Hello, Blackhawk!

My name is James Burkey. My wife and I put the music videos together for Ottawa First Presbyterian's contemporary music group, "MT No More".   We have a PC laptop we do it all on, and use the Filmora video editor (which costs about $60). I have checked out a few other cheaper (less than a hundred bucks) programs that claimed to have split screen, but none of them really worked.   More than likely, if you wanted to spend more money, Adobe would have something better – but Adobe Premiere is way more complicated to use and way more expensive. If you use an Apple computer, you might find iMovie to be user-friendly and very good too.

The basic steps:
1. Record your lead video. For example, I sing and play guitar to create the master track.
2. Get that track to your team. I upload it to my Google Drive and share the folder. Video tracks are too big to email.
3. The rest of the team downloads the master track from the Google Drive.
4. Everyone else listens to that track on headphones and sings/plays along with it while videorecording themselves.
5. Everyone uploads their tracks back into the Google Drive so I can get to them.
6. I download all their tracks
7. I open Filmora and create a new video
8. I use the "import media" feature in Filmora to put those tracks into Filmora's temporary library for that song.
9. Filmora has a "splitscreen" feature that you drag down into your video track.   You would then open that splitscreen track by clicking on it and then "advanced."
10. You then drag the tracks into the splitscreen slots as you like. I recommend putting your master track in, then doing the titles (see step 13) and then coming back and doing the rest of the tracks unless you have a really high-end computer.   My laptop very often gets very skippy when all the tracks are in and it can be very hard to line up the lyrics. You can adjust volume levels and the size of each track within the square.
11. We put a black square or some kind of image in one of the center tiles so that when we do the titles for the lyrics you can see them.
12. Lining up the tracks is the big challenge – I have everyone count at the start so that I can line up their counting. You definitely want to zoom in on the individual video tracks so that you can slide them around by tenths of a second. I don't have a good ear for lining up the tracks, but thankfully my wife does.
13. Click on "titles" and choose the title that works best for you. They will appear on the title track above the video track and will overlay the video. So, we move and shrink them down to fit the square that we prepped for the titles (see 11).
14. Line up the titles so that the lyrics you put in them match the song as it plays.
15. When the song is the way you want it, export it.
16. I then upload the finished video (I make them as MP4s) to the Google Drive again, and Brian (our bass player and sound/audio guy) then downloads it from the Google Drive and puts it on the church computer (or maybe he just accesses the Google Drive from the church computer).

I hope this helps you get started. This has all been trial and error and winging it – I am not an expert video maker, and I am always learning new tricks. Feel free to email me if you need more info or have any questions.
James Burkey