

RECORDING A FULL ENSEMBLE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECORDED PARTICIPATION AT MUSICFEST 2021

The following provides a recommended procedure and equipment for participating in Musicfest by recording.

In order to provide a video recording that will be of streaming quality, you will need the following:

- **Ensemble Apparel**
 - Please wear the proper ensemble apparel, as instructed by your ensemble Manager/Director
- **Recommended Video Equipment**
 - Consider using a video camera recording unit with built-in condenser microphones such as the ZOOM Q2N, ZOOM Q8, or SONY HD-MV1 video camera, which offers the desired audio quality without the burden of mixing the video with a separate audio source in post-production.
 - **TIP:** Make sure that the selected camera has **WEBCAM** capability (very useful for the virtual clinic after the performance!)
 - Standard Video cameras need a better audio input source than their built-in microphone to record a large ensemble effectively.
 - If a standard video camera is the only solution, consider using an audio input source as described above and mix its audio recording with the video recording after the recording session.

- **Choose an appropriate space**
 - Use a large room or hall with a high ceiling.
 - Choose a room that has minimal background noise.
 - For video recording, bright lighting will be helpful

- **Audio: Use Proper Equipment**
 - Use condenser microphones, if possible (They're also referred to as "recording mics").
 - Try to avoid using ball type vocal microphones of the type generally used for public address systems, such as Shure SM-58 mics.
 - If possible, choose microphones that have either battery power or which use phantom power (provided by most mixers and some recorders).
 - Use one microphone for each channel, left and right, and be sure that the microphones are a matching pair.
 - An appropriate choice: Units with 2 built-in recording microphones and a recorder such as a ZOOM H5 audio recorder.

- Recording audio Settings: Audio sampling rate should be set to 48 KHZ (audio standard with video)
 - Video should be HD quality. 4K not recommended as it may slow down the viewing process.
- **The Recording Process:**
 - **Think of the equipment as a chain** - source (you) > instrument > mic > cable > recording device > etc.
 - Plug everything in before turning on the power
 - Always take time to run a test before any and every performance
 - If possible, have someone to help monitor levels, video placement etc. of equipment
 - **Place the microphones for a better blend**
 - Use two microphones on a bar on one stand, or two stands about 4 feet apart.
 - Set the microphones about 15 feet high and 12-15 feet in front of the ensemble.
 - Plug the left microphone (when facing the ensemble) into the left of the recorder.
 - If using a 2-microphones or 2-mics with video recorder unit, use only one stand in the middle, 12-15 feet in front of the ensemble.
 - **Set the recording levels carefully**
 - Check levels using the loudest passage of the piece.
 - Set the levels just under the loudest level on the meter.
 - If using a mixer, set input level first, then mix, then main, then recorder levels.
 - **Don't adjust any levels during the recording**
 - The entire performance must be recorded in **one take, both video and audio.**
 - **Post-Production - If Mixing Separate Audio with Video** (Some experience in video production is recommended):
 - Use a post-video production software such as ADOBE PREMIERE or iMovie or Final Cut Pro, or any other product allowing you to do audio/video editing after the fact.

- Open the video file and insert it in the “timeline” area of your screen in one track, including the video and the audio track from the video camera
 - Insert the separate audio file under the video in the timeline area.
 - You should have 3 tracks:
 - Video
 - Original audio from the video camera, currently “linked” to the video track
 - Audio #2, from the separate audio source.
 - Drag the Audio #2 track and align it with the original audio from the video.
 - Play the sequence and **ensure that the audio track #2 is precisely aligned with the original audio track**, by listening and muting/unmuting one of the audio tracks
 - To ensure that the audio tracks are precisely aligned, **listen not only to the beginning but also the middle and the end of the sequence.**
 - Unlink the original audio track from the video (See software instructions).
 - Link the audio #2 track with the video.
 - Lock the video/audio #2 tracks in place, so that they stay properly aligned.
 - **Warning:** Any other post-production editing feature such as EQ, tone, pitch, or time correction/editing is forbidden. Only audio track alignment and replacement is permitted.
- **Recommended Format:** Export your video using **MP4** with H. 264 video codec and **AAC** audio codec.

UPLOADING THE RECORDING:

Once the recording is ready for submission, you will need to upload it to your online file.

- a) Login at musicfest.ca
- b) Click “ Register” for the ensemble you wish to enter
- c) At the “Details” stage, choose “Ensemble will perform through recording” as the Performing Method
- d) At the “Recording & Scores Upload” stage, upload your pdf scores and URL link to the video recording

VIRTUAL CLINIC

Following the recording, you will receive an email from one of the adjudicators setting a date and time for the clinic.

- **Equipment Setup**

- TV, monitor or audiovisual projector connected to a computer
- An Internet connection with a bandwidth high enough to support HD video/audio signals
- An audio input source:
 - The default input audio would be your computer microphone
 - If possible, use condenser/recording mics with a USB connection such as ZOOM audio recorders (Zoom H4, H5)
- A webcam:
 - Note: Some video cameras such as the ZOOM Q8 or Q2N can also be used as webcam with a USB connection to your computer, thus providing a better audio quality for your adjudicator, as they are equipped with condenser/recording microphones.
- Speakers to hear the adjudicator
 - **Important:** During the virtual clinic, always ensure that your audio inputs are **muted when the adjudicator is talking**, in order to prevent annoying feedback noise.
- A Video Conference platform such as Google Meet, ZOOM or MS TEAMS, allowing for guests from outside your organization to be included in the meeting.

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RECORDING EQUIPMENT RENTAL PACKAGES

For your consideration, our Official Retail Sponsor Long & McQuade has prepared a "recording rental package" that includes exactly the equipment that will help you prepare a recording for both a recorded and a virtual adjudication. Here are links to two short manuals that describe how to set up the equipment:

- [Q8 User Guide](#)
- [Q2n-4K Quick Guide](#)

The costs of the packages are:

Ensembles (Bands, Orchestras, Choirs) - \$100.00

Individual Honour Ensemble Recordings (Winds, Strings, Vocal) - \$35.00
(This does not include String Bass)

Individual Honour Ensemble Rhythm Section - \$105 (includes String Bass)

If you would like to take advantage of the offer, please call your local Long & McQuade retail store and mention Musicfest Recording Packages.