

# SCDH AND DULCIMERS IN THE AGE OF ZOOM!!

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) Verify that you have a **stable internet connection**. The fewer devices/programs using the internet, the stronger the signal. Fully charge all your devices to be used.
- 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.

If you have a Zoom account, update to the latest version - 5.6.4 or later.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrade-update-to-the-latest-version>

As a **PARTICIPANT**, you receive an invitation from a **HOST** by email. Click on the link included in the invitation. Some hosts also provide a **password** 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/>

## AUDIO SETTINGS

There are many Youtube videos, tutorials and webinars on the HOW TO & set up. Some have now come along that help to maximize settings for instrumental music rather than just talking. Changing the audio settings as well as adding an external mic help increase the clarity of music. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-\\_bS\\_nUiqMA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_bS_nUiqMA)

**RECOMMENDATIONS** - Audio settings, Advanced settings:

**To access: Tap on arrow near mic icon on Zoom screen, where you would mute yourself.**

- **Automatically adjust microphone volume** - should **NOT** