

# Big Ears!

## Analytical Listening

Harmony College Northwest, 2017

Listening Hierarchy:

(Overriding factors: choice of material, structure of music, breath patterns)

-Accuracy

-Vocal Skills

Breath (audible?, timing, energized)

Balance

Blend

Resonance

Vowel Match

Vocal Energy

Articulation (overdoers, mushers, just right)

-Musical Delivery

Tempo/Pulse

Phrasing/Interpretation

Synchronization

Dynamics

Embellishments

Unity

-Lyrical Delivery

Inflection

Characterization

Emotional Communication

-Artistry/Finesse

-Visual Interest

Unit Moves

Enhancing Moves

Characterization

Visual Energy

Vocal/Visual Match

Ryan Heller, Master Director 700, Pride of Portland Chorus

With appreciation to: Sharon Babb, SAI Master Faculty

## **Babb's Descriptors of Levels**

D+--Nothing working

Gang sing

Inaccurate/wrong notes

Cringe factor

Poor vocal production

C-Music selection problem

Singing "light"

Wrong notes/words

Interval training

Breathing and posture

Singing together at start/stop

Tuning problems

Not a unit/team

Some energy

C+--Lifted face

Open throat

More projection

Tempo

Internal synch problems

Bit of plan

Tuning

Singing "hard"

Bit frantic or timid

"Nice"

Balance problems

Inconsistent

Gimmick-y

Better sections

B-Taller vowels

More open resonance

Wider range of dynamics

More consistency

More energy

More confidence

Lyrical plan

Vocal production evident

More unity/synchronization

Some ring

Pleasant

Some consistency

Not enough verve

B+--Character Identification

Vocal texture

Finesse

Style

Personality

Joy in Performance

Not quite an artistic team

Excitement

Dynamics

Oversinging

Dynamic/Phrasing plan

A--Congruence

Visual/Vocal match

Imagery

Magic

Drama

Transcendence

Abandon

Risk

Symmetry

Audience rapport

Communication

Singing beyond judges

Shimmer

## **BABB'S SINGING LEVELS**

Unsatisfactory-D+ (Below 320)

**I *thought* I was singing**

- Fair-C- (320-367)

**I'm singing.**

- Average-C (368-431)

**We're singing.**

- Satisfactory-C+ (432-472)

**We're singing a song together.**

- Promising-B- (473-520)

**Together, we're singing a song that has a point.**

- Good-B (521-584)

**We're performing a song that has a point, and I care about both the song and the message.**

*(At B+ music become singer-driven rather than director-driven)*

- Very Good-B+ (591-632)

**We're performing a song that has a point; I care about it, and it's fun to do well.**

- Excellent-A- (633-680)

**We're performing a song because there's an audience to entertain.**

- Near Perfect- A (681-744)

**We're performing a song because there's an audience to entertain who loves both me and the music.**

- Flawless-A+ (745-800)

**We're performing a song because there's an audience to entertain who loves both us and the music, and we are all loving life as we journey to another world!**