

## Online Lessons – Tips and Tricks

This will take some getting used to. Here are some tips for online lessons.

### Preparation

Figure out how to position your phone/tablet/laptop a day or more before the first lesson.

Try setting your device on a chair, table, or *sturdy* music stand. If you use a phone, a tripod might be helpful.

- Saxophonist/clarinetist – I need to see you from your RH to the top of your head.
  - Device should be 45° to your side so I can see both hands and your embouchure. Have a mirror nearby for the lesson.
- Pianist – I need to see the keyboard and your upper body.
  - Place the device near one end of the piano, 1-2ft in front of the instrument (about even with the piano bench). Camera height – slightly above the arms and looking down on the keyboard.
- Make sure your music has *measure numbers*.
- *Have a metronome handy or metronome app on a different device.*
- If needed, *log-in to the app* so that you are not scrambling to find the password before your lesson.

### Audio

- Familiarize yourself with the app we will use (Facetime/Skype). For some exercises, I will ask you to mute your microphone. *Find the mute button.*
- Saxophone and clarinet students must position themselves 6-8 feet away while playing, otherwise the sound will distort.
- All students will be asked to submit a short recording each week via Dropbox or email. This will all us to better track tone development and use of dynamics since the audio quality is limited during streaming. Experiment with the recording devices available at home and find whichever sounds best.

### Lighting

- Good lighting is important for practicing, and streaming. For streaming the light source should be directly above, or in front of you. Please keep a lamp nearby in case an overhead light is not enough.

### The Lesson

- During the lesson family members should go into other rooms and minimize the amount of noise. We do not want any distractions.
- You are welcomed to introduce your furry, flying, and/or reptilian family members!
- Put your device in **Do Not Disturb Mode**, to stop any lesson interruptions.
- I will call you at the lesson time.
- If using a phone, put it **speaker mode**.
- Following the lesson, I will email notes.

Is something not working at your lesson time?

Send me a text at 910-390-0126.