

A
BARBERSHOPPER'S
DICTIONARY



A Production of
The Great Lakes Chorus
Grand Rapids, Michigan

THE BARBERSHOPPER'S DICTIONARY

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

This Dictionary is intended for the use of the Chorus members, both new as well as veteran, to help them understand the meaning of terms commonly heard in the barbershop singing setting.

ORGANIZATION

This *Barbershopper's Dictionary* consists of two major parts:

Part 1 - an index of all the terms in the Dictionary arranged by major categories: Choreography, Events, Music Theory, and Organizational.

Part 2 - terms along with their definitions.

REVISIONS

Addendums and major revisions to this Dictionary, will be distributed when necessary.

Those members having additional terms they wish added to the Dictionary should provide them to the Chorus Lexicographer, *Great Lakes Chorus*, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This *Dictionary* is a production of

The Great Lakes Chorus

Grand Rapids, Michigan

by

John Trestrail

Chorus Lexicographer

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BARBERSHOPPING TERMINOLOGY

AC - abbreviation for *Area Counselor*, a district officer who aids chapters within his division of the District. He serves on the District board of directors, and reports to the Division Vice-President.

A&R - abbreviation for *analysis and recommendation* session - the post- competition evaluation given to quartets and choruses by authorized judges. NOTE: no A&R session is held following an International contest.

ACAPPELLA - vocal music without instrumental accompaniment, pure barbershop music is always *Acappella*.

ACCELERANDO (*Accel.*) - gradual speeding of tempo.

ACCENTS - beats, strong or weak.

AFTERGLOW - a party after a barbershop show where the local chapter members have a chance to hear and sing with guest quartets; it has become in many instances a "*second show*" with the public invited.

AIC - abbreviation for *Association of International Champions*; comprised of members who have sung with International championship quartets.

AICC - abbreviation for *Association of International Chorus Champions*; comprised of members who have sung with International championship choruses.

ARRANGEMENT - (1) a judging category which focuses on the barbershop style of music. It assesses the suitability of the song and the degree to which the arrangement supports the song's lyrics, melody, and rhythm; or (2) the harmonic adaptation of a song. Music which has been changed from the original way. It may be written in a different Key, simpler or more complex, or it may be adapted to suit different voices.

AUDIENCE - a choreographic position where the performer turns where the spectators are or would be.

AUDITION - a trial performance to appraise a singer's merits.

BALANCE - the effect achieved through proper voice volume on each note of a chord. The root and fifth tones slightly predominate, while thirds and sevenths must be relatively softer.

BALLAD - synonymous with a slow song.

BAR - the space or measure between two Bar-Lines. Each *Bar* contains the number of beats shown by the *Time Signature*.

BARBERPOLE CAT PROGRAM - an activity begun by *SPEBSQSA* in 1971, which was designed to encourage as many Barbershoppers as possible to get involved in quartetting. The mechanism is to provide members with a number of "like" arrangements so they can participate in and enjoy more quartet fun at inter-chapter, area, district, and International functions.

BARBERSHOP 7th - the cornerstone chord of barbershop style; it is a four-part chord - an example is the sound made when the notes *C, E, G, & Bb* are produced at the same time. A *seventh chord* is a 4 note chord. It's a major chord plus the note 1 whole step below the *root* of the chord. The formula for a 7th chord is: any root note + 4 half steps + 3 half steps + 3 half steps.

BARBERSHOP HARMONY - a style of unaccompanied singing with three voices harmonizing to the melody. The style is distinguished by uniformity of word sounds and a special emphasis on close harmony, with as many *Barbershop 7ths* as possible. The following make barbershop a distinctive type of vocal harmony: (1) a melody line that is easily within the lead's range, (2) a familiar lyric, (3) four-part chords with a healthy dose (at least 35%) of *barbershop 7ths*, (4) a chord progression that leads back to a "home" chord, (5) an ability to add embellishments ("*tiddlies*"), (6) a phraseology in the lyric that generally can be fitted into segments of four to eight measures, and (7) proper voicing of the notes within the chord.

