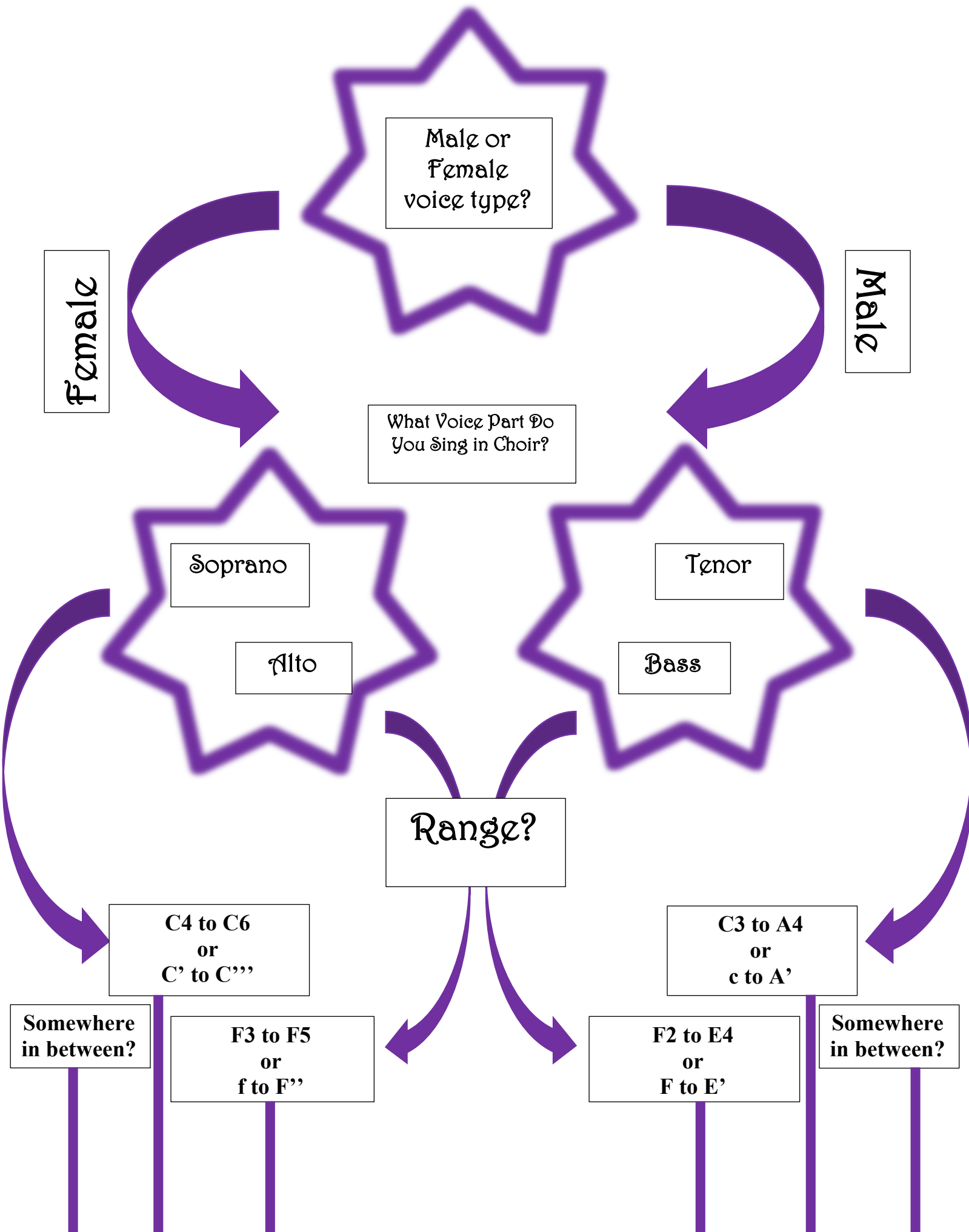


# The Beginner's Guide to "Fach"

{The Learner's Guide}

Hurd, Abigail

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY Class of 2021



You may be a  
Soprano

You may be  
an Alto

You may be a  
Tenor

You may be a  
Bass

You may be a  
Mezzo-  
Soprano

You may be a  
Baritone

Be sure to show this to your  
voice teacher before diving into  
the next section!

