
Recording Virus!

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Sun, Mar 7, 2021 at 11:30 AM

Hi everybody,

As we said at the end of the last rehearsal, it's time to record "Virus" for the Cambridge Science Festival!

This is, of course, optional, but if you choose to participate, here is the procedure we'd like you to use.

1. AUDIO

- Situate yourself in a quiet place with as little reverberation as possible. Rooms with lots of plush furniture, rugs and drapes are good, kitchens and bathrooms are bad.
- Put on a set of headphones or earbuds, play the demo or piano accompaniment track, and sing at your computer or your phone, or into a microphone connected thereto, recording your audio.
- On a Mac, you can use QuickTime, or Voice Memo, or GarageBand to record audio.
- On a PC, there's apparently also a Voice Recorder app.
- It's also easy to record sound on your phone, either through your camera app, or Voice Memo...just google your individual phone model to find other options
- You should end up with an MP3 or WAV file, or maybe even an AIF or M4a file, but any audio format should be okay.

Demo Track is here (note that we have fixed "utmost" to be short and accented):

http://www.familyopera.org/drupal/sites/default/files/2020_Vision/2020V-Demo/21VI-Virus-demo-v2.mp3

Piano Accompaniment is here:

http://www.familyopera.org/drupal/sites/default/files/2020_Vision/2020V-Accompaniment/Virus_Piano.mp3

Don't worry about the sound being perfect. Other than the words, David can fix many things (though he will make sure the final result sounds natural).

Then, after you've recorded your audio, if you like, you can record some

2. VIDEO [also optional]

- After you've made the audio recording, take off your phones/buds and make a video recording of yourself singing the song. Again, sing along to one of the pre-recorded tracks.
- We're likely to show some people during the instrumental passages between verses, so be sure to be animated then so Emilija will choose you to be highlighted.
- In particular, starting at the CODA (measure 73), it would be great to get a lot of video of people "spreading COVID": maybe 3 big coughs in rhythm, without a mask, of course, followed by (fake!) spitting or sliming or some other COVID-spreading action (maybe big loud singing 🤪) and then repeat a bunch of times. You could even wear a mask over your mouth but not your nose and have a sneezing fit. Use your imagination!
- This might actually be easiest to do on a phone, many of which come with built-in video cameras.
- In theory, you will end up with an MP4 file, but any video format should be okay, EXCEPT: IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE FORMAT YOUR VIDEO IN LANDSCAPE ORIENTATION (WIDE, NOT TALL), and in the CODA, it would be good to have a fairly closeup view.

If you DON'T want to do this in two steps, feel free just to make a video, with you singing, or just to do audio, or whatever you like. This should be fun for folks, not onerous!

3. UPLOAD FILES

We've created a Dropbox folder where you can all upload whatever files you create. Follow this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/dfxA4VdGqphnxxP0aGri>

and you will be instructed to upload your file or files. You do NOT have to have a Dropbox account to do this.

Once everything is uploaded, we'll create an audio edit (David) and a slideshow/video edit (Carla, Emilija, et al.). We'll share the final product once it's done!

Speaking of the slideshow, it would be great to get some

4. ARTWORK

We need artwork (historically, this has mostly been done by kids, but we've also gotten some great art from adults) inspired by the lyrics of Virus Covid Edition for the slideshow (spike protein, anybody?). Landscape orientation preferred, but not absolutely necessary. The best images have very bright vibrant colors (usually markers work well) as opposed to something lighter (colored pencils are usually not as good). If you can, scan your images to a JPG file (or other format) and upload them to the Dropbox link above. We can also scan your images for you, if you want to drop them off at, or mail them to, [23 Norris St, Cambridge MA 02140](#)

5. DEADLINE: MONDAY MARCH 15, 11:59PM

We want to have this first recording done for the beginning of the Science Festival, which is April 1. A March 15 deadline gives you a chance to try this out, ask us questions, discuss issues at the March 11 rehearsal, etc., while still giving us a full two weeks to get all of the editing done.

If you have a problem with this deadline, let us know.

Have fun, let us know if you have any questions, and see you on Thursday! --Sue and David