

## Artistry and finesse

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### Elements of Expressive singing

- Total musical understanding of everything on the page
- A developed and agreed upon story line
- Dynamics
- Tone colors/timbre/texture options
- Ability to sustain and release within phrases and words
- Breath timings
- Ability to be musically and emotionally subtle
- Attention to details
- Use of characterization
- Part technique applied with obvious sensitivity to the music
- Use of inflection and nuance
- “Color” words
- Phrase flow, phrase patterns
- Rhythmic interest
- Tempo, tempos
- Stylistic congruity with the performer

To convey the essence of the barbershop performance to the listener, each singer must put her “heart” into her voice, using it artistically to convey a sincere feeling for the message of the song. Without heart, emotion and energy, a mechanically perfect performance can be achieved but there will be no aesthetic beauty and no thrill for the audience or the musician. JCDB – Sound Category