NCCO Webinars

Part 4

Series 1, Webinar 5 - 6 April 2020: Recitals, Auditions, and Juries, Oh My!

Retrieved on 11/23/2026 11:22:23 from https://ncco-usa.org/publications/ncco-webinars/issues/25/download

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Miguel: Greg, choral directors cannot synchronize lots of people to replicate a choral rehearsal. How is this multi-tracking virtual choir world happening?

Greg: It requires a lot of editing work. The tools for doing that on Mac is FinalcutPro, and LogicPro, both professional level packages. When the students are recording it's important that they have a track that they're listening to while making their recording, so that everyone is at the same tempo in the same key. Also, adding something like a clap to synchronize audio and video will help synchronize the files. If you're not on a Mac, Adobe Premiere (video) and Adobe Audition (audio).

Miguel: Maya, how can we make the most of this unexpected challenge?

Maya: Look for the light at the end of the tunnel. Focus on the daily journey. Most of us are optimistic that we will be back in the fall. We don't know when it will end, so we have to remain flexible, but we need to stay on track. I'm encouraging my students to stay engaged, focused, and moving forward. We must do this with our colleagues as well.

Miguel: Lisa, talk to us about community.

Lisa: One of my great joys is that my chorale is a family. My student leaders are building their own groups to do game nights. I'm organizing virtual coffee meetings with alums of the program, and we're going to try an alumni virtual choir. We are fortunate that this semester we had time with our students, so there is a sense of organic sharing. We have a virtual rehearsal each Tuesday that serves as a check-in. At the end of each meeting I take a picture of the screen, and at the end of the semester I will give each Senior a book of those pictures.

**Miguel: Any other comments? **

Maya: Be aware of what resources are still available to our students on campus. Is the counseling center still open and are they doing virtual appointments? Our students often rely upon us for more than our academic discipline. I am a voice teacher and, while I want to be there to support my students, I want to be a voice teacher. I need to know what the resources are when they need them. My colleagues and I have been checking in on each other daily. Sometimes just a text, sometimes long conversations, or group video hangouts.

Miguel: I want to invite each panelist to make final comments on how we move forward.

Lisa: We don't have all the answers for our students but we need to be able to say, "I don't have the answer, but give me an hour!"

Stephanie: Keep your space as a positive place for students to keep music as a part of their lives. Stay flexible and adaptable to help them continue growing as artists and people.

Maya: Continue to challenge them. They won't get anything positive from this experience if we just take a "that's good enough" approach. We just have to do it with a greater understanding of who they are as humans, and of their individual situations.

Greg: Recognize that many of our students are more adept with technology than we are. This is a time when we can let them demonstrate that.