EXCELLENT 81-90

Singers present memorable melodies and harmonies that are seared into audience memory

Performers meld into a vocal unity wherein each section holds its own equally with any other in barbershop technique, *e.g.* posts, hand-offs, scissor swipes, tag execution

Performers weave a strong fabric of music resulting both in clean singing, chord sparkle, and smooth tone flow.

Singers share overtone patterns of surrounding voices to render music nearly visceral

Demonstrates understanding of composer’s intent and song structure and message

VERY GOOD 71-80

Accomplished vocal skills consistently on display

Performers sing with shared resonance and develop a strong wall of sound at all dynamic levels and vocal ranges

Barbershop technique obvious and refined

GOOD 61-70

Demonstrates a commitment to group accuracy and resonance development

Understands importance of ensemble singing and individual part line requirements

Good knowledge of song structure and message delivery

Expressive lyrical details evident, *e.g.* correct diphthong and consonant execution, word sounds synchronized, phrase endings completed together.

SATISFACTORY 51-60

Demonstrates some knowledge of consistent individual singing alignment and breathing skills

Recognizable chord delivery

Some emerging sense of song structure and delivery plan

Singers start and stop together

0-50—FAIR

Demonstrates interest in individual, unfocused singing, less so in group musicianship

Frequent inaccuracies and out of tune singing

Generally disorganized vocal delivery plans resulting in random errors of all types

Inconsistent or inappropriate tempos

Little evidence of barbershop craft or understanding of musical intent