

# TRI-COUNTY CONCERTS YOUTH FESTIVAL

## **Masks**

Masks are not required. However, at your discretion, for safety while recording auditions, masks may be worn by all accompanists and by students who are not competing in categories where a mask would interfere with their performance (winds & brass, and voice). Wearing a mask will not affect the judges' evaluation of your performance.

## **Video Submission Guidelines**

1. Video framing: Place the video recording device so that you, your instrument, and your full range of motion are in the frame at all times. For those who are not playing from memory (ensembles, winds & brass, and musica diversa), make sure your music stand does not cover your face, instrument, arms/hands and range of motion. The judges must be able to see your instrument to be able to observe your technique.
2. Picture must remain stationary: no panning, zooming, multiple cameras, fading in/out.
3. If applicable, tune your instrument to A=440.
4. Video timing: The video should be only as long as needed to complete the approved selection in one take.
5. Do not make any announcements before or after you perform. The judges will know what you are going to be playing. Do NOT state your name.
6. If you do not like a take, you are welcome to re-record. However, please submit only the recording which best represents your playing.
7. You may not edit, cut, splice, or otherwise alter your performance.

## **Video Recording Tips**

### Video Quality

1. Record when you can have quiet and no interruptions.
2. Film in a well-lit space. Make sure there is more light in front of you rather than behind you so that you are not back-lit.
3. Record against a solid, light-colored background/wall, if possible.
4. If using a mobile device, your device needs to be in landscape orientation.
5. Place the video recording device on a flat surface with microphone area unobstructed.
6. Check sound levels beforehand to make sure sound is not distorted in loud passages and inaudible in soft passages.
7. Frame yourself adequately. The video should show you and your entire instrument, as well as the range of motion associated with playing your instrument. Vocalists: judges need to see your face as well as most of your body.
8. Ensure your music stand is not in blocking you, if you use one. Remember, memorization is required for those auditioning in piano, strings, and voice.

### Audio Quality

1. Find a quiet spot at home.
2. Be mindful of your instrument's loudest volume, the size of the room, and test your room's acoustics.
3. If you have a good external mic, please use it. Microphone quality is important.
4. Woodwind and brass musicians should not point your bell directly at the mic but slightly off-centered.
5. String instruments: make sure the face of your instruments is directed towards the video recording device so we can see both your left-hand and your bow arm technique.

### Other tips

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1. Planning your audition video is essential.
2. We strongly encourage you to consult and work with your private studio teacher when preparing your audition.
3. Having another person in the room is helpful if you need to adjust something but that person should not be seen in the video.
4. Dress as you would if appearing on stage in an evening recital.