

Video Recording Guidelines

Statement:

To ensure that, by proceeding, all NFA competitions may honor the work of those who have applied, the NFA has modified the format of some of the future rounds of its 2020 competitions. While no solution is ideal compared to the opportunity to present a live round at an annual convention, in most cases, video submissions for 2020's live rounds best preserve our applicants' opportunities to compete.

Requirements:

Competitors submitting video entries for any round of any competition must honor the following guidelines:

- 1) All videos must be recorded unaccompanied, even if your music typically requires an accompaniment. We make this requirement for the sake of fairness; different regions of the USA and the world will relax and restrict their social distancing guidelines at different times, making impossible a fair opportunity for piano rehearsal. The only exception is any selection in your repertoire that requires an electronic track accompaniment must be recorded using the provided track. The audio quality of this track's playback itself will not be judged as long as it is reasonably discernible and appropriately balanced.
- 2) To preserve an important characteristic of our convention-based live rounds, all repertoire for any round of video submission must be recorded in one consecutive take. Your device(s) must continue recording between your selections. Unlike our live rounds, however, you may record your complete round as many times as you wish to idealize your entry.
- 3) You may record your videos using any smartphone, tablet, or other device you already own. Professional quality video is neither required nor expected, but please stage your videos according to this guidance:
 - a) Place your camera or device on a tripod or flat surface while recording.
 - b) Have more light sourced in front of you than behind you.
 - c) Film at a medium distance, capturing as much detail as possible while making certain that you are always entirely visible.
 - d) Wherever you record, do so in a clean and visually professional location. Home recordings are absolutely acceptable, as are classrooms, teachers' studios, churches, and performance halls.
 - e) Even though these rounds will remain private, dress as you would for a live round performance at the convention.
- 4) You may record the audio portion of your video using an external microphone and then pair this audio with your video. Please follow these audio guidelines:
 - a) Any submission in which audio does not exactly match video will be disqualified.
 - b) Set your recording levels carefully, making certain your softest sounds are distinct, but your loudest sounds do not cause clipping or any other kind of distortion.
 - c) Editing a recording, including studio-produced effects, or talking during a recording is strictly prohibited.
- 5) Acceptable formats for video submission include 3g2, 3gp, avi, m2v, m2ts, m4v, mkv, mov, mp4, mpeg, mpg, ogg, mts, qt, ts, wmv. Maximum file size is 5 GB. Typical high-quality video for website purposes is fine. Please contact Vicky Pampe at vpampe@nfaonline.org well in advance of your deadline if you have any concerns regarding this requirement.
- 6) Follow all other rules for your competition as seen on the [NFA's Competition Guidelines](#), your competition's page, and any other rules provided by your coordinator.