

Virtual Choir – Instructions for Recording and Submitting

by Linnet Westerwick

1. **You'll need two devices: One to record yourself with** (for most people, this will probably be **your phone**) and **another to play the guide video** (**your computer or tablet**) that you'll be singing along with.

Please wear headphones or earbuds to listen to the guide video while recording. This way you will be recording just your voice.

We recommend **wearing them on/in one ear only**, so you'll be able to hear yourself better and stay in tune.

You can wear whatever clothing makes you comfortable!

Just make sure it's presentable & has **no logos or words on it**.

2. **Find a quiet, uncluttered, INDOOR space to record.** (DO NOT record in a bathroom!)

Please ensure that:

- Your **background isn't too cluttered** & there are no windows, screens, or reflective surfaces in it.
- All **windows** in the room are **closed** to keep the outside noises outside!
- There are no appliances that hum or buzz (e.g. refrigerators) in the room.
TURN OFF air conditioners and fans while you're recording. (Sorry!)
- Your **cell phone is SILENCED** while you're recording – not on Vibrate!

3. **Setting up:**

- **Don't hold your phone or camera** while recording – **mount or secure it** in whatever way you can so that your video will be stable.
- You **DO NOT need a microphone** for this. If you are NOT using a microphone, your recording device should be no farther than an **arm's length away from you**.
- **Record in portrait mode** if possible!
(This will make it easier to crop and arrange everybody's clips in the final video.)
- The **camera lens should be pointed straight at your face. Your head and shoulders should fill most of the frame**, with some space on either side of you.
- Make sure your face is **well lit** and you can be clearly seen!
- **Make sure the device that's playing the guide video is placed just below the camera**, and that your **headphones or earbuds are connected to it**.

4. Recording:

- You can **sit or stand** while recording - whichever is easier for you.
(Make sure to set up your devices accordingly. See the tutorial video for examples.)
 - If you're sitting, don't sit in a chair that swivels and/or has wheels, as it might squeak!
- **Don't hold a printed score in your video. Use the scrolling score in the guide video while recording.**
- Please **warm up** before singing!
- **Follow Ruslan's instructions at the beginning of the guide video and clap along with him.**
This will make it easier for him to line up all of the recordings.
- For best results, **please keep your dynamics between mezzo-piano and mezzo-forte.** Ruslan will edit everything to match the marks in the score.
- **RAISE YOUR PALETTE AND SING WITH ROUND LIPS!!** (The river and tree are not in Bayonne!)
- At the end, the choir finishes before the accompaniment – so **DON'T MOVE until the piece is over!**
Keep watching Marina's conducting until the track ends.
- **Record multiple takes and choose your best TWO.**
- Most importantly, **SMILE and have fun!!**

5. Submitting:*

Please send your **TWO best takes** to Ruslan Odintsov (odintsov@hotmail.com) and Linnet Westerwick (lwesterwick@gmail.com) via [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com)

See the tutorial video if you're not sure how to do this.

- Please send your recordings by the **submission deadline**, which will be listed on the *River and Tree* page on Marina's website.
- Your videos can be any file type and size.
- Please **put your name and voice part in the Message section** of the WeTransfer form.
- You will receive confirmation emails from WeTransfer when your files are sent and when Ruslan and Linnet have downloaded them.

**By sending your recordings to us, you agree to have your image included in the River and Tree virtual choir video, which will be shared on Marina's website and via YouTube and other social media.*

Congratulations, and thank you for participating in this virtual choir project!