**HANDOUT #2**

**Class Objective:** To provide singers vocal techniques and exercises to assist them in developing the necessary skills to achieve a well-produced voice.

**Resources**

*Judging Category Description Book - Sweet Adelines, International*

*The Perfect Blend - Timothy Seelig*

*Sing, Baby, Sing!: A Springboard to Artistry, b*y Darlene Rogers, Dale Syverson & Peggy Gram

*The Complete Choral Warm-up Book*, by Russell Robinson & Jay Althouse

**Unit Approach to Vocal Production**

* Proper vocal production is the foundation upon which good sound is built.
* It is the first and foremost requisite to producing unit sound.

**The Five Characteristics of a Well-produced Voice**

* The voice has consistency, with a seemingly even tone quality from the lowest to the highest tone.

Warm Up #19 – Bubble, Hum or Nng

* The voice has both ring, giving a sense of focus to the sound, and roundness, emanating from a throat that is open and free from tension.
* The voice has energy and words flow smoothly.
* The voice is free from tension and has warmth and color.
* The voice is flexible and capable of a wide variety of dynamics.

**The Five Elements of Vocal Production**

1. **Posture**

 Correct posture is fundamental for proper breathing for singing.

**2. Breathing**

 There is no shortcut to proper breathing, it is the foundation of good singing.

 Breathing Exercise

**3. Phonation**

 The action of the vocal chords in speaking and singing

**Reminders**

* Focus the sound. Good for tuning, resonance, unit sound
* Bubble, hum or Nng
* Can also be sung on an ‘M’ or “N”
* Source - *The Perfect Blend, Dr. Timothy Seelig*

**4. Resonation**

The amplification and reinforcement of the tones produced

**Reminders**

* Start on Eb and repeat, going up by half steps
* Keep the jaw relaxed
* Shift to AH when you get to G as the starting note and keep the sound consistent

Warm Up #4 – Nng to AH

Warm Up #8 – Loo Eee

Warm Up #27 Vee-Voh- Vee

* No dump age on the low note!

**Reminders**

* Good for keeping forward placement and resonation during ascending pattern.
* Make sure the OO on LOO has space.
* Focus on maintaining forward placement and resonation while descending.
* Careful not to pinch the EE as you ascend.

**Reminders**

* The ‘V’ brings the sound forward.
* Work on keeping the sound connected on the 2nd measure.
* Maintain the singing space as you ascend.

**5. Articulation**

 The process by which sounds are shaped

**Reminders**

* Good for articulation.
* The ‘Z’ brings the sound forward.
* Try to keep the consonants forward.

Warm Up #25 Zing-a-Mah-Mah

Warm Up #28 Minnie Minnie

* Work for a consistent sound on the last three ‘Zings’.

Source: *The Complete Choral Warm-up Handbook* by Russell Robinson & Jay Althouse

**Reminders**

* The ‘M’ brings the sound forward.
* In the 2nd measure keep the sound connected, don’t sing hard ’T’s.
* Keep the sound connected on the ‘ZA-AH’.

Interval Work - In our art form another skill that will improve our singing is the development of accurate interval singing. A cappella music requires ear training and accurate intervals.

**Interval Exercises**

**Reminders**

* Great interval work and ear training
* Don’t breathe after ‘1’, keep ‘1’ part of the journey, not a destination. Same thing on ‘8’

Warm Up #32 Scale Patterns

Warm Up #33 1-3-5-8-5-3-1

* Good exercise to assist in developing ‘sneak’ breathing.

**Reminders**

* Good for ear training.
* Focus on singing the arpeggio with lift and air.
* Keep the sound connected.

The key to the development of the vocal skills necessary to achieve a well-produced voice is a consistent and focused approach to vocal production every week.