

## Running a hybrid rehearsal

BJC

The rehearsal focuses on the people present in person, but is accessible to those at home. Try to have assistance, and not have everything done by one person (you!).

- Opening, open doors and windows, ventilation check
- Chair placement
- Sound setup
- Tidy-up at end

Set-up with appropriate space between singers – this can be done by chair placement or by place-labels

Set-up sound system: speaker/amp; wireless setup; headset mic (have spare batteries!)

Set up computer where it can pick up sound from the speaker and have image of conductor's stand. Depending on your laptop, you may need a plug-in web-cam and/or mic; I find my own system cam/mic are quite sufficient.

The rehearsal is set as a recurring meeting so the link is always the same, and doesn't need to be sent out each week

I open the Zoom call about 10-15 minutes before rehearsal, and stay with it until someone checks in who can be made co-host; at that point, they do all the admitting of new participants.

In Audio Settings I set

- "Suppress Background Noise": **Low** (click the button to select it);
- "Show Original Sound option" **ON** (checked)
- "High Fidelity Music" : **ON** (checked)
- "Echo Cancellation" : **OFF** (un-checked).

Then, on the main Zoom screen, the "Original Sound" button (which may be invisible, until the cursor moves over it) should say: "Original Sound: OFF"

You want Original Sound **ON** – "off" means that the Zoom speech codex is applying, which will affect sung sound.

I usually do a sound-check with the co-host, making sure that they are hearing the piano sound well.

Once I've started the rehearsal, I welcome the Zoomers, and remind them that unless they *can't* sing that day, they need to sing well – so to check posture and breathing – all harder when sitting at a computer!

When we break for announcements, I come down to camera level, and make sure anyone doing announcements uses my mic, so it comes through the speaker.

During the break, the Zoomers switch off sound and camera, but don't log out. I try to be precise about break time so we can start again together.