

RISING STAR LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY	SOUND CATEGORY
High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points	Superior Level 44 - 47 Points	Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points
Mastery of vocal skills Superior instant accuracy and total musical unity Superior understanding of barbershop style that is delivered with high vocal energy Artistry and finesse dominates the performance All facets of this category performed with superior technique Chord delivery consistently balanced, unified, ringing	Exceptional vocal skills Chords frequently locked and balanced in a total musical unit Consistently matched vowels Complete understanding of the barbershop style Strong overtone structure evident Seamless vocal line Artistry and finesse consistently exhibited	Impressive vocal skills demonstrated Strong sense of unity delivery and chord accuracy Sound usually full and resonated Balance usually maintained Vocal line displays free, open tones Chords delivered with consistent accuracy
High Excellent Level 38 – 40 Points	Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points	Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points
Excellent level of vocal skills Chords usually locked and in tune Minor tuning/synchronization errors impacting chord lock and ring Frequent glimpses of artistic sound emerging Occasional minor flaws in vowel production Minor flaws in resonance match	Strong vocal skills, but not yet consistent Occasional synchronization, tuning errors affect chord clarity/alignment Balance issues due to range demands Vocal energy inconsistent Achievement in artistry and finesse emerging Occasional instances of locked, ringing chords	Good vocal skills, notably inconsistent at times Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems Frequent internal synchronization errors impact chord clarity Vowels initially matched but not sustained as a unit Vowel resonance inconsistent Vocal line occasionally supported and energized Glimpses of artistry and finesse Chord accuracy generally good but inconsistent
High Good Level 28 - 30 Points	Good Level 24 - 27 Points	Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points
Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Frequent errors in vowel production and resonance match Synchronization errors affect unit Consistent minor tuning errors Energy is sporadic Some attempts at dynamic variance but with limited success Attention to correct notes and intervals becoming apparent	Vocal skills understood but inconsistent More correct notes than incorrect ones Vowels occasionally matched but not sustained Balance issues due to demands at extremes vocal ranges Plan evident but greater stamina needed for effective execution Barbershop style understood but not consistently demonstrated	Beginning work on vocal skills apparent Consistent major tuning and accuracy problems Consistent synchronization errors mar unity Vocal energy sporadically developed Some evidence of work on harmony accuracy
High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points	Fair Level 14 - 17 Points	Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points
Glimpses of beginnings of vocal skill development Many chord inaccuracies Unrecognizable chord clarity at times Lack of musical unity Cone-shaped balance rarely achieved Energy level weak and inconsistent Glimpses of attention to correct notes and intervals	Some vocal skill development noted Breath support and stamina issues prohibits energized delivery Individual voices apparent rather than a unit Barbershop cone unrecognizable Little attention given to production of vowel matching Balance/Blend issues creating lack of barbershop cone Harmony inaccuracies and tuning problems plague performance	Marginal vocal skill development Chord accuracy rarely achieved due to many incorrect notes Blend is challenged because of undeveloped vocal skills Lack of vocal energy Some fleeting moments of the barbershop style
Weak Level 0 - 10 Points		
Undeveloped vocal skills Posture/breath support inadequate Inaccurate notes and words Chords rarely identifiable Very little understanding of barbershop cone and barbershop style		

