

Save our Songs – a new project series

Improve your singing technique
Develop your presentation
Get personal coaching
Participate in end-of-project video

Improve your singing technique and your presentation with this semi-virtual project! *Save our Songs* combines the techniques used for contemporary virtual choir projects with your own development as a singer.

How are the projects set up?

1. We take 8 weeks for the whole process described below.
2. The material we work with per project is fixed. Two choral part songs will be selected. All participants (max. 16 per project) study their parts in these two songs.
3. Your part will be the basis for working on your singing. At home you record your voice, listening for tone development, use of breath, clarity of vowels and consonants, etcetera.
4. The songs are also the basis for a 45 minute individual coaching session for improving your singing technique.
5. As a chorister, you know that rehearsing in a choir is so different from singing by yourself. Singing alone, and especially recording your voice, can be daunting. You keep hearing things that are 'wrong', and you may even have a strong inner critic that keeps you from singing freely. This is partly why choral singing is so liberating – one, your voice mixes with other voices, two, you are lifted up by the voices around you. So studying a choral part by yourself and then recording it requires courage. But please know that 1. you are not alone and 2. this may be something that we will have to get used to as singers.
6. So.... Let's get to work!

How do I do it?

- Study your parts of the two songs at home. Sound files to practice to will be provided.
- Once you know your parts, you can start singing to the conductor's videos that will be provided.
- Then, practice recording your voice with an iPhone or another recording device. Don't worry about video-ing yourself. In this stage, it is just the sound that you need.
- You listen back to your voice recording, getting used to hearing your recorded voice (nobody likes that, so if don't like it, it's normal, and you will get used to it the more you listen), listening for tone development, use of breath, clarity of vowels and consonants, etcetera.
- Schedule a 45 minute session with Anke for personal feedback and practice on ZOOM. This individual coaching session will inspire you to make more recordings of your voice until you are satisfied with yourself!

- Once you're happy with your recording, send it off. It is out of your hands now, to be mixed in with the other voices and made ready for the by-product of this project: the video-clip.
- Now you can get your creative mind working, because this is where you need to start thinking about how you would present the song on video! What setting will you take? Just one, or several? What will you wear? How would you like to interpret the mood of the song? You want to film yourself sitting on a bench, or at your piano, or walking in the forest, or posing at a river bank? Or perhaps driving a car or walking down a busy street? Everything is possible.
- Remember that this part of the project is not obligatory. If you don't want to be in the video, that is okay.
- But if you do want to be in the video, take the time to brainstorm with yourself (and others!) about a setting in which you would film yourself mimicking the words (sound is not important now as you've done that part already). For your convenience, you will not have to record the whole song, just a part of it and you'll be notified about which part exactly.
- For inspiration, you can watch a video that we made with colleague singers and musicians from other parts in the world. Just type the words 'Corona Lindy Hop' on Youtube, and click on the picture with the fifties-style record single.
- Your appearance in the video will not be very long as you will be one of sixteen singers. So you want your presence to be strong! Tip: when performing, you always exaggerate what you are doing, as the audience will always perceive less than what you are experiencing on the inside.
- As one of the participants in my projects, you will have access to useful videos featuring efficient singing and breathing techniques.
- The whole project, including the individual session, costs only €45.

The timeline is eight weeks, starting **14 September**. During this time you do the following

- study your lines
- practice recording sound and video
- receive a 45 mins session with Anke
- practice your lines in front of the conductor's video
- record the final sound recording and send off
- think about how you want to video yourself
- record the video and send off

At the end of the project you will have

- improved your singing
- developed your presentation in front of a camera
- learned to use voice recording as a tool to monitor your singing
- learned about the technics of video and audio recording
- created your own visual story around the two songs
- received, as a souvenir, a beautiful virtual choir video-clip with YOU in it!

If you want to participate, write to contact@ankevocal.com before 31st August.