



2021 District Virtual Jazz Festival

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 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 District Jazz Festival will be held as a virtual event with the evaluations taking place on March 13th. The 2021 State Show Choir and Jazz Finals has been cancelled.

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 are \$160 for large instrumental ensembles, vocal jazz ensembles, & show choirs, and \$135 for combos. A printable invoice for these fees will be created during the entry process. Payment must be received in the ISSMA Office before the event takes place.

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?

Entry deadline for the District Virtual Jazz Festival is Wednesday, February 10th.

What if I miss the entry deadline?

There are no late entries, additions to the original entry or level changes allowed once you have registered.

How does this process work?

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. A panel of three judges will provide recorded commentary, scoring and ratings for all Jazz/Show Choir submissions.

Can I change the level of the performance?

Directors will be asked during the registration process to identify each entry by using the Classifications and Group Levels outlined in the ISSMA Festivals Manual. There are no level changes allowed once you have registered your performers.

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 District Jazz Festival 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 the District Jazz Event 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 and Evaluation Days mean?

The Submission Window is a two-week period, from Feb. 24th to March 10th, during which directors are to upload their performance videos and PDF music files to CompetitionSuite. All performance videos and PDF copies of legally purchased music will need to be uploaded by the Submission Deadline, March 10th. Evaluations by ISSMA adjudicators will take place on the corresponding Evaluation Day, March 13th.

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

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.

1. How many numbers do I need to program, and will Required Lists be utilized?

Ensembles may repeat selections used in one of the Fall Organization Assessments, if desired. Vocal Jazz ensembles must perform a minimum of two selections, with the third selection being optional. One of the two selections must be a ballad.

All Instrumental Ensembles, regardless of Classification or Group Level, will perform two numbers, with a third being optional. Group I HS Instrumental and Vocal Jazz Ensembles must perform one selection from the Group I Required list.

2. Will the Outstanding Soloist Award still be utilized?

Outstanding Soloist recognitions will be awarded. Directors wishing to have their students considered for this award will email a copy of the Repertoire/Soloist Information Form for each performing ensemble to the ISSMA office at the time of video submission.

3. What other regulations apply?

All Group I Instrumental and Vocal Jazz Ensembles will use the traditional adjudication sheet, NOT the Group I adjudication sheet. All other rules for District Jazz Events 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.

Do we have to provide music for the adjudicators?

PDF copies of the music scores being performed must be submitted through CompetitionSuite during the Virtual District Jazz Video & Printed Music Submission Window. These PDF copies must be produced from original, legally purchased music. (Show Choirs are not required to provide judge's scores.) 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 Jazz and Show Choir assessment 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.

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 37.5 or less for Show Choirs and Vocal Jazz ensembles; 34.5 or less for Jazz Ensembles, Lab Ensembles with Improv., String Jazz Ensembles, and Combos; and 31.5 or less for Stage Bands, Lab Ensembles without Improv., and Jazz String Orchestras.

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.