{This next section is supposed to  
be used in conjunction with your  
voice professor only}

## Sopranos

**Soubrette/Soubrette/Soubrette/Spielsopran:** “Delicate, supple voice, needs a dainty appearance and be a skillful actress”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Susanna from *Marriage of Figaro* (Mozart): Act II “Venite inginocchiatevi”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyO2PMiJn64>

Sesto from *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* (Handel): Act II “L’angue offeso mai riposa”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scLOnD1UO9Q>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c’--- c’’’	Good top clear middle Weak low	tender	light	flexible	Gracious look, skillful actress, good language work

**Light Lyric Coloratura/Soprano leggero-lirico/Soprano léger/Koloratursoubrette:** “Very agile, soft voice”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Tytania from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Britten): Act II “Be kind and courteous”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UYDEzmJXLE>

Agrippina from *Agrippina* (Handel): Act I “L’alma mia frà le tempeste”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cx8uOmWYHEo>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c’--- f’’	Great top	slender	soft	Very agile	

**Light Lyric/Soprano leggero-lirico/Soprano-lyrique/Lyrischer Sopran:** “Soft, mellow voice with a great upper register and phrasing”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Helena from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Britten): Act I “I am your spaniel”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_v9bPO5blg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_v9bPO5blg)

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c’--- c’’	Good top Weaker low	Mellow	Soft	Exquisite phrasing	

**Full Lyric Coloratura/Soprano leggero-lirico/Soprano-demicaractère/Lyrischer Koloratursopran:** “Very agile, a soft voice with a great high range”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Venus from *Ascanio in Alba* (Mozart): Act I “L’ombre de rami tuoi”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJmQ1unJz8U>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c’--- f’’	Great top	Slender and warm	Medium	agile	

**Full Lyric/Soprano Lirico/Soprano-lyrique/Lyrischer Sopran:** “Soft voice with a beautiful melting quality with noble lines”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Helena from *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Britten): Act I “I am your spaniel”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_v9bPO5blg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_v9bPO5blg)

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c'---c'''	Solid ranges throughout	Mellow	Solid and secure, but not loud	Exquisite phrasing	

**Light Dramatic Coloratura/Soprano drammatico/Soprano-dramatique/Dramatischer:**

“Strong with a very flexible and agile voice”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Odabella from *Attila* (Verdi): Prologue “Allor che I forti corrono”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY1jQiW-3JI>

Fiordiligi from *Così fan tutte* (Mozart): Act I “Come scoglio”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pn36JIKOT-E>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c'---f'''	Good top	<i>brilliant</i>	strong	Flexible, agile, with dramatic penetration	

**Light Dramatic (Spinto)/Soprano Lirico-spinto/Soprano-dramatique**

(Falcon)/Jugendlich-dramatischer Sopran: “Stronger voice with more weight and power; ability to penetrate through an orchestra”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

The Marschallin from *Der Rosenkavalier* (Strauss): Act I “Da geht er hin”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FT302zBTbok>

Donna Elvira from *Don Giovanni* (Mozart): Act I “Ah! Chi mi dice mai”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M81LejRJUUE>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c'---b <sup>b</sup> ''	More powerful lower than Lyric's but not as solid as a Dramatic's	Darker than a Lyric's	Lyric, with more volume	Can create dramatic climaxes, flexible dynamics	

**Full Dramatic Coloratura/Soprano drammatico/Soprano-dramatique/Dramatischer:**

“Agile voice with great heights; dramatic ability to *penetrate*”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Donna Anna from *Don Giovanni* (Mozart): Act I “Don Ottavio...Or sai chi l'onore”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pnOIZ9QFB8E>

Cleopatra from *Giulio Cesare* (Handel): Act I “Non disperar”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GtZBERqxc0>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c'--- f''	Good top and a strong middle	<i>metallic</i>	Very strong	Flexible, dramatic penetration	

**Full Dramatic/Soprano drammatico/ Falcon/ Dramatischer Sopran:** “Metallic voice with great volume and ability to penetrate”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

The Prima Donna/Ariadne from *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Strauss): “Es gibt ein Reich”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7938t8zbDs>

Daphne from *Daphne* (Strauss): “O wie gerne blieb ich bei dir”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJnMswX6dal>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
b--- b <sup>b</sup> ''	Generous top, well-developed and rich middle, hefty low	Metallic and darker than a Spintos	Voluminous, bug, heavy, spacious	Great penetration, seldom asked to float high notes	

**High Dramatic**/Soprano drammatico/ Falcon/ Dramatischer Sopran: “Large, heavy, and expansive voice with well-developed middle and low registers”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Brünnhilde from *Die Götterdämmerung* (Wagner): Act III “Starke Scheite schichten mir dort”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfy-dLpAneo>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
g---a''	Well-developed middle and low	metallic	Exceptionally strong	Great penetration	



