

How long will the session last?

The short answer is – it depends on how well you have prepared your piece for a recording session. Typically, you arrive at your appointed time and virtually everything is set and ready to go. You take a few minutes to warm up – getting used to both the instrument and the room's acoustics. Simultaneously, I am walking around the room to confirm the best microphone placement, set recording levels and camera settings. This important initial process takes approximately 15 minutes. Clients then record a work one or two times, and it is then best to listen to your performance and confirm it is a satisfactory take. Consequently, if you record 15 minutes of music, it also takes 15 minutes to listen and analyze the full take. Therefore, two 15-minute takes of recorded music and listening to each of them all the way through, you have utilized one hour of recording time.

Does the concerto package price include the collaborative/accompanist's fee?

Unfortunately, no. In fact, Dr. Annie Lin provides her services at BPC Recording at a substantially reduced rate for anyone she collaborates with on their recording project. Her superlative skills as a collaborator and recording artist make the entire collaborative experience at the studio a positive and stress-free experience. Rehearsal and recording fees are billed separately from the recording fee. For more information, please visit www.drannielin.com for further details.

Am I paying for the accompanist while I listen to the different takes?

Yes. Both Dr. Lin and I take note of problem spots within each take's performance. She also needs to be aware of places that might need attention. Dr. Lin saves clients valuable recording time with her experience as a collaborator compared to other accompanists (and translates into savings for you).

What will the total cost be?

Audio recording sessions are charged based on a 4-hour time frame. Video sessions are reduced to a 2-hour time frame. For sessions that exceed these recording session blocks, an extra per-hour fee is assessed. There is not a precise number until the end of the project, due to the nature of the recording process itself.

Recording time begins once the recording session begins. Since most recordings that take place in the studio are video recordings. Therefore, it is not possible to edit performances. In fact, competitions and auditions will automatically disqualify any entries that demonstrate evidence of editing. Therefore, the session will be based on an hourly rate and the number of times a piece is performed and listened to in deciding which performance will undergo post-production.

(If, on the other hand, an audio recording is being produced for events that are void of restrictions, then edits are a possibility and a per-hour rate will apply to editing any mistakes.)

POST-PRODUCTION:

There are two parts for every video recording – the video portion and the separately recorded audio. There is no video camera has the quality of recording that can be produced in the studio. Therefore, the high-quality recording is mixed to improve the equalization and reverb of the audio. It is this “improved” mixed audio that is superimposed into the video. The final video recordings include name of the performer and the work performed, as well as appropriate fades in and out to provide a truly professional presentation.

Video for competitions and auditions sometime require the name of the artist while others do not. As a courtesy, BPC Recording provides two copies of the performance to clients – one performance with the performer’s name and another which begins only with the name of the work.

Since most competition/audition requirements do not exceed 3 or 4 performances, the post-production fees are included as part of the recording package. However, sessions with additional works may incur a slight additional charge due the time it takes to process additional videos. Additional information regarding fee structure is outlined within the Recording Brochure.

Can I just record at the studio’s hourly rate?

Of course it is possible. However, much thought has gone into making the package deals very reasonable for the product to look and/or sound as professional as possible. With many years of recording experience, practically everyone misjudges how long it takes to record a work – usually it always takes twice as long as initially imagined. FYI, most clients have shared that a two-hour recording session “feels” frantic to complete a project – not an ideal scenario for a young performer trying to maintain focus and relaxation to sound their absolute best.

“I’m not going to major in music or use it for competitions.”

Colleges and universities receive hundreds of audio and video performances per year. Therefore, it is important to consider what the evaluator’s first impression can be if it is not as exceptional as it can be? If an applicant takes the time and energy to submit a professional audio or video performance as a supplemental to their college application, this speaks volumes, and it makes your application dramatically stand out amongst all the other submissions they receive. We are proud to point out that many students who have submitted their BPC Recordings have been selected to many of the top schools in the country – both as music majors

and non-music majors. It also fully demonstrates the work ethic that the serious study of music demonstrates to college counselors.

Can I record as close to my deadline as possible?

BPC Recording Studio has a “first-reserve-first-record” policy. If you contact us soon enough, then it will be possible to set your recording date as close as possible to the contest/audition deadline. However, we have a stringent two-week recording policy before the application deadline. Other individuals may also have the same deadline, and we are often juggling several recording projects simultaneously. This requirement is in place to ensure the studio has ample time to prepare your project to sound and look its very best.

Why is it a requirement to always have the piano tuned?

BPC Recording books its sessions based on availability and convenience with the clients’ schedules. Your session may be booked right after someone has just recorded a Prokofiev Piano Sonata and the instrument has been excessively pounded out of tune. Or perhaps the temperature changed and the whole piano shifted flat. If you are a string or wind player, your A-440 is now around A-437. The piano is tuned for every session (just as it is for every concert venue) to maintain consistency throughout your project. More importantly, keep in mind there will be individuals listening to your project who will certainly recognize the “uniqueness” of any pitch differentials in your recording. (All recording packages include tuning within its pricing.)

Does the music have to be memorized?

It is not a problem if the music is not memorized – particularly in an audio (non-video) recording. It is acoustically better if the performance is for memory. Our microphones are quite sensitive and easily pick up the sound of page turns. The best solution is to photocopy your music to lay out in 4-page groups on the music rack. (This arrangement should be practiced at home a few times before the recording session.) We can stop, switch the music to the next group of pages, begin a measure or two back and edit the various takes together to build the entire work. Granted, this is a bit tedious but works beautifully.

If it is a video recording, the overall “look” of your performance the best solution is to utilize an iPad to read the score and a Bluetooth pedal to seamlessly handle any page turns.

Can I just record in my lesson, at home, or at my concert, and save money?

This is true. If there is a performance that you are very happy with in one of these venues, then you might consider having the recording “mastered” at the Studio to make it sound even better (reduce hiss or extraneous noises, adjust EQ, or add compression or reverb).

However, at BPC Recording a great deal of care and expense has been invested to have the

finest instrument and equipment available to its clients. You are at the studio to do one thing – to make music the best way you know how without any other distractions. The relatively small investment it takes to produce professional sounding and looking recording can pay off enormously toward your future goals. It is our goal to help make that happen as simply as possible.