**Analytical Listening**

*“I’ve recorded myself, now what?”*

**Listening Hierarchy:**

-Accuracy: correct notes, words, and breaths

-Vocal Skills

Breath: audible?, timing, energized, sneak breaths planned and optimal

Resonance: is the sound rich, round, and ringing? Is it overly dark or bright? Is it a mix of all? Different vowels and registers might produce different qualities.

Vowels: are they the specific vowel at the right time? Are glides/diphthongs resonated and energized?

Vocal Energy: do you hear sound in motion? Singing phrases or note to note?

Articulation: overdoers, mushers, just right

Tension: do you hear any tension? Perhaps on a certain vowel/vowels, dynamic, or place in range

Artistic sound: do you hear different colors/textures to express what you’re singing?

-Musical Delivery

Tempo/Pulse: is it consistent? Can you feel where you want the audience to tap their foot?

Phrasing/Interpretation: do you hear yourself singing musical thoughts or a choppy, note to note line?

Dynamics

Embellishments: do they have freedom and energy? If someone else has one, are you energizing your sound?

Unity: is what you’re singing the same as everyone else?

-Lyrical Delivery

Inflection: do you sing a natural emphasis on parts of words that are stressed? While lightening, does the sound stay open and air-driven?

Characterization: do you sound like whoever is singing the song? If there are specific colors/accents, do you hear them?

Emotional Communication: does the lyric you’re singing have a message? Can you hear it?

-Artistry/Finesse: are you ever distracted by something technical that pulls you out of the story/message?

-Visual Interest

Unit Moves: do you do them at the time they’re supposed to happen?

Enhancing Moves: does your movement make the music/sound come alive? Remember, there should be a vocal and visual match

Characterization: do you *look* like the person singing the song? Do you check out in a particularly challenging musical or vocal spot?

Physicality/Visual Energy: is your movement connected to your core? Is everything done with intention?

Remember, isolate just one or two things and practice them with mindfulness and diligence. YOU are the special ingredient in the ensemble, and **only you** can bring your very best to the unit!

Ryan Heller, Master Director 700, Pride of Portland Chorus, with appreciation to: Sharon Babb, SAI Master Faculty