

How to Master Singing Tenor

Brittany Gilmore
Tenor of LoveNotes

Tenors sing Tuned, "Effortless" Notes Obtaining Resonant Sparkle!

To achieve the barbershop sound we love, each part must be sung accurately, with good vocal production, as part of a balanced, unified chord. What characterizes the Tenor part specifically?

- The Tenor part is the top of the "cone", having a lightness of quality, an almost bell - like clarity and warm roundness of sound to compliment the lower parts. Tenors ride the over tone to make the sound sparkle, but must also know when and how to alter their sound to fill in the cone.
- A Tenor voice should have brilliance, energy, freedom, and demonstrate an impressive control and flexibility of range, dynamics, and tone. Tenor is sung in a range that often calls for vibrato (in other singing styles). However in order to lock and ring chords, vibrato must be minimalized, meaning we have to learn straight tone singing without tension - when in doubt add air and lift.
- It is the job of the harmony parts to execute "the plan" with the lead, matching her words-sounds, timing, inflection and emotion, placing it in her own unique range and space and allowing the vowels and consonants migrate to a more neutral sound as the tones go higher.

Be the BEST Tenor You Can Be

- Listen to as many champion quartets as you can, identify what you like and emulate what you can. Pull from various sources to find your own unique sound. Listen to how her tone changes depending on her place in the chord relative to the other parts, or if she is featured.
- Record everything and listen to your recordings. Never stop learning and working to improve your vocal skills. Identify what personally, you need to work on (vibrato, scooping, over powering sound, tuning)
- Hold yourself to a high standard when it comes to accuracy and tuning. Learn about chord balancing and where you should be dominate, where you should sit on the high or low side of the note. Listen for notable intervals like octaves or "scissors" (major seconds).
- Don't just leave it to the Lead to tell the story. Every part is equally important; so be involved in creating an emotional interpretation for the song that you can connect with.

On stage remember to be as expressively assertive as you would be singing the melody or a solo.

- Allow yourself to sing from an authentic place. Be present onstage and trust your preparation so that when you perform you can sing from the soul -- to do that you have to put in the work ahead of time and be completely prepared.