## Mezzo-sopranos

**Light Lyric**/Mezzo-soprano leggero-lirico/Mezzo-soprano/Koloratursoubrette: “A soft and agile voice; physically agile with good characterization”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Ginevra from *Ariodante* (Handel): Act I “Orrida a gl’occhi miei”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w\\_rpAcgpubc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_rpAcgpubc)

Dorabella from *Così fan tutte* (Mozart): Act I “Smanie implacabili”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl3EXNey\\_TI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl3EXNey_TI)

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
b---c’’	Good top and even throughout	Slender	Soft	agile	Physically agile with good characterization

**Full Lyric**/Mezzo-soprano Lirico/Mezzo-soprano/Lyrischer Mezzosopran: “Flexible voice capable of characterization; skillful actress”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Dido from *Dido and Aeneas* (Purcell): Act I “Ah Belinda!”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV9sw5U0Fgc>

Irina from *Lost in the Stars* (Weill): Act I “Trouble Man”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7r9gSzy0Q>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
g---b’’	Solid throughout	Warm	Medium	Fluid	Good characterization

**Dramatic**/Mezzo-soprano drammatico/Falcon/Dramatischer Mezzosopran: “Agile, metallic and has a dark color, often develops later into the highly dramatic Fach (Soprano); good high notes”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Desideria from *The Saint of Bleecker Street* (Menotti): Act II “What does she ever do for you except light candles for your soul?”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrONV\\_3Je0c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrONV_3Je0c)

Marchesa del Poggio from *Un Giorno di Regno* (Verdi): Act I “Grave a core innamorato...Se dee cader la vedova”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7lyGe6uX5M>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
g--- b <sup>b</sup> ”	Good top with an emphatic low	Metallic, darker and lush than a Dramatic Soprano	big	Stamina and dramatic climaxes	

## Contraltos

**Lyric/Contralto/Contralto/Tiefer Alt:** “Full and dense voice with great depths in the lower register”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Florence from *Albert Herring* (Britten): Act I “Doctor Jessop’s midwife”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZoWXx5o1of8>

Cornelia from *Giulio Cesare* (Handel): Act I “Priva son d’ogni conforto”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeQaNRHEveY>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
g---f’	Good low	Dark	Full	Less flexibility than a Mezzo-Soprano	

**Dramatic/Contralto/Contralto/Dramatischer Alt:** “Agile, metallic voice with well-developed high and low ranges; dramatic ability to penetrate”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Romeo from *I Capuleti ed I Montecchi* (Bellini): Act I “Se Romeo l’uccise in figlio”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sc6lwdqHlRs>

The Witch from *Hänsel und Gretel* (Humperdinck): Act III “Hurr, hopp, hurr, hopp”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTFtTO4Jerg>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
g---f’	Good top and a great low	Dark and metallic	Full and thick	Dramatic penetration	

## Countertenors

**Countertenor**/Alto or Tenorino/None/Sopranist: Variable and flexible voice with strong registers”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Xerxes from *Xerxes* (Handel): “Ombra mai fu”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7XH-58eB8c>

Tolomeo from *Giulio Cesare* (Handel): Act II “Belle dee di questo core”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOWQV3foiko>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
f---a”	Strong throughout	Variable	Variable	Flexible	Mannered

## Tenors

**Comic Character**/Tenor buffo/Ténor bouffe/Spieltenor: “A clear and flexible voice; good with subtle characterization”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Don Basilio from *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Mozart): Act IV “In quegli anni”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40d0nlvIglQ>

Frédéric from *Mignon* (Thomas): Act II “Me voici dans son boudoir”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=47BqHxiZepw>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c--- b <sup>b</sup>	Mostly middle	Slender and clear	Medium	Flexible	Subtle characterization and good actor

**Light Lyric**/Tenore leggero/Ténor-léger/Hoher Tenor: “A soft, agile voice with a mellow timbre”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Alfredo Germont from *La Traviata* (Verdi): Act I “The ‘Brindisi’ or ‘Drinking Song’”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0\\_h7iOVQ9yA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_h7iOVQ9yA)

Hoffman from *Les Contes d’Hoffmann* (Offenbach): Act I “Allons! Courage et confiance...Ah! Vivre duex!”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3piF1T8HTJo>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c---d’	Great top with a weaker low	Mellow	Soft	Agile with a flexible top	

**Full Lyric/Tenore Lirico/Ténor/Lyrischer Tenor:** “A solid, but not overpowering voice with good lines”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Roberto from *Le Villi* (Puccini): Act II “Torna at felici”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cGgR2c3ZPQ>

Nadir from *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (Bizet): Act I “Je crois entendre encore”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQaySQQONXs>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c---c’	Solid throughout	Mellow	Solid but not loud	Good line	

