

Audio Recording: Student Auditions



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What is the goal of recording your students?

1. We want to support our students
2. Give the listener a clear understanding of what the student sounds like
 - a. We are not interested in faking their sound
 - b. We also don't want to make them sound worse than they actually sound.
3. We want to do this with the least amount of work possible

Basic recording set-up

**Youtube is your friend*

1. Microphone & Cable
 - a. [Shure SM58](#)
 - b. Any basic "working" quality vocal mic will work
 - c. Fancy studio condenser mics are simply not necessary
 - d. [USB Direct Mic](#)
2. Audio Interface - What can you use?
 - a. [USB Mixer](#)
 - b. [USB Audio Interface](#)
 - c. Do you need drivers
 - i. Yours might be class-compliant
3. Computer
 - a. [Apple \(Mac\)](#)
 - b. [PC](#)
4. Other Options
 - a. [Ipad or phone?](#)
 - b. [Portable High Resolution Audio Recorders](#)

Process - Track your audio

1. Performer

2. Microphone
3. Cable
4. USB Interface
5. Computer
6. Program (GarageBand)

Troubleshooting

1. Changing Stereo to Mono Signal in garage band
2. Having problems? Use Ockham's Razor - The simplest solution is the best
 - a. Is your keyboard muted?
 - b. Is the microphone off?
 - c. Is the board on?
 - d. Do you use bluetooth?
 - e. Do you need audio drivers?
3. Begin eliminating variables
 - a. Start tracking your signal
 - i. Is the mixer getting sound from your mic
 1. If not? Try changing XLR cables or mics
 2. Still not working? Try a different interface
 3. Use the LED indicator to check for a signal
 4. Try using the headphone jack on the interface
 - ii. Your mixer is working?
 1. Try changing USB cables
 2. Try wiggling your usb cable
 3. I KNOW... try turning your computer off then back on
 - a. There is a reason they always ask you that
 4. Check the settings in your program
 5. Check the audio settings in your computer
 - a. You can check your mic directly in the settings
 - b. Beware, your program runs off different audio settings than the computer itself

Getting a good recording

1. TEST your setup first and often
2. Get really close to the microphone
 - a. Make sure you are moving the mic for different instruments

All-State/All-Northwest Jazz Recordings

1. Importing Backtracks
 - a. Should be downloadable
 - b. Record it directly from another device into Garageband
 - c. Try using iRealB app
2. Recording Bass & Guitar Players

- a. Plug their headphones directly into the computer and use the monitor button
 - b. The track will play while they record
 - c. Go back and mix the levels later
 - d. The BAD way to record them
3. Recording Drums
 - a. Overhead mics
 - b. Plug headphones directly into the computer