



2021 Organization Festivals

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of these virtual assessments?

ISSMA is committed to fulfilling our mission to provide educationally evaluated music performance opportunities for students and teachers of school music ensembles from member schools in Indiana. The focus of these non-competitive virtual assessments is to enhance continued participation and musical growth, assist directors with student retention and engagement, and provide a sense of direction and purpose to student development, regardless of whatever their current learning format might be.

What is the date of the event?

The J.M.E. Concert Organization Events will be held as virtual events on March 20th and March 27th. April 10th will be held open as an emergency back-up day for JME evaluations.

The HS Concert Organization Events will be held as virtual events on April 24th and May 1st. May 8th will be held open as an emergency back-up day for evaluations.

Can I choose the weekend my students are evaluated?

To assist with balancing the number of adjudicators and ISSMA personnel needed on each event day, all groups will be assigned a specific evaluation date by the ISSMA office.

How do I enter and what does it cost to participate?

The entry process is completed online via a link in the “Directors Only” area of the ISSMA website.

Entry fees for JME Organizations - Band & Orchestra - \$170, Choral - \$145.

Entry fees for HS Organizations - Band & Orchestra - \$210, Choral - \$165.

An invoice will be created during the entry process as directors register their ensembles.

If my school goes all virtual, can I get a refund?

Entry fees will be invoiced at the time of entry. In the event a school that has already submitted an entry fee is unable to participate due to a change in the school’s learning status, consideration of a refund will be given upon a formal request from the school’s principal sent to the ISSMA Executive Director.

When is the entry deadline?

The Virtual JME Organization Entry Deadline is Wednesday, February 24th. The Virtual HS Organization Entry Deadline is Wednesday, March 17th. The entry process is completed online via a link in the “Directors Only” Area of the ISSMA website.

What if I miss the entry deadline or need to change my entry?

Directors must register all participating ensembles by the February 24th (JME) and March 17th (HS) entry deadlines. No late entries or changes to entries will be accepted after the entry deadline. *Exception: JME Organizations may change the group level entered by one group level if requested by Saturday, March 6th and High School Organization change the group level entered by one group level if requested by Saturday, April 10th.*

How does this process work?

Organization Assessments will be completed by the submission of performance videos and music PDF files through *CompetitionSuite*. A panel of three judges will provide recorded commentary, scoring and ratings for all Organization submissions. Much effort has been made to keep this process as similar to in-person adjudication as possible by asking judges to provide verbal comments and a rating through use of electronic versions of the Adjudication Sheets. Group levels and Required lists will be utilized. Directors should select appropriate literature based on the ensembles' musical maturity, experience, and goals.

Do I need to obtain any copyright permission?

Working closely with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), ISSMA has aligned the Virtual Organization Event specifications to follow NFHS guidelines.

- Performances will be shared in a private setting and viewable by judges through an individual link.
- The performance can only be shared for educational assessment or ISSMA adjudication purposes.
- The performances will be stored on a secure server to be distributed to ISSMA adjudicators.
- The recorded performance must use legally purchased sheet music.
- Adjudicator copies will be stored on a secure server with uploaded adjudicator copies being deleted following adjudication.
- Any special arrangements shall need proper permissions secured prior to recording.

What technology is involved?

Video submissions for Organization Events are to be created by each school using their own recording equipment, including a video camera, iPad/Tablet, or smartphone. Minimum audio requirement is one external microphone or the internal mic on the iPad/Tablet or smartphone. The video recordings and the PDF copies of the music scores will then be uploaded into CompetitionSuite for the assessment process to be completed.

Can you clarify what the Submission Window means?

The Submission Window is a 2 or 3-week period during which directors are to upload their performance videos and PDF files of legally purchased music to CompetitionSuite. The corresponding Entry Deadlines and Submission Windows will be the same for all JME or HS entries regardless of the assigned evaluation day.

The Virtual JME Video & Printed Music Submission Window is March 3rd through March 17th.

The Virtual HS Video & Printed Music Submission Window is March 31st through April 21st.

