

Setting up Zoom Audio for Musicians

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Based on Zoom version 5.10.6 (5889)

If you want people to hear your music please follow these guidelines. Make sure you have the latest version of Zoom installed.

For Zoom on Windows or MacOS:

Before the meeting:

1. Open Zoom and click the “Settings” icon (the “gear” in the upper right corner).
2. Click “Audio.”
3. Under “Speaker,” select your audio listening device (headphones are recommended), then click “Test Speaker” to verify it’s working. As a starting point, set the volume about mid-way.
4. Under “Microphone,” select your microphone or audio input device, then click “Test Mic” to test. As a starting point, set the volume about mid-way.
5. Uncheck “Automatically adjust microphone volume.”
6. “Suppress background noise” should be set to “Low.”
7. Under “Music and Professional Audio” do the following:
 - a. Check “Show in-meeting option to “Turn On Original Sound.” (Original Sound disables Zoom's voice processing and compression and adds enhancements for music.)
 - b. Check “High fidelity music mode.”
 - c. Un-check “Echo cancellation*.”
 - d. If you are using a stereo sound source, check “Stereo audio.” This does require a bit more network bandwidth than mono audio, so if you have a marginal Internet connection you may want to leave it unchecked.
8. Under the “Advanced” button:
 - a. “Signal processing by Windows audio device drivers” (Windows only) should be set to “Off.”
 - b. “Echo cancellation” should both be left at “Auto.”
9. Close the “Settings” window.

These are persistent settings, so you don’t need to set them each time. If you forget to do this beforehand you can change the settings during a Zoom meeting.

When you start the meeting: Gp to the upper left corner of the screen and click the button that says “Original Sound Off.” It should now say “Original Sound On.” The button may not appear until you move your mouse within the Zoom screen.

* Echo cancellation can affect audio quality, so leave it off if you can. However, if you are using speakers (instead of headphones), you *may* want to turn echo cancellation on, otherwise you will need to turn Original Sound off while you and others are unmuted at the same time.

For Zoom on iPhone, iPad, and Android:

1. Go to “Settings,” Then “Meetings.”
2. Scroll down and enable “Use Original Audio.” This setting is persistent on IOS and Android.

Recommendation

Use an external mic. Even an inexpensive USB condenser mic, such as the FiFine 669B (about \$35 on Amazon), positioned properly, can make a big improvement in sound.