

GUIDELINES

SELECTING MUSIC FOR YOUR QUARTET

So, you wanna be in a quartet? Here are some very basic steps toward selecting music that will give you some success as singers and competitors.

- 1) Contact International for the list of published arrangements. The website allows purchase and other information and some are quite reasonably priced. You will find many barbershop arrangements on the Sheet Music Plus website.
- 2) Once you have an arrangement in hand, check for some very important issues:
- 3) Is the Lead line suitable for your Lead's range? Does the Lead line jump around or is it "user friendly" most of the time? If the Lead line jumps around, so does the Bari line and tuning can be less than successful.
- 4) Check the lowest and highest notes for the Bass; can your Bass handle this range? Are the low notes sustained for long phrases or just occasional? Are the highest notes for the Bass comfortable?
- 5) How is the range for the Tenor?
- 6) What's the difficulty factor of the piece? It's a shame to sing a difficult piece poorly – there's no shame in singing an easier piece really well.
- 7) Does the theme and lyrics of the music fit your personality as a quartet?
- 8) Is it contemporary or old-fashioned in its message?
- 9) Does everyone in the quartet like the piece? There is so much music to choose from that it's a waste of energy to sing something that one member dislikes.
- 10) Talk to knowledgeable people about the difficulty level of a song and whether it's a contest song or repertoire, if you're uncertain.
- 11) Choose music for your repertoire that gives variety; i.e., uptune, ballad, swing, novelty, solo.
- 12) If your quartet is unable to be "off the paper" within 2-3 rehearsals, move on to something else. This song may be too difficult for you right now.

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1-26-19