BARIES - abbreviated term for *Baritones*.

BARITONE - voices halfway between *Tenor* and *Bass*.

BAR-LINES - the vertical lines which divide music. The beat does not stop at the *Bar-Lines*, and one should count evenly as if they don't exist: *1-2-3-4 1-2-3-4*, or *1-2-3 1-2-3*.

BASS - the lowest voice in Barbershop.

BASS CLEF - music with this clef is for the *baritone* and *bass* voices. It is also known as the *F Clef* and gives the position of one note. The big "*dot*" of the clef makes the note.

BEAT - the rhythm to which you tap your foot in time with music. Some beats are *accented* more than others, but the beat stays steady.

BELL CHORD - a device used in arrangement in which a chord is constructed by a succession of notes sung by each voice in turn.

BIRD'S EYE - a slang term for a music symbol notation consisting of a semi-circle over a dot. Musically it is known as a *Fermata*. It means to hold the note, or a suspension of tempo on a sustained note or on a rest.

BLOCK MOVE - everyone doing the same move, the same direction, at the same time.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - the governing unit of the Chapter, consisting of the president, immediate past president, membership vice president, program vice president, secretary, treasurer, and other active members.

BOTY (pronounced "*Bow Tie*") - abbreviation for *Barbershopper of the Year*; many chapters and districts have this annual award.

BRACE - a bracket and line which joins two or more Staves of music. Music joined together in this manner is to be sung at the same time by a group of voices.

BREAK - an abrupt change in vocal quality when moving from one register to the other.

BRIGHT SOUND - produced using vowels sung with the lips off the teeth. The forward placement of the sound in the mask of the face, close to the teeth.

BUBBLING - a vocal warm-up exercise done to relax the swallowing muscles allowing the production of clear tones. The sound is made by blowing through the relaxed lips much like the production of motor-boat sounds one made as a kid.

C&J - abbreviation for *Contest and Judging*; this program trains the judges who supervise the singing competitions. The four scoring categories which are judged include: *Arrangement, Interpretation, Sound, and Stage Presence*.

CHAPTER - the basic *Society* unit. Most meet weekly. There are more than 800 *Chapters* in *SPEBSQSA*.

CHECK TAPES - a quality assessment method in which a cassette is made by each member during the chorus singing of a song so that it can be later analyzed by his section leader in order to determine if the member is singing the song correctly.

CHINESE 7th - a *Barbershop 7th* chord voicing with the tenor on the root of the chord, the lead on the 7th (one full step below the tenor), the baritone on the 3rd below the lead, and the bass on the 5th.

CHORD - a combination of tones that blend harmoniously when sounded together. A *major chord* is the first (1st), third (3rd), and fifth (5th) notes of the major scale. Examples: *C* major chord = *C E G*, *F* major chord = *F A C*, *G* major chord = *G B D*. It is not necessary to know every scale to figure out a chord. A simple formula is all one has to memorize: For *major chords*: any root note + 4 half steps + 3 half steps, for *minor chords*: any root note + 3 half steps + 4 half steps.

CHOREOGRAPHY - planned moves performed by the Chorus while singing a song.

CHORUS - (1) a group of singers and the music written for them; or (2) that part of a song which normally follows the verse. It is also called a refrain.

CHORUS POSITION (CP) - where the feet are placed with toes of the outside foot pointed toward the audience, the inside foot is angled slightly to your comfort. Body carriage is tall and erect, and the face is "on", with the eyes on the Director. If the Director is facing the Chorus, the eyes are always on him, unless the choreography dictates otherwise.

CHUCK - a choreographic move which consists of a position with arms and body placed in a position similar to an umpire giving the "safe!" sign.

CLEF - a sign placed at the beginning of a musical staff to determine the position of the notes, and to give precise pitch meaning to the staff. They are known as *treble clef* and *base clef*, and they tell whether a piece of music is for high or low voices.

