

General Questions

What is the SDMEA Virtual Choir?

The SDMEA Virtual Choir is a state-wide project to create a user-generated online choir. You have until March 15, 2018 to record your students singing their part of the song “[Oseh Shalom](#)” and upload to YouTube. We will then create a final video, which will include contributions from selected singers.

How much does it cost to participate in the SDMEA Virtual Choir?

There is a \$10.00 non-refundable entrance fee. This along with the parent signature form is to be sent to SDMEA- Erin McFarland, 1813 South Katie Ave #1, Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Questions about eligibility

Who can sing in the SDMEA Virtual Choir?

Any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade student who is sponsored by a SDMEA Member.

Do I need a YouTube account to participate?

Yes, you, or your student (or their parent), will need a YouTube account in order to upload your footage (see [information on creating a YouTube account](#)). If you just want to watch the footage that’s being uploaded, you don’t need an account.

Questions about submissions

Are there any rules for what can or cannot be submitted?

Your student’s video must be recorded by March 15, 2018 and you must respect YouTube’s [Terms of Use](#) and [Community Guidelines](#), as well as the Terms and Conditions for this project, which you must read before contributing. **Your student should be the only person in their video and wear black clothes. No pictures, words or logos, or we won’t be able to use your submission.**

How do submit their video?

1. Make sure you read the Terms and Conditions.
2. When you upload the video to YouTube, the title should read: “Oseh Shalom_VC_vocal part _1,2, or 3” – for example “Oseh Shalom_VC_soprano_1” “Oseh Shalom_VC_alto_2” “Oseh Shalom_VC_baritone_3”.
3. **You’ll need to add a video description, which should include: your student’s FIRST name, your student’s vocal part (Soprano_1/Alto_2/Baritone_3) and City.**
4. **You’ll need to tag the video. Please include the following tags to the video so we can find your video. Oseh Shalom, SDMEA Virtual Choir**

Can more than one person be included in the video?

No. Please ensure that only your student is featured in your video.

Can one student submit multiple videos?

No. Please only submit one video per student. There is no limit to the number of videos each SDMEA member can sponsor.

Can we withdraw my student's video?

Yes – if you delete the video from YouTube before March 15, 2018, it will not be considered for our final Video.

What do I need to know about recording sound?

It's important to think about the audio on your video, as sound recording often affects the overall quality of a video. If possible, it would be great to enhance your recording by using external microphones, in addition to those built in to most cameras.

There's a lot of helpful advice available on YouTube (search for "better sound on your video") or try these:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujdhCw5u9Yg>
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBKHQh5umWA&feature=watch_response

If you don't have any additional way of recording (and monitoring) sound, please be aware of the following:

1. The built-in microphone on your camera will struggle to record usable sound if the singer is any further than 3 feet away from the camera.
2. Be aware of the background noise – try and record somewhere quiet, if possible.
3. Avoid touching the microphone and think about where it's positioned in relation to the singer.

What are the best specifications for uploading my footage to YouTube?

YouTube accepts most digital video formats. However, for optimal playback, we suggest that you use the compressions listed [here](#).

Questions about the final SDMEA Virtual Choir 2018 video

Will you use footage from everyone who submits a video?

No. The video should be considered your audition for the choir. We will accept videos that meet our requirements (particularly audio and video quality) and are sung in tune with good sound and tone quality. A panel of judges will select the videos that are included in the final video.

Who owns my video when I submit it?

You will retain ownership, but by uploading your video you agree to our Terms and Conditions, which grant SDMEA and USF the right to include your video in the video and to exploit the video in all media forever. In uploading your video, you are also agreeing to grant certain rights in your video to YouTube, as set out in the [Terms of Use](#).