

Recording Techniques for Virtual Performances

Thank you for reading this short instructional page on proper recording techniques for your upcoming virtual performance. We are going to go through a few important tips to help you make the best recording possible. Please also watch the companion video, viewable at <https://youtu.be/SqDUTh75emw>

1. Location

Find a suitable location to record inside. This can be anywhere that is calm & quiet. A solid wall or background is recommended. Please make sure to turn off any fans, air conditioners or other things that produce a hum or other loud noises. We want it as quiet as possible to hear your performance. For this reason, please avoid recording outdoors or in a bathroom.

2. Cameras

You will want to use a high quality setting for the video. If you are using a phone please refer to your user settings and set the quality to 1080p or higher, at a frame rate of 30 fps (frames per second)

3. Listening & Recording

In order to record your part, you will need two devices.

Device no.1: Music Player

You will need the first device to play the guide track in your ear through headphones or earbuds while you play the piece on your instrument. Wireless earbuds are an excellent choice but any type of headphones or earbuds will work just fine. You will want to find a comfortable volume so that you can hear the song clearly.

Recording Tip: Try placing the earbuds or headphones on only one ear instead of both. You may find that this helps with hearing both your instrument and the guide track simultaneously.

Device. no.2: Camera Recorder

The second device will be the camera recording you. This can be anything from a phone to a cinema camera. If you use a phone please make sure it is in landscape mode (wide, horizontal) instead of portrait mode (tall, vertical)

4. Camera Placement

The easiest way to place your camera and angle your shot is to use a tripod. Most tripods these days come with attachments to easily hold a phone. If you don't own a tripod, that's ok! There are some alternatives it may just require some creativity to make it work. For instance, if you are using your phone to record, you could balance the phone in between two books on top of a few more books (for height) on top of coffee table. Just please avoid having anything at too far of an angle, or having anyone hold the camera as we want the video to be completely stable and not shaky.

5. Do A Test Video

Now that you've setup your location, devices, and camera placement, it's time to double check everything. We recommend doing a 30 second test video before moving on to your final recording session. Check to make sure that you are framed well in the video, not too close or far away. We want to see your whole instrument and face with a little extra room around you so that we can crop you as needed into the final video with the other musicians. (Please refer to the video for examples of this recommended placement). You may stand or sit for your performance, but the same guidelines apply for your recommended placement.

6. Lighting

Make sure that there is enough lighting so that we can see you clearly, but please avoid having any direct light in the frame.

7. Recording

You'll find that the guide track has extra space before and after the song starts, as well as a metronome countdown. Please make sure that you have started recording your video before you start playing your guide track, and that you are in playing position while you wait for the guide track to begin. The same goes for the end of the track. The metronome count continues for another few bars after the end of the song. Please hold your position and do not end the video recording until the metronome count ends.

12. Dress

If your director has not required a specific dress attire such as concert black, it's still recommended that you dress appropriately. A solid color or black shirt is always a safe choice. Please avoid shirts with non-school logos. **You are encouraged to wear your school spirit shirt.**

9. Final Thoughts

You should be all set to record now. Your video needs to be made in one single take so please practice your parts well and make sure you are prepared to play all the way through with the guide track. It is extra important for you to play as closely to this track as possible. Good luck and happy recording!