

Creating a virtual choir soundtrack on Garageband

Remember, your goal is to keep your music people connected and contributing, let people see each other's faces, and diversify your musical offerings, not to produce studio quality music videos!

To be successful at this phase of a virtual choir production, you need musicality, not just technical ability. You need to understand choral music, be able to read a score, and have an ear for blend, dynamics, pitch and balance.

1. **Mixing in Garageband: Opening Garageband, adding tracks and lining them up. Fix and mix one section at a time (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in separate projects.**

You will need a good set of headphones (you get what you pay for) **NON** noise cancelling! Audio Technica (\$69-\$200), Sennheiser (\$100-\$500). You can use a TV as a large monitor with HDMI or VGA cord and adapter.

2. **Fixing Mistakes (your virtual choir piece is only as good as your best singers)**

Timing Errors: Highlight track, Menu-Edit-Split region at playhead, re-align section or note

Wrong Notes: Highlight track, Menu-Mix-Show Automation, click 4 dots on volume bar and drag center to zero

Elongating notes: Highlight track, place cursor in middle of note, Menu-Edit-Split region at playhead, Split track in the middle and at the end of the note, drag end to correct position, Drag middle to meet other section. Delete pop with volume bar.

3. **Mix section: balance, blend**

Menu-Share-song to music

When you have mixed all sections, create new GB project for final mixing. Drag and drop MP4 files from Music to GB. Fix timing, balance and blend. Add reverb to vocals. Menu-share-song to music.

4. **Recording in Garageband: creating lead tracks**

You will need a USB audio interface (Focusrite Scarlett 2i2), mic, XLR cable.

Record tracks, fix mistakes, send to music to create MP4. Remember that this is your guide track! It needs to be correct!

Beth Watson Mueller, beth@shpc.org