

“What you do speaks so loudly that I cannot hear what you say.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Objectives: To identify knowledge and skills utilized by the “perfect” section leader to be an effective participant in chorus success. To collaborate as a group on ways to achieve knowledge, skills, and success.

♪ Vocal Production knowledge and Skills

Expanding each singer’s individual vocal potential

Developing section accuracy, blend and unity

Demonstrating and promoting correct singing posture, breathing and chorus vowels

♪ Barbershop Knowledge

Understanding and explaining the “craft” of the part and the unique place within the barbershop style of music

♪ Teaching Skills

Identifying correct versus incorrect

Achieving effective remediation

Developing future leaders

♪ People Skills

Creating section *Esprit de Corps*

Dealing with problems

♪ Chorus Musical knowledge

Understanding/ internalizing director’s interpretive plan (tempo, dynamics, emphasis, etc.)

♪ Directing Skills

Replicating director’s style and cues

Sweet Adelines International
Section Leader Roadmap
Molly Huffman

IES
Handout #2

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECTION LEADERS

1. Attend all rehearsals possible. You have been chosen as a musical leader for your chorus and should be a role model for all.
2. Make **ACCURATE** part tapes when requested to do so.
3. Be prepared...know the notes, words and interpretation to **ALL** songs in the repertoire.
4. Offer musical assistance to members in all areas of vocal production (posture, breathing, inside space, resonance, etc.).
5. Attend educational classes whenever possible. You can **NEVER** know enough about vocal production!
6. Conduct section rehearsals when requested to do so. These should be in conjunction with what the Director has requested.
7. Communicate on a continual basis with the Director, Assistant Director or Associate Director. They should be made aware of both problems and successes.
8. **BE POSITIVE...NEVER CRITICIZE.** We are all working together to become better musicians.
9. Make a personal commitment to help your section reach its highest potential.

Sweet Adelines International 2004 International Education Symposium
Unit Sound Lesson Plan/Handout
Written by Kim Hulbert

Unit Sound: What is it and how do I get some?

Blend

1. Vocal production issues
 - a. Breath support
 - b. Breath timing
 - c. Matched resonance
2. Section blend
3. Section to section blend

Synchronization

1. Instant accuracy
 - a. Staccato and legato exercises
2. Instant target vowel

Vowels

1. Vowel choice
2. Resonance choices

Novice Directors School 2004
Tori Postma

TEN IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF DIRECTING STYLE

1. Understanding the ictus through appropriate breaths and downbeats
2. Ability to keep a steady tempo in an uptune
3. Rubato technique appropriate to the interpretation of a ballad
4. Ability to indicate attacks and releases clearly
5. Congruency between mouth posture and hand motions
6. Body posture appropriate for good singing
7. Avoidance of body posture distractions
8. Maintenance of eye contact with the performing unit
9. Facial posture appropriate for expressive singing
10. Ability to communicate dynamics effectively

Based on DCP Resource Modules Prepared by Pat LeVezu



PRECEPTS OF GOOD, IN-TUNE SINGING

- 🎵 Good health
- 🎵 Healthy attitude
- 🎵 An alert ear
- 🎵 Clear mental image of tone
- 🎵 Consistently upright, forward alignment
- 🎵 Head on even plane
- 🎵 A poised, alert body
- 🎵 An elevated and expanded rib cage
- 🎵 Dependable breath support
- 🎵 A lifted facial countenance
- 🎵 Coordination between release of air from lungs and approximation of vocal folds
- 🎵 Open, free resonance
- 🎵 A loose, relaxed jaw
- 🎵 A lowered tongue and larynx
- 🎵 Relaxed shoulder and neck muscles
- 🎵 Solid vocal and attitudinal energy
- 🎵 Correct, ringing keys
- 🎵 Correct notes, intervals
- 🎵 Vertical alignment/balance of chords
- 🎵 Pythagorean tuning of part lines
- 🎵 Fully resonated and matched vowel sounds
- 🎵 Understandable diction
- 🎵 An alert ear and consistent sense of tonal center
- 🎵 Proper intonation
- 🎵 Consistency in singing musically with ease, with appropriate power, and with control throughout the singing range

TECHNIQUES FOR PEOPLE SKILLS

Karen Breidert

- ❖ Respect their right to have differing ideas, values, opinions

- ❖ Accept that there will always be critics

- ❖ Find common ground

- ❖ Emphasize the positives

- ❖ Validate the feelings that are revealed

- ❖ Stick to the facts

- ❖ Discuss the behavior, not the behavior