

## TIPS FOR MAKING A GOOD VIDEO

Professional recordings are not required. Cell phone cameras or video recording equipment made for personal will produce a satisfactory video. The adjudicators will not be judging the quality of the videos. There are, however, some simple and important things you can do to ensure your submission “presents” well for the adjudicators.

- The recording must offer a clear picture of the performer, showing face or profile, and, in the case of instrumentalists, face, hands and instrument (keyboard only in the case of piano). For singers, a full body shot is preferred. Keep the camera close enough so that the adjudicator can see your facial expressions.
- **Make sure to announce your name, the title of the piece you are performing and the composer at the start of your video.**
- Be aware of your surroundings. Try to select a room that has well-balanced acoustics. Refrain from spaces that are resonant or have echoes so your diction is clear. Untidy backgrounds are distracting.
- Test the view of your camera, to ensure your whole body is in the frame and the space is well-lit. Keep the camera close enough so the adjudicator can see your facial expressions
- If you are using a recorded “track” rather than a live pianist for accompaniment, balance the sound level of the track to the level of your voice or instrument.
- Make sure that no background noise (like an air conditioner, running dishwasher, ringing phone, etc.) interferes with your recording or interrupts your performance.
- Make sure the space is well-lit. The light needs to be in front of you.
- If possible, use a tripod or stand for your video recording device or prop it on a table to help stabilize the recorded image rather than relying on someone’s hand to keep it steady.
- Adjudicators will evaluate technical skill, musicality, accuracy, and presentation. For voice and music theatre beauty of voice, communication of text and diction will also be evaluated.
- Do “test runs” to check you are centered in the frame and that the sound is not distorted in any way.

- Perform your piece from start to finish without stopping. No mixing, voice amplification, sound enhancement, audio dubbing, or splicing of multiple “takes” together is allowed.
- Record each song in a separate video file.
- Make your recording as if you were performing at a live Festival or recital or preparing a video audition. Have the appropriate comportment and dress.
- Remember when you upload your video to YouTube to add your name and the class number of your entry when you are prompted for a title e.g. (Janet Joyce 814.1). When you are prompted for a description add the title and composer of your selection. Take off the “**kids**” setting on YouTube.
- Save the **video link(URL)** of your recorded piece on YouTube. You need this to register.