COACH - an individual who helps the chorus achieve higher levels of performance.

CODA - a concluding section or phrase in a vocal or instrumental work, which is not strictly necessary for completeness, but which serves to and dignify the ending. The diminutive is *codetta*.

CONE - when the entire singing ensemble directs each voice to the same place.

CONNECTION - generally synonymous with smooth sound flow; no breaks or choppiness.

CONSONANTS - any letter of the English alphabet except *a, e, i, o, or u*. They are characterized by constriction, or closure, at one or more points in the breath channel, made with the lips, teeth, and/or tongue.

CORN ROAST - an annual evening event of the *Chorus*, at which time, there is much singing and pick-up quartets, in relaxed country atmosphere.

COTS - abbreviation for *Chapter Officer Training School*; a weekend administrative training session for Chapter officers.

CRAFT SESSION - a class or seminar for members who wish to find more out about barbershop music.

CRESCENDO (*Cresc.*) - growing gradually louder.

CUT OFF - the motion made by the Director at the end of a phrase, which indicates that all singers should stop together. Can also be used for one or more sections.

DARK SOUND - an adjective describing the quality of a sound produced in the mouth, by utilizing more open throat.

D.C. (*da capo*) - "from the top", from the beginning of the music.

DECRESCENDO (*Decresc.*) - gradually decreasing volume.

DICTION - the pronunciation and enunciation of words in singing.

DIG - a choreographed move using one hand and/or foot.

DIPHTHONG - a vowel in which there is a perceptible change in sound quality during a syllable (i.e. time, road). A gliding monosyllabic speech sound (as the vowel combination that forms the last part of *toy*) that starts at or near the articulatory position for one vowel and moves to or toward the position of another. A combination of two vowel sounds that form a single word syllable, such as "a" in way (*ay-ee*) or "i" in mine (*ah-ih*), etc.

DIRECTOR - see also **Music Director**.

DISTRICT - a geographic and administrative region of the Society. There are 16 *Districts* in *SPEBSQSA*. The governing body is the *House of Delegates*, with one or more representatives from each of the chapters in the *District*, depending on the size of the *Chapter*. Each *District* has a *Board of Directors* consisting of the officers elected by the *House of Delegates*.

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP - a competition event held in the spring, for all choruses within the *Pioneer District*. The winner is declared the *District Champion* and cannot compete for the next two years. Winners are expected to "appear" at the next years contest and pass the *Championship Trophy* to the new *District Champions*.

Quartet competition is held during the fall contest.

DO - abbreviation for *District Officer*; an administrator in the 16 geographic regions.

DOUBLE BAR-LINES - marks the end of a piece of music. They can also divide music into sections or *Phrases*.

DOWNBEAT - the first beat of a measure, so called because the *Director's* motion is made in a downward direction.

DOWNSTAGE - that part of the stage closest to the audience.

DOWN-THE-TILES (DTT) - when the head and eyes are turned perpendicular to the edge of the stage, so that the head and eyes are looking straight at the audience. The entire body can also be turned to face *DTT*, with the toes pointing directly at the audience.

DP - abbreviation for *District President*; the highest rank in district administration.

EDGE - the beginning of a piece of music. To start at the beginning is to start "*from the edge*".

ENERGY CUBE - an imaginary "*electrically charged*" focal point which can move to different locations at the whim of the performers and the audience.

EXPANDED SOUND - created when performers are perfectly matched in: vowels, balance, and blend, so as to sound as a unit. This is what a *Sound Judge* listens for in competitions.

EXPIRATION DATE - the date a man's membership ends.

FALL DISTRICT CONTEST - a convention which has quartets and choruses competing for top honors, with the chorus qualifying to represent the district at the *Summer International Convention*, and quartets trying to become *District Champions* for a year.

FALSETTO - a voice placement enabling all men to sing much higher than in their natural voice. (Most barbershop tenors sing *falsetto*.)

FINALIST - a quartet (or chorus) that finishes in the top 10 in *International Competition*.

