



DAWN CHORUS

When people are silent, nature makes itself heard

How to make your Dawn Chorus recording

1 Check the time of sunrise

- Once you have chosen your App, the next thing to do, the night before, is to check the time of sunrise in your area for the date you will record, for example by using the Weather app on your phone or else by checking www.sunrise-and-sunset.com
- As different birds begin singing at different times, you will hear different species depending on exactly when you record. A good time is from about 30 minutes before sunrise until after dawn

2 Choose a location

- You can make a recording from a garden or park near your home, or if you are unable to go outside your house/apartment due to Covid-19 restrictions, then you can record from a balcony or even an open window.

3 Make your recording

- Place your phone or other recording device in a safe and stable position protected from wind and rain with the microphone (usually at the bottom of the phone) facing towards the birdsong (on a table or tripod or leaning against a stable surface). Once the device is in place, press record, and walk away. If it is not possible for you to put the device down, hold it in your hand without moving, using as few fingers as possible. Make sure you don't touch the microphone during the recording.
- Now, be very quiet: no talking, sneezing, walking, shuffling feet, scratching etc. :)
- Record at least 30 seconds and up to 2 minutes of sound and retrieve device. Stop the recording.

- Optional: you may wish to use the app to trim off the beginning and end of the recording to remove any noises you made (eg doors, footsteps etc). Do not use any filters to make the recording sound “nice” or to reduce any noise.
- If you have time, make two or three recordings at 15 minute intervals. And also please make more recordings on different days at the same time (ideally on a holiday and on a normal working day).

4 Upload on dawn-chorus.org

- Use the Upload form on our website and give the required information.
- Upload a Photo as well.

5 Tell more and tweet on

- Provide additional information if you like to.
- Share your content with your community once finished

All you will need is your smartphone

Android

- Some Android phones have good built-in sound recording Apps, such as Samsung's Voice Recorder.
- For a better recording, you can download and install apps that allow high-quality sound recordings. Their default settings are a good start, but if you would like to support us with a high-quality recording, please set the bitrate to 320 kbps. Sampling rate should be 44100 Hz (sometimes called 44kHz). For highest quality recordings, change the format to „wav“. Please note that file size will increase with increasing audio quality.

Here are some app suggestions:

- Hi-Q MP3 Voice Recorder (Free) by „Audiophile“. You will find your recording in a folder called „Recordings“. Make sure that „stereo“ is switched off (default), and under “microphone”, please select „unprocessed (raw)“.
- MP3 recorder by „Smart Mobile Tools“. You will find your recording in a folder called „com.fragileheart.recorder“. Please disable „noise suppressor“ (German: Rauschunterdrückung).

iPhone

- As a simple option, you may use the inbuilt Voice Memos app with the Lossless setting (show screenshot).
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Here are some iOS App suggestions which can provide good quality WAV sound recordings:

- Hokusai 2
- AVR (Awesome Voice Recorder)

Expert users

- Or if you are really serious about recording you may use an external stereo microphone (such as Zoom iQ6 or iQ7 for iPhone) or even a solid state audio recorder (for which you just need to make sure that it is set to output WAV files at 44.100 Hz sampling rate, bit depth of 32) and keep file size under 20MB.