



CAPITAL ACCORD CHORUS

Director's Challenge 2007

In the past year, we've made remarkable improvements in our sound as a chorus, and we can build on our success this year. The two cornerstones of our improvement for us are individual skills and unit performance. Unit sound is something we work together, and it's the director's job to work with the chorus to achieve a unit sound. I pledge to find opportunities for us to improve our unit as we learn new repertoire this year, and to find ways to make it fun.

Now it's your turn. I challenge you to improve your individual skills. In a few short months, you can reap the benefits – not only will you be a better singer and chorus performer, you'll get a nifty Certificate of Achievement and a cool star to put on your name badge, proclaiming to everyone that you have met the challenge!

Meet the Challenge...one step at a time

- **Step 1 - Take Stock.** Take the beginning survey, and figure out what you're already good at, and what you can get better at. Arrange for a beginning PVI to set a baseline for your vocal skills. At the end of this, you'll get a "PVI prescription", giving you some tips for improving the items you're most concerned about.
- **Step 2 – Gear Up With the Basics.** Complete the tasks on the "Establish the Foundations" Worksheet. This gives you reminders on the basic traits we all need in order to be a great chorus, and gives us a common place to jump off from...prepare to fly!
- **Step 3 – Set Priorities.** You can't work everything at once, and you shouldn't want to. Based on your survey and your PVI, set three goals that you want to improve this year. Then pick the "merit badges" that will help you achieve your goals, and work the projects in them.
- **Step 4 – Stick with It.** Each week, think about the characteristics of success, and work them. Show up to rehearsal. Practice them, live them, own them.
- **Step 5 – Measure Your Success.** Take a second PVI. Take the completion survey. See how far you've come!



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Take Stock

1. I have enough breath to continue to the end of most phrases.

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

2. I'm excited and *not* nervous to perform in public. I love to be in front of an audience!

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

3. I feel confident that I know where my "head voice" is and I know how to use it.

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

4. I feel confident that I know where my "chest voice" is, and can use it with power.

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

5. I can navigate my register break, and use voice mixing to place my voice when singing at different pitches.

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

6. I feel confident about learning and doing choreography.

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

7. I understand rhythm, and can feel the downbeat and backbeat in each song.

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

8. I know what the "overtone" is – I can hear it, and I know how to achieve it, even if I don't always do it!

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!

9. I feel comfortable speaking at performances.

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I wish I were better at this

I feel pretty good about this

I'm *great* at this!



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Action Plan

Based on what you said you wish you were better at, pick some “merit badges” from the chart below. Write your plan in the space provided below.

I wish I were better at...	Know your Craft	Straighten Up and Sing Right	Hook up the Air	Think Like a Bari	Sell Like a Lead	Soar Like a Bass	Mental Preparation	Get your Dance On	Emceeding	Do Something Scary
I have enough breath to continue to the end of most phrases.	+	+						+		
I'm excited and <i>not</i> nervous to perform in public. I love to be in front of an audience!				+		+		+		+
I feel confident that I know where my "head voice" is and I know how to use it.	+	+			+					
I feel confident that I know where my "chest voice" is, and can use it with power.	+	+	+							
I can navigate my register break, and use voice mixing to place my voice when singing at different pitches.			+		+			+		
I feel confident about learning and doing choreography.				+			+			+
I understand rhythm, and can feel the downbeat and backbeat in each song.	+				+		+			
I know what the "overtone" is – I can hear it, and I know how to achieve it, even if I don't always do it!	+		+					+		
I feel comfortable speaking at performances.				+					+	+

“Know your craft” is recommended for *everybody*. Likewise, it’s strongly recommended that you try a badge for a part other than your own. You can do as many badges as you’d like, but three badges plus the basics, and you meet the director’s challenge!

My chief area of concern is:

I’m going to do these badges:
