**Characteristics of the Individual Voice Parts**

**TENOR**

* The average range for tenors is E above middle C to G in the second octave above middle C.
* Lightness of quality, an almost bell-like clarity and sufficient maturity of sound to complement the lower voices, particularly the lead.
* The voice must be capable of singing high notes with consistent quality and control.
* The tenor part is sung with a lighter vocal adjustment and with much less vibrato than that used to sing soprano.

**LEAD**

* Because the lead voice generally carries the melody, the part must be sung with musical authority.
* Ideally the voice has clarity, brilliance, depth. Maturity, and a sense of style that sets her voice apart from the other three.
* The part should be sung with a sufficient amount of color to add interest to the tone, but never so much that it distorts the locked chord characteristic of the barbershop style.
* The lead sings in the approximate same range as an alto, G below middle C to D in the second octave above middle C.
* Much of her vocal authority comes from utilizing the lower chest register and she must be able to execute a smooth transition between the lower and the upper registers so that quality remains consistent between the extreme ranges.
* The voice should also be capable of a wide range of expressive dynamics.

**BARITONE**

* This voice provides the important fourth tone of the chord and must be flexible in vocal quality.
* Sings in approximately the same range as the lead, G below middle C to B above middle C but with less authority.
* In most arrangements she sings in the lower portion of her range more frequently than the upper.
* Consistency of quality between upper and lower registers is always desirable, when her position in the chord is below the lead, she sings with a depth of tone that fills the gap between lead and bass; when her position in the chord is above the lead her quality becomes more like the tenor.
* Vocal flexibility and appropriate handling of the intricacies of the baritone part play an important role in achieving the lock and ring characteristic of the barbershop sound.

**BASS**

* Must be able to sing with vocal authority for she provides the foundation for the barbershop sound.
* The barbershop arranger assists her by providing a strong chord tone, usually the root or the fifth.
* The bass sings a range comparable to that used by a contralto or second alto, C below middle C to F above middle C.
* The bass voice must have a mellow, melodic quality, with sufficient weight to add the desirable bass timbre to the overall sound.
* She must be capable of sufficient volume and projection on the lowest tones so that her sound is not obscured by the higher voice parts.
* Her vocal quality must complement that of the lead voice.

From the Judging Category Description Book, Sec. I page 1 & 2 Guide To Vocal Skills