

The

MUSICAL MERIT
Foundation



OF GREATER SAN DIEGO

2021 MUSICAL MERIT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS FAQS

Do I need to upload multiple videos for each round?

No. The video you submit for each round must be a single continuous take of the selected repertoire. You cannot edit multiple takes into one video. The time limit begins as soon as the music begins, and ends when 20 minutes has elapsed or you have finished performing the requested repertoire.

I don't have access to a recording studio or performance space. Is Musical Merit able to help me?

Yes! Musical Merit has made arrangements for recording space to be available in San Diego for those applicants that need a venue to record. We will contact applicants indicating this need on their application forms. Please contact musicalmerit@gmail.com with questions.

Can I record from home, a dorm room, or alternate location?

Yes, but we do ask you to consider whether an alternate location will showcase you at your best. Things to consider: size of the space, a piano that has been recently tuned, multiple camera angles, and recording and lighting equipment.

What sort of tips do you have to capture the best at-home recording?

- Today's cell phones have excellent cameras and microphones built in and they should be able to make a high-quality recording for you. The use of other equipment is up to you.
- We suggest experimenting with camera and microphone placement and sound quality first. Make a recording then listen to it. Make the necessary adjustments to ensure the best quality possible. Your first take doesn't need to be your final submission.
- Placement of microphone: do not set the microphone too far from the vocalist/instrumentalist.
- Get as tight of a frame as possible.
- Instead of zooming in on your camera, move the camera closer to you. This will allow a better video quality.

Does my accompanist need to be in the frame? I'm concerned social distancing will make this prohibitive.

It is preferred that the video shot includes your accompanist. It is required for applicants who are submitting recordings where the piano part is of equal importance to the applicant's instrument (for example, an art song or a sonata written for two instruments, rather than a piece of music that has the piano playing an orchestral reduction). Accompanists may wear masks.

Do the judges prescribe the order of the pieces to be performed?

You will select your first piece, and the judges will select the pieces or sections of pieces they wish to hear for the remainder of the audition (20 minutes for Preliminary and Semi-Final Rounds, and 17 minutes for Award Allocation/Final Round).

For keyboardists do you also need to see their feet?

Yes, it is preferred that the camera angle captures both the keyboard and pedals for keyboard performances.

How will a legal copy be verified?

Downloaded scores should indicate the owner or purchaser on the PDF. If you are uploading a scan from a personally owned book, please indicate this information.

Will we be told on the repertoire playing order on or the day before the first recording date?

Repertoire selection will be sent to applicants on the Monday of each round namely May 3 and 10 and for the Award Allocation Round on Sunday May 16.

Do I need to wear a mask while recording my selections?

Musical Merit encourages all participants to follow safety protocols. Wearing a mask is up to the individual, and wearing a mask (or not) will not negatively impact the judges' decisions.

Will I need to get a COVID test or be vaccinated to record at the venue Musical Merit provides?

This is still to be determined. Local health mandates are constantly updated as new data comes in. We will adhere to the requests made by local health authorities and the venue we use and update applicants as we approach recording/submission weeks. We will update our information as soon as we are able.

What recording dates are available at the venue Musical Merit provides?

May 4 and 7 for Preliminaries, May 11 and 14 for Returning Finalists/Semi-Finals, and May 18 and 21 for Award Allocation/Final Round. Times will generally be between 10am and 6pm.

What if I have a special request or situation?

Musical Merit Foundation has a Special Dispensation Committee to review questions about unique situations. Please email us at musicalmerit@gmail.com and we will get back with you as soon as possible. Deadline for all Dispensation requests is April 20, 2021.

How do I know what repertoire I submitted in previous years?

Contact Dr. Arlie Langer, Auditions Chair, at musicalmerit@gmail.com

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May I change my repertoire once I have submitted my application?

No, but you may choose the selection you wish to begin with.

How do I know if I am a returning finalist?

Contact Dr. Arlie Langager, Auditions Chair, at musicalmerit@gmail.com

How many rounds of competition are there?

Three. In the Preliminary and Semi-Final Rounds, the auditions are 20 minutes long. For the Award Allocation Round, the auditions are 17 minutes long. You will choose your opening selection for each round, and the remaining repertoire for each round is selected by the judges.

Will my videos be made public?

All audition videos are private, but the performance videos for the Awards Concert will be recorded separately for broadcast.

Is the Awards Concert virtual?

Yes. A registration link to view the Awards Concert on May 30, will be available on musicalmerit.org. The scholarships will be announced at the end of the virtual concert.

Where can I get more information?

Email your questions to musicalmerit@gmail.com or go to musicalmerit.org