

Technique should be taught, not as an end in itself, but as something related to individual expression, as a means to an end. Once cannot separate technique from expression, there is only expression” Kimon Nicolaides – The Natural Way to Draw

“The fact is that good emotional singing almost always results in good technical singing. Even if you are not sure why, you realize that when the technical elements get better, the emotional performance and unity of the group similarly improve. The converse is true, when the emotion is properly dialed in, the group’s technique also improves.... the mood colors your sound and your sound colors your mood.”

Deke Sharon – The Heart Of Vocal Harmony (Emotional Expression In Group Singing)

“Once a director has a sound in mind and has conveyed vocal techniques to the choir, it would seem the work is done. But the real fun begins with interpreting the music expressively and stylistically. Many choirs sing all music in the same weight, color and style. It is not only boring to the listener but detracts from the authenticity of the music.” Henry Leck – Creating Artistry Through Choral Excellence

To convey the essence of the barbershop performance to the listener, each singer must put their “heart” into their voice, using it artistically to convey a sincere feeling for the message of the song. Without heart, emotion and energy, a mechanically perfect performance can be achieved but there will be no aesthetic beauty and no thrill for the audience or the musician.

JCDB – Sound Category

The planned performance...will be totally effective only when the performer adds “heart” to the delivery...True expression is an integral part of an artistic performance. When a performance lacks the warmth and sincerity conveyed by the true artist, it becomes mechanical. The audience wants to experience a performance rather than a rehearsal. JCDB – Music Category

When a performer has exhibited true emotional communication, the audience will respond in kind with similar emotion, indicating they have received the emotion projected by the performer. When a Sweet Adeline International quartet or chorus has complete command of all the technical elements of singing and then adds this final bit of frosting, making the audience unaware it is hearing anything other than a beautiful song, straight from the heart, the performers have achieved the ultimate in this category – true musical *expression*.

JCDB – Expression Category

The audience becomes engaged when the performer is gripped by the music being performed and is able to put their heart into their voice and meaning into their physical expression... The performer creates a mood, the audience responds to this mood and to the performance. The performer sensing a positive response, feeds more energy and vitality into the performance, eliciting a heightened response from the audience!

JCDB – Visual Communication Category