

Latin Diction for Singers
Compiled for North Country Chorus, March, 2013

[Sources: IPA, Mary Rowe, Sister Monique Couture]

Vowels

Latin	as in English	Details
a	father	pax [pahks], soft ah
e	wed	no diphthong, soft eh
æ	wed	æternam [eh-teh'ə-nahm]
oe	wed	poenis inferni [peh'-neess een-feh'ə-nee]
i	me	always long e
o	ought	no diphthong, soft aw
u	boo	very long oo

Consonants

c	cake, church	hard c, except for ce, ci, cæ, coe [coelis, cheh'-leess]
d	dawn	softer than English d
g	got, gentle	hard g, except soft g for ge, gi, gæ, goe
h	[silent]	except sound k for nihi, nihil, mihi
j	you	judicare [yoo-dee-cah'-deh]
l	let	syllables like el – keep forward on tongue
gn	canyon	Agnus Dei [Ahn'-yooss Deh'-ee]
ph	football	
r	very (veddy)	r flipped on tip of tongue, final r quiet schwa (ə)
s	sensible	never z
sc	shell, skunk	sh when sce, sci, scæ, scoe; otherwise sk
sch	skunk	
t	tot	softer than English t
ti	teem, Mitzi	tee, except when followed by a second vowel 'tsi' orationem [aw-rah'-tsee-aw-nehm]
x	jocks	pax, but modified for xh, xc, or x-vowel as below
x	eggs	exaudi [egs-ah'oo-dee]
x	heck	excelsis [eck-shell'-seess]
z	kudzu	dz as in Lazarus [lahdz'-ah-roos]

other Latin consonants said as in English but a bit softer.

Dvorak and Rutter

Kyrie eleison [kee'-dee-eh eh-leh'-sson] remember o as in ought

Gloria in excelsis [glaw'-dee-ah een ek-shell'-seess]

miserere nobis [mee-sseh-reh'-reh naw'-beess]

Credo in unum Deum [creh'-do een oo'-noom Deh'-oom] not yoom

Also no y sound in omnium and filium [-oom]

de Spiritu Sancto [deh Spee'-ree-too Sahng-to]

Maria virgine [Mah-ree'-ah vee' _____ ə-jee-neh]

Sion [See'-on]; meam [meh'-ahm]; eis [eh'-eess]

quia pius es [kwee'-ah pee'-ooss ess]