

Blending

Blend- to mix (various sorts or grades) in order to obtain a particular kind or quality: *Blend a little red paint with the blue paint.*

My definition: Making sure there is a balance and consistency in sound.

In choral music you want to make sure the voices sound like one consistent voice rather than one person standing out.

(This can vary with the type of music and who has the melody.)

Keys to blending:

#1 Listening: The most important aspect of blending is listening. With a group of people, you are always modifying your sound so you can fit in with them.

You must always be aware of how your part fits in with them and who has the important part of the song.

#2 Tone: You must have a similar tone to your group.

- Is the tone of the group brighter or darker?
- How do you modify your tone to match theirs?
- Pay attention to the vowels
- Are you using head or chest voice?

#3 Vibrato: Does the group use vibrato or straight tone?

You must adjust your vibrato to the group

#4 Dynamics: Pay attention to dynamics

-Are you singing louder or softer than the rest of your section?

You must be equal to your section! (not louder or softer)

- If you or your part is singing the melody you can sing a little louder than the other parts.
- If you are your part is not the melody or featured voice, you have to sing a little softer than the melody or featured voice.
- Although you might not have the melody, your part is still important and you must sing so the part can be heard.
- Make sure you are doing dynamic changes at the same time as your group

#5 Pitch and rhythms:

- Pitch and rhythms must match and be consistent for the section.
- If you are under pitch, doing the wrong rhythms, this will not blend well.

#6 Diction:

Another important part to choral or group singing is diction

- If you don't have proper diction, it will be harder to understand the groups words.
- Make sure consonants are crisp (especially beginning and ending)

#7 Breathing:

-Make sure you are breathing in the same places as the rest of your section/ where your conductor tells you.

- Try not to breathe in the middle of phrases.

-You can stagger breathe (but try not to)

Staggered breathing is a technique in which the musicians in an ensemble are rotating turns in which they take a breath in order to create the effect of a continuous sound emanating from them and with no perceived breaks. The effect is created by each performer in a section taking a breath at staggered times so the others in the section continue to sound long notes, passages, and/or sections.