

Everything You Want to Know about Rock Voices Virtual Mini-Sessions!

You've watched our promo videos and you're psyched about singing again. Now you just need to know how to get yourself into this unbelievably fun experience! Read through the Q&A below, and if you still have questions don't hesitate to email us at info@rockvoices.com

What's the format of Rock Voices' Virtual Mini-Sessions? How is it different from your regular seasons?

First, we are only meeting virtually, much like many other choirs. We used to have three singing seasons a year, each about twelve weeks long, with a concert at the end. Now, we have 9-10 smaller sessions per year, each about four weeks long, each culminating in members submitting recordings of themselves. We'll compile these songs on a CD, which will be produced when the pandemic is over. If you sing with us in any session, even just one, you'll be on the CD, and your name will be in the credits - a lot of our members have said that's a bucket list item for them! Every few months we make a video using members' submissions, but for most of these sessions we're only producing audio at the end. (The two videos we've released so far are [Lean On Me](#) & [Shed A Little Light](#).)

How do I choose which choir to sing with? Am I limited to the choir in my geographical area?

Possibly the only upside to COVID is that you can literally join any one of our choirs, any time. You can attend while the rehearsal is live, or you can view it later once it's posted in one of our private Facebook groups. To develop a sense of community, we encourage you to join a choir near your home if at all possible, as this would be your "home choir" should you choose to continue singing with us once the pandemic is over - but truly, you are welcome anywhere!

The virtual mini-sessions are very technology-dependent, right? There are so many different websites, and then add in Facebook... it's intimidating!

It's true that you need to use technology in ways you might not be comfortable. You'll have to connect to either a Facebook Live Streaming event, or a Zoom event. But if you get to the end of your day and you've been Zooming all day, you may want to attend with your "camera off", and that's always an option. In addition, you can always view a rehearsal after the fact, on your home choir's private Facebook group.

I've enrolled in Rock Voices; how do I qualify for membership in the Facebook Group?

Once you enroll, your director will provide you with a link to the Facebook group. Once you are there, click on "Join Group" and answer the three simple questions about when you joined and who your director is. (*That's essential! You won't be approved for membership without answering those questions.*) Someone will approve your membership shortly thereafter.

I don't like Facebook and prefer not to use it. Is that an option?

We share some of the same reservations about using Facebook. Some of our choirs hold rehearsals on Facebook, but several offer rehearsals on Zoom instead. If you join one of our choirs that offers Zoom sessions, you can view the Zoom rehearsal "live" and never have to use Facebook at all. If your choir doesn't offer Zoom, you're welcome to join a different choir that does offer a Zoom option.

How many different websites are there, and which one do I use for what, and when?

We use two main websites for Rock Voices, as well as making use of Facebook for private groups where members can post and discuss. Below is an overview of the sites.

RockVoices.pike13.com

Let's start with the website for enrolling and paying, a [site we call "Pike13"](#). Once you've decided you want to sing with us, log into this site with an email and password of your choice. You'll enroll and pay, [following these instructions to do so](#). When you're done, you'll receive two different email confirmations (one to confirm you've enrolled and the other to acknowledge the payment plan you chose). As long as you do **both** steps and see **both** confirmations, you won't need to use this site again until you want to join us for another session (typically five or six weeks later).

As an enrolled member, you'll receive emails from your director in the days leading up to your first rehearsal, explaining how you view the rehearsal: if it's a Zoom session, you'll get a link. If it's a Facebook Live Stream, you'll be told where to view it. Typically, we alert people via Facebook that an email has gone out to that group. **If you hear about an email that went to your group but you didn't get it, it's likely that you accidentally skipped a step in the enrollment process. If that happens, email us right away for help, at info@rockvoices.com.**

RockVoices.com

The next website you need to know about is our main site, [RockVoices.com](#). This is our public-facing page with information about the choir, events like our monthly online karaoke contest, and our online store with Rock Voices merchandise. But the most important part of this site for you--as a member--is the [Members Only](#) page.

To access the Members page, you'll need to input a password, which changes with each virtual session, and will be emailed to you by your director once you've enrolled in that session. *Please don't share this password with anyone; it's already emailed to everyone who is enrolled.*

This Members page is where you will find essential materials to help you participate and enjoy the session, including lyrics and part recordings you can use to learn the songs by ear. (Since many of our singers don't read music, we make it easy to learn by ear so no one has to feel left out.) You'll also find links to "conducting videos" to use when you record your song at the end of each session. There's even a Technical Support section to help you whenever you run into trouble with the technology.

It feels like I NEVER know my password. Why are there so many?

You will need to remember **two** passwords in order to participate in Rock Voices.

- The first password is for the [Pike13](#) site we started with above. That password is something you create and use any time you want to enroll in a new session. It's how you access your account to update personal information, including your payment method. We don't have access to this password, so when you create it make sure you write it down.
- The second password is for the *Members Only* page on our website, [RockVoices.com](#). We decide upon this password, and it's brand new every session. We'll email it to everyone who is enrolled, usually within a week or so of the session beginning.

Note: if you participate in more than one session--and we hope you will!--be aware that you will likely need to keep track of two different Members Only passwords at the same time, one for each session. We treat each virtual session as a standalone, with a unique password. It will always have something to do with the season in order to help you remember it.

Here's how that could play out for you. When you start a new session, you'll need the new password to access the part recordings & lyric sheets. But if you sang in the previous session, you'll need the previous session's password to access the conducting videos so you can record and submit your recording to us. It's an overlap that's only confusing if you aren't aware that each session comes with its own password, but as long as you know that, you should be ok.

Any time you get confused about which password to use where and when, don't hesitate to email us at info@rockvoices.com for help!

It seems like there are so. many. links! How do I keep track of them all?

Great question - and yes, there are a lot of links. We try to make it simpler for people by putting relevant links into the signatures of our emails. If you are searching for a link, odds are it's in the most recent email we've sent you.

What's the schedule for Rock Voices Virtual Sessions?

We rehearse for four weeks in a row, with one rehearsal per week. After four weeks we provide all members with access to the "conducting videos" to follow while you record yourself singing. (This ensures that everyone is singing to the same recording at the same tempo, cues, and cutoffs.) The deadline for members to submit those recordings is typically 2-3 weeks after a session ends. It takes us two weeks to get the next session ready to launch, and then we start up again. Given this schedule, you might find that you are recording last month's song while you're starting up the new session (*see our note after the password descriptions in the question*

above.) That's okay! We want to make sure members have plenty of time to complete their recordings.

What if I can't make a recording deadline?

Well, 2020 was the year for adapting, wasn't it? We've established some flexibility for our members as well. If you can't meet a recording deadline, just drop an email to info@rockvoices.com and give us a sense of when you think you *can* get it to us. Then, stop worrying. We will accommodate people who are struggling for any reason - weather, illness, travel schedule, *life*. We get it, and we aren't here to add stress to anyone's world.

When I'm singing with Rock Voices, can anyone hear me? Can I hear anyone else?

At this time, since we are using Zoom or Facebook Live Streaming, it's only possible to listen to your director during rehearsals, and not each other. Your director also cannot hear you. The exceptions to this are the very few choirs in which there are less than a handful of members, which allows a director to un-mute people on Zoom to hear one another when appropriate. Still, this does not mean they can sing at the same time, since the latency of using Zoom creates a delay. You can, however, *see* people on Zoom - and members report that this in itself makes the experience much more enjoyable. Members can also send chat messages--public or private--during Zoom sessions, so you are able to communicate with your fellow members, albeit silently.