

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - SOUND

LEVELS	Vocal Skills	Accuracy	Unit	Balance	Blend and Resonance	Vocal Energy
A+: 94 - 100 Flawless	Complete mastery	Total accuracy achieved	Flawless unit delivery	Perfectly balanced barbershop sound	Seamless unit, totally matched	Energized tones appear effortless
A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect	Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique	Chords tuned accurately and locked consistently throughout	Voices achieve total unity with notes and word components precisely aligned	Cone consistently balanced by all voices throughout range and at all dynamic extremes	Consistent unit approach to well-produced vowels and matched resonance	Consistent, high level of vocal energy from all with vocal line energized and forward moving
A-: 80 - 85 Excellent	Highly proficient	Consistent, high level	Consistent unit evident	Balance generally consistent	Generally consistent unit	Energy level generally high
B+: 74 - 79 Very Good	High level of mastery	Occasional minor tuning problems	Occasional minor synch problems detract from unit	Occasional minor balance problems	Occasional vowel or resonance mismatch	Consistent, but need to increase energy level as a unit
B: 66 - 73 Good	Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend	Notes generally accurate, but many need more precise tuning to lock and ring	Not all voices arrive at targets on time so chords don't always align properly	Inconsistencies due to demands of range or dynamics beyond performer's comfort zone	Some vowels lack resonance match from part to part or from one vowel to another	Energy level varies during performance and from each individual—unable to sustain high level
B-: 60 - 65 Promising	Need to integrate into performance	Frequent minor tuning problems	Frequent minor synch problems	Need awareness of position in chord	Inconsistent vowel resonance	Consistent energy and support needed
C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory	Progress evident but more needed	Consistent minor tuning problems	Consistent minor synch problems	Inconsistent due to vocal limitations	Lack of common approach	Inconsistent vocal skills affect level
C: 46 - 53 Acceptable	Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary	Intonation and tuning errors, and some wrong notes prevent locked chords	Frequent problems with chord alignment affect chord accuracy and overall unity	Balance good in mid-range, but deteriorates when outer ends of range are required	Unmatched vowel resonance, production, or placement affects blend and overall unit sound	Sporadic vocal energy, each performer unable to maintain consistent, high level
C-: 40 - 45 Fair	Beginning to work to strengthen	Consistent, major tuning and accuracy errors	Consistent synch errors detract	Unable to maintain barbershop balance	Occasional blend, unable to maintain	Attempts masked by consistent vocal problems
D+: 34 - 39 Weak	Brief glimpses of beginning work	General lack of chord accuracy throughout	Unit delivery rarely achieved	Cone-shaped balance achieved only occasionally	Occasional blend appears accidental, not on purpose	Unable to sustain energized vocal delivery
D: 26 - 33 Poor	Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level	Major accuracy and/or tonality problems make most chords impossible to identify	Consistent major problems with chord alignment make most chords difficult to isolate or identify	Barbershop cone seldom recognized due to consistent problems in other areas, especially lack of vocal skills	No apparent attention given to unit approach to production of well-resonated, matched vowels	Lack of good breath support and stamina makes achieving and maintaining vocal energy impossible
D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor	No apparent understanding	Chord accuracy rarely achieved	Consistent lack of unit vocal delivery	No understanding of barbershop style	Impossible due to lack of vocal skills	Need to improve vocal skills
F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable	Basic vocal skills need immediate attention	Total lack of accuracy with no chords identified	Need to build basic skills to achieve unity	Need to build basic skills to achieve barbershop balance	Need to build basic skills to achieve barbershop blend	Need to build basic skills to develop vocal energy

