

# Shelter In Place Recording Workshop with Bruce Chrisp 7/22/2020

## Apple drawing at the end of the meeting!

## Sweetwater discount too.

### What are your goals?

Before spending money on equipment and software and learning how to do this, ask yourself, what your goals are.

- Recording yourself at a high quality for SIP recording projects that you're asked to participate in?
- Multi-tracking yourself and others at home for fun and sanity? Home Recording Studio
- Recording yourself and others for an occupation?

OK! Time to dive in! There's a lot to cover in a short amount of time!

Several things apply to all of those goals

- Know how to set levels for audio recording -12 to -6 db. Don't "peak" or distort the sound.
- Play musically! It's easy to get super accurate and lose touch with musicality. It's difficult to perform for an audience that isn't there. Listen and re-interpret. You may be recording in isolation from your colleagues.
- Know how to set up your camera or smart phone. Try manual settings.
- Probably don't use the selfie camera, lower quality.
- Use 4K! iPhone 6s and newer. iPhone 11 4k in selfie mode.
- Composition, close-ups are often better. Fit in what is important to tell your story. Remember you may be sharing the screen with many other people.
- Portrait or Landscape?
- What is your in background? Black? Green screen? Garden? Be imaginative.
- Camera angles can be fun! Don't put an iPhone on a music stand and aim it up at your chin. Super ugly. Looking down on the musician is often better. Lighting for videos is very important. Don't shoot backlit. A well lit room with a lot of windows or skylights, or nice artificial lighting. Maybe a music stand light? Aluminum foil on a music stand.
- Often not the best room for recording audio.
- Internet speed and file sizes. Be aware it may take a while, have a plan for somewhere to upload with a fast internet connection.
- Have a goal for a finishing date, or week and make yourself quit. Don't go on forever, tweaking until it's too perfect.

### Typical SIP recording set up examples:

Recording audio with your iPhone? Try an external microphone.

- Shure MV88 - lightning connector. \$150
- Need a 4K iPhone for cheap? Look for a 6S or 7 for less money.
- Try a good recording app, MV88 comes with one. Use Voice Record Pro app too.
- 16 bit/44.1 khz (bit rate and sample rate) higher quality 24 bit/96khz WAV or AIFF files. No MP3!
- Microphone placement and room choice, more later...
- Tripod for your iPhone - Square Jellyfish Jelly Grip Tripod Mount \$20 on amazon
- Smartphone gimbal - DJI Osmo Mobile 3 \$150 - makes video steady and smooth.

Record Audio and Video separately

Spaces for great video are often not great for audio, and visa versa. Room acoustics.

Recording audio with a portable device like a Zoom

- Does it except external microphones? Zoom H6 XLR inputs
- Phantom power? 48v

Need a microphone?

- Wide range of quality and prices \$100 - \$6000
- What microphones are great for your instrument?
- Listen to examples online (with headphones for quality) of your instrument recorded on example microphones. YouTube lot's of samples on company pages.
- Kinds of studio microphones:
- Stereo vs. Mono
  - Dynamic - inexpensive, great for live vocals and higher frequency sounds, drums
  - Small diaphragm condenser - good for higher frequency, vocals, guitar, piano
  - Large diaphragm condenser - good for lot's of instruments, strings, winds, brass
  - Ribbon - great for brass, vocals some other instruments too.
  - Bass mic - kick drum, bass cabinets

<https://ehomerecordingstudio.com/types-of-microphones/>

Some microphone recommendations

- Inexpensive but descent - MXL
- Brass/Sax - ribbon mics like AEA R84a, Royer 121, - \$1100-1300 MXL R77 \$300
- Strings - Large diaphragm condenser - Neumann TLM 103 or AKG C414 XLii \$1100
- Woodwinds vary AKG C414 Xlii \$1100 - flute - Warm Audio 251 \$800
- Percussion - Dynamic - Shure sm47 \$100, AKG D112 bass mic \$200, Rode M5 matched pair \$200 overhead small condenser

Microphone placement

- Depends on the microphone
- Depends on the instrument -French Horn is difficult to record
- Depends on the room
- Depends on what sound you want
- Proximity effect

Headphones

- Need for recording and listening to a click/backing track
- Earbuds are great with a phone
- Closed back good for tracking and lower ohms are louder (isolation)
- Open back good for mixing, better imaging, not as loud
- Off one ear?
- Beyerdynamic DT 770 Pro 32 ohm \$160 , Sony MDR 7506 \$80
- Beyerdynamic DT 990 Pro open back for mixing \$160

**Video for SIP**

- iPhones are great 6s on can do 4K
- iPhone 11 can do 4K in selfie mode, others can't
- 4K why?
  - Better quality picture
  - Easier to zoom and crop allowing for more creativity
  - More uniform appearance, becoming the new standard

Which frame rate to use? 24, 30, 60, 120, 240

## Home Recording Studio

- DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) with your computer
  - Garage Band - easy to use, but has a lot of limitations, you'll outgrow it.
  - Pro Tools industry standard, complex pricing, can get expensive, subscription
  - Logic Pro X - Macs great DAW, many prefer it to Pro Tools, many more options and more flexible. Tons of high quality sounds and effects. Free upgrades. Educational discount deal for \$199 including the 4 other Multi media apps.
  - Ableton Live, supposed to be great, complex pricing, works well with live performance, like Apple MainStage.
  - Reaper - alternative to Pro Tools, bare bones, would need a lot of software added to equal Logic Pro X \$225
- Audio Interface
  - Used to connect your microphone (analog) to your computer (digital) and set gain, pad, low cut, pre-amp If using a ribbon mic, make sure your interface has 60db of gain.
    - Many levels and large price range, make sure it has good phantom power
    - FocusRite Scarlett 2i2 \$160
    - Audient iD4 - Audient sounds great. \$200
    - Universal Audio \$800 or Audient iD44 \$700
- Microphones (already covered) check for Phantom power
- Studio Monitors
  - Makes mixing easier
  - Nice to take the headphones off
  - Wide price range
  - JBL \$200-\$400
  - Placement is important
- Room acoustics
  - Single most important part of recording studio
  - Clap your hands walking around the room, do you hear a metallic ringing sound? Your microphone is going to pick that up and it will change the sound of your recording.
  - Absorbtion and Diffusion - room treatments

If you're putting the project together whether just yourself or with other people, make it sound like you're together at the same time and place. This is what people want to hear. People don't want to hear a bunch of people playing in the bedrooms. BUT! Don't use too much reverb. Room sound added in post can be good, but one can easily use too much.

## Recording demo with Logic Pro X

Click Track  
Multiple takes and auto punching  
Pitch and time correction  
EQ  
Room sound  
Plug in Electric Guitar and Bass  
Drum

## Video software

Final Cut Pro X Mac only \$199 (Bundle deal)  
Adobe Premiere Mac and Windows with a Subscription

Video editing takes a fast computer with a lot of storage. This Land Project uses 1 TB!

### **Final Cut Pro demo**

Timeline

Layers

Plug for Sweetwater!

Ben Elder is my guy, he is the best!

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Mention Bruce Chrisp and get a 10% referral discount. Doesn't apply to absolutely everything of course, they can't discount Apple, Focal speakers etc..

Apple drawing!

### **Questions**