Recording your Video for a Video Collage

Quick Guide

Listen to the chosen track and learn to sing as much as you can without props. Make any performance notes you need to sing it, such as counting gaps, start words, ending, etc.

Think about performing the story with your face and upper body only, that is all that is going to be seen.

Find a quiet place (no background noise) to do your recording with good front lighting and a plain background.

Set-up your video recording device and while listening to the audio track on another device through earbuds or headphones, shoot your video. Repeat until you get it right.

Send the video file to the producer, compositor.

Recording Details

It goes without saying that you need to be confident singing your part but as this is for a solo video rather than a group performance there are a couple of differences.

Visual

First you need to get a bit theatrical, think small stage. You cannot see actors on stage unless there is good front lighting and preferably a plain light background, so you need to arrange the same. Facing a window is a good way to get plenty of front lighting or you can set that up artificially if you have mobile lighting. Because this video is destined to be viewed on mobile phones, tablets and the like, your frame will be very small, so you only want your head and upper body at most in the shot, not your whole room. Think about performing the story with your face and upper body only, that’s all that is going to be seen. Make brief performance notes you need to sing it and have them fixed somewhere near the camera. Singing with you head in a score will not look great, but if you have to use one, remember to keep lookup up at your viewer. Keep props out of the frame as much as possible, the viewer just needs to see and hear you. Leave space at the start and end for your editor.

Audio

The most important thing is to minimise background noise. Clocks, banging doors, fans, motors, device alerts, timed device starts e.g. CH boiler, etc., etc. must be silenced in the recording area or the mic will pick them up as well as your voice. The mic itself should be mounted on something soft to prevent directly transmitted sound reaching it, such as traffic vibration. Play the track to sing with on another device while listening on a single headphone or ear bud. One ear should hear the track, the other what you are singing. Keep strict time and pitch with the chosen track as this is the key to synchronising the end result.
Mobile Details

Most mobile phones have exceptionally good cameras and video recording features. The important thing is not to hold it but mount it in some way, so the shot is still. A car mount will do or any other mobile holder or you can try and prop it up, but it may move when you press start. It should be at about the same height as your head and the frame portrait. If a preferred aspect ratio has been given, then use that. I am sure you will have used the video on your mobile, so this is just the same as a selfie video but do spend a moment or two to position yourself and preferably a plain background. Allow at least 5 seconds after start before you start the audio track and the same at the end just as in a performance. Repeat until you get it right.

Zoom Details

You can use Zoom to record you video, but you need another device to play the track. You cannot play the track on the device recording the Zoom session or that will also be recorded. This is the description of how to do this using the Windows desktop program. It may be different on other platforms.

You need a Zoom Sign In.

Sign In then click New Meeting

![Zoom Cloud Meetings](image)

Setup the sound and video as for any meeting and when you are ready press the Record button. It is at the base on Windows but probably will be somewhere else on other platforms.

![Zoom Recording](image)

Allow at least 5 seconds, start to play the audio track through your other device and you’re on. Allow at least 5 seconds after the track stops then stop the recording.
End the meeting and you will get a dialogue saying that the recording is being converted and stored in the Local Recording Location which can be found from Settings.

Repeat until you get it right. Pick your best video and send it to your producer, compositor.

**Other Video recording equipment.**
You can of course use anything that you are familiar with that will record a video to make this, Go-Pro, Video Recorder, Camera, anything but it will be advantageous if you can see the frame from in front of the camera so you can position yourself correctly. This will be easy on some equipment and almost impossible on others. Try a mirror behind it if you are stuck.

**Transmission**
There are many ways to get your recorded session to the producer compositor but since these files can be large e-mail or other electronic attachment method will not do. There are many resources offering free transmission of large files and some are listed below. Alternatively, you can copy the file to some portable memory card, SDHC, memory stick etc and hand it to the producer compositor

Ways to send GIG files FREE
https://wetransfer.com/
https://www.transfernow.net/en/
https://www.mailbigfile.com/
https://www.dropbox.com/en_GB/features/share/send-large-files
https://transfer.pcloud.com/
https://www.sync.com/blog/a-better-way-to-share-files-sync-secure-links/

Further Discussions
https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/send-large-files
https://www.techradar.com/uk/best/best-ways-to-share-big-files