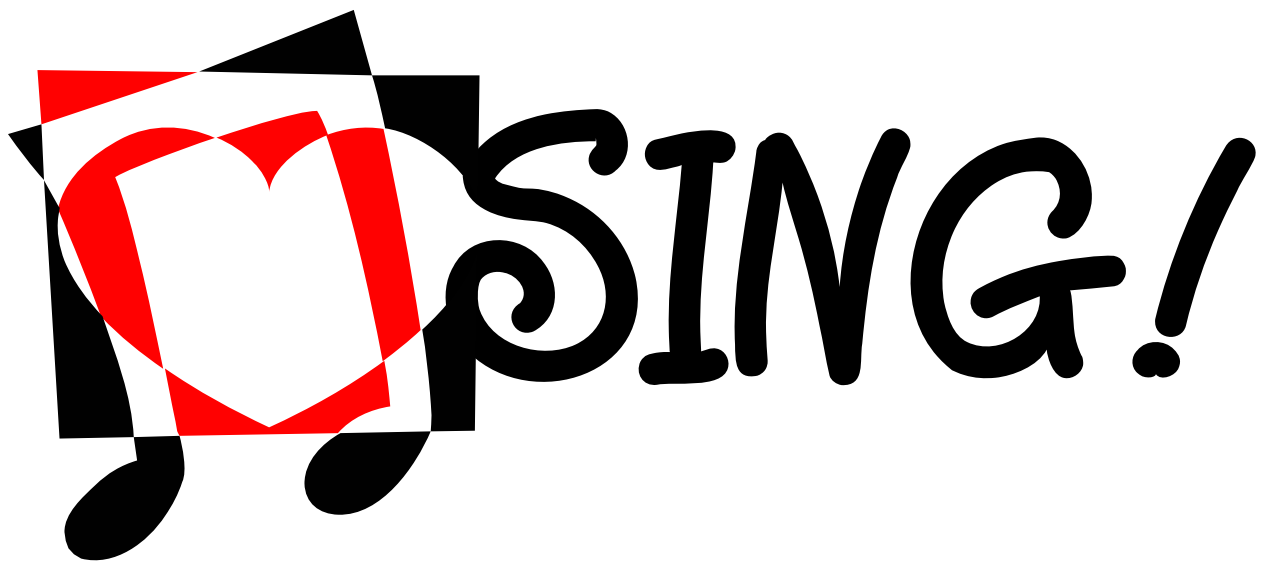


Let's Face the Music

and



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Harmony Weekend Fall 2009



I think I came here to sing..

There is probably no more exciting time in our lives than when we join our first chorus. We hear the music, we see the energy, we sense the fun, we visit a rehearsal, we meet the people, we are lovingly embraced and a fire is lit in our gut, in our blood and in our heart that burns bright and hot. Until it goes out or is snuffed out.



I think I came here to have fun..

Life was good before Sweet Adelines, or maybe it wasn't. But it became better. We experienced a sense of joy, fulfillment and fun that simply did not exist in this way before.



And I think we were supposed to make

 harmony...

*We are. But who ever said it was easy?*



## *What does it take to make exquisite harmony?*

When considering the essential components to creating quality music, there is a striking commonality to the creation of a quality chorus. Those things that are the hallmark of our music are the perfect metaphors and principles to live by.

Chorus Performance Category	
A ("Awesome") Level	
<b>Posture:</b>	Members must stand tall and confident, with a positive frame of mind, without taking their position to the extreme of posturing, by adopting an exaggerated, inflexible or unnatural position or attitude.
<b>Accuracy:</b>	There must be conformity to fact, faithful representation of the truth. There must be integrity so there can be trust. And while we will not be without error, we must strive for quality.
<b>Song and Arrangement:</b>	There must be a roadmap which includes clear and specific plans for all the important components of the organization. There must be goals, expectations and norms which are developed, communicated and understood by all.
<b>Balance:</b>	There must be the presence of <b>all</b> at <b>all times</b> . The dominance will change, but each has a valued and essential place 100% of the time or we are incomplete. Each is respected as an essential part of the whole.
<b>Blend:</b>	The singers will express resonance and warmth, will share the responsibility for adapting tone, qualities and characteristics to create a blend across people.
<b>Articulation:</b>	Communication must be specific, planned, complete, constant, clear and understandable, our thoughts honestly expressed to each other, our words from the heart.
<b>Vocal Style:</b>	Inevitably there will be a variety of communication styles which must be adapted in approach to achieve understanding.
<b>Forward Motion and Energy:</b>	There must be a sense of purpose, goals set and dreams dreamed. There must be growth and achievement. There must be the accomplishment of tasks, business that is managed. Willingly, enthusiastically and collaboratively.
<b>Dynamic Flexibility:</b>	There must be variation of louds and softs in individuals and groups in voice, strength, power and influence.
<b>Clarity:</b>	There must be a pureness and distinctness in each voice. It should remain authentic and genuine, without cover. What is genuine will eventually be seen, usually at contest time.
<b>Focus:</b>	There will be a specific focal point, a target: consistency and commitment in our vision and purpose based on a consensus in vision and purpose.
<b>Tension and Release:</b>	There must be up time and down time, periods of work and play weekly, monthly, annually.
<b>Synchronization and Unity:</b>	There will be cohesiveness and total unity. More than on the same page at the same time. but in step together. Our hearts beating together as one.
<b>Artistry:</b>	Lastly, there must be a masterpiece, where the techniques used to manage the people and the business are invisible and seamless, as though it were happening by magic. Because it is.