FLATS (b) - a Flat note is lower than the *Natural* note with the same letter name.

4-CAST - the official publication of the Grand Rapids *Chapter*, Pioneer *District*, *SPEBSQSA*.

FORTE (f) - loud.

FORTISSIMO (ff) - very loud.

FRAME - when persons perform in the back row, front row, and on the outside ends of each row on the risers.

FRAMIS (or "**CLAUSE PAUSE**") - a portion of a phrase when the singers gets steadily quieter and leads the audience to expect they are about to take a breath, but in actuality, the phrase is then continued.

FRANK H. THORNE CHAPTER AT LARGE - an International chapter for men who are unable to take an active part in a Society chapter. (Named after the late Frank H. Thorne of Chicago, Past International President of *SPEBSQSA*).

FROM THE TOP - meaning to start at the beginning (from the first measure). Also known as starting at "*the edge*".

GLI (or "**GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL**") - the annual Chapter performance program, and one of the great fund raising events of the year, held by the Chorus in which popular quartets are invited to perform for the enjoyment of the people of the area. The Chorus performs as well.

GLISSANDO (*Gliss.*) - a vocal move done with sliding effect, from low to high or vice versa.

HALL OF FAME - the high honor bestowed upon a person in recognition of dedicated and continuous service for the benefit of everyone.

HANDS ON TABLE - a choreographic move like a chuck with knees slightly bent, but more subtle with the hands appearing as though they were resting palms down on a table top.

HANG TEN - a surfing term used on the risers, which means to stand at the very front of the riser step with the toes extending slightly over the front edge.

HARMONIC (or **OVERTONE**) - a tone whose vibration frequency is an integral multiple of that of the fundamental tone.

HARMONIZER - the bimonthly official publication produced by the *International Office, SPEBSQSA*, which goes to all *Society* members.

HARMONY - music or any agreeable combination of tones. The art of forming and connecting chords so as to produce logical and effectively artistic results.

HARMONY COLLEGE - a week-long summer educational program at a college for barbershoppers. Usually held in St. Joseph, Missouri.

HEEL SWAY - a choreographic move whereby the toes remain on the floor or riser and the heel is lifted and alternately moved from side to side. Move the heels one at a time, back and forth, by pivoting on the balls of the feet. Frequently done with the hands behind the back.

HORIZONTAL SINGING - a smooth even constant sound without *white spots* (with little or no musical sound).

IBM - abbreviation for *International Board Member*, the governing body of the *Society*. It consists of one representative from each *District* as well as the *International Executive Board*.

INSIDE (IS) - moving towards the center of the Chorus; using the arm, or stepping on the foot closest to the center of the Chorus.

INT - abbreviation for *Interpretation*; one of the four judging categories.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION - competition usually held during the July 4th week of each year in which the top international choruses and quartets compete.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE (or "**HARMONY HALL**") - the main office for *SPEBSQSA*, located in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARIES - a contest held in the fall for all choruses within the *Pioneer District*. The winner represents the *District* at the *International Chorus Contest* held the following July. Each *Chorus* may compete each year unless they are the International Champions from the previous year. The *Quartet* preliminaries are held at the Spring Convention. All District quartets are eligible to compete unless they are International Champions. International Champions are not permitted to compete in any contest after they have won. The winning quartets represent the District at that summer's international competition.

INTERPRETATION ("INTERP") - a category in judging which evaluates the degree and continuity of mood generated by the performer, in keeping with the story line. Commonly referred to as "*Interp*".

INTONATION - the use of pitch. Out of tune singing can mean either singing flat or sharp. The main cause of "*flattening*" is lack of proper breath support or not thinking in tune. The main cause of "*sharpening*" is usually due to tension.

JAZZ HAND - a hand position with the palm flat out to the audience, with fingers spread.

JUDGING - competition is judged in four categories: sound, interpretation, stage presence, and arrangement. Judges are certified by *SPEBSQSA* and must complete a rigorous examination and candidacy program. District Competition has 2 judges per category, and *International Competition* has 3 judges per category. Total score determines the choruses and quartets standing in the competition.

