

# THE HUMAN VOICE



# SCHEME

- **Definition**
- **Classification of voices**
- **Voice's transformation**
- **Types of voice**
- **Tips for a good vocal health**
- **About textures**
- **Listening to Handel. Messiah: "For unto us a child is given"**

# Definition:

**In order to perform with our voice, we need our lungs, the vocal cords that vibrate when the air passes through them when we breathe, and our body, which acts as the sound box.**

# **Classification of voices according to register**

- **According to the natural principle of low-pitched and high pitched voices, these are classified into female, male and child voices.**
- **A singer can interpret a range of notes from the most high-pitched to the most low-pitched and this is his register.**

**From the point of view of the register, voices can be divided into:**

<b>Register</b>	<b>Male voices</b>	<b>Female voices</b>
<b>High – pitched</b>	<b>Tenor</b>	<b>Soprano</b>
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>Baritono</b>	<b>Mezzo-soprano</b>
<b>Low - pitched</b>	<b>Bass</b>	<b>Alto</b>

# The range of each voice is:



These ranges correspond to the following:

## High voice

Soprano: C4-A5

Tenor: B2-G4

## Medium voice

Mezzo soprano: A3-F5

Baritone: G2-E4

## Low voice

Alto: F3-D5

Bass: E2-C4

Common vocal ranges represented on a musical keyboard:



Soprano



Alto



Tenor



Bass

# Voice's transformation

- **During puberty, due to the hormonal changes that we undergo, our voice becomes more low-pitched because the pharynx grows and the vocal cords lengthen.**
- **This change is more obvious in boys than in girls. At an elderly age, the voice goes on changing.**

# Types of voices

- **Another way to classify the voices is the musical style; you must have some specific characteristics to interpret the different musical styles.**
- **For opera, the voice must be natural well gifted and the person must have a refined technique and a correct projecting.**
- **For jazz, it is necessary to be able to improvise.**
- **In other types of music (hip-hop, rock...) singers personalize their voices in a nasal, guttural way.**



# Some famous singers, of different styles are:



Montserrat Caballé



Lucciano Pavarotti



Eminem



Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald



Elvis Presley

# **SOME TIPS FOR A GOOD VOCAL HEALTH**

- **You mustn't drink very cold drinks**
- **You mustn't smoke**
- **You must avoid places full of smoke**
- **You mustn't force your voice**
- **Drink a lot of water**
- **Have a rest enough time**
- **Avoid clearing one's throat**

# ABOUT TEXTURE:

- **The texture refers to the way the sounds (chords and melody) are woven together in a musical composition.**
- **Types:**
  - **Monophonic**: is the simplest texture, a single melody line
  - **Polyphonic**: it gives quite a complex effect because there's more than one tune being played at once. It's sometimes called contrapuntal music too because it usually use imitation as a resource.
  - **Homophonic**: in it, the parts move together; the lines of music move it more or less the same time.

# **“For unto us a child is born” MESSIAH, by G. F. Handel**

**Pay attention to these aspects:**

- **The structure of the play, following the systems and bars**
- **The way that homophonic and imitative textures are mixed**
- **How the main four voices appear playing with the two mentioned textures**



# About Handel and the play:

**Handel (1685-1759):** was born in Germany but lived in England from the age of 26. Apart from instrumental music, he wrote operas and oratorios, form that Handel brought to its loftiest peak.

**Oratorio:** It's an important form of vocal music, made up of vocal and instrumental parts. Based on a sacred story, it's not acted like an opera, giving musical presentation only.

**Messiah:** based on the New Testament is the most successful example of this genre. It's said that King George II was so moved that he stood up early in the "Hallelujah Chorus" and remained standing. Since decorum dictates that when the king stands, everyone must follow, this tradition has endured. Nowadays, the audience stands during this chorus.

