

THE FOUR VOICE PARTS IN WOMEN'S BARBERSHOP HARMONY:



TENOR is a harmony part sung consistently above the lead. Although tenor is the highest voice in barbershop harmony, it should not be confused with soprano of conventional singing groups. The tenor should have a light, sweet, pure tone that will compliment but not overpower the lead voice.

LEAD is the melody voice part and is sung in the range between A below middle C, and C above middle C. The melody should always be heard over the harmony parts.

BARITONE covers approximately the same range as lead. The baritone harmony notes cross the lead notes; sometimes sung below and sometimes above. Baritones must constantly adjust their balance to accommodate their position in the chord.

BASS singers should have a rich, mellow voice and be able to sing the E flat below middle C easily. Basses should not be confused with the alto of conventional groups. Many altos can sing the bass part, but others are much better suited to lead or baritone, depending on range and vocal quality.

SOME BARBERSHOP TERMINOLOGY:

WOODSHEDDING: An impromptu gathering of singers who improvise the harmony of a song by ear. This is the very heart of barbershop singing and is the essence of barbershop's heritage.

LOCK AND RING: The ultimate barbershop sound. To achieve it requires excellence in all phases of singing—a good musical arrangement, good vocal technique, well balanced and blended voices and accuracy of intonation. In combination, these qualities can create an audible overtone that sends a chill up the spine of singers and listeners alike.