

A GLOSSARY OF CHORAL MUSIC TERMS

Tonic: A smooth liquid generally enjoyed over ice after choir rehearsal.

Dominant: In a choral relationship, usually the soprano.

Augmentation: Delicate surgery for altos involving the implantation of "falsettos".

Leitmotif: Like a regular motif, but less filling.

Score: Basses 8, Tenors 0.

Riff: What happens when someone takes your choir robe.

Contralto: An alto who has been convicted of a felony.

Polychoral Motet: Six parrots singing "Exultate Justi".

Aleatoric Music: Music composed by the random selection of pitches and rhythms. Frequently found in the performance of the choir anthem.

Basso Continuo: When the conductor can't get the fools to stop singing.

Castrato: The highest male voice. (some alteration required)

Etude: What comes right before the Beatitudes.

Concerto Grosso: An accordion concert.

Glissando: What directly precedes the highest note of the soprano part.

Theme: We HATE this anthem.

Theme & Variations: We HATE this anthem, the composer, & all his/her family.

Smorzando: The "All-you-can-eat" buffet at Luciano's

Grand Pause: When the conductor loses his place.

Perfect Pitch: Throwing an accordion into a dumpster w/out hitting the sides.

Cantus Firmus: A singer in good physical condition (as opposed to the "cantus flabbioso").

Antiphonal: Leaving your answering machine on all of the time.

Sackbutt: A choral singer over 65.

Choral Partitas: Small choir get-togethers that are frequently interrupted by the police.

Fantasia: An alto in a leather choir robe.