

MUSIC THEORY for SINGERS



**FiND
YOUR
VOCAL
RANGE**

KEVIN KELLY VOCAL STUDIO

WHY is BEING ABLE to READ MUSIC as a VOCALIST IMPORTANT?



There are two types of singers:
those who can read music, and those who can't.
Obviously.

We've all been in a rehearsal, staring at our music trying to decipher the black dots and squiggles on the page. Clearly, if you can read music your job is much easier because you are self-reliant, and can go home and plunk out your part. If you can't, you have to rely on the kindness of strangers or your music director to do it for you.

There is no shame if you can't read music right now. There are some very successful singers out there who can't, but I firmly believe that every professional actor/singer should have the ability to read music.

Keep in mind that music is an entirely different language. So, don't be discouraged if you don't pick this up right away. **You will.**

So, let's jump in!

Kevin Kelly

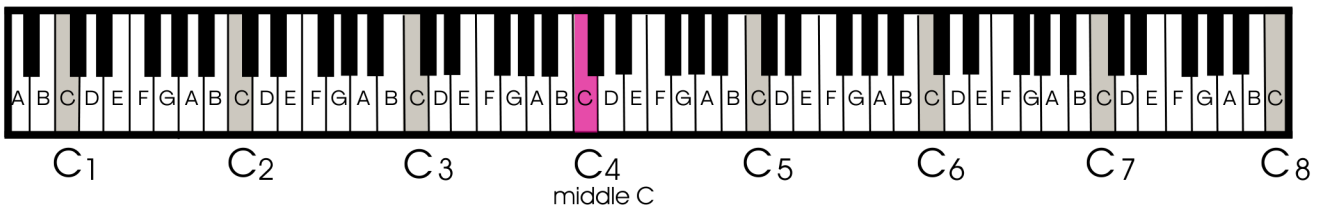
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UNDERSTANDING the PIANO KEYBOARD

A standard size keyboard has 88 keys, with the lowest note starting on A, and the highest note being C.

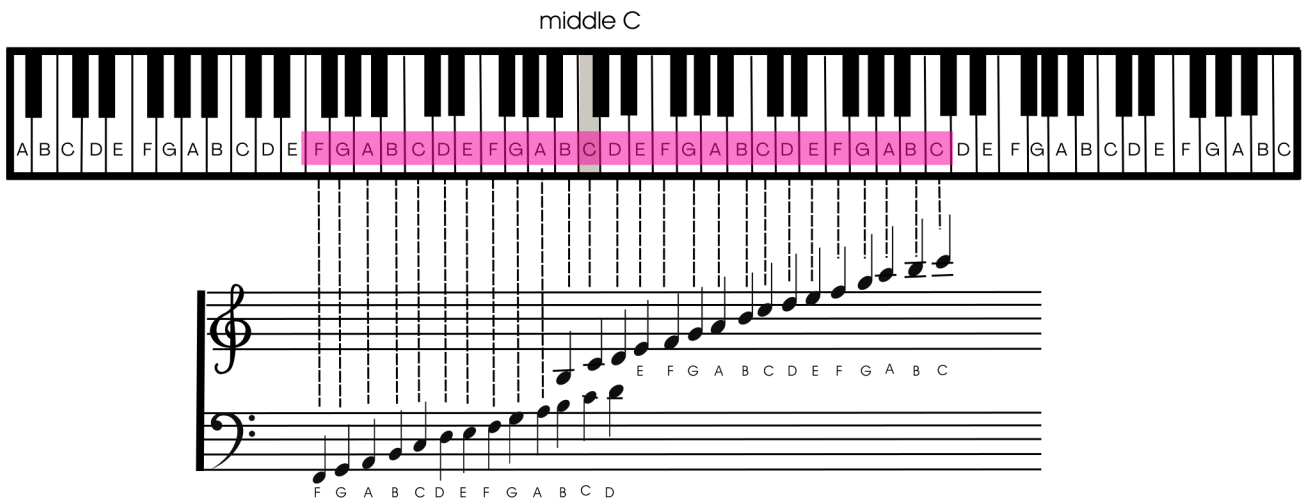
Finding your vocal range isn't as difficult as you might think. Let's start by looking at the piano keyboard. We find MIDDLE C, also known as C4, in the center of the keyboard. The keyboard is made up of **repeating patterns**. There is a pattern of 7 white notes that repeat:

A B C D E F and **G**.



