



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

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Virtual Ensembles: A Case Study with Feedback and Reflections

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This research was carried out through the creation of six virtual ensemble projects and included input from participants and reflections by the researcher to refine the process and improve the quality. A video report was created and is available here:

<https://youtu.be/Ga3hwX5SM6c>. In the first minute and thirty seconds, the listener will hear excerpts from five virtual ensembles including *William Tell Overture* by Rossini, *Canzon IV a4 CHI89* by Gabrieli, *Plaisir D'Amour* by Martini, *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* by Bach, and the traditional tune, *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* as arranged by the researcher.



The following steps were identified as critical to the process:

- (1) select repertoire,
- (2) create scratch track,
- (3) distribute music, scratch track and instructions
- (4) practice, perform, record, and upload audio and video,
- (5) performs quality check and addresses issues,
- (6) load audio tracks, align, mixer and master tracks, (7) load photos or videos into a professional-level video-editing application and create visual elements, using the mixed audio as the soundtrack,
- (8) upload videos to a learning management system or to a file sharing application.

The author concluded with the following observations: Virtual ensembles offer many of the same benefits of in-person ensembles. In both, students learn to listen to one another, to play together, to phrase notes, to match styles and articulations, to execute dynamics, to balance and blend. Whether virtual ensembles are used to provide experiences during a pandemic, or to provide enhancements in other times, they are approachable by students and faculty and are here to stay.

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