

In response to the future policy that All-OMEA Children's Chorus Auditions will soon need to be recorded on CD only (no more tapes, LPs, records, Eight Tracks, etc.), we would like to provide teachers with some possible options for recording student auditions on CD. These options range from free to somewhere around a \$1,000 depending on your familiarity with computers, availability of other electronic devices or other goals for using a possible recording studio. Please keep in mind these are only suggestions (a place to start) if you have not previously recorded audio to CD and that prices often vary from website to website so shop around (my favorites to compare prices are Google Shopping and Amazon). We hope that this will increase the amount of quality recordings we have to judge for the All-OMEA Children's Chorus allowing more students of excellence to be involved in this exciting choral experience. If you have any questions about these options or would like to share additional options with our OMEA teachers, please don't hesitate to let us know. You may contact us at editor@oklamus.org.

GarageBand

Cost: Free to \$79

Type: Software

Website: <http://www.apple.com/ilife/garageband/>

This software is great for Mac users. You can record, cut, paste, splice, and create recordings and podcasts to your heart's content. It is available through the iLife software suite from Apple and comes with most Apple computers. If it is not available on your Apple, you can always buy the suite separately. This software is very user friendly. However, you will need to purchase a moderate quality computer microphone.

Audacity

Cost: Free

Type: Software

Website: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Audacity is a free download available through Sourceforge and is available for nearly all operating systems. Much like GarageBand, you can splice, edit and record. It is not quite as easy as GarageBand nor does it have the full extent of features as GarageBand, but it is still fairly user friendly and probably the best free option for the Windows World. You will need to purchase a moderate quality computer microphone.

Blue Microphones Snowflake USB Microphone

Cost: \$45

Type: Computer Microphone

Website: <http://www.bluemic.com/>

For the price, this computer microphone receives excellent ratings online. While many quality audio microphones cost much more, this microphone still provides a quality recording for a fraction of the price of those other microphones. It is built especially for podcasting and music recordings. It is also a USB microphone making it accessible to more computer users including those that do not have a separate speaker jack on their computers. You would use this microphone alongside audio editing software such as GarageBand or Audacity.

Logitech USB Desktop Microphone

Cost: \$20

Type: Computer Microphone

Website: <http://www.logitech.com>

For those where even \$20 can make a huge difference in the budget, here is another computer microphone option. That said, this microphone, though of excellent quality, is not built directly for music recording and therefore may only produce an adequate recording. It is also a USB microphone making it accessible to more computer users. You would use this microphone alongside audio editing software such as GarageBand and Audacity.

Superscope PSD 340

Cost: \$999

Type: External CD Recorder and Burner

Website: <http://www.superscope-marantzpro.com/>

The Superscope PSD 340 is the ultimate recording machine and for the price it should be. On this puppy you can record, change key, change tempo, loop, balance and so much more. Do you need this to record All-State CDs? Definitely not but for those that do not have a computer with a CD-RW drive this may be one option to consider. With two CD drives (one to record and one to play accompaniment), two microphone/lines, and its own mixer, it's an all-in-one machine. Record, finalize and you are done. There are other cheaper options of external CD recorders available online if this is the route you need to go that you can get for as little as \$200 but keep in mind that is one area where you will most likely get what you pay for.

Omega Studio

Cost: \$160

Type: External Computer Mixer

Website: <http://www.lexiconpro.com>

Omega Studio is an external computer mixer complete with jacks for up to 8 lines. For those who like to use hands-on knobs and classic condenser microphones this may be the option for you. You will still need to use your computer to burn the final copy but this is a nice in-between option from the SuperScope and GarageBand.

Zoom H2 Handy Portable Stereo Recorder

Cost: \$145

Type: Digital Recorder

Website: <http://www.samsontech.com>

Similar to the Omega Studio in the regards that you will still need to use your computer to burn the final copy, this recorder is nice for those that like to have that classic tape recorder feel. Although it doesn't have 8 lines like the Omega, it is excellent for those that want few buttons to worry about or knobs to turn. It is a small recorder that looks similar to the old portable tape recorder only without the space for the tape and a large quality built in microphone. Press the record button and you're off and running. When you're done, upload your recording to your computer to be burned to a CD. That's it.