

The 71st Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise 2021 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.

- 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 ever with the live Festival

- The Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise is a proud member of the Ontario Music Festivals Association (OMFA). Information on the many classes, disciplines, rules and regulations can be found at the OMFA website.

With all these in mind, the Festival is delighted to announce that the 2021 Festival will proceed 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 or duets and ensembles following protocol set out by the Province of Ontario at the time of video filming are eligible.
- Performers can prepare and submit video recordings to the Festival, up to the due date of Friday, April 30, 2021. 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** or **unlisted** setting to the festival email address sfsp1@outlook.com. The festival committee asks that all entries **not** use the “for kids” setting. Selections that use accompaniment can use pre-recorded accompaniment or are allowed to be unaccompanied whatever the comfort level is of the participant. If you are struggling with uploading a video to YouTube please send the video directly to the festival and the committee can upload it to YouTube for you. Please contact us if you have any questions or need advice on how to put together your video.

- For any participant not comfortable sharing their videos with the other participants and their families, entries may be submitted in the **private** or for **kids setting** on YouTube for adjudication only. Names will be added to the program only on the approval of the participant or parent/guardian.
- 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.
- Please be assured 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 (excepting any adjudication only participants using private/for kids videos). We encourage you to listen, view, like, comment and share the videos with others!
- For the year 2021 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 no later than May 31, 2021 (Provincial festival recommendations will be notified during the 1st week of May 2021 in order to get these applications processed in a timely manner). Certificates will be sent via email. Any awards that are given will also be placed on the festival website and winners will be able to receive their award by e-transfer. All adjudication forms, certificates and awards will reach participants by June 30, 2021.
- There are no refunds on entry fees for any reason. These fees are used to cover adjudicator expenses and festival work upkeep such as the website, OMFA membership fees, etc.
- One exciting aspect of the online festival is that each entry is eligible to participate in one or two selections per entry. Video submissions can contain single videos per selection or both selections can be included in one video whichever is easiest.
- Participants are welcome to participate in additional classes. It is very rare to receive valuable feedback from our incredible adjudicators for as low as \$7.50 per selection if you are doing two selections per class! The Stirling festival is also open to everyone regardless of domicile or geographical location – 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.
- All entries can be paid to the festival email address of sfsp1@outlook.com by e-transfer.
- 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 or via a message on the festival Facebook page which can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/stirlingfestival/>

- The Stirling Festival of Sacred Praise gratefully appreciates its donors who help to keep the festival running 71 years strong! The festival also gratefully appreciates any new monetary awards that can be designated to participants. Donations or award monies can be received to the festival by e-transfer at sfsp1@outlook.com or by regular mail to the festival treasurer, Eleanor Wilson, 141 Henry St, Stirling ON K0K 3E0. Any amount will be thankfully received. All donations will receive a receipt from the festival treasurer over the 2021 year.

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