



## 2021 Music Festival Q & A's

As of February 20, 2021

Please check back periodically as new Q & A's will be posted throughout the spring.

**Q1: Our students were unable to perform their selections at the festivals last year. Can they enter their selections this year?**

**A1:** *Yes. This is addressed in Section 3-A-7 (Repetition). As long as the event did not perform, they have the option to perform the selection at a future festival.*

**Q2: Is the prescribed music list still required for solo/small ensemble events?**

**A2:** *Yes. You will need to make sure the publisher of the selection appears on the list found on the NFHS website. <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/virtual-state-adjudication-permissions/> This is a dynamic link, so more publishers may be added to the list. Some of the publishers appearing on the list are live links and if selected will also list the imprints held by their company.*

**Q3: If a publisher does not appear on the Virtual State Adjudication Permissions link on the NFHS website, does this mean we cannot use the selection?**

**A3:** *Not necessarily. If you want to perform the work you will need to contact the publisher directly to obtain written permission to perform the work under the specific guidelines listed in the link. If the publisher will not grant permission, you cannot use the selection in the virtual festivals. Once you have written confirmation from the publisher please forward to the MSHSAA office so we can get it added to the NFHS list. A list of music publisher that have granted permission for Missouri schools only has been placed on the Music Activities page. It is called MSHSAA Virtual Adjudication Permissions. It will be updated as publishers grant written permission for all Missouri schools.*

**Q4: Will considerations be given in the judging of performances due the performers wearing masks, using recorded accompaniment, etc.?**

**A4:** *Adjudicators will be instructed to take into consideration the virtual format of the festival when adjudicating the performance.*

**Q5: For solos and small ensembles, can students perform with a pre-recorded accompaniment track, other than SmartMusic? Does the accompanist have to be included in the video recording?**

**A5:** *a) The limitations on accompaniment have been waived this year, so the student(s) can perform their work either a cappella, with a live accompaniment, SmartMusic or other pre-recorded accompaniment tracks. You are encouraged to do a 'test recording' in the HeartOut App to check the camera angle, volume level, balance and lighting before the actual performance. b) No.*

**Q6: By-Law 4.2.3b states a soloist must be a member of a school music performing organization. Our school has students who are unable to meet this requirement this semester due to a) taking classes virtually, b) our large groups are meeting virtually. Can they still enter a solo for the music festivals this year?**

A6: *Yes, the MSHSAA Board of Directors has granted relief of the by-law for this year. However, the student must meet the Student Essential By-Laws outlined in Section 2 of the MSHSAA Handbook (i.e. bona fide student, citizenship, academic, etc.).*

**Q7: For solo/small ensemble events, can the events be recorded prior to the 10-day video submission window opening?**

A7: *No. HeartOut is an online recording certification platform that authenticates and verifies that the student(s) performance is "live" and unedited by only allowing student(s) to record themselves online and in real time. The director will also have the option to record and upload each performance if they prefer through the HeartOut App. The window has been expanded to address schools observing spring break during their submission window.*

**Q8: For the vocal large ensemble festivals, does the accompanist or director have to be included in the video recording uploaded to CompetitionSuite?**

A8: *No.*

**Q9: Due to contact tracing at our school, we cannot mix personnel at the high school. Our band is currently split into a woodwind choir and a brass/percussion choir. Because of the instrumentation of our brass/percussion choir the group does not meet the requirements to be classified as a brass choir event. Can I enter the brass/percussion choir as a band this year due to COVID?**

A9: *Yes.*

**Q10: My large ensembles have been divided alphabetically, this year for scheduling purposes. I do not have balanced instrumentation/voicing in some of my ensembles. Can I use members from other ensembles to help balance these groups and can they play their primary instrument in both ensembles?**

A10: *Yes. The duplication of personnel restrictions for second or subsequent large ensembles has been waived this year.*

**Q11: Will MSHSAA accept late music entries this year?**

A11: *No. Due to the virtual format and structure of the festivals, no late entries can be accepted this year.*

**Q12: Does the Media ID Number have to appear on the scanned copy of music for the adjudicator?**

A12: *No. You will not have the Media ID Number until you enter your events in Festival Manager on the MSHSAA website. You will need to place it on the music your student(s) will hold up before they start recording their video performance in the HeartOut App.*

**Q13: Can I, as the music director, record and submit my students' performances for solo/small ensemble?**

A13: *Yes. You must download the HeartOut app onto your mobile device and follow the instructions on page 5 of the HeartOut Music Directors Guide included in the eblast of February 9<sup>th</sup>.*

**Q14: Our school blocks Vimeo. How can I submit entries through the HeartOut app?**

*A14: As the director, you can record performances in the app and submit at a later time. Your school may elect to lower the restrictions for Vimeo for a designated period of time to allow you to submit the auditions at school or you may wait until you are home with your own WiFi connection. If you have several recordings you may want to submit the recordings periodically so you do not run out of memory/space on your mobile device.*

**Q15: Do my solo/small ensemble entries still have to be entered in the Festival Manager program on the MSHSAA website?**

*A15: Yes. All entries and judge's music must be entered in the MSHSAA Festival Manager program by your Group's established entry deadline (March 3<sup>rd</sup> or March 10<sup>th</sup>). You will not upload the judge's score in the HeartOut app. MSHSAA has added this feature to the new entry program this year. It should save you time when you begin the video submission process. (**NOTE:** If you have bookmarked the previous Festival Manager program, please remove it as it is no longer a live site for MSHSAA music entries. You must log onto the MSHSAA website to access the new entry program. Refer to the eblast of February 9<sup>th</sup>, which contains the entry instructions for solo/small ensemble.)*