KEY SIGNATURE - almost every song is written in *key*. This refers to the scale the song is derived from. To find key signatures, remember: *C* has no sharps or flats; *F* has one flat. Sharp keys are the keys 1/2 step above the last sharp. Flat keys can be named from the second to the last flat.

LEAD - (1) the melody of a song, or (2) the man who sings the melody part.

LEGATO - smoothly and connected.

LENTO (*Lent.*) - slowly.

LICK - a melodic embellishment on a syllable or word, usually improvised.

LIFT - fully extending and stretching the body at the end of moves, particularly by raising the chest.

LIGHT -

LIBRARIAN - the individual in the chapter who is responsible for the care of all the music and the learning tapes.

LICENSED CHAPTER - a group of at least 20 men who are preparing to become a chapter. They have six months in which to charter.

LYRICS - the words to a song.

MAJOR SCALE - is made up of 8 notes, with 7 different letter names. The first and the eighth note share the same letter name, one octave apart. The scale is named after the first note of the scale (a scale that starts on *C* is a *C scale*, a scale that starts on *G* is a *G scale*).

MATCHING - creating all aspects of music and moves, so as to sound and look exactly the same. The process of making your voice blend with the voice quality of the singers around you to create a unit sound (i.e. singing the vowels the same).

MEASURE (or **BAR**) - one of the fundamental time-units of which verses are composed. Each measure is assumed to be of equal duration.

MEDALIST - a quartet or chorus which has placed in the top five (5) in International competition. Medals: *bronze* (3rd, 4th, & 5th places), *silver* (2nd place), and *gold* (1st place).

MELODY - the tune of a song.

MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT - the individual who fills in for the *Chapter President*. He is responsible for developing a plan designed to improve the retention and recruiting of members.

MEZZO FORTE (*mf*) - moderately loud.

MEZZO PIANO (*mp*) - moderately soft.

MINI-HEP - the "*Harmony Education Program*" held within each *District* from a Friday evening through Sunday noon, which includes coaching and individual instruction.

MUSIC DIRECTOR - the conductor of the *Chorus*, who serves as the production manager" of the *Chapter*, and is responsible for providing an adequate educational program with the goal of improving the musical ability of the *Chapter*.

MUSIC TEAM - a group comprised of men with musical experience whose objective to the improvement of the quality of the musical activities of the chapter.

MUSIC VICE-PRESIDENT - the individual who is a *Board* member, who oversees the music program of the *Chapter*. Coordinates the *Music Team*, oversees the recording of tapes for sale or teaching purposes, and coordinates outside coaching personnel.

NATURAL NOTE - a note which is not *Sharp* or *Flat*. (i.e. *A, B, C, D, E, F, G*).

NATURAL SIGN - written in front of a note, it indicates that the *Natural* note is needed instead of a *Sharp* or *Flat* which was marked earlier.

NON-SINGING TIME - that component of a barbershop performance comprising all of the time on stage during which the performing group is NOT singing.

OCTAVE - an *Octave* covers the eight notes of any *Scale*. It is the distance between any note and the next note higher or lower which has the same name.

OFF PAPER - when a Barbershopper has committed a song (lyrics, notes, etc.) to memory and no longer needs to have the music in front of him to sing correctly.

OPEN POSITION - generally a target vowel being held for its appropriate duration.

OUTSIDE (OS) - moving towards the outside edge of the riser, using the arm, or stepping on the foot closest to the center of the Chorus.

OUTSIDE SPREAD - a choreographed move which splits the performing group down the middle, each half then leaning and/or extending the outside arm toward that side of the stage. This move creates the appearance of a larger chorus.

OVERTONE - a tone of higher *pitch* which is present in every perfect musical sound and whose presence determines the quality of the musical tone.

PARADE - a barbershop show of many quartets.

PATTER LYRICS - an arranging device which features the adaptation of composition of lyrics which are sung in more rapid rhythmic pattern than the melody and lyric which they support.

