

Name: _____

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? _____