**Dramatic (Spinto)/Tenore Lirico-spinto/Ténor dramatique/Jugendlicher Heldentenor:** “a strong, noble, metallic voice capable of both lyrical passages and dramatic climaxes”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Benjamin Pinkerton from *Madame Butterfly* (Puccini): Act I “Dovunque al mondo”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5tRh3TmH\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5tRh3TmH_U)

Faust from *Mefistofele* (Boito): Act I “Dai campi, dai prati”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVFgqe3DwGE>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c---c’	More solid lower than Lyrics	Noble, metallic, and darker than Lyrics	Strong	Can do both lyrical passages and dramatic climaxes	

**Heroic**/Tenor di forza/Ténor dramatique/Heldentenor: “A heavy, voluminous voice with good penetration”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Loge from *Das Rheingold* (Wagner): Act I “Umsonst sucht’ich”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ai4OIHJCnHM>

Siegmond from *Die Walküre* (Wagner): Act I “Friedmund darf ich nicht heißen”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2Ey\\_c5f2Nk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2Ey_c5f2Nk)

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c--- b <sup>b</sup>	Strong middle and low	Baritonal	Heavy and voluminous	Good penetration	

## Baritones

**Light Lyric**/Baritono leggero-lirico/Bariton léger/Lyrischer Bariton: “A good actor with flexible and beautiful lines”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Pangloss from *Candide* (Bernstein): Appendix “Dear Boy”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlxxU-PPHd4>

Guglielmo from *Così fan tutte* (Mozart): Act I “Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnuPU3Nfuvg>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c---a <sup>b</sup>	Great top	Slender	Soft	Flexible, beautiful lines	Good actor

**Full Lyric**/Baritono Lirico/Bariton/Kavalierbariton: “A well balanced heavy and powerful voice with the ability to change their color; good, subtle characterization”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Fritz from *Die Tote Stadt* (Korngold): Act II “Mein Sehnen, mein Wähnen”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls5cMKsDRMw>

Papageno from *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart): Act I “Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6S9cQNbENI>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
c---f <sup>#</sup>	Bright and powerful top with a good balance	Can change colors/vary	Heavy, spacious, and powerful	Good penetration	Good, subtle characterization



	middle and low				
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## Bass-Baritones

**Bass-Baritone**/None/Basse de caractère/Charakterbass: “A big voice with a wide gamut of colors and dynamics; good at subtle characterization”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Bottom from A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Britten): Act III “When my cue comes, call me”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW2RuuRNxQ8>

King of Scotland from Ariodante (Handel): Act III “Al sen ti stringo”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5Ha-vGasyI>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
A <sup>b</sup> ---f <sup>♯</sup>	Consistent throughout	Rich and wide gamut of colors	Big	Wide gamut of dynamics	Subtle characterization

## Basses

**Comic/Basso-buffo/Basse-bouffe/Spielbass:** “A clear, flexible voice capable of consistent vocal character; good, humorous actor”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Don Alfonso from *Così fan tutte* (Mozart): Act I “Vorrei dir, e cor non ho”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsG\\_Kfwnt\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsG_Kfwnt_U)

Don Pasquale from *Don Pasquale* (Donizetti): Act I “Ah, un foco insolita”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnQxWOVUrG8>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
F---e'	Vocal character throughout	Clear	From slender to voluminous	Flexible	Good actor, humor

**Lyric/Basso cantante/Basse-chantante/Hoher Bass:** “Warm, medium voice capable of good lines”

### Role and Repertoire Examples:

Attila from *Attila* (Verdi): Act I “Mentre gonfiarsi l'anima pareva”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XoTS45tlebM>

Leporello from *Don Giovanni* (Mozart): Act I “Notte e giorno faticar”

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vni0\\_BtzLKs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vni0_BtzLKs)

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
G---f'	Great top	Warm	Medium	Good line	

**Dramatic/Basso profundo/Basse/Seriöser Bass:** “A dark, rich and full voice capable of a wide gamut of dynamics”

Role and Repertoire Examples:

Boris Godunov from *Boris Godunov* (Mussorgsky): Prologue “Skorvit dusha!”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idqJj4yxyv0>

King Dodon from *Le Coq d’Or* (Rimsky-Korsakov): Act II “Shto za strashnaja kartina”

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZIRvVzjUBM>

Normal Range	Registers	Timbre	Weight/Volume	Vocal Challenges	Acting Challenges*
E <sup>b</sup> ---d’	Great low	Dark and rich	Full and thick	Wide gamut of dynamics	