

BLYNCH – BLEND AND SYNCHRONIZATION

Objective: To assist singers in developing better blend and synchronization.

Blend

Blend is described in the JCDB in the Sound Category under Barbershop Blend – “Two major factors affect the development of a blended sound: common approaches to tone production and vowel production”. JCDB Sec. II-A pg. 7.

It also says “The sound judge’s concern with vowel production is limited to the issue of uniformity, since blend cannot exist when vowel production is not uniform.” JCDB Sec. II-A, pg. 7.

Synchronization

Sound Category - synchronization is under Accuracy, and it states “Synchronization is a necessary element of harmony accuracy. The sound judge rewards a performance in which a total unit sound exists, i.e., chords are locked from the instant they are sounded. Lack of synchronization affects unit sound because it can mar a blended musical unit, preventing instantly matched vowels and distort a solid barbershop sound.”

Music Category - it says “Musical unity is achieved when all members of the ensemble are singing vowels correctly and simultaneously, and are singing chords in tune and together. Ensemble singing requires particular attention to synchronization to achieve musical unity.”

Expression Category –Synchronization is under Technical Elements as Synchronization/Unity. - it says “The components of synchronization and attacks and releases are considered together because they go hand-in-hand; one is the beginning and the other is the ending.” It further says “The term “internal synchronization” is often used to refer to the vertical togetherness that must exist within words and phrases if the unity of the presentation is to be maintained.”

Areas that can be worked during a BLYNCH session are:

- Section blend/unity
- Resonance
- Placement of sound (forward)
- Maintaining singing space
- Tuning
- Matched vowels
- Turning diphthongs together
- Breathing in tempo
- Target vowel on the beat (not consonant)
- Smooth vocal line

- Steady tempo regardless of vocal line difficulties
- Interpretation
- Dynamic plan
- Maintaining tonality
- Riser Placement
- Section issues

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 - **Tenors** – singing high notes with consistent quality and control. Maintaining lightness of quality and bell like clarity.

 - **Leads** – consistent vocal quality, executing smooth transitions between the lower and upper registers. Singing with musical authority with clarity, brilliance, depth, and maturity.

 - **Baritones** – consistency of quality between upper and lower registers. Vocal flexibility.

 - **Basses** – singing with musical authority, consistency of vocal quality that is mellow, melodic with sufficient volume and projection on the low tones, maintaining resonance at all extremes of their register.