



Tech Tips for Online Lessons

1. VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORMS

One-to-one lessons

- **Zoom** is free for participants, works on phones, tablets, and computers of all operating systems. CIM uses Zoom for all of our group classes.
- **Google Meet** works well if both instructor and student have gmail/google accounts. All of the “centerforirishmusic.org” email addresses are gmail accounts.
- **Facetime** is easy to use as long as both instructor and student have apple devices (iphone, ipad, macbooks or iMac)
- **Skype** is a great platform for private lessons. Both instructor and student must create accounts and download the app onto their devices. Skype has a screen-sharing capability.

Group Classes & Semi-private lessons - Zoom Tips for All!!

Center for Irish Music is using **Zoom** for all of our group classes, semi-private lessons and many private lessons.

1. Create an account - although it is possible to participate in a Zoom without an account, we recommend creating your own account. In addition,
2. Download the app/program onto your device.
3. When you have installed Zoom (or updated to the latest version), follow these instructions to [Enable High Fidelity Music Mode](#).

ON A PC

- a. Launch Zoom and click the gear icon on the top right hand corner of the screen.
- b. Click the Audio tab. You will see checkboxes under “Music and Professional Audio”
 - i. Check *Show in-meeting to “Enable Original Sound” from microphone*
 - ii. Enable *High Fidelity Music mode*
- c. In a meeting, click the ‘Turn On Original Sound’ button to enable or disable High Fidelity Music Mode. Participants should notice an immediate difference in sound quality.

ON A TABLET

- d. Launch the Zoom app and click the gear icon on the bottom left hand corner of the screen.
- e. Click on the bar titled *Meetings*
- f. Scroll down until you see *Use Original Sound*, then enable this. Done!
- g. In a meeting, “Enable Original Sound” by clicking on the 3 dots on the upper right hand corner of the screen, and choose “Enable Original Sound”.
- h. To turn it off, go through the same process as g. To “Disable Original Sound”

2. GENERAL TECH TIPS FOR ONLINE MUSIC LEARNING

The following tips will improve your online lesson experience:

- Be ready to go 10 minutes early, and give yourself extra time to set up
- Be sure your devices are fully charged before you start your lesson
- A good Internet connection makes a huge difference
 - Wifi - if your connection is slow, get your device closer to your wireless router
 - If possible, hard-wire your computer to the internet with an ethernet cable (and use that computer for your online lessons).
 - If wifi is slow and you can't hardwire your computer, and you have an unlimited data plan, try using your data. Be careful about racking up charges with your phone provider!
- Headphones really help, as they isolate the sound coming in (your teacher & classmates) from the sound going out. They can cancel out noise from your room as well, like your children, or little brother playing with legos ;) and they will help you stay focused yourself!
- Multiple screens can be helpful. For example, your teacher might record tracks for you on their phone and text them to you. Or, your instructor might be sharing a google doc with you (or you might want to refer to a pdf sheet music). Consider setting up your station with a few devices.

3. SAFETY & PARENT/STUDENT TIPS

- For children and youth, CIM strongly recommends an open door policy for those who are having their lessons in their bedrooms. It's helpful if parents drop in periodically to check in on the lesson (especially on the first lesson, to help with technology, or at the end of the lesson to check in on assignments). On this note, for the safety of students and instructors, we are asking students to set cameras up as close as possible so that the frame is filled with the student and his or her instrument. Ideally, kids' beds are not in the frame.

4. Tips for private lessons, by student age:

- Students aged 10 and under: Parents, we request that you attend your child's online lessons. Instructors may need your help with posture adjustments, tuning, or to help with things like transcribing the assignment for the week.

- Students ages 11-18: We expect these students will have no problem navigating technology, but they may need support getting themselves set up for online lessons on time. Parents, please make sure your pre-teens and teens are tuned, set up and ready to go 5-10 minutes before the lesson time starts.
- Adult students: If your teacher is offering a tech trial, use it! We want to make sure that lesson time isn't used up trying to work out how to use microphones & cameras, but we are confident that you can do this!

5. General tips for all students for online private lessons:

- Plan on spending a little time setting up a space in your house, and technology for distance learning. Charge your devices, get a camera & microphone up and running (if they are not built into your device) etc. Contact us with questions.
- Expect a different style of lesson. For the most part, you won't be able to play at the same time as your teacher. Instead, your instructor may ask you to play solo, or send a recording ahead of time. He or she may send you a track to listen to, or give you an assignment to work on. Each instructor is working out his or her own adaptations to help you keep learning & playing through this time. We might as well make good use of this extra time at home!

6. Video or no video? - CIM's policy for youth group classes

The Center for Irish Music requests that students have videos ON during group classes to help build the feeling of community. The instructor may 'mute all' sometimes during class to help eliminate background noise. Please help your student figure out how to 'unmute' when needed.

We also request that you not use the Virtual Background feature, as it is distracting for some during class and often 'hides' instruments. Thank you for your assistance with this, and please reach out to us if these requests do not work for your student/family.