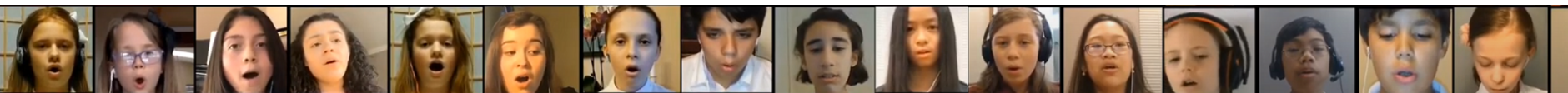




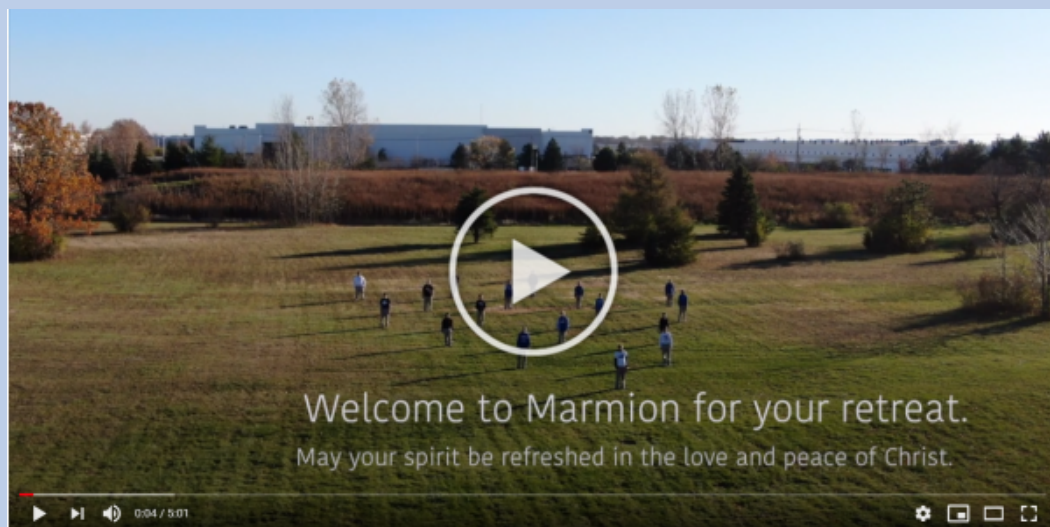
Choirs in Quarantine

Keeping the children singing during the pandemic



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singers were nearly a hundred feet from me while others were only ten feet from me. This separation made it nearly impossible to determine balance.

After having put together a lot of virtual choirs, my students looked forward to working on some bigger projects. The first video above, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" was created by our students to be used for retreats for some of our Catholic grade school programs. We decided what visuals should look like and on a beautiful few days, we recorded the visuals. Students recorded their voices individually at home.

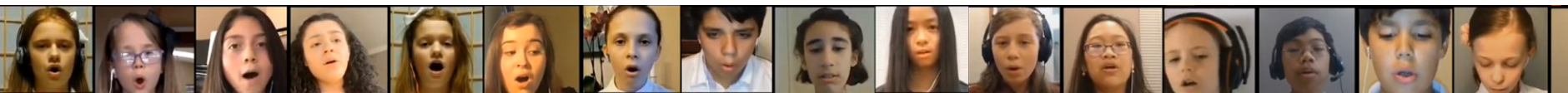
"Our choirs have been learning in the hybrid format since the start of the 2020-2021 school year. We were outdoors at the beginning of the school year, but the administration helped us move indoors. I had to move my classroom into the cafeteria which was larger and better ventilated. It was also arranged to keep the students six feet apart. Singing separated like this with masks on made it very hard to hear the choir in this space. Some

continued...



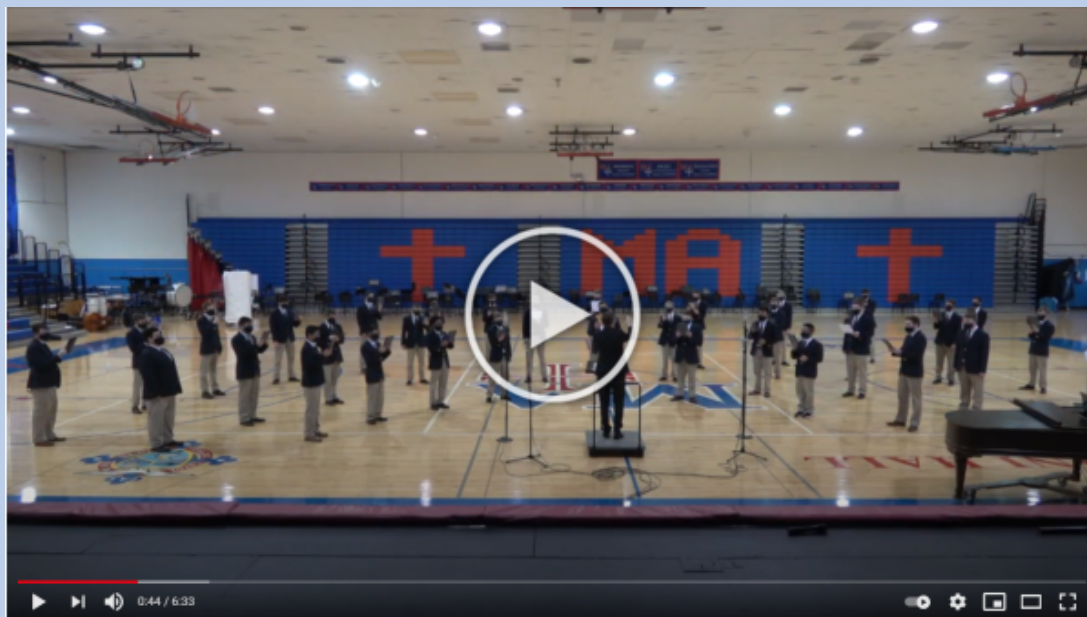
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For Easter my choirs prepared the Easter Sequence. The first half of the clip is one of my choirs recording combined for the first time in person. The second half of this video is the Michael Engelhardt arrangement performed by my advanced ensemble. The audio was recorded individually and we created this video to present our music in time for Easter Sunday."

-Brian Birch, Choral Director
Marmion Academy, Aurora, IL