



Digital filming guidance

The following guide is designed to support teachers in filming a performance for the digital Trinity Stars – Young Performers Awards.

Before you begin

There are three important instructions to note before you start planning your filming:

1. All submissions must be one continuous performance. If there is any evidence of editing then we will not be able to assess the performance.
2. Extra people can be present to be the camera operator, accompanist or to operate your backing tracks. If the performance includes singing with accompaniment or backing tracks, audio and video must be recorded simultaneously and no pre- or post-production techniques should be applied.
3. You do not need to provide any information at the beginning of your performance – simply start the recording and begin when you are ready. Make sure your files are clearly labelled showing the level of the Award, Group Name, and the date of filming, eg Gold Award_Fruits of the Sea_23092025.

Your filming environment

Here are a few considerations when choosing where to film your performance:

- ★ Choose a quiet room without disruptions, and remember to put devices such as phones or tablets on 'silent'.
- ★ Make sure the recording device has enough battery and storage capacity.
- ★ Check light levels before recording to ensure the performers are clearly visible on screen and avoid standing in front of a light source to ensure the performers do not appear as silhouettes on screen.
- ★ Check sound levels to ensure the recording device captures the range of voices clearly, without any distortion.

Troubleshooting sound issues

The microphones in mobile devices vary in quality, so you might find that the audio on your recording is either cutting out or distorting. There may be some audio settings that you can change to help with this.

Some devices have an 'automatic microphone compression' or similar function, which may cause the volume of your recording to change suddenly. Where possible, switch these off in your audio settings.

- ★ If your audio is distorted and you have the option in your device settings, try reducing the microphone input level. If not, try moving your recording device further away.

- ★ Your device may have a setting labelled 'suppress background noise', 'noise reduction' or similar. Try turning this function off if the option is available.
- ★ Other problematic functions you may wish to disable include 'echo cancellation', 'sound correction' and 'audio stability'.

Filming and technical setup

- ★ Treat the camera as part of the audience, encouraging the children to perform outwards so the Trinity expert can see and hear clearly.
- ★ Ensure the performance space is large enough for all movement and is fully visible within the camera frame, with enough width and headroom to show all children performing.
- ★ Use one device only (a phone or tablet) and record one single, unedited take.
- ★ Secure the camera on a tripod or stable surface to avoid shaking.
- ★ You may pan or zoom sparingly if needed to keep the performers in view, but the filming should remain unobtrusive and secondary to the performance.

Performance space, costumes, and presentation

- ★ You can mark out the performance area clearly before filming to help with spacing; use a numbered grid or coloured zones if helpful.
- ★ Encourage the children to project their voices clearly and perform towards the audience (camera), even when interacting with others on stage.
- ★ Support the children in developing vocal contrast – quieter when 'off stage,' projecting confidently when 'on stage.'
- ★ Consider an off-stage seating area so the children can wait quietly for their turn while observing the performance and following their cues.

Teacher guidance and rehearsal preparation

- ★ For the Bronze award, teachers may lead the children who are performing on and off stage. For the Silver and Gold awards, the children should be encouraged to perform more independently, responding to simple cues or signals.
- ★ Conduct a walk-through before filming to practice entrances, exits, and staging. Use this as an opportunity to build awareness of space, sequence, and confidence.
- ★ Encourage interaction by asking children what happens next to help them remember each part of their performance.

Health and safety

- ★ Ensure that the body and voice are properly warmed up before performance.
- ★ Performers should not undertake anything that is beyond their physical or vocal capabilities.
- ★ Make sure the performance space is free from hazards before you start recording.
- ★ Any costumes or props should be tailored to the age and size of the performer and should not hinder movement unreasonably.

Musical theatre accompaniment

Before filming the full performance, make sure that you check the balance between the singing and the accompaniment (live or recorded). Backing tracks should be played through an external speaker rather than directly from a phone or tablet. Any accompaniment must be loud enough for the Trinity expert to hear it on the video.