

JUDGES' COMMENTS
REGIONAL COMPETITION
REGION 19: OCEAN CITY, MD
APRIL 28 – 29, 2006

(Comments in italics were transcribed from conversation with judges)

Expression: Lea Beverley

Quartets:

- Vocal skills generally good
- Support is an issue at all but highest level quartets
- Phrase plan designs are overall well done, but stamina affects delivery
- Lots of clipped phrase ends and lack of forward motion
- Tempo pulse was often missing/erratic especially through vocal texture changes and song changes
- Vocal characterization could be more developed

Choruses:

- Intros often different level than verse (loud)
- Individual voices popping out
- Need much more freedom
- Vowels are general well done and matched
- Plans could use more interest
- SUPPORT!!!!

Overall comments:

- *Pretty good vowels*
- *Support issue*
 - *Impacting almost every area*
 - *Sustained target vowels*
 - *Phrase endings*
 - *Dynamic plans*
 - *Greatly affected B- to C- choruses*
 - *Clipped phrase endings*
 - *Choppy*
 - *Life phrase ending*
- *Quartets*
 - *Tempo/pulse*
 - *Vocal characterization*
 - *Need to internalize*
 - *Pretty high levels starting with B quartets*
- *Choruses*
 - *Difficult levels with intro and then into the verse*
 - *Start and end at different levels*
 - *Individual voices popping out*
 - *Need more vocal freedom*
 - *C to C- plans*

- *Not very interesting*

Music: Carolyn Healy

No overall score sheet provided

Overall comments:

- *Overall pretty good*
- *Some quartets selected music that was too hard*

Showmanship: Sandy Wright

Quartets:

- Performance Criteria
 - Vocal skills: always work
 - Poise and command: pretty good
 - Entrance/break/exit: work needed
 - Pitch pipe technique: good
 - Physical expression: eye contact
 - Posture: good
 - Unity: can't ever stop working
 - Choreography: excellent
 - Energy: always work
- Preparation Criteria
 - Entrance/break/exit: A few just need to plan something
 - Costume: really good!
 - Makeup/Grooming really good!
 - Choreography really good!
 - Creativity really good!
- *Arrow from Characterization and Audience Rapport)*
 - Time for some basic acting classes. So many really clever ideas not backed up with honest emotion. FEELING A SONG FROM THE INSIDE OUT is difficult for some people, but as we get more and more "into" characterization, moving an audience becomes as visual as vocal. This is what is setting the good quartets from the lower level groups.
- Good work is being done in the visual areas

Choruses:

- Performance Criteria
 - Vocal skills: work always
 - Poise and command: *no comment*
 - Entrance/break/exit: *no comment*
 - Pitch pipe technique: *no comment*
 - Physical expression: *no comment*
 - Posture: *no comment*
 - Unity: *no comment*
 - Choreography: *no comment*

- Energy: *no comment*
- Preparation Criteria
 - Entrance/break/exit: *no comment*
 - Costume: good!
 - Makeup/Grooming good!
 - Choreography good!
 - Creativity good!
- Careful performances
- Losing energy
- Faces – all faces – not risking it for the character
- Most comments I made were sound related
 - Tuning chords
- Clever plans but skills needed to get better
 - “Stuck” vocal skills interfering with the judging category

Overall comments:

- *Need basic acting classes*
- *Moving the audience*
- *Climb into a lyric*

Sound: Ruth Ann Parker

- Learning breath support and breath management
- Section unity in the B- choruses and lower
- Vowel resonance in choruses and quartets
- Harmony inaccuracies due to:
 - Notes
 - Intervals
 - Chorus
 - Tuning/intonation/section unity
- Same synch problems but I noted that you had less than most regions and I think that’s because the caliber of your choruses directors
- Vocal freedom/open resonance, etc.

Sound:

- *Choruses*
 - *Average scores: none lower than C*
 - *Breath support*
 - *Need to work on breath management*
 - *Consider Lori Lyford’s video on breath management*
 - *Vowel resonance*
 - *Problems with harmony in:*
 - *Intervals*
 - *Waving tones*
 - *Synch problems*
 - *Need more vocal freedom*