

How to Master Singing Baritone

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Baritone of LoveNotes

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 baritone part specifically?

- The baritone, one of the two middle voices, blends into the sound while making the unit sound full, resonant, and connected.
- The quality and size of the baritone sound changes constantly depending where the notes are in the chord and in relationship to the other parts.
 - Notes that are high and/or above the lead are sung with a different quality than notes that are low and/or below the lead.
 - Nondominant notes (2nd, 3rd, 6th, and 7th) are sung differently than dominant notes (root, 4th, 5th, octave) based on Pythagorean tuning.

Be the BEST baritone you can be

- Listen to and watch as many champion quartets as you can, identify how the baritone fills the sound based on where she is singing in the chord. Find songs that feature the baritone, listen to how her sound and dominance changes when she has the melody versus when she sings harmony.
- Record your rehearsals and listen to your recordings. Listen specifically for fine tuning, balance when you are below/above the lead, and if there are times when you take dominance over the lead. Never stop learning and working to improve your vocal skills.
- Hold yourself to a high standard when it comes to accuracy and tuning.
 - Learn about Pythagorean tuning, know where you are in the chord and tune appropriately.
- Be aware of where you are in the cone and adjust accordingly.
- Stay with the other parts and be just as present. Baritones have a habit of following the lead or “hiding in the shadows.” The baritone part makes barbershop what it is!
- Allow yourself to sing from an authentic place. Be present onstage (don’t just rely on the lead to do this for the quartet) and trust your preparation so that when you perform you sing from the soul--to do that you have to put in the work ahead of time to be completely prepared.