

How to Be An "A" Singer  
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What is an A singer? (refer to Performance Level Guidelines A to A+)  
Identify what A is...

- + High level
- + Mastery of vocal skills
- + Exceptional
- + Transcends
- + Consistency
- + Instantly tuned
- + Vowels and diphthongs fully matched and resonated
- + All chords instantly tuned into locked, ringing unit
- + Total unity
- + Total command of the stage
- + Strong theatrical skills used to project character of story
- + Energized visual performance
- + Excellent interpretive plans
- + Artistic use of stylistic elements and vocal textures
- + Balanced maintained at all dynamic levels and ranges
- + Seamless vocal lines consistently energized
- + Creative arrangement of strong song
- + Strong sense of barbershop style with artistry and finesse
- + High degree of audience rapport
- + High level of energy **EXUDES** joy of performing
- + Performance completely transcends

Visual performance skills

- + Theatrical skills
- + Characterization
- + Audience Rapport
- + Energy and Command of the stage

Vocalize at least 10-15 minutes every day.

- + No pitch pipe needed
- + Use vocal exercises

Focus on singing with energy, resonance and lift.

Focus on developing...

- + an even tone quality from the lowest to highest tone.
- + a tone that is free from tension and has warmth and color.
- + a voice that is flexible and capable of a wide variety of dynamics

Work on consistent vowels and diphthongs

Know your words and notes 100%.

Rehearse songs...

- + focusing on producing consistently resonated vowels and diphthongs.
- + focusing on connected word delivery and producing seamless vocal lines consistently energized and flowing

- ✚ executing interpretive plan, maintaining focus and support at all dynamic level and ranges
- ✚ in front of a mirror with a recording of the chorus playing and focusing on executing the visual plan
- ✚ in front of a mirror executing the visual plan with the vocal plan with energy and commitment to the character
- ✚ in front of a mirror until you are confident with the vocal and visual plan

Record yourself rehearsing alone and listen to the recording. Are you executing the following skills:

- ✚ Consistently produced vowels with matched resonance
- ✚ Resonance maintained at all dynamic levels and ranges
- ✚ Seamless vocal lines consistently energized and flowing
- ✚ High level of execution of interpretive plan

Practice performing

At chorus rehearsals perform with total performance unity-face and body. Have members evaluate themselves and send back to visual coordinator/choreographer.

At chorus rehearsals perform with total individual commitment

Have PVI's whenever possible.

As we improve and develop our vocal skills then we should start layering the other skills in the A level to add to our tool box.

These skills can all be developed over time through continued work and concentration in these areas.

As singers, we only set our own limitations.

Everyone can be an A+, why not?

Directors→Believe in your singers!!