

## Remote Learning Tips!

*Presented by Jim DeCaro, University Supervisor, Jacobs School of Music*

Here are a few tips that in my role as a University Supervisor for Indiana University that I have found work really well during remote learning.

1. Use breakout rooms in zoom. This is a great way to place your students in small groups to accomplish a task. Be specific in regard to what you want them to do, appoint a group leader, a group secretary, a group presenter to share with the entire class when you come back together, and any other jobs that fit. They can work out a rhythm, give a performance (one person only from the group), give feedback on a recorded music performance (i.e.. YouTube), figure out a musical problem (where to phrase, how to adjust balance, how to tackle something that is difficult to play) and in general just collaborate. The teacher can float from room to room to make sure the assignment is being done and when everyone comes back together the entire class gets the benefit of a variety of responses, opinions, and or performances. Keep the breakout room time on the short side.
2. Compare and contrast 2 or 3 performances of the same piece by different ensembles. Students can do this by using the chat feature in Zoom or just simply raising their hands and sharing what they like and don't like. This is a way to have a great discussion in regard to interpretation.
3. While an entire band or even a small ensemble can't play together on Zoom you can still teach music while students play their instruments together from home while on mute. Students can then submit recordings of themselves playing the passage or entire piece. This is easily done through Canvas and other platforms and the band director can then send each student individual feedback. This keeps your students chops in shape and helps to make sure they continue to practice while away from the band room. Weekly playing assignments are best.

This has been a very challenging year for all band directors. I have had student teachers who have been placed in schools where everyone comes every day, where a hybrid schedule is in place and students are seen in person only 1-2 days per week, where students are all virtual, and in some cases where teachers must teach both in person hybrid classes AND students on Zoom at home simultaneously. This is a time that requires great creativity, finding a way to continue make individual connections with all students, and to still make learning music fun.

Best,

Jim DeCaro (Gamma Chapter, Indiana)

[jdecaro@iu.edu](mailto:jdecaro@iu.edu)

University Supervisor

Jacobs School of Music

Retired Band Director

Midwest Performance 2002

Clarinetist

BME & MM IU

812-327-6666