Texas Bandmasters Association
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Simple Solutions for Virtual Concerts

CLINICIAN:
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Clinic for the 2020 Texas Bandmasters Association Online Convention

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Goal for today's clinic:
- There are multiple easy, inexpensive options for collecting and assembling individual and small group student performances
- Setting up a virtual streaming platform and going LIVE with pre-recorded content is easier than you think!
- These tools and methods can be effective whether your school attendance model is in-person, hybrid, or fully online!

Applications:
- Winter Concert 2020 may need to be VIRTUAL due to anticipated spikes around Thanksgiving.
- Virtual small ensemble performances to showcase what students have been working on in hybrid learning environments to parents, faculty, administration and community members.
- Livestream of indoor standstill performances of marching show that includes copyrighted material
- Solo & Ensemble showcase goes VIRTUAL in the event of early spring spike concerns.

I. Creating Content
- Students record assignments at home as "pass-offs" that are compiled into small or full ensemble virtual performances
- Students are recorded at school in small groups in a hybrid learning environment, and then compiled for a virtual concert streamed at a later date.

Play 1st video: Google Classroom introduction

Google Classroom

1. Compiling individual performers
   - Google Classroom assignments:
     - Posting assignments with short cuts and specific metronome markings. (All students must use one earbud in, one earbud out and record at the same tempo!)

- *Google Classroom assignments (cont'd)*
  - Posting assignments and providing a click track (This is great when there are ritardandos, accelerandos, etc).
  - Consider embedding a drone note (or open fifth) into the click track to help with tuning.
- Creating click tracks
- Process of students submitting recordings
- Capturing digital audio from student submissions
- Garageband and Audacity are free downloads!
- Play from Google Classroom, and record audio digitally directly into the recording software (I use Audacity).

Show second video: Audacity introduction

- Compiling and mixing student audio into one audio file
  - Import one student at a time, and balance as you go.
  - Always start with the metronome file, and then add percussion (if percussion parts are used)
  - Then add melody players, then layer and balance in the harmony parts under the melody
  - Last, I like to add the basses & low brass (if they are not the melody) in order to fill out the recording
  - Highlight the section of a student's file that you wish to adjust the balance, and then raise or lower the dB… don't use the global gain slider for the entire track.
  - Line up timing within the recording between players by simply sliding each track left to right (you need to be very zoomed in to do this). Slide each student track left or right to march the metronome wav pattern… not to other players.
  - Export the entire file once you are done as a .wav for best fidelity

- Import the audio file into a new video project and add student video from Google Classroom
  - I like to edit in iMovie on my iPhone, and import video from Google Classroom folder in Google Drive.
  - Add one student at a time, and mute each video clip after you line it up visually with the imported audio file.

2. Recording students at school in small ensembles

- Select ensemble music that features the students at their current level.
- This way of creating content would be very effective in a hybrid teaching environment, where students only attend classes on certain days.
- Recording video and audio simultaneously
  - All students still use one earbud in, one out.
  - Use a consistent metronome marking for all recordings
  - Consider embedding a drone note (or open fifth) into the click track to help with tuning.
- Show video: OBS introduction *(Open Broadcaster Software)*
     Extras to add-on that make this easier:
  - PreSonus AudioBox USB 96: for $99 you can connect two microphones straight into your school laptop!
  - Two condenser omnidirectional microphones:
        AT4022 *are excellent without spending tons of money*

II. Setting up the live streaming platform

- **Live-streaming:** From a licensing and informational perspective, music programs require public performance licenses for <u>live-streaming</u> events (these can be obtained from ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, GMR, and copyright owners directly). YouTube has PRO (public performance) licensing, which allows users to live stream public performances of copyrighted music. A one-time live-streamed performance that is NOT uploaded to a server is considered an "ephemeral use". Be advised that much of our band music is NOT covered by ASCAP, thus this is not the recommended streaming service. https://www.ascap.com/repertory   http://repertoire.bmi.com/

- **On-demand streaming:** (not recommended) you require both public performance licensing and synchronization licensing. Websites, like YouTube, have public performance licenses (as noted above) but do not have synchronization licenses. This is why videos uploaded to YouTube are taken down. The agreements YouTube has with copyright owners (beyond the PRO licensing) only protects YouTube. In other words, those copyright owners have agreed not to sue YouTube in exchange for financial remuneration. This is also why you see lawsuits filed by copyright owners against people who upload videos to YouTube.

