

# Quartets and Coaches

**Question:** How do we make the most of a coaching session?

**Answer:** Go in prepared. Come out with a plan.

## Go In Prepared

- Choose a “meaty” song to work on.
- Make sure all material presented is note and word solid.
- Assess your needs - by category, not tiny details – ask for help in this area, but be open to advice on sound at all times.
- Express your needs to the coach, including personal preferences and dislikes, in a positive way.
- Offer the coach word sheets of the songs to be worked on so that (a) you can indicate your plan for the song (b) they can write the points they work on with you so that you can (c) review them at your next rehearsal.

## Come Out With A Plan

Make sure you understand each concept taught:

- How you’re doing it
- That you can hear/see/feel the difference
- Why you’re doing it

Minute the session:

- By recording then summarising
- By writing everything on the word sheets during the session

Bring the notes to your next rehearsal:

- Discuss the positive aspects of the coaching session and things that didn’t work for you
- Identify 3-4 priority points
- Work these priorities into your rehearsal plan as milestones or ultimate goals.

## The Role Of A “5<sup>th</sup> Ear”

Choose someone you respect because they have proven that they can listen analytically and will have a positive effect on the moral of the quartet.

5<sup>th</sup> Ears are listening for your current milestones/goals, identifying problems with basics:

- Balance
- Tonal quality
- Vowel unity
- Synchronisation
- Emotional delivery
- Tuning