Unit Two: Musical Modelling Exercise

Explore the voices in the show you selected — or look at a couple of different shows for comparison. Create a chart showing for the characters you select and list the vocal ranges you discover using musical notation on a staff and text (for example, B3 to E5). Separate the characters into different voice types: Soprano, Mezzo, Tenor, Baritone, etc.

Consider the following:

* Can you determine the best voice type for each character?
  + What is the range?
  + What is the tessitura?
  + What is the color of the sound?
* How does the composer use each voice type?
  + How is the voice used in solo music?
  + How is the voice used in ensembles?
* Is the vocal writing different in a drama from a comedy?
  + Does the phrase length change in one form over the other?
  + Does the range sit higher or lower in one form over the other?
  + Is there variation within the same voice type from comedy to drama?
  + If there are differences, what are they?
* If you consider multiple composers:
  + Has one composer treated range differently from another?
  + Has any composer used tessitura differently?
* What general guidelines for each voice type can you glean from your modelling?
* Are there unconventional uses you found for any voice type? If so, what?
* What other kinds of observations can you make?