

## FAQs from “Singing a Tune During the COVID-19 Pandemic”

### **If you did an outdoor hymn sing, is everyone wearing masks?**

Given the deep breaths taken and the amount of carbon dioxide exhaled when singing, it would not likely be desirable for singers to wear masks, especially if the piece is long. Some experts say singing outdoors with proper social distancing between unmasked singers and congregation would present less risk than, say, singing indoors. If the singing is brief and people are allowed to remove masks after a hymn, some may feel more comfortable.

### **What phase would allow outside singing? What phase would allow indoor choir singing?**

The State of Illinois Health Department has [published guidelines](#) for churches in reopening. The American Choir Directors Association [also has some helpful guidance](#) with regards to singing.

### **What resources are available for choirs who will be working together on Zoom even after in-person worship resumes?**

There are some ideas presented in the NATS webinar listed below under “Resources.”

### **What about instrumental music, particularly wind instruments? How many can participate? Distance?**

Some music directors provide their instrumentalists with a basic track so they can record at home and send back their recordings, and then the recordings are compiled and played at worship. Another idea was creating a plexiglass structure that would sit on the ground, similar to a drum shield. A local Sycamore company called Upstaging designs custom shields. However, instrumentalists would still have to observe proper distancing.

There is an extensive study being done in Colorado and other places on this aspect of instrumental playing and on singing regarding suggested distancing, so more specific guidance on that important question is on the way. Many orchestras are involved in testing and we will learn more soon.

### **What is safe to clean the keyboard with?**

You may want to check the manufacture’s information for your organ, piano or keyboard. Baby wipes may be sufficient.

### **Any recommendations for software to use (Windows) to assemble "virtual choir" pieces?**

You can try Protools or Cubase, but there may be more available.

### **Where can I find accompaniment tracks to send to my choir and be compliant with copyright. Can I use them for services?**

Discipleship Ministries offers free piano accompaniment recording of familiar hymns, mostly from The United Methodist Hymnal (1989). [Click here](#) to access. Please let us know of other resources available.

### **Is there a webinar available on copyright issues?**

ACDA webinar on copyright issues on YouTube: [“Copyright Guidance for Singing in a Virtual World” June 9, 2020.](#)

### **Resources**

National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) 90-minute webinar: [“Singing: What We Can Do”](#)

Match My Sound and the Choral Coach, a site where you can upload part and mp3 for your singers. Use the content they have (300 selections) or upload your own content. <https://matchmysound.com>

Acapella- pitch perfect. App to create multi-frame collage videos. 9 people max. <https://www.mixcord.co/pages/acapella>