

Art Song

20 Point Grading Scale

0 to 5 - Below Average

6 to 13 - Average

14 to 20 - Above Average

Posture / Support

The average HS singer displays an understanding of well-balanced posture and abdominal/costal breathing, although execution is inconsistent and may degrade over the course of a performance. The below average singer displays little understanding of either resulting in a casual or rigid stance and noticeable chest and shoulder movement. The above average singer displays a consistent application of well balanced posture and breathing technique throughout the entire performance. Judges are encouraged to specify casual or rigid posture.

Intonation

The average HS singer displays an understanding of center of pitch and relative natural tuning, although execution is inconsistent across the range and vowel placement. The below average singer displays little understanding of either, usually resulting in a consistently flat, sharp or inconsistent intonation. The above average singer displays a consistent execution of both, resulting in an intonation that sits on top of the center of the pitch across range and vowels. Judges are encouraged to specify flat, sharp, or inconsistent tuning.

Tone / Placement

The average HS singer displays an understanding of free and tall and centered placement, although execution is inconsistent across the range and vowel spectrum. The below average singer displays little understanding of either, usually resulting in a tight sound and or collapsed placement. The above average singer displays a consistent understanding of both, resulting in a full, free, and open tone across range and vowels.

Diction

The average HS singer displays an understanding of proper vowel shaping and consonant articulation, although execution is inconsistent, some vowel choices may seem arbitrary, and consonants may be overdone. The below average singer displays little understanding of either, usually resulting in all vowels having a neutral sound and the most consonants being lost. The above average singer displays a consistent application of both, resulting in a

consistent, pleasant vowel choices and consonants that are present without being obtrusive.

Dynamics / Phrasing

The average HS singer displays an understanding of stylistic artistry, although execution is inconsistent and some artistic choices may seem mechanical and arbitrary. The below average singer displays little understanding, usually resulting in a performance devoid of any artistry at all. The above average singer displays a consistent application of appropriate artistic choices for the style, resulting in a natural, believable performance.

Notes / Rhythms

The average HS singer is well prepared, although a missed note or shortchanged rhythm due to nerves is not unexpected. The below average singer has trouble holding their part and may become lost, miss entrances, or improvise rhythms. The above average singer is well prepared, notes and rhythms are perfect, and independent of the sheet music.

Comments on the Art Song

Choral Song

10 Point Grading Scale

0 to 3 - Below Average

4 to 7 - Average

8 to 10 - Above Average

Posture / Support

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Intonation

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Independence (20 Point Grading Scale)

The average HS singer can hold their part, although balance, blend, and tuning to the chord may be inconsistent. The below average singer has trouble holding their part and may become lost or begin singing another part in unison or octaves. The above average singer appears completely comfortable singing their part and focuses more on being part of the ensemble than on their own line.

Comments on The Choral Song

Scale

10 Point Grading Scale

10 Point Grading Scale

0 to 3 - Below Average

4 to 7 - Average

8 to 10 - Above Average

The average HS singer displays a familiarity with the major scale, although relative tuning may be inconsistent. The Below average singer displays little familiarity, usually resulting in losing the tonality completely. The above average singer displays a strong familiarity resulting in accurate relative tuning both up and down the scale.

Overall Presentation

The average HS singer displays an understanding of the audition process, although some anxiety may be evident. The below average singer displays little understanding of the audition process and heightened anxiety, usually requiring extra guidance and often making excuses for the performance. The above average singer displays a comfort level with the audition process, completing it with confidence and a pleasant demeanor.

Comments on Scale and Presentation