ASSIGNMENT 2: THE CASTRATI

The following assignment is based on information in the BBC Four documentary *Castrato*, found on Youtube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8ZArAf5wMc.

In what city do historical records first mention castrati in choirs?
___________________________________________

In what year does Pope Sixtus V reorganize the papal choir to include castrati? ________

Who was the last castrato in the papal choir? ________________________________________

According to the documentary, what does the term “falsetto” mean?
__________________________________
_____________________________________

According to Professor David Howard, how long are vocal chords in:

• Boys_________________________
• Women_______________________
• Men_________________________

What three instruments were used for castration in the eighteenth century?

• __________________________
• __________________________
• __________________________

According to endocrinologist John Wass, what are six physical effects of castration?

• __________________________  • __________________________
• __________________________  • __________________________
• __________________________  • __________________________
Who did Handel compose the aria “Cara sposa” for? ________________________________

Who did Mozart write his *Exultate jubilate* for? ________________________________

Name three famous castrati.

• ________________________________
• ________________________________
• ________________________________

Which famous castrato never worked for Handel?

___________________________________________

Could castrati legally marry? ____________________________________________

What are three modern “substitutes” for the castrato voice?

• ________________________________
• ________________________________
• ________________________________

How did the sound engineers at IRCAM “recreate” the castrato voice for the film *Farinelli*?

________________________________________________________________________

How long could the castrato Farinelli sing without taking a breath? __________

What does *messa di voce* mean? ____________________________________________

What two elements does David Howard use to create a synthesized castrato voice?

• ________________________________
• ________________________________

What does the term *anechoic* mean? __________________________________________

In what decade of the 1800s does the castrato voice start to go out of fashion? ________