

ME AND MY CHARACTER

THE ACT OF CHARACTERIZATION...

Creating a character or the act of characterization is a wonderful way to make the music come to life! We can choose to share the message and emotional impact of a song by calling upon our personal connection with the situation, sound, era, and lyrical interpretation, or choose to perform it by playing the part of someone else who can make the emotional connection. Characterization is the foundation of acting and an important part of the barbershop style of performance. In creating your character, it's important to note that at the very least, you must identify the Three W's...

1) WHO ARE YOU?

2) WHERE ARE YOU?

3) WHO ARE YOU SINGING TO?

STORYLINE...

In musical theatre, actors work with a detailed script that defines the dialogue and music, plus the situation and scenery. So often a chorus or quartet will create a storyline or scenario to tie a package of songs together into one specific theme, or simply to paint a picture of your characters journey through the song. This helps the performer make a connection between their character and the music. Then when looking at the links between the music, your sound, and your character, understand that the interpretation of a song is an act of characterization. When you see how the composer, lyricist, and arranger, as well as the director and coach create and change a musical pattern or dynamic plan, it will indicate your character's behavior. You therefore are in a sense starting with your feelings toward the music rather than your feelings toward the dramatic situation. The clarity of your characters emotions becomes most important to the ensembles unity.

CREATING YOUR CHARACTER...

Since we perform as an ensemble, not single actors or soloists, and because the storyline and choreography plan for the musical performance is often created for you, your input in creating the nuances of your character can be extremely helpful to your performance. Start with these questions to help create your character...

- What is your characters name?
- How old are you?
- What is your characters background? Place of birth, upbringing, schooling, career, single, married or divorced, etc.?
- What dress style suits your character?
- What is your characters favorite thing to do? Favorite color? Favorite food? Favorite place?