



BABS Guild of Judges: Contestant Evaluation Report



Contest: Male Chorus final 2023 on Sat 27 May 23 at Bournemouth
Contestant no. 23: Oxford Harmony
Song 1 Title: Blue Skies
Song 2 Title: Somewhere Over The Rainbow
Eval Date:
Eval Judge: Written

Music Category Evaluation Summary

Compiled by: Sam Hubbard
Song 1 score: 54.0%
Song 2 score: 56.0%
Comments:

Well done and thank you for sharing your performance with us!

Song 1

Strengths:

You sang this song with an energetic delivery and gave a very confident start. You made good use of the bass echo embellishments (e.g., "smilin' at me") to create and maintain forward motion. The song's melody was appropriately-balanced, even when it moved away from the lead part to other voices.

Areas to improve:

- The execution could be improved; there were sync and tuning errors, and the beginning of the bass solo was lost, or at least began underconfidently.
- Your delivery came across rather choppy and a bit heavy-handed; aim to keep things more smooth, even in a rhythmic song such as this.
- The slower "stomp" tempo you used towards the end of the performance needs to feel more cohesive with the rest of your delivery; it didn't feel sufficiently prepared and so came across a little awkwardly.

Song 2

Strengths:

This is a beautiful ballad, and your sense of lyric theme was evident; it was clear that everyone understood the song. You made good use of dynamics and of the swipes in the arrangement. The tonal centre you established also felt nice and stable.

Areas to improve:

- Find greater agreement on your 'ad lib.' delivery plan; ebbs and flows were present but were not unified across the chorus.
- Tuning and synchronisation errors hindered your execution.
- Your consonance was affected at times by a lack of section unity, as individual voices occasionally pop out of the texture.

Performance Category Evaluation Summary

Compiled by: Pat Deeble

Song 1 score: 53.2%

Song 2 score: 53.4%

Comments:

Song 1 - Blue Skies

A somewhat slightly unconfident opening, to an enthusiastic rendition of this song that the chorus clearly enjoyed. Some of the rhythmic phrasing distracted from the exuberance of the performance. Moments of visual/vocal expressiveness added to the fun of the performance, but it still needs to be more consistent throughout to visually enhance the storytelling

Strengths

Chorus enjoyment in singing this song showed

Some good physical involvement and moments of audience engagement

Words and notes secure

Areas to Improve

Supported vocal quality to enhance the storytelling

Work on making sure that the enthusiasm doesn't affect the diction.

Make the stomp more secure so that it flows into the new tempo.

Song 2 - Somewhere Over The Rainbow

The intro seemed slightly disjointed which didn't make the early emotional storytelling come together. This was a shame as most of the chorus seemingly enjoyed singing this song, which was supported by some engaged faces and tender moments. There were moments of audience rapport

throughout the performance, but more consistency is required.

Strengths

Visual involvement at moments throughout the performance

Generally good maintenance of the rhythm.

Some good visual involvement.

Areas to Improve

Consistency of visual involvement by the whole chorus

Work on the tuning distractions, so that it doesn't affect the storytelling

Singing Category Evaluation Summary

Compiled by: Simon Lubkowski

Song 1 score: 52.0%

Song 2 score: 51.3%

Comments:

We really hope you enjoyed yourselves on stage in Bournemouth and thank you for your performance - some definite potential and some good moments!

Strengths:

- Your Director was clear in his gestures and knew what he wanted from the Chorus.
- Blue Skies moved forwards with a positive energy and it was clear that the Chorus enjoyed singing the song!
- Over The Rainbow had some nice moments of vocal expression in it, with some good musical choices made on accentuating certain words and word sounds

Areas For Improvement:

- Although Blue Skies is an uptune, there still needs to be a smoother and more connected vocal delivery. The delivery was choppy at times and didn't lend itself to being able to fully appreciate the harmonies within the song.
- The individual sections of the Chorus need to have more overall unity, as single voices were standing out, the balance shifted between parts, and the sync was often not right.

- The Chorus should look to work on improving general vocal skills, aiming to be able to sing with smooth legato phrasing, producing a well supported and musical vocal sound. There was often too much "speak singing" and this prevented both songs from being able to truly become as artistic and musical as they should have.