2020 Festival Participants, Parents, and Youth Pastors/Leaders,

First, thank you for your patience and understanding as we all continue to navigate these continually evolving times. We appreciate our MI District leadership for their prayer and consideration of many elements as they made the decision, in everyone's best interest, to postpone this year's festival.

With that said, we are excited to inform you that our team went right to work (literally that Thursday evening it was postponed) to think, discuss, and work through what we believe is a win for as many as possible. Before we get into the details, we know that "simply rescheduling the event at a later date" is not an option. A few thoughts on this:

- With no assurance of larger groups being able to come together in a reasonable amount of time, it would be unwise to attempt another festival as-is
- Each time we schedule/reschedule the festival, elements have to be rented and paid for
- National Fine Arts Festival: As of 3-18-20, their timeline of a June 1st registration deadline is still in play. Our desire is to give each participant and church enough time to find out if they have advanced to nationals, and make trip plans

The following pages detail what we are calling the "2020 Video Fine Arts Festival". PLEASE read everything to gain a full understanding of information, details, requirements, and more!

Please direct any and all questions to mifinearts@gmail.com

~Nick and Jill Nelson, MYM and FAF Staff

2020 Video Fine Arts Festival | MI District

Timeline for MI Video Fine Arts (as of 3-19-20)**:**

April 8th - Deadline to inform FAF staff that you will not be able to participate in this way
April 27th - Final due date for all submissions

Refunds:
If (after reading and talking through everything) your church feels that you will not be able to participate in this way, please email mifinearts@gmail.com to discuss options by April 8th.

Video Festival Guidelines

Each entry (individual or group) will submit a video of their presentation to be evaluated by the same evaluators that were going to be at the festival. Because the festival strives to provide a level playing field for all participants (sound levels, space, etc.), it is imperative that everyone follow what is laid out below. Again, PLEASE READ through everything as this is new for everyone!

Division/Category Rules and Evaluating Criteria

- Participants will follow the rules, just like when presenting at the festival, for their category/division in the National Fine Arts Festival Rulebook for 2020.
- Evaluators will use the same criteria explained in the rulebook, while paying attention to the fact that these are not professional video recordings. Again, we desire to provide as level of a playing field as possible. This relies heavily on everyone adhering to everything!

VIDEO RECORDING GUIDELINES

All recordings need to be done in good taste as if the individual/group were at the festival. Therefore:

- Use the honor system and capture the presentation in one take, one time
    - This is because students do not get a retake at the festival.
- Video submissions may not be edited or spliced recordings
- Recordings must be in the presence of at least three other people with one being of adult age
- Individuals/Groups must be dressed as if you were at the festival

All Entries Shall:

- Record each presentation individually, not collectively
    - For example, a church has 12 different entries (individual and group)...that church will submit 12 separate videos, NOT one continual recording of all 12
- ONLY use a cell phone as is to record the video and audio of the presentation, at the same time *(please see specific additional category guidelines for SOME group entries below)*

(Video recording guidelines continued)

- Please record and upload at the highest resolution possible
- We strongly suggest that the cell phone be placed on a tripod or non-mobile/moving stabilizing device or prop
    - If you use a handheld stabilizing device, the person recording must stay in the same place
- Position the cell phone in a way that allows the evaluators to see the participant or group's full body/bodies - we highly recommend the phone be centered as the evaluators are at the festival
- Record the presentation in landscape layout (phone flipped on side)
    - No portrait OR holding-the-phone selfie recordings will be accepted
- Adhere to and video their category setup and tear down times, in the video, according to each division/category rule
- Introduce all songs used in their presentation according to the rules in the National Fine Arts 2020 Rulebook

Additional Recording Guidelines For: Worship Team (Lg, Sm), Christian Band, Instrumental Ensemble (Trad/Cont), Vocal Ensemble (Lg, Sm), Choir:
While striving to keep as level of a playing field as possible within these specific categories, we know that cell phone recordings of categories with more elements may be too muddy or distorted for evaluators to use the required criteria. Therefore, the specific categories listed above will have additional recording and evaluation elements as follows.

- Record your presentation via cell phone as required above
- Additionally, record the audio of your presentation and submit an Mp3 file with your video submission
    - Evaluators will watch and listen to the video recording, as well as the Mp3 audio recording, to best evaluate your presentation

Additional Recording Guidelines For PUPPET Entries:
We acknowledge that each church submitting a puppetry entry may not have the necessary dimensions set forth in the rulebook for a puppet stage. Therefore,

- Please do your best to create something that hides the students, allowing the puppets to be displayed as normal
- Evaluators will know to not take stage dimensions into consideration if they are different from the stated dimensions in the rulebook
- Evaluators will know to be lenient on student's feet/bodies sticking out from the sides if you do not have the correct dimensions
- PLEASE have microphones for your students to use behind the puppet stage that come through your church sound system so they are heard in the recording (this is not a requirement, but would help)

