



"SOUND" SINGING

Quartet Techniques for Mastering the Sound Category *Touché Quartet* *touchequartet.com*

Patty Cobb Baker, Tenor
Gina Baker, Lead

Jan Anton, Baritone
Kim McCormic, Bass

I. "Sound" Singing Defined

- The focus of the Sound Category is the evaluation of **UNIT SOUND**
- Unit sound occurs when the ensemble's vocal tones are:
 - ✓ Properly produced
 - ✓ Accurately tuned
 - ✓ Blended
 - ✓ Balanced
- This results in "sound" singing – singing chords that "lock and ring"

II. Sound Category Judging Criteria and Unit Sound Elements

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)

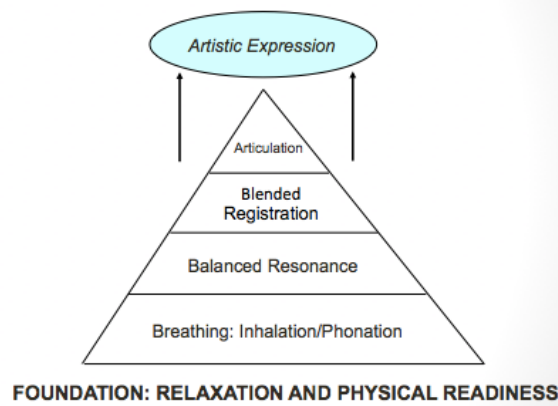
Energized Vocal line
Tone Flow
Dynamic Flexibility
Vocal Style

III. What Does an "A" Sound Score Look Like?

- ✓ 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

IV. Vocal Skill Development

- Reasonable proficiency in the basics of correct singing must be achieved
- Hierarchy of vocal skill development



V. Blending Skills

- Personal Skills
- Ensemble Skills
- NO OVERSINGING ... EVER! It kills blend!

VI. The “Balancing Act”

- Know your place in the chord
- Understand your place in the cone of sound
- Understand how to sing the “cone of your personal range/vocal line”
- Understand how quartet standing position can impact vocal synergy
- ALL CHORDS MUST BE BALANCED – even the fast ones!

VII. *Touché’s* Favorite Skill Builders

- Vocal Skills
 - ✓ Stemple Exercises
 - ✓ Roland Wyatt “Guideposts to Singing”
 - ✓ “Warm Me Up!” app
 - ✓ Jamie Wigginton “Pro Singer’s Warm-Up”
 - ✓ “Sing, Baby, Sing” (all editions)
- Blending Skills
 - ✓ Fred Waring 16 American Vowels Exercise
- Accuracy
 - ✓ Unison Singing
 - ✓ Duetting
- Balance
 - ✓ Chord Analysis