NOLA Chamber Fest Recording Resources

Table Of Contents

Recording Preparation — Page 2
- Individual Practice
- Regular Rehearsals
- Private Lessons
- Equipment

Video Recording — Page 3
- Budgeting
- Technology Information
- Video Submission

More Ideas — Page 5

Contact Information — Page 6

FAQ's — Page 6

RECORDING PREPARATION

The first step in preparing for a recording is to schedule **individual practice**. Some things to consider:

- Research the composer and pieces you are preparing including listening to recordings, score study and personal research on where the composer is from and when they wrote the piece.
- Practice shorter time blocks each day, rather than longer periods every once in a while.
- Practice with a metronome.
- Make sure to practice slowly.
- Use a tuner or a drone for excellent pitch.

After engaging in consistent personal practice to prepare for the recording, another step is to schedule rehearsals with your ensembles. **Regular rehearsals** each week are a key factor in preparation. Work with your ensemble to find times during the week that you can set aside to prepare.

If you need help finding a coach, please reach out and contact us!

Coachings provide excellent feedback for the entire group, and are the next step in making sure your group is playing your best. NCF requires that a group meet with a coach at least **three times** in order to participate in the competition.

Another option is to take your part to your private teacher to see if there are instrument specific issues of the music that can be improved to help the group's performance. If you need help finding a private teacher, please contact us, and we can connect you with one!

The final step is **finding/using the right equipment**. Whether it's something you already have, or bought specifically for this

recording, familiarize yourself with how to use it so you're prepared on recording day. Read below for tips on no, low, or medium budget resources and plans!

VIDEO RECORDING

Budget Planning

Below are some suggestions for how to optimize your recording session to best suit your group! There's no one perfect set up or way to record, so we hope these tips will be useful in giving ideas on ways to record.

No Budget options include recording from your phone and finding a free space to record such as a space at school, public library or church. Make sure your phone is recording from the best angle possible — **test the sound** laying your phone horizontally against a music stand 6-8 feet away from the group, making sure the phone microphone is not being blocked by the stand. Another sound test involves placing the phone microphone standing up vertically on the stand. Sometimes even rotating the phone can have an impact on the sound.

Low Budget ($10-$30) options include recording from your phone, recording from a free space, and potentially using a USB microphone that plugs into your phone. If you're considering purchasing a mic, splitting the costs between group members takes the financial strain off of one single member. We highly recommend using a USB mic. This enhances the recording quality with little additional cost

Here are some potential options — click the links below!

Small Mic $10-$15

Small iPhone USB Mic $33

Aux Mic with Filter $25-$30

Medium Budget ($35 - $100) options could include purchasing a USB mic with a stand, and looking into renting a space for optimal sound quality for recording. A mic stand enables you to have mobility with your microphone. With the stand, be sure the mic is 8 feet back and 8 feet above where the sound is coming from. In addition to a mic stand, you can also bring a cloth, mat, or rug from home placed under the mic and stand. Depending on the space and room acoustics, this can help improve the sound quality of your recording. If you're considering purchasing a mic, splitting the costs between group members takes the financial strain off of one single member. Here are a few options in the links below:

XLR Condenser Microphone with stand - $45-$65

USB Microphone $35-$50

Audio Interface for Microphone - $99

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

Other Helpful Tips

Some other things that can help your recording session are:

- Look at the frequency chart of the microphone you are considering purchasing, and compare it to frequency charts on your instrument. You can find a frequency chart on your instrument through a Google search.
- Position your microphone and instrument to ensure that you are not playing directly at a hard surface or a wall.
- Be sure the camera is filming horizontally and captures all members of your ensemble. Take a quick test video to double check.
- If the ceiling and the floor are both reflective surfaces, perform standing on a rug to enhance the recording.
- For strings, place the microphone at an angle to the f holes of the instrument. For winds, angle the microphone towards the middle of your instrument. For brass, set the microphone so that it is not directly pointed at the bell, but still angled towards it.

One other helpful tip is to clap at the beginning of each take, especially if you are using two different devices for audio and video. This way you can easily see where to align each clip based on the jump in the sound waves.

VIDEO SUBMISSION

The most important part of the video submission process is to **plan ahead.** Uploading a video can take a considerable amount of time. If you experience slow wifi connection during the uploading process, it can potentially take even longer. To make sure that your group's **video and score** are submitted on time, schedule a personal deadline before the actual due date in order to give yourself plenty of time.

Don't forget! Group headshots and bios must be uploaded too! Let us know if you need help getting started!

You can submit your video(s) and score(s), group headshot and bio to Acceptd.

MORE IDEAS

For additional help, we've included a link and the transcript to our video guide that includes more tips on where to find the best space, how to record efficiently, and internet connection troubleshooting. We hope that this additional resource can be useful for any remaining questions you might have, and will help you successfully prepare for NCF!

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSCisLKpHLE&t=2s

CONTACT INFORMATION

Email

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Social Media

Facebook - NOLA Chamber Fest
Instagram - @nolachamberfest

FAQ's

Should each individual member register for NCF?

No, ensembles should submit one registration with one fee. Register here!

I'm having trouble uploading my video. Who should I contact?

You can contact us through email if you are having trouble! We strongly recommend trying to upload a few days before the deadline in case any problems occur.

Where can I find the deadlines for registration?

All dates and deadlines can be found online at our website.

Who should I contact if I miss a deadline?

If you have missed a deadline for registration or uploading, please contact Programming Manager Sophia Dobbie at sophia@lyricabaroque.com