

**RISING STAR LEVEL DESCRIPTORS**  
**2010 Edition**

SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY
<b>High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points</b>	<b>Superior Level 44 - 47 Points</b>	<b>Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points</b>
Mastery of vocal skills All facets of this category performed with superior technique Superior accuracy on all chords Superior Unit delivery Superior understanding of the barbershop style Vocal energy throughout Artistry and finesse constantly present	Exceptional vocal skills Instant tuning of vowels Consistently matched vowels Unit delivery consistent Cone consistently balanced Complete understanding of the barbershop style Strong overtone structure evident Seamless vocal line Artistry and finesse consistently exhibited	Distinguished level of proficiency in vocal skills Chords usually exhibit a locked, ringing unit Sound usually full and resonated Balance usually maintained Artistry and finesse usually demonstrated Vocal line displays free, open tones
<b>High Excellent Level 38 - 40 Points</b>	<b>Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points</b>	<b>Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points</b>
Excellent level of vocal skills Minor tuning problems Occasional minor flaws in overall unit Balance generally consistent throughout performance Frequent glimpses of artistic sound emerging Occasional minor flaws in vowel production Minor flaws in resonance match	Strong vocal skills, but not yet consistent Chords not consistently locked Most vowels matched and properly resonated Chord alignment affecting solidity of the unit Balance problems due to range demands Vocal energy inconsistent Achievement in artistry and finesse apparent	Vocal skills generally good, but inconsistent Frequent minor tuning and intonation problems Target vowels not maintained as a unit Synchronization problems affect solidity of unity Balance problems frequently apparent Vowel resonance inconsistent Vocal lines occasionally supported and energized Glimpses of artistry and finesse
<b>High Good Level 28 - 30 Points</b>	<b>Good Level 24 - 27 Points</b>	<b>Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points</b>
Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Consistent minor tuning problems Intervals and notes generally correct Frequent errors in vowel production and resonance match Consistent synchronization errors affect unit Weaknesses in balance due to vocal limitations Lack of common approach to vowel production Sporadic energy with lack of consistent stamina Lack of consistent support affects attempts at vocal artistry, barbershop style and the ability to produce sustained and energized vocal lines	Vocal skills understood but inconsistent Most words and notes correct Intonation and tuning errors Vowels occasionally matched but not sustained Frequent problems with synchronization impact chord alignment Balance problems due to demands at extremes of ranges Unmatched vowel resonance affects blend and over all unit sound Vocal energy weak, need for improved vocal stamina	Beginning work on vocal skills apparent Consistent major tuning issues Wrong notes, word and chords evident Consistent synchronization errors affect unity Unmatched vowel resonance affecting blend Unable to maintain consistent, cone-shaped balance Vocal energy sporadically demonstrated
<b>High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points</b>	<b>Fair Level 14 - 17 Points</b>	<b>Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points</b>
Vocal skills weak, but glimpses of beginning work demonstrated General lack of chord accuracy throughout Vowel match generally not achieved Unity impaired by inadequate vocal skills Cone-shaped balance rarely achieved Occasional blend appears accidental rather than on purpose Energy level weak and inconsistent Vocal artistry not present	Vocal skills need development Many accuracy and/or tonality problems Lack of breath support and stamina prohibits energized delivery Individual voices rather than a unit Barbershop cone unrecognizable Little apparent attention given to unit approach to production of well-resonated, matched vowels Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level	Knowledge of vocal skills not apparent at this time Chord accuracy rarely achieved because of wrong notes Vowels unmatched because of lack of vocal skills Little apparent effort to sing as a unit Little understanding of the barbershop cone or the barbershop style Blend impossible because undeveloped vocal skills Little evidence of vocal energy Vocal artistry cannot be evaluated at this level
<b>Weak Level 0 - 10 Points</b>		
Basic vocal skills need attention Lack of accuracy makes chord identification indefinable Lack of unity Little understanding of barbershop cone and barbershop style Lack of blend Lack of vocal energy		

