



The Voice Student's Wish List:

Stuff to Help You Make the Most of Your Online Voice Lessons

Taking lesson remotely *can* be a lot like being together in the same room. If you have the right interface, along with the equipment, you can see and hear each other so well you may forget you're online!

The interface (like Zoom, Facetime, or similar) is up to your teacher or coach. But there are things in *your* control that can improve how much you get from your lessons or sessions!

There are two constants that make a HUGE difference in the quality of your voice lesson:

- what can be seen
- what can be heard

In our dream lesson, the student and teacher can both see and hear one another both accurately and well.

Here are my recommendations for making that dream come true!



The Stand

You want your computer, laptop, or tablet camera at "head height" for your lessons. (Or...any singing for the camera!) Here are four affordable choices to get your laptop or tablet up to singing height.

Personally, I'm a fan of the ol' Manhasset stand. It's solid, not too heavy, has many uses, and you'll have it for years to come! But in the spirit of celebrating our differences, here are four other choices as well.

Each of the images is a link to the product page.



MECO tablet & phone tripod
Adjusts for 4.7-12.9 inches
17-53 inches



DELACORA
Delacora Sit-to-Stand
Adjustable Height
Laptop Desk
27-36" high
\$55 at Build.com



Manhasset Model 48
Symphony Music Stand
26-48" high
\$55 at Sweetwater



Mind Reader
Rectangular Pink
Standing Desk
30-53" high
\$80 at Home Depot



Oklahoma Sound
Portable Lectern
30-44" high
\$72 at Staples



The Microphone

The mics built in to our laptops, tables, and phones are truly amazing for what they are. But if you want a listener to really hear the quality and nuances of your singing, you'll have to up your microphone game! Other than a great teacher, this is the best investment you can make in your voice lessons!

The Zoom and the Rode are for tablets or phones. The Samson and the Blue are for laptops or desktops. (The images are links.)



Zoom iQ6 Stereo mic
for iOS devices
\$92 at B&H Photo Video



Rode Shotgun Mic for
iPhone or iPad with
lightening connector \$79
(this link goes to Guitar Ctr.)



Blue Snowball USB
Condenser Mic
\$80 at Best Buy



Samson Go Portable
USB Condenser Mic
\$49.99 at Sweetwater



The Speaker

You may already have a portable bluetooth speaker. Many people do. I mean, ya gotta sing along with Ariana in the shower, right? So if you have one, please consider using it to play your backing tracks during your online lessons. It will make you a more confident singer, because you'll be able to comfortably hear the accompaniment as you sing. If you don't have one, please consider buying one. You can use it for your lesson *and* while you sing in the shower!

There are many different types of these speakers at many different price points. Here are a couple of moderately priced choices that sound great!



OontZ Angle 3 Portable
Bluetooth Speaker, 100 Ft
Range, by Cambridge
SoundWorks
\$30 at Amazon.com
(and comes in different colors)



DOSS E-go II Portable Bluetooth Speaker
Waterproof, Built-in Mic, 12W Driver, 12-
Hour Playtime.
\$40 at Amazon



The Lighting

Lighting is MUCH more important than most people think! First of all, you simply *must* look fabulous on camera. Any camera, any time. It's good for your self-esteem and therefore your attitude! The difference between *looking fabulous* and *not* looking fabulous is **good lighting!!**

Also, it really helps your voice teacher or vocal coach to be able to see you. A voice professional watches for mouth, tongue, and jaw positions, posture, breathing, and movement. Good lighting helps them do their best job, and give you their best Expert Stuff! Here are three different types of lighting. If you have room to put your light on the same surface as your laptop or tablet, or if you're using your phone, the 10" ring light is great. If the light needs to stand on its own, pick the 18" light. If your lighting is basically good but could use augmenting, pick the LED panel.



