

**Fischhoff National Chamber Music Association
2011 FISCHOFF EDUCATOR AWARD**

DVD Recording Information & Suggestions

DVD IS THE ONLY FORMAT ACCEPTED FOR SCREENING. See the rulebook and application for specific DVD content requirements.

Recording a high quality audio signal to video is not much different than recording a high quality "audio-only" signal. The better the microphone(s) and acoustics, the better your chances are for good results.

The main difference is that rather than inputting the audio signal into a tape cassette deck, DAT deck, CD-recorder or other device, the audio signal needs to be fed into the external microphone jack that exists on most video camcorders.

The instruction manual of most video camcorders will tell you how to replace the sound from the camera's built-in microphone with that from an external audio source. In general, it is done with a stereo mini-plug. If an inexpensive stereo microphone is being used, it is likely to have a stereo mini-plug already in place. If a more elaborate set-up is being used (such as higher quality microphones fed into a sound board) then adapters will very likely be needed to feed the two outputs (left and right) from the sound board into a stereo mini-plug. These adapters are readily available at many stores that sell audio equipment, e.g. Radio Shack, Best Buy and Guitar Center .

It is strongly suggested that a test be conducted before the actual making of the DVD to be sure you are successful at replacing the sound from the built-in microphone and that you are satisfied with the balance, blend and clarity of the audio portion of the DVD.

In general:

- Choose a room with warm but not overly wet acoustics.
- Try placing the microphone(s) on a stand about 6-8 feet in front of the group and 8-10 feet above the floor.
- Aim the microphone(s) toward the ensemble. If two microphones are being used (left and right channels), have them 1-2 feet apart.
- Carefully check that the signal is strong enough, but not so strong that the signal will distort in any loud passages.