HOW TO SET UP FOR AN ONLINE LESSON

WHY ONLINE?

Online lessons are a great option for various situations including illness of either parent, student, or teacher. Living in WI we are familiar with inclement weather and online lessons can be a safe option when travel is not advised.

Read the following information to ensure that online lessons are successful.

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EQUIPMENT

You will need:

- A device with a built-in camera and microphone. (Better: An external microphone with audio adjustment capabilities.)
- A level place to put device where you can be seen on camera.
- Decent lighting that prevents glare.
 (Better: Light in front of camera)
- Music, pencil, notebook, and a water bottle.
- Headphones (Better: Open-back headphones)

SMILE, YOU'RE ON CAMERA! - VOICE -



Singers should place the camera in a position that allows them to stand tall and be seen from the waist up. If the headphone cord is limiting movement, consider an extension or Bluetooth headphones.

The camera should preferably be at eye level, so the student does not need to alter head position to be seen or to see the instructor.

SMILE, YOU'RE ON CAMERA! - PIANO -





Position the camera so that it is on one side of the student so that their entire body can be seen like the picture on the left.

If a full body camera angle is not possible, the next best option is for the camera to be focused on the hands and keys as shown in on the right.

SMILE, YOU'RE ON CAMERA! - GUITAR -



Position the camera so that the entire guitar and both hands are visible. Like the picture above!

If a full body camera angle is not possible, the next best option is for the camera to be focused on the hands on the guitar or move to demonstrate each hand separately.

I CAN'T SEE YOU! LIGHTING TIPS TO BE SEEN

During an online lesson it is important to make sure the student can be clearly seen. This is best achieved by putting the light behind the camera.

Natural light is preferred but setting up a lamp behind the camera or adjusting blinds can be alternative solutions.

A dim space makes it difficult for the teacher to see you clearly and check technique. The experience will be greatly enhanced by a clear picture.



CAN'T SEE YOUR TEACHER?

Try using a device with a larger screen!



LIGHT IN FRONT OF FACE



LIGHT BEHIND FACE

LESSON PREPARATIONS

The location of the online lessons will vary for each student. It is important that you find a spot that is quiet with minimal distractions. Sometimes a bedroom may feel too personal while a family room might provide too many distractions. Spend some time finding the best place in your home for lessons.

The primary software that we will use for online lessons is Zoom. It is free to use and best used after downloaded onto the device devoted to lessons. Some students will also use Clean Feed for audio, which is available on the web browser. A link to this site will be sent prior to lessons.

On the lesson day you will use the link sent to connect to the Zoom meeting. Prior to your lesson be sure that you space is set up and ready following the lighting and camera guidelines.

If you enter the Zoom waiting room, please wait patiently until the instructor lets you into the room. Make sure your audio is set up to connect when entering a meeting, so the instructor can get your attention when your lesson begins.

Better: Computers that are connected directly to the router have a stronger and more stable connection for lessons.



HELPING HANDS

HOW TO SUPPORT ONLINE LESSONS

Younger students may need adult support during the lesson. An adult may be asked to take notes to support practice, help the student with technology, and help with organization. Piano students may need guidance for following music and hand position on the piano.

For older students, an adult may be helpful with technology, but each student is different. It is important that we work together to find how much support the student needs for lessons.