Raya Bright 10" Bi-Colored LED Ring Light
6000 lumens
\$69 at B&H Photo Video



GVM Bi-colored 18" ring light 1850 lumens
\$88 at B&H Photo Video



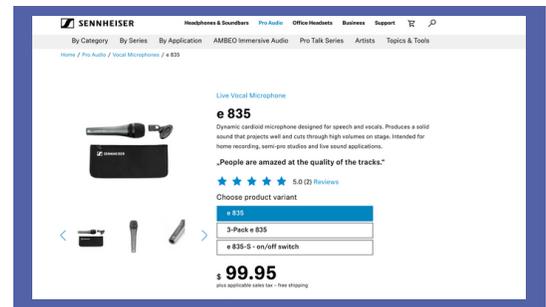
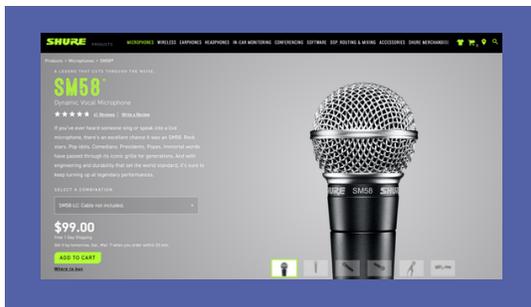
Elgato Key Light
Air LED panel
1400 Lumens
\$130 at Best Buy

Your Studio Mic Setup 2021

...that you can also bring to your gig!

The Mic

These two microphones, the Shure SM58 and the Sennheiser e835 are both affordable (around \$100) and sound great for singers. The SM58 has been the industry standard for decades. These come with clips for your mic stand.



FYI: All these pictures are links.

The Mic Stand & Cable

With mic stands, you should go with your own preference. For instance, if your stand is going to travel, you'll probably want a lightweight stand with a tripod base so it can fold up. If your stand won't leave your studio, a heavier, round bottom with a smaller footprint may work better for you.

If you get the monitor I recommend, you'll want a second - and solid - stand for that.

Overall, a cable is a cable. But, like all things, you don't want to go too cheap or it may fail you when you need it most.



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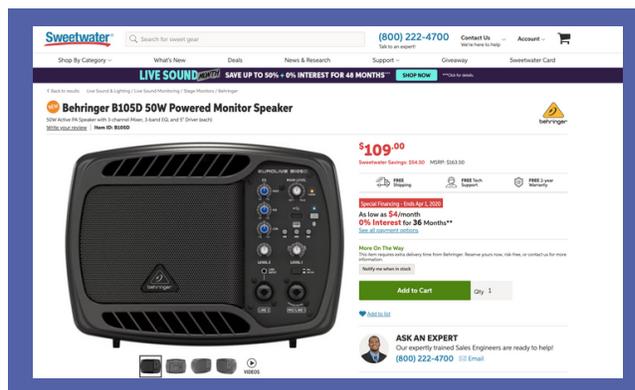
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Monitor

For a monitor - either in your studio or for performing - you want something that will do everything you need it to. For your studio, you NEED a powered monitor, and they're nice on the gig as well. I've always been a fan of spot monitors as opposed to floor monitors, because they increase the chance that you'll be able to hear yourself.

This is a terrific monitor for singers.

- It's super simple.
- It's cheap! Around \$100!
- It's really light.
- It's bluetooth enabled and has a USB port for pre-recorded tracks.
- The height is adjustable via the mic stand.
- It has EQ controls on the front-facing panel, so you can control high, mid, or low frequencies. Boost or diminish to taste.
- Controls are easy to read & reach.



BTW,
you might want this...

You should clean the windscreen of your mic regularly. But between students, Goby Mic Sanitizer is a quick fix.



You may notice...

That none of the links I provide to go Amazon. That's because, when it comes to equipment, I like the support that's available from these sellers if I need it. Also I think Amazon is taking over the world.

Set up your stuff

Put the mic and monitor on mic stands. Plug the cable into the mic and the back of the monitor, and the monitor into the wall. Turn it on. Sing. Play with the knobs to see what they do. Find what you like. Sing some more.

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