

Tenors

WHAT IS A TENOR?

The tenor usually sings the highest notes. The tenor range is similar to the soprano range in SATB music (E above Middle C to G in the second octave above Middle C). Tenor voices should be light (but not airy) and have almost bell-like clarity. The tenor voice should not have much vibrato and should complement, but not overpower the lead voice.

The following information was provided by a Sweet Adeline judge and coach, Shirley Kout.

VOCAL SKILLS OF A TENOR

Good, free, upper range to high C

Ability to keep soft palate open on all vowels and voiced consonants

Freedom from tension in throat, jaw, and tongue

Good tonicity of abdominal "lifting muscles"

Good use of "inside smile"

Good breathing skills including breath management

SINGING TECHNIQUES OF A TENOR

Listen to and "tune" to lead notes.

Be aware of octaves sung with any part - tune them.

Let vowels naturally migrate toward a more neutral sound as tones go high.

Allow more "chest tone" sound into tones between Middle C and the octave above and anytime the lead is above the tenor note.

Feel strength in the bridge of the nose and use plenty of air as you sing. "Spend" the air, using support and good posture.

Match vowels with lead and sing exactly with her. Minimize consonants and sing a smooth, uninterrupted tone flow.

Be aware of notes that need to be sung sharp or flat for total accuracy and adjust them.

TENOR PERSONALITY

Think about the tenors you know and see if any of them fit these descriptors..

(If you know more characteristics we'd love to add them.)

Tenors think they are terrific.

Others think Tenors tend to be 'airheads'.

Tenors are followers. Tell them the details of the basses party and they might show up, if they don't get lost.