

THE BLESSING | Aotearoa/New Zealand

VOCAL VIDEO SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY JUNE 10TH. VERY SOON!

Please read **ALL** these instructions carefully to successfully record and upload your singing video. There's a lot of info, **BUT IT'S ALL IMPORTANT!**

RESOURCES

Before you make a video of yourself singing, you'll need to have accessed the contents of [this Dropbox folder](#). There you'll find:

- mp3 of the "The Blessing" from Elevation Worship, but digitally pitch shifted from their original key of B to our key of B \flat - included only for general familiarity.
- mp3 of our instrumental accompaniment backing track (no vocals) in B \flat at 70bpm.
- mp3 backing track with a piano playing our consolidated, slightly simplified version of the melody and male/female melody guide vocals for the 3rd te Reo Māori verse.
- mp3 with piano playing our harmony parts and guide harmony te Reo vocals in verse 3.
- LYRICS .pdf with important VOCAL DIRECTION notes.
- MELODY and HARMONY .pdf notation pages ... for those who can read notation!

PREPARATION

- Listen and practise the song as much as you can. Get to know it well.
- Try to memorise the lyrics. It'll look bad if you're reading in your video!
- Please remember: We are forming a choir. We do not want to sound like a chaotic collection of soloists. Listen to the guide vocal mp3's carefully. They give consolidated and simplified vocal melody and harmony lines that might be a little different from what you've heard in other versions of this song. Especially in the "Amen" choruses and the bridges of the song, we will sound best if we sing the notes from the guiding piano.
- Choose which vocal parts (melody/harmony) work best for you. If the melody vocal is too high for you, you may sing the melody one octave lower, or pick a lower harmony.
- Select which backing track mp3 you'll listen to as you sing. It might help to listen to the guide piano as you sing. Please **DON'T** sing along with the Elevation vocals.
- If you would prefer to only sing as part of the choir (rather than submit for a solo moment) don't feel compelled to sing in the verses. Just sing the "Amen" choruses and the bridges.
- Please **ONLY** sing our te Reo 3rd verse if you are skilled in the Māori language. The quality, authenticity and respect shown through this verse is very important.

LOCATION

- Put some thought into choosing the right location for your video.
- You might have access to a pro or home recording studio. If so, please use it!
- You might want to be in your living room, your church building or Marae.
- But (unlike for the singers in "The UK Blessing" and others) we are not in "lockdown" in New Zealand right now. Don't feel like you need to be in your home or even indoors. Get

creative. Be where you want to be to get a video that inspires. Feel free to show off our homeland!

HARDWARE

- To record your video, you might have access to the latest, greatest, high-end camera. If you do, great! Use it.
- For the rest of us, please use the newest, best-quality phone (tablet, laptop, or similar device) camera possible. But whatever you have will do.
- If you have access to a good-quality, vocal microphone and have facility to record your audio separate from your video, we encourage you to do so. In that case, please see the instructions for **“SEPARATE AUDIO”*** below.
- Have your guiding/accompanying “The Blessing” sound recording loaded onto a second device ready to play.
- You’ll need to use in-ear buds (preferred) or headphones to listen to as you sing along with our arrangement of the song from your device. Make sure you can hear your own voice along with the recording. Take one ear bud out if necessary.
- We want the audio recording of each voice to be as clear and isolated as possible. Please don’t have the song playing through open speakers (or any other distracting noises) in the room with you.

VIDEO SET UP

- PLEASE SHOOT YOUR VIDEO IN LANDSCAPE (wide) NOT PROFILE (tall).
- If you’re using a phone or tablet, shoot your video using the back lens and NOT the lens on the same side of your device as the screen. The back camera is MUCH better. You should NOT be able to see yourself as you’re singing.
- Wear what you want, but please avoid displaying logos, slogans or references to brands, sporting teams, etc.
- It might be best to have someone take care of the tech so you can focus on the singing.
- Consider working as part of a team. Help each other to make several individual vocal videos in one session.
- The producers would prefer only one singer in each video but are very happy to receive several videos representing a particular church congregation.
- Minimise background noise and visual distractions. An uncluttered look will work best.
- Make sure you are well lit, especially from the direction of the camera. Use as much natural light as possible. Avoid having light coming from behind you into the camera lens.
- Make sure your camera is in a static - un-moving - position. Use a solid stand if you can.

VIDEO RECORDING

- Face directly into the camera and frame yourself in the shot from the waist up.
- If you are singing into a microphone (with or without a shield) please try not to have your face and mouth blocked from the camera’s view. Consider a slight angle for the camera.
- The backing track will prompt you to clap your hands once at the beginning of the recording. This will not appear in the final video but will help us sync files more easily and accurately in the editing stage.

- As you sing, be authentically who you are, but be joyful and relaxed. Express yourself naturally and worshipfully! You are delivering God's blessing ([Numbers 6:24-26](#)) to all people! Sing via your camera's lens to the people who will watch our video.
- Record as many takes of you singing as you want, but please send us only the best take.

*SEPARATE AUDIO (optional)

- We are hoping to have a good number of submissions from singers who are able to record their voices separate from (but at the same time as) their video using a high-quality microphone, digital interface and DAW computer software.
- If this is your situation, please don't add any effects (reverb, delay, compression or anything else) to your vocal take. Edit if you must.
- Once you have an audio/video performance you are happy with, please accurately sync your audio with just the picture from your video and upload the one, combined, full quality file. If this is difficult for you, please let us know. We might be able to help.
- If, instead, you are recording video and audio at the same time on the same device (like a smartphone) the sound that is on your video is what we will work with.

UPLOAD

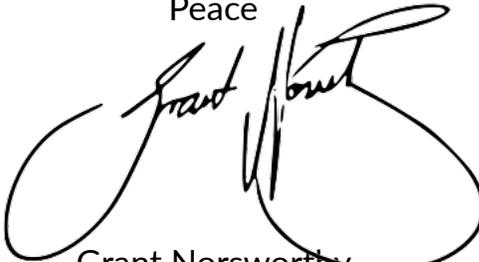
- Once you are happy with your vocal video, rename the file starting with your first and last name (eg. Joe_Bloggs_TheBlessing.mp4)
- Go to [this online form](#) to give us your details, answer a couple of simple questions and to upload your video file using the provided link.
- Send us the highest quality you have. Please don't reduce the file size at any stage.

If you have burning questions, or need clarification, please contact Grant Norsworthy by email using info@grantnorsworthy.com.

We are representing The Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Be inspired by the videos that have gone before us, but don't feel the need to copy. Let's be who we are as we sing "The Blessing" over all people everywhere.

The deadline for video uploads is Wednesday June 10th. That's very soon. Get to it!

Peace



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