

# MORRIS AREA HONOR CHOIR

## Virtual Choir Recording Instructions

*Your goal is to video record three separate performances of you singing your part accurately and with energy and expression in a quiet, well lit room where the only audio captured is the sound of your voice. These instructions may seem overly nuanced at first glance, but it is important for you to follow them closely so that your video can be uniform with the other singers, resulting in a high quality production. Thank you for your attention to detail!*

## Audio Setup and Considerations

- It is critical that the room in which you're recording is **SILENT**. Make sure there is no background noise in your recording space including obvious sounds like dogs barking or talking, but also subtle sounds like humming or buzzing from appliances, running water, fans, traffic, heat/air conditioning, etc.
- If available, record in a room with soft surfaces (like curtains, or in a walk-in closet), and minimal natural reverb to help lessen any "room noise".
- You'll need a separate playback device (laptop, iPad, etc) that you'll use to play your voice part's *Sing Along Video*, connected to headphones. That device will be placed immediately adjacent to your recording device (likely a phone, which will be capturing your performance).
- Connect headphones to the Sing Along Video playback device so you can hear the Sing Along Video while you perform.
  - ▶ Wireless bluetooth earbuds are ideal for this, or wired in-ear headphones with a long cable, if possible. No bulky over-ear headphones.
  - ▶ Be sure the volume of the Sing Along Video is not so loud that it is picked up by your recording device.
  - ▶ You may want to sing with one earbud/headphone in and one out, so you can still hear yourself.

## Video Setup and Considerations

- Sing against a blank wall with no visible artwork or textures on it, preferably painted a light/bland color.
- Check the lighting of the room. Static and natural, but not-direct light is ideal. Use lamps if needed. Avoid drastic shadows on your face or behind you if possible.
- Make sure your smartphone is charged and has plenty of free memory (probably at least one gigabyte).
- **PLEASE EXECUTE THIS STEP TO THE LETTER:** Orient your phone's video app in front camera mode (selfie-style) **HORIZONTALLY** (landscape).
- **IMPORTANT:** *Please capture yourself from the top of your belly button to three inches of visible room above your head.*
  - ▶ If unsure, err on having the shot be too wide or far-back, as I can always zoom in or crop the shot, but cannot add to it.
  - ▶ Sit up tall on a backless chair/stool or stand. Don't move or pace side to side while singing.
  - ▶ Like this 
- The camera/phone should be *still* on a stand, pinched between two books, or leaning against an object so it does not move at all for the duration of your performance.
- The camera/phone should be set up as close to the "Sing Along Video" playback device as possible so your focus is generally directed at the video camera.



