

The Phoenix Symphony Chorus

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IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) SYMBOLS AND THEIR SOUNDS

<i>There are IPA symbols for all possible vowel sounds, each symbol having only one pronunciation. Diphthongs are spelled by writing out both of the vowel symbols in the diphthong.</i>			
[ɑ]	“ah” in “father”		
[e]	closed “ay” sound, but not a diphthong	[ɛ]	open “eh” in “let”
[i]	closed “ee” in “meet”	[ɪ]	open “ih” as in “fit”
[o]	closed “o”, sounds like “go”, but not a diphthong	[ɔ]	open “o”, sounds like “aw” in “thought”
[u]	closed “oo” in “boot”	[ʊ]	open “oo” in “foot”
[y]	lips of [u] but say [i] in the mouth (most German ü)	[ø]	lips of [o] but say [e] in the mouth (German ö)
[Y]	lips of [u] but say [I] in the mouth (some German ü)		
[ə]	schwa, a neutral vowel sound as in “ <u>a</u> bout” or “i <u>t</u> em”		
[ɚ]	combination of schwa sound and soft [r]		
[ʌ]	the “uh” sound as in “cut” or “done”		
[æ]	the vowel in “at” or “that”		
[j]	“y” as in “yes”, generally a glide to the next vowel (note: in many languages, “j” sounds like an American “y”)		
<i>The IPA symbols for most consonant sounds look just like the English letter (“t” is pronounced [t]). Sometimes letters sound like a symbol that looks like another letter (“c” in “cat” is pronounced [k]). Here are some other special symbols:</i>			
[ʃ]	“sh” as in “shun”	[tʃ]	“ch” as in “chew”
[ʒ]	as in “vi <u>s</u> ion” or French “je”	[dʒ]	“j” as in “jump” or “g” in “germ”
[g]	“g” as in “gate” (not the sound in “germ”)	[ŋ]	voiced “ng” as in “th <u>ing</u> ”
[ç]	as in German “i <u>ch</u> ”	[x]	as in German “bu <u>ch</u> ” or Scottish “lo <u>ch</u> ”
[ɹ]	the American “r” sound as in “room”	[r]	flipped or rolled “r”
[θ]	unvoiced “th” as in “thin”	[ð]	voiced “th” as in “thine”

Wagner, *Arrival of the Guests from Tannhäuser* Act 2, Scene 4
Text by Richard Wagner

<p>Freudig begrüßen wir die edle Halle, fröydıç begrysen vie di edle hale</p> <p>wo Kunst und Frieden immer nur verweil, vo kunst unt friden ime nue fervaıl</p> <p>wo lange noch der Ruf erschalle, vo lanə nox dee ruf ərjalə</p> <p>Thüringens Fürsten, tyrınəns fyrstən</p> <p>Landgraf Hermann, Heil! lantgraf herman hail</p>	<p><i>We joyfully greet the noble hall,</i></p> <p><i>where art and peace always linger,</i></p> <p><i>where long the call still sounds:</i></p> <p><i>To the Prince of Thuringia,</i></p> <p><i>Count Hermann, hail!</i></p>
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