

# Learning Music Online - Tips

Technology is continuing to play a larger role in learning music. Learning digitally and having remote lessons with your teacher provide you with a great opportunity to keep up with your music studies from home.

Here are some tips to help you get started!



**Use what you've already got in the house.** Your desktop, laptop, computer, iPad, tablet or smartphone should serve well for these lessons. You just need an internet connection and a device equipped with a camera and a microphone.



**Check your internet connection.** Whether you and your teacher are using Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, Google Duo, or some other video chat program, set up a sound/video check with a friend or family member to make sure your setup is working. Ensure that you can see and hear them and that they can see and hear you.



**Limit bandwidth usage of other household members while you're having an online lesson.** Ask them to limit their web activity, including online gaming, streaming videos, etc. during your lessons. This will reduce delays and freeze-ups in your connection with your teacher.



**Use an external microphone and/or speaker for your device (if available).** It will help you transmit and receive more detailed sound than through the speakers built into a phone or tablet.



**Create a clean backdrop for online lessons.** Aim the camera so that your teacher will not see your family members, pets, or other distractions in the background. Reduce household clutter from the video frame to ensure that you don't have glare or reflections from lights behind you.



**Make sure that there is enough light** on both you and on your teacher's side of the connection to see each other well.



**Have your lessons in a quiet environment** It's difficult to communicate over background noise. Use headphones or earbuds if possible to hear details when your teacher is talking or playing.



**Remember that good learning is all about communication** with your teacher. Ask your teacher to repeat themselves or to speak louder if you are having difficulties understanding. It is important to share any challenges you are experiencing so your teacher can ensure your sessions are productive.



**Try an asynchronous approach to some facets of the lesson** (if you have a slower internet connection). For example, your teacher can ask you to send a video performance of your scales and exercises, or an appropriate portion of your lesson. Your teacher can then review and comment on them via text or email. Speak to your teacher about this approach prior to lessons to ensure that this will benefit your learning plan.



**Try muting or turning off your camera on your device while your teacher is playing** (if you experience delays and glitches). Your teacher can also mute or turn off their camera while you're playing.



**Ask your teacher if you can reach your him/her via text, email, or phone outside of regular lesson time with issues.** This enables your teacher to give you relatively quick feedback and reduce the sense of isolation. This will also help you stay engaged in your studies and maximize your lesson time with your teacher.



**Keep Calm and Study On!**