

Directions for the Lancaster Virtual Projects

Rehearsing your virtual piece

Rehearse your piece using audio files in your album. As you rehearse, prepare yourself for the following...

- Get used to how you will start each piece. This is very important as it is what we will use to coordinate all your videos together into the final performance. Listen to the verbal count-off and practice clapping when indicated.
- Rehearse with headphones. When you make your final recording you will need to be wearing headphones so we only hear you in your performance video. It is a different experience performing while wearing headphones. The tone and volume of your instrument may seem very different, especially if you are wearing headphones that block a lot of the outside noise. Rehearse with headphones on to get used to volume levels that work for you so you can play normally. It can also be helpful to wear only one headphone and leave another ear open for listening. If you do so, experiment with different ears to find the one that makes you most comfortable playing with the track/video so you can sound your best.

Recording your virtual piece

Setup

- You will need one device to listen to and/or watch the click track while wearing your headphones. You will need a second device such as a camera or smartphone to record your performance. Make sure that you are comfortable seeing your music, hearing the track, and appearing the way you would like to in your video.
- Do a test run! Band instruments can be loud to some device microphones. Listen to your sample and make sure that your instrument doesn't sound "Crunchy". If it does, try moving your camera a little further away or, in the case of directional instruments, point your bell away from the camera.

Beginning Your Recording

- Begin your camera recording in advance of beginning to play your performance track/video. Extra time at the beginning of your recording is not only ok, but preferred. Everything will be trimmed up during editing to make you appear at the appropriate time in the virtual performance.
- Give an audible clap when indicated in the count-off. Make sure it can be heard as well as seen. This is very important for syncing all our videos and audios together. If it is hard to make a sound clap while holding your instrument, snap your fingers on one hand. Begin playing just as you have rehearsed.

Finish Your Recording

- Perform your best and enjoy.
- Remember that your director has selected this music because it is most appropriate for you and your learning experience. He/She knows well in advance what your ensemble will sound like when everyone performs to their best potential. Don't let yourself get wrapped up in re-recording too many times. Judge the quality of your performance not by what you watch in the video but by how you feel when you first finish recording. If you have performed to the level that you and your director expect in a concert, know that your part will contribute to an amazing product. Mistakes happen on the stage and, when handled with professionalism, they can be easily lost in the quality of your ensemble.

Upload your performance video.

Use the form on the webpage to upload your video.

- Be sure to fill in your information correctly and for each video you upload. Fill out the form for each video rather than attach multiple files so we have the correct information to place your file with your school and group.
- Any video format your device records is acceptable.
- Video files upload best on a computer. If you experience upload problems using a tablet or smartphone, try bringing your file over to your laptop or computer.
- Be sure to wait until your file has completed uploading! Some smartphones are set to record high quality videos and these can take some time to upload depending on your internet speed. Don't close your browser until your upload has completed.
- If you experience issues uploading your video, files can be sent directly to virtual@bmmcreate.com via e-mail or you can use any cloud sharing service to share your video with that same e-mail address. Just be sure to include your school, name, instrument, and song title in the e-mail body so we can match your video with the correct project.