

Barbershop Ain't Square

What does a great quartet/chorus performance do for YOU?

Communicates a Story

Captures and Keeps Your Attention

Wakes You Up!

Stirs Your Emotions

Excites You

Makes You Think

Involves You and Takes You In

Devices to spice up your barbershop arrangements:

Rhythmic Devices

Triplets

Syncopation

Push Beats

Backbeat

Accents/Emphasizing Specific Words or Beats

Tempo Changes

Accelerando/Ritardando

Stomps

Creative Breath Timing/Expressive Breaths

Audible Breaths

Leave Out Words

Colors and Textures

Spikes and Velvets

Breathy

Varied Tone Color/Timbre (e.g., southern belle, Groucho Marx)

Extreme Changes for Dramatic Dynamic Effect

Pronunciation Devices

Vocal Inflections

Artistic use of Vowels and Consonants

Whole words – Vocal “Gems”

Adding Key Changes Up or Down

Replace Chords with Pick-Ups

Unison/Octave Singing

Embellishments

Swipes

“Tiddlies”

Glissandos

Fall-Offs

Tips for Getting Creative with Your Barbershop Arrangements:

- Research the history of your songs; listen to a variety of performances for interpretive ideas.
- Identify the mood and/or setting of the song as soon as you begin to learn it.
- Know your music well enough to be free for the creative process to occur.
- Be flexible and open to change.
- Push your personal boundaries – NO FEARS!
- Bounce ideas off of each other – NO JUDGMENT!
- Pay attention to mistakes during rehearsals; they may actually be moments of BRILLIANCE!