

Region #17 Fall Harmony Weekend

September 2016

Blending Skills

Goal: a weightless, fluidly delivered sound in a *shared space* that rings (aka: unit sound)

Step One: personal skills

- strong foundation of vocal skills
- breath skills
- accurate intervals
- vocal freedom/relaxation
- fluid movement between registers
- vocal flexibility
- resonation
- correct pronunciation

NOTE: no oversinging...**ever**

- adds weight to the sound
- increases inaccuracies
- limits shared space
- destroys any hope of unit

Step Two: section skills

- all of the personal skills
- vowel match
- all of the above in a space shared with singers of that voice part

Step Three: entire ensemble skills

- all of the personal skills
- all of the section skills
- enlarge the shared space to a “limitless” distance
 - NOTE: the “limit” of this space is one defined by the need for a focused, not fuzzy or swallowed sound
- all of the above in a space shared with singers of all/any voice part

Important tools for creating and exploring a shared space:

- unison
- kinesthetics
- imagination