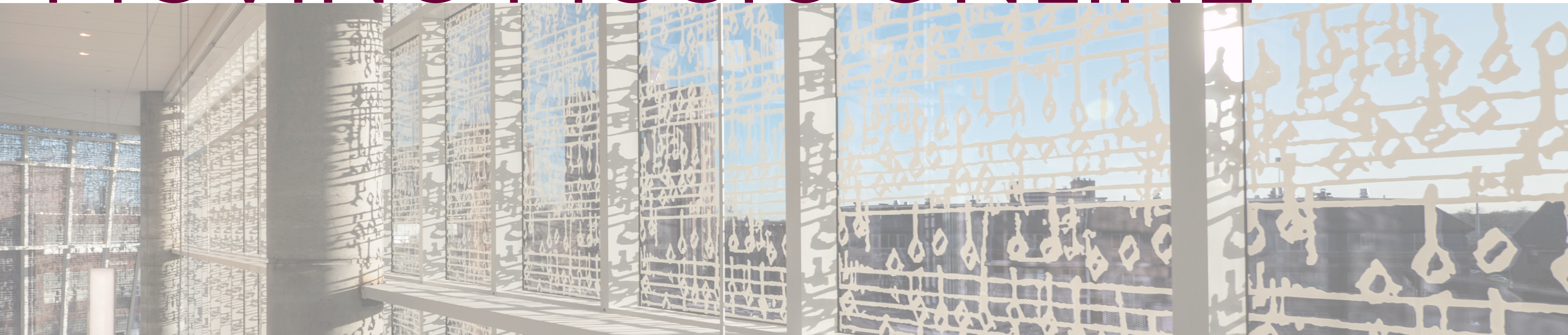


# MOVING MUSIC ONLINE



Professor Kristina Boerger, D.M.A. - John N. Schwartz Professor of Choral Leadership and Conducting at Augsburg - was not able to transfer her classes online as easily as other Augsburg professors. She needed to change her entire curriculum to fit an online platform. Which is particularly challenging when there is no technology that supports remote musical rehearsal; the time-lag in sound transmission from a device in one location to a device in the next makes simultaneous musicking near impossible.

Professor Boerger found a way, though, to educate her students for the remainder of the semester and continue their practice singing together. She is using an application called *Acappella*. In this app, a student initiates a file and video-records the first track. The student can then record subsequent tracks, or forward the file to a collaborator, who can record a simultaneous performance with the first track.

Each Monday, Professor Boerger sorts her students randomly into pairs, each pair having a week to fulfill the assignment. The students take turns as both Melodist and Countermelodist. The Melodist starts by creating an original melody, recording it into the app, and forwarding the file to the Countermelodist. The Countermelodist studies the melody, creates a harmonic counterpoint to it, and practices singing against the first track. Finalizing the duet file generates a link that can be shared for anyone's viewing.

This exercise provides practice in all the higher-level skills of ensemble singing. The Countermelodist is able to see and hear – and thus to synchronize intimately with – the partner's breath, mouth articulations, and phrase directions. It is also incumbent on the Countermelodist to achieve a vocal quality and balance that partners well with the Melodist's track. And the demand for in-tune singing is heavy in both roles.

Professor Boerger has been impressed by this app's power to give students a means to examine and evaluate their success in all these aspects of their collaborative singing. She has also been able to use this assignment to help students progress in their perception of harmony and in their grasp of its possibilities. The assignment also helps Professor Boerger involve students in original musical creativity, not only in recreating music that has already been composed by someone else.

The students enjoy seeing the faces and hearing the voices of their classmates, which is important for sustaining some semblance of the community that Augsburg's Music Department has worked very intentionally to build in our ensemble.



# SELECTIONS FROM OUR DUETTING PROJECT GALLERY

Click the images to listen to Auggies perform short duets through Acappella.