- **SPiN Network streaming:** (recommended) Alternatively, you can quickly set up a school account through the SPiN Network. Schools who are already using Tresona for copyrights are already loaded into the system. The SPiN Network provides an easy-to-use platform for live streaming performances by simply providing you a stream link to send out to parents and supporters. SPiN handles all of the synch and PRO licensing needed to make this possible. **Currently, SPiN is free for users.** One major benefit is that there is no comments section, which was a real problem during many live-streamed high school graduations back in May 2020.

III. Going LIVE with pre-recorded content

- **Step One:** Create a SPiN Network account that is paired with your school email account. Create a band channel. Click the "Go Live" and name your stream. Scroll down to "Stream Settings" and copy your "Stream Key".

- **Step Two:** Download OBS "Open Broadcaster Software" FREE DOWNLOAD! https://obsproject.com/   The first time you log in, it will configure the audio and video settings for your computer: paste your "Stream Key" there.

- **Step Three:** In the bottom left corner of OBS, you will see a window for scenes, and to its right, a window for source. Click the "+" and add all the sources you want for your concert! I like to moderate as a live emcee, so I add the "video capture" and "audio input capture". I also add powerpoint as "window capture" and open my powerpoint as a smaller window so that I can click through the slides during the live presentation.

- **Step Four:** Setting up the powerpoint (if you want to show titles of songs, etc). Once you create your concert powerpoint, go to "Slide Show" and then "Set up slideshow". Change it from "full screen" to "Browsed by an individual window". Once you have your powerpoint ready to broadcast, hit "Start from Beginning". It is also good to have the PPT window reduced to take up less than half the screen to allow for OBS to take the other side. Highlight the PPT window when you are ready to move to the next slide.

- **Step Five:** Add content! Press the "+" in OBS sources to add the videos you have created for your live event!

- **Step Six:** Go Live! SPiN Network sets up everything you need, using the "stream key" you provided from OBS. Send out the livestream link to parents and supporters. At showtime, start streaming from OBS about 10 minutes before downbeat. OBS is now sending the stream to SPiN. Once you are ready for showtime, start the stream within the SPiN Network, and everyone is watching your broadcast as you speak, or play pre-recorded videos. What's great about streaming from your computer, is there in no copyrighted material uploaded to any servers that could get you in trouble. Once the stream is over, the content is still only on your computer.
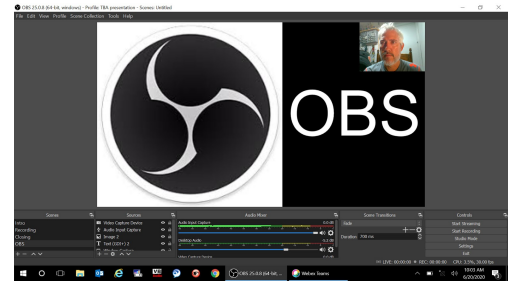
Live streaming pre-recorded content gives your students the opportunity to watch their own performance live, along with their friends, family and supporters. You could even set up a live chat within Google Classroom during the virtual concert, so that students register their attendance and can chat with each other as the concert progresses.

IV. Acknowledgements

Questions?   jason.schayot@risd.org

V. References

Website links:

OBS	https://obsproject.com/
Audacity	https://www.audacityteam.org/
SPiN Network	https://www.thespinnetwork.com/
ASCAP search	https://www.ascap.com/repertory
BMI search	http://repertoire.bmi.com/

Clinic videos:

Google Classroom intro video	https://youtu.be/1enJjW-rMpw
Audacity intro video	https://youtu.be/vefNUnhD-e4
OBS intro video	https://youtu.be/cfsLE3usvHQ
'American Salute' video project	https://youtu.be/TLlVp-5CL5o