

Message from Peter Batley

Thank you for participating in the virtual choir. The music is royalty free; our only expense is studio time so it is important that there is the minimum of editing.

There are 2 main objectives; to raise money for the work of the foundation and to raise the international profile of Hospice Africa and the work it does to alleviate the suffering of terminally ill patients. It is an enormous honour for me to be asked to contribute and an ongoing experience as to how we can put all this together. My fingers are permanently crossed!

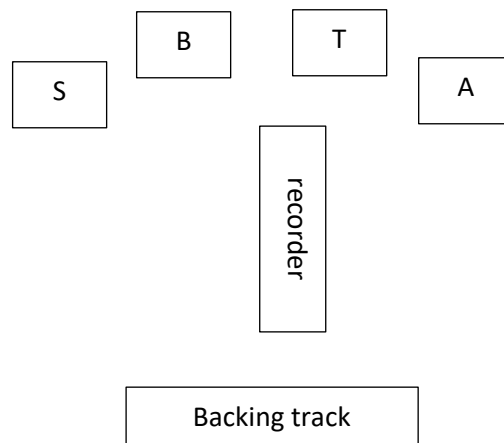
I have written the song and the arrangement so that it can be learned quickly by any experienced 4 part choir. If you have less than 4 voices simply sing the parts of the voices that you have. Please do not change harmonies or mix parts. Sections are repeated to reduce the time needed in practices.

In the pack you will find:

1. An MP3 computer version of the song.
2. An MP3 version of the backing track with some instruments removed, use this for your recording.
3. A 4-part S.A.T.B version of the song to distribute to choir members
4. A treble clef unison version for non-polyphonic choirs such as a children's choir.

Once your choir has learnt the song and practised with the backing track it's time to record:

The easiest way to do this is to use a basic stereo digital recorder. Try to position the choir as below.



To minimise spill from the playback onto the choir recording try to position the playback about 4 metres behind the recorder, and at the minimum volume necessary for the choir to follow.

Once happy with the recording convert it from your recorder to MP3 and send it to

HAChoir@outlook.com.

You can use this address as well for any questions about the music or technical issues.

At the studio choirs from all over the world will be mixed to form the virtual choir and then musicians will record a backing track to replace the computer.

Photos and videos of your choir are very welcome. Videos of about 8 seconds will cut well to the music and avoid expense at the studio. They should be in a 16:9 format. Subjects could be the choir recording or perhaps iconic local landmarks that stress our worldwide effort. You might like to have a banner visible showing the name and location of your choir. With only 3 minutes though, we cannot guarantee that your videos will appear in the final version. Suitable photos will appear.

You are very welcome to add the song to your choir repertoire for future concerts, mentioning if possible "*Hospice Africa*" and links to the video to encourage further donations. A score with a piano only accompaniment is available on request.

I hope this takes off and makes a real difference to the suffering of the patients of Hospice Africa.