

# Judges' observations - Choruses - 2015

## Expression – Karen Sweeters

### Good singing today – two main issues

1. A lack of energy – both emotional and vocal because of no support.
  - Lower levels need to plump up their vowels and refine their units but need air to support that vowel to vowel lyrical delivery.
  - Higher levels need to use that air to fire up phrase endings to help build a story from the first note to the last – ease through dynamic transitions.
2. Characterization - coloring a passage with dynamics and texture does not bring the song to life – only that area. There needs to be an understanding that the women singing the song need to sing the song through the voice of the performer- intimate and smoldering. What is the motivation? What precipitates those words? Use the energy, the emotion, the purpose and the color of the sound and lyrics accordingly.

## Music – Jana Gutenson

Good contest choices. More emphasis on Breath skills and “internal sync” Pulse will help to unify uptunes.

Great singing overall and choices of music reflected the capabilities of performers. Continue to focus on Harmony accuracy in interval execution in the lower scoring groups.

Some tempos were too fast for the intent of the music and the performers' ability. Continued education on the feel and delivery of backbeat and exploration of ad lib style interpretation in ballads could be helpful.

What a great experience this day has been. Thank you for the music.

## **Sound – Dixie Dahlke**

- Attention is needed in the areas of posture breathing, resonance to strengthen sync and tone accuracy and clarity.
  - Enhance listening skills to strengthen sensitivity to section unity and interval precision.
  - Strengthen the areas of barbershop blend and barbershop blend.
1. The biggest issue in choruses is the need for stronger ownership of the vocal skills area. The basics of correct breathing, resonance, space and support of phrase and tone all highly affect the singer's ability to establish and project tones into well tuned chords.
  2. In almost all choruses bass sections tend to sing under balance and with a somewhat darker, "further back" quality that does not clarify or balance chords. Vocal educators can help here.

What a wonderful Region! Such fine work being done here.

## **Showmanship – Judy Pozsgay**

### **General observations**

1. Pitch taking seamlessly done
2. Costumes – not many issues with fit or distractions. Well done
3. Many choruses had lipstick colors that were faded under lights or not uniformly applied. Seems to be a trend. It's only an issue because features are not adequately outlined/enhanced
4. General physicality during performance good, but some energy lags, almost 'back on heels feel" at times. Encourage continued free singing with freedom and energy accompanying this at all levels.