

Filming Concerts: a creative task! there is no right way!

General tips:

- clap your hands on film to help sync audio and multiple cameras
- get performers' permission and you may need a synchronization license
- use a tripod (holding the camera with your hand is too shaky)
- use only optical zoom (don't use digital zoom)
 - camera with 20x optical zoom minimum

Camera settings:

- 24 frames per second (this gives the "film" look)
- MP4 and MOV are easy to work with (but AVCHD can produce higher quality video)
- uncompressed (AIFF, WAV) 48kHz sample rate for audio
- learn to use custom white balance if just shooting with one camera
- use same preset (such as "tungsten") on all cameras if doing a multi-camera shoot
- develop understanding of: shutter speed vs. frame rate, ISO ("gain"), and aperture (f-stop)
 - exposuretool.com

Editing software Suggestions:

- Adobe Premiere (\$\$)
- DaVinci Resolve (free - BlackMagicDesign)
- after editing, use MPEG-4 as your video container (see what YouTube, etc. suggest)
 - audio = AAC & video = H.264

Multi-camera shooting:

- never stop recording on any of the cameras so aligning camera footage is easy
- don't put all your eggs in one basket:
 - have at least one fixed wide angle camera (with autofocus turned off) - called "safety"
 - use two manned cameras hunting for medium and close up shots
 - get b-roll footage = timeless reaction shots (of the audience, for example)
- don't shoot like spraying a garden hose = zoom only between shots and pan slowly

Composition:

- use rule of thirds (turn on grid)
 - use lead space = space in front of where subject is facing
- avoid placing your frame edge on one of the body's joints
- avoid too much headroom (or person looks to be sinking)
- avoid too little headroom (or focus will be on the person's chin and neck)

Shot types (each 5-10 seconds each)

- extreme long shot (XLS) = establishing shot - context for shots to follow
- long shot (LS) = person from head to feet
- medium shot (MS) = person from about waist up
- closeup shot (CU) = person neck and head
- extreme closeup shot (XCU) = one detail of person
- cut in = closeup shot of an object (such as face of watch or cell phone)

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