

# TFMC All State Festival – Video Help

## Tips, Tricks, & Best Practices For Digital Auditions

Developed in partnership with Acceptd, here are some strategies to help you and your students prepare recordings, save to your computer for upload, comply with festival requirements, showcase themselves as a musician, and achieve the ultimate goal: a winning performance that caps off their musical year.

### *Preparation*

*Professional equipment is not necessary. It's more about the music than the video.*

#### **What You Need:**

A tablet or smartphone is all the equipment you need.

Cloud storage to collect student video submissions. (iCloud, Dropbox, Google Drive)

#### **Location**

Home or studio is fine.

Ensembles comprised of non-family members may need special accommodations.

Accompanists may record in one location so that students have a backing track for their performances when students record videos.

#### **Lighting**

Use natural light if possible. Overhead lighting is fine. If you need a lamp, place it behind the camera .

#### **Setup**

Treat the camera as if it were a judge.

Record appropriate distance from performer to capture the full body of the performer. (6'-8' for piano)

Voice – entire person, allow room for interpretive gestures

Piano: – whole student, full keyboard

Guitar/Instrumental: whole student, entire instrument

Capture the best overall view of the performance.

*Tip: Use creativity to secure and to stabilize the camera for recording*



Sample teaching setup.  
Photo courtesy of Bradley Sowash

# ***Execution***

*You get a second chance!*

*Remember the goal is to capture an honest and natural performance.*

## **Test**

Run a technical dress rehearsal or two with everything in place. Review sound quality to reduce or eliminate background interference for the final performance.

When ready, record for final performance.

## **Recording guidelines**

The final performance video must be one continuous take. No editing/splicing permitted.

Treat as a live performance.

Dress up for the judge. This is a competition.

Begin video without introduction, student in place for performance; stop video no later than 3 seconds after performance ends.

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