

## **Barbershop Quartet Classification Explained**

**Premise:** Many vocal teachers like to use close harmony activities such as those found in Barbershop as a tool to reinforce listening/blending skills in their students and choirs. Musical elements such as harmonious/reinforcing overtones & blends, balance, tone color, precision word and tone attacks, and special effects can be practiced through the use of Barbershop Quartet singing. Besides, Barbershop Quartets can communicate a variety of dramatic and body-language emotions making this a fun-filled vocal experience.

**Eligibility:** Any quartets in grades 7-12 (grades and sex of singers may be mixed). No accompaniment may be used but starting pitches may be established by using the piano or a pitch pipe.

**Procedure:** Directors should submit a **Barbershop Quartet entry form**. This is considered an Ensemble entry.

**Adjudication:** Adjudication will be typical for vocal performances except various techniques (sliding into tones, body-motions, comedy, etc.) will be included. Blend, balance, audience communication, overall effect, and barbershop style will be adjudicated

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