INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING VIRTUAL CHOIR VIDEO

Hello everyone,

The holidays are around the corner and we need to start preparing. Since we can't sing in person, let's sing in the way we can. It's your opportunity to star in Beth El's first ever virtual video, *Hayom* - the prayer we sing that lets us know services are almost over! You don't need to be a professional singer – we want all kinds of singers along with everyone's spirit and joy.

This is relatively easy. It just may sound and feel hard. There may be some bumps along the way, but hopefully these instructions will be of help. Also, if you have someone in your life under 30, they will be able to lend a hand if you get stuck.

Don't worry if the key is too high or too low. Mouth the words on those sections and come back in when the key is just right. There will be lots of people on the video and we won't be able to tell (the beauty of this technology).

This is going to be great…please participate and have fun. Don't go crazy trying to make a perfect recording - you'll make everyone else look bad! 😊

If you have questions along the way contact Cantor Abrams aabrams@bethelsynagogue.org or jblustin@bethelsynagogue.org

Can't wait to see the final result. With blessings for a wonderful New Year.

Audrey Abrams

Cantor Abrams

Beth El
SYNAGOGUE

Equipment:
You will need

1. headphones or earbuds
2. two devices (laptop, tablet, PC, mobile phone etc) .
    a. One device will play the music through your headphones or earpods,
    b. the other device records your video.
    Note: Whenever I do this, I record the video to my mobile phone and use my laptop or tablet to play the track through headphones. It works great and there is no need to buy any new equipment.

(If you have a video recording program like PhotoBooth on MAC computers, you may be able to record and play back on one device using two separate windows. If you don't know what this is…move on and pretend you never saw it!)

Set Up:

1. Wear your favorite top that makes you look and feel your movie-star best.
2. Find a quiet place to record. Outside is not good as the wind will make the recording very "breezy."
3. Stand in front of a solid colored wall without too much distraction in the background. Solid shower curtains work, too, if the bathroom is your only refuge; messy closet interiors are not so good. 😊
4. Film in landscape by having your device horizontal to capture the video image.
5. Place the recording device on a stable surface in front of you. Do not hold your camera or rest it on your knees – your video will be very wobbly. Some people find it helpful to place their phone or laptop on a music stand, or prop it (a phone) up against a computer. Make sure to stand far enough away (but not too far) to capture your image from your waist up. This allows for some editing freedom later on.
   If you are a MAC user, the built-in "photo booth" app (on video setting) works great, puts you in landscape orientation, and you can simply sit in front of your laptop far enough away to capture the waist up.

6. Be sure there is a light source in front of you or around you, and not shining brightly behind you. This helps to avoid weird shadows.
7. Wear headphones or earbuds to listen to the music while you are videotaping. You may want to wear just one headphone to hear yourself singing better, so you will have one ear on the device playing the guide materials and the other on the device that is recording. This look is trending right now...
8. While recording, please put your phone on "do not disturb" mode so you are not interrupted while you are recording. If you are interrupted, just start again! 😊
9. Print out the words from the attached PDF. Since you are likely looking at the words, try to still look at the camera as much as possible.

Getting Ready to Record Your Video:

1. Listen and sing along to the accompaniment track (attached) several times to practice.
2. You can move just a bit while you are singing, but not too much - too much movement will be distracting and you may move out of the frame!
3. Try a quick test video to be sure you like the sound, and the way your image is framed and lit. Honestly, most of us never like the way we look on screen; we just have to get over this during COVID.
4. Be sure that your sound doesn't "spike" too much if you are recording with a headphone mic.
5. Feel free to harmonize, but try to stay with the beat.

Actually Videoing...Don't panic…you can do this!

1. Plug your earplugs into whatever device you are using to listen to the recording.
2. Press record on the device that is recording you (the 2nd device)
3. Press play on device number 1.
4. Listen for the countdown and then sing.
5. Review your video and rerecord if necessary – remember it doesn't have to look or sound perfect!
6. When you are finished follow the directions below for uploading the video.

Sending:

In order to have time to get this produced, we ask that you submit your file to Bryan Menge (via www.wetransfer.com) by **September 1st.**

This could be the hardest part but don't despair or let it be the reason not to participate. We are all learning new skills during this pandemic and this is where those under 30 year olds can really come in handy. Also, Cantor Abrams (Iphone) and Jill Blustin (Android) can help as well if you are recording on smart phones.

Send your final video via www.wetransfer.com addressed to bryanmenge@gmail.com.
Be sure to include Beth El Synagogue Congregational Sing in the message.