

Don Thompson Chorale Vocal Evaluation

Name: _____

The Don Thompson Chorale's Prime Directive is "to create beautiful choral music and share it with as many people as possible."

To that end, the Chorale operates on the assumption that

- every singer can improve
- all singers, regardless of age, talent or experience can benefit from attention to the subjects addressed here
- vocal preparation before rehearsals and concerts increases vocal endurance and protects the voice from harm

It is our intent to provide feedback based on the vocal evaluation score in order to give the singer a blueprint for vocal improvement. The following five components are rated on a scale from 1 to 5, with a total possible "perfect" score of 25. A minimum score of 15 could be considered acceptable in some cases, while the maximum "perfect" score of 25 may not guarantee membership. Acceptance is at the sole discretion of the director.

Vocal evaluation includes

- vocalization to determine range and section placement
- performance of a song suggested by the director or a prepared piece
- simple sight-reading exercise
- time to answer questions about Chorale and learn about more about singer
- assignment of scores based on the following criteria

TONE/TIMBRE: vocal production that is resonant and vibrant

- 5 – Tone is rich, warm and resonant; solo quality
- 4 – Tone is very solid and will be an asset to the group
- 3 – Tone is solid and will not detract from the group, but needs some improvement
- 2 – Tone needs work in order to blend with the group
- 1 – Tone is weak or struggling

INTONATION/PITCH CONTROL: singing without going flat or sharp

- 5 – Intonation is excellent and will help others nearby to stay on pitch
- 4 – Intonation is solid
- 3 – Intonation is usually solid; some weak intervals exist
- 2 – Intonation needs improvement in order to not pull down the collective pitch
- 1 – Intonation is erratic

THEORY/SIGHTREADING*: reading, understanding and applying musical notation

- 5 – Reading ability is excellent
- 4 – Reading ability is strong; assistance may be a rare need
- 3 – Reading ability is solid; parts will be learned easily with limited assistance
- 2 – Reading ability is weak; significant help may be necessary
- 1 – Reading ability is not present; parts must be learned by rote

VOWEL PRODUCTION*: producing pure vowels that will match the group

- 5 – Vowel production is excellent
- 4 – Vowel production is strong; limited modifications may be necessary
- 3 – Vowel production is generally solid; needs some attention
- 2 – Vowel production needs attention in order to blend properly
- 1 – Vowels reflect a speaking dialect and need to be corrected

BREATH SUPPORT*: using the diaphragm effectively; the underlying technique that produces good intonation and tone

- 5 – Breath support is excellent; demonstrates good use of the diaphragm
- 4 – Breath support is very good and may only present a problem in difficult works
- 3 – Breath support is solid and will not be a detriment to the group; there is room for improvement
- 2 – Breath support is not solid and may result in tone and pitch problems
- 1 – Breath support is weak

*A low score in these areas does not necessarily preclude involvement in the group if the singer is open and willing to work toward improvement. With practice, sight-reading skills, vowel production and breathing techniques should improve. Being teachable is key.

Date/Time: _____

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Vocal Range



Tone/ Timbre _____

Intonation/Pitch Control _____

Theory/Sight-reading _____

Vowel Production _____

Breath Support _____

Total Score: _____

Acceptance in DTC: YES NO

Recommended Section Placement
