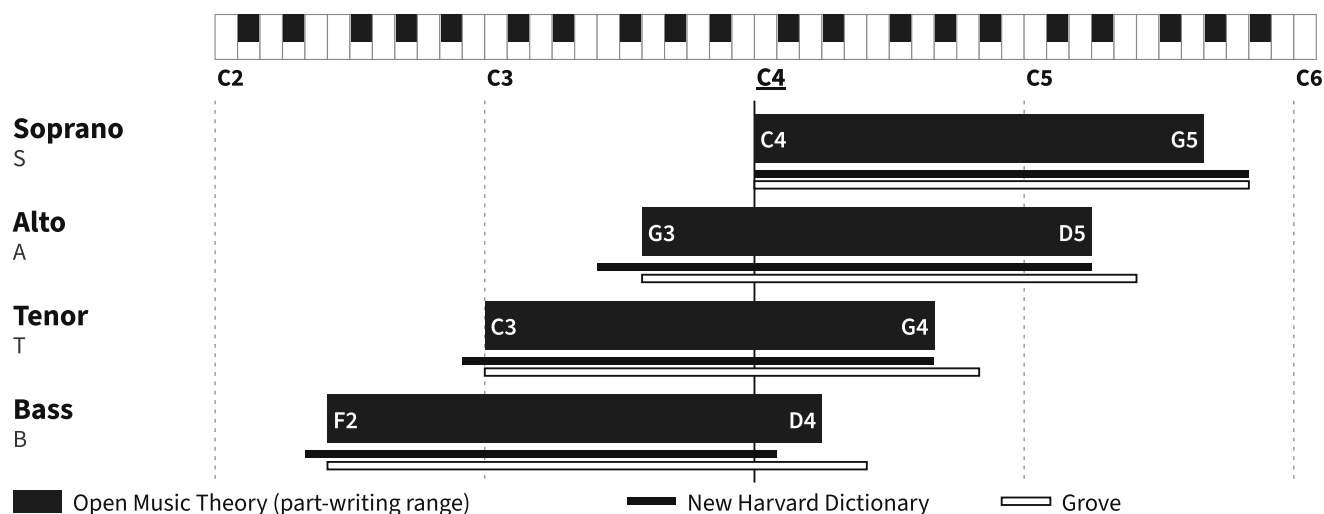


SATB choir vocal ranges

Soprano, alto, tenor, bass · C4 = middle C · musictheoryprint.com



PART	OPEN MUSIC THEORY	NEW HARVARD DICTIONARY	GROVE	WHO USUALLY SINGS IT
Soprano (S)	C4–G5	C4–A5	C4–A5	Sopranos, with trebles and boy sopranos in a church choir
Alto (A)	G3–D5	F3–D5	G3–E5	Contraltos and many mezzo-sopranos; countertenors (“male altos”)
Tenor (T)	C3–G4	B2–G4	C3–A4	Tenors, and many baritones
Bass (B)	F2–D4	E2–C4	F2–E4	Basses and baritones; first and second bass

Choir ranges are narrower than solo ranges. Radius Music’s voices guide notes that the choral ranges are “considerably narrower” than those of specialist solo or operatic voices. The four names also began as names of parts: Wikipedia (“Alto”) says alto, like soprano, tenor and bass, was first meant to describe a part in the texture, not a voice type. Choral music divides voices *only* by range, so the part a singer gets can differ from their solo voice type: a mezzo-soprano sings soprano or alto, a baritone sings tenor or bass.

Spacing rule in four-part writing (Open Music Theory): no more than an octave between soprano and alto, or between alto and tenor, and no more than a twelfth between tenor and bass; voices must not cross. A note outside a part’s range is moved up or down an octave.

Where the sources differ (New Harvard against Open Music Theory): soprano: bottom the same, top 2 semitones higher; alto: bottom 2 semitones lower, top the same; tenor: bottom 1 semitone lower, top the same; bass: bottom 1 semitone lower, top 2 semitones lower. Grove: tenor “roughly” C3–A4; alto G3–E5 (contralto F3–D5). Wikipedia says the alto part runs about F3–F5 and most tenor writing sits between B2 and A4.

Part-writing ranges: [Open Music Theory](#), “[Chords in SATB style](#)” (Samuel Brady, CC BY-SA 4.0). Harvard and Grove figures as quoted by [Yale University Library](#). Choir ranges narrower: [Radius Music](#), “[Voices](#)”. Choir-part wording: Wikipedia, “[Voice type](#)”, “[Alto](#)”, “[Tenor](#)” (CC BY-SA 4.0). musictheoryprint.com/charts/voice-types-vocal-range-chart