

SONATA FESTIVAL 2021 ONLINE RECORDING INFORMATION & TIMELINE

Congratulations on entering the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association's annual Sonata Festival! We are excited to be able to bring this event to you online again in 2021. Please be mindful of the following timeline and video submission information:

1) Video submissions are due by **11:59 Eastern Time, May 23 2021**. Submission details will be distributed early/mid-May via your teacher.

2) Video submissions must be **ONE FILE**, but may be two separate performances. I.e., each movement must be recorded in one continuous take, but you may then combine the two into one file for submission. You may record both movements in one continuous take if you prefer.

3) Entries must be submitted **BY THE PARENT** - teachers may NOT submit for their students.

4) Position the camera so that the student's hands and head are in the frame, as well as the clear view that music is NOT being used and the student is obviously performing from memory.

5) ADVICE FOR A GOOD RECORDING:

- Treat your video like a performance - dress nicely, and announce your name and pieces you will be performing at the beginning of the video.
- You may use any available device (phone, tablet, etc.)
- Place your camera (phone, tablet, etc.) in the horizontal (not vertical) position.
- Do not use the digital zoom. Put the video recording device at a closer distance.
- Try to avoid unwanted noise during recording (pets barking, family talking, etc.)
- Avoid bright lights directly behind performer (such as a window - close curtains, etc.)
- No "special effects" (no sepia tone, fast shooting, black/white effect, etc.)
- You may use an external microphone (NOT required!)

6) Judging will take place after the May 23 submission deadline. Please be patient as judges will be given time to receive your videos and complete your rating sheets online.

7) Judges will be instructed to rate fairly based on each student's performance, and NOT based on video or instrument quality.

8) This year there will be NO Honors Recital, and NO Second Round. The following "awards" will still be given:

- All participating students will earn their yearly Trophy, for their continued participation. Due to complications with social distancing compliance, supply chains, etc., trophy distribution may be delayed. Please be patient; you WILL receive your well-earned trophy as soon as it is safe and possible to organize distribution!
- Students whose performance would have otherwise in a typical "live" festival year earned them a chance to perform in the Second Round will earn the Red Ribbon given to all Second Round performers.

Thank you all for participating in Sonata Festival this year!