



## **Guidelines and Best Practices**

### **OBDA Digital Solo Invitational 2020**

#### **Why?**

To allow our outstanding students, who qualified for the State Solo contest, the opportunity to receive professional feedback and recognition for their time and efforts. Also, to encourage them to continue to pursue musical excellence and artistry - even in the face of adversity. We believe that providing a virtual venue for these students to shine will help promote engagement and excitement at a time when these critical elements are in very short supply. Late April and May have traditionally been times when some of our greatest levels of musical achievement have been on display. This will allow a huge number of our musical leaders the opportunity to practice, perform, receive professional critique, and (most importantly) be recognized and celebrated.

#### **Who?**

Any student that qualified for the OSAA state solo contest and was submitted by their OMEA district to OSAA for a spot at the OSAA contest is eligible for this event. This would include all submissions in all categories to include 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place finishers and all 1st, 2nd and 3rd alternates. All of these students would have received state qualifying scores at their district festivals. Since this event will not have the same time constraints as a normal day-long festival, we are able to open it to all of these qualifiers. We understand that there may be quite a few qualifiers that will not be able to, or want to participate at this point for a wide variety of reasons. We regret that this may be the case, but believe there is great benefit in offering this opportunity to any qualifiers that wish to participate.

#### **Registration and Submission**

##### **1) Registration**

Registration will be done on the OBDA website (<https://www.oregonbda.org/digitalsolo.html>). This is a simple Google Form with basic information about each participant. Registration is open now. The registration deadline is Friday, May 8 at 11:59PM. Registration for this event is FREE.

##### **2) Submitting a Performance**

After registering, participants will be emailed a link to upload their video performance. They then have time to practice and rework their solos. At the time of submission, students will upload both the video of their performance, and a file (image or PDF) of their music. We ask that all measures are numbered individually on the uploaded judge's copy of the music. Submissions are due by Wednesday, May 20 at 11:59PM.

#### **Adjudicators and feedback forms**

Our adjudicators will be selected educators and professionals from around the state. They will view each video submission and provide written and possibly verbal feedback. These comments are then automatically transferred to a form that looks exactly like the state solo form. These forms will include

comments and ratings in each category, and an overall festival rating for the performance. Forms will be emailed to each participant.

## **Results**

Printed certificates will be mailed to all participants that provide a mailing address. Digital certificates will be sent to all participants via email. Results will be posted on the OBDA website by 9:00PM on May 27th. This post will include a list of all students in each category that received a festival rating of Outstanding.

## **EVENT TIMELINE**

**Registration Opens: May 1**

**Registration Deadline: May 8, 11:59PM**

**Submission Deadline: May 20, 11:59PM**

**Results Posted: May 27**

## **RULES AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **Eligibility**

Any student that would have been eligible for the OSAA state solo contest will be eligible for this event. For eligibility requirements, please see the OSAA State Solo contest handbook at <http://www.osaa.org/docs/handbooks/solhandbook.pdf>.

### **Solo Literature Requirements**

Soloists shall choose their own selections with the understanding that judges will look favorably on only the best possible literature. Soloists may perform a different selection for this event from that used at the district contest, but they are not required to do so. Vocal soloists will perform art songs or music representing master literature. Instrumental soloists must consider Jazz, pop, or rock as not acceptable styles for this event.

### **Video Requirements**

- Student performers must submit the **Video Release Form**. This is a fillable PDF.
- The video submission must be **one** continuous video without breaks or splicing.
- Lengthy rest sections within the solo should be skipped and fulfilled with a brief 2-3 second break.
- Start your recording device and say:
  - Your full name
  - The date you are recording your recording
  - Your school and grade level
  - The title and composer of the piece(s) you are performing
  - Perform your piece(s) without pause after this announcement - just like you would in a live performance.

### **Accompaniment**

Participants are not allowed to use accompaniment of any kind (electronic or live). While we understand that the accompaniment is a critical part of your piece and that this lack of accompaniment may make the piece feel hollow or incomplete, not all students have the technology to be able to use electronic accompaniment. While some students may have a family member that could play for them, not all students are so fortunate. We cannot encourage, condone or allow students to practice or perform with an accompanist as this would break both the letter and the intent of the governor's orders regarding social distancing.

For these reasons, accompaniments of any kind are not allowed. Vocalists may get their pitch at the beginning of the piece from a keyboard or other device. If a vocalist has rests in their pieces, and needs to hear the pitch of the next entrance, they may use a keyboard or other device.

Our adjudicators understand this rule and they also understand how difficult it is to perform without an accompanist. This will not adversely affect your comments or rating for this event.

### **BEST PRACTICES FOR HOME AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING:**

Below are some suggestions for creating the best possible video of your performance. These are just tips and suggestions. Everyone's situation will be different. Do the best you can with the resources you have.

Choosing a location for recording:

- Use a large enough room so that you can place a microphone where someone would be sitting if this were a recital.
- A large living room would be fine. Ideally, you want a room with a little higher ceilings and not too many reflective or hard surfaces.
- Choose a clean, uncluttered space for your video recording.
- Lighting is also a key component to video recording. Natural light is best. If you have no natural light in your recording space, think about positioning the light so that it shines from the camera at you. You do not want to have light shining at the camera from behind you—**do not record in front of a window.**

Recording device placement:

- Experiment with the location of your video recording device. Make sure you place it in a way that we can see you, not just your music stand. Do some practice recording from a couple of angles and distances so you can see and hear the effects on your recording. Ideally, your recording device would be at about chest height or a little higher and you would be visible from at least the waist up - but full height recordings would be excellent. This will give your adjudicator the most visual information about your performance so they can provide outstanding feedback.

Noise reduction:

- Be aware of external noises and try to minimize these effects. Some of these unrecognized sounds are heating/AC, cars driving by, birds, plumbing, etc...

Performance dress:

- Please treat your video submission like a collegiate, professional audition, or a live performance. You are encouraged to wear either your school's performance uniform or any other formal/professional performance attire.

OBDA and all of our partner organizations wish all of our participants the very best of luck and look forward to seeing all of your outstanding performances!