

WHATCOM SINGS VIRTUAL CHOIR PROJECT

“Bright Morning Stars”

Submission deadline: Friday, May 8

Instructions

This is a transcript of the instructions video found on our webpage:
<https://www.choirofthesalishsea.com/virtual-choir-information>

You may need: 1) a computer, 2) headphones or earbuds, and 3) a smartphone.

1) Something *to watch* the **click-track recording video** on, as you record yourself.
This will probably be your computer, but it could be a tablet or a smartphone.

2) Headphones or earbuds, through which you *hear* the **click-track recording video**

3) Something *to film* yourself singing your own **performance video**.
This will probably be your smartphone, but it could be a computer, using an app like Quick Time player or Photo Booth. If you have one, an external microphone may record better than the built-in mic in your computer, but built-in mics work fine.

Basically, you need to accomplish two things at once, using two separate devices:

- 1) on one device play the **click-track recording video** that you sing along with
- 2) on another device film yourself singing, to make your own **performance video**

You can do both these things with two smartphones if that's easier, and not use a computer at all.

There are separate **click-track recording videos** for each voice part: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Please make sure that you're using the right video.

In order to master your part, get a copy of the music and rehearse with the **click-track recording video**. You will film yourself singing WHILE watching the **click-track recording video**, and while wearing headphones. It is important to rehearse singing with headphones on, so that when you go to record yourself, you are used to singing that way. The reason we sing and record wearing headphones, is so that the **click-track recording video** is not heard in the background. We only want to hear your voice.

There is some parts divisi in the song. Choose the part on which you sound the most beautiful with no vocal strain. In the **click-track recording videos**, the lower parts (B2, T2, A2, S2) are in the left channel, and the upper parts (B1, T1, A1, S1) are in the right channel. While you are learning it, you can just listen to one side of your headphones to get your part.

You may wear what you like, but we need a clear view of your face. Focus your camera so that only your head and upper torso appear in the frame. It works best to stand in front of a relatively neutral wall, with light shining on your face. Don't stand with a window or other light source behind you, which turns you into a silhouette. Your music may either be visible or out of sight, have your music where you have face down or to the side in order to see it.

We are creating the illusion that we are all singing live together, so it is important for you to think about how you look while you are filming yourself. Practice a few times so that you get the look that you want. Sing with feeling, making your face look interesting, expressive and compelling; and use such good

diction that we can read your lips. You are a beautiful person already – let your true colors shine through – don't be afraid to be expressive.

Follow the dynamic markings in the score (the electronically generated parts do not change dynamics, but you should!) and make your entrances and releases exactly as conducted.

The first and last verses will be solos – we plan to hire well-known, Whatcom County professional singers for these solos. There will be quite a bit of the song actually, when you are NOT singing – just look poised and neutral throughout those bits. At the end of the song, stand still for at least five extra seconds so that the editors have a chance to fade things out.

When you are ready to record, make sure that you are in a quiet spot with no background noise (HVAC, fans, children, pets) or visual distractions going on in the room with you. Make sure your microphone and camera are on, and that you're recording at the right level with no distortion.

When you start the **click-track recording video**, you'll hear two measures of four beats. Listen to the first measure and don't do anything, but in the second measure clap on the first three beats: one, two three (don't clap on beat 4). Then the accompaniment starts. We use the claps to synchronize all of the participant recordings in the editing process.

The performance video that you send to us must be recorded in one take, you cannot stop and start again in the middle of it. If you mess up, please just start over from the beginning.

Save your video recording as an mp4 file and upload it as instructed on our website, by the deadline of Friday, May 8 – but PLEASE DO US A FAVOR AND SUBMIT YOUR VIDEOS SOONER IF POSSIBLE, so that we don't have such a last-minute crunch to edit them.

Because this project is in support of the Interfaith Coalition, after you have submitted your video, please send Interfaith a suggested donation of \$20 or more, through their website:

<https://www.interfaith-coalition.org/>

If you have any questions, the following are willing to help – contact any one of them!

Sam Bottman	sambottman@gmail.com	(206) 708-3776
Derek Langhorn	drklanghorn@gmail.com	(360) 319-9195
Willey Ohana	WilleysEmail@yahoo.com	(360) 296-8929
Jacob Weber	jacoblweber@yahoo.com	(503) 970-1731

I look forward to hearing your voices all combined together, sharing this musical message of hope, faith and caring with Whatcom County and the world. Please spread the word about this project and encourage other singers to join us. The more of us there are, the better.

Sincerely,

Kevin Allen-Schmid, Director
Whatcom Sings Virtual Choir Project
Interfaith Music Festival
Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship Choir
Choir of the Salish Sea