

Dear MTVA Students,

Congratulations on deciding to audition for the MTVA Virtual Honor Choirs. Now, all students who were selected for the Mid-State or Freshman Honor Choir need to submit a video recording that will be a part of this year's virtual Mid-State event. Each student will video record yourself singing your part to one of the audition pieces, and our clinician will digitally combine those individual recordings into a virtual choir. You'll hear all the voices together and each individual will be represented on the screen!

Recordings need to be submitted via Submittable. For high school students, this is the same platform you used to submit your auditions. Parents and Directors, we would LOVE to have your help supervising this task and make sure your students are well-represented in the virtual choir. Here is some information for you:

WHAT YOU NEED TO RECORD SUCCESSFULLY

- **Recording device** like a smart phone, computer with webcam and mic, or a tablet. The higher quality device should be used to record your video. If your grown-up has a better device, ask them kindly if you might borrow it to make your recording.
- **Playback device** to listen to the guide track and look at your music if needed. If your music is printed, it only needs to be able to play the guide track. You can also use a device that plays video to view a YouTube video that will have the music and guide track simultaneously.
- **Earphones or earbuds** to connect to your playback device. Any will work. You might want to have only one in/on your ear so you can hear yourself sing with the other.

WHAT TO WEAR

- Wear a solid color shirt with no letters or pictures. Short or long sleeved is OK.
- Avoid black, brown or grey if possible. Be bright!
- Make sure your hair is out of your face so we can see you!

NOTES ON RECORDING

- **Practice, practice, practice!** Sing through the piece with the guide track without making any mistakes at least twice before you record.
- **Be as correct as you can!** Be careful where your consonants go especially at the ends of phrases.
- **Your mic is your very close friend**, which makes this different from singing in an auditorium. Record from about 2 feet away. When you listen back to your video if the audio is crackly, record again further away.
 - **Don't spit at your friend!** Lots of rhythm, not so much air behind the consonants. Keep unvoiced consonants (p, t, s, k, f) soft and short.
 - **Don't jostle your friend!** Any bump deserves an "excuse me" and you'll have to start over.

- **Your friend pays very close attention to you...** If you heard it, so did your mic. Re-record if needed!
- **They hear what they see**
 - **Prop your recording device somewhere so it is still.** We can't use recordings that are moving all over the place! Enlist help from a parent, friend or mature sibling!
 - Record in **PORTRAIT** mode *not* landscape. Make it feel like you're recording a selfie!



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- **Make sure you're centered and taking up most of the picture, like a headshot.** Don't film from above or below, and make sure to look right into the camera when you can.
- **Make sure there is a blank wall behind you** and good lighting around you so we can see you. **Avoid ceiling fans!**
- **Be looking at the camera the whole time.** Wandering eyes look kinda funny:)
- **Look pleasant in your recording!** Be happy and have a smile in your eyes!

TO MAKE THE RECORDING

1. Make sure your **headphones/earbuds** are connected to your **PLAYBACK DEVICE**.
2. **Check** that you can hear the track in your headphones
3. **Press "RECORD"** on your recording device (the better device) **FIRST**
4. **Press "PLAY"** on your playback device **SECOND**

OPTION 1: Use and Audio-only Guide Track. Visit www.MTVA.org and click Virtual Honor Choir Guide Recordings and Scores. In this folder, you will find a file that has the name of your choir and your piece on it. The .mp3 file in this folder is what you should LISTEN to with your headphones or earbuds. When you make your recording, you should NOT be able to hear what is in this folder on your final recording. Also in that folder are a couple of resources about how to record videos and a reminder form!

OPTION 2: Use a Video Guide Track. Visit www.MTVA.org and click Virtual Honor Choir Guide Recordings and Scores. This link contains a video with scrolling music and a conductor for your piece. You should watch the video with your playback device and earbuds, then record yourself

simultaneously with your recording device. Be sure to keep them right next to one another so your eyes can be in the right spot.

SUBMIT YOUR RECORDING:

If you made your video recording on a mobile device, you'll want to email that recording to yourself. Then, on a normal computer (not a tablet or phone), save that video recording to the desktop of your computer so you can upload it.

From your computer, visit www.MTVA.org and click on the "Virtual Honor Choir Video Submission" link. Log in using the same Submittable username/password you used to submit your audition recording in October.

From there, choose which Honor Choir you were selected for:

- Freshmen Honor Choir (grade 9)
- Mid-State Honor Choir – Sopranos and Altos (grades 10-12)
- Mid-State Honor Choir – Tenors and Basses (grades 10-12)

Follow the on-screen instructions to submit your video recording.

The recording submission window opens on **November 19th** and closes on **December 11**. **No late submissions will be accepted!** If you don't get your recording in on time, you will not be represented in the virtual choir. And, if you fail to submit a recording in time you forfeit your placement in All-State.

If you have any questions, please contact your choir director. Again – congratulations on being accepted to an MTVA Virtual Honor Choir, and we look forward to hearing you soon!