**Teacher Friendly Support for the Virtual Musical Category**

To clear up any confusion, please understand that for this category you *may* record your actors separately **or** record them together. Each option presents pro’s and con’s depending on your level of technology comfort.

***First, a reminder of the guidelines for this category:***

* 1. *The musical category is a capella*
  2. *Editing of Musical Category entries is meant to allow for the syncing of audio*
     1. *Actors may be recorded separately, and their raw video & audio may be edited for syncing up*
     2. *No auto-tune, vocal manipulation or audio effects editing is allowed (i.e. reverb, echo, track duplication, etc)*
     3. *Volume levels MAY be manipulated to provide appropriate balance*
  3. *Dissolves, fades and other video transitions are not allowed*
  4. *All other video rules from other acting categories still apply* ***(MEANING:*** *Scenes must be   
     recorded with a single stationary “camera” per actor; Acting backgrounds must be neutral or blank; Static, neutral lighting, etc.)*

**RECORD TOGETHER (Required for non-musical scenes)**

* Can be recorded live in Zoom (or preferred Video Conferencing software) for the *simplest* recording experience.
* With choreographed Video Muting, students control who is on screen in a *live edit* (permitted in all acting categories)
* Recent Zoom update provides the Host the option of arranging windows
* May not require any post-production editing if you are using only solo singing
* Separating your video and audio tracks may or may not be possible, depending on which video conferencing software you are choosing to use.

**RECORD INDIVIDUALLY**

* This option is available ONLY for musical (and tech theatre)
* Students can record themselves in their preferred way – cell phone, tablet, computer – and at their own convenience.
* Each individual actor then sends their video to the student in charge of editing everyone together.
* Done simply, one actor on screen at a time
* Zoom / Brady Bunch effect is do-able, but will require a slightly higher level of editing skill
* Individual video/audio files will allow for easier audio editing.
* Remember, you are allowed to edit video for bringing actors on and off-stage (in whatever order is needed. The editing restrictions still include no dissolves/fades or other video effects.

**A SUGGESTION FOR YOUR PROCESS**

* Rehearse within proper health and safety protocols per your county.
* Ensure that each of your performers has the necessary music tracks
* Encourage your performers to utilize two devices – one for recording, and a second   
  where they are listening to the music tracks through headphones (earbuds, air pods, etc) As long the *recording* doesn’t pick up the music, it is encouraged that your performers be able to hear their music
* Each student sends their video to the teacher and student editor (via cloud / dropbox / email, etc)
* The editor uses whichever tools and software they choose to edit video within

**WHAT SOFTWARE AM I SUPPOSED TO USE AND HOW DO I USE IT?**

Luckily there are many different free softwares for Computer and Mobile Device for both video and audio editing that are free.

**Free Video Editing Software**

<https://www.shopify.com/blog/best-free-video-editing-software>

**Free Audio Editing Software**<https://filmora.wondershare.com/video-editing-tips/free-audio-editor.html>

Many of the softwares listed at the above links are designed to be very intuitive and user-friendly. Even so, many may have built in tutorials, but YouTube and Lynda are great online resources for seeking out additional software specific training.

**Additional Support:**

Seth Cohen will host a Zoom webinar on **October 3 at 1pm** to assist with the process.