

Recording Tips

Here are some quick tips for making a successful audio or video recording.

Good Space: Go somewhere you will sound good in: larger rooms with little [reverb](#) usually work best.

Examples of a bad room to record in: bathrooms, small school practice rooms, rooms that are small or crowded with a lot of furniture

Example of a good room to record in: Living rooms or bedrooms with a lot of open space, classrooms, or even the school stage with the curtains closed (to prevent a lot of reverb)

What you need to record: NOT on a phone and don't use a laptop's built in microphone. Some suggestions would be using a laptop's camera for video with a good microphone or a video camera with a built in microphone.

Popular microphones for instrumental and vocal recording:

[Blue Snowball iCE](#) – approximately \$50.00

[Blue Snowball](#) – approximately \$70.00

[Blue Yeti](#) – approximately \$120.00

[Zoom H1 personal recorder](#) (great for the practice room and rehearsals) – approximately \$99.00

Tips for microphone placement:

Brass: place the mic where your bell is facing, but a couple feet away.

Singers: sing as loud as you would performing and place the mic where the sound is clear and there's no feedback.

Woodwinds: place the mic about a foot away from you level to the lower half of the instrument, so you catch the sound coming out of the bell AND the keys.

Strings: Have the mic a couple feet away facing the bridge of the instrument.

Setting up an audio recording: Attach your microphone to the laptop with an audio editing program. [Audacity](#) is a free audio editing program that has the function to make cuts, clean up audio and convert to different formats. Just remember, the more you edit, the less authentic your performance will be. Please do not add any reverb to your recording. We only want to hear your playing/singing.

Setting up for video recording: Use either a video camera or a microphone attached to a computer with a webcam. Make sure you have a basic video editing program (something free is fine; just to shave off you turning on the camera or other basic cuts). Double check that your space is clear and you can get all of yourself in the frame. Dress neatly and professionally, stick to solid colors or simple patterns on clothes.

General tips: Do a test run with your equipment to make sure you know how to use it and it doesn't have any major glitches. Treat the recording like a performance. Do what you would do for a performance beforehand. Remember that performances have mistakes in them; don't agonize over little ones in the recording. If the recording is a flattering and honest portrayal of what you can do, then it's a good recording.