

Thiel College Virtual Choir Recording Guidelines

Welcome! This document will guide you through the video recording process. If you find yourself overwhelmed or having trouble with any of the steps below, please do not hesitate to contact me (Nicholas Samson) at nsamson@thiel.edu.

You will need:

- A recording device (This could be your phone)
- A separate device to play the guide track (This could be a computer, a different phone, an mp3 player, etc.)
- Headphones or Earbuds
- Sheet Music (see attached)
- A quiet space (preferably with a carpeted floor)

1. Practice your part. Take some time to familiarize yourself with your part, as well as the timing of the track. Sing along with the guide track a few times. When you feel confident that you know your part and the timing of the track, move on to the next step.

2. Use the correct video settings.

- a. iPhone: If you are using the “Camera” app, first go to Settings > Camera > Record Video and make sure that “1080p HD at 30 fps” is selected. If you do not have that as an option, click the highest setting that you do have available.
- b. Android: Ensure your video recording standard is set to the highest resolution available (e.g., 1920x1080 at 30 fps). Each Android device is unique, so ask if you need help.

3. Be ready to record in landscape mode.



4. Find a quiet space to record. Ideally, this space will be carpeted and/or filled with upholstered furniture. These attributes will absorb unwanted reverberation in the recording. The “drier” the room is acoustically, the better suited it is for our purposes. The room should also be as quiet as possible (away from appliances, HVAC noise, lawn mowers, barking dogs, etc.).

5. Position and set up your device using a makeshift phone stand. You may use the “selfie-camera lens” on the screen-side of your phone so you can see yourself and position your device easier. You may sit or stand. Try to position the phone at about eye level. Make sure that the background of your shot is not cluttered.

6. Position yourself in the center of the shot. Make sure you are filling up the frame. Also, make sure that your lighting is good and that we can see you clearly without any strange shadows. Wear something presentable. Feel free to smile and make good eye contact with the camera as much as possible throughout your recording.



7. Wear headphones or earbuds to listen to the guide track. This is very important; I need to have an isolated recording of your face and voice only. You may choose to uncover one of your ears if you are having a difficult time hearing yourself sing.

8. Do a volume check.

- a. Record yourself singing a few notes and listen to the recording.
- b. If you hear a “clipping” sound, you need to sing slightly softer. You might also be too close to the microphone. Try to be about an arm’s length away from your device.

9. Press record.

10. Start the guide track *for your part* and follow the instructions you hear.

- a. Make sure you have your sheet music visible to you, but preferably not in the view of the camera.
- b. When prompted at the beginning of the guide track, **clap four times with your hands in the frame of the camera.** This will aid in synchronizing the recordings.

11. Stop the recording. After releasing the last note, smile, wait about 5 seconds, *then* reach to stop the recording. This will give me an opportunity to fade to black.

12. Send the recording (or your best take, if you did multiple takes) to nsamson@thiel.edu no later than Friday, October 2nd, 2020.

- a. Do not try to email your video to me as an attachment. The file is too big.
- b. Using the phone you recorded on, go to WeTransfer.com and follow the prompts.
 - i. Where it says “Message,” please type your FULL NAME and your VOICE PART.
 - ii. Use the “Send an email” option.
 - iii. Type my email - nsamson@thiel.edu - in the “email to” field.

13. That’s it! You have successfully submitted your video. Thank you for participating in the Thiel College Virtual Choir Alma Mater Performance.

Thiel College Alma Mater

In 2

♩ = 65

Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter, on thy hill en-thro-ned. Firm as a moun-tain, may'st thou stand en-dur-ing.
 Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter, may thy torch for-ev-er. Shed light re-splen-dent for thy God and coun-try.
 Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter, we thy chil-dren pledge thee. Here our de-vo-tion, loy-al, true, and ten-der.

Fair as the val-ley of thine own She-nan-go. Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter.
 Send the flame on-ward to all gen-er-a-tions. Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter.
 Thee will we cher-ish, praise thy name for-ev-er. Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter.

rit. on verse 3

..... = no breath

✓ = breathe

-1 = release note on beat 1