

Face Academy of Music Kids Virtual Choir Project

BIG TIME

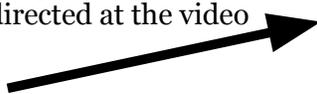
Recording Instructions

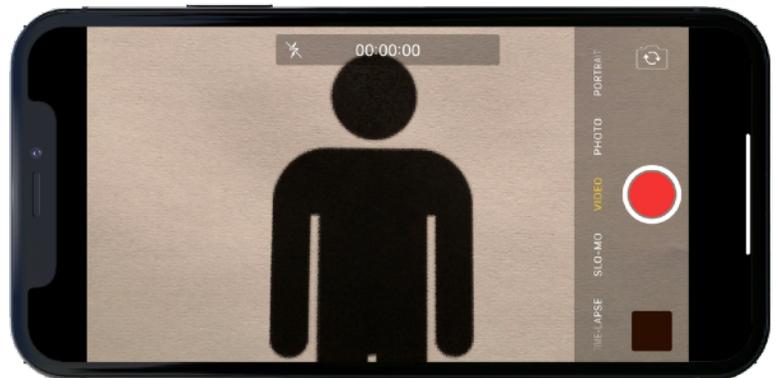
Your goal is to record a performance of you singing your part accurately with energy and expression in a quiet, well lit room where the only audio captured is the sound of your voice. These instructions may seem overly nuanced at first glance, but it is important for you to follow them closely so that 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, 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 device (laptop, iPad, another phone, etc) through which you'll play the *sing-along video* that corresponds with your voice part. That device (laptop or iPad) will be placed right next to your recording device (likely a phone, which will be capturing your performance).
- Connect headphones to the sing-along video playback device so only you can hear the sing-along video while you perform.
 - ▶ Wireless bluetooth earbuds are ideal for this, or wired headphones with a long cable, if possible.
 - ▶ Make sure the volume of the sing-along video is not so loud that it is picked up by your phone.
 - ▶ You may want to experiment with singing with one headphone in and one out, so you can still hear yourself sing.

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).
- Setup your phone's video app selfie-style **HORIZONTALLY** (landscape mode). **IMPORTANT:** please capture yourself from the belly button and above, in a way that leaves visible room above your head.
 - ▶ 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 or stand while singing.
- The camera should be *still* on a stand or leaning against an object so it does not move at all for the duration of the shoot.
- The camera should be set up as close to the "Sing Along Video" as possible so your vision is generally directed at the video camera.
- Something like this 

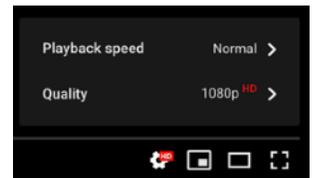


Let's do this!

1. Watch this instructional video: <https://youtu.be/lwjktYnKcdA>
2. Before recording, be sure you are 100% confident on your part (you should practice often with your sing-along video so that everything in the performance is anticipated and predictable).
3. Practicing singing it all the way through in your recording setup at least once before you film your first attempt. When you're ready...
4. Before you start filming, make sure you are wearing a nice **solid black shirt/top** with no logos or printed textures.
5. Turn your video recording device (phone) on "Airplane Mode" so you don't receive any unwanted texts or calls that would interrupt filming.
6. On your video recording device, press "record" right before you start the sing-along video that corresponds with your assigned voice part.
7. On the device that will play the "Sing-Along" video that corresponds with your voice part (and is attached/connected to your headphones), press *play*.

▶ All sing along videos for the Melody and Harmony parts can be found at the **FAM Kids Virtual Choir Website**, or at this YouTube playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-athHs4uC_JWxNV1nK4kW6w6J9NuYB28

▶ Note: If your video looks "blurry", click the gear icon in the bottom right corner of the video window, and make sure the playback is set to 1080p quality.



8. Sing and *perform* the song to the best of your ability! Be vocally and visually expressive!
9. When the song is complete, let the camera record you for three extra seconds while looking generally happy/pleasant. Then stop the recording.
10. While you can redo your recording as many times as it takes until you are satisfied, you will ultimately need to capture your entire performance in one 'take'. Feel free to record a few times (with breaks as needed) to get the cleanest, most accurate, and most expressive recording you can muster, and then submit your very best work. Stay positive! No pressure and no stress!
11. When you're done recording upload the newly recorded video file to the following folder (you can click the link *from your recording device* to easily upload straight from your phone. If you already have a Dropbox account, you should log-out of it before clicking this link):

▶ <https://www.dropbox.com/request/MFo6vTw9HWYXWHXzolJy>

12. Before uploading it will ask for your name and your email address. **THIS STEP IS CRITICAL:**
 - ▶ Instead of writing your name, in that text field please type in **MELODY** or **HARMONY** followed by your **LAST NAME** in the following format:
 - ➔ **Melody Ross**
 - ➔ **Harmony Ross**
 - ▶ Where it says "Your Email Address" you can type your parent's email address. It is highly unlikely that I will contact you directly unless there is a problem with your video.
 - ▶ Once the file uploads, click "Upload", and you're all done!

That's it! So easy! Have fun!