

MSVMA - Virtual Choir Instructions

Thanks for joining MSVMA's Virtual Choir! We're excited to have you on board and hear your lovely voice. **Before you record your video, read the following directions very carefully and watch Mr. Jacobson's instruction video.** If you have any questions or need help with your submission, please reach out to emma@overneath.com and she will help you out!

STEPS:

1. Read through this one-sheet, watch the instructional video and decide how to best capture your performance.
2. Prep for recording. Open up the corresponding conductor video. Check your video and audio settings.
3. Vocal warm-ups!
4. Record your video, following along with the sync instructions Marques has given.
5. When you've finished recording, fill out the Google form with the correct info and attach your video file at the bottom of the form.
6. Voila! You're all set. Thank you for your time and performance!

RECORDING

You will have received a link to a YouTube video with Mr. Jacobson's instructions -- watch that first! When you're warmed up and ready to film, **pull up the conductor video that corresponds to your voice part.** There are six videos in total for the high school performance: Soprano, Soprano #2, Alto, Tenor, Bass 2, and Baritone (Bass 1).

Include your name and voice part in the file name, and format it juuust like this:

HS-VocalPart-LastName-FirstName

WHAT DO I WEAR?!

High School: Wear YOUR school's formal performance outfit. It's a way to show off your choir and school pride throughout the video! Talk with your director about what to wear.

Middle School: Wear YOUR school's formal performance outfit. It's a way to show off your choir and school pride throughout the video! Talk with your director about what to wear.

Jazz: Wear a standard neutral colored formal outfit (blacks and greys) and then add a POP of color somewhere: A tie, a hearclip, a necklace, a scarf, a bow...etc.

AUDIO AND VIDEO SETTINGS

VIDEO FORMAT (please keep frames to 30fps or 24fps)

Good: 720p 30fps .mp4, .mov, .mpg, or .qt

Better: 1080p 30fps .mp4, .mov, .mpg, or .qt

Best: 4k 30fps .mp4, .mov, .mpg, or .qt (Beware file size!)

AUDIO FORMAT

Good: 320 kbps 44.1k sample rate mp3

Better: 16bit 48k sample rate .wav or .aif

Best: 24bit 96k sample rate .wav or .aif

EQUIPMENT

You will need a computer, tablet, or smartphone made within the last 5 years to record, along with a pair of in-ear headphones. If you have a newer phone, an external camera, or a nice microphone... even better. There is a list of equipment recommendations at the end of this document if you need to upgrade!

LOCATION

Find a private place without a lot of noise. Avoid noisy air conditioners, fans, heaters, laundry and those ever-annoying siblings...

CAMERA

Typically we stand when we sing, but either way be sure you aren't leaning, slouching, or that your eye-line is looking way up or down. We want to see you at eye level so put your device on a desk, shelf, dresser, or stand that has you looking straight ahead.

STOP!

This is a public service announcement. I know you like recording videos with your phone vertically... but don't... it's wrong... and we don't like it. Keep your phones in landscape and make the world a better place.

Position yourself for a "bust shot" which shows the middle of your chest up to the top of your head.

LIGHTING

Avoid backlighting, like windows. And avoid down lighting, like a scary movie. Make sure you are evenly lit from the front!

SOUND

If you don't have an external microphone you are stuck with what your device has.

If you have a dynamic mic, keep it here...a few inches from your mouth but below your face.

For a condenser mic, it can be between 1 and 3 feet away from you, just be sure it's pointing at you.

Shotgun mics are similar but be very sure they are pointed at your mouth. Don't forget we want to see you and not captain mic face.

DEVICES

If you are using a computer, you can record while watching your conductor movie at the same time. On phones and tablets, you probably can't watch your conductor video while you record so you will need another device to play your conductor video.

REMEMBER...your headphones need to be with the conductor video. Microphone and camera need to be with the device RECORDING you.

Check the camera settings on your device to match the info.

If you have control of your mic levels on your system, sing your loudest fortissimo and adjust the levels so it isn't turning red. Then sing your softest pianissimo and be sure we can still hear you. Do a test video to be sure it sounds and looks ok. And test the conductor video so it's only playing in your headphones.

Start your recording first. Then begin your conductor video and follow all your conductors instructions (especially the clap sync!). Feel free to record a few times and pick your favorite take. But remember...you can only submit one.

Ideas for Camera Upgrades:

Logitech StreamCam

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0855K66TJ?tag=georiot-us-default-20&th=1&psc=1&ascsubtag=trd-us-1606648628266124800-20>

Razer Kiyo

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B075N1BYWB?tag=georiot-us-default-20&th=1&psc=1&ascsubtag=trd-us-8882719901932279000-20>

Logitech Brio

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06X92Z67Z?tag=georiot-us-default-20&th=1&psc=1&ascsubtag=trd-us-9063572772258036000-20>

Ideas for Audio Upgrades:

Amazon Basics Condenser Microphone

https://www.amazon.com/AmazonBasics-LJ-SPM-001-Condenser-Smartphone-Microphone/dp/B077Z992XS/ref=sr_1_28?crid=2XBW5IJVG2SL2&dchild=1&keywords=cell+phone+microphone&qid=1601647195&s=electronics&sprefix=cell+phone+mic%2Celectronics%2C164&sr=1-28

Audio Technica AT2020 USB

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/AT2020USBP--audio-technica-at2020usb-cardioid-condenser-usb-microphone>

Blue Yeti USB

https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Yeti-USB-Microphone-Blackout/dp/B00N1YPXW2/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=Blue+USB&qid=1601647469&s=electronics&sr=1-3

Presonus AudioBox (Interface Only - Needs an external microphone)

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/AudioBoxUSB96--presonus-audiobox-usb-96>