

# How to Go from “B” to “A” in Performance

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## The Performance Category

- 61-66 (B-) Acceptable; characteristics still developing; emerging awareness of components and plan.
- 67-73 (B) Entertaining but lack engagement; competent; over-reliance on technique.
- 74-80 (B+) Techniques consistently present; controlled; aware; creative; moments of “A.”
- 81-86 (A-) Feeling of Excellence; minor distractions; few components under-developed; effort present.
- 87-93 (A) Transparent technique; caught up in effect; masterful w/opportunity for improvement.
- 94-100 (A+) Truly exceptional; superb; captivating; overwhelming, hilarious, deeply moving.

## HEAD Space

- Singing Skills
- Dramatic Skills and a Plan
- Quality Musicianship

## HEART Space

- Freedom to Feel
- Accessibility – Audience Inclusion
- Audience Connection

## Character Development

- Research the Song
- Get in touch with the music
- Determine the emotion
- Set up the story
- Subtext the lyric
- Essence of the emotion
- Create your scenario
- Determine your objective
- What is the obstacle?
- Determine the conflict
- Imagine an opening beat
- Memorize the text
- Make something happen as the song unfolds
- Rehearse it and refine it.

## An Actor’s Job is to:

- Bring the text to life
- Infuse it with authentic emotion
- Let the audience know what you want them to feel
- Then allow the audience to connect with the human YOU!

## Believability

- Be authentic – Be yourself
- Have the courage to open your heart and let the audience in
- The place where safety lies is where it feels the most dangerous
- Don’t think about HOW you’re doing – Think about WHAT you’re doing – Be in the moment.
- Tone of voice
- Facial agreement
- Body language

## Vulnerability

- Be willing to be “seen”
- Be willing to change the room
- Ask the audience to consider me and my humanity – Be relatable

- Instead of trying to feel something, actors should make the other person (audience) understand something
- How can I allow you to feel my joy, sadness, anger, coolness, etc.

### **Find the right song**

- Find a song that has an impactful message you can believe in (esp. lead or director)
- If you can't immerse yourself in the lyric (or at least present a convincing illusion), choose another song
- Research the lyric. If it's from a Broadway show, what's the backstory?

### **Find the right arrangement**

- Is it in everyone's ranges?
- Is the intro right for the story?
- Is the tag voiced to be impactful?
- Are there traps that can be fixed?
- Does it show off your skill?
- Will the audience care?

### **Develop your character**

- Most songs barbershop groups sing covers of someone else's song
- You can play it like the original – or put your own spin on it

- Subtext the story down to the core essence
- Know the body language necessary to fully tell the story
- Where is the high point? Shape it to go there
- Learn how to create the illusion.

The Art of Performance is the willingness and ability to artistically convey stage-worthy things in a fashion that highly entertains.

### **The Secret to A**

- Don't rehearse technique and expect an artistic result
- You will never be perfect
- Play Peoria and Buffalo
- Have the courage to let the audience in
- Invite the audience on stage with you
- Use tone color, facial agreement and body language to tell your story
- Love the journey.

### **It's Not About Perfection – It's About Connection**