

Spring term 2 musical appreciation

Vocal ranges

Week beginning	Value	Artist/ composer/ genre	Links
24.2.25	Compassion	<p>Soprano and Tenor</p> <p>A soprano is the highest female voice type. Sopranos can sing high notes with ease. Some sopranos are called Coloratura sopranos – they can sing even higher!</p> <p>A tenor is a high male voice (although we will find out on another week that the male voice can go even higher.).</p> <p>Andrea Bocelli is an Italian tenor. His main singing genre is opera but he also sings pop music and often duets with other singers.</p> <p>Here are two sopranos that are known for their pop music but are singing here in a more classical style.</p> <p>One of the singers, Ariana Grande has recently become well known for her soprano role in the film Wicked. She has a 4 octave vocal range which means she can sing really high. She can sing in the 'whistle register' which is higher than most sopranos.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8SYtmvEI9U</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qt_OkgSOrkU</p>

		<p>Celine Dion is a soprano who we have listened to before. She also has a huge vocal range and can sing comfortable in a lower soprano range (a mezzo soprano) and in a high range.</p>	
<p>3.3.25 Ash Wednesda y</p>	<p>Compassion</p>	<p>Treble</p> <p>A treble voice is the same pitch as a soprano but is usually used to describe the voice of a singer aged between about 8 and 16. Although it is the same pitch as a soprano, the voice has a different timbre (quality of sound).</p> <p>Gregorio Allegri (1582 – February 7, 1652), was an Italian composer and a priest. His best known compositions is the <i>Miserere mei Deus</i>.</p> <p>Allegri wrote the <i>Miserere</i> to be sung in the Sistine Chapel during the Easter celebrations. During the service, which started at 3.00am, there would be 27 candles burning. The Pope would gradually extinguish the candles until there was only one left burning. The <i>Miserere</i> was performed as the pope prayed at the altar with the single candle.</p> <p>This piece of music became very popular, and the Vatican did not want anyone else to perform it. No one was allowed to take the music away from the chapel. Mozart visited the Chapel when he was 14 years old. He heard the piece and wrote all the music out from memory later the same day.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX1zicNRLmY</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-77sjOWCkQ</p>

		<p>It is often now sung in chapels and churches on Ash Wednesday. There are two choirs singing. Listen out for the solo voice of the treble. He sings a top C which is a really high note.</p> <p>Here is also a recording of a 12 year old treble called Cai Thomas singing a piece by Mozart called Laudate Dominum. He is now 16 years old and his voice has 'broken'. This means he now has a deeper voice and sings baritone.</p>	
10.3.25	Service	<p>Alto Annie Lennox (born 25 December 1954) is a Scottish singer-songwriter and political activist. She has released songs as a solo performer but has also had international success in the 1980s as Eurythmics with Dave Stewart.</p> <p>Annie has an alto voice. An alto is the second-highest vocal part and comes under a soprano. A female alto sings in a low the lower part of their voice but a male alto sings in the high part of their voice. The female alto is sometimes called contralto.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozSe_W2C86g&ab_channel=Eurythmics-Topic</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6v5waGatMQk&ab_channel=Eurythmics-Topic</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3DFalovZxc</p>
17.3.25	Service	<p>Countertenor A countertenor is the highest voice for a male singer. The voice is a similar range to a female alto although it the timbre of it can make it sound like it is</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYBliPhLAE0</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRh6G2MTSTY</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUvIQv_cQFI</p>

		<p>much higher. Some countertenors can sing as high as sopranos.</p> <p>Jakub Józef Orliński is a Polish operatic countertenor singer and breakdancer. He has performed with opera companies around the world. He often posts his breakdancing on social media as hopes to get a younger audience interested in opera singing.</p>	
24.3.25	Forgiveness	<p>Bass and Baritone The bass is the lowest male vocal singer. You don't get many pop singers who can sing that low and so, a voice which sits between the bass and tenor is called a baritone. This is the most popular of male voices. A baritone can still sing high notes and low notes, but is more comfortable singing in the middle.</p> <p>Myles Smith is a baritone. He has had 2 singles in the charts last year and has just been named 'Rising star' at the 2025 Brits awards. He started by singing on TikTok and this led to a record deal with Sony.</p> <p>Geoff Castellucci is a bass with a 4 octave range. It is said that Geoff's low vocals are something to be admired as he is supposedly able to hit bass notes lower than some keyboards can manage. He was a contestant on America's got talent as is known for being part of the acapella group 'VoicePlay'.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyekSI_4Qlc&t=174s</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKml80alH3Y</p>
31.3.25	Forgiveness	British acapella groups	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdHphy_OZGI&t=55s

		<p>We have looked at all of the individual voices. When you put them together, with each voice singing in a different range, you create a vocal harmony group. This makes a sound which has more texture and depth than one voice, or which a group of the same voice can produce.</p> <p>Listen to these groups: they are all acapella (there are no instruments playing). See if you can hear a soprano, alto, tenor or bass. Sometimes the voices can cross over (an alto can sing higher than a soprano) but the timbre (quality of sound) will be different. Sometimes the singers play around with their voices to make different percussive sounds (a bit like beat boxing).</p> <p>These are the groups singing here: Swingle singers, King singers, Voces8. They are all British singing groups and perform all over the world.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUumh6vgRhE</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIOagJryMik</p>
<p>7.4.25</p>	<p>Forgiveness</p>	<p>Samuel Barber – Adagio for strings</p> <p>For Christians, next Sunday marks the start of Holy Week. This week starts with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Day. It is a week when Christians think about how Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead, to save the sins of the world.</p> <p>This piece of classical music is written by Samuel Barber in 1936. It is a composition for stringed instruments. It is a longer piece of music and this is the second part, called the Adagio. This means 'slowly' in Italian. It is a really moving piece of music and is good to listen to in a time of reflection.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LYnNEALm6o</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hc8gYoXklZ4</p>

		<p>It has also been arranged for singers to perform. It is sung in Latin, and the choral arrangement (for a choir) is called 'Agnus Dei'. The words are based on something John the Baptist, a friend of Jesus, said: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). This makes it the perfect piece of music to listen to at this time of year.</p>	
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