

Emerald Choral Academy

Vocal Registration
for the
Choral Singer

J. Scott Kovacs





Land Acknowledgement

"The Emerald Ensemble would like to acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the Coast Salish people, past and present and honor with gratitude the land itself and all the people of the Coast Salish nations."

Disclaimer

- All the information in this presentation is intended to be informational. It is not intended for the purpose of diagnosing or treating medical disorders. The Emerald Choral Academy is not responsible for conditions that require a licensed professional for diagnosis or treatment. If you are experiencing symptoms that might require a diagnosis, seek medical attention.



Poll



How many of us are currently studying with a voice professional?



How many have studied with a voice professional in the past?

Learning Outcomes



Understand the difference between head, chest and mixed voice.



Be able to identify head, chest, and mixed registers in their own voice.



Understand how registration can aid in blend, intonation, and tone color as a choral singer.

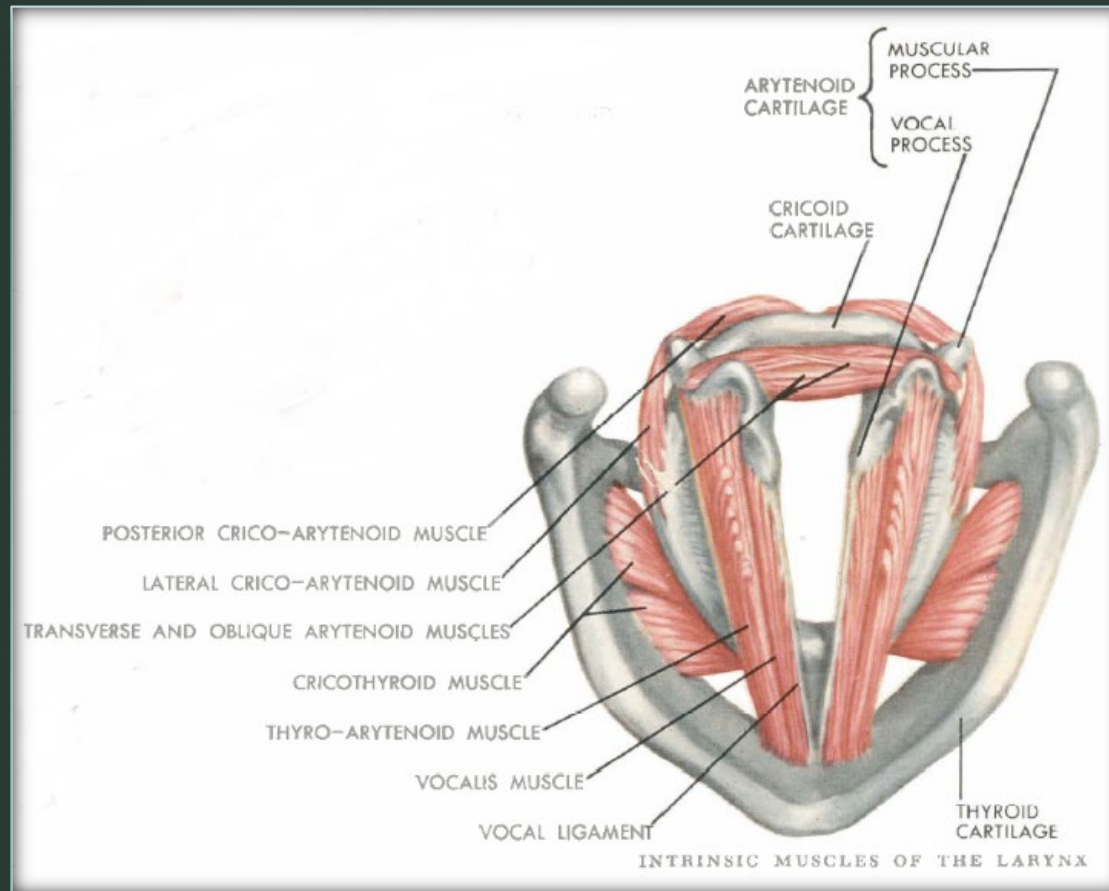
Vocal Registers: what are they?

- *“A series of adjacent pitches that are produced in the same physiological manner and that share the same essential timbre.” (McCoy, 2012)*
- **Historical definition:**
“Every voice is formed of three distinct portions, or registers, namely, chest (lowest), medium (middle) and head (highest). A register is a series of consecutive homogeneous sounds produced by one mechanism different from another series of sounds equally homogeneous, produced by another mechanism, whatever modifications of timber or strength they may offer. Each of the three registers has its own extent and sonority which vary according to the sex of the individual and the nature of the organ.” (Garcia, 1894)
- “Functional” vocal registers (“Acoustic” registration is another topic!)

