



## Best Practices for Videotaping a Home Recital

### Use a Smartphone

Record on a Smartphone, it will have a better microphone than most digital cameras. That is unless you have an external digital microphone.

Start by cleaning your lens to make sure you get a crisp shot. Do a quick test recording to check.

*\*Note from our recording technician: Try recording in an acoustically “dead” room, meaning not a lot of natural reverb, is preferable to a room with too much ambient sound bouncing around — too much echo, not enough definition. We can add reverb and ambience in mixing, but it’s much more difficult to control what’s already on the recording. That said, if you know you have a room that sounds nice and has some pleasant reverb, go for it. I suggest doing a quick test recording and then checking the audio with headphones before doing the real recording.*

### Landscape

You don’t want to have two black vertical bars along both sides of your video. To avoid this, make sure to use landscape orientation while recording. This is a more pleasing view and will make it more enjoyable when viewed on a widescreen or television.

### Framing/Composition

Now that you are using the landscape orientation, fill the frame with your musician. They don’t have to be smack in the center; play around to find what you think looks best. A tripod mounting stand is also an excellent accessory to have to make sure you keep your phone still. If you don’t have a tripod, use both hands to hold the phone.

### Zoom (We don’t mean the online platform!)

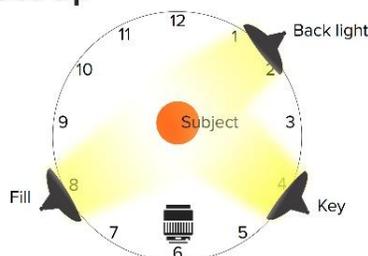
Don’t zoom in too close to your musician, as the final video may not be as crisp. You may need to get closer to your student, but we’ll discuss not being too close to the instrument. Another tip to remember is not to zoom in and out while recording.

### Lighting

Please do not use the flash, as it is too bright on smartphones. Avoid backlit settings. Close the curtain of a sunny window at the back of the room. If a student is lit from the back, you won’t be able to see their face. You can also place a light behind where you are standing, or to your side.

*\*Note from our recording technician on lighting: Lighting: If at all possible, try to use three light sources. This is called “3-point lighting.” (See graphic below)*

### Light Set-up



## Sound

If your student musician is playing a loud instrument, stand as far away as possible, the loud sound can overload the phone. We will crop the video when we produce the school recital videos.

## The Performance

Treat your home performance like a regular recital at WCMS when you perform your polished piece. Please take a bow, say your first name, and the name of the song that you will perform. Play the song, and then take your final bow. Don't forget to smile and dress appropriately.

## Submit the Performance Video at least 7 business days in advance of recital date

Name the MP4 or Mov video: <Teacher's Name> Recital, <Student's name>. (example: Jon Fagan Recital-Ed Moore). We will send to a link to our dropbox account about ten days before the projected concert date—where you can upload your video.

\*\*Include a still "forward facing" photo (jpg) of the student (smile please!) to possibly be used in the recital video

**Make sure to send your Musician's Performance Video  
7 business days prior to the recital date,  
so we have time to assemble the virtual recital video.**