

# A CAPPELLA DURING QUARANTINE: REMOTE BOX VIDEOS

## RECORD YOUR "VIRTUAL CHOIR" OR A CAPPELLA GROUP

### LOW TECH TIPS & TRICKS USING (ALMOST) JUST AN IPHONE!



#### THE VIDEO

- IF POSSIBLE, USE THE SAME TYPE OF PHONE TO RECORD EVERYTHING (PREFERABLY THE NEWEST IPHONE).
- MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR SETTINGS (DIMENSIONS AND FRAME RATE) ARE THE SAME ACROSS ALL DEVICES.
- RECORD YOUR VIDEO IN LANDSCAPE AND AT EYE LEVEL.
- GET EVERYONE ON THE SAME PAGE ABOUT FRAMING—STAND ROUGHLY THE SAME DISTANCE FROM YOUR PHONE (AT LEAST 2 FT).
- HAVE A CASE ON YOUR PHONE? TAKE IT OFF. THIS IS FOR AUDIO PURPOSES. CHECK THE LIGHTING BEFORE FILMING. SUNLIGHT FROM A WINDOW OR A LAMP IS FINE—JUST MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO SHADOWS & NOT A TON OF LIGHT BEHIND YOU.
- USE A SEPARATE DEVICE TO LISTEN TO WHATEVER YOU ARE SINGING ALONG TO, PREFERABLY WITH BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES TO AVOID UGLY CABLE DRAPING. USE AIRPODS (OR SIMILAR), WITH ONLY ONE OF THE BUDS IN YOUR EARS.



#### THE AUDIO

- WHEN MAKING YOUR LISTENING TRACK, CREATE A MIDI OF YOUR ARRANGEMENT WITH A VERY LOUD CLICK TRACK. TIMING IS EVERYTHING. DO NOT USE A LIVE RECORDING OF YOUR GROUP AS A LISTENING TRACK - THIS WILL CREATE TUNING AND TIMING ISSUES ACROSS THE BOARD.
- ONE SHOT, ONE OPPORTUNITY: IT IS UP TO EACH MEMBER TO COACH THEMSELVES & SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS NEEDED TO GET A GOOD TAKE. SINCE THE AUDIO WILL BE SYNCED WITH VIDEO, TIME CORRECTION IN POST-PRODUCTION IS NOT POSSIBLE. TAKE YOUR TIME & SIT BACK IN THE GROOVE. YOU'LL WANT TO RUSH WHEN YOU GET EXCITED. FIGHT THAT!
- IS THE FAN IN YOUR ROOM ON? HOW ABOUT THAT REFRIGERATOR HUMMING? DOGS BARKING? CHECK OUT YOUR SURROUNDINGS AND MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN A QUIET ROOM, AWAY FROM ALL EXTRANEIOUS NOISES. PLAN AHEAD WITH ROOMMATES.



#### POST-PRODUCTION

- EXTRACT THE AUDIO FROM YOUR VIDEOS. THIS CAN BE DONE QUICKLY AND EASILY WITH QUICKTIME, IMPORT INTO PRO TOOLS, OR YOUR DAW OF CHOICE.
- SYNC THE AUDIO (THIS IS THE HARDEST PART) SO EVERYONE IS TOGETHER. IMPORT THE MIDI LISTENING TRACK THAT YOU CREATED ORIGINALLY TO HELP.
- DESPITE THE PRECAUTIONS YOU TOOK EARLIER, YOU WILL STILL NEED TO CLEAN THE AUDIO. USE ANY "REPAIR" PLUG-IN LIKE IZOTOPE RX OR WAVES-X. GO AHEAD & ADD VERY SLIGHT COMPRESSION. PRINT OR COMMIT THAT AUDIO.
- PROCEED LIKE YOU WOULD WITH ANY STUDIO TRACK. EDIT IN MELODYNE, BRING BACK INTO PRO TOOLS & MIX AWAY. I SUGGEST A LIGHT HAND WITH PRODUCTION - EQ, & COMPRESSION. VERY LIGHT & TASTEFUL REVERB & DELAY.

If you have any questions or want to hire a pro to handle the audio post-production for you, please reach out! I look forward to hearing from you & helping you create content in these uncertain & difficult times. Let's make music together.