

Hallowe'en Virtual Choir Instructions – Strange is the Night (nicholasryankelly.com) (partially adapted/plagiarized from <https://tccwayland.org/ministries/music/choir/virtual-choir/>)

RECORDING

You'll need: A computer (laptop works best), and/or a phone that records video, the music, a quiet environment, and headphones. You'll also need to have the guide track (conducting video) for your part to record—you'll need to sing along with this in order to make sure everyone stays together! Conducting videos and sheet music are at www.nicholasryankelly.com/strange-is-the-night

1. Practice and learn your track well before recording! Use the practice tracks below to help learn the music. Once you have the gist of the music, try practicing it with the video conducting video.
2. Find a place to set your recording device (phone or computer). Point the camera where your face is clearly visible and fills the screen. If using a phone, make sure it is in **Horizontal/Landscape** orientation (not vertical/portrait orientation). Also make sure you have good lighting (though a dark or creepy backdrop is encouraged!)
3. When you are ready to record, plug in your headphones and open up the conducting video (you may play this on the same device you're using to record or, for added convenience, you may want to use two separate devices; e.g. recording on your phone while playing the conducting video on your computer)
4. Make sure your recording device is only picking up your voice when you are singing. (Headphones are necessary so your mic doesn't pick up the guide track audio.)
5. (optional)
6. Start recording (it's fine if there's extra silence at the beginning) and then start the conducting video. Sing along with it! Retakes are fine, but don't spend too long on this. Pick your best one take and be done!
7. (optional) If you're a quick study and have a wide range, feel free to record multiple parts!

UPLOADING

1. Name your file Name_VoicePart (e.g. Christine_Soprano1.mp4)
2. Use [WeTransfer](https://www.wetransfer.com/) or a similar service to send your video file to nicholasryankelly@gmail.com.
3. Send by **September 30** at the absolute latest (but the sooner, the better!)

PERFORMANCE/MISCELLANEOUS

1. If you're not used to recording yourself, a soundcheck is recommended before you record your part. Try singing your part from **D** to **E**, then listen back and make sure there are no clips or pops in the audio when your voice gets loud—if there are, try singing a little further from the mic or adjusting your input volume.
2. Take extra care to bring out the dynamic contrasts while learning and recording your part.
3. Pay extra attention to the timings of consonants and cutoffs. (However, don't stress if you miss one or two in your recording, especially since my conducting isn't perfect! For the final edit, I can use Melodyne Essential to smooth over the occasional misaligned consonant if necessary.)
4. As noted in the score, all breath marks shorten the preceding note by an eighth note. Following this guideline will help the choir sound more together.
5. **Do not** add any processing or effects to your audio (reverb, EQ, etc.) I will add these to the final mix so it sounds like the whole choir is singing in the same space.
6. Conducting videos are hosted on Youtube. If you want to record while offline, email nicholasryankelly@gmail.com and I'll send you the downloadable file.