



BARBERSHOP SINGING FOR WOMEN

Barbershop harmony is vocal harmony produced by four parts: lead, tenor, baritone and bass. Finding the right part for your voice is the initial step. Any woman of average singing ability, with or without vocal training, will find a part that fits her range.

- **Tenor** is a harmony part sung consistently above the lead. Although tenor is the highest voice in barbershop harmony, it should not be confused with soprano of conventional singing groups. The tenor should have a light, sweet, pure tone that will complement but not overpower the lead voice. The range for tenor is from G above middle C to high F on the top line of the clef.
- **Lead** is the melody and is sung in the range between A below middle C, and C above middle C.
- **Baritone** covers approximately the same range as lead. The baritone harmony notes cross the lead notes; sometimes sung below and sometimes above. Baritones must constantly adjust their balance to accommodate their position in the chord.
- **Bass** singers should have a rich, mellow voice and be able to sing the E-flat below middle C easily. Basses should not be confused with the alto of conventional groups. Many altos can sing the bass part, but others are much better suited to lead or baritone, depending on range and vocal quality.

THE BARBERSHOP CONE

Barbershop harmonies have a different balance than the cylindrical SATB, in that our top voices sing with less weight and intensity than our lower voices.

