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Boston Children's Chorus Launches Virtual Choir with Choral Groups Worldwide

In a time of social distancing, Boston Children's Chorus offers a creative outlet to young singers across the globe

Boston Children's Chorus recently released a video featuring singers, alumni, and staff singing the organization's anthem, *We Sing*. This online collaboration is the first in a series of recordings to be created and shared as part of BCC's Virtual Choir repertoire.

Like many of its cultural colleagues, BCC has interrupted in-person rehearsals and programming in response to COVID-19, but this has not stopped the organization from actively pursuing its mission. Within days of closing offices temporarily, BCC moved its rehearsal studios online and rolled out multiple initiatives that transcend physical distancing by bringing singers together in digital classrooms and choirs online.

"BCC believes that continuing to be a pillar of strength for our community during this difficult time is of paramount importance, both for the people that we serve, and for the future of our organization," said Chief Programs Offers, Irene Idicheria.

The idea behind the Virtual Choir is simple: singers record their singing parts to the selected song with the assistance of a pre-recorded click track, piano accompanist, and pre-filmed conductor. BCC's Director of Artistic Programming, Robbie Jacobs, then combines the separate video files into a single, collaborative rendition of the song—with powerful results.

Each week, until at least April 27th, BCC will present a new Virtual Choir, in collaboration with leading youth choruses, to build a global youth movement of solidarity and togetherness. Collaborations have already begun with Cincinnati Boychoir, Denver Children's Choir, Gondwana Choir (Sydney, Australia), and DC Children's Chorus.

"We extend an open invitation to youth choruses from America and beyond to reach out to me at rjacobs@bostonchildrenschorus.org and join in the initiative," says Jacobs. "We are excited to share our resources and bind our choral communities together through a message of joy, hope, and unity at a time of adversity."

About Boston Children's Chorus

BCC harnesses the power of music to connect our city's diverse communities, cultivate empathy, and inspire social inquiry. BCC choir programs include 13 choirs with singers from 110 different zip codes in and around Boston. Named Boston's "Ambassadors of Harmony" by the Boston Globe, BCC presents over 50 performances per season in a wide range of public and private events. They have performed in venues from Boston Symphony Hall, and Royal Albert Hall in London, to Sydney Opera House, and the White House.