

NYSSMA 2021 Virtual Solo & Ensemble Evaluation Festival FAQs – Part II

Will it be Possible for Small Ensembles to Participate in 2021 NYSSMA Virtual Evaluation Festivals?

- Small Ensembles (two to sixteen members) will be able to participate in NYSSMA 2021 Solo & Ensemble Virtual Evaluation Festivals. All rules and regulations as stated on R-19 of the NYSSMA Manual must be followed. Traditional seating arrangements may need to be altered to accommodate social distancing requirements.

What Considerations Should be Made Concerning Recording Equipment Placement?

- The placement of the recording equipment should allow the recording to provide the adjudicator with an unobstructed view of the following:
 - Brass – Waist up view showing playing position, bell not aimed at mic.
 - Jazz Drum Set – 45degree camera angle from high hat side of drum set, showing head to toe
 - Percussion – mallet or stick grip, 45degree camera angle
 - Piano – Full view of both hands
 - Strings & Guitar – Bow grip and left-hand position
 - Voice and Vocal Jazz – view of head to toe
 - Woodwinds – Embouchure and hand position

Is it Possible to Scan the Music for Task 1 Directly into the Platform?

- No, the copy of the student's music must be a PDF. The PDF must be on the student's computer or phone for the upload to Task 1 of the platform.

Will the Sight-reading Criteria listed in the NYSSMA Manual be applied to Task 4?

- Yes, the sight-reading exercises generated in Sight-reading Factory will follow the sight-reading criteria listed in the NYSSMA Manual.

How Will the improvisation Requirements for Vocal and Instrumental Jazz be Incorporated in the Virtual Evaluation?

- The improvisation with backing tracks should be recorded in Task 3.
- Please see NYSSMA Manual 9-3 for specific instrumental jazz improvisation requirements.
- Vocal Jazz soloists will prepare **either**:
 - Slow Blues in G – 12 measures
 - Fast Blues in Bb – 24 measures

The improvisation choice for Vocal Jazz will be dependent on the tempo of the solo. Solos with a fast tempo will choose Slow Blues in G. Slow solos will choose Fast Blues in Bb. All other requirements listed on Manual page 9–24 2 will apply to Vocal Jazz solos.

Do All Four Tasks Need to be Uploaded at the Same Time or Can They be Uploaded Separately?

- Each of the four tasks may be uploaded at different times, they do not have to be uploaded at the same time.

When and How is Student Registration Payment Made?

- Student registration fees must be submitted to the Festival Chair by the registration deadline. Purchase orders or checks made payable to NYSSMA are due at registration. As has been past practice, school districts should send one check for all the students registering, rather than individual checks. Credit cards are not accepted.

Will Information be Available at the NYSSMA Cyber Summit Regarding 2021 NYSSMA Solos & Ensemble Evaluation Festivals?

- Webinars provided by the platform vendor, Music First, will be available at the NYSSMA Cyber Summit. There will be separate webinars available for teachers, adjudicators, and students. The webinars will begin on December 5 at 12:30 PM.

Are There Sources for Additional Information About the NYSSMA 2021 Virtual Solo & Ensemble Evaluation Festivals?

- Information concerning 2021 NYSSMA Virtual Solo & Ensemble Evaluation Festival season is available on the homepage of the NYSSMA Website. In addition to the website, information about the 2021 virtual evaluation festival season is found in the October and November/December issues of the [School Music News](#).