

Breaking news

Former Argentina President Nestor Kirchner dies of heart attack, state-run TV reports.

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Virtual Choir

AZUZ: Nearly 200 singers raised their voices in a choir performance recently. They didn't need any instrumental support, but they did get some help from technology. When the curtain went up, they weren't really there! John Vennavally-Rao takes note of how the ethereal ensemble came together.

(BEGIN VIDEO)

JOHN VENNAVALLY-RAO, REPORTER, CTV NEWS, TORONTO: At first, it may seem strange that Patrick Murray is all alone, given choirs are all about making music together.

PATRICK MURRAY [SINGING IN LATIN]: Singing "Lux Aurumque."

VENNAVALLY-RAO: The 20-year-old music major at the University of Toronto, singing to his computer a popular choral piece called "Lux Aurumque."

MURRAY: I recorded a video on my webcam along with the audio and then uploaded it to YouTube.

VENNAVALLY-RAO: On its own, a rather ordinary video. But Karen Koh of Singapore did the same. So did Steven Hansen in Sweden. And Melody Myers of Tennessee. Videos that kept coming in on YouTube, the different parts of the same song.

MELODY MYERS OF TENNESSEE, [SINGING IN LATIN]: Singing "Lux Aurumque"

VENNAVALLY-RAO: All singing to an instructional video from composer-conductor Eric Whitacre.

MURRAY: Everybody had to sync up their video to his video at the start of this beep.

VENNAVALLY-RAO: Producer Scott Haines put all those clips together; this, the extraordinary result: the conductor and the 185 voices on YouTube.

MURRAY: These people are from everywhere. 12 different countries represented in this video.

VENNAVALLY-RAO: A choir unlike any other.

MURRAY: There are people in Austria in this video. I've never been to Austria and maybe I never will, but here I am in this video singing with someone in Austria.

VENNAVALLY-RAO: Composer Whitacre wrote he found the final product overwhelming. The poetic symbolism about our shared humanity and the need to connect.

MURRAY: All you needed to participate was a webcam and a microphone. I think it's the future of creating music.

VENNAVALLY-RAO: And Whitacre says he hopes to one day compose an original piece for the virtual choir with hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people singing alone, together.

(END VIDEO)