HOW TO BE A GREAT BARITONE

BARITONE

The baritone is the beauty and the beast of the unit. The baritone sings with great sweetness at times and great edge/spikes at other times. There is a consistent roundness in the size of the baritone part that appropriately fills the space in each chord.

Skills:

- Learn to sing using a "mix" voice. This is head register blended, by degrees, with the lower register.
- Use Championship posture.
- Develop a constant inside smile with a tall feeling in the soft palate area.
- Keep jaw, tongue, lips and throat relaxed and free.
- Develop a two octave vocal range starting from F below middle C.
- Learn to tune to the tonal center while listening (passively) carefully to the other parts, adjusting accordingly.
- Build vocal stamina by regular practice.

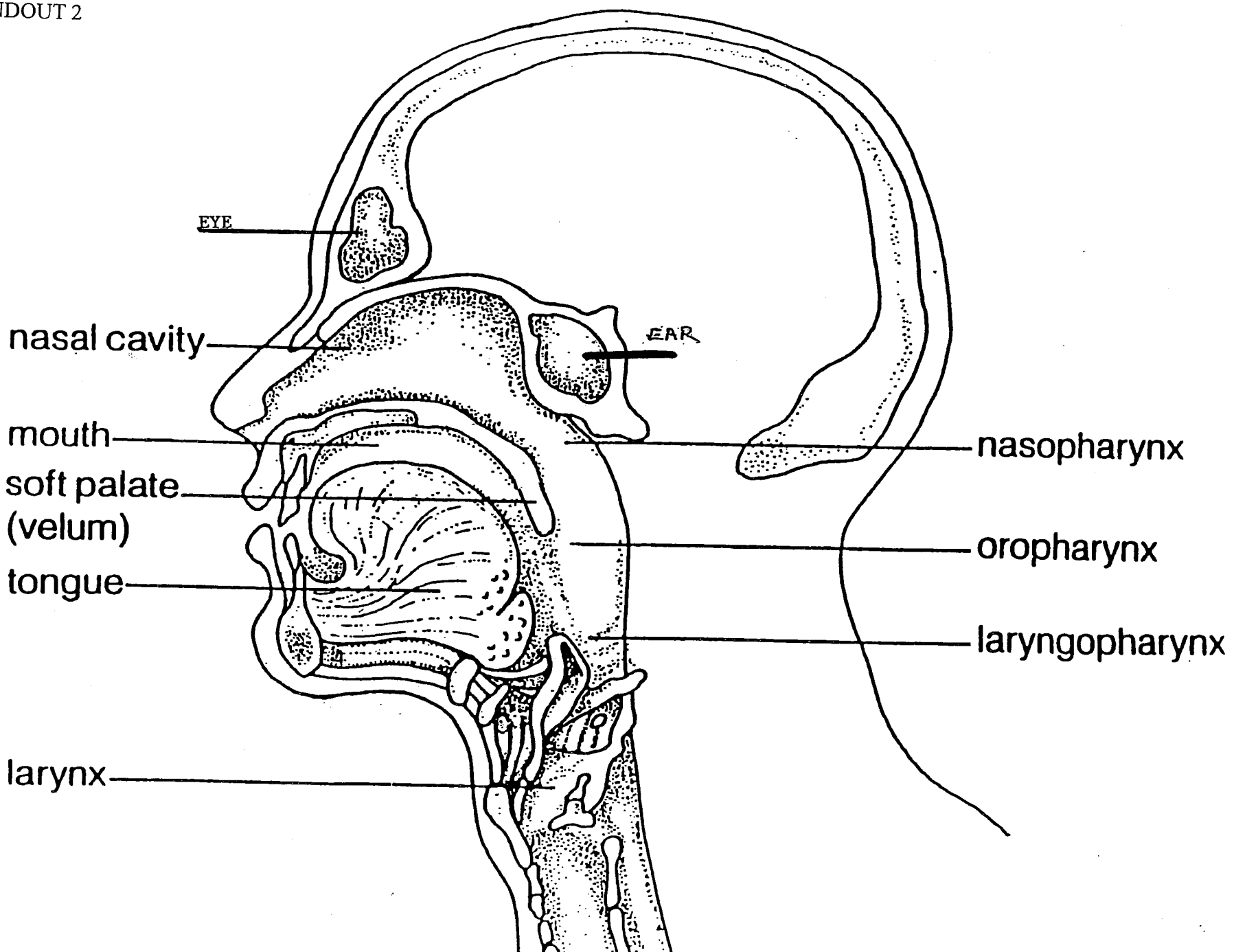
Techniques:

Know when/how to alter your sound to fill in the cone. Sing to the space that needs filling with the needed timbre.
Know when to blend and when to bring out your part.
Sing exactly like and with the lead while altering the sound to fill the space. Match her vowels, dynamics, nuances, etc.
Know when you octave with other parts; use Pythagorean tuning.
Sing to the "hum" spot. This keeps the tone in the most resonant place.
Always sing a wall of sound, connection words by targeting the vowels.
Keep open on power swipes.
Work at disappearing into the cone while enhancing the unit sound.
Use your breath as the fuel. Don't save air, but know how to release it to assure enough support and energy at the ends of the phrases.
Use vocal energy without muscling the tone. Energy is attitude.
Be prepared to not sound pretty to your own ears.

MR. HEAD

SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL
HOW TO BE A GREAT BARITONE
HANDOUT 2

2005 IES
SHIRLEY KOUT, CIF



HANDOUT 3

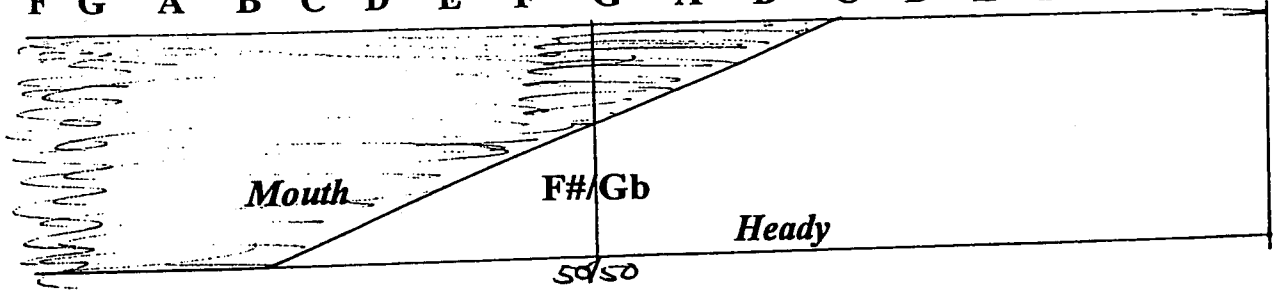
RESONANCE BLENDING

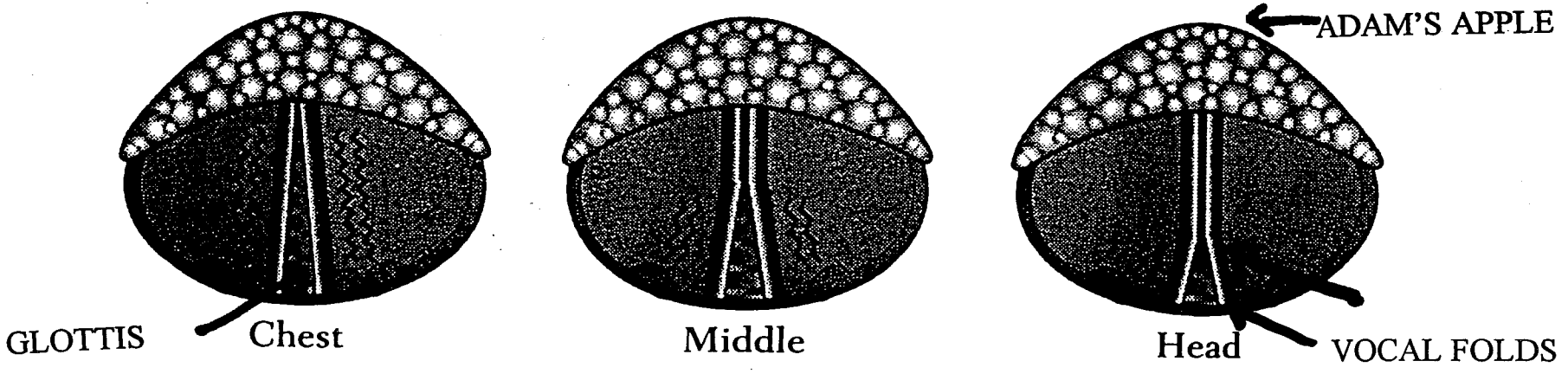
HEAVY MECHANISM
"CHEST VOICE"
LOWER REGISTER