The black keys are an alternating pattern of a **group of two**, or a **group of three**, with the only exception being the very first black key on the left. This pattern helps us to identify the white keys. Notice how C is always to the left of the group of two black keys.

All voices are typically in this range highlighted below:

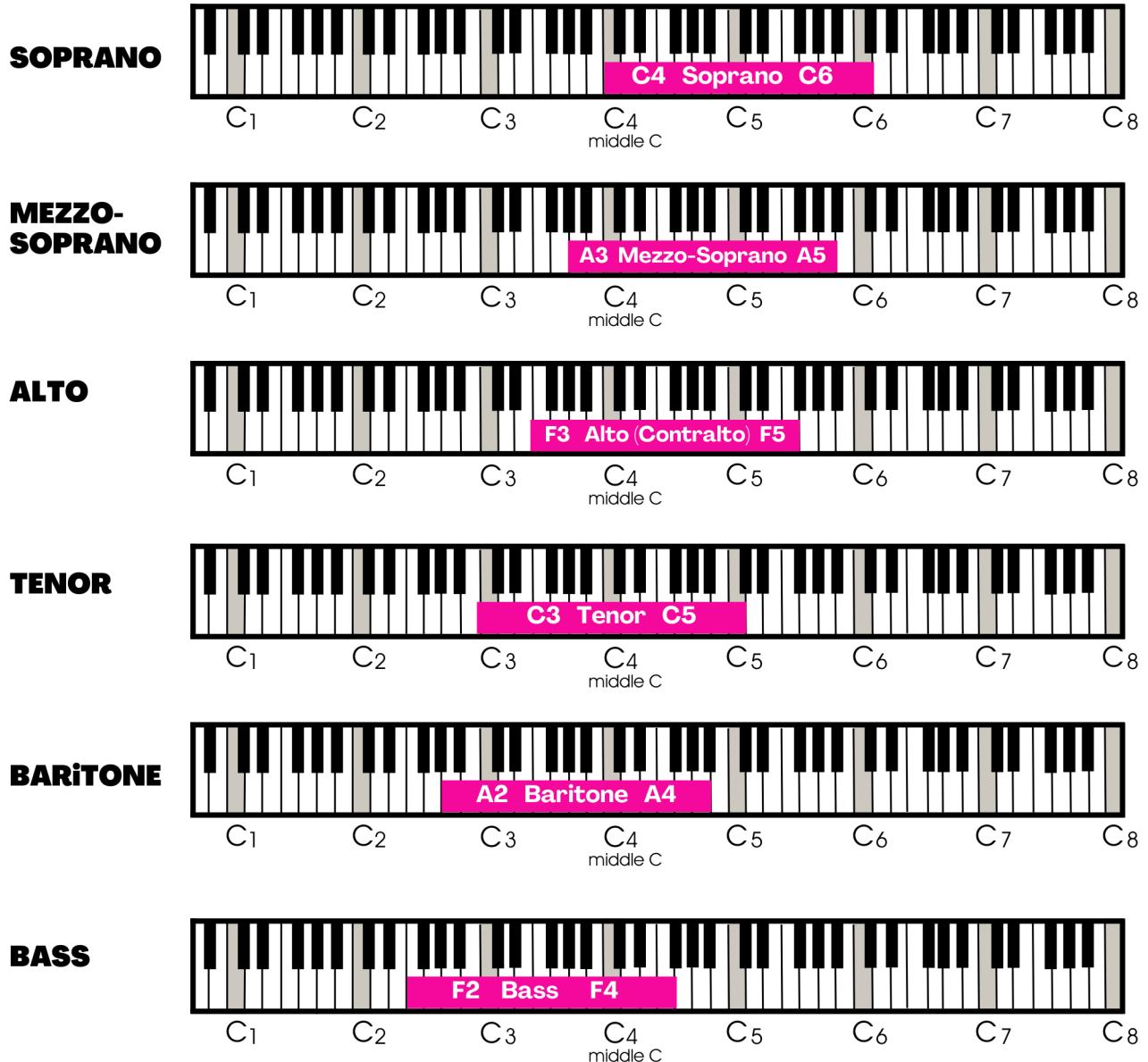


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WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Singers fall into one of the six classifications listed below:

Bass, baritone, tenor, alto (contralto), mezzo-soprano or soprano. It is important to point out that the ranges below aren't an absolute, however, it does give us a general idea of what your range might be.



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