

Brooklyn Conservatory of Music

BKCM Suzuki Online Tips and Protocols

- 1) Prepare the environment. Try to find a distraction free area of your home. Do your best to ensure that siblings are well-occupied and pets are in another room.
- 2) Prepare and tune instruments before your lesson time. If you need more help with this, email your teacher as soon as possible, and s/he can guide you.
- 3) Expect that things will be a little different. Playing at the same time is impossible due to internet lag time. Some kids will be more shy than normal.
- 4) It's easier for both children and parents to become distracted at home. Parents should be prepared to be just as or more involved than at your in person lessons.
- 5) Re-read a few pages of "Helping Parents Practice" to revisit positive practicing strategies.
- 6) Prepare to have paper/digital copies of all your music on hand. Add measure numbers before the lesson if your child's scores don't have them.
- 7) For younger students who stand for their lessons, please identify their "spot" with a bath mat or similar. This will help them to remain in one place during the lesson.
- 8) Prepare your device settings so that you don't receive other calls or alerts during the session.
- 9) Decide with your teacher a sign that says "stop" or equivalent because if they are playing and you talk often they cannot hear you.
- 10) Text, call or email your teacher if the connection is not working, and try to troubleshoot. Be sure you have their preferred contact information.

Tech Related Tips/Protocols:

- 1) Check camera position ahead of time (you may need to adjust furniture or use props)
Piano: 2-3 feet directly to the side of the keyboard, which allows teacher to see the full posture of the student, as well as the keys. The camera should be placed just a bit higher than the height of the keys (from Sarai Buchanan).
Strings: check with your teacher for individual instruments. Camera needs to be far enough away that most of student's body from head to knees, both hands, and scroll/headstock are visible.
Flute: Teacher will need to be able to see most of student's body, and entire flute.

- 2) If there is any way to upgrade to wired (not bluetooth, which increases lag), external mic and speakers, please do this. It will improve everyone's experience.
- 3) Online video platforms minimize dynamics and distort tone. In order to check these vital musical elements, teachers will ask you to send videos from time to time. If you need additional tips on how to do this, please reach out for help.
- 4) If your video is not working, check settings to allow mic, camera & pop ups.
- 5) If you need additional tech assistance, please reach out and we will set up an appointment with our staff.**
- 6) Some other quick tips you can explore with settings:
 - a) Mute/unmute:
 - i) Especially in a group setting, best practice is to keep yourself muted unless it's your "turn". Follow your teacher's instructions on this.
 - ii) In Google Meet, anyone can mute anyone
 - iii) Looking ahead to group classes: teachers will most likely choose to Mute students from time to time in order to facilitate a smooth experience for everyone. Please don't take this personally!
 - iv) Only the user can unmute themselves. On a laptop, click towards the bottom of the browser window; you will see a microphone icon. Click it. It will toggle red/not red. If you're not sure how to do this, your teacher can help you.
 - b) Adjusting screen view
 - i) Click on vertical 3 dots at lower right corner, choose "Change Layout"
 - c) For group classes: you can "Pin" the main speaker
 - d) Record the meeting so you can listen again later

Additional How To's that will become available:

- Tuning
- Make videos & share using google drive; record tracks via BandLab
- Recommendations for external mics and speakers