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Virtual Academy Lessons and Ensemble Technology

As our academy continues online, here is my research on improving lesson audio quality. All of these are suggestions; however, if you are planning on staying virtual or joining SJYS harp ensemble please make as many of these improvements as possible.

Harpists are known as acoustic and solo instrumentalists. There has been very little pioneering into the online and virtual world. To stay relevant, keeping up with technology will be an amazing asset. The skills that we are learning with online music and ensemble are the same as those of a recording and performing artist. For harpists this is relevant as you will learn to be able to record tracks for commercials, video games, TV and more. Keeping up with the technological game, you will also be able to join all sorts of other instruments and contemporary music ensembles rather than being limited to classical and solo options.

Before getting started below are some general tutorials to help explain the below technology list:
>   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLL5tIqypM0

>   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEAb4G063sM

>   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QdlUSVybMpg

Already overwhelmed?
Free technology classes will be offered to help get everyone set up for the upcoming school year!
Let us know if you are interested at kristalharp@gmail.com

I.   **Platforms:**
   Zoom
   Zoom's advantages are screen sharing, plus its ability to be used on computers, iphones and tablets.
   Zoom's disadvantages are that it's built for speech, there is a lag time and we cannot host ensembles.
   On Zoom, click "Turn on Original Sound" in the upper left corner.
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsLJY4xVQic

   JamKazam software is required for the SJYS ensemble.

Jamkazam is ahead of Zoom in music technology development. It also has the ability to host ensembles in real time with no latency. If possible I will be moving all lessons to JamKazam.
Get the free app here:
https://www.jamkazam.com/client#/home

Tutorials:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBo--aj_P1w

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0xKMsINU1M

II.   **Laptop or desktop with ethernet cable**
Hands down, a laptop/desktop computer provides better sound, and therefore lesson quality. If you don't have access to a computer, please skip down to the section on iPhone and iPads.

Use an ethernet cable directly from your router, and plug it into your computer.
If your router is in a different room you can get an extender cable.
Example:
https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/c2g-75in-usb-20-fast-ethernet-network-adapter-network-adapter-usb-20-10-100-ethernet-silver/apd/a0782917/pc-accessories?gacd=9646510-1065-5763017-0-0&dgc=st&msclkid=f572b00cf31c17c165e4ef139824b8c1&gclid=CKPA6dLS7uoCFQcffgod4FsBKw&gclsrc=ds

A.   **Microphones and Pickups**
Internal Microphones - Internal mics are mounted inside the harp. This will also give you the ability to amplify your harp in the future for gigs or performance. These provide great sound. The advantage is that it keeps the sound of the harp clean. The disadvantage is that it needs to be paired with an interface and the mic is only for harp not for other uses.

Internal harp mic + Interface
- **K and K sound**
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0097CRTW4/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_api_i_B.YhFb8ZPS83K

- **Dusty Strings**
https://manufacturing.dustystrings.com/harps/options/pickup

- **LR Baggs**
https://www.amazon.com/LR-Baggs-Active-System-Control/dp/B001E95KJC/ref=psdc_11967791_t5_B0097CRTW4

Adapter from internal mic to computer

https://www.amazon.com/TISINO-Guitar-Cable-inch-Instruments/dp/B083R186 52/ref=sr_1_5?crid=1KR4O97O1RUX1&dchild=1&keywords=quarter+inch+to+us b+cable&qid=1595895284&sprefix=quarter+inch++to+usb%2Caps%2C215&sr=8 -5

Adapter from internal mic to iphone (not for SJYS harp ensemble)
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=quarter+inch+to+iphone&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

An Interface or Sound Board
Interface
https://www.amazon.com/Tascam-US-2x2-Interface-Microphone-Comp atibility/dp/B00MIXF2RS/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=tascam+2x2& qid=1595879557&s=musical-instruments&sr=1-1

Interface
https://www.amazon.com/PreSonus-AudioBox-USB-Recording-System/ dp/B071W6YVDR/ref=mp_s_a_1_11?dchild=1&keywords=audio+interfa ce&qid=1591840179&sprefix=audio+&sr=8-11

Mixing Board
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=mixing+board&ref=nb_sb_noss_2

