What Will You Sing Well?

Like knowing your personality, you should have a good idea of your group's skillset as well as your challenge areas!

Make a list. What do you know about your group?

Vocal Skills? Breath?	Barbershop Style?	Tempo Preference?
Tessitura / Range?	Unity / Synchronization?	Ad Lib Delivery?
Tuning Capability?	Personality / Story Telling?	Backbeat / Downbeat?
Section Strengths?	Stamina / Energy?	Rhythm / Syncopation?

What Makes a Song/Arrangement Easier?

► A melody built primarily on the diatonic major scale (i.e. not a lot of accidentals)

► Strong voicings and smooth/sing-able part lines for all voices, including the melody

► Each voice part performing in their optimal range as much as possible

► All parts moving together in the same rhythms for the most part

► Tempo and rhythms understood by the group

► No key change, or a simple key change that your group can tune consistently

► Embellishments that can be executed successfully, or modified to enable success

► A message appropriate to the performing group

► Physical/energy demands that match the performing group's abilities

► Lots of opportunities to breathe – or ways you can make opportunities to breathe

What Makes a Song/Arrangement Harder?

▶ Chromatic melodies (lots of accidentals), jumpy melodies, range-y melodies

▶ Jumpy part lines (often related to a jumpy melody)

▶ A lot of chords spread beyond a tenth (i.e. spread voicings)

▶ A predominance of secondary chords (minor keys can be difficult to many)

▶ Extended range in the voice parts – more time outside of optimal range

▶ Tricky rhythms – syncopation – and tempos (ex. backbeat, stomp/swing, accelerando)

▶ Modulations and key changes

▶ Elaborate embellishments

▶ Physical/energy demands that exceed the performing group's abilities

▶ Lack of opportunities to breathe

▶ Any challenges in the voice part do not match strengths of the unit