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MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY
<b>High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points</b>	<b>Superior Level 44 - 47 Points</b>	<b>Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points</b>
Mastery of vocal skills Performance fully transcends technique Highly creative arrangement of strong barbershop vehicle Superior accuracy and musical unity Interpretive plan captures essence of barbershop style, both ballad and uptune Artistry and finesse epitomize the barbershop style	Exceptional vocal skills Strong song and arrangement showcasing performer's musical strengths Chords instantly tuned and locked Total musical unit Exceptional execution of interpretive plan Strong sense of tempo, pulse and rhythmic delivery appropriate to song and arrangement Captures nuances of artistry and finesse to enhance performance	Distinguished level of proficiency in vocal skills Strong song with arrangement showing some creativity Strong sense of unit delivery with high degree of chord accuracy Distinguished level of ballad and up-tune interpretation Artistry consistently evident Strengths in barbershop style apparent
<b>High Excellent Level 38 - 40 Points</b>	<b>Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points</b>	<b>Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points</b>
Excellent level of vocal skills Strong arrangement of good song Chord clarity affected by minor tuning errors Minor synchronization errors affecting chord alignment Minor flaws in execution of interpretive plan Artistry and finesse beginning to emerge	Strong vocal skills, but not yet consistent Good song, well arranged and suitable to the performer Tonal center occasionally floats, affecting fine tuning Occasional synch errors affect chord accuracy, clarity and alignment Focus on technique occasionally interferes with delivery of interpretive plan Some achievement in artistry and finesse evident	Vocal skills generally good, but inconsistent Good arrangement of acceptable song Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems Frequent internal synchronization problems affect chord clarity Delivery of interpretive plan lacks freedom Glimpses of artistry and finesse
<b>High Good Level 28 - 30 Points</b>	<b>Good Level 24 - 27 Points</b>	<b>Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points</b>
Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Good arrangement, challenges the performer Consistent minor tuning problems impacts chord clarity Musical unity inconsistent Interpretive plan evident Tempo of uptune challenges unity Mechanical delivery overrides attempts at artistry	Vocal skills understood but inconsistent Strong arrangement which may present difficulties for the performer Frequent synchronization and/or tuning errors affect chord clarity, accuracy and alignment Plan evident but greater stamina needed for effective execution Inappropriate up-tune tempo causes problems in musical unity Vocal energy beginning to emerge Vocal problems make artistry difficult to recognize	Beginning work on vocal skills apparent Arrangement too demanding vocally Consistent tuning and accuracy problems Plan needs higher level of unity Interpretive plan on both songs too difficult at present vocal skill level Musical artistry sporadically demonstrated
<b>High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points</b>	<b>Fair Level 14 - 17 Points</b>	<b>Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points</b>
Vocal skills weak, but glimpses of beginning work demonstrated Musical demands of arrangement exceed abilities Many wrong notes cause major tuning problems Lack of musical unity Weakness of vocal skills prevent interpretive plan from being executed Energy level weak and inconsistent Lack of musical artistry	Vocal skills need development Many tuning problems Lack of musical unity Lack of good vocal skills obscures the creativity in interpretive plan Arrangement too difficult Lack of energized delivery	Knowledge of vocal skills not apparent at this time Incapable of executing demands of arrangement Lack of chord accuracy Consistent wrong notes and words Little understanding of the barbershop style Interpretive plan beyond abilities of the performer
<b>Weak Level 0 - 10 Points</b>		
Basic vocal skills need attention Errors in accuracy with no clearly identifiable chord evident Arrangement too difficult for performer Little understanding of barbershop style Need to build vocal skills to develop vocal energy and stamina		

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EXPRESSION CATEGORY	EXPRESSION CATEGORY	EXPRESSION CATEGORY
<b>High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points</b>	<b>Superior Level 44 - 47 Points</b>	<b>Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points</b>
Mastery of vocal skills All technical aspects of this category performed with superior unity Exemplary performance of open, matched and resonated vowels Superior unit delivery of interpretive plan Creative use of musical tension and drama Audience captivated by performance All components of the expression category performed with superior vocal energy	Exceptional vocal skills All notes and words aligned and performed with total unity Vowels and diphthongs fully matched and resonated Exceptional interpretive plan performed as a unit Strong sense of barbershop style performed with artistry and finesse Strong character and genuine involvement in message	Distinguished level of proficiency in vocal skills Strong sense of unit delivery of barbershop style with minor flaws Vowels consistently matched as a unit Strong interpretive plan usually delivered with unit commitment Performance usually transcends technique Strong character identification and involvement
<b>High Excellent Level 38 - 40 Points</b>	<b>Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points</b>	<b>Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points</b>
Excellent level of vocal skills Occasional minor flaws in overall unit Occasional misalignment of vowels Interpretive plan well designed with occasional minor flaws in execution Evidence of artistic delivery within creative plan Frequent artistry and finesse in delivery of the message	Strong vocal skills, but not yet consistent Internal synchronization problems with consonants and vowels Most vowels well matched, occasional consonant interference Good interpretive plan but lacks freedom and sincerity in delivery Uptune plan good with occasional interruptions in tempo and/or rhythmic flow Some achievement in artistry and finesse evident Inconsistent unit involvement in message delivery	Vocal skills generally good, but inconsistent Lack of consistency in unit Vowels initially matched but not sustained as a unit Good interpretive plan, but greater stamina needed for unit delivery Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry Emotional involvement overshadowed by technique
<b>High Good Level 28 - 30 Points</b>	<b>Good Level 24 - 27 Points</b>	<b>Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points</b>
Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Unit apparent but inconsistent Target vowels/diphthongs not aligned as a unit Interpretive plan evident, but not executed as a unit Sporadic energy with lack of consistent stamina Not yet involved in characterization	Vocal skills understood but inconsistent Vowels need unit approach to resonance and production Frequent synchronization errors Phrase delivery choppy; lacks flow and forward motion Interpretive plan emerges but stronger support needed Stronger vocal skills needed to convey barbershop style Emotional communication rarely reaches beyond footlights	Beginning work on vocal skills apparent Lack of unity in approach to vocal production Consistent synchronization problems Vowels need free, unit approach Interpretive plans need stronger vocal skills Attempts at barbershop style lack musicality Emotional commitment sporadically demonstrated
<b>High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points</b>	<b>Fair Level 14 - 17 Points</b>	<b>Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points</b>
Vocal skills weak, but glimpses of beginning work demonstrated Lack of musical unity throughout Unity impaired by inadequate vocal skills Interpretive plan ineffective due to lack of vocal skills Lack of energy in phrase delivery Emotional communication not evident	Vocal skills need development Consistent major synchronization problems Lack of common approach to vowel production Singers lack vocal skills to execute interpretive plan Energized lyric and phrase delivery not apparent No evidence of dynamic plan; tempo unsteady; need to develop strong vocal foundation Musical problems prevent emotional communication	Knowledge of vocal skills not apparent at this time Consistent lack of vocal unity Lack of vowel alignment Little evidence of interpretive plan Energized lyric delivery lacking High level of audience discomfort
<b>Weak Level 0 - 10 Points</b>		
Basic vocal skills need attention Lack of unity Lack of vowel match Indiscernable interpretive plan Little understanding of barbershop style Emotional communication not apparent		

