

# THE HUMAN VOICE

The human voice is the **oldest musical instrument**. It has been and still is the most popular and accessible musical instrument.

Because singers can reach **different pitches** there are different types of voices.

"**Pitch**" is the musical word for the relative high or low of an instrument or voice.

Voices are classified into three groups - **high, middle and low**. Each voice type has its own name.

The highest woman's voice is called **SOPRANO**. The next highest is **MEZZO-SOPRANO** and the lowest is **CONTRALTO**, which is usually abbreviated to **ALTO**.

In men's voices the highest is **TENOR**, the middle is **BARITONE** and the lowest is **BASS**.

When a group of men and women sing together this is called a **CHOIR**. Usually there are two parts for each sex - Soprano and Alto for the females and Tenor and Bass for the males (S.A.T.B.).

