

How to Master Singing Bass

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Bass 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 bass part specifically?

- The bass is the lowest of the four parts. Since barbershop was adapted from a male singing style, the bass is the most dominant part in the cone. This means the bass will never sing dynamics quite as soft as the top three parts.
- A bass voice should have presence, energy, depth, and style. Her mixed and head registers should be cultivated as well as her chest register to maintain consistency throughout her range.
- While the lead typically invents the plan, it is everyone's responsibility to execute it. As the foundation of the sound, the bass must always think a step ahead to maintain the integrity of the plan.

BEST bass you can be

- Listen to as many champion quartets as you can, identify and take note of what you like and emulate what you can. Pull from various sources to find your own unique sound.
- Record everything and listen to your recordings. Listen specifically for tuning (especially octaves) and presence. Never stop learning and working to improve your vocal skills.
- Hold yourself to a high standard when it comes to accuracy and tuning. Work on every aspect of your range to become comfortable singing accurate intervals (no "dumping" high notes).
- Believe with every fiber of your being that your part is the melody, and deliver it with the same authenticity and conviction as a great lead.
- Collaborate with your quartet-mates and seek to bring out the best in all four performers. Be authoritative and confident. Every note and every breath counts!
- Allow yourself to sing from an authentic place. Be present onstage 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 and be completely prepared.