

## Glossary of Terms Found on Score Sheets

- 1) **Articulation**: the physical process involved in the method or manner of enunciating any utterances
- 2) **Artistry (musical)**: describes a performance that shows great skill and outstanding interpretive ability
- 3) **Chord**: a group of notes played simultaneously. Chords in barbershop harmony are built on intervals of the third and have three or four tones
- 4) **Cone**: the balance of sound in a barbershop quartet or chorus that distinguishes it from a singing group with a different style
- 5) **Coning**: the vocal adjustment necessary to maintain the proper balance of a barbershop sound. It will primarily involve singing lighter in both volume and quality in the upper range and with more breadth, depth and volume in the lower range
- 6) **Diphthong**: a combination of two vowel sounds
- 7) **Dynamics**: in barbershop harmony, dynamics refers to the variance in louds and softs that are being sung
- 8) **Embellishment**: a tone or group of tones applied as decoration to a principal melodic line
- 9) **Enunciation**: in singing, the manner of pronouncing words clearly and distinctly
- 10) **Focus**: a term of imagery implying a connected point of tonal vibration
- 11) **Finesse**: extreme delicacy or subtlety in action, performance, skill and discrimination
- 12) **Flow**: to proceed continuously and smoothly throughout the phrase line so as not to over enunciate consonants and thus become choppy
- 13) **Form**: the overall pattern of structure of a song or an arrangement
- 14) **Inflection**: variations of the voice in pitch; in barbershop, inflection refers to the use of consonants to add emotion to the interpretation
- 15) **Intensity**: energy of a sound wave; an energized quality of tone or of sound
- 16) **Interpretation**: the communication of mood and thought values
- 17) **Interval**: the distance between two notes
- 18) **Intonation**: singing in tune
- 19) **Overtone**: any frequency heard that is higher in frequency than the fundamental
- 20) **Legato**: a basic style of vocal technique consisting of a seemingly uninterrupted flowing vocal line

- 21) **Parody**: a humorous set of lyrics used as a replacement for the original words
- 22) **Phonation**: the act or process of generating vocal sound at its point of production at the glottis (the vocal cords)
- 23) **Phrase**: a musical thought analogous to the sentences of a literary composition; division of a piece of music into small units for some artistic purpose, especially into unity that can be sung in one breath
- 24) **Pickup**: a stylistic device in barbershop arranging used to embellish either the beginning of a song or the rests between phrases
- 25) **Pronunciation**: to utter or articulate words or sounds in the required manner. It includes both enunciation and articulation.
- 26) **Resonation**: the intensification and enrichment of a musical tone by means of supplementary vibration
- 27) **Secondary Chords**: chords built on the second, third or sixth degree of the scale; in barbershop arranging, chords other than the major triad
- 28) **Swipe**: a barbershop style device which uses chord changes on one or more voices moving to make the change
- 29) **Synchronization**: all singers singing at the same time, or coincide or agree in time giving strength to the unit
- 30) **Tag**: the end of a song; usually an additional line or two which has been added as a finishing touch prior to the actual conclusion of the song
- 31) **Tension**: the act of stretching or straining
- 32) **Tonal Center**: the tonic which forms a center of gravity from which the musical action springs and to which it ultimately returns; i.e. "Do"
- 33) **Tonality**: created by the peculiar quality of our scale which makes us feel the need to return to "Do"
- 34) **Tremolo**: an abnormal pulsation of the voice, marked by a perceptible variation in pitch due to a lack of proper coordination of the vocal mechanism because of incorrect use of the breath or unnatural physical tension
- 35) **Tuning**: refers to the ability to sing both "in key" and "on pitch"
- 36) **Vowel**: a speech sound articulated so that there is a clear channel for the voice through the middle of the mouth

Definitions for many of these words are found in the Judging Category Description Booklet, copyright in 1989 with revisions in 2003.