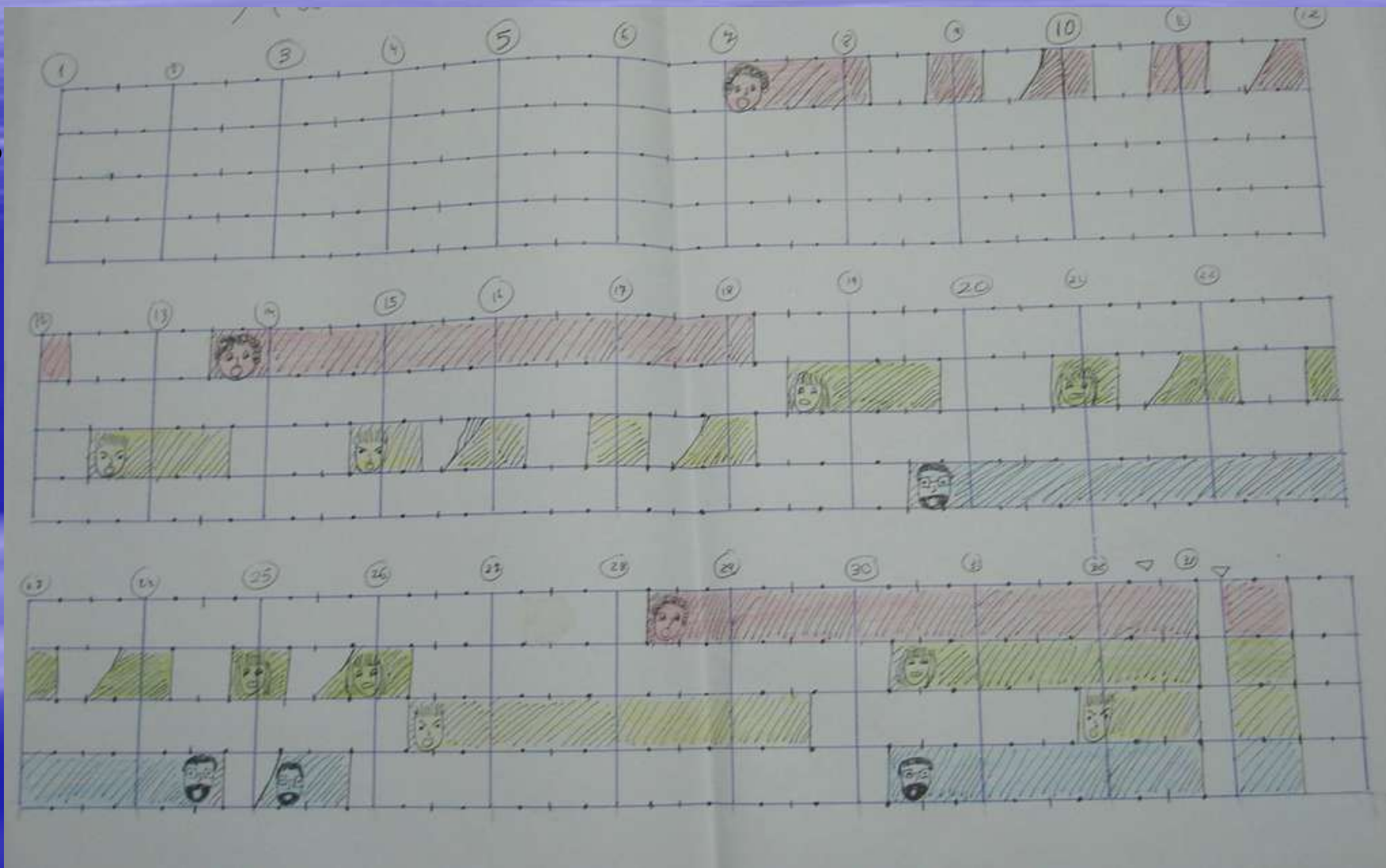
# **MESSÍAH N°12 Chorus: For unto us a Child is born Handel**

**For unto us a Child is born,  
unto us a Son is given,  
and the government shall be upon  
His shoulder, and His Name shall be called:  
Wonderful, Counsellor,  
The Mighty God, The Everlasting  
Father, The Prince of Peace!**

**Pues nos ha nacido un niño, un Hijo nos ha  
sido dado, y sobre sus hombros recaerá la  
soberanía y por su nombre será llamado:  
Maravilloso, Consejero, Dios Todopoderoso,  
Padre Eterno, Príncipe de la Paz  
(Isaías, 9, 6)**

# For unto us a child is given (1)

soprano  
contralto  
tenor  
bass



# For unto us a child is given (2)

soprano  
contralto  
tenor  
bass

The image shows a handwritten musical score for four voices: soprano, contralto, tenor, and bass. The score is written on three systems of staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are color-coded: soprano in red, contralto in green, tenor in yellow, and bass in blue. The score includes measure numbers 31-44, 45-58, and 59-66. Small hand-drawn faces are placed within the notes to represent the characters of the voices.



# For unto us a child is given (3)

soprano  
contralto  
tenor  
bass

The image shows a handwritten musical score for four voices: soprano, contralto, tenor, and bass. The score is written on three systems of staves, each with a circled measure number above it. The staves are color-coded: soprano (red), contralto (green), tenor (blue), and bass (light blue). The first system covers measures 1-22, the second system covers measures 23-44, and the third system covers measures 45-59. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines, along with small sketches of faces in some measures.

# For unto us a child is given (1)

A handwritten musical score on a grid background, featuring ten staves of music. The notes are represented by colored rectangular blocks: red, green, yellow, and blue. The score is titled "EL NIÑO NOS HA NACIDO. HANDEL" written vertically on the right side. The music is written in a style that appears to be a simplified or educational version of the original composition.

# Enjoy with the Lunnis

