



ISSMA District Virtual Solo and Ensemble

Frequently Asked Questions

Why virtual?

While some schools are offering in-person learning, others are only offering e-learning, while still others are creating hybrid models which include both in-person and e-learning opportunities. 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, so flexibility to support music educators and their students regardless of their current teaching environment is needed.

What does it cost to participate? (Payment options)

Fees for the District Virtual Solo and Ensemble are \$15 per Solo and \$7 per member for Ensembles. An invoice will be created during the entry process as directors register their students. The entry process is completed online via a link in the “Director’s Only” Area of the ISSMA website. Entries are not complete and will not be processed until proof of payment is entered by credit card, electronic check, or uploading a school purchase order.

When is the entry deadline?

The ISSMA District Virtual Solo and Ensemble Event was moved later in the 2020-2021 ISSMA calendar to accommodate the change in learning environments around the state. The deadline for directors from member schools to enter students in the District Virtual Solo and Ensemble Events is Wednesday, January 27, 2021.

What if I miss the entry deadline?

Directors must register all participants by January 27th entry deadline. There are no late entries, additions to the original entry or level changes allowed once you have registered your performers.

Can I choose the weekend my students are evaluated?

The ISSMA District Virtual Solo and Ensemble Event will include virtual performance opportunities for solos and ensembles designated by zones. Participating schools may only submit an entry for the scheduled weekend assigned to their zone. Deadlines for entry, video and PDF music upload submission windows and evaluation dates are posted on the ISSMA website and the revised ISSMA calendar in the Latest News and Updates section.

Can you clarify what the Submission Window and Evaluation Days mean?

The Submission Window is a pre-determined period of time for recording and uploading the performance videos and PDF copies of the musical scores. Evaluations by ISSMA adjudicators will take place on the corresponding Evaluation Day.

The Submission Windows and Evaluation Dates for both District Weekends are as follows:

- Submission Window, Week 1 Video & Printed Music: February 3 – February 17, 2021
- Submission Window Week 2 Video & Printed Music: February 3 – February 24, 2021
- Evaluation Day Week 1, Virtual District Solo & Ensemble– February 27, 2021
Vocal/Piano Zones 2, 4, 6, 8
Wind/Perc/Strings Zones 1, 3, 5, 7
- Evaluation Day Week 2, Virtual District Solo & Ensemble– March 6, 2021
Vocal/Piano Zones 1, 3, 5, 7
Wind/Perc/Strings Zones 2, 4, 6, 8

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 late entries, additions to the original entry or level changes allowed once you have registered your performers.

How does this process work?

This is a non-competitive event with emphasis on assessment/feedback from judges facilitating student growth and development. Written feedback and ratings are provided, with no ranking. Directors must register entries and process payments online meeting the posted deadlines. Much effort has been made to keep this process as similar to in-person adjudication as possible by asking judges to provide written comments and a rating through use of electronic versions of the traditional Solo and Ensemble Adjudication Sheets. Group levels and Required lists will be utilized and directors should assist the students in selecting appropriate music for the students' musical maturity, experience, and goals.

Working closely with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), ISSMA has aligned the Virtual District Solo and Ensemble Event specifications to follow NFHS guidelines. This process will provide teachers and students a safe way to participate in the District Solo and Ensemble Event, while some schools continue to restrict travel and on-campus activities due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- 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 arrangements shall have proper permissions secured prior to recording.

Where can I get more information?

Detailed documents for directors and students regarding these events can be found on the ISSMA Website. These include:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Director's Checklist
- Student User Guide

A link to the document summarizing "*Spring Semester Event Changes and Requirements*" can be found on the ISSMA homepage under Latest News and Updates. An *introductory video* on how record, select and submit a video using the HeartOut app may also be helpful to new users. [Click here to watch: How To Audition - HeartOut App](#)

If my students participated in the Fall Virtual Solo & Ensemble Assessments, what is different for the District Events?

The Fall Virtual Assessments were not meant to replace the District Solo and Ensemble event but were provided as assessment opportunities for students to perform any music they were currently studying, to enhance continued participation and musical growth, and offer a sense of direction and purpose to their current learning environment. Consequently, there were no required lists or expectations of specific literature to be performed. Performers were designated as Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced performers by the choice of literature presented, rather than by Group Level.

