

**Abstract** of the lecture as a contribution to the Eurovox 2018 Conference, The Hague.

Author: Hanny van Lankeren.

Title: Training of female choral singers in their modal register to sing and sound as male tenors.

There is a misunderstanding over what female tenors should do in order to match their fellow male tenors in vocal sound colour in a classical choral setting. Yes the male tenors are singing on the top of their voice and the women are singing in their lowest part, but, where vocal range and registration are coming together, adjustment of the vocal tract and breath flow should follow comparable patterns no matter male or female. Thus, both sexes should be able to create a “melting” vocal sound quality under the right conditions. To test this hypothesis, a research project has been designed in which amateur choral tenors, men and women, are invited to participate in a test protocol in which they have to perform a serial of vocal exercises. Audio will be recorded directly online for comparison and for using Artificial Intelligence as well as a double blind listener panel in order to answer the following questions: Can we distinguish the male and female sounds by ear? How do they perform with respect to sounding like a good choral tenor? If we feed the algorithm with samples of professional choral tenors (male singers), how high are the female tenors scoring? Are the amateur male singers achieving higher scores? Can we determine an effect on score after specific training of the female tenors?

If the outcomes are promising we will make suggestions how to continue this interesting research that might help mixed classical choirs in Europe to find their new tenors.



Hanny van Lankeren

[Info@femaletenors.com](mailto:Info@femaletenors.com)