

# Instrumental Solo Contest Information 2021

**Contest Date: March 6, 2021**

**Submission window of Feb. 3 - Feb. 24**

**Brass, Woodwinds, Strings, & Percussion**

Sponsored by **ISSMA**

the Indiana State School Music Association

**Entry Deadline: Friday, January 15, 2021 end of school day**

**Submit the form on page 2** via email to Mrs. Farlow or Mr. Flowers.

**Entry Fee: \$15.00** for each solo.

Your PT account will be charged when you return the registration form with acknowledgment of that fee.

Contest is open to all instrumentalists in grades 5 through 12. ISSMA rules state that a student must be a member of his school choir, band, or orchestra in order to be eligible.

Due to the competitive nature of this contest, it is recommended that each soloist be actively studying with a **private teacher**.

**Student responsibilities** for those who wish to enter:

- Share this information with your private teacher.
- Submit the entry form/registration fee acknowledgment by the deadline.
- Prepare a solo that does not exceed the time limit of 5 minutes.
- Provide the judge with a pdf scan of the **original music** with the **measures numbered**.
- If using an accompaniment, make arrangements for your pianist to record the music to be played in the solo recording, or use a recorded accompaniment that is allowed by ISSMA.

**Detailed instructions for the virtual submission process will be posted in JANUARY on the ISSMA.net website.**

**Because of COVID-19, several procedures are different this year.**

1. There is **NO in-person site**.
2. All entries will be video **RECORDED** and submitted **VIRTUALLY** through access via the school director.
3. All entries will be **JUDGED VIRTUALLY**, with assessment comments returned virtually through access via the school director.
4. There is **NO ADDITIONAL STATE LEVEL performance date for the top group entries**. Successful Group I entries that earn a Gold rating and would normally go on to State, will be acknowledged with a State Medal instead of the usual District medal.

**Group Levels:**

The private teacher should decide the group level. See page three of this document.

There are no specific qualifications for pieces chosen for students entering in Groups V, IV, III, or II

Top level participants in Group I should check the additional details required for their entries.

Pieces must be chosen from the "Required List" on the ISSMA website. There is a code number that represents each title. That code number must be marked on the registration form.

**Return the form below (page 2) via email to Mrs. Farlow or Mr. Flowers.**

# INSTRUMENTAL SOLO ENTRY FORM

**Brass, Woodwinds, Strings, & Percussion**

**Saturday, March 6, 2021**

**Entries will be assessed by the judges on March 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a window of time PRIOR to that where videos are to be submitted: anytime from Feb. 3 – Feb. 24. No late entries can be accepted.**

**The PDFs of music to be performed must be uploaded to Dropbox within that same window too, so no later than Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Scores must have measures numbered, and they must be properly marked with an entry media number.**

Sponsored by **ISSMA**  
the Indiana State School Music Association

**Entry Deadline: Friday, January 15, 2021** end of school day

Submit this form (page 2) via email to Mrs. Farlow or Mr. Flowers by the deadline.

Remember that you and your private teacher are responsible for securing a piano accompanist or other accompaniment source if you wish to use one.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Group Level \_\_\_\_\_ (see page 3)

If entering Group I, we need this additional information for registration :

Title and composer \_\_\_\_\_

ISSMA Solo # from the required list \_\_\_\_\_

(Check the ISSMA website for the required list manual <http://www.issma.net>)

Private teacher's name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Solo registration fee = \$15.00

- I wish to register my son/daughter for the ISSMA Instrumental Solo Contest.
- I acknowledge that the non-refundable fee of \$15.00 will be put on my Park Tudor account.
- The private teacher and I will arrange for the proper virtual submission of his/her video recorded entry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# ISSMA Description of Instrumental Contest Group Levels

Group V – A soloist grades 5-8 entering for the first time. Very easy music.

Group IV – A soloist grades 5-9. Easy music.

Group III – A soloist grades 5-12. Medium easy – Medium music.

Group II – A soloist grades 5-12. Medium – Medium difficult music.

Group I – A soloist grades 5-12, performing music from the ISSMA “Required Music List”.  
For the “solo listing #,” check the string manual at  
<http://www.issma.net/>

## **SOLO music requirements for Groups V, IV, III, and II:**

1. Any sheet music in accordance with copyright laws.
2. Bowing and articulations chosen for musical interpretation should be clearly marked in the judge’s score, and so observed in the performance.
3. The judge’s score must have all performed measures numbered.
4. Unless specified, any major movement or combination of two contrasting movements from within a piece may be performed.
5. The chosen movement(s) should not exceed the maximum time requirement of 4 minutes for groups 4 and 5. It should not exceed the maximum time requirement of 5 minutes for groups 2 and 3.

## **SOLO music requirements for Group I:**

1. Unless a particular editor or arranger is specified, any standard, unabridged, unarranged edition in accord with copyright laws may be used in addition to those listed in the Required List Manual, as long as it is **not** a simplified arrangement of the original piece.
2. Bowing and articulations chosen for musical interpretation should be clearly marked in the judges’ score and so observed in the performance.
3. The judges’ score must have all performed measures numbered.
4. Refer to the String Solo Manual for listing of possible Group I repertoire.

<https://www.issma.net/stringmanual.php>

Unless specified, any major movement or combination of two contrasting movements from within a piece may be performed. The chosen movement(s) should not exceed the maximum time requirement of 5 minutes, and should represent the level of difficulty worthy of ISSMA Group I entries.

5. For time limit considerations:
  - a. Lengthy repeats should be cut.
  - b. Lengthy piano passages (introductions, interludes, etc.) should be cut.
  - c. Cadenzas may be cut.
  - d. Repetitious passages of similar musical content may be cut.
  - e. Suitable cuts shall be made by the student or teacher if the selection is of longer duration; however, **the total performance must demonstrate the demands of the composition.**
  - f. The teacher must mark the judge’s copy to indicate the cut or cuts.

# ISSMA FAQ:

Entries will be assessed by the judges on March 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a window of time PRIOR to that where videos are to be submitted: anytime from Feb. 3 – Feb. 24. No late entries can be accepted.

The PDFs of music to be performed must be uploaded to Dropbox within that same window too, so no later than Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>. Scores must have measures numbered, and they must be properly marked with an entry media number.

## Are there any time restrictions for submitted videos?

There will be no “minimum” required performance time for the virtual assessments. The maximum time for videos should follow the time allotment for the specific events listed in the ISSMA Manual for District Solo Events.

Group IV and V = 4 minutes maximum

Group I, II and III = 5 minutes maximum

\*For this year only, students may register for and submit two (2) different solos within the same Group category.

## What technology is involved?

For the Fall Solo Assessments, users will need to download the HeartOut App using a smartphone or iPad/tablet and allow access to the device’s internal microphone and camera when prompted. Video submissions are to be created by each student using their own recording equipment, including a video camera, iPad/Tablet, or smartphone. Minimum audio requirement is one external microphone or the internal mic on the iPad/Tablet or smartphone.

## How will students submit their videos?

They will download an app called HeartOut to their phone. Following instructions that will be available in January on the ISSMA.net website, they will be able to use the phone as their recording device.

## Will students have a chance to preview the Solo before submitting?

Yes, the HeartOut app allows students three attempts before selecting which recording to upload for the solo submission. Landscape view (horizontal) is preferred. Users may preview the videos through the app before selecting the best performance to submit.

## Do we have to provide music for the adjudicators?

Yes. PDF copies of the music score being performed must be submitted at the time of the video submission so that they may be distributed to the judges for use in the assessment process. These PDF copies must be produced from original, legally purchased music.

**Measures must be numbered. All bowings, articulations, and cuts are to be clearly marked.** Directors will mark each score with a media number.

## Does the music have to be memorized?

No. It is recommended that you discuss this and other details that will affect the recorded performance with your private teacher - such as proper use of folders, stands, posture, lighting, positioning, etc.

## ISSMA FAQ continued

### Can I use accompaniment?

- An accompanist is NOT required for this contest. This is optional at the discretion of the student's private teacher.
- You are most welcome to hire a pianist from the community with the help of your private teacher.
- You can use an electronic accompaniment that is acceptable to ISSMA.
- The piano or piano recording is the only acceptable accompaniment.

If using a pre-recorded accompaniment track during the recording process, check the balance to ensure the performer is the dominant sound.

Select the accompaniment track **without** the melodic instrumental line being heard.

If using the Smart Music Accompaniment System, the keyboard mode should be used.

### How are assessment comments received?

Gold, Silver, Bronze and Participation ratings will be awarded as in the past.

Assessments will be written on a standardized form.

Students will **not** receive feedback and comments directly.

Directors can access the student videos, written commentary, judges' scores, and ratings by logging into their director's account after the assessments are completed.

The feedback is downloaded as a PDF document.

A username and password will be sent from info@heartout.io to set up this web-based account separate from the HeartOut user app.

### Who will receive access to the assessment comments?

After the assessments are complete, directors will have access to the videos, written commentary, and ratings. Like the District Solo event in the past, directors will need to share the results and feedback of the submission with their students.

### Can students/directors download the HeartOut video to share after submission?

No, directors can review the video with students for educational purposes after the event through their web-based account; however, to remain copyright compliant, all videos are being uploaded and viewed within the online platforms and cannot be downloaded, copied or shared.

### Will students receive medals?

Medals will be awarded, and shipped to the school directors for distribution.

Those who earn a Gold rating in Group I will get a State medal (not a State AND a district medal)

To register, complete page 2 and send via email to Mrs. Farlow or Mr. Flowers by the registration deadline of Friday, January 15, 2021, end of school day.