



HEATHER
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CHRISTMAS HARP COLLABORATION RECORDING GUIDE

BEFORE YOU RECORD

- **Learn the part**
- **Practice playing along with the guide track** (guide tracks available to download at www.heatherdownie.co.uk/listen)
 - You will have the guide track in headphones when recording so practice this way.
 - Try to keep the headphones as quiet as possible - this is so the guide track is not picked up in the recording. (The recording should be ONLY harp - the guide track is simply used to keep everyone in time)

RECORDING

Some of you may have tech skills and recording capabilities. If you do great! Please submit the video file and the sound recording, or even better would be the video file with the mic/DI sound already added.

However, the majority will be using one device to recorded video and sound. That is OK! Please follow the steps below so we have the best picture and sound possible.

1. SET UP THE CAMERA

ESSENTIAL

- **Film in landscape NOT portrait.**



- **Film as close as you can while still getting you and the harp in the shot** - this will look and sound better. Try to position your music out of the shot so we can see your beautiful faces and wonderful fingers! Remember if you don't want your face in the video that's ok - just film your fingers!
- **Record in a quiet place.**

IF POSSIBLE...

- **Try to use a static camera** - pop your phone or video device on a music stand, flat surface, etc. As a last resort, if someone has to hold the recording device (E.g. phone) get them to stay as still as possible and make no sound.
- **Think about the background.** Something very plain would work. Or something scenic and/or Xmas-themed would also be nice!
- **Try to record somewhere that doesn't have lots of echo** - this will help with the sound.

.....but don't stress too much - just do the best you can! The main thing is remember is to **FILM IN LANDSCAPE!**

Here is an example...



- landscape
- clear shot with me and my harp
- music out of sight
- plain background

2. SET UP THE GUIDE TRACK

It's very important you use the guide track as this ensures we are all in time. On the guide you will be counted in and I ask you to clap....

1, 2, 3, 4 - Clap, 2, 3, 4 and the introduction plays.

Please make sure your clap is visible in your video - this is what I use to edit everyone's video together.

The main thing to remember with the guide track is to **USE HEADPHONES**, and to **KEEP THE VOLUME LOW** so it is not picked up in the recording.

And **REMEMBER TO CLAP!** (I will remove all the claps in the final version of the video.)

3. RECORD

Once you are all set up you can record! When recording follow these steps -

1. **Hit record on whatever device you are using to record the video and sound.**
2. **Hit play on whatever device you are using to listen to the guide track.**
3. **Play the song!**

4. **Hit stop on the recording device when the track is finished.** Let the sound of the last chord fade away before you move or hit stop. (So I can fade to black with everyone sitting in shot at their harp.
5. **Check the recording.** Does it look and sound OK? Are you happy with how you played? If you can hear the guide track you will need to turn down your headphones and try again.

AFTER RECORDING

Please submit the video file to info@heatherdownie.co.uk by **5pm on December 4th**.

When submitting your video please give your full name as you would like it to appear in the final edited video. You can either include this in your email or (even better) give your video file your name.

You will likely have to use a file transfer service. I recommend using WeTransfer.