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(Video recording guidelines continued)

Art Division Video/Picture Submission Guidelines:

We all know there are many dynamics to art category entries. In order to keep a level playing field, please follow these guidelines for the Art Division categories:

Graphic Design, T-Shirt Design, Photography Mobile/Digital/Film

- Your Credit Line page MUST be submitted as a separate jpeg or PDF file, but sent with your entry
- Please submit these categories as a high resolution jpeg or PDF

Visual Art (2D Painting and Drawing, 2D Alternative Media, 3D)

- Your Credit Line page MUST be submitted as a separate jpeg or PDF file, but sent with your entry
- Submit a 360 degree video showing all sides/angles of your entry
    - Start with the video showing the front of your entry closer to the level your entry is sitting at, and pause for 5 seconds
    - Slowly walk around your entire entry at the same level
    - When you get back to the front of your entry, continue recording and slowly elevate your recording device and walk around your entry again, to show the elevated view to evaluators
    - When you reach the front of your entry for the second time, continue recording, pause for 5 seconds, and end the recording
    - *Audio explanations of your piece are not allowed in the recording*

Writing Submission Guidelines:

Please follow the submission guidelines for the categories below:

Book Chapter, First Person Essay, Flash Fiction, Mini Saga and Poetry

- Your title page MUST be submitted as the first page of your writing entry
- Please submit these categories as a PDF

Children's Literature

- Your title page MUST be submitted as the first page of your entry
- Submission of your book needs to be a PDF in the following order:
    - Front cover
    - Inside front cover and first page
    - Subsequent pages (individual or combined)
        - If two pages compliment each other (writing on one side, picture on the other), please have those pictured together as one page/picture
    - Inside back cover
    - Outside back cover

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Form To Submit Presentations: https://form.jotform.com/200774451950051
Please use the above URL to access the online form to submit all necessary information and presentations. Again, each presentation needs to submit a separate form. This is to help ensure accuracy for the evaluators and FAF office staff. The form includes:

- *Church name*
- *Participant (first and last name) / Group name*
- *Category*
- *ID Number (found on your church schedule next to each presentation)*
- *YouTube URL and/or files of presentation*

Video presentations will need to be uploaded to Youtube. The following information must be included in the YouTube video title:

- *Church name*
- *Participant (first and last name) or Group name*
- *Category*
- *ID Number (found on your church schedule next to each presentation)*

Example: First AG | Harry Styles | Worship Dance | 0000123456

Youtube video submissions must be set to "unlisted" (NOT private). If you have or use any music in your presentation, we ask that you do not share your presentation via social media, website, Youtube, etc., due to copyright/licensing elements.

To ensure accuracy, all GROUP presentation submissions shall be submitted by the Youth Pastor or Fine Arts Director from your church. We do not want multiple entries of the same presentation submitted.

Individual submissions may be submitted by anyone. We do not want multiple submissions of the same presentation submitted.

Presentation Submission Agreement

By submitting your presentation(s), you acknowledge and agree with:

- The honor system as explained in different areas of this whole document
    - That presentations were only recorded once, in full
    - That presentations with any music will not be displayed publicly at any time
- Video submissions may not be edited or spliced recordings
- Submitting your presentation as outlined in this document
- The evaluator scores and decisions are final

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National Advancement and Merit Award Announcements:

- We will post and update presentations that advance to National Fine Arts starting on May 4th via the Fine Arts page on the Michigan Student Ministries website
- We will host a Facebook live event announcing the merit winners on a date to be determined

Score Sheets and Certificates:

- Delivery/pickup of these items will be determined at a later date

National Fine Arts Festival Information:

As a district, we have been in communication with the National Fine Arts Directors. As of 3-19-20, they are moving forward as normal as it relates to dates and procedures. All churches and participants that move on to nationals shall prepare as normal for National Fine Arts.

- The registration deadline for National Fine Arts is still June 1st, 2020*
- The normal standards, procedures, and equipment will still apply for the national festival
- Video submissions (with exception to Short Film and Promo Video like normal) will not be accepted for the 2020 National Fine Arts Festival

*We highly recommend that your youth group and families start talking about travel ideas and plans now. With Nationals being held in Columbus OH, hotels can be reserved once the room blocks are released by nationals, and cancelled if needed. This is a “best circumstances” element for us Michiganders as Columbus is in driving distance!

Please know that this Video Fine Arts Festival is a first!

For future festivals, the Michigan District Fine Arts Festival will not accept any video presentations or digital delivery of art or writing pieces due to personal circumstances. The Michigan District, and National Fine Arts Festival, have no desire to move to a video-based festival.

Thank you for your continued patience as we navigate this year’s festival. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us via email (please submit all questions through your youth pastor/church).

Blessings,

Nick and Jill Nelson
MYM and FAF Staff