

How to use Colourchord

“Singing the Colours”

- 1) The whole singing group should learn the melody of one song by ear. Recordings of the first verse of all the songs in the booklet are available at colourchord.org
- 2) Divide the groups into three “teams”: Orange Team, Green Team and Purple Team. Try to have at least one confident singer in each team. Note that green team has a *slightly* trickier part than the other two teams. From this point on the three teams follow slightly different instructions:

Amazing ● Grace how ● sweet the ● sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found

Orange Team

Sing the melody until you come to an orange dot ●. The next note (in the song melody) after this dot is your black note AND your blue note. From this point on, sing that note until you come to a red word, at which point sing the note **BELOW**. You then return to the original note when the text turns black or blue again. So for example in Amazing Grace (sung in F) Orange Team would sing:

The image shows musical notation for the Orange Team part of the song 'Amazing Grace'. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system shows the 'Melody' and the 'Orange Team' part. The melody is in 3/4 time and features a triplet of eighth notes. The Orange Team part follows the melody until an orange dot (●) above the word 'sweet'. From this point, the Orange Team part is a single note (F) that is lower in pitch than the original melody. The second system shows the continuation of the melody and the Orange Team part. The melody continues with a triplet of eighth notes. The Orange Team part follows the melody until a red word 'me' and then continues with a single note (F) that is lower in pitch than the original melody. The lyrics are: 'A - ma - zi - n - g Grace how ● sweet the sound tha - t saved a - wretch li - ke me I - once w - as - lost but now am found'.

Once you have started “singing the colours” you can stick with that till the end of the song. If you lose your note join in with the melody again until you meet another orange dot.

Green Team

Sing the melody until you come to a green dot ●. The next note (in the song melody) after this dot is your black note. From this point on, sing that note until you come to a red word at which point you sing the note **BELOW** the original black note, or a blue word at which point you sing the note **ABOVE** the original black note. Return to the original note whenever the word is black. So for example in Amazing Grace (sung in F) Green Team would sing:

Melody

Green Team

A - ma - zi - n - g Grace how sweet the sound tha - t saved a -

A - ma - zi - n - g Grace how sweet the sound that saved a

wretch li - ke me I - once w - as lost but now am found

wretch li - ke me I - once was lost but now am found

Once you have started “singing the colours” you can stick with that till the end of the song. If you lose your note join in with the melody again until you meet another green dot.

Purple Team

Sing the melody until you come to a purple dot •. The next note (in the song melody) after this dot is your black note AND your red note. From this point on, sing that note until you come to a blue word at which point sing the note ABOVE the original black note. Return to the original note whenever the word is black or red. So for example in Amazing Grace (sung in F) Purple Team would sing:

Melody

Purple Team

A - ma - zi - n - g Grace how sweet the sound tha - t saved a -

A - ma - zi - n - g Grace how sweet the sound that saved a

wretch li - ke me I - once w - as lost but now am found

wretch li - ke me I - once was lost but now am found

Once you have started “singing the colours” you can stick with that till the end of the song. If you lose your note join in with the melody again until you meet another green dot.

Once the group has mastered this with the first song, try some other songs. These instructions are the a same for all songs.

Advanced Colorchord - “Singing the brackets”

To create a more varied set of harmonies some songs include variation brackets. The colour of the outer brackets shows which team the variation applies to, the colour of the inner brackets shows which of their notes that team should be singing as a variation. So for example ((lyric)) would mean that the green team should sing their blue note instead of their red note at that point.