

# Virtual Choir Best Practice Tips for Recording *from* Lance Gitter

## Equipment:

- **Two devices are necessary.** You will need to record yourself with one device while listening to a guide track with another. For example, you could listen to the guide track on a computer through headphones, and then record video of your own performance with your phone.
- **Guide tracks and Conducting Videos.** We use guide tracks so that all choir members are singing using the same timing and emphasis. The guide track might be an audio recording or a **conducting video**.
- Please **use earphones or headphones** to listen to the guide track and sing along with it and so the audio from the guide track won't be heard in your recording.
- **Do not record via Zoom** because there is a lag in audio/video coordination. Use the Camera/Video feature.

## Room Set Up:

- **Lighting is important.** When recording, please get close to a window during the day and face it so your face is well-lit by the sunlight coming in through the window. Or, use a lamp or overhead lighting.
- **Minimize visual distractions.** When recording, try to minimize visual distractions (especially moving distractions like people, pets, etc.) in the visual background behind you.
- **Minimize audio distractions.** When recording, try to also minimize audio distractions in the background such as fans, refrigerators, dishwasher, TV audio etc.

## Recording Best Practices:

- **Landscape orientation.** Please record in landscape orientation (horizontally instead of vertically).
- **Steady your camera/phone/recording device.** We suggest mounting your video camera on a tripod, or a music stand, or something to keep it stable so it's not moving as it records. Please **avoid hand-holding the video camera** during the performance (too much movement).
- **Square yourself** for best results. Please arrange the video frame so your **head and shoulders are in the frame**, looking straight ahead (not down).
- **Limit your movement.** For best results, and easier video editing, try not to move too much during the performance (dancing or swaying). **We need you to stay in the frame.**
- **Keep it simple.** Please don't use a virtual background behind you. Please try to wear a solid color.

## Press Record!

- **Start the recording first, then start the guide track.** Make sure you clap along with the claps in the guide track. In some guide tracks the Cantor will tell you when to begin recording, and when to clap.
- **Wait!** After the piece ends, please wait for a few extra beats before turning off your camera. Please stay on and record even if you aren't singing. It's fine to have extra time at the beginning and end of your recording.
- **Put your name on it!** Before sending in the video file of your performance, please rename it with your name and the name of the piece, like this: "B-Lance Gitter-Shalom Rav".
- **Time to send!** When you are done and you have a recording of your performance that you like, please upload your video file and submit it as directed **via WeTransfer** (free application).