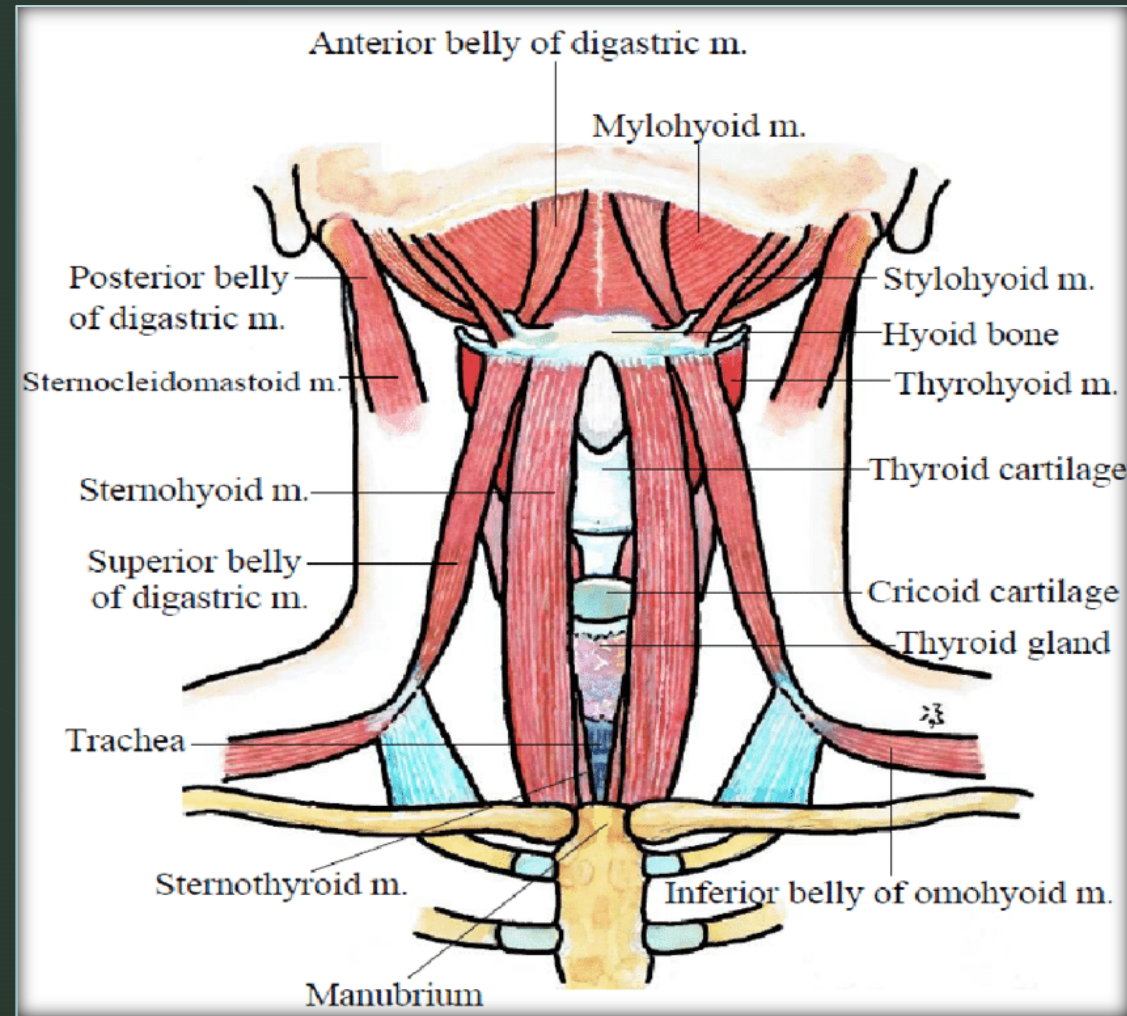
Vocal Registers: what are they?

- Referred to as the “snake pit of voice pedagogy” (Herbst, 2007)
- The three “takeaways” of vocal registration: (McCoy, 2012)
 1. A register is composed of contiguous pitches
 2. Pitches within any given register are produced in the same physiological manner
 3. Pitches within any given register share the same basic timbre
- These pitches “feel the same.”
- Chest Voice, Head Voice, Mix(ed) Voice (Fry, Falsetto, Belt)

The Anatomy of Registration: The Intrinsic Muscles of the Larynx



The Anatomy of Registration: The Extrinsic Muscles of the Larynx



How do I “find” my registers?

- Chest voice: Hey!
Feels: Heavy (Ragan, 2020)
- Head voice: Whoop!
Feels: Light
- Practice:
Head and Chest



Mixed Voice

- Results from a balanced but “mixed” configuration of the intrinsic muscles of the larynx. (TA and CT dominant sounds)
- Can extend well above and well below the *passagio*
- In between “Hey” and “Whoop”
- Practicing Mixed Voice: (Voice Science Works)
Three Birds Game: Duck, Dove, Goose

Give me a break!


