



Music Teachers' Association of California®
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT®
VIDEO RECORDING GUIDELINES

Video Instructions:

1. Video recordings should be good quality, but do not need to be professionally produced. Recording with a smartphone is an acceptable method of recording. Each video submission should not exceed 5 GB. Accepted video file types are **mov**, **mp4**, and **m4v**.
2. Video recordings must be made with one fixed camera angle, focused on the performer with the face and hands of the student visible. *Please see the images of recommended views for each instrument type at the end of this document.*
3. Students should dress as they would for a live, in-person evaluation, however shoes are optional.
4. Students do not need to introduce themselves in their recordings.
5. Video recordings can be completed in a studio, home, school, or any location of the student's choice, but should abide by any current shelter-in-place and physical distancing mandates. Masks may be worn during the evaluation recording if necessary to comply with local mandates; students will not be penalized for wearing a mask.
6. Students will submit a separate video for each of the following components of the performance evaluation.
 - Technique
 - The elements on the technique chart must be performed in its entirety in one video recording without stopping.
 - **Exception - Strings** - Students Level 4 and above must record the elements on the technique chart in one video recording and their prepared etude in another recording.
 - Piano students may only have the technique chart on the piano. *No written out notation is allowed.*
 - String, Wind, and Harp students must turn the music stand toward the camera to show that only the technique chart is on the music stand, then turn it back to play. *No written out notation is allowed.*
 - Voice students must perform technique from memory (*no chart for reference*).
 - Sight Reading – The Sight Reading/Singing study period and performance must be included in the video recording. *More instructions on how to access the sight reading/singing excerpt will be available in January 2021.*
 - Repertoire – one recording for each piece
 - Each piece should be played in its entirety, without stopping.
 - All recordings do not need to be completed on the same day, but must be completed and submitted by the deadline.
 - Memorization - Students must meet the minimum memory requirement for their enrolled level. Pieces performed from memory should have all music removed from the piano or the music stand removed (for non-piano students).
 - Voice students:
 - Voice students must introduce each piece, including the title, composer, time period, work the piece is from, and a brief translation for songs sung in a foreign language.

7. Video recordings must be unaltered and unedited.
8. **For Strings, Winds, and Voice Evaluations:** To comply with social distancing mandates, live accompaniment is not required. Repertoire that requires accompaniment must be performed with accompaniment. The teacher and student may select the option best for the student from the following options:
 - Live accompaniment - please adhere to proper social distancing. Masks are recommended for all accompanists and string students, and a plexiglass shield is recommended for voice and wind students.
 - Pre-recorded accompaniment or accompaniment program, such as SmartMusic - please be sure the student's instrument or voice is heard over the accompaniment.

The student's evaluation results will not be affected by the accompaniment choice.

9. **For Piano:** Students will be evaluated based on their performance, not on the type of piano or keyboard used, or whether it was recently tuned. Students enrolled in Level 3 or above must perform on a keyboard with a pedal.
10. It is strongly recommended that you review your video files with your teacher to ensure they meet all requirements listed in this document, as well as the Certificate of Merit requirements for your instrument and level. The MTAC State Office and CM Council are unable to review videos prior to submission.
11. It is strongly recommended that you retain the video files of your performance evaluation until you have received the results from your Certificate of Merit Evaluation.

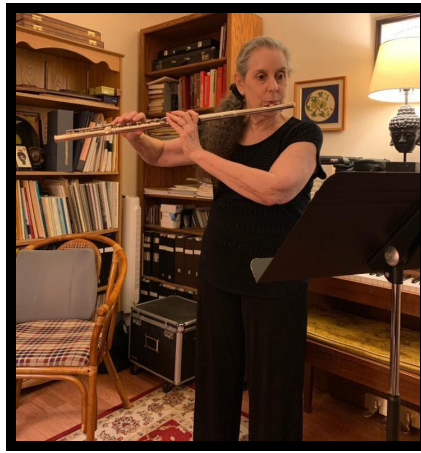
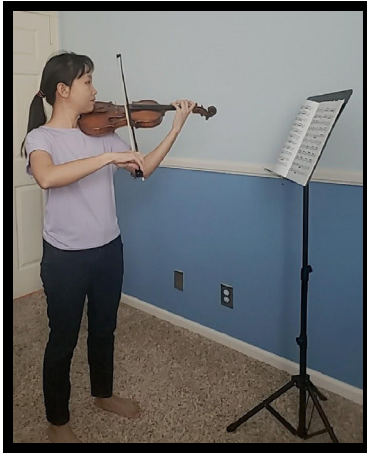
Please see the following section below for visual examples.

Visual Example of How to Frame Your Video:

Piano students are recommended to angle their camera so that it focuses on their hands on the keyboard and the pedals.



For strings and winds students, the camera frame must include the entire instrument, hands, and face of the student in view. The music stand should also be included in the frame.



For guitar and harp students, we recommend that the camera faces the students straight on.



For voice students, we recommend to angle your camera for a waist up view in the frame.