If my students participated in the Fall Virtual Organization Assessments, what is different for the Virtual Organization Events?

The Fall Virtual Assessments were not meant to replace the 2021 spring ISSMA events but were provided as assessment opportunities for students to perform any music they were currently studying. For the Virtual Organization Events:

- Group Level Classifications and Group Level Required Lists as previously published will be used.
- Bands, Choirs and Orchestras must perform a minimum of two selections, with a third selection optional.
- Ensembles may repeat selections used in one of the Fall Organization Assessments, if desired.
- Ensembles entering in Group IV may choose to perform only one selection, with second or third selections optional.
- JME Group I and HS Groups III, II or I ensembles must perform one selection from the corresponding Required list for the group level entered.
- Choral Organizations must follow the updated regulations on voicing, range & register and the number of vocal parts as outlined in the ISSMA Festivals Manual, p.23, IX.L for the Group Level entered. For Group I Choral Organizations, one of the two numbers must be performed a cappella.
- Full Orchestras may choose to perform a string orchestra piece for one of their selected numbers but must perform a full orchestra selection from the required list for their Group Level. If a Full Orchestra entered in Group IV chooses to perform only one selection, that selection must be for full orchestra.

Will my high school students still have to sight-read?

There will be no sightreading component for High School Virtual Organization events.

What other regulations apply?

All other rules for JME/HS Concert Organization will remain in place as approved by the ISSMA State Board and published in the ISSMA Music Festivals Manual.

Are uniforms required?

In the current ISSMA rules and regulations, uniforms or unified attire are not required.

Can singers wear face shields or instrumentalists use bell covers during the performance?

Providing a safe environment for your students is important. Personal protective equipment, unique formations, and social distancing practices may be needed when preparing and recording the performance.

How do I submit my performance videos?

Directors will upload videos by logging into their CompetitionSuite accounts. Those directors who do not currently have a CompetitionSuite account will need to activate a new account after receiving an email from CompetitionSuite with instructions and links to establish that account.

Can I submit a virtual performance combining separate videos of the individual performers?

Virtual performances created and produced by using synchronous videos of individual performers is allowed. This accommodates learning environments where full ensemble rehearsal time is reduced or not possible. Reminder: All performers must be bona fide students of your school.

Do we have to provide music for the adjudicators?

PDF copies of the music scores being performed must be submitted through CompetitionSuite during the Video & Printed Music Submission Window. These PDF copies must be produced from original, legally purchased music. Since you can only submit one PDF per entry in CompetitionSuite, it is important that you combine all performed scores in performance order into a single PDF prior to uploading. *Reminder: All performed measures of each musical selection must be numbered. This should be completed before making your final combined PDF for submission.*

How will my rating be determined?

All ensembles entered in this event will be adjudicated by a panel of three judges using electronic versions of ISSMA Choral and Instrumental Adjudication sheets to complete their assessments. Scoring, rating, and recorded commentary will be completed by each of the three judges using the CompetitionSuite Judge App. No written commentary will be provided. Directors may access the scores, ratings, and commentary for their individual ensembles through their CompetitionSuite account after the assessments are completed. All Group I Instrumental and Vocal Ensembles will use the traditional "District" adjudication sheet, NOT the Group I State Qualification sheet.

Will participating ensembles receive plaques?

Gold, Silver, Bronze and Participation ratings will be awarded. Plaques will be shipped to directors using the school address listed on the official entry form.

Will the 'With Distinction Award' still be recognized?

A "With Distinction" add-on award will be given to groups receiving a Gold rating and a Total Composite Score of 31.5 or less.

Is the All-Music Award affected with these events being held virtually?

The ISSMA State Board passed criteria for the ISSMA All-Music Award for the 2020-2021 school year to accommodate the challenges directors, students and music programs are facing during the pandemic. The qualifications needed to earn the award at both the HS and JME levels include the possibility of live and/or virtual assessment events. The new qualifications for 2020-2021 can be accessed through the "[Useful Information](#)" link in the Directors Only Area of the ISSMA website.