PERFORMANCE - a scheduled singing appearance by the *Chorus* or *quartet*.

PERFORMING CHORUS - those members of the *Chapter* which have been deemed qualified to sing in competition by the *Music Team*, based on a number of quality assessment methods.

PHONE IT IN - a slang term meaning to sing very softly.

PHRASE - similar to a line of poetry, it is a continuous length of melody or harmony usually several Bars long.

PHRASING - the process of singing a phrase as you would speak it, thereby making the song more pleasing to the audience.

PIANISSIMO (*pp*) - very soft.

PIANO (*p*) - soft.

PICKUP NOTE(S) - a note or series of notes which precede the *downbeat* of a musical phrase.

PICKUP QUARTET - a randomly selected group of four singers.

PITCH - a musical tone that is determined by the frequency of the sound waves producing it. The height or depth of a sound.

POWER MOVE - bold, snappy choreographed move, generally indicating forward motion.

PRACTICE TAPE - a recording of a song, usually sung by a quartet with a particular voice part dominant, which is used by other members to learn their part of a new piece of music. The predominant method of learning for those members who cannot read music.

PRESIDENT - the chief executive of the *Chapter*. He develops and implements a plan with his officers for the *Chapter's* health and continued growth (musically as well as in number of members).

PRESS - move from CP by straightening and shifting the weight more onto the outside foot, normally done slowly toward the Director, with lots of energy.

PRESTO - very fast.

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT - the position is responsible for the variety of *chapter* meetings, be determining what events will take place during the meeting.

QUARTET - a group of four singers (*bass, baritone, lead, & tenor*).

QUARTET QUOTA - forty-nine (49) quartets are eligible to sing in an *International contest*. The quota is chosen from the 16 *districts* on the basis of direct membership. Thus, each *District* has a *quartet quota* (ranging from 2 to 5) based on its membership at the end of the calendar year.

RAILROAD TRACKS (//) - complete (silent) pause in the music.

RALLENTANDO (*Rall.*) - gradually slowing down.

READY POSITION - a body position with one's hand down at one's sides thumb at the outside seam of the pants), legs slightly flexed, chest up and out, and shoulders back. This is sometimes referred to as *Standard Singing Position (SSP)*.

RECORDING SECRETARY - the individual who takes minutes of all *Board* meetings, handles correspondence relating to *District Chapters* and specific individuals.

REFRAIN - the *chorus*, or a part of a piece of music which recurs several times within the piece of music.

REGISTERED QUARTET - a quartet which has registered its name with the *International Office*.

RESET - a choreographic move of repositioning with enthusiasm, to the original *ready position*. To change your body position slightly, to re-energize. Pick up a foot and reposition it, to change the position of the weight.

RESTS - silent *beats*. Rests are counted in exactly the same way as the notes which they replace.

RETREAT - an event in which members gather to practice and interact usually over a weekend. Coaching and concentrated help usually occurs to work on technique and other concepts.

RHYTHM - the organization of music with respect to time.

RIFF - a repeating melodic or rhythmic figure.

RISERS - the moveable stage platform on which performers are placed for greater visibility.

RITARD - the abbreviation for *Ritardo*, which means a slowing of the tempo.

ROOT - the first degree (note) of any musical scale. When a *chord* is played with its name as the lowest note, it is referred to as being in the *root position*.

SCALE - a series of notes in alphabetical order, starting with the *Key Note* after which the *Scale* is named.

SCOOP - to start a tone slightly under pitch and then raise to the correct pitch.

SCORE - all the Parts for the different voices needed in a piece of music shown together, one above the other on the same page.

SECRETARY - the person who is responsible for the numerous reports, accurate record keeping and correspondence of the *Chapter*. Responsibilities includes recording minutes of the *District*, mailing, notices, and other directed duties.

SECTION - a group of individuals of the same voice part.

SECTION LEADER - the person responsible for teaching the members of a *Section*, and volunteers or is appointed by the *Music Committee*.