B. External microphone for computer:
External mics are great options and can be simpler to set up. Some go direction to a computer and others need an interface as well
Blue snowball + Computer + earbuds/ headset
https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Snowball-Condenser-Microphone-Car dioid/dp/B014PYGTUQ/ref=sr_1_2?crid=1U7J2XBZ0TE5T&dchild=1&k eywords=snowball+microphone&qid=1595879588&s=musical-instrum ents&sprefix=snoball+%2Cmi%2C175&sr=1-2

Yeti + Computer + earbuds/ headset
https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Yeti-USB-Microphone-Blackout/dp/B00 N1YPXW2/ref=sr_1_2?crid=R4E7X0FUYMBU&dchild=1&keywords=yeti+ condenser+microphone&qid=1595879619&s=musical-instruments&spr efix=yeti%2Cmi%2C223&sr=1-2

Neat King Bee + Interface + computer + earbuds/ headset
https://www.amazon.com/NEAT-Cardioid-Solid-Condenser-Micropho ne/dp/B00SKJHMH2/ref=mp_s_a_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=king+bee+ microphone&qid=1591840288&sprefix=king+bee+mic&sr=8-3

Sm-57 Mic + + Interface + Computer + earbuds/ headset

https://www.amazon.com/Shure-Cardioid-Dynamic-Instrument-Microphone/dp/B000CZ0R3S/ref=sr_1_2?crid=1NGHD3ELTQXZH&dchild=1&keywords=sm57&qid=1595879512&s=musical-instruments&sprefix=sm5%2Cmi%2C180&sr=1-2

C. Also useful equipment:

Cables for audio interface or non-USB mics
https://www.amazon.com/Cable-Matters-2-Pack-Microphone-Feet/dp/B00KO8W060/ref=mp_s_a_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=20+ft+xlr+cable&qid=1591840355&sprefix=20+ft+xl&sr=8-3

Mic stand for external mics
https://www.amazon.com/Stage-Stands-MS7311B-Kick-Stand/dp/B0018TG4XY/ref=mp_s_a_1_17?dchild=1&keywords=kick+drum+mic+stand&qid=1591840392&sprefix=kick+drum+&sr=8-17

Adapters Examples:
https://www.amazon.com/Hiearcool-MacBook-Multiport-Compatible-Nintendo/dp/B07WPTG7NX/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=adapters&qid=1595894757&sr=8-5

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B075FW7H5J/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_api_i_Tr6hFbJ758MM0

III. iPhone and iPad ONLY IF YOU HAVE TO. **This will NOT work for SJYS harp ensemble class** because we will be using JamKazam software which only works with computers and an ethernet cable.

Microphone for iPhones and iPad
https://www.amazon.com/Shure-MV88-Digital-Condenser-Microphone/dp/B010W6W8OW/ref=sr_1_11?crid=28VMIB0FGO05I&dchild=1&keywords=iphone+microphone&qid=1595879987&sprefix=iphone+mi%2Caps%2C182&sr=8-11

Microphone adapter to iphone/ipad
https://www.amazon.com/Apple-Lightning-USB-Camera-Adapter/dp/B014VGHG0U/ref=sr_1_5?dchild=1&keywords=usb+adapter+to+iphone&qid=1595894827&sr=8-5

iPhone / iPad stands
https://www.amazon.com/UBeesize-Extendable-Lightweight-Compatible-Smartphone/dp/B07Y1PTQFR/ref=sr_1_13?dchild=1&keywords=Iphone+%2F+ipad+stands&qid=1595890287&sr=8-13

IV. Headset or amplifier?

Headsets are great if you do not have a private space and other people are coming and going or cooking dinner. If you are in your room then you may want to connect to an amplifier or powered speakers.

Headset with mic
Please read the reviews to see that the mic is good and its comfortable
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=headset+with+microphone&crid=BOLJIBUWGYRM&sprefix=headset+with+m%2Caps%2C226&ref=nb_sb_ss_i_1_14

V. PDF Music organization - forscore
https://forscore.com

VI. Webcams
https://www.amazon.com/s?k=camera+for+computer&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

VII. Camera Set up - to get good camera angles

Framing
•Wide shot (full body)
•Medium shot (Place the column to the left side so both hands can be seen)
•No close-ups
Audio
•Use external mics if possible
•Blue Snowball or Yeti
•Do not use any audio effects
Lighting
•If using natural light, angle against the window if possible
•If not using natural light, set up a lamp to brighten your face
•Don't overexpose

Example good recording:
https://youtu.be/xuRL6HAUbdk

Additional Resources:
https://harpcolumn.com/blog/navigating-covid-19-as-a-harpist/