

4-Part Chorale Writing

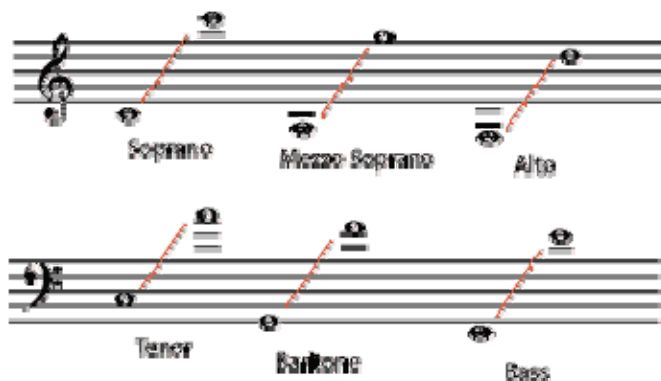
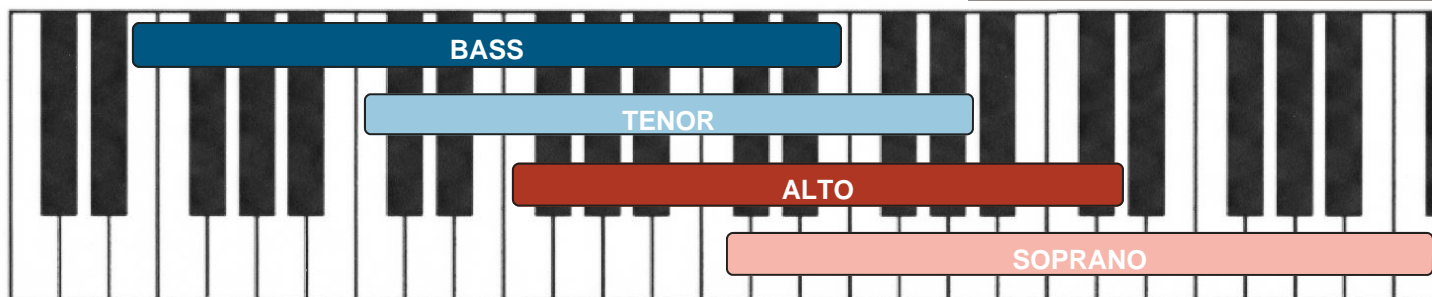
When Bach wrote his chorales, he created some rules about how to make 4-part harmonies easy to sing and still sound good. If you follow the same rules when writing 4-part harmonies, your music is sure to sound solid.

1: Stay in a sing-able range

Sopranos sing the highest part, then **Altos** are the lower of the females **Tenors** are the men who sing highest, and **Basses** sing the lowest notes

Here are the notes that are safe to assign to each section:

Note: in four-part Chorale Writing, we use roman numerals to refer to the diatonic triads. You'll probably want to become familiar with diatonic triads, inversions, and secondary dominants before jumping into this section.*



Of course, these are generalities. Most people don't fall perfectly into just one range. In fact, there are in-between ranges like "Mezzo Soprano" and "Baritone" for people who can't sing exactly in one of the four SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor Bass) ranges.

*For this style, we use capital roman numerals for major chords (I, IV, V, etc.), and lowercase for minor chords (ii, iii, vi, etc.)