SECTIONAL - a rehearsal involving only members of a *section*, which is carried out away from the main group of the *Chorus*.

SET - a group of two or more songs linked by a common theme; in competition, generally two songs, one a *ballad*, and one an "*up-tune*" (fast paced). A scene created on the performance stage.

SFORZANDO (*sfz*) - the strong accent on a single note or chord.

SHARPS (#) - a *sharp* note is higher than the *Natural* note with the same letter name.

SINGOUT - slang for a performance. This term should NOT be used.

SLICE HAND - a hand which is in profile to the audience, so that only the little finger is visible, fingers locked together.

SLUR - a curved line over or under several different notes which tells one that these notes should be sung smoothly.

SOCIETY - a shortened term for the official organization *SPEBSQSA*.

SOSTENUTO - momentarily slackening the tempo.

SOUND - a category in judging, which evaluates the degree of achievement of sound "expansion" indicated when there is good intonation, uniform work sounds and good quality, proper volume relationships ("balance") and good precision.

SP - abbreviation for *Stage Presence*.

SPEBSQSA - acronym for *The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America*, Inc, attempts should not be made to pronounce this official name of the Society. A shortened version of the name, "*Barbershop Harmony Society*", may be used.

SPOKES - a position achieved when the people in the second and fourth rows, step to the right, and end up standing directly behind someone.

SPLIT MOVE - splitting the Chorus down the center, and each side does the move in the opposite direction. A "*Split Spread*" occurs when the two halves of the Chorus go in opposite directions (frequently to the *outside*).

SPREAD - any part of a song (vocal and/or visual) which fills the entire space (*i.e.* range, all of the stage, etc.). When the entire Chorus leans to a side, often with an arm movement, with the weight being shifted to the foot in the direction of the lean.

SPRING CONTEST - a district competition which includes the international quartet *Preliminary Contest* where quartets qualify for the summer *International Convention*.

SSP - abbreviation for *Standard Singing Position* (see *Ready Position*).

STACCATO - detached and short note, indicated by a dot above the note, a reduction of its written duration by half or more.

STAGE PRESENCE (or "**SP**") - a category in judging which evaluates the visual performance, or how well the contestants portray the story of the song. The professional deportment with which contestants project themselves over the footlights and sell themselves to the audience by proper costuming, naturalness, eye appeal, gestures/movement, animation, poise, and showmanship.

STAVES - the sets of lines on which musical notes are written. Each staff has five lines and four spaces.

STEP TOGETHER - moving one foot and then bringing the other one up to it. This can be done to the left or right and/or to the inside or outside of the Chorus. If one additional step is taken in the same direction, it is called

a “step-together-step”.

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - an event scheduled for late June or early July of each year (usually around the July 4th holiday). The week-long event includes the annual meeting of the *International Board of Directors*, the *international chorus contest* (usually held on Saturday afternoon) and the *international quartet contests*.

SUPPORT - a co-ordination for precision control of air pressure, a dynamic tension between the muscles of inhaling and the muscles of exhaling.

SWELL - expanding and slightly raising the upper torso of the body, used to enhance ballads and the soft parts of songs.

SWIPE - a progression of two or more *chords* sung on a single word or syllable (a trademark of the barbershop style).

SYNCOPIATION - cross rhythms which occur when notes which would normally be weak are given strong accents.

TAG - an ending of a song, often repeating the final words and designed to make a complete and satisfying arrangement. A short added ending.

TARGET VOWELS - the primary sustained vowel sound of the word being sung.

TEMPO - the rate of speed of a musical piece.

TEN C (10 C) - eyes and energy focused on an imaginary row 10 center, of a large auditorium. This focus should allow you to continue to see the Director in your peripheral vision.

TENOR - the higher voices of men.

TENUTO - sustain.

TIE - a curved line indicating that a note carries on into the next *bar*. This makes the first note longer by joining it to the note at the beginning of the next *bar*. Ties only work with notes which have the same name and same position on the *Staff*.