RIISING STAR LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY	MUSIC CATEGORY
High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points	Superior Level 44 - 47 Points	Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points
<p>Solid vocal skills Superior instant accuracy and total musical unity Highly creative arrangement of strong barbershop vehicle Interpretive plan captures essence of ballad and up-tune delivery Artistry and finesse capture the barbershop style Musical message/performer involvement touching audience Chord delivery consistently balanced, unified, ringing</p>	<p>Exceptional vocal skills Chords locked and balanced in a total musical unit Interpretation of arrangement equal to its strength and showcases performer’s capabilities Exceptional execution of effective musical plan for message delivery Correct sense of tempo, pulse, rhythmic execution of up-tunes and rubato delivery of ballads Performance captures nuances of artistry and finesse Musical “heart” apparent Chords ring frequently</p>	<p>Impressive vocal skills demonstrated Strong sense of unit delivery and chord accuracy Very strong arrangement of very strong song with some creativity Distinguished level of ballad and up-tune interpretation Artistry/barbershop style often evident Chords delivered with consistent accuracy</p>
High Excellent Level 38 - 40 Points	Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points	Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points
<p>Excellent level of vocal skills Minor tuning/synchronization errors impacting chord lock and ring Strong arrangement of very good song Minor flaws in plan execution Musical energy generally consistent Artistry and finesse often evident Chords usually locked and in tune</p>	<p>Strong vocal skills; occasionally inconsistent Occasional synchronization, tuning errors affect chord clarity/alignment Tonal center floats affecting fine tuning Good song, well arranged and suitable to performer Performance is technique- or plan-driven Some achievement in musical artistry evident Occasional instances of locked, ringing chords</p>	<p>Good vocal skills; notably inconsistent at times Frequent minor intonation and tuning problems Frequent internal synchronization errors impact chord clarity Good arrangement of acceptable song; somewhat suitable to performer’s skills Delivery of interpretive plan lacks freedom Glimpses of artistry and finesse emerging Chord accuracy generally good but inconsistent</p>
High Good Level 28 - 30 Points	Good Level 24 - 27 Points	Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points
<p>Work on vocal skills apparent but still in progress Consistent minor tuning errors Good arrangement; some aspects challenging to performer Musical unity inconsistent Interpretive plan evident Tempo challenges in establishment and maintenance in up-tunes Mechanical delivery in ballads override attempts at barbershop artistry Attention to correct notes and intervals becoming apparent</p>	<p>Vocal skills understood but inconsistent Accuracy generally acceptable Arrangement may present vocal challenges Frequent synchronization/tuning errors mar chord clarity Plan evident but greater stamina needed for effective execution Inappropriate or inconsistent tempos in up-tunes; lack of forward motion in ballads Vocal energy beginning to emerge Barbershop style understood but not consistently demonstrated More correct notes than incorrect ones</p>	<p>Work on vocal skills becomes increasingly apparent Consistent tuning and accuracy problems Arrangement is vocally demanding—range-stretching Musical plan lacks unity Barbershop style aspects occur occasionally Musical artistry sporadically appears Some evidence of work on harmony accuracy</p>
High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points	Fair Level 14 - 17 Points	Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points
<p>Glimpses of beginning vocal skill effectiveness Many wrong notes/chord clarity mishaps Musical demands of arrangement very challenging to performer Interpretive plan too advanced for skills Inconsistent musical energy hampering barbershop style Glimpses of attention to correct notes and intervals</p>	<p>Some vocal skill development noted Consistent note, chord, tuning errors Lack of musical unity Musical plan exceeds musical skill Arrangement too difficult for performer Barbershop style marred by lack of or misplaced musical energy Note accuracy worsens as performance continues</p>	<p>Marginal vocal skill development General lack of accuracy Arrangement very difficult for performer Musical plan far beyond performer’s capabilities Little understanding of barbershop style Many incorrect notes</p>
Weak Level 0 - 10 Points		
<p>Undeveloped vocal skills Posture/breath support inadequate Inaccurate notes Chords rarely identifiable Arrangement much too difficult for performer Very little understanding of barbershop style Little attention to correct notes & words</p>		

