

**Blanca Diaz**  
**Professor Lum**  
**Chamber Singers**  
**Response 2**

1. Suggest a sacred oratorio/ praise and worship/gospel video that is worshipful to you. Provide title and YouTube link.

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts (from: Christmas Oratorio)

2. Which movement of Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs is your favorite, and why?

The fourth of the five movements "The Call" for baritone, chorus, and orchestra. It broke away from the traditional use of only voice and piano by employing the optional use of the chorus in the first three movements to subtly underscore the soloist with words and vowel sounds.

3. Report any findings that interest you from the readings

Being 26 years old and graduating among students who are 21/22 it doesn't seem very comforting. Many people say that age doesn't matter success will come. One thing that spoke out to me from one of the readings was that Vaughan Williams for 60 years remained one of the most influential figures in English music didn't start reaching serious attention until his late 30s.

4. In Mei Chen Liu's, The Lord's Prayer, [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmU\\_0yI393cEPgLWDsXHEb3t\\_VPypA0s5](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmU_0yI393cEPgLWDsXHEb3t_VPypA0s5) share your experience of practicing your part and singing in Chinese.

This was very interesting to me as I do not sing and don't speak Chinese. Overall it was a fun practice and interesting to know what the voice is capable of.

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### Response 3

1. What are the three atypical elements in Handel's Messiah compared to his other oratorios?

Messiah is in the high baroque style and many of the conventions of baroque music are found in this piece. Handel composed large works that are made up of separate pieces that have their own moods and themes and usually contrast with one another. A slow aria will be followed by a chorus moving at a faster pace

2. What is the most astounding fact to you about Handel's journey in composing "Messiah"

Reading that he was already working on Messiah and he was invited by the Duke of Devonshire and received this review " *Words are wanting, to express the exquisite Delight [Messiah] afforded to the admiring, crowded Audience. The Sublime, the Grand and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestick and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear.* "

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3. What did you think of the tempo of the Hallelujah Chorus in this recording?

Over all I enjoyed the recording. I think because I am not musically incline I was not able to fully understand the change of tempo. But I was able to enjoy it. It is familiar and something you have seen remakes of in movies, or even just saying the word it would bring it back to this tempo.

4. Discuss your physical, emotional and spiritual experience listening to Handel's Messiah Part 2?

The way I felt listening to The Messiah part 2 it was almost as if I was of high entitlement and privilege to enjoy it. It went from feeling like a warrior fighting, to being praise, to praising and feeling the emotion. From the change in "surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" straight into "and with his stripes we are healed" to the low tempo it is like a roller coaster of talents.

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Response 4

1. What are your thoughts considering the format, poetry, blend of voices, soloists, language and any other performance factors on this performance?

There was a video that went viral a while back of one person singing a song but it was multiple videos of themselves. Many people enjoyed the video and made their own. The format of a Virtual Choir is similar to the way Eric Whitacre shows his spectacular push of technology. The blend of voices came together to well and balanced in one harmony. It is always beautiful to see what humans are capable of, especially from miles away. Technology such as video calling and companies like skype probably didn't imagine their platform to be used in such a impactful manner. The poem was inspiring and touched a certain part of creative push that one searches for.

2. From the reading, cite some of the benefits of choral singing.

In America nearly 28.5 million adults and children are involved in choral singing. More Americans participate in the public performance of choral singing than in any other art form. It can begin at school for most, others singing within their family. The choral art form is kept alive by the commissioning of new works by many ensembles. Working with composers to ensure that the choral repertoire is continually reflective.

3. Prayer request for essential workers, front line workers, medical field workers, students and staff, the sick the hungry the lost. Pray for the world healing.

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Response 5

1. Name three things that you have learned about the Fisk Jubilee Singers from the videos and the reading.

--Ella Sheppard, the leader of this group of students, who would become lead soprano, pianist, and onstage director of the Jubilee Singers, wrote of this experience

-- They were to sing with their mouths open wide enough to fit a finger between their teeth.

--Fromer slaves who battled prejudice and oppression to sing their way into a nations heart

2. How did the Jubilee Singers impact the perception of African American Music?

African Americans were the intellectual equals of whites.<sup>9</sup> In total they went on tour to go and earn money for their university. While traveling they were also able to help those in need. Although they were doing right and proving themselves they were faced with harsh conditions and mistreatment from the press and audience left them feeling tired and discouraged.

3. Many of you have performed spirituals, whether in the Nyack chorale or in other groups. Did this week's lesson provide a greater understanding and/or appreciation for the music? Explain.

I am not a music major or have any hidden music talents other than enjoying it. I have always had a great appreciation for African American history because it is American history, it is how we were created and can see the fruits of what they went through. Understanding that people who were once not allowed to sing or even in public broke down those barriers and succeeded. For that I will always be thankful and appreciate when I see choral music or any music coming from communities such as the Jubille singers

