



E-LEARNING WITH ZOOM

A Guide for Video/Audio Setup

E-Learning is an effective tool for teaching and learning. While not a replacement for in-person teaching/learning, E-Learning provides an opportunity to expand our awareness on how we learn. The quality of your experience – for both teacher and student – can be enhanced by prepositioning for good video and audio quality. Expensive equipment is not needed. Just attention to a few details on how and where you set up for your lesson.

By planning ahead, using the guidelines here, you can ensure an effective, immersive, and positive E-Learning experience.

- **Ambient Sound:** Choose a room that maintains minimal background noise and carries the least amount of sound reverberation. *Interior carpeted rooms are best. Avoid garages or unfinished basements.*
- **Lighting:** Avoid bright lights in the background, such as standing in front of a window. *Lighting should be projected from behind the camera facing the student.*
- **Device Check:** Prior to your lesson, be sure you are logged into Zoom and double-check your computer/laptop or mobile device to ensure your microphone and camera are working properly. Plug in your device if possible to guard against running out of power during your lesson time.
- **Body/Instrument Position:** Setting and securing the correct camera zoom and angle will take time and is best done in advance of lesson. This way, you can spend your full lesson on learning vs. adjusting in the moment. *Make sure the entire body from the waist up is in the camera's visible window.*
- **Communicating:** During the lesson, take note and remember where the camera is located on your device for ideal eye contact. Remember to allow a slight pause before speaking when in dialogue as there can be a slight delay on either side due to varying connection qualities.

Special Note for Pianists: If using a microphone separate from a mobile device to capture audio, do not place on the piano as this will distort sound quality due to excessive resonance.

Using Music Stands: If using a music stand, be sure to position in such a way to not compromise good visibility.

Pre-Recorded Tracks & Accompaniments: Teachers and students won't be able to play/sing simultaneously over Zoom due to varying wireless/internet connection qualities. If necessary for learning, pre-recorded tracks can be used as long as they are played by the student from a device separate from the designated Zoom session device.

While E-Learning holds different characteristics in comparison to face-to-face lessons, please embrace the online learning experience with a positive mindset. Listen to your teacher's guidance, do your very best, and keep working hard to improve. As with any educational endeavor, the valuable learning that occurs during a lesson session, online or in-person, is only as effective as the amount of quality time that regular, daily practice is applied.

Good and poor camera positioning, with pictures, are included on the second page.

Examples of Good and Poor Camera Positioning for E-Learning

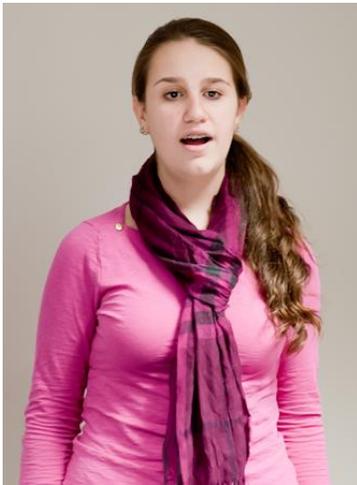
GOOD: Violinist & instrument fully visible



POOR: Bad viewing angle and RH out of sight



GOOD: Singer facing camera and visible from waist up



POOR: Singer facing away from camera



GOOD: Pianist & keyboard fully visible



POOR: Hands & keyboard out of sight

