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A CAPPELLA

## Singing Colouring Page Definitions:

**A Cappella:** Singing without any form of instrumental accompaniment.

**Alto:** a type of singing voice that is the lower female voice.

**Aria:** In opera, a song, especially a solo.

**Arpeggio:** a musical technique where notes in a chord are played or sung in sequence, one after the other, rather than ringing out simultaneously. An alternative translation of this term is "broken chord".

**Art Song:** In classical music, a song not from an opera, but sung in classical style. Art songs were created primarily for concerts.

**Baritone:** an adult male singing voice between tenor and bass.

**Bass:** is a male singing voice and has the lowest vocal range of all voice types.

**Chest Voice:** Or "chest register." The lower notes of a singer's range; in the same general range as the speaking voice. When singing in the chest voice, the vocal cords become naturally thick, and the resulting sound is generally associated with deep, warm tones.

**Chorus:** A musical ensemble of singers.

**Diaphragm:** "The dome shaped muscle attached to the bottom of the ribcage that separates your chest and stomach cavities. Its main function is to initiate inhalation.

**Diction:** The clear pronunciation of words. This requires attention to both consonants and vowels.

**Dramatic:** As in a "dramatic soprano," "dramatic tenor," etc. A type of singing that is heavier than "lyric."

**Dynamics:** The variations of soft and loud singing in a given song.

**Falsetto:** In male singers, a high register (actually, sung in the female range) similar to the head voice. However, unlike the head voice, falsetto cannot blend with the chest voice.

**Harmony:** is the use of simultaneous pitches (tones, notes), or chords.

**Legato:** A musical term for smooth and connected.

**Lyric:** A term used to describe the timbre or colour of the singer's voice. As in "lyric soprano," "lyric baritone," etc. A type of singing that is lighter in style and sound than a "dramatic."

**Musical Theatre:** is a form of theatrical performance that combines songs, spoken dialogue, acting, and dance.

**Opera:** is an art form in which singers and musicians perform a dramatic work combining text (libretto) and musical score, usually in a theatrical setting. In traditional opera, singers do two types of singing: recitative, a speech-inflected style and arias, a more melodic style.

**Operetta:** A style of theatre in-between opera and musical theatre. Generally, it's a comedy with both music and script. It contains classically-inspired music, sung in a legitimate style.

**Phrasing:** Refers to the breaths or "stops" in-between notes. Natural phrasing will include "stops" after all periods, commas, semicolons, or colons. Additional phrasing may be necessary for the singer to take catch breaths or to achieve a certain style.

**Pitch:** The sound (frequency) of a particular note. When pitch is referred to, it's usually in reference to being "on" or "off" pitch. "On pitch" means the singer is singing in tune. "Off pitch" means the singer is either flat or sharp.

**Range:** Refers to the notes that a performer can sing comfortably.

**Repertoire:** The songs a singer knows well and can perform. In opera, repertoire may also refer to the characters a singer knows well.

**Scat:** A jazz term referring to a technique where singers use wordless sounds and improvised notes, often imitating jazz instruments. "doo-be-doo-be-do" is an example of scatting.

**Soprano:** is a type of singing voice and has the highest vocal range of all voice types.

**Staccato:** The opposite of Legato. Short and detached. Each note is separate from the one before and after it.

**Tenor:** is a male singing voice whose vocal range is one of the highest of the male voice types.

**Trill:** A trill consists of a rapid alternation between two notes, usually a half step or a step apart.

**Vibrato:** "The steady pulsation of the voice that is heard of a sustained note. The pulsation is caused by a slight fluctuation in pitch above and below the tonal center of the note."

**Vocal Cords:** Muscles found inside the larynx (or voice box). The vibration of the two vocal cords, caused by expelling air from the lungs, produces vocal tones or singing. Also called "vocal folds."

**Warm Up:** A physical activity that helps the singer prepare for a rehearsal or performance. Typically, a warm up consists of vocal exercises. It may also include warming up the body with stretches to relieve tension and help wake the sense, with special emphasis on the jaw, tongue, and lips.