

# That “Sync” Thing

## Quartet Master Class

Region 16 Fall Music School  
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# To Dream the Impossible Dream

That elusive thing – **Synchronization** of....  
**EVERYTHING!!**

- WHAT IS SYNCHRONIZATION?
- HOW DO WE GET SOME?

# What the Judges Want

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- **Sound**

- Sync is a necessary element of harmony accuracy – instant accuracy and total lock-and-ring. **Lack of sync** mars a blended musical unit, prevents instantly matched vowels and distorts a solid barbershop sound.

- **Music**

- Sync is a necessary element of musical unity – occurs when all members of the ensemble sing vowels correctly and **simultaneously**, and sing chords in tune and **at the same time**. **Lack of sync** results in chords that are indistinct, incomplete, fuzzy, out of tune, lacking in clarity.

# What the Judges Want

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- **Expression**

- Sync is considered one of the category's **basic requirements** – the judge seeks a flawless performance of the “**vertical elements**” of the music; attacks and releases, internal phrase delivery, word delivery. **Lack of sync** prevents a consistent unit presentation.

- **Showmanship**

- Sync is a necessary element of **unity** – the presentation must ensure that the group appears as a unit rather than a collection of individuals. **Lack of sync** results in a disjointed, ineffective presentation.

# Sync Solutions

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- *The Buzz* “Six-Step Procedure” for working a song
  - 1 Melody – helps harmony parts learn timing and lead inflections
  - 2 Unison – SUPER SYNC STRENGTHENER!
    - Attacks and releases
    - Internal sync
    - Vowels, diphthongs, consonants
    - Vowel resonance
  - 3 All the Possible Duets – helps strengthen octaves, unity in moving parts
  - 4 All the Possible Trios
  - 5 Three vs. One – very helpful in choruses!
  - 6 REASSEMBLE!



# Sync Summary

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- Synchronization is a crucial element of the barbershop style, both musically and visually; judged in all four categories
- Know your music and the sync “traps” it may contain
- Build your basic vocal skills; many sync errors are caused by underdeveloped vocal skills
- Use rehearsal techniques that build sync awareness
- Have fun! Trying too hard is never the answer!