



2021 Music Festival Q & A's

As of January 12, 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.*

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 5-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.

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.