



How-Tos & FAQs for 2024

Is this year's festival an in-person activity, or a virtual activity?

The short answer is: it's both. As of 2023, the Sudbury Music Festival is now a hybrid competition.

ALL competitors in this year's festival who enter solo, duet, trio, quartet or quintet categories/classes will be expected to perform in person at a central Sudbury location (TBA).

In the case of large ensembles (any ensemble larger than a quintet - i.e. 6 or more people)

- Some large ensembles will be required to perform live, either at a central Sudbury location, or in the case of school groups located within the City of Greater Sudbury, at your school (with the adjudicator coming to your school instead).
- Some large ensembles will be required to submit virtual performances
- Some large ensembles will have the option of performing in-person or submitting virtual performances.

Please read the chart below carefully to assess the options available to the various types of large ensembles. Please note that in some cases, school-based ensembles are being provided options that are different from community ensembles.

The SMF Executive have carefully considered how best to accommodate festival entries as we transition back to an in-person festival. The options for entries are listed below:

Category	Size of Group	Option
All instruments and Voice	Solo, Duet, Trio, Quartet, Quintet	In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
SCHOOL Bands, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Handchimes	School Large Ensembles within Greater Sudbury area	Virtual OR In-person at your school
	School Large Ensembles outside Greater Sudbury area	Virtual
COMMUNITY Bands, Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Handchimes	Community Large Ensembles within Greater Sudbury area	In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
	Community Large Ensembles outside Greater Sudbury area	Virtual OR In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
SCHOOL Choirs	School Choirs within Greater Sudbury area	In-person at a central Sudbury location OR In-person at your school
	School Choirs outside Greater Sudbury area	Virtual OR In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
COMMUNITY Choirs	Community Choirs within Greater Sudbury area	In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
	Community Choirs outside Greater Sudbury area	Virtual OR In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
Guitar (Schools & Community)	Large Ensembles within Greater Sudbury area	In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
	Large Ensembles outside Greater Sudbury area	Virtual OR In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
Strings (Schools & Community)	Large Ensembles within Greater Sudbury area	In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA
	Large Ensembles outside Greater Sudbury area	Virtual OR In-person at a central Sudbury location TBA

IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE:

- The **REGISTRATION** deadline for **ALL** participants (in-person **and** virtual) is **JANUARY 31, 2024**.
- **VIRTUAL ENTRIES:** After you register by January 31, you have until **MARCH 28, 2024** to submit your official video, following the instructions provided.

If you have any questions, please email info.sudburymusicfestival@gmail.com

How does a virtual submission differ from a live performance?

Instead of performing live in front of an adjudicator, virtual participants will film their performance(s), and upload the video(s) to YouTube.

- Virtual participants are required to provide a YouTube link to a placeholder video when they register (deadline is January 31). **see more details below*

- The link(s) to your performance videos are due by Thursday March 28. These performance links will then be collated by class and shared with the adjudicators, so that they can watch the videos and prepare their evaluations.

In March, all of the participants in a given class will be emailed a link to a Zoom meeting with their adjudicator. All of the participants will watch the performance videos together on Zoom, after which, the adjudicator will share feedback and comments. Our aim is to create as meaningful an experience for the participants as possible.

How Do I Register This Year?

To register you will follow the same process as last year, using the Solaris Live online registration platform. If you already have an account, you should still have access. If not, it's a breeze to set one up. Follow this [Registration link](#).

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The deadline for ALL COMPETITORS (in-person or virtual) to complete your online registration(s) is January 31, 2024.

IN-PERSON ENTRIES

You will receive a notification in February confirming receipt of your registration. Details about your competition date and location will be emailed in March. In-person performances will be scheduled between April 4 and 14.

VIRTUAL ENTRIES (Large Ensembles only - see chart [here](#))

Step One: Placeholder video

You will be required to upload a video when you register for each category you are entering (deadline is January 31). We encourage you to record and submit a video of yourself saying "Hello" as a placeholder video. This will allow you to practice uploading a video to YouTube right away to ensure success.

Insert "NA" until you are ready to upload your video.

Step Two: Performance Video Submission

You will be able to edit your performance video submission(s) and provide the links to your final video(s) up to the Thursday March 28 deadline date. We encourage you to submit early in order to identify any technical issues in a timely manner -don't wait until the last day!

How do I upload a video to YouTube?

In order to upload a video to YouTube you have to create a YouTube account. It's quick and easy. Once you get an account set up you can upload video(s). There are a number of helpful how-to videos online, including this one:

[How to make a YouTube channel and upload a video](#)

Make sure videos are set to *Public Access* so that we can share them with our adjudicators.

I don't have a fancy video camera or microphones - can I do this?

Music Festivals like ours have been going virtual since March 2020. The Ontario Music Festival (Provincials) were held virtually in June 2020, 2021 & 2022 with much success. Professional adjudicators can see past technology to the heart of performance, and can offer constructive critiques regardless of whether your video was recorded on an old phone, or with any other camera you may have access to. Do the best you can with what you have.

Remember to pay attention to lighting where possible when you choose a location for your video. You want to make sure that the adjudicators can see as well as hear you.

We will be sharing some "how to" videos and tips and tricks in the coming weeks to help you out. If you feel as though the technology is a real barrier, please contact us at info.sudburymusicfestival@gmail.com

Do we have to introduce our pieces in our video?

Yes you do. There are three options:

1. Announce your name, level of competition and what pieces you will be performing verbally.
2. Digitally insert this information at the beginning of your video submission either graphically or by holding up a typed sheet of paper.
3. Both – verbally and written.

The choice is yours and whatever works best for you. It should be noted that these introductions do not count towards the actual performance time.

Do all of the pieces have to be recorded in one continuous take?

No. You can record one piece, take a break, and then record the next piece. You will then have to do some minor editing to put the two pieces together into one video for submission.

If I am playing a multi-movement piece as one of my selections, can each be recorded separately?

No. A multi-movement piece is still one piece, so the movements should be recorded one after the other in one take. (If you were performing it in front of an audience you wouldn't play one movement and then walk off the stage until you were ready to play the second movement.)

Can I use a digital piano or electronic keyboard?

Yes. Pianos may be either acoustic or digital for both performance and accompaniment purposes.

What are my options for accompaniment for my pieces?

1. Hire a collaborative pianist to provide your accompaniment. Your teacher can assist you in finding a local accompanist.
 2. In light of reduced pandemic restrictions, participants may choose either to record their performance live with their accompanist, or to use a track pre-recorded by their accompanist, according to their individual comfort level.
 3. In many cases, for instruments other than Piano, RCM includes a CD of accompaniments for practice purposes. These are also permitted.
 4. Download an accompaniment track from the internet. ALL ACCOMPANIMENTS MUST BE BY PIANO ONLY.
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Is it possible to send video of my pieces recorded without accompaniment?

No. Accompaniment is required for this competition unless the piece is written specifically without it.

Do you require a video recording of my collaborating pianist?

No. This is not required. If you would like to acknowledge them when you are introducing yourself and your pieces, it would be a nice and professional gesture. For example:

"My name is Jane Doe and I will be performing...*names of pieces*...
I would also like to thank my accompanist...*name of accompanist*."