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SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY
<b>High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points</b>	<b>Superior Level 44 - 47 Points</b>	<b>Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points</b>
Mastery of vocal skills Performance transcends technique All components of the showmanship category performed with unity -- vocally, visually, emotionally and artistically Superior visual plan Superb command of stage Audience captivated by performance	Exceptional vocal skills Performance usually transcends technique Strong, unified performance both vocally and visually Strong visual plan reinforces musical plan High degree of audience rapport Exceptional confidence in communication with the audience Obvious poise and command	Distinguished level of proficiency in vocal skills Very poised and confident Character and personality well defined and projected with only occasional lapses Minor flaws in execution of visual plan High degree of energy consistently demonstrated Strong rapport with audience A strong feel for the emotion of the story
<b>High Excellent Level 38 - 40 Points</b>	<b>Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points</b>	<b>Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points</b>
Excellent level of vocal skills demonstrated Confidence apparent; usually in command Characterization is strong and maintained throughout performance Strong and creative visual plan with occasional minor flaws Unity evident vocally, visually and emotionally Consistent level of audience rapport	Strong vocal skills, but not yet consistent Somewhat comfortable on stage and occasionally in command Moments of identification with character and story Creative visual plan supporting the music Unity inconsistent Energy not always consistent Audience not totally drawn into performance	Vocal skills generally good, but inconsistent Stage command inconsistent Occasional understanding of personality and characterization Frequent minor flaws in visual plan Inconsistent energy both vocally and visually Audience not drawn into the performance
<b>High Good Level 28 - 30 Points</b>	<b>Good Level 24 - 27 Points</b>	<b>Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points</b>
Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Some moments of command of stage Lack of consistency in personality and characterization Some attempt at creative visual plan Inconsistent stamina in execution of visual plan Audience rapport not clearly established	Vocal skills understood but inconsistent More confidence needed to project past the footlights Attempts at characterization beginning to emerge Visual plan lacks unity More stamina needed to deliver visual plan Glimpses of physical energy that need greater development	Beginning work on vocal skills apparent Insecure and tentative stage persona Personality and characterization lacking Visual plan incongruent with music Lack of visual unity in all areas of performance Lack of energy and stamina causes weak visual performance Audience communication sporadically demonstrated
<b>High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points</b>	<b>Fair Level 14 - 17 Points</b>	<b>Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points</b>
Vocal skills weak, but glimpses of beginning work demonstrated Nerves detract from confidence on stage Character involvement lacking Visual plan limited and sometimes inappropriate Lack of visual unity Energy level weak and inconsistent	Vocal skills need development Nerves consume performance Characterization and personality not defined Visual plan vague and not coordinated with music Energized delivery not apparent Audience feels discomfort	Knowledge of vocal skills not apparent at this time Lack of stage command Characterization and personality not explored Little evidence of visual plan High level of audience discomfort Lack of energized delivery
<b>Weak Level 0 - 10 Points</b>		
Basic vocal skills need attention Lack of stage command Musical problems prevent evaluation of character Lack of visual plan Lack of visual unity Lack of energy in performance		