

Online Comhaltas Competitions (OCCs)

Guidelines for successful entry to the competition



Videos must be recorded and submitted:

1. In landscape mode with the competitor fully visible – i.e. the competitor must be fully in the frame of the camera where their head, feet, and instrument (see point 6) can all be clearly seen – for duet/trio/accompaniment/bodhran/ceili drums competitions all musicians must be fully visible

2. In one continuous video recording – i.e. if there has been a pause, or edited footage where it is clear that two recordings have been spliced together, the entry will not be successful

3. In one of the following formats: MPEG-4 (MP4), M4V, MOV, 3GPP, AVCHD*, – If recorded on an Android/Apple phone standard camera app, it will be recorded in one of the listed formats

*AVCHD format requires conversion, it is advised to use the other formats listed however entries submitted in AVCHD will be accepted

4. With the file renamed in the following format: Competition Code_Competitor Name – I.e. U12 Piano Competitor Joe Bloggs would be: 12A_Joe_Bloggs

(competition codes can be found here – A=U12, B=12-15, C=15-18, D=Senior and E=Any Age – for newly composed competitions)

5. In a well-lit environment so that the video is visibly clear and that the audio is also clear and an accurate representation of what is heard in the room during recording and whilst footage recorded on a smartphone is acceptable, it is important to ensure that the recording is as steady as possible and that there are minimal shakes visible.

6. The competitor is facing towards the camera – for the following instruments, the directions are included to ensure that the adjudicator can clearly see specific parts of instruments: **Button Accordion/ Piano Accordion / Melodeon** – That the Melody side of the instrument is visible at all times, – **Concertina** – That an equal amount of right/left side of the instrument is visible at all times, **Uilleann Pipes** – That the chanter & regulators (if present) are visible at all times, **Harp** – with the harp turned to the right so that the strings, both hands and levers (if present) are visible at both times, **Piano**, Recorded over shoulder from above so that all keys and the competitor are visible at all times, – **Miscellaneous** – So that the melody part of any instrument and any technique associated with playing the instrument are visible at all times, **Accompaniment** – Piano, the same guides for Piano solo are followed, and for a stringed accompaniment instrument, the camera position is appropriate to be able to clearly see both hands playing the instrument, **Bodhran** – so that the hand beating the skin of the instrument is visible at all times **Ceili Drums** – So that the snare skin and both hands are visible at all times

7. For competitions where an accompanist plays along to a melody (**accompaniment, ceili band drums, bodhran**) either a melody player from the same household may provide the melody, or a pre-recorded melody can be used. However, this melody must be recorded solely for this purpose, and not be a commercially available recording. In the recorded video, the melody player(s) must be visible and audible in their entirety as with solo performers, and if playing to a recorded track, the speaker playing the track must be visible and clearly audible also.

8. Without any text being added to the screen post recording – i.e. name of competitor or pieces played

9. With competitors performing the usual required number of pieces for their age group and competition: U12=2, 12-15=2, 15-18=3, Senior =4, For slow-air competitions: U12=1 All other age groups =2 (no list is required, just perform the required number of pieces), Newly composed Tune/Song = 1

10. For singing competitions, an appropriate mix of slow and lively songs is advised (no list is required)