

# ERIC

BY JANET DAY



It was three notes—three magical notes that open the Mozart *Requiem*—that changed Eric Whitacre's life. Up to that point, Eric had only dabbled in music, playing the piano and the trumpet, and writing songs on his synthesizer that he hoped would make him a pop star. But then he joined the concert choir and sang those beautiful opening notes—notes that would make him a Grammy award-winning composer and one of the most popular musicians of our time.

After that life-changing event as a freshman at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, Eric took his studies very seriously and received a degree in music composition. He then earned a Master's degree in composition from the prestigious Juilliard School of Music in New York City. Throughout his career, he has composed music for various groups including orchestra, wind symphony, mixed choir, women's choir, men's choir, solo voice, music theatre, as well as for film and television. Some of you may have heard his "Mermaid Theme" and other choral pieces that he co-wrote with Hans Zimmer for the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.





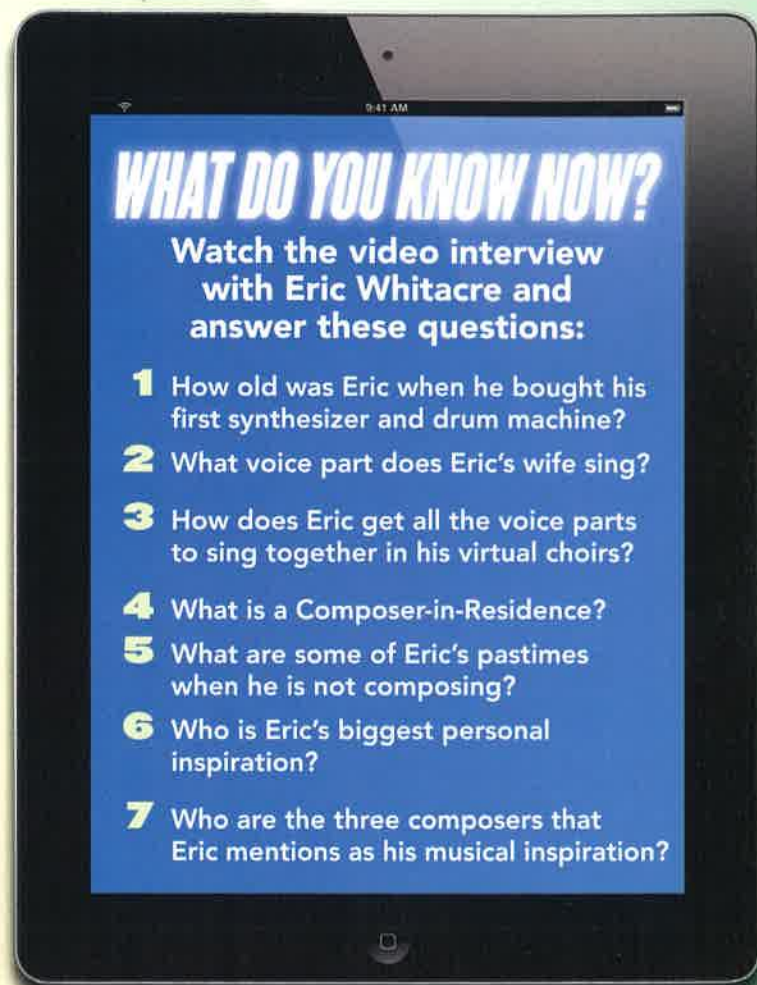
# WHITACRE

He is well known for his virtual choir projects, one of which you will study as a listening project in this magazine. Frequently invited to be a keynote speaker, Eric has addressed audiences from many world-famous companies like Apple and Google, and has given several TED talks. After a five-year term as Composer-in-Residence at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom, he recently returned to Los Angeles, where he lives with his wife and son.

Who would have imagined that a composition written over 200 years ago (Mozart's *Requiem* was completed in 1792), would inspire a young man to become a distinguished, award-winning composer and conductor who is known for uniting singers from all over the world? Eric, we are very glad you chose to be in choir!

## WHAT IS A VIRTUAL CHOIR?

Composer Eric Whitacre created the first Virtual Choir, which is an assembly of singers from all parts of the world performing a choral piece. Individual singers post videos of themselves singing their voice part and a video technician places all the audio and video into a single performance. With permission, go online and watch Eric's Whitacre's amazing virtual choir performances.



## MIXED CHOIRS HAVE BOTH FEMALE AND MALE VOICES SINGING TOGETHER.

The female singing voice that has the highest vocal range is **SOPRANO**.

The lowest voice part commonly sung by women is **ALTO**.

The male singing voice that has the highest vocal range is **TENOR**.

The male singing voice that has the lowest vocal range of all voice types is **BASS**.



# VIRTUAL CHOIR 4: FLY TO PARADISE

BY ERIC WHITACRE



SOLO

And all she ever thinks about is being any other place than this,

CHOIR

Ooh. \_\_\_\_\_

SOLO

'cause she remembers having wings but she's forgotten what it's like to feel a paradise of bliss.

CHOIR

Ooh. \_\_\_\_\_

SOLO

And all I want to do is fly,

CHOIR

Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly, \_\_\_\_\_

SOLO

just fly,

CHOIR

fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly, \_\_\_\_\_

SOLO

and all I want to do is fly,

CHOIR

Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly, \_\_\_\_\_

SOLO

just fly.

CHOIR

Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly to paradise! (4 times *f*)

CHOIR

Fly (9 times *mf* crescendo to *f*) to paradise!





6 Listen to Luigi's Baton and Mike warm up for the virtual choir performance of Eric Whitacre's "Fly to Paradise."

Listen to the singers and follow along. Sometimes you will hear a **soloist** (**lyrics in red**), and other times, you will hear a **choir of many voices** (**lyrics in blue**).

**SOLO**

**And all she ever thinks about is memories of soaring through the sky,**

**SOLO**

**'cause she remembers having wings but she's forgotten what it feels like to fly.**

**CHOIR**

**Ooh.** \_\_\_\_\_

**SOLO**

**And all I want to do is fly,**

**CHOIR**

**Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly, \_\_\_\_\_**

**SOLO**

**just fly,**

**CHOIR**

**fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly, \_\_\_\_\_**

**SOLO**

**and all I want to do is fly,**

**CHOIR**

**Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly, \_\_\_\_\_**

**SOLO**

**just fly.**

**CHOIR**

**Fly, \_\_\_\_\_ fly to paradise!**  
**(8 times f)**

**SOLO**

**to paradise.**

Composer, Eric Whitacre  
Lyrics, David Noroña, Eric Whitacre  
Instrumental/Electronic Track, Guy Sigsworth  
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Artwork from Eric Whitacre's Virtual Choir 4: Fly to Paradise [www.ericwhitacre.com](http://www.ericwhitacre.com)

