

Handout: Real Solutions to Virtual Problems

Resources for Asynchronous and Synchronous Virtual Choir Rehearsals

Asynchronous Methods

Soundtrap.com - appropriate for all!

- About
 - Online Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) - think Audacity
 - Free & educational subscription versions
 - No download necessary - Chromebooks work
 - iPhone and Android apps
 - Wired headphones needed
- Sample Weekly Lesson Outlines

Advanced Groups

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM: pre-recorded Soundtrap rehearsal posts (due Tu COB)	Sight-reading/literacy assignment (due W COB)	Students work on a long-term, independent project	AM: Soundtrap follow-up rehearsals post (due F COB)	Misc. activity (social-emotional, team building, engagement)
Director monitors student progress, provides support as needed, individual conferences, etc.	Director monitors student progress, provides support as needed, individual conferences, etc.	Director evaluates student Soundtrap recordings, records follow-up rehearsal(s)	Director evaluates sight-reading/literacy assignment, checks on long-term project	Director evaluates student recordings on Soundtrap, records following week's first lesson

Beginning Groups

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pre-teaching/ scaffolding via Seesaw of concepts addressed on Soundtrap (solfege, score, rhythm/tonal, etc.)	Students record for Soundtrap	Sight-reading/literacy assignment (due Th COB)	Students work on a long-term, independent project	Students record for Soundtrap
Pre-recorded Soundtrap rehearsal posts in afternoon (due Tu COB)	Director monitors student progress, provides support as needed, individual conferences, etc.	Director evaluates student Soundtrap recordings, records follow-up rehearsal(s)	Pre-recorded Soundtrap rehearsal posts in afternoon (due F COB) Director evaluates sight-reading/literacy assignment, checks on long-term project	Misc. activity (social-emotional, team building, engagement) Director evaluates student recordings on Soundtrap, records following week's first lesson

BandLab.com - appropriate for all (read LMS, downside info)

- Soundtrap + Google Classroom-like LMS (Learning Management System)
- Useful in contexts where another LMS is not being used (private schools, churches, colleges, etc.)
- Sharing to Google Classroom supported (assignment, post, topic, etc.)
- Downsides: collaboration mode less ideal, LMS is clunky & less user-friendly, apps not geared toward education (but still work), when used with GC = linking LMS to another LMS

Synchronous Methods

In Use:

- **YouTube Live Method** - appropriate for churches, section leaders, hybrid instruction
 - Developed by Ryan Jones (St. Luke's UMC Houston)
 - ryan@novatonestudios.com
 - Contact for guidance on setup, product selection
 - Broadcast staff/section leader rehearsal to ensemble virtually
 - Variety of hardware & software needed
 - Virtual musicians cannot be heard by director in real time
- **Realtime Music Solutions (RMS) Coach & Rehearsal Live Share** - appropriate for advanced students, collegiate musicians, professionals
 - Cost: \$99.99/year for director (or \$9.99/month), free for singers
 - Director uploads MIDI
 - Students install, access with link (note: Chromebook extension)
 - Live video conference
 - One-way audio while "rehearsing"
 - No conducting - director plays MIDI track, students sing
 - Software aligns incoming audio
 - Students CANNOT hear each other
 - Director control over individuals' volume, panning
 - Limit 20 (director + 19)
- **SoundJack** - appropriate for collegiate musicians, professionals
 - Low latency audio/video
 - Lots of system requirements:
 - Download & install app
 - Ethernet connection* (WiFi = latency)
 - Wired headphones
 - External mic best (Mac vs. Windows variance)
 - Access to router configuration
 - Works well for two people, less for larger groups
 - Dr. Ian Howell (NEC) SoundJack guide:
<https://www.ianhowellcountertenor.com/soundjack-real-time-online-music>

In Development:

- **"Chain" audio/video conferencing** (UH Synchrobox, Rogers Chain Method)
- **Digital Stage** - low latency, online video conferencing