MIXED REGISTER

LIGHT MECHANISM
"HEAD VOICE"
UPPER REGISTER

LOW C D E F G A B C' D' E' F' G' A' B' C'' D'' E'' F'' G'' A'' B'' C'''





CHEST, MIDDLE, AND HEAD

HANDOUT 4

PYTHAGOREAN TUNING SYSTEM

		SCALE STEPS	1			2			3	4			5			6			7	8
COMMON BARBERSHOP KEY SIGNATURES		SCALE STEPS	DO	DI	RA	RE'	RI	ME'	MI	FA	FI	SE'	SOL	SI	LE'	LA	LI	TE'	TI	DO
		*CENTS	0	+14	-10	+4	+18	-6	+8	-2	+12	-12	+2	+16	-8	+6	+20	-4	+10	0
C			C	C♯	D♭	D	D♯	E♭	E	F	F♯	G♭	G	G♯	A♭	A	A♯	B♭	B	C
G	(♯)		G	G♯	A♭	A	A♯	B♭	B	C	C♯	D♭	D	D♯	E♭	E	E♯	F	F♯	G
D	(♯♯)		D	D♯	E♭	E	E♯	F	F♯	G	G♯	A♭	A	A♯	B♭	B	B♯	C	C♯	D
A	(♯♯♯)		A	A♯	B♭	B	B♯	C	C♯	D	D♯	E♭	E	E♯	F	F♯	F♯♯	G	G♯	A
F	(♭)		F	F♯	G♭	G	G♯	A♭	A	B♭	B	C♭	C	C♯	D♭	D	D♯	E♭	E	F
B♭	(♭♭)		B♭	B	C♭	C	C♯	D♭	D	E♭	E	F♭	F	F♯	G♭	G	G♯	A♭	A	B♭
E♭	(♭♭♭)		E♭	E	F♭	F	F♯	G♭	G	A♭	A	B♭♭	B♭	B	C♭	C	C♯	D♭	D	E♭
A♭	(♭♭♭♭)		A♭	A	B♭♭	B♭	B	C♭	C	D♭	D	E♭♭	E♭	E	F♭	F	F♯	G♭	G	A♭

Comparison of Pythagorean Tuning System to Equal Tempered Scale

* Cents: A musical interval
Octave: 1200 cents in an octave. Each semitone has 100 cents.
+ or - (Relationship To Equal Temperament (Fixed Scale)

The Challenge of the Baritone Part

Function of the baritone

- Fill in the gaps
- Blend the other three voices together
- Sing similarly to the tenor, lead or bass depending on the note location/range
- Make the other three sound terrific

Baritones need to avoid

- Following --produces synchronization issues
- Singing just notes--tuning errors
- Singing a single vocal sound (texture)--blend dysfunction
- Singing a single dynamic level--coning issues
- (head voice mix is less dominant; chest mix is more dominant)

Baritones need to be smart about the music

- Find the octaves
- Find the scissors (seconds)
- Find notes with accidentals
- Find the location in the chord
- Find the part of the chord
- Find the dissonant notes
- Find the function--vocal texture (spike, mellow)

Baritones can rule if:

- They spend time on their music and sing accurately
- They spend time dueting their part
- They spend time trioing their part
- They spend time listening to the other three duet/trio
- They are determined to be an equal fourth--not a tacked on appendage
- They understand the function of their part