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - MUSIC

LEVELS	Vocal Skills	Song and Arrangement	Chord Accuracy and Unity	Ballad Interpretation	Uptune Interpretation	Musical Artistry
A+: 94 - 100 Flawless	Complete mastery	Highly creative arrangement	Flawless accuracy and musical unity	Captures essence of barbershop style!	Captures essence of barbershop style!	Highest degree of finesse and artistry
A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect	Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique	Very strong song and arrangement that showcases performer's musical strengths	Chords accurately tuned and locked into precisely aligned, total musical unit	Interpretive plan so well designed and performed that it is woven right into the musical fabric	Strong sense of tempo, pulse, and rhythmic delivery appropriate to song and arrangement	Consistent, high level of artistry and finesse from all, painting a musical picture for listener
A-: 80 - 85 Excellent	Highly proficient	Strong song, arranged with some creativity	Consistent unit with high level of chord accuracy	Creative design with high level execution	Appropriate to song with high level execution	High degree of artistry enhances musical plan
B+: 74 - 79 Very Good	High level of mastery	Good song, arr. shows creativity	Occasional minor problems	Minor flaws in unit delivery of plan	Minor stumbling blocks in execution	Artistry and finesse inconsistent
B: 66 - 73 Good	Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend	Good song, well arranged and appropriate to performer's capabilities	Occasional synch and/or tuning errors affect chord accuracy, clarity, and alignment	Well designed, but performers too involved in plan itself to make it a part of the music	Good plan in place but occasional interruptions in tempo, pulse, and rhythmic flow	Some artistic ideas, evident, but not all performers able to convey effectively and naturally
B-: 60 - 65 Promising	Need to integrate into performance	Good arr. of acceptable song	Consistent minor problems	Frequent lapses in delivery as a unit	Stronger unit delivery needed	A few glimpses of artistic delivery
C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory	Progress evident but more needed	Some challenges for performer	Sense of unit apparent	Plan lacks unit delivery	All singers need to internalize plan	Delivery appears controlled
C: 46 - 53 Acceptable	Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary	Acceptable song and arr. but not the best choice for vocal abilities of performer	Frequent synch and/or tuning errors affect chord accuracy, clarity, and alignment	Plan evident, but greater stamina and support needed for effective phrasing and dynamic levels	Inappropriate tempo or problems with musical unity detract from intended delivery	Problems in other areas make any attempts at artistry difficult to recognize and evaluate
C-: 40 - 45 Fair	Beginning to work to strengthen	Demands of arr. beyond skills of this performer	Consistent lack of aligned, accurately tuned chords	Plan needs higher level of vocal skill to be effective	Plan needs higher level of unity to be effective	No apparent attempts at artistic musical delivery
D+: 34 - 39 Weak	Brief glimpses of beginning work	Musical demands exceed abilities	General lack of accuracy/unity	Vocal skills need strengthening	Vocal skills need strengthening	Vocal skills need strengthening
D: 26 - 33 Poor	Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level	Not suitable for performer's present abilities; need to establish sense of four-part chord delivery	Consistent major problems with accuracy, unity, and sense of tonality	Lack of good vocal skills obscures any creativity in planned phrasing and dynamic levels	Lack of good vocal skills obscures effectiveness of any plan for tempo or rhythmic interest	Artistic delivery requires a higher level of vocal skill than exhibited in this performance.
D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor	No apparent understanding of vocal production	Not suitable for performer's present abilities	Four-part chord accuracy never achieved	Performers lack skills needed for effective delivery	Performers lack skills needed for effective delivery	Need to strengthen vocal skills before addressing this area
F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable	Basic vocal skills need immediate attention	Gross errors prevent accurate evaluation	No clearly identifiable chords presented	No understanding of barbershop style evident	No understanding of barbershop style evident	Need to build basic skills to develop vocal energy

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - EXPRESSION

LEVELS	Vocal Skills	Unity	Vowels/ Diction	Ballad Interpretation	Uptune Interpretation	Barbershop Style	Emotional Communication
A+: 94-100 Flawless	Complete mastery	Flawless unit delivery	Exemplary unit performance	Flawless execution!	Flawless execution!	Excellent use of stylistic effects	Audience totally captivated
A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect	Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique	All notes and word components aligned and performed with total unity	Vowels and consonants matched and fully resonated at all times	Excellent design using phrasing and dynamics to support and enhance story	Excellent design with appropriate tempo, dynamics, and strong rhythmic pulse	Artistic use of stylistic vocal technique adds musical tension and drama	Involvement in message with strong character identification to reach listener
A-: 80 - 85 Excellent	Highly proficient	Rare departure from total unity	Consistent unit performance	Minor flaws in unit execution	Minor flaws in unit execution	High level of stylistic use	High degree of involvement
B+: 74 - 79 Very Good	High level of mastery	Some internal synch problems	Occasional misalignment	Occasional flaws in unit execution	Successful delivery of plan	On the verge of artistic delivery	Genuine involvement
B: 66 - 73 Good	Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend	Internal synch problems with diphthongs and consonants detract from unit	All vowels need consistent unit approach to production to achieve match	Good design but lack of freedom and musical drama in unit execution	Good plan, but occasional interruptions to tempo and/or rhythmic flow	Fleeting glimpses of artistry, but concern for mechanics of plan apparent	Involvement genuine but inconsistent within group as story unfolds
B-: 60 - 65 Promising	Need to integrate into performance	Frequent internal problems	Consonants and diphthongs interrupt flow	Technique overshadows artistry	Stronger unit with rhythmic pulse needed	Apparent only as part of technique	Technique overrides involvement
C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory	Progress evident but more needed	Unit apparent, but inconsistent	Vowel match and alignment inconsistent	Plan evident, but lack of unit delivery	Need to sing tempo, not words	Need stronger support to be successful	Concern overrides sincerity
C: 46 - 53 Acceptable	Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary	Frequent internal and external synch errors from over articulation and variance in word stress	White space in vocal lines from interference by consonants and diphthongs	Plan emerges, but delivery mechanical; need vocal stamina for dynamic plan	Plan evident but synch problems impair successful delivery; minimal dynamic interest	Stronger vocal skills needed to successfully convey stylistic vocal effects	Communication rarely goes beyond foot-lights to reach audience
C-: 40 - 45 Fair	Beginning to work to strengthen	Synch problems throughout	Need free, unit approach	Word delivery choppy	Unable to set and maintain as unit	Attempts lack musicality	Nerves impair communication
D+: 34 - 39 Weak	Brief glimpses of beginning work	General lack of unity throughout	Consistent major problems	Choppy, lack of forward motion	Consistent lack of unit delivery	Attempts unsuccessful	No attempt to communicate
D: 26 - 33 Poor	Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level	Consistent major synch problems result from lack of basic vocal skills, support, and stamina	No apparent attempt to use unit approach to matched and resonated vowel production	No evidence of dynamic plan or smooth phrase flow; need to develop strong vocal foundation	No evidence of dynamic plan; tempo unsteady and lacks proper downbeat or backbeat stress	No evidence that stylistic elements in arrangement are recognized or technique needed to perform	Audience concern for performer bars successful, emotional communication
D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor	No apparent understanding of vocal production	Constant lack of unity	Need stronger vocal skills to achieve here	Need stronger vocal skills to achieve here	Need to improve vocal skills to succeed here	No attempt to incorporate	Audience unable to relate
F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable	Basics vocal skills need immediate attention	Need to build basic skills to achieve unit	No evidence of work on vowel production	No evidence of phrasing or dynamic plan	No evidence that singers know plan for delivery	No evidence barbershop style is understood	No understanding of audience communication

INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - SHOWMANSHIP

LEVELS	Vocal Skills	Command of Stage	Imagery, Character	Visual Plan	Visual Unity	Visual Energy
A+: 94 - 100 Flawless	Complete mastery	Exceptional!	Flawless unit delivery	Impeccable design and execution	Superb! Joy abounds!	Breathtaking! Amazing!
A: 86 - 93 Near Perfect	Exceptional mastery of vocal skill consistently transcends technique	Total command with poise, confidence, and charisma in communication with audience	Strong theatrical skills create and project illusion to appropriately enhance musical storyline	Strong design that consistently supports and reinforces musical performance and interpretive plan	Consistent, high degree of unity characterizes all facets of visual performance	High level of energy and intensity consistently exhibited by all; all faces exude joy of performing
A-: 80 - 85 Excellent	Highly proficient	Very poised and confident	Well defined with minor lapses	Minor flaws in execution	Minor flaws in unit execution	High degree, very energized
B+: 74 - 79 Very Good	High level of mastery	Confidence apparent	Strong sense of personality	Very good, but lapses in delivery	Generally performs as visual unit	Minor lapses in energy level
B: 66-73 Good	Basic mastery of technique, but needs to become habitual in order to transcend	Performer seems comfortable on stage and generally in command	Appropriate unit approach to portrayal of character and musical storyline	Good design with some moments of strong support for musical performance	Inconsistent level of visual unity fails to keep audience continually involved in story	Energy level not consistently maintained by all performers from start to finish
B-: 60 - 65 Promising	Need to integrate into performance	Inconsistent within unit	Inconsistent within unit	Inconsistent execution detracts	Need stronger unit involvement	Some lapses in energy level
C+: 54 - 59 Satisfactory	Progress evident but more needed	Some moments of "take charge"	Some attempts at character evident	Stamina inconsistent	Basic unit evident, but inconsistent	Attempts at energy apparent
C: 46 - 53 Acceptable	Performance shows some understanding, but continued work necessary	Performers seem composed, but fail to establish any sense of "ownership"	Performance lacks personality and signs of establishing setting for musical story	Planning evident, but performers need to build physical stamina to present plan effectively	Unity in small details, but missing the bigger picture of unit approach to selling the music	Energy level needs a jump start to add life and reach beyond footlights to grab the audience
C-: 40 - 45 Fair	Beginning work to strengthen	Shows signs of insecurity	Stage persona tentative	Impacted by lack of physical stamina	Efforts evident, but unity fleeting	Glimpses of energy, not sustained
D+: 34 - 39 Weak	Brief glimpses of beginning work	Nerves override confidence	Attempts in this area appear stifled	Brief glimpses of support for music	Individuals rather than part of unit	Positive energy lacking
D: 26 - 33 Poor	Performers need to concentrate on basic principles of good vocal production to raise level	Performance marked by signs of concern and nervousness that performer can't get beyond	Characterization, personality, and acting out a story appear to be unexplored territory	Plan shows limited support for musical story, and overall execution ragged with no emotional involvement	Even small details of costume and appearance need a tighter approach to unity; performers overcome by nerves	Energy level weak, lacks spark; nervous energy consumes performers; seem anxious for performance to end
D-: 20 - 25 Very Poor	No apparent understanding of vocal production	Audience feels discomfort and concern	Lack of vocal skill needs attention before attempting	Performer unable to execute plan at this time	Concept of unity seems foreign to this performer	Nervous energy approaches actual fear factor
F: 0 - 19 Unacceptable	Basic vocal skills need immediate attention	Unable to demonstrate	Musical problems too great to permit evaluation	No plan observable or manageable	No identifiable concept of visual unity	Stiff and robotic performance lacking energy