

VIRTUAL CHOIR

How to Participate

Hello, Jon Novak here and as long as Covid is with us, I will be working on Virtual Choir pieces for the congregation. If you don't know what a Virtual Choir piece is, it is an audio and video recording that can be shown during the Live Streaming that LOL has been doing since March. For the first video, I will be recording the Psalmody from the Holden Evening Prayer service. The Psalmody is easy to sing and most everybody is familiar with it. As it is meant for two part congregational singing, I am inviting every body from the congregation to participate.

Contact me if you have any questions:

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GETTING STARTED

Equipment Needed to Participate in Virtual Choir

- Headphones or earbuds
- Listening Device (any device type will work)
- Recording Device (must be separate from listening device, needs to be able to create a video recording ie. camera): can include smartphones, iPad, laptop, desktop, etc

Please test out your equipment and make sure that you are familiar with the way that you will use it to both listen and record at the same time. You can even make short sample recordings to practice placement.

- It is preferable that you are standing to make your recording
- Give yourself enough room to 'breathe' but also think about setting up in a way that makes it easy for you to read the music
- Don't worry about how you will reach equipment to start and stop the recording, that is what the lead and exit time are built in for. We can edit out your movements before and afterward if you give enough time on either end.

- You need to be able to listen to the learning track at the same time that you are recording your submission. You **MUST** listen to the listening track with headphones on while you are making your recording submission

Step One: Print or Pick Up Music

An email will be sent with the music to be used for each virtual choir recording. In that email will also be a date that recordings will be due in order to be used. Please take note of that date and print the PDF of the music.

Step Two: Listen to the Learning/Timing Track

In that email, a learning/timing track will also be available. Please listen to that track, use it to learn your part and get comfortable with the speed of the recording. There may be other instructions in that recording regarding lead time and exit time, please take note for later when you are ready to record.

Step Three: Check Your Recording Space

This is a very important step and **MUST** not be skipped. Think about what you would like to wear, in your recording. Choose a place that is generally quiet and has a limited amount of humming noise from air conditioners, fans and other equipment. Please take a look at the space that you would like to record in. Check for anything in your background that you would not want to appear in your video. Unfortunately, if there is something inappropriate in your background or there are loud noises in your recording, we may not be able to use it.

Step Four: Setup Your Equipment

If you have not already done so, setup your equipment in a way that is the easiest for you to use. Some things to keep in mind: Video can be either portrait or landscape and can be either head to full body shot.

Step Five: Start Recording

- Start your recording device before you start your listening track.
- Once you have hit 'record,' start the listening track with your headphones plugged in and on.
- The listening track will have a two measure count in followed by your entrance marking starting by "Congregation followed by "Part 1" or "Part 2."

- There will also be song leaders to sing along with.
- When you are at the end of the music, please wait at least two measures before reaching to hit 'stop' on your recording device.
- Go ahead, do it! It may take more than one recording to get it right or to come up with a recording that you are happy with. You can submit part one or part two or both if you want to. The plan is to have a balance between men and women for the two parts. Please do not beat yourself up about perfection, there is a lot that editing can do to make you sound as though you are together in a choir and not alone. Virtual choir recordings from individuals are often dry and isolate your voice a lot more than you are used to. When it is compiled, you will not notice this problem. There will also be reverberations added in the editing process to make it sound more like you are in the sanctuary. So, please do not feel disheartened if your recording does not sound as 'live' as you might want it to.

Step Six:

Many devices will automatically save your recording (i.e. iPad, smartphone, etc.). Some devices will require you to physically save them in order to be able to submit them (i.e. laptops, desktops, some audio recording devices). It is easiest if the device that you record from has the ability to connect to the internet. You will be able to submit the recording directly from your device.

Step Seven: Submit Your Recording

I will be utilizing e-mail or Drop Box for submissions (until I can set up a We Transfer account). Each video should only be 5 to 6 MB's which is small enough to e-mail back to me at jonnovak@icloud.com. or if your prefer, you can Drop Box it to me. If your file is over 15 MB, then call me [at (402) 572-0105] and we'll figure another way to get it to me.

Step Eight: Wait

Once you've submitted your recording, sit back and relax and wait for the magic to happen. The virtual choir recording will be completed shortly after the deadline.