

ZOOM BASICS

Have you **ZOOMED** yet? If not, all of us in SCDH hope you will take advantage of these resources and learn how to access remote lessons, workshops, jams and festivals.

BASICS

- 1) Check that you have a stable internet connection. The fewer devices/programs using the internet, the stronger the signal.
- 2) Go to <https://zoom.us> to create a FREE account (or go to the App store to download the FREE Zoom for iCloud Meetings App) onto a device with camera and mic: desktop or laptop computer, iPad, iPhone or other type of tablet. Install the App after downloading.

As a **PARTICIPANT**, you receive an invitation from a **HOST** by email. Click on the **LINK** included. Some hosts also provide a **meeting ID** with **password** if needed, and a **waiting room** for admittance into the event for security and management.

HOSTS: Free accounts have a 40 min. limit. Zoom Pro accounts have unlimited time and other features for a \$15 monthly fee.

PARTICIPANTS need only the basic, free account. <https://zoom.us/freesignup/>

SETTINGS

SET UP: There are many helpful Youtube videos, tutorials and webinars.

AUDIO SETTINGS: Changing the audio settings and adding an external mic help increase the clarity of instrumental music rather than the original Zoom design for just talking.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=mEAb4G063sM> - Audio settings, Advanced settings.

- “Automatically adjust microphone volume” should NOT be selected
- **DISABLE** both the “Suppress Persistent Background Noise & Intermittent Background Noise” to avoid cutting out the highs & lows. Leave as AUTO for “Echo Cancellation”.

“**TURN OFF ORIGINAL SOUND**” phrase should be seen on the upper left hand corner of the Zoom window. Leave it alone!!!! If you tap it, you will not have original sound. It is a toggle option on computers that greatly improves sound quality.

****Test your settings before a meeting or workshop!!** Set up a meeting with yourself.

EXTERNAL MIC

Adding a simple external **USB mic** (not a speaker) if your device allows, will greatly improve your sound. *You won't notice the difference, but participants will!!*

Check out Amazon. Example - Conference mic, omnidirectional, for Computers, PC, Mac, streaming, Skype. Designate the use of this mic in your Zoom settings as well as in system preferences on your device, if an option.

CHAT BOX

Can open the Chat box to write/read messages when you are muted.

GALLERY VIEW VERSUS SPEAKER / INSTRUCTOR VIEW

Try out either, depending on group size and purpose of Zooming.

[PINNING \(ENLARGING\) ONE VIEW, ESPECIALLY OF INSTRUCTOR OR INSTRUMENT](#)

Click on photo of instructor, leader, or instrument: Click on the 3 dots on the photo to Pin (enlarge) - to see a fuller view.

[SCREEN SHARING – SHEET MUSIC](#)

Open the file/sheet music to be shared and close other files on desktop. (Have music files in desktop folder.) Host mutes participants except person leading the tune. Host or attendee - Click the green **Share Screen** icon. Click on the sheet music to be shared, then click on **Share**. Click on **Stop Share** to end. <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362153-Sharing-your-screen>

[JAMS](#)

The **HOST admits** everyone to the event through an optional waiting room. Everyone participating is shown on the screen so be mindful of how you want to look as well as your background. Fancy backgrounds are available, but they might cause some distortion. Because of sound delay annoyance the **HOST mutes** all except whoever is leading the tune. It becomes a kind of karaoke with each muted player only hearing the lead player and their own instrument. It helps to have a common repertoire to draw on or music at the ready – whether sheet music, tab or memorized. The ZOOM setting now is: **PARTICIPANTS MUST UNMUTE THEMSELVES.**

[LESSONS](#)

Individual lessons can be very successful if the instructor and student each set up their instruments and communication devices to **view** each other. Facetime and Skype are other options besides Zoom. A call and response format works.

[WORKSHOPS AND FESTIVALS](#)

Many musicians and organizers are continually developing plans to offer distance learning and entertainment.

Dulcimer Players News (DPN) – Dulcimer resources galore!! <https://www.dpnews.com>

Nonsuch Dulcimer Club in the UK – Zoom Guidelines & Resources:

<https://www.dulcimer.org.uk/online-events-resources/nonsuch-zoom-guidelines/>
<https://www.dulcimer.org.uk/online-events-resources/>

[ALERTS](#)

- Avoid **Zoom-Bombing!!!** Don't share meeting log-in info. on social media.
- Zoom security – use the optional **Waiting Room** to manage entry of participants.
- **Stay up to date** on recommendations. Watch tutorials.
- **Try out your Zoom set up** BEFORE your first workshop or use of Zoom.