

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise 2020 will proceed as “Virtual” Festival

Video submissions will be necessary in response to COVID-19 Emergency Measures.

Dear participants, supporters, and volunteers, The Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise Committee has been meeting via online correspondence to consider the everchanging circumstances of our lives, the various impacts of any decision they might make about this year’s Festival, as well as to respond to questions and comments received to the festival committee in recent weeks.

- The Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise committee feels strongly that this is a learning opportunity for our participants, highlighting the possibilities of the growing use of technology when partnered with the Arts.

- We need to respect the amount of hard work and time devoted to preparing for the Festival by our participants

- Video submission has become an increasingly important way of carrying out auditions and submissions to competitions around the world.

- There has been a recent trend of musical collaborations using new social media technologies and platforms, acting as substitutes for canceled or suspended live performances – a use of technology that may well carry on after all this is over

- By posting video entries on YouTube, our participants will have greater public exposure than even through our live Festival

- For this year only, the Ontario Music Festivals Association (OMFA) has replaced the live Provincial Festival with a virtual Festival, in which participants may submit videos to Provincials – they can use the same video for both entries if they so choose.

With all these in mind, the Festival is delighted to announce that the 2020 Festival will proceed after all, as a virtual Festival.

Here are some details:

- Solo participants are eligible to participate.
- Duets and ensembles from the same household are eligible to participate
- Duets and ensembles using technology to have the other parts played/sung are eligible to participate.
- Performers can prepare and submit video recordings to the Festival, up to the due date of Sunday, May 31st, 2020. The festival cannot accept any entries after this date for any reason.
- Performers are asked to submit the videos via YouTube done in a **public** setting to the festival email address [sfsp1@outlook.com](mailto:sfsp1@outlook.com) . Selections that use accompaniment can use pre-recorded accompaniment or are allowed to be unaccompanied whatever the comfort level is of the participant. Do contact us if you have any questions or need advice on how to put together your video.

- The adjudicators have asked participants to provide a copy of music, Scripture, speech arts passage which will be only used for the adjudication and then destroyed by PDF scan or photograph. If you cannot provide this do not worry – you can still enter your videos. This is simply to help the adjudicators in their work.
- Do know that our Adjudicators are experienced in working with video entries and will account for technological differences among the entries. They know to look for the music in you and ignore the rest! A video with a phone, iPad, laptop, etc. is perfectly acceptable.
- As the entries are received they will be available for viewing by the public on the Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise facebook page. We encourage you to listen, view, like, comment and share the videos with others!
- For the year 2020 the Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise will not hand out trophies. Monetary awards will be given out at the discretion of the festival committee providing that funds are available.
- All entries will receive constructive comments from the adjudicators, marks and certificates. Adjudicator comments and marks will be returned as soon as they have been returned by the adjudicators. Participant names and marks will be placed on the website as they are received. Placings will be given just like a regular festival and will be posted on the festival website during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June. Certificates will be sent via email during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of June. Any awards that are given will also be placed on the festival website and winners will be able to receive their award by cheque or e-transfer during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of June.
- **All** entrants will be notified by email during the week of April 13-19, 2020 of the new festival procedure. If you are registered as an ensemble and cannot record your selection virtually your entry fee will be entirely refunded upon your request. If you are registered for a solo entry and wish not to participate in the virtual festival your entry fee will be entirely refunded upon your request. If you cannot participate in your online festival class and wish to leave your entry fee as a donation to the festival you can do so and your donation is able to be receipted to use for income tax purposes upon request. Please let the festival know by May 31, 2020 of your intention if you wish to receive a refund for entry fees. All refunded entry fees can have your cheque returned by mail if you paid by cheque or via e-transfer if you paid in this manner.
- One very exciting aspect of this new online festival is that each entry is eligible to participate in up to two selections per entry. If you wish to play/sing 2 selections in your single entry you are most welcome to do so. It is important if you do wish to do 2 selections in 1 class that your selections are sent in the same single video and that you announce your name and selections as well as including them in the description of the video. It is also important that the video is placed in the public setting for every entry.
- Participants are welcome to participate in additional classes. It is very rare to received valuable feedback from our incredible adjudicators for as low as \$6 per selection if you are doing two selections per class! The festival is also open to everyone – if you know of persons who would enjoy participating please encourage them to visit the festival website and facebook page. The Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise is for everyone! All classes in the syllabus are eligible provided that they follow health guidelines. The Stirling Festival offers classes in Bible Scripture, Public Speaking, Speech Arts (such as prose, poetry, monologues), Singing, Piano, all orchestral instruments including Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, Guitar (all kinds), Harp, Percussion.
- Any additional entries can be paid to the festival email address of [sfsp1@outlook.com](mailto:sfsp1@outlook.com)

- If you have any other questions, comments or concerns do not hesitate to contact the Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise via the “contact us” section of the website, at the festival email address of [sfsp1@outlook.com](mailto:sfsp1@outlook.com) or via a message on the festival Facebook page which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/stirlingfestival/>

Wishing everyone involved in the Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise good health, safety, peace and strong faith as we manoeuvre the present and look towards a bright and radiant future.

Respectfully yours,

Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise Committee