

How do I set up the videos?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* The video must be recorded from one fixed camera angle/location, where as much of the performer is visible as possible...particularly hands and feet.* Make sure it is obvious that no sheet music is being used (if memory is required)* We recommend recording the video from the treble side of the piano, where an audience would normally sit.* Do a short test recording at various dynamic levels and listen back to it. If there is a buzz or feedback in the recording, try moving the camera farther back or lowering the volume.* Only set light in front of the performer/behind the camera. Light coming from behind the performer towards the camera will darken the shot.* Dress appropriately, wear shoes, and follow competition guidelines. (No sheet music, all pieces in one recording, etc.)
Does the performer need to say anything?	It depends on the particular event. Performers might be asked to announce the names of their pieces before starting to play. They should not give their names or their teachers names unless specifically asked.

Do I need special equipment to record?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* No, videos can be recorded on any device. It is helpful to try out different devices to see which one gives the best sound quality. Sometimes a tablet or laptop might sound better than a cell phone.* An external mic can be used to create a better sound quality, if needed, but is not necessary and sometimes creates more sound issues than it fixes.
Can I record on a smart phone?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Yes, sometimes smart phones can give excellent recordings. Just be sure to hold the phone landscape (sideways) not in portrait mode.* Removing a cellphone from its case can improve sound quality.
Can I edit the video?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Import the video into your computer to review the quality of the film and upload it. You can trim time from the beginning and end but DO NOT edit within the recording. Windows Movie Maker, iMovie or Quicktime are easy resources to use.* Youtube has many excellent tutorials on how to use these programs.

<p>What format should the videos be?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Compress the file if it is larger than 4GB and export it as an mp4. * Handbrake (handbrake.fr) is a free app than can convert videos to any format. Many of the free recording software on computers can export as mp4s, as well. * Be sure to upload an .mp4...not a raw video file! * Refer to the Richmond Music Teachers Association youtube channel for a tutorial on formatting and compressing videos.
<p>How do I submit the video?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Refer to the event information for specifics on video submission and deadlines. * Refer to the Richmond Music Teachers Association youtube channel for tutorials on how to share videos using either youtube or google drive.
<p>Doesn't this mean students can perform more than one take?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Absolutely! Videos can be made and re-made until you get a good one. Remember the goal is to capture an honest and natural performance. * Always keep playing and recording, even when mistakes are made. The quality of performances tend to drop after 3-5 takes and it's better to have one complete recording than none.

Will my students be penalized for playing on an electric piano/ lesser quality instrument ?

- * We understand that most students don't own a professional quality concert grand. The judges are instructed to base their decisions on the quality of the student's performance, not the quality of the instrument.
- * If students wish to use a teacher or friend's instrument to record on, that is also acceptable.