

## July is Section Appreciation Month!

- **LEADS**

- Breathe TOGETHER using a high, shared space. •
- Sing with a free, relaxed, "open" tone for a blended unit sound (relaxed jaw, lifted soft palate, tongue resting on lower gum ridge). •
- Use a continuous mix of "head" and "chest" registers to sing with "ONE VOICE." •
- Sing a smooth, continuous vocal line minimizing "white space" between lyrics. •
- Use proper breath support for an even vocal tone with minimal vibrato. •
- Avoid pressure or force in the voice so other parts can easily blend. •
- Be aware when you don't have the melody and back off. •
- Understand tuning with other parts - know your part well enough that you can LISTEN to the chords. •
- Leads and Baris generally share the middle of the chords; should be equally solid on both parts. •
- LEAD with emotion and heart to "tell the story" of the song. Don't be fooled by thinking that LEADS have the easiest part! A group can only be as good as its lead section, so it comes with a lot of responsibility! And, by the way, these tips are for EVERYONE because the HARMONY PARTS are often featured singing some or all of a song's melody line. HURRAY for the LEADS!!!

- **BASS reminders (actually helpful for all voice parts!)**

- BASSES provide the foundation for barbershop chords •
- Basses also help with maintaining the TEMPO of a song •
- "LOW" refers only to pitch, NOT placement •
- Think - and sing like - a LEAD. Take command of your part! •
- Sing with constant vocal energy (does not mean LOUD!) •
- Sing with NO THROAT TENSION and NO PUSHING for vocal freedom •
- Think about singing the LOW notes using a "HEAD VOICE" placement •
- Sing using LIFT, RESONANCE and a "nasal" edge to create "RING" •
- Avoid a "heavy" or gravelly sound •
- Know when you have the melody and sing it with artistry and finesse.

- **NOTES for BARITONES**

- Sing with your "whole voice", smoothly, with vocal freedom - no tension, "pushing" or force. •
- BLEND - think of being the "water" in a watercolor painting. •
- BALANCE - be familiar with the LEAD line and know when your part is above or below it •
- Aim to sing with warmth and resonance at both ends of your range. •
- You share the middle of most chords with the Leads so think of singing with them as a duet. • Focus on "FILLING the GAP" between the lead and the nearest part (Bass or Tenor) •
- Use a lighter tone when above the lead and a fuller tone when below. •
- Know and understand your 3rds and 7ths - they need to be tuned HIGH. •
- LISTEN and be comfortable with the sensation of "losing your voice" in the overall sound. •
- We love you but we DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU

- **NOTES for TENORS:**

- Relax, drop the shoulders, lift the chest, keep your chin level and BREATHE! •
- Sing with energy, control and VOCAL FREEDOM - no tension in the throat •
- Produce a straight, consistent, clear tone with NO VIBRATO •
- Tenor is the "Icing on the Chorus Cake" - sing pretty! •
- Tenor notes MUST be sung absolutely IN TUNE!!! •
- Think of it as singing a continuous DUET with the LEADS •
- When singing below the lead try to match their volume and resonance • Don't fear the HIGH NOTES - be in control of your instrument! •
- Lift the soft palate (roof of mouth) to create open space (rather than dropping the jaw) •
- Light and clear is generally better than LOUD - a little tenor goes a long way! •
- Sing with your "whole voice" using a mix of registers for a smooth, connected sound •
- Minimize hard consonants - remember you are singing a harmony part! •
- Know when you are on the 3rd or 7th notes - they should be tuned HIGH and LIGHT •
- Know and understand when you have the melody and take the lead! •
- LISTEN for the MELODY - be sure you can HEAR the CHORDS for accurate tuning •
- Be aware of "losing your voice" in the overall sound - once you get used to it, IT FEELS GOOD!