

VP Music Report

1 April 2017

- At the two rehearsals prior to Division Convention (weekend of March 11) we were fortunate to have ad hoc coaching. “Some Friends of Mine” came to perform their contest set and stuck around to give us some reinforcement and tips prior to contest.
- We competed at Division. Score average was 65.7. We placed 3rd among Northwest Division contestants and 4th overall (when considering Northeast Division contestants).
- We are Plateau AA Champions for Northwest Division.
- Judges reviews/evals after contest reinforced that
 - We are on the right track
 - The fundamentals are in place to significantly increase our scores
 - Consistency is the key for us right now.
- The Music Team discussed about how to maintain the momentum the chorus had coming off the Division contest. Observations and comments:
 - At multiple contests evaluations we have heard “Why didn’t you sing like that on stage?”
 - Sean said we need to be more consistent. We do many things very well, but not consistently.
 - The set up on the Sac stage was a challenge. The men on the wings couldn’t hear the other sections. Our rehearsal hall is very live and spreading out on 7 risers helps the sound. At a venue like Sac, it may be better to bring the men closer together so they can hear each other better.
 - We discussed the possibility that some of the men got “judging freight.” There’s something about having to sing for a score that seems to get some guys nervous.
 - We discussed that the contest stage is an artificial situation. We only have two songs. If there is any nervousness about how we did in the first, it creates additional pressure to do well in the second. This in turn can create even more pressure. In a show performance, where we are doing 8 to 10 songs, if one goes a little off there’s a sense that we have plenty of time to wow the audience.
 - We considered that we do not “practice” the process of getting onto the performance risers, getting set, singing and getting off the risers. It was suggested we practice this several times in a rehearsal and do so every week 3 to 5 weeks before

contest. We want the “process” to be automatic so that it does not become a focus point for the men.

- Sean agreed to ask if people were nervous on the contest stage or what else might have been going on.
- We also agreed to incorporate the feedback from the judges into our rehearsals. Jerry transcribed the comments. We’ll take one point a week and reinforce it.
- The Quartet Coaching event currently has two quartets confirmed (In Flux and Bascom Ave 4). Never Too Old 4 needs to back out.
 - DK has reached out to choruses in Santa Cruz, San Jose, Walnut Creek, Hayward and San Mateo. So far, no takers.
 - Sean suggested extending the invitation to the two San Francisco choruses.
 - If we don’t get more quartets we can cut back on the number of coaches. We’ll start with the coaches that are charging a fee.
 - We can also find a different venue. With fewer quartets, we won’t need to rent the church facility.
- Sean said that he will begin the process of training an Assistant Director after the Spring Show.
- We will begin incorporating sectionals into rehearsals beginning 3/23.
- The section leaders agreed to use the Coaching Tape program to get it started.
 - Recordings and self-review comments can be uploaded to Groupanizer. However, the system is not yet fully set up for the program. Paul Eastman needs to be set up as “checker” for all chorus members. Once that’s set, Paul will automatically receive an e-mail letting him know who has uploaded the recording.
 - Since Groupanizer is not yet set, Section Leaders will directly e-mail the recording and self-eval to Paul.