

# THE BLESSING | HAMPTON ROADS

## VOCAL VIDEO SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read **ALL** these instructions carefully to successfully record and upload your submission video. There's a lot of info here, **BUT IT'S ALL IMPORTANT!**

Thank you for your interest in participating in *The Blessing Hampton Roads*! We want to extravagantly bless the Hampton Roads community and the world with this powerful song of blessing taken from God's word in Numbers 6:24-26. We believe that God will do mighty things through this production and we're excited for you to be a part of it!

Please read these instructions **carefully** and/or watch the four tutorial videos on our website so that we can use your video in the final compilation. We plan to have over 100 people singing in this virtual choir, so we all have to sing the song the same way.

### RECORDING RESOURCES

First, we would like to point you to a few resources that you'll need for your video submission. Before you make a video of yourself singing, you'll need to **refer to the files sent to your email after signing up**, and you can also access them through the **Dropbox folder link** (in the email) entitled "Submission Resources." There, you should find the following:

1. This document for reference
2. MP3 of the Melody Vocal Track
3. MP3 of the High Harmony Vocal Track
4. MP3 of the Low Harmony Track
5. MP3 of the Main Backtrack (an instrumental only option to use when recording your video)
6. PDF with the Lyric Sheet

### PREPARATION

Here are some tips to help you prepare:

1. **Listen and practice** the song as much as you can. Get to know it well!
2. **Try to memorize the lyrics.** It'll look bad if you're reading in your video.
  - Remember: We are forming a choir - we don't want to sound like a collection of soloists.
3. **Choose which vocal parts work best for you.** If the melody is too high for you, you may sing the melody one octave lower. If you choose to sing a harmony (or are asked to), you can record a separate harmony track as well.

4. **Select** which backtrack MP3 you'll listen to as you sing.
5. Lastly, if you would prefer to **only sing as part of the choir** (rather than submit for a solo moment) don't feel compelled to sing in the verses. Just sing the "Amen" choruses and the bridges.

## LOCATION

- Choose **a very quiet place** like your **bedroom, living room, or your church building**. If you or your friends have a **"pro" or home recording studio**, please use it!
- **Be creative**. Feel free to show off your area. If you can film outside, do it as long as our recording does not pick up any ambient noises like ocean waves, birds, cars, children playing, etc.

## VIDEO SET UP

- PLEASE SHOOT YOUR VIDEO IN **LANDSCAPE** (wide) NOT **PROFILE** (tall).
- If using a phone or tablet, record using the **back camera** and **NOT** the front camera (selfie camera).
  - The back camera is MUCH better. You will NOT be able to see yourself as you sing.
- Wear any appropriate clothing, **but please avoid displaying logos, slogans or references to brands, sporting teams, etc.**
- It might be good to have someone take care of the tech so you can focus on the singing. Consider **working as part of a team** to help each other make several individual vocal videos in one session.
- The producers would prefer **only one singer in each video**, but no more than three. We are happy to receive more than one video from individuals in the same church.
- Minimize background and visual distractions. An uncluttered look will work best.
  - Do *not* wear/display logos or have holiday themed decorations in the frame.
- Make sure you are **well lit**. Use as much natural light as possible. The light should be facing you, not behind you.
- Make sure your camera is in a stationary - **unmoving** - position. Use a tripod/device stand if available.

- Face directly into the camera and frame yourself in the shot from the waist up.
  - Leave **headspace** above your head in the video frame—about 1/4 of the frame height.
- If you are singing into a microphone (with or without a shield), **do not block your face/mouth from the camera's view**. Consider having the mic at a slight angle from the camera.
- Record the song as many times as you want but send us only the best one.

### **AUDIO SET UP**

- Use the best **high-end camera** or **phone, tablet or laptop camera** you or your friends have, and shoot at the highest video resolution (HD or higher).
  - Yes, this is the audio set up, but you will be using the same device for audio and video.
- Play **your selected MP3 backtrack** from the resource files on a phone or tablet so that you can hear the music **with earbuds** or **headphones** as you sing along. **NOT on speaker.** See short demo video on our [website](#)
- You will want to **hear your own voice** along with the recording to make sure that you sound the way you would like. Take one ear bud out if necessary.
  - **NOTE:** We only want to hear your voice on your video submission without any music or other sounds in your video. **Do NOT record the music track!**
  - You will submit just a video of you singing the song without any background music. Then, we can sync the 100+ videos together more easily into the final product.

### **SEPARATE AUDIO (Optional)**

- This section is **only** for those who would like to record their vocal track separately, and then sync it with their video track.
  - For example, if you plan to video outside this could be a good option. See the short demo video on [our website](#) of this format.
  - You would record the video and audio separately, and reapply the audio to the video using software like iMovie, Premier Pro, etc.

- If you have access to a good-quality, vocal microphone - use it! Choose a very quiet place to record your audio separately from your video. Make sure that you lip sync accurately with your audio.
- If you use a DAW computer software, please **don't add any effects** (reverb, delay, compression, or anything else) to your vocal track. You can edit the track to compile the best takes into one audio, but **we** will add effects to the final mix.
- If you have any questions about this process, please let us know. We might be able to help.

## UPLOAD

- Refer to the email that you received when you signed up on our website. Email us [info@bridgersofthegap.org](mailto:info@bridgersofthegap.org) if you need the link to be sent again.
- Once you are happy with your vocal video, name the file starting with your first and last names (ex. Joe\_Bloggs\_TheBlessing.mp4).
- Send us the highest quality video file you have. **Please don't reduce the file size at any stage.**

As you sing, be authentically who God made you to be - don't forget to be joyful and relaxed. Express yourself naturally and worshipfully! You are delivering God's blessing to all people!

We are representing the churches of Hampton Roads. Be inspired by the videos that have gone before us, but don't feel the need to copy. Let's be who we are as we sing "The Blessing" over all people everywhere. *God bless your video!*

If you have burning questions, or need clarification, please contact our team via email at [info@bridgersofthegap.org](mailto:info@bridgersofthegap.org).