

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO RECORDING YOUR AT-HOME PERFORMANCE

First things first, this should be fun! You do NOT have to be perfect (there is no such thing anyway). You are going to make mistakes, I sure do, but that is fine. You can always start again if you like but please do not get bogged down in "perfection". I will do plenty of editing on my side and though it feels like you are singing alone, you are not. We're all in this together and together, all of our voice together make beautiful music to share with our community.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOICE!

RECORDING YOUR PERFORMANCE

STEP ONE – Learn the music

- Click on the vocal guide video selected for your vocal range.
- Each vocal guide video has the music, your vocal part, me conducting and the piano accompaniment for your specific part.
- You will be recording to the vocal guide so that you are in sync with everyone else.
- You can listen to the FULL SCORE video to hear how the whole song will sound once it is finished.
- You are welcome to record more than one part (ex. Alto and Tenor),

STEP TWO – Set Up

What you'll need:

- TWO DEVICES
 - Listening Device - One to listen and sing to the guide video on through your headphones.

- Recording Device - One to record your video on. Choose the newer device to record on as newer devices have better microphones.
- HEADPHONES - Any kind of headphone or earbuds. Wireless ones are nice as they are more discreet but it does not matter, whatever you can hear best on.

Tips:

- LIGHTING - Follow [this](#) link to learn about the best way to light yourself and minimize your background. If you can, find as simple a background as possible. Make sure a light is pointing towards your face so you pop out from your background. If you are lit from behind, your face will be in shadow.
- CAMERA ANGLES - Make sure your device's camera is at your head's height. You want to get your shoulders and head centered in the screen. You can use books or boxes to make your device at the correct height.
- MUSIC - It's best to try and memorize what you are singing but if that is not possible, set up the music right next to the camera so you never have to look down or away to look at the music. *And be careful to not set the music near the microphone as it will pick up the music rustling when you turn your page.*
- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE – Take time to do all the set up and then test it out. Once you figure out a setup that works, you've overcome the biggest hurdle to recording and you'll be set for all future recordings. So do TEST runs. Sing a little bit and go back and listen to and look at the video and adjust things as

necessary. It does not have to be perfect, but you don't want to record a great take and find out you were too close or too far from the microphone.

STEP THREE – Recording

- Set up your recording device as described above.
- Open your recording software
 - On phones or tablets, this will be your video app in your camera
 - On your MAC use QuickTime
 - On your PCs - Open the Start screen by tapping the Windows key and type "Camera" to search for it. Launch the Camera app and use it to record photos and take videos
- Use good breath technique – we will rehearse good breath technique and phrasing in our Thursday Zoom rehearsals.
- You will be singing along to the guide track of your choice. Set it up on your Listening Device. Put on your headphones or earbuds.
- Press record on you Recording Device **first** - I'll edit out the extra stuff in the beginning.
- Then Press play on your Listening Device that is playing the guide video.
- Count one bar saying "1,2,3,4" in time to me and Barb in the beginning.
- Let the video run long at the end so I have some editing leeway.
- Do several takes so you have several to choose from and so you don't feel under pressure. Just send me the best one.
Remember, it does not have to be perfect!
- **Upload your video to me through the link of the website.**