- The boundary between registers (*passagio*)
- Dynamic vs. Static registration events
- Unifying (coordinating) registers
- Differences in registers (first, second)
- Where is the “flip”?
- Voice types and registers:
 - Bass: A#4 – D4
 - Tenor: D4 – F4
 - Alto: A#5 – C#5
 - Soprano: D5 – F5

Registration in action

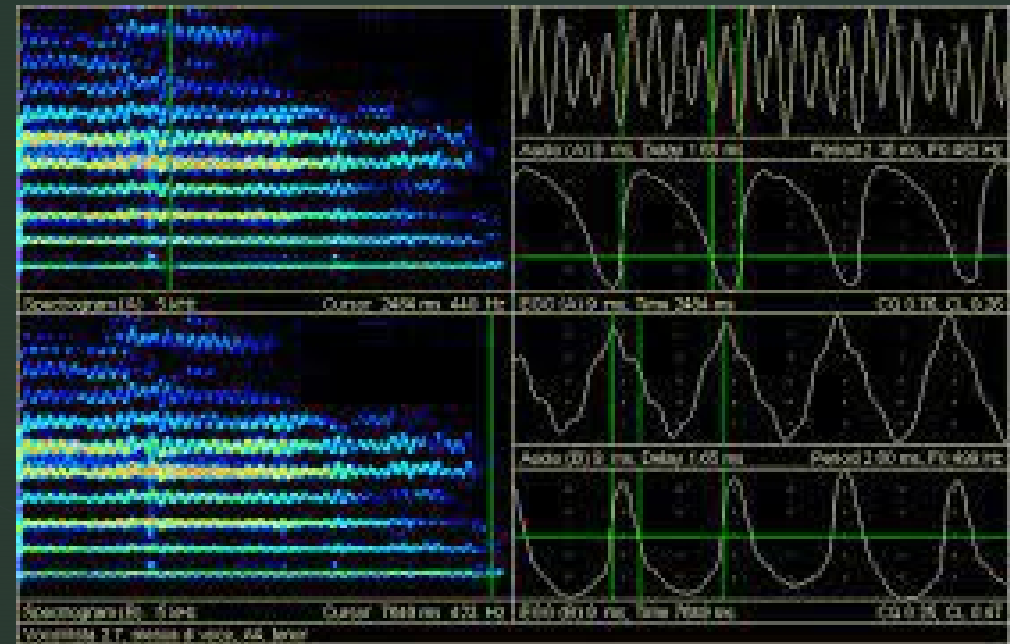
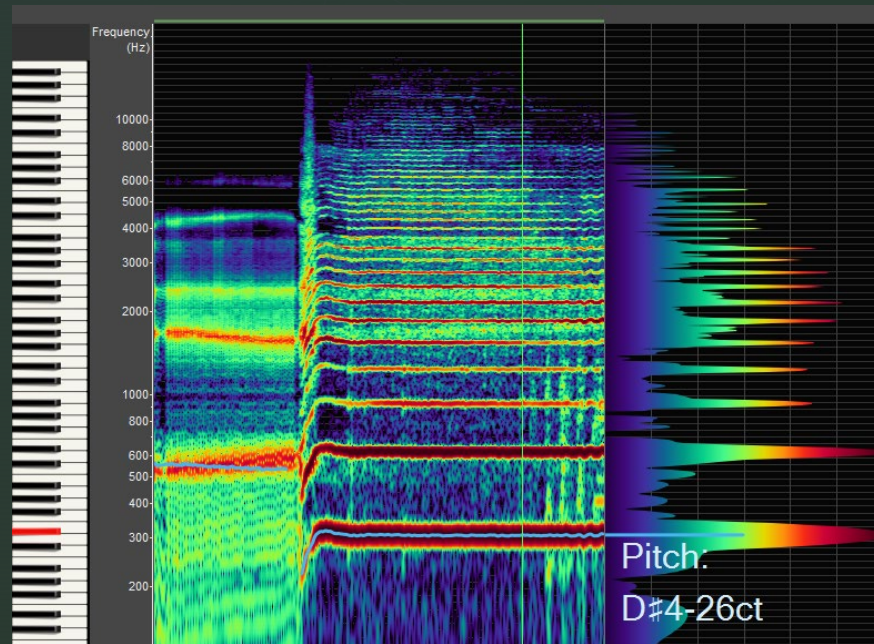




But Wait, there's more!


- Belting (HEY, TAXI!)
 - Falsetto
 - Fry tone (dirty vocals)
 - Vibrato vs. Straight tone (“free voice”)
 - Singers Formant
 - Vibrancy
- 

Fundamentals, Formants, and Overtones





Variables to consider

- Breath (subglottal) air pressure & aerodynamics (Bozeman)
 - Laryngeal configuration (Mode 1 & 2)
 - Acoustic Variations of the Vocal Tract (Howell)
 - Psychoacoustics and perception (neurology of singing)
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Colors in Registration

Brassy

Twang

Diffuse

Bright
Dark/Oscuro

Lofted

Pressed

Covered

Warm

Cool

Shimmer

Light

Tonal Outcomes of Registration Choice



- Blend- *choosing a registration that unifies color and sound*
- Balance- *choosing a registration that encourages balance*
- Intonation- *choosing a registration that encourages tonal accuracy*
- Style- *choosing a registration appropriate for the genre*

References

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Q & A Time!

