

Becoming the Performer

Objective: To empower singers to connect to the music, and the audience, with passion and poignancy.

Resources

Choral Charisma - Tom Carter

Judging Category Description Book - Sweet Adelines, Int.

1. Quartet/chorus performance is a collection of individual performances
2. Connecting to Meaning
 - a. Our emotions affect our facial expressions
 - b. Singing carries meaning just as speaking does
 - c. If we want to consistently engage the audience on an emotional level we, as singers, **MUST** be connected to the music
3. The Joy of connected singing
 - a. Each singer is responsible for connection and expression **ALL** the time. Each and every moment
4. Singing is Acting
 - a. Singing is **ALWAYS** musical theatre.
5. The Other
 - a. Who are you singing to?
5. The Story
 - a. The imagination can create this or the lyrics may lay it out.
6. Our goal, as singers, is to express the truth of our connection and not manipulate our faces so that they appear to be connecting. Our faces need to reflect our emotions. We want our singing to portray a genuine inner experience.

For directors, the goal is to empower singers to express the truth of their connection, not encourage them to manipulate their faces so that they appear to be connecting. Connection becomes before expression.

When singers are silent – they can maintain connection by keeping their inner monologue tied to the story.

6. What the JCDB (Judging Category Description Book) says;

Music Category

Musical Artistry

The planned performance - the combination of tempo, rhythm, phrasing and dynamics- will be totally effective only when the performer adds “heart” to the delivery.

The ultimate in musical performance is achieved when the performer reaches out at the beginning of the performance, takes the audience in the palm of her hand, and holds it there until the performance has concluded, keeping each listener totally spellbound by the emotional impact achieved. Musical artistry occurs when all other aspects of the music category have been achieved. p. 16

Expression Category

Artistic Interpretive Plan

There are two parts to a vocal performance; the technical part, requiring proficiencies in the basics of good singing, and the artistic interpretive plan. Effective interpretation transforms singing into a work of art and allows the performer to establish a definite mood in the mind of the listener while communicating the message of the song. p.6

Characterization

There is a spirit or energy that is intrinsic with characterization. Subtle changes in the application of energy evoke different responses and enhance story-telling.

Before the performer can emotionally involve an audience, she must become intensely involved herself.

Emotional communication occurs with the audience when real emotion is felt and delivered by each singer. p. 11

Emotional communication is the essence of the expression category. p. 12

Showmanship Category

Performance

A successful performance results when complete rapport is established between the performer and the audience. Communication is a two-way street; as the performer establishes contact with the audience, the audience responds to the mood or emotion established by the performer.

All of the facets of performance considered by the showmanship judge combine to achieve a specific goal: “selling the song.”

The showmanship judge rewards the performer who actually makes the sale. p. 2

Emotional communication with the audience occurs when the real emotion is felt and delivered by each singer.

JCDB – Expression Category – Characterization p.12