

How to Listen and What to Listen For

A. The Singers

1. Are they singing the same notes?
2. Are they singing the right notes?
3. What level of vocal skills is present?
 - A. Vocal Freedom? Height to sound?
 - B. Good intervals?
 - C. Sense of 'Do'?
 - D. Are Phrase endings lifted?
 - E. Is breath support constant?
 - F. Is vibrato excessive? Appropriate?
 - G. Are they using a vowel to vowel approach to singing phrases?
 - H. Are vowel sounds appropriate? Uniform?
 - I. Are they executing dynamics? As a unit?
 - J. Are consonants articulated?
 - K. Is the sound energized?
 - L. Are register breaks being handled effectively? affecting tuning?
4. Do you hear outstanding voices? Why?
5. Is the section working as a unit?
6. Is there a sense of downbeat? (backbeat?)
7. Is the section doing its job within the framework of the barbershop style?

B. The Group

1. Are chords locking -- do you hear overtones?
2. Are they maintaining pitch?
3. Can you understand the words?
4. Is it in the barbershop style?
5. Are chords defined
6. Are chords balanced?
7. Do you hear a smile in the sound?
8. Is there a personality to the sound?
9. Is it in sync?
10. Is the tempo right?
 - a. for the song?
 - b. for the group?
11. Is the director interfering?
12. Is choreography interfering?