

How to Master Singing Lead

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Lead of LoveNotes

L ead by example

E ffective, “effortless” vocal delivery

A uthentic emotion and captivating energy

D evelop and do “the plan”

To achieve the barbershop sound we love, each part must be sung accurately, with good vocal production, as part of a balanced, unified chord. What characterizes the Lead part specifically?

- The Lead, one of the two middle voices, generally sings the melody and therefore delivers the melodic line that was created by the composer to express the text. As a result, the Lead is responsible for conveying the emotion, inflection, and character of the song (vocally and visually)
- A Lead voice should have presence, energy, depth, and style so that her voice can be distinguished from the sound but without affecting the unit.
- Generally, when choices are made regarding vowel shape, resonance, dynamics and style, the lead voice creates the “plan.” The other voice parts then match the plan and sing into the lead’s sound to create a strong unit.

Be the BEST Lead You Can Be

- Listen to as many champion quartets as you can, identify what you like and emulate what you can. Pull from various sources to find your own unique sound.
- Record everything and listen to your recordings. Never stop learning and working to improve your vocal skills.
- Hold yourself to a high standard when it comes to accuracy and tuning.
- Develop your skills at interpreting music and creating an effective vocal and emotional plan.
- Collaborate with your quartet-mates and seek to bring out the best in all four singers/performers.
- Be authoritative and confident. Give energy and emotion to captivate the audience.

- Allow yourself to sing from an authentic place. Be present onstage and trust your preparation so that when you perform you sing from the soul - to do that you have to put in the work ahead of time and be completely prepared.