

Forty-Ninth Anniversary Lakeland Jazz Festival Virtual Solo Competition

Overview: As you may be aware, the mission of the Lakeland Jazz Festival is dedicated to the presentation of educational opportunities for aspiring student jazz musicians of high school and junior high school age. This year's festival will focus on this same goal, with a slightly different twist due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Our plan is to forego the in-person large ensemble adjudication. In its place we will be inviting all area high school and middle school students to submit an **online improvised solo based on the 12-bar blues in Bb**. We will provide background tracks and a written melody line – the students will record their solo and submit it to us for feedback. As in previous years, we will be making performance awards for outstanding solos, and this year, we will feature the top solos in an online program.

Most Popular Q&As:

Q: What is the entry fee?

A: **The is no fee for students or schools this year to enter the Virtual Solo Contest.**

Q: Is this Virtual Solo Competition going to replace the annual Lakeland Jazz Festival in 2021?

A: Because of the pandemic, yes but just for 2021. We hope to return to the traditional Jazz Festival format in 2022.

Q: Who is Lakeland's 2021 Virtual Solo Competition open to?

A: Any high school or middle school student, either enrolled in a school program, home-schooled or taking private instruction.

Q: How is it going to work?

A: Students will submit an online improvised solo based on the 12-bar blues in B-flat. We will provide background tracks and a written melody line – the students will record their solo and submit it to us for feedback.

Q: Are there submission deadlines?

A: Yes. The deadline for student submissions of their improvised solo is **Feb. 22, 2021**, by 11:59 p.m.

Q: Are there different deadlines for High School and Middle/Junior School?

A: No.

Q: When will the submissions window be open?

A: Jan. 1, 2021 (details to follow).

Q: What are the prizes and recognition?

A: The top solos will receive an online lesson with one of the adjudicators of their choice, plus a year's pass for them and three guests to all Arts at Lakeland Music & Theater Performance Events.

Q: Who are this year's Adjudicators?

A: Festival Adjudicators are highly respected jazz educators from the Northeast Ohio area who will listen to the chosen solos and offer constructive, positive comments to students.