

SEVEN CHORALES FOR SEVEN KEYS

The traditional chorale is a song that is harmonized in four parts. The four parts are called the soprano, alto, tenor and bass. The height of chorale writing came with Johann Sebastian Bach.

Your goal in playing these chorales is to play with good tone and good phrasing. To play a chorale well you must listen to the other parts and make your part fit in musically.

In all seven chorales, every instrument has the melody (soprano) part and one other part. The second line will be labeled with alto, tenor or bass. When you perform with other students, make sure all parts are being played and being played equally. When all four parts are heard you will be playing with "balance." This is an important part of musical playing.

Below you will see an example of a four part chorale -- "America the Beautiful." You can easily see the soprano, alto, tenor and bass parts.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass

O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies for am - ber waves of grain

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Samuel Ward-music
Katherine Lee Bates-words

1. Moderately Slow
Sostenuto

1893

Melody
Alto

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16.