1. Will the Group levels & Required lists be used?

Group Level Classifications & Group I Required Lists will be utilized. Directors will enter solos and ensembles following the requirements of *Recognized Solo and Ensemble Events* as outlined in the ISSMA Festivals Manual: Group V (grades 5 – 8) for first time performers, very easy music; Group IV (grades 5 – 9) easy music; Group III (grades 5 -12) medium easy – medium music; Group II (grades 5- 12) medium – medium difficult music; and Group I (5- 12) performing music from the Required List(s).

2. Do percussionists still have to satisfy the Rudiment/Scale/Pattern requirements?

The Percussion Rudiment/Scale/Pattern Requirements for Percussion Solo events will be two rather than three. Soloists must perform the requirements indicated for each Group Level in the event for which they entered.

Reference the following pages in the Percussion Manual:

Drum Set Patterns – Pages 31-37

Snare/Multi-Tenor Rudiments – Pages 39-41

Mallet Scales – Pages 6, 38

Tympani – Pages 10-11, 38

Snare/Multi Tenor – Perform the following rudiments

Group V – Five Stroke Roll, Single Paradiddle

Group IV – Five Stroke Roll, Flam Tap

Group III – Nine Stroke Roll, Flam Accent

Group II – Thirteen Stroke Roll, Double Drag Tap

Group I – Fifteen Stroke Roll, Triple Ratamacue

Keyboards - Perform the following scales and arpeggios

- Group V – C Major, G Major
- Group IV – F Major, D Major
- Group III – Bb Major, A Major
- Group II – Eb Major, E Major
- Group I – Ab Major, B Major

Tympani - Roll requirement as indicated in Percussion Manual

Tuning requirement - Tune pitches needed in solo

Drum Set - Perform the following patterns per Group Level

- Group V – 4-Beat Rock Time (Snares on), 2-Beat Swing Time (Snares On)
- Group IV – Jazz Time (Snares On), Rock Time (Snares On)
- Group III – Bossa Nova (Snares Off), Funk (Snares ON)
- Group II – Jazz Waltz (Snares On), Cha Cha (Snares Off)
- Group I – Brush Time (Snares On), Samba (Snares Off)

3. Can students be entered in more than one solo?

Directors may enter students in more than one solo or ensemble event, but the music may not be the same. Music performed for either of the ISSMA Fall Virtual Assessments may be performed again for further feedback.

4. Will my students receive medals as in the past?

All Group I District entries receiving a Gold Rating will be awarded a State Solo & Ensemble Medal and will be given the opportunity to order a State Solo & Ensemble patch and Rocker through their director. All other entries will be awarded District medals designating Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Participation ratings. Medals will be shipped to schools.

5. What other regulations apply?

All other rules for District Solo and Ensemble remain in place as approved by the ISSMA State Board and published in the ISSMA Music Festivals Manual.

What technology is involved? Will HeartOut still be used?

The HeartOut app will be used for District Virtual Solo and Ensemble events. If your school participated in the Fall Virtual Solo & Ensemble Assessments using HeartOut, you will need to update to the most current version of the app. The account registered on your personal device will still be valid, but the Invitation Codes and Media ID Codes will all be different for the two District events. New users will need to download the HeartOut app on a smartphone to record and submit their video performances. The app can be found through Google Play (Android devices) or the Apple Store (iOS devices). When prompted, please allow access to the device's internal microphone and camera.

HeartOut can be used to record whether at home or school, and by an individual student or a director recording multiple student performances. However, to upload and finish the submission, the user must select the desired performance and submit once sufficient Wi-Fi is accessible.

Video performances of a specific solo or ensemble must be done on the same device and UPLOADED and FINISHED through the app. Up to three attempts can be recorded before the 'best attempt' is selected for uploading. With the updated app, the videos will now live locally on the user's smartphone, thus speeding up the recording process.

Directors need to keep in mind that video submissions are recorded through the app but viewed from a web-based director account that is separate from the submission process.

Can I use my school-issued Chromebook or iPad?