RISING STAR LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

EXPRESSION CATEGORY	EXPRESSION CATEGORY	EXPRESSION CATEGORY
High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points Solid mastery of vocal skills Ensemble clearly demonstrates unity in all aspects Creative use of tension and drama Superior understanding of barbershop style that is delivered with high vocal energy Emotional communication is natural, authentic, transcends the present and captivates the audience.	Superior Level 44 - 47 Points Exceptional vocal skills Consistently vowels/diphthongs delivered throughout Superior understanding of the barbershop style Musical/Lyrical delivery is performed with vocal color, artistry, and finesse Strong character and emotional involvement from beginning to end	Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points Impressive vocal skills demonstrated Strong sense of unit delivery of barbershop style with minor flaws Sensitivity to lyrical/musical message is present and delivered with dynamic variance Strong character identification and involvement Performance usually transcends technique
High Excellent Level 38 - 40 Points Excellent level of vocal skills Occasional misalignment of vowels Musicality is present and connected to the lyrical message Emotional communication and characterization is present and beginning to transcend the footlights Interpretation well-designed with minor flaws	Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points Strong vocal skills; occasionally inconsistent Internal synchronization problems with consonants and vowels Artistry and finesse emerging allowing flexibility in phrasing to have musical freedom some of the time Inconsistent unit involvement in musical/lyrical message Interruptions in tempos and/or rhythmic flow	Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points Good vocal skills, notably inconsistent at times Synchronization problems internally as well as externally Vowels initially matched but not sustained as a unit Focus on technique inhibits attempts at artistry Emotional communication overshadowed by technique
High Good Level 28 - 30 Points Work on vocal skills apparent but still in progress Unity apparent but inconsistent Frequent errors in vowel production, not aligned as a unit Barbershop style understood but not delivered consistently Energy is sporadic Some attempts at dynamic variance but with limited success	Good Level 24 - 27 Points Vocal skills understood but inconsistent Frequent synchronization problems Vowel alignment needs unified approach Phrase delivery lacks musicality and legato flow Interpretive plans emerging but require stronger support Characterization beginning to emerge, needs greater stamina	Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points Vocal skills understood but inconsistent Consistent synchronization errors Vowels require more consistent alignment and resonance Musical ideas need greater energy and support Interpretive plans lack freedom and forward motion Glimpses of emotional communication
High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points Glimpses of beginning vocal skill effectiveness Lack of musical unity Vowel match lacks uniformity Energy weak and inconsistent affecting barbershop style Characterization and emotional connection not evident	Fair Level 14 - 17 Points Some vocal skill noted Consistent major synchronization problems Lack of common approach to vowel alignment Little meaningful interpretation of musical passages Lack of emotional communication of music and lyrics	Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points Marginal vocal skill development Consistent lack of vocal unity Lack of vowel alignment Energy not present under vocal/lyrical lines Barbershop style is undeveloped Interpretive plans mechanical and non-musical
Weak Level 0 - 10 Points Undeveloped vocal skills Lack of unity Vowels need uniformity and resonance Barbershop style is not apparent Tempos are inconsistent Emotional communication not apparent		

RISING STAR LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

VISUAL COMMUNICATION CATEGORY	VISUAL COMMUNICATION CATEGORY	VISUAL COMMUNICATION CATEGORY
High Superior Level 48 - 50 Points	Superior Level 44 - 47 Points	Low Superior Level 41 - 43 Points
<p>Mastery of vocal skills Performance transcends technique All components of visual communication performed with unity -- vocally, visually, emotionally and artistically Superior visual plan Superb stage presence Audience captivated by performance</p>	<p>Exceptional mastery of 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 Captivating stage presence</p>	<p>Distinguished level of proficiency in vocal skills Very confident stage presence 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</p>
High Excellent Level 38 - 40 Points	Excellent Level 34 - 37 Points	Low Excellent Level 31 - 33 Points
<p>Excellent level of vocal skills demonstrated Confidence apparent; usually comfortable stage presence 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 connection</p>	<p>Strong vocal skills, but not yet consistent Somewhat comfortable stage presence 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</p>	<p>Vocal skills generally good, but inconsistent Stage presence 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</p>
High Good Level 28 - 30 Points	Good Level 24 - 27 Points	Low Good Level 21 - 23 Points
<p>Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress Some moments of comfortable stage presence 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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
High Fair Level 18 - 20 Points	Fair Level 14 - 17 Points	Low Fair Level 11 - 13 Points
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>
Weak Level 0 - 10 Points		
<p>Basic vocal skills need attention Lack of stage persona Musical problems prevent evaluation of character Lack of visual plan Lack of visual unity Lack of energy in performance</p>		