

The Pronunciation of English for Chant

- Pronunciation of English for Chant (in most cases!)
 - Vowels
 - Vowels should be mitigated using the closest possible Latin equivalent.
 - AH sound as pronounced in *anima*
 - EH sound as pronounced in *ecce*
 - EE sound as pronounced in *vidi* or *in* (sometimes modified to a rounded ĭ)
 - OH sound as pronounced in *dominus* or *nobis*
 - OO sound as pronounced in *cum* or the English *boot*
 - Diphthongs are generally sung using the initial vowel, with the secondary formation sung as a terminal sound without transition.
 - AI or AY = EH (ee)
 - EA = EE (eh)
 - OI or OY = OH (ee)
 - OU or OW* = AH(oo)
*when in a single syllable word or when terminal

In general, the correct vowel formation can be easily achieved by keeping the mouth, tongue and palette in the “Ah” position while pronouncing all vowel sounds.

- The “R” sound
 - Pronounced *softly* when following a consonant (i.e Christ, Prince)
 - Flip softly [r] when between two vowel sounds (i.e Mary, Chorus)
 - Flip softly when “R” is the initial sound of the word (ruin, rush, reign)
 - Drop when followed by a consonant or when terminal (forever, were)
- Consonants (should generally be unpronounced- *no re-articulations*)
 - Pronounced terminal consonants should be closed (non-articulated)
 - B, D, M, N, P, T
 - Ex... Tribe, bad, come, man, up, it
 - Elide when followed by a word beginning with a vowel
 - G as in *give* or *get* should generally be articulated as (k)
 - V should generally be articulated as (f)
 - Z (or the “z” sound as in *is* or *reason*) should generally be articulated as “s”
 - Both Z and S should be minimized, particularly when terminal

Example - Third Sunday of Lent

Je-ru-sa-lem, built as a ci-ty whose parts are bound
firm-ly to-geth-er! It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
to give thanks unto your name, O Lord.

-becomes-

Jeh-roo-sah-leh(m) * , beh(l) tah (s)ah see-tee hoo (s)pah(t) sah bah(oond) * *
feh-mlee too-geh-theh! Eet ee (s)theh(r) thah(t) thah trah(eeb)~(s)ko ah(p),
thah trah(eeb)~(s)ah(f) thah Lo(rd),
too gee(f) thah(ng)~(s)ah(n)-too yoo(r) neh(m), O Lo(rd).

** consonants enclosed in parenthesis should be non-articulated*

** * vowel-consonants in parenthesis indicate the secondary sound of a diphthong*