

2012 Contest – Region 11

Comments from the Judges' Pit...



Region 11 – QUARTET TRENDS

SOUND Category – Janie Macchiaroli

- In general, most singers understand vocal skills but aren't capable of applying them at varying degrees.
- Many quartets began much stronger in first portion of performance but then became erratic in terms of their performance level.
- Balance of voice parts is often adversely affected when blend is not achieved.
- Breath support/management needs attention in lower-achieving quartets as nerves eroded the breath support of many.

MUSIC Category – Susan Kegley

- Merit as barbershop material – a few “risky” ones; keep looking for ones that showcase you!
- Always work on vocal skills and unit approach to vocal delivery.
- Diligent attention to harmony accuracy within vocal lines to achieve solid, in-tune chords.
- Harmony parts must always highlight and support the melody.
- Most groups had good ideas for interp, pacing and appropriate tempos.
- Learn to deliver tempos with pulse, connection and drive.
- Make sure you choose songs/arrangements that you can handle – different tessituras, high or low voicing, patter tempo changes

EXPRESSION Category – Paula Davis

- Vocal skills are still building!
- Synchronization / unity still problematic for many.
- Vowels generally pretty good!
- Diphthongs still need refinement.
- No quartet under C Level – good for you! (mostly C+ and above – great!)
- Keep up the education at all levels – it's working!
- Explore breath energy more. This is lacking at some level in almost every competitor, leading to sync issues, faltering tempos and even a lack of artistry.
- Expressive plans are mostly all good! Now they need the vocal skill and breath energy to handle them more artistically.
- Examine forward motion – it's not faster; it's an ebb and flow of emotional delivery when handled well.

SHOWMANSHIP Category – Bonnie McKibben

- Vocal skills – your good work shows
- Energy – not all understand
- Poise and command – some were wonderful
- Physical expression – some good, some still need development
- Pitch pipe technique – better than last time!
- Costumes – many casual outfits vs. STAGE costumes. I was so surprised to see so many casual costumes, sometimes coupled with very stagy jewelry.
- Makeup/grooming; many need intensity on cheeks/lips; lots of fly away hair.
- Many groups still need help understanding characterization.
- Many groups self sabotaged themselves by showing signs of insecurity (looking at members of quartet for reassurance)

More comments from the Judges' Pit...

2012 Contest – Region 11

Region 11 – CHORUS TRENDS

Sound Category – Janie Macchiaroli

- In-section unity needs attention in lower-achieving choruses.
- Vocal skills (surprise!) need to become second-nature – they are all the keys to the kingdom.
- All 5 components need some educational time, but especially posture and breathing.
- For higher achieving choruses, they need to know more about allowing the artistry to emerge... and risk taking!

Music Category – Susan Kegley

- Pretty good song choices. Use of songs from the new folios is admirable and appreciated.
- All choruses continue to make vocal skills first priority; it is necessary to achieve higher levels no matter what level you are now.
- A number of choruses need to develop skill and understanding of barbershop style; chord balance unique to our style, tempo delivery within pulse, and drive and attention to tuning.
- Work to achieve more consistent levels all through the song.
- Avoid doing an intro and/or tag well, and not so well on the rest of the song.
- Keep working on it and perhaps choose another song that can showcase your strengths.
- High-level groups can work towards planning bigger interp. plans as they improve their vocal skills.

Expression Category – Paula Davis

- Vocal Skills: a broad spectrum of skills with opportunity for all to learn more by teaching others?
- Develop energy, finesse and artistry, characterization, emotional communication.
- Mostly good expressive plans now need a higher developed vocal skills and breath energy to accomplish them with greater success.
- You are a beautiful example of small and mid-size choruses that sing really well! Share how you've learned to accomplish that with your lesser achieving groups. Keeping the joy and finding the fun in meeting the challenge – may everyone drink this Kool-Aid!
- Revisit target vowels/diphthongs, even at upper levels. Artistry is at the end of this journey.
- Forward motion is still a mystery to many. Expressive performance doesn't happen without it.

Showmanship – Bonnie McKibben

- Vocal Skills – good work apparent on larger groups.
- Many choruses are not sure what core performance energy is.
- Many still struggling with character development.
- Some choruses mistaking exuberance for energy.
- Wonderful that some are not hesitant to take a risk.
- Wonderful array of directors! Some amazing folks here!
- Costumes – overall better than quartets.
- Makeup/grooming – most needed attention; enhanced blush and lip intensity.

2012 Contest Scores

PLACE	QUARTET	SCORE
1	Cachet	592
2	Caprice	588
3	Cheers!	567
4	KMPR	556
5	Road Trip	532
6	Nova	498
7	Sierra Sound	489
8	Ooh La La	489
9	OMG!!	453
10	Swirl	444

PLACE	CHORUS	SCORE
1	ChannelAire	602
2	Celebrity City	586
3	Agoura Hills Harmony	567
4	Verdugo Hills	560
5	Central Coast Celebration	503
6	Voices United	494
7	L.A. South Towns Show	485
8	Antelope Valley Showcase	482
9	High Sierra	393
10	Pacific Horizon	378