## Chorus Performance Category

### A ("Awesome") Level

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# Our Common Repertoire

Every chorus has a balance of uptunes, ballads and novelty songs. The names and the faces may change, but the theme remains pretty much the same.

Title	Song Type/Style	Description
<b>Back In Those Days Gone By</b>	Catchy although dated	A super pick of those who believe that things were better back in the old days. Not popular with all singers but vastly better than "The Good Old Days are Now".
<b>If I Ruled the World</b>	Dramatic ballad	Favorite of those who, given the chance, would fix all of the things that are wrong or stupid that the director, musical or administrative leaders are clueless even exist.
<b>Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone</b>	Pulsing beat and challenging	A real driver, a favorite of members who share their feelings and issues concerning others with everyone but the person they have the concern or issue with.
<b>Who's Sorry Now? Changes</b>	Show Stopper New and fun! Try it!	Cute! We aren't going to do it my/our way? You'll be sorry. Should be in every repertoire! Constant and necessary, are we eager, ready and prepared to sing this one?
<b>Stormy Weather</b>	Dramatic!	You'll sing this one eventually! That's life!
<b>That Old Gang of Mine</b>	STRONG!	Great choice for small groups and cliques who keep to themselves exclusive of others!
<b>Bidin' My Time</b>	A sleeper!	Theme of the leader in name only who doesn't accomplish a lot or the member goin' along for the ride! Great song... if you can get them to learn the notes and words that is!
<b>Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better</b>	Cute toe tapper, watch out for your toes!	Theme song for those who are bugged by others, are jealous of others, are competitive toward others, who want to show up others for whatever crazy reason.
<b>Side By Side</b>	Contagious!	Super choice for leadership teams who work beside each other or even in spite of each other versus together!
<b>I Heard It Through The Grapevine</b>	It moves!	Becoming a standard! Listen to undercurrents and rumors as people try to learn things they haven't been told and to express their opinions when they don't feel safe or have a mechanism to express them a more constructive way.
<b>Angry</b>	Strong and unforgettable!	In every repertoire where "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" isn't. And where "L-O-V-E" isn't. Bring in Aretha and Nat Cole!
<b>It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year</b>	A driver: not for sissies!	Great number for those who overemphasize and over value contest and over obsess about contest results. Note the song refers to "time of the year" versus "all of the year".
<b>Mama's Gone Goodbye</b>	Not too difficult!	Sung by every member eventually and even some choruses. Often done with creative interpretation, better done straight.
<b>After You've Gone</b>	It'll sneak up on you!	Lots of variety! Oh, you're gone? Where the heck did you go? You're gone? GOD NO! Oh, you're gone? YEE HA!
<b>The Long and Winding Road</b>	A barbershop standard!	Descriptive of some rehearsals and meetings that have no clear purpose, direction, structure and plan. Watch out... this one could cause you a time penalty!
<b>Lost in the Stars</b>	Haunting!	Great pick for choruses and leaders who have no long term or even short term plan that reflects the solicited, confirmed needs and interests of the general membership.
<b>R-E-S-P-E-C-T</b>	E-Z! Try it!	A MUST for every chorus repertoire!
<b>Girls Just Wanna Have Fun</b>	An oldie with some new twists!	Soon to be a new International song! Chorus is a great experience! Member centered, collaborative, inclusive, joyful! Members may come back to chorus if we learn it!



## Let's Build a Whole New Repertoire!

We came here to sing, so let's sing. What's on your wish list of songs you would you like to add to YOUR repertoire? Here are some popular choices:

*Get Happy*  
*That Old Feeling*  
*Together Wherever We Go*  
*Ain't We Got Fun*  
*Friendship*  
*Let Me Sing and I'm Happy*  
*At Last*

In the meantime, we have to face the music and figure out what to do with the songs we have. We have to face the music so that we can sing.

## What do you need to do to face the music?



*How we sang today...  
The harmony of singing together*

*Tomorrow's another day, I hope and pray we'll be together.  
Tomorrow, this today will be a yesterday that's gone forever.  
So take my hand, my friend, I want to say  
I'm glad we laughed and loved and sang together TODAY.*

*We only sacrifice the music when we sacrifice the harmony.*

*While the love of harmony often brings us together by in life  
by chance, harmony can and will be sustained only by  
choice.*

*Let us never forget why we came,*



*why we stay,*

*and how we sang today.*





# Let's Face the Music and SING!

<i>Challenge</i>	<i>What Worked</i>