

## SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY

*The visual characteristics of the barbershop style include high energy, natural body movement (in addition to planned choreography), facial animation and unity of a contemporary visual appearance.*

### INTRODUCTION

The focus of the showmanship category is the evaluation of the salesmanship of the musical product. This includes the elements of preparation, the visual plan and the creation and communication of on-stage magic. With effective showmanship, the performer is able to enhance what the listener hears by reinforcing it with what the viewer sees, creating a total performance. Showmanship is an intangible art, affected neither by age nor by beauty. With showmanship, a little talent can seem great; without showmanship, the greatest talent can be lost.

The showmanship judge assesses the performer's ability to incorporate the intangible art of showmanship into a performance that creates and communicates magic. She rewards a performance wherein:

- Thorough advance attention has been given to all details of preparation, so that no visual or musical flaw creates such a distraction that the impact of the total performance is weakened.
- An appropriate mood is established and the performer appears so relaxed, poised and self-assured that the audience is readily able to respond to that mood.
- The separate musical and visual facets of the performance enhance and support each other, combining to create a total, entertaining performance.

Although this category description defines standards for judging a *contest* performance, the performer can also consider the information presented here as guidelines for public performance. Sweet Adelines International hopes that its choruses and quartets will present performances of a high caliber at every opportunity, not just in competition. Through exposure to television, video, movies and Broadway shows, the general public has learned to distinguish between performances that are of a professional caliber and those that are not. The image of Sweet Adelines International depends on our maintaining the caliber of all public performances at a high professional level.

A "professional" engages in a vocation as a business or career for financial gain. An "amateur" practices an art for love or pure self-satisfaction, not as a means of livelihood. As a musical organization, Sweet Adelines International holds "amateur" standing because its choruses and quartets perform for the love of the barbershop art form, not to earn their livelihood. However, performances by Sweet Adelines International choruses and quartets are expected to reflect standards of a professional quality.



## PERFORMANCE LEVEL GUIDELINES

SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY	SHOWMANSHIP CATEGORY
<b><u>A+ LEVEL (94-100)</u></b>	<p>Exceptional mastery of vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Total command of the stage</p> <p>Complete involvement in character of story</p> <p>High degree of audience rapport</p> <p>High level of energy exudes joy of performing</p> <p>Strong visual plan reinforces musical plan</p> <p>Performance transcends technique most of the time</p>	<b><u>A- LEVEL (80-85)</u></b>
<p>Complete mastery of vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Superb command of the stage</p> <p>Strong theatrical skills used to project character of story</p> <p>Audience totally captivated throughout</p> <p>Energized visual performance breathtaking!</p> <p>Impeccable visual plan supports and enhances music</p> <p>Performance completely transcends technique</p>	<b><u>A LEVEL (86-93)</u></b>	<p>High level of proficiency in vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Poised and confident stage persona</p> <p>Character and personality well defined and projected</p> <p>Strong rapport with audience</p> <p>High degree of energy consistently demonstrated</p> <p>Visual plan works well to enhance musical plan</p> <p>Fleeting moments of technique evident</p>
<b><u>B+ LEVEL (74-79)</u></b>	<p>Vocal skills strong but not habitual</p> <p>Comfortable on stage and generally in command</p> <p>Need to improve unit delivery of visual plan</p> <p>Moments of identification with character and story</p> <p>Audience not completely drawn into performance</p> <p>Inconsistent energy level within group</p> <p>Good visual plan does not interfere with music</p>	<b><u>B- LEVEL (60-65)</u></b>
<p>Strong vocal skills demonstrated</p> <p>Confidence apparent, and usually in command</p> <p>Some flaws in unit delivery of visual plan</p> <p>Character of song maintained throughout</p> <p>Consistent level of audience rapport</p> <p>High level of energy with minor lapses in unit</p> <p>Creative visual plan generally supports music</p>	<b><u>B LEVEL (66-73)</u></b>	<p>Vocal skills generally good but inconsistent</p> <p>Stage command inconsistent in group and performance</p> <p>Need higher energy level in delivery of visual plan</p> <p>Some evidence of personality and characterization</p> <p>Audience has little involvement in performance</p> <p>Energy level shows peaks and valleys</p> <p>Minor flaws in design of visual plan</p>
<b><u>C+ LEVEL (54-59)</u></b>	<p>Vocal skills understood, but application inconsistent</p> <p>Need more confidence to project past footlights</p> <p>More stamina needed to deliver visual plan</p> <p>Little attempt at characterization or identification</p> <p>Audience communication not securely established</p> <p>Energy level falls short of crossing footlights</p> <p>Visual plan evident, but some conflict with musical plan</p>	<b><u>C- LEVEL (40-45)</u></b>
<p>Work on vocal skills apparent, but still in progress</p> <p>Some moments of command</p> <p>Inconsistent stamina in execution of visual plan</p> <p>Lack of consistency in personality and characterization</p> <p>Audience rapport not clearly established</p> <p>Energy sporadic, but frequent attempts evident</p> <p>Some attempt at creative visual plan</p>	<b><u>C LEVEL (46-53)</u></b>	<p>Vocal skills weak, but beginnings of work apparent</p> <p>Insecure and tentative stage persona</p> <p>Execution of visual plan weak due to lack of stamina</p> <p>No projection of personality or characterization</p> <p>Little evidence of attempt at audience communication</p> <p>Infrequent glimpses of energized delivery</p> <p>Visual plan does not consistently support music</p>
<b><u>D+ LEVEL (34-39)</u></b>	<p>Vocal skills poor - need to focus attention here</p> <p>Nerves consume performance</p> <p>Serious lack of visual and musical unity</p> <p>No evidence of character identification</p> <p>Musical problems prevent effective audience rapport</p> <p>No demonstration of positive energy</p> <p>Visual plan vague and lacks support for music</p>	<b><u>D- LEVEL (20-25)</u></b>
<p>Vocal skills weak, but brief glimpses of beginning work</p> <p>Nerves detract from performance</p> <p>Lack of unit execution for visual plan</p> <p>No clearly defined personality or character</p> <p>No attempt at audience communication</p> <p>Energy level weak and inconsistent</p> <p>Visual plan limited and sometimes inappropriate</p>	<b><u>D LEVEL (26-33)</u></b>	<p>No apparent understanding of vocal skills</p> <p>No evidence of effective stage presence</p> <p>Little evidence of attempt at visual unity</p> <p>Characterization and personality not explored</p> <p>High level of audience discomfort evident</p> <p>No attempt at energized delivery</p> <p>Little evidence of unit visual plan</p>