



# Fixes for Spots<sup>©</sup>

Vickie J. Maybury

Certified International Faculty  
Master Director 700, Skyline Chorus

# Musical challenges

---

- ▶ Lyrical flow
- ▶ Lyrical clarity
- ▶ Pitch
- ▶ Dropped phrase ends
- ▶ Balance/Blend
- ▶ Tempo inconsistency
- ▶ Barbershop swipes/embellishments
- ▶ Unity
- ▶ Memorizing Lyrics



# Lyrical Flow & Lyrical Clarity

---

## **Lyrical Flow**

- ▶ Sing line on one vowel
- ▶ Use body sweeping movements

## **Lyrical Clarity**

- ▶ Use pencil technique

# Pitch

---

- ▶ Run tonal center
- ▶ Breath intake position
- ▶ Mark tonal key on the music

# Dropped Phrase Ends

---

- ▶ Use a vocal warm-up where hands extend at the end of the warm-up
- ▶ Better understanding of breath management by “sissing” the phrase
  - ▶ This will also isolate where air is being dumped



# Tempo

---

- ▶ Use drum set or metronome
- ▶ Step-Touch
- ▶ Tapping shoulder of singer next to you
- ▶ Walking in tempo

# Balance and Blend

---

- ▶ Mark octaves
- ▶ Mark rubs
- ▶ All sing with the melody line
- ▶ Sing musical line on one vowel

# Barbershop Swipes & Embellishments

- ▶ Matching swipe exchanges
  - ▶ Note exchange
- ▶ Tiddlies
  - ▶ Coming out of the fabric of the sound
- ▶ Crescendos & Decrescendos
  - ▶ Support
- ▶ Posts



# Unity—State of Mind

---

- ▶ Sing melody line
- ▶ Sing musical line on one vowel
- ▶ Talk about story
- ▶ Artistic endeavors
- ▶ Dynamics
- ▶ Vowels
- ▶ Diphthongs



# Memorizing Lyrics

- ▶ Speak them out loud
- ▶ Walk around singing them fast (at warp speed)
- ▶ Recite them while playing catch, walking in the grocery store, or cooking
- ▶ Look for a pattern ex. 2 w's ("Why do I just wither")

# Why do they forget a passage?

- ▶ Generally the singer forgets a passage because she is not clear about the story in her mind.
- ▶ Creating choreography or even a different stage position will cure this.
- ▶ Having singers associate the passage with a specific emotional feeling will also help this issue.



Vickie J. Maybury  
Certified International Faculty  
Certified Expression Judge  
Master Director 700, Skyline Chorus  
[VickieMaybury@yahoo.com](mailto:VickieMaybury@yahoo.com)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/VickieMaybury](http://www.linkedin.com/in/VickieMaybury)