



While Hearing a Woman Sing

Clarification: As we noted at the beginning of the *halachos* of reciting *devarim sheb'kedushah* in front of uncovered parts of the body, the *halachos* that we will be stating here are only discussing whether one may recite *devarim sheb'kedushah* while hearing a woman sing. We will not be discussing the general prohibition for a man to listen to a woman sing. (There are instances where it may be permitted to hear a woman sing — e.g., a close family member — yet one is still forbidden to say *devarim sheb'kedushah* while she is singing.)

23. A woman's singing voice is halachically classified as an *ervah*. Therefore, a man may not daven, recite *Krias Shema*, or learn Torah when a woman's singing voice is audible. (*Shulchan Aruch OC 75:3*)

The Extent of the Prohibition

24. A woman's voice is only an *ervah* if it is being used in a way that is **alluring**, as this type of voice can lead to improper thoughts. Singing is one example of this type of voice. If a woman is speaking in a natural way, there is no prohibition to say *devarim sheb'kedushah*. (*Beis Yosef and Rema 75:2; Mishnah Berurah ad loc.; Beis Shmuel EH 21:4; see Derech Pekudecha 35*)

