

Paisley Philharmonic Choir

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What is my vocal range, and how can I find it?

If you have access to a piano or keyboard, or if you can find or download one online, then first find 'middle C'.

You can search online on phrases like

- online pianist
- virtual piano
- virtual piano keyboard
- piano keyboard online

Some of them may have different key markings but a button or option to change the markings to letter notes or no markings at all. You click the notes with your mouse cursor, keypad, or finger to get the sound.

When you've found middle C (C4), start singing up from it on the white notes and see how many notes you can go up. If you can get up to the next C (C5), that's an 'octave' (8 notes) – keep going without straining.

- Sopranos can generally reach more than 10 notes above middle C, some can reach 2 octaves (C6), but that's a bit too high for many
- Altos will be able to go up about 8 or 9 notes
- Tenors and even basses may be able to reach notes above middle C

Now go back to middle C and sing down from it.

- If you can go down from it for about 8 or 9 notes, you're probably a tenor (There are lady tenors too, and men who can sing alto!).
- Altos and Sopranos may also be able to sing some of these lower notes.
- If you can go much lower than 9 notes, you'll be a bass.

So how did that go? Do you now have a better idea of your range?

This is just a rough guide, and you should bear in mind that singers of any type (SATB) can have, or develop, a range of 3 octaves or more. They will, however, have a lesser range within which they feel most comfortable.

You might also find the following searches of interest.

- How to find my vocal range
- Which 'type' of singer does my voice fit into
- Vocal range test
- Vocal range finder
- What is SATB?
- What is a good vocal range?
- Can I expand my vocal range