



## FEATURE

# ERIC WHITACRE AND THE VIRTUAL CHOIR

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 5, 7, 9 and 10

## OBJECTIVES

Develop and refine artistic work for presentation (*Pr5*)  
Perceive and analyze artistic work (*Re7*)  
Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work (*Re9*)  
Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art (*Co10*)

## MATERIALS

*Music Alive!* magazines (Vol.39 No.8)  
Computer or mobile device with Internet access

## START

**Ask your students to read** “Eric Whitacre and the Virtual Choir” on pages 10-13 before reviewing the words below. [This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]

**RESILIENT**—able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions

**RESOURCEFUL**—having the ability to find quick and clever ways to overcome difficulties

**HARNESS**—control and make use of

**FERVOR**—intense and passionate feeling

**INCLUSIVE**—not excluding any section of society

**SYNCHRONIZE**—occur at the same time or rate

**ASTOUNDING**—surprisingly impressive or notable

**ATTAIN**—succeed in achieving

**COMPILE**—produce by assembling information collected from other sources

**CENTENNIAL**—a hundredth anniversary

**WHIM**—a sudden desire or change of mind

**REQUIEM**—a musical composition setting parts of a Mass in the Roman Catholic Church

**ENTRANCE**—fill with wonder and delight

**MIDST**—in the middle of

**COSMIC**—inconceivably vast

**UTTERLY**—completely

**MATERIALIZE**—become actual fact; happen

**FLUCTUATE**—rise and fall irregularly in number or amount

**CRESCENDO**—a gradual increase in loudness

**DROVES**—a herd or flock

## DEVELOP

Ask students the following questions:

**How did Whitacre discover his passion for choral music?**

**In what year did Whitacre come up with the idea for the Virtual Choir?**

**What is the Virtual Choir?**

**What kinds of people are singers in the VC?**

**What were some of the issues he had to solve in order to make the VC possible?**

**What year was the first video posted?**

**How many VC videos have been created in the last decade?**

2. Listen to each of the following Virtual Choir videos

**1: “Lux Aurumque”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7o7BrIbaDs>

**2: “Sleep”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WhWDCw3Mng>

**3: “Water Night”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3rRaL-Czxw>

**4: “Fly to Paradise”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8oDnUga0JU>

**How does hearing all of these voices together make you feel?**

**Which composition is your favorite and why?**

**What is different from one video to another?**

**Would you want to be a part of something like this?**

## ASSESS

**Did the students read the article?**

**Did they answer the review questions?**

**Did they listen intently to the choir videos and give their opinions?**