

## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

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

## INSTANT LEVEL DESCRIPTORS - MUSIC

LEVELS	Vocal Skills	Song and Arrangement	Chord Accuracy and Unity	Ballad Interpretation	Uptune Interpretation	Musical Artistry
<b>A+: 94 - 100</b> 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
<b>A: 86 - 93</b> 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
<b>A-: 80 - 85</b> 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>B+: 74 - 79</b> 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>B: 66 - 73</b> 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>B-: 60 - 65</b> 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
<b>C+: 54 - 59</b> 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
<b>C: 46 - 53</b> 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
<b>C-: 40 - 45</b> 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
<b>D+: 34 - 39</b> 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
<b>D: 26 - 33</b> 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.
<b>D-: 20 - 25</b> 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
<b>F: 0 - 19</b> 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