Sweet Adelines International
Quartet Skills for New Quartets
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International Education Symposium
Handout #1
Overhead #1

QUARTET REHEARSALS: PLANNING AND STRATEGIES

Ideally, quartet rehearsal should be spent working on building and strengthening the unit. Here are a few helpful hints to get the most out of your valuable time together.

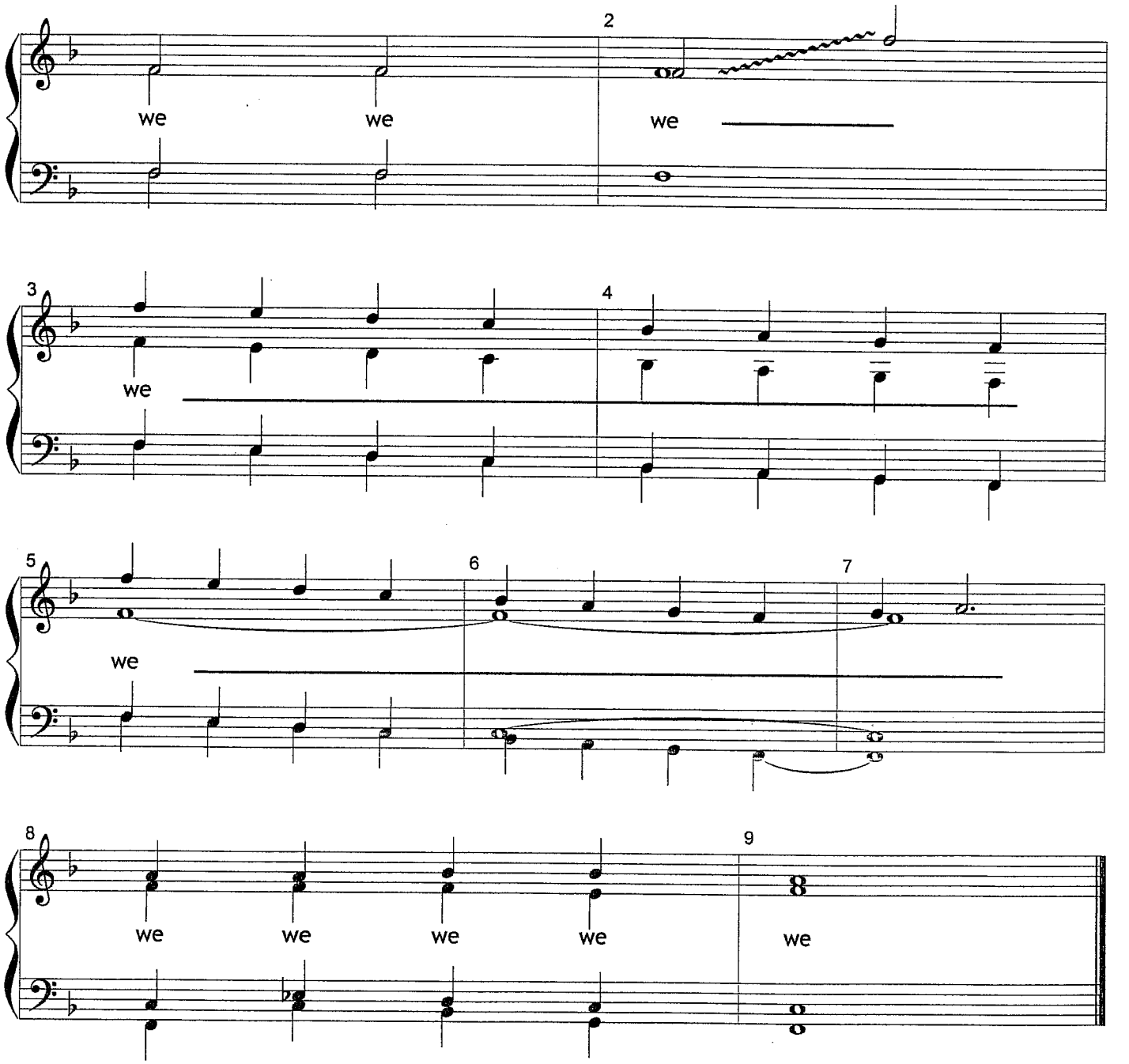
Planning:

- Always arrive on time! Promptness conveys respect for others.
- Learn your notes on your own time. If you don't read music, ask someone to make a learning tape of your part AND the lead part.
- Warm-up your voice BEFORE you arrive at rehearsal. Quartet warm-ups are for building unit sound.
- Always be respectful of each other's feelings. Realize that without the other 3 parts, you would not be a quartet!
- Practice good vocal and physical health. Take care of your voice.
- Work on being "coachable". Listen and heed advice from coaches.
- There is no end to the journey of learning and improving. True champions know that the process of learning and growing never stops.

Strategies:

- Before investing a lot of time as a quartet, discuss your individual and group goals.
- Plan your quartet identity. (Are you comedic, stylish, elegant, crazy?)
- Read the Sweet Adelines International Quartet Handbook and assign jobs for each quartet member (SAI contact person, financial manager, travel coordinator, performance manager, etc.)
- Select music appropriate to your identity and ability level. Contact SAI headquarters and individual arrangers for assistance.
- Determine a rehearsal schedule and stick to it. Once a week for about 3 hours is typical.
- Tape your rehearsal and LISTEN to the recording. (Ideally within the next day or two). Learn to be a critical listener.
- Sing in front on an audience as often as possible.
- Find a good "fifth ear." This can be anyone with a good sense of pitch. Don't rely solely on your own ears!
- Always practice "performance."

16 Vowel Exercise

Proceed through all 16 vowels in order. Or, you may isolate vowels that need more practice and work. Use a word from your song that you may be having trouble with.
Keep the target vowel true as you sing through the moves and your range.
Move up or down a half pitch as needed before going to the next vowel. Try to vary it so that you get to different pitches with the same vowel.
Note what each singer needs to do to produce the correct vowel and to match focus and resonance and create blend and ring.
Repeat as often as needed to make it better!

We Sit Late Men, Have Hind Heart Sun, Mute Moon Full Urge, Long Go Now Joy