

Suggestions for Online Voice Tuition / Gigs / Karaoke

Equipment and Procedure (in my experience, so far!)

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Phones/Tablets

Pros:

- Nearly everybody has one or the other

Cons

- Poor quality inbuilt microphone
- Picks up all sorts of background noise
- Difficult to position for best video and audio (mic sounds better closer but then you only see your cheek)
- Mobile apps (Zoom) have restricted functionality
- Small screen for multi-person gigs / karaoke sessions

Laptops - PC/Mac

Pros:

- Apps have extended and useful functionality
- Larger screen (usually)

Cons:

- Poor quality inbuilt microphone
- Picks up all sorts of background noise
- Difficult to position for best video and audio (mic sounds better closer but then you only see your cheek)

Laptops - PC/Mac with Audio Interface

Pros:

- Apps have extended and useful functionality
- Larger screen (usually)
- Ability to use high quality cardioid vocal mic at ideal distance
- Ability to monitor on headphones giving singer studio quality sound for performance (this won't survive transmission but at least you're off to a good start)
- Headphone option reduces stray sound in room getting into mic
- Freedom to position laptop for pleasing video

Cons:

- You have to possess the equipment, set it up and know how to use it
- More to go wrong, technically

Gig / Karaoke Procedure - Options

Performing 'live' in the room

- Whichever system you are using, you can just sing, or sing with accompaniment 'live', bearing in mind the caveats above. You can sing and be accompanied by someone over Zoom, but this can be problematic due to delays (see my videos for demonstrations) you may get away with it and slower or colla voce songs seem to stand the best chance. Bear in mind the caveats regarding equipment above.

Singing with a backing track

- You can play your track through a speaker in the room, and sing along. The nearer the speaker is to your phone/tablet/laptop the better but you will need to balance this with your voice and video
- You can play your track through a small PA and also sing through that with a mic, which gives more placement options
- Best, I feel, is to play your track and sing with a mic into an audio interface and mix both into a laptop.

Practicalities

- Do the best you can to be organised at your end - have more songs than you need - and test things out as best you can.
- Accept that the outcome may be a bit disappointing
- Be patient as there may be technical difficulties all round!
- Be respectful of other performers and any problems they may have

You'll receive an email invitation and you can click on the link to join the 'event'. Getting everybody on board at the start can take a while, so patience and good humour is the way to go!

Keep well and happy.