# **Vocal Ranges**

Music Cataloging at Yale [1]? General music cataloging resources [2]

### **Vocal Ranges according to The New Harvard Dictionary of Music**

#### Definitions for use in music cataloging

RDA does not define the ranges of vocal types. General practice is to follow the instructions given in the Subject Cataloging Manual: Subject Headings section H 1917.5: Base vocal range on the verbal indication on the item. If no vocal range is indicated, use the ranges specified in the New Harvard Dictionary of Music:



These ranges correspond to the following:

High voiceMedium voiceLow voiceSoprano: C4-A5Mezzo soprano: A3-F5Alto: F3-D5Tenor: B2-G4Baritone: G2-E4Bass: E2-C4

*Note*: these definitions, from the New Harvard Dictionary of Music, are used in music cataloging, using the <u>Library of Congress Subject Headings</u> [3] and <u>RDA</u> [4].

Vocal ranges for solo or choral works may differ, as evidenced from the different ranges found in other sources. For example, see:

- \* The Wikipedia article on vocal range [5], which gives different ranges for operatic works and choral works.
- ° Catherine Schmidt-Jones' article [6] and chart [7].

° Grove Music Online definitions:

soprano: C4 to A5 mezzo-soprano: A3 to F#5

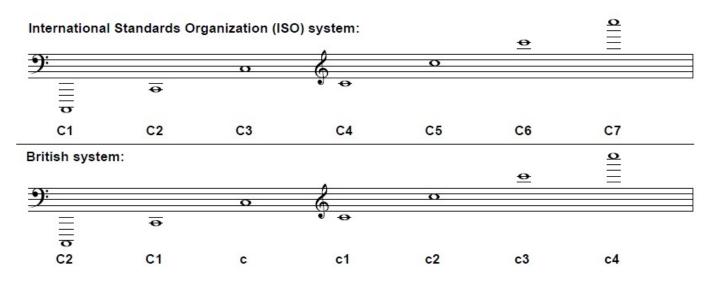
alto: G3 to E5 (and contralto as F3-D5)

tenor: roughly C3 to A4

baritone: A2 to F4 bass: F2 to E4

**Octave designation:** The International Standards Organization (ISO) system for register designations assigns "C4" to middle C (the first ledger line below the staff in treble clef). A commonly found British standard assigns "c1" to middle C.

## Octave designations



Source URL: <a href="https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/vocal-ranges">https://web.library.yale.edu/cataloging/music/vocal-ranges</a>

#### Links

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