

# GETTING AHEAD OF YOUR CLINICIAN

*(things I say over and over when I adjudicate jazz choirs)*

**www.DavidvonKampen.com**

*(listed in no particular order)*

- Every singer is responsible for the time, just like the drummer and bassist.
- Jazz requires a conversational lyric delivery. Sing the words the way you would say them. Emphasize the most important syllables in a natural, speech-like way.
- You have to love the sound of the most dissonant interval in the chord.
- If you learned the notes wrong, being stylish doesn't matter.
- If you aren't singing in tune, nothing else you're doing is cool.
- You're in tune, but the vowels don't match.
- You got too loud too soon and too often.
- When you got quiet, you got wimpy.
- Try singing this ballad without the conductor.
- Rubato means wait longer between phrases. I shouldn't be able to tap the tempo along with you.
- Improvising soloists, you're too worried about note choice and not worried enough about time, rhythm, and compelling horizontal ideas.
- When you're improvising through multiple sections of the form, blur the seams. Don't stop in the last bar of section 1 and then start a new idea as section 2 begins.
- You're rushing the offbeats.
- Offbeat entrances weren't together.
- Find a way to show the groove physically, it helps us trust you (i.e. SNAP).
- This song needed one soloist, not four. Pick the best singer for the chart, then let them tell the whole story and develop their ideas.

(more)

- That little bit of organized movement wasn't necessary.
- That full-on choreography wasn't necessary.
- The hats weren't necessary. :)
- Don't overact or put on hyper-smiley personas. Let the music do the work.
- I probably wouldn't give this lyric to a middle school group (etc.).
- Your vowels are too tall (save it for concert choir).
- You're over-enunciating consonants (save it for concert choir).
- Neutral syllables are not text. Just use them to make the lines feel instrumental.
- These charts are too hard for this group.
- These charts are too easy for this group.
- Piano alone is not enough for this music. Beg/borrow/steal to get a rhythm section behind these singers.
- Have you checked out any recordings of this tune?...