The HeartOut app is not compatible with most tablets or computers. A cellphone/smartphone is the preferred device for installing and utilizing the HeartOut app.

What are the HeartOut codes and how do I use them?

Students/Users will use a specific Invitation Code and the unique 5-digit Media ID Code assigned by ISSMA to login and submit their videos. This unique Media ID Code will be provided during the entry process. These codes are available on the registration form that directors print during the entry process along with the invoice.

District Solo and Ensemble, Week 1 uses the Invitation Code: ISSMA02272021

District Solo and Ensemble, Week 2 uses the Invitation Code: ISSMA03062021

The Invitation Code is entered first, followed by a prompt for an ID Code. The ID Code is referring to the unique Media ID Code for the specific solo or ensemble being recorded. The Media ID Code can be found on the director's entry form/invoice printed out at the time of making the entry. If a student has more than one performance to record, they must complete the full process on their personal device by selecting, uploading, and submitting the audition. It is important that they do not enter a different email or Media ID code in their phone before finalizing the current submission. **THEY COULD LOSE ALL PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ATTEMPTS** if they do not upload the final "selected" performance before moving to another solo or ensemble recording.

Do parents have to sign a special permission form for underage students to create a user account with HeartOut?

HeartOut services are intended for persons of 18 years of age or older. Children under the age of 18 may use the services with the consent of a parent or legal guardian. This consent will be done at the time of logging in and registering the app on the user/student smartphone. HeartOut is compliant with COPPA laws, (Children's Online Privacy Protection Act) and does not use any information for marketing purposes. Registration information is used to communicate with users for tech assistance.

I heard something about using Dropbox. What if I don't have a Dropbox account?

PDF copies of the music being performed must be submitted at the time of the video submission so that they may be distributed to the judges for use in the assessment process. These PDF copies must be produced from original, legally purchased music.

Directors will need to upload PDF scans of the student's music pages to the director's current ISSMA Dropbox shared folder. A folder labeled "PDF Upload" will be placed in the main Dropbox folder to receive the files. If you do not have an ISSMA Dropbox share, you will receive a share request soon after the registration deadline. Create a single PDF file of all pages for the music being performed with all the performed measures numbered. RENAME the files with the unique Media ID Code number found with the information pages printed at registration. When renaming the file put the Media ID code first, then the name of the student/ensemble leader matching your entry. (Ex: 54321 Mary Smith).

Can I record my student performances?

Directors may record and submit multiple student performance videos by using their personal smartphone, but the unique Media code must be entered for each separate entry. It is important to remember when recording multiple performances on one device that you must complete the entry by selecting and uploading through the HeartOut app before moving on to another solo or ensemble performance. If you login and register a new performance with a different email or Media ID code before "Upload and Finish" your video to be evaluated, you will lose any previously recorded attempts.

Can I record student performances and upload them later? (i.e. like CompetitionSuite)

No pre-recorded videos may be uploaded into the platform. The performance attempts may be recorded at different days, times and locations but must be all recorded on the same device and UPLOADED and FINISHED through the app when Wi-Fi is accessible.

Can I preview the Solo & Ensemble Videos before the students submit?

Videos can only be viewed on the individual device that recorded the performance(s). Once the video is submitted, directors will use a specific Director's Account to view video recordings through the HeartOut website.

Will students have a chance to preview the Solo & Ensemble Videos before submitting?

HeartOut allows students three attempts before selecting which recording to upload for the solo or ensemble submission. Landscape view (horizontal) is preferred. Users may preview the videos through the app before selecting the best performance to submit.

How do I test the video settings?

Once logged into the app, users can do an infinite number of TEST RECORDINGS to practice using the app, adjusting camera settings, audio levels, eliminating distractions, or checking for the quality of their recording. The Test Recordings can be found under the PRIVATE AUDITIONS TAB and should be done before recording any of the three allowable performance video attempts.

Are there any time restrictions for submitted videos?

The maximum time for videos should follow the time allotment for the specific events listed in the ISSMA Festivals Manual for District Solo and Ensemble Events.

Is there a preferred angle or view when recording?