TIME - refers to the number of beats in a bar, not the speed of the music. The *Time* of music is shown by *Time Signatures*.

TIME SIGNATURES - found at the beginning of all music, one will find two numbers which indicate how many beats there are in each *Bar*, and the type (or value) or the *beats*. The top number tells how many *beats* are in each **BAR** - The bottom number gives the type of *beat*. It also tells the *rhythm* of the music. The first *beat* in each bar is normally a little stronger than the others.

TONE - the quality of sound made by a voice.

TRAIN MOVE - a choreographed move by the performing ensemble so as to resemble or create the visual image of an old steam locomotive.

TREASURER - the individual who is responsible for maintaining an accurate set of financial records for the *Chapter*.

TREBLE CLEF - music with this clef is for the lead and tenor voices. It is also known as the *G Clef* and gives the position of the note *G* on the second line. The Clef draws a ring around the second line to show this.

TREMOLO - an excessive vibrato that leads to an undesirable deviation from pitch.

TROUBADOUR, PIONEER - the official publication of the "*Pioneer District*" of the *SPEBSQSA*.

TUNE - (1) the melody of a song, or (2) as a verb, to blend and make a more accurate or pleasing sound.

TUNE UP CHORD - the tonic *chord* of the key in its characteristic voicing, which is used to tune the chorus in preparation for singing. *Leads* sing the *root*, *basses* also the *root* but an octave lower, *baritones* sing the fifth of the *chord* between the *leads* and *basses*, and the *tenors* sing the third of the *chord* above the *lead* note.

UNIFORM - costumes used by each member to attain the same or "*uniform*" look of the entire performing ensemble.

UNIT SOUND - several voices blended in perfect harmony/unison so as to sound like one voice.

UP A "HALF" - to transpose the music to the key one half step higher than previously sung. (Opposite is *DOWN A "HALF"*.)

UPSTAGE - that part of the stage farthest away from the audience.

VERSE - that portion of a song which normally precedes the chorus or refrain.

VERTICAL SINGING - to sing in such a manner that each syllable is equally emphasized, and with equal volume. Choppy singing whereby the vowel sounds are not maintained, and contains many white spots. This type of singing which is typical of most traditional choruses, is NOT the type of style which is compatible with barbershop.

VIBRATO - a method of giving expressive quality to the sound of a note by means of rapid and minute fluctuations of pitch. This method is usually NOT desired in Barbershopping as it reduces the quality of the sound produced. However, top quartet leads in the Society, that can turn it "on and off", will receive higher points in Sound (i.e. "Second Edition").

VICE-PRESIDENT - a *District* officer that represents a group of *Chapters* within a division of the *District*. He serves on the *District Board*.

VIVACE - fast and lively.

VOICING - the manner of distribution of the tones of a chord among the four voice parts (i.e. close position voicing, open position voicing, spread chord).

VOICE ANALYSIS - a vocal interview with an individual to determine: singing range, pitch matching, pitch memory, harmony sensitivity, voice quality, and sight reading ability.

VOLUME - the degree of loudness or softness. Usually given by a scale of *1-10*, with *1* = softest, and *10* = loudest in quality.

VOWELS - one of the class of speech sounds in the articulation of which the oral part of the breath channel is not blocked and is not constricted enough to cause audible friction. In the English alphabet these sounds equate with the letters *a, e, i, o, u*, and sometimes *y*.

VOWEL SHAPE - the formation of the lips and mouth to produce the desired *Target Vowel* (word sound).

WHITE SPOT - a condition when there is a loss in the *Wall of Sound*.

WINDOW - placement on the *risers* in such a way that each individual face can be seen by the *Director*, and each individual can see the *Director*, between the heads of the men in the row in front of himself. The space between the two people in front of you, is your "*window*". Try to remain centered between those two people.

WOODSHEDDING - impromptu quartet or chorus singing, without benefits of printed arrangements; a form of creativity in harmonizing.

Revised: Nov 12, 2003