

## **“Hope Lingers On” recording project**

It's hard to sing well, follow the music, and look relaxed all at the same time, so for “Hope Lingers On” I’ve now decided that you can just do an audio and focus on your singing. Professionals always separate audio and video anyway! But if you want to, you can record a video later, where you face the camera beautifully (either singing or mouthing the words), or for this piece, moving to the music, even adding dance or body percussion, especially if you have someone else to video you. If you choose to do a video as well for this piece, you could also just start from the verse on the bottom of page 6 that starts “My love, when honor is gone...,” and do it from there to the end, or even a smaller clip. Please rename your files with the name of the song and your name, if you can.

### **Setting up to record audio**

You can sit or stand, whichever you prefer. A smart phone has a better camera and mic than most computers, so you’ll want to record from that. If you need to look at the music, turning pages can make a surprisingly loud noise on a recording. So, sometimes I try to tape them all together and spread it out on the back of a coach, counter, or my piano. However, this piece is fairly long, so you might try putting the music in sheet protectors and in a notebook, and turning pages that way might not be as loud.

Connect your headphones or earphones to the device (probably your computer or I-pad) that you’re using to play the practice audio I made for your part (or video, if you are using my conducting video for “Hope Lingers On.”) If you want to take one earplug out so you can hear your own voice better, that’s fine -maybe put it behind you or somewhat away from your phone, so the sample doesn’t come through much on your recording (or at least, it should be very faint compared to your voice.)

### **The recording process**

**First**, start recording on your phone. I-Phones have a built-in app called “Voice Memo” and androids usually have something called “Voice

Recorder,” although some people have to download that app. Usually there is a red button to press for “record.” It’s fine to have extra time at the beginning. **Second**, with your headphones or earphones on, press play on the track you are listening on from the computer. **Clap** on the indicated beat to sync the recording. **Sing** your part. Avoid audibly tapping the beat while you sing. Wait a few extra beats after the piece ends, then **stop** your recording- it helps me to have some extra time at the end. Then **stop** your computer audio sample.

You can play it back to see if your volume is good, and there isn’t too much background noise. If you like it, press done. Or you could record over it, or save it and try another take, and send me what you like best, or even two recordings if you like. Usually there is a place right in the recording app to email or share to me directly, or download or save “to files” to your computer (I like saving to my desktop), then email it to me at:

[hartsongsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:hartsongsmusic@gmail.com).

## **Video Recording**

If possible, turn your phone horizontal to record, using the video button in the place that you take photos (it’s possible to send your audio this way, too, and just tell me not to pay attention to the video if this is how you are recording your audio). I usually crop videos, and a horizontal orientation gives me freedom in how to crop it. Set your device so that your head and shoulders are in the frame, and the camera lens is roughly at the level of your eyes or nose. Secure it so that you don’t have to hold it (i.e. on a music stand or shelf, taped to a wall, etc.) If you can, find the camera on your device so that you can look at it while singing. The audience is looking at you through that camera, so look at them.

Face a window and record during the day if possible, so that your face is well-lit. Minimize background noise by turning off fans, not recording next to a running dishwasher, etc.

For this project, we’re not going to try to match backgrounds so you don’t need to worry too much about what’s behind you, although sometimes a

neutral, plain background shows you off better. And remember, for this song, you could move or dance or even do it outside your house or in a park, if someone is there to do the videotaping.

Similar to audio recording, you would first press record video on your phone, then start the sample track on your computer. It is still helpful to do the clap so I can line things up, and you can sing or lip-synch to the words, then stop on the phone when you are done, then stop on your computer.

Afterwards, watch your video to see if you're happy with it. Most videos automatically save to your computer photos if you have them synched up, otherwise you will need to save it to your computer first, then send to me via Dropbox. Use this link to drag your video file to my Dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/L56s55AEk7EaLrbwue6>

If you are doing this just for the video (not the audio at the same time) you could skip the earbuds, and just play your sample recording live in the room. Just tell me that is what you are doing, and I will ignore your audio.

## **Assistance**

Feel free to email me with questions at [hartsongsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:hartsongsmusic@gmail.com). If you record "This Little Light of Mine" first that will give you some practice. Try not to wait until the last minute, so I can help you with any issues that come up, before the deadline!

## **Musical Notes**

Even though other singers aren't with you during recording, you ARE in a choir. You're not a soloist. You don't need to sing all the way through every phrase without taking a breath, or sing at the volume of a section, or even sing every note. Let yourself sound like yourself. Whether you sit or stand, find a posture that lets you breathe easily and fully.

Try to enjoy yourself and find meaning in the music, and let your audience (the camera) see that, whether you're singing or waiting to come in.

Since our rehearsals (and this process) are so limited, you will make more mistakes recording than you would in a performance. Expect that, be patient, and if you find you are recording several takes and getting frustrated, take a break, or record in a few smaller chunks.

