

REHEARSAL TIPS

Every rehearsal includes these important components. The weight of each of these will change depending on the coming plans.

- Warmups
 - Physical – singing is a physical exercise and movement keeps the voice “alive” and vibrant. Build stamina and breath management skills.
 - Vocal – Be vocally warmed up before arrival. Then do exercises together to support and challenge all levels of achievement, vowel matching, unit sound.
 - Mental – Have a positive attitude and be prepared.
- Current repertoire – review and keep fresh
- Newer material – interpretation, tuning, resonance
- Visual performance
 - Mirrors
 - Video and evaluate
 - Coach each other
 - Study videos from recent performances
- Quartet business
 - Handle most via phone/email during the week to cut down on time needed at rehearsal
- Plan next rehearsal – use the rehearsal plan (attached)
 - What's next
 - Be flexible
 - Everyone agree
- Social time
 - You're in this together!!
 - **HAVING FUN IS VERY IMPORTANT!**

A few notes about rehearsal location....

- Midway between homes, if possible.
- Free from disturbances and distractions
- No noisy children (or other family members)
- No undisciplined or high-maintenance pets
- Minimum of ringing phones – television – competing music
- Free from scents or odors which irritate sinuses or eyes – no allergens

SELF-COACHING

Celebrate your differences in approach!

- Take advantage of everyone's unique talent:
 - Vocal techniques and warmups
 - Talent with rhythms
 - Alertness to chord accuracy
 - An ear for vowels
 - A sensitivity to dynamics
 - Visual awareness

TECHNIQUES

- Record a song and listen quietly, noting your own corrections. Sing again.
- Duet and trio every combination of voices - use the "extra" person as the coach. This builds their skills and also your trust and respect.
 - Tune octaves, 5ths, and 7ths
 - Align resonance and vowel sounds
 - Listen for phrase pacing, tempo, and rhythm patterns by the Lead
- Work the tenor, baritone and bass while the lead listens
 - Find differences among the trio
 - Find differences between the trio and the lead's interpretation
- Freeze chords – using your best vocal quality, allow your ear to help tune each chord in a phrase before moving to the next chord. Repeat the phrase a bit faster until you've reached tempo of planned pacing
- Sing in a square, facing each other
- Sing in a square, facing away from each other.
- Sing in a diamond shape – lead at the rear with bass and baritone shoulder-to-shoulder in the center, and tenor in front. Helps everyone sing the lead's flow and inflection.
- Sing in the 4 corners of a room to work on consistent energy. Without pushing vocally, mentally join your voices in the middle of the room.
- Sing in a wide square and direct your salesmanship across the square.
- Sing in your regular quartet position with your eyes closed. Develop your ear and sensitivity to the flow and synchronization of the quartet.
- Sing from vowel-to-vowel, leaving out all consonants. Listen for consistent resonant quality and "like" vowel sounds.
- Solidify uptune tempo by plugging a computer speaker into an electronic keyboard and sing to the tempo and rhythm pattern that best suits the song.
- Videotape and review performance repertoire.

REHEARSAL PLAN

Date: _____

Main objective: _____

Time	What	Details	Leader