For Instrumental and Piano events, we recommend a profile view to allow adjudicators an opportunity to observe fingering, posture, stick work, hand positions, etc. All recordings should be done in landscape (horizontal) view.

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

Providing a safe environment for your students is important. We understand that personal protective equipment, unique formations, and social distancing practices may need to be utilized when preparing and recording the performance.

Are uniforms required?

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

Do I need to show the entire ensemble in my video?

No, however, it is important that the video remain somewhat stationary. If the ensemble is too far back from the camera to see the entire group, you may zoom in or even slowly pan to include all the performers, but it is not necessary. The adjudicators will be evaluating the performance, not your videography skills.

Can I change the music being performed?

Changing the music selection to be performed is not possible once the performance video is submitted and the PDF of the music is uploaded. *Note: If, for some reason, the music submitted does not match the selection performed on the recording, the adjudicator will still complete the assessment, but the rating will be lowered by one division rating. Not having the correct music may negatively affect the quality and thoroughness of the assessment.*

Does the music have to be memorized?

Memorization is not required of solos at the District level in any classification, except for Group I piano solos. Percussion solos should refer to the Percussion Manual regarding memorization requirements of rudiments, scales, and patterns.

Will I be able to review the students' videos?

Specific login information to a director's account through HeartOut will be provided during the submission window(s). This account can be used to view submitted videos as well as upload, share and distribute written comments and ratings after the Assessment date. The videos exist only on the local device until selected and submitted through the HeartOut app.

Should I use the credentials for the director's account to login and record my student videos?

HeartOut will send credentials to directors via email from info@heartout.io. The email will contain a username and password to log into the Director's account. Directors may use any device to access the HeartOut website for viewing videos and sharing feedback/ratings; however, the internet-based director's account login information should not be used to register/login to the app.

The Invitation Code(s) for the specific district event and the Media ID codes specific to each registered student entry that are printed on the ISSMA entry form will be needed to login the HeartOut app and recording/submitted the video performances.

Will directors/students receive both written comments and ratings?

Directors can access the student videos, written commentary, judges' scores, and ratings by logging into their director's account after the assessments are completed. Like the "live" District Solo and Ensemble events, directors will need to share the results and feedback of the audition with their students. Students will not receive feedback, comments nor ratings directly.

Can I print the feedback for my students?

When reviewing the feedback through the Director account, comments, scores, and ratings can be downloaded through the PDF Export for each student/ensemble performance.

Can students/directors download the HeartOut video?

Directors can temporarily review the video with students for educational purposes after the event through their web-based account; however, to remain copyright compliant, all videos are stored within the online platform and cannot be downloaded, copied, or shared.

We have been working closely with National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), and our specifications are in alignment with their expectations. Guidelines for using distributed student

recordings for K-12 assessment are designed for a limited duration and scope to allow for student musicians to complete their state assessments and classroom instruction while school travel restrictions are in place due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Thus, no recorded performance can be distributed outside of these guidelines and the listed publishers unless they meet Section 17 U.S. Code § 110(D)(ii)(I)(aa) of the US Copyright Law.

Is the State Solo and Ensemble Event being held?

The 2020-2021 ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble has been cancelled. However, to recognize those students who potentially would have received a State medal, any Group I event earning a Gold Rating at the District Virtual Solo and Ensemble Events will be awarded a State Solo & Ensemble medal and will be given the opportunity to order State Solo & Ensemble patches and rockers through their director following the event.

Now that Solo and Ensemble is a virtual event, will this affect the All-Music Award?

The ISSMA State Board approved revised 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 current qualifications for 2020-2021 can be accessed through the ["Useful Information"](#) link in the Director's Only Area of the ISSMA website.

Do I need to send an Adjudication Sheet to qualify for the All-Music Award?

ISSMA will have access to all results and ratings from the District Virtual Solo and Ensemble events. No documentation is needed for the Solo and Ensemble requirement concerning the criteria for All-Music Award for the 2020-2021 school year.

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

All entry fees are due upon submission of entry. As per Page 7 of the ISSMA Music Festivals Manual: "Entry fees will be forfeited by groups or individuals not participating in any event that takes place on its designated date". 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.