RECORDING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Unfortunately, Zoom treats live acoustic instruments as "noise" and kicks in its noise cancellation algorithms. A live performance on Zoom will be fraught with audio issues. Therefore, we ask each performer to make a video recording of their performance and upload it to a shared site. We will run your video after you do a live introduction on the Zoom session at the party. Please plan to have your video ready and uploaded as early as possible, but no later than the date announced for the VPP you want to be included in.

Below are guidelines for recording and uploading your performance.

1. Be sure you have a good camera to record your performance. You can use a separate webcam that plugs into your computer (usually via USB), or the camera that is already embedded in your computer. You can also use a video camera. With any of these, be sure you can retrieve the video file to be able to upload it to the collection site (steps 5-7).

2. Orient your camera in landscape mode (horizontal), not portrait mode (vertical).

3. Your microphone needs to provide good sound for the full range of piano frequencies. Potential microphones would be on your computer (usually not too good), your webcam (usually better than the computer's), or a standalone mic or mics. (Watch this YouTube video "Microphones for Voice and Piano - Home Edition" for some guidance: https://youtu.be/IfiutceRm0o). Standalone microphones are your best options, especially for grand pianos. If you go this route, you will need to also have a "controller" with phantom power or buy mics that already have the 48 volt phantom power. A controller will help you set gain levels and is recommended. If you are using standalone mic(s), have your lid open and the mic(s) mounted on boom(s). If 2 mics, have a mic near each set of strings, perhaps about 4-6 inches above the strings. If 1 mic, place it somewhere near, but off center of the sounding board. Do not place any recording device (camera, computer, microphone, webcam, etc) directly on the piano or allow it, or whatever it is mounted to, to touch the piano as it will pick up reverberations. We are happy to share experiences on standalone mics with you at summitcountypianoclub@gmail.com. Please include VPP in the subject line.

4. Be sure your camera is aimed to show you (including your head) at the piano with your hands on the keyboard. You may want to use tripods or booms (with ¼-20 adapters) to mount a webcam to give you more flexibility on setting up your scene.

5. Sit for a few seconds before beginning your piece. Then play your piece. Don't be in a rush at the end of the piece, but just sit for a bit. Maybe turn to the camera and smile, or even take a bow if you are comfortable doing that. It's always nice if you can have someone else pressing the "start" and "stop" recording button.
   - for YouTube Premiere events (hosted by Roger Moen), please DO introduce your piece on your video.
   - for live Zoom parties (hosted by Kim Ruhland), please do NOT introduce your piece on the recording – you'll introduce it "live" on Zoom.
   - Contact Roger or Kim if you're unsure.

6. Locate your performance file. Name your performance file to include your full name, composer, name of piece, length of performance.

7. Upload your performance file to the SummitCountyPianoClub google drive directory. (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xL0J3lHLFIYbsdClXqfcMfeSHAqqZsbB) If you have not previously uploaded a file, you will need to contact summitcountypianoclub@gmail.com with VPP in the subject line, to request permission to upload your file.

8. Contact summitcountypianoclub@gmail.com to let them know you have uploaded your file.

ATTENDING THE VPP

1. We will try to have more frequent virtual parties, but shorter in length total music time. We will make every effort to put those who've not yet performed, or haven't performed recently on the program.

2. A few days before the scheduled party, you will receive the link to the Zoom session.

3. Before you join the Zoom link, determine your download internet speed. You can google "speedtest" and will likely have several options, any of them are probably good. You'll want at least 5-10Mbps download. Upload won't much matter as the music will be coming to you (download), and your introduction (upload) will be speaking which doesn't take much bandwidth. If you are having internet issues, feel free to try to turn off your video, or log out and log back into the Zoom session.

4. Please join the Zoom session about 15 minutes early. Click the link and insert the passcode if one was provided. If there are any Zoom questions or issues such as low bandwidth, we can resolve them pre-party.

5. The party begins with a short introduction; we'll ensure everyone knows where their mute/unmute button is.

6. Performers should unmute themselves before their performance and introduce their piece. Their performance will then be broadcast.

7. During the performance, everyone is encouraged to type into the chat about the piece and the performance, including the performer.

8. Everyone will be unmuted after each performance for a (albeit, delayed) live, realtime audio, audience appreciation applause.

9. The Zoom session will be recorded. And, if possible, an edited full length video of the party will be posted on the website, summitcountypianoclub.org or chaffeecountypianoclub.org .