

Filming videos at the organ

Advice for Organ Award auditions 2020

Equipment

Smart phones are capable of taking videos that also have high quality audio without the need for any editing. However, we realise that it might not always be possible to use a smart phone, so have listed some alternative options below.

Visual

- Smart phone
- Tablet
- Digital camera
- Computer webcam (though some are much lower resolution than others)

Audio

- USB microphone plugged into a laptop
- Portable microphone e.g. Zoom microphone
- Microphone plugged into iPhone e.g. Rode

Tips for recording

- If possible, fashion a stand for your recording device so that you're not relying on someone else to hold it for you. This means you can record multiple takes without being conscious of someone standing over you.
 - Things that work well as a stand if you don't have access to a tripod:
 - A pile of books
 - A music stand
 - A laptop
- If using a phone, make sure that the phone microphone is not covered
- If using a separate microphone and intending to edit the audio/visuals together, it's worth doing a 'sync clap' at the beginning - this makes it much easier! All you need to do is clap once the video and sound are both recording which you can use to synchronise the files.
- Placing the camera to one side of the console tends to provide the best shot - ideally it should be possible to see your feet as well as a clear shot of your hands at the keys. It may be that portrait works better than landscape!
- If your device has a camera on both sides, use the one on the reverse side from the screen, i.e. not the camera used for video calls. The camera on the reverse is usually higher quality.
- It's worth doing a couple of trial videos to make sure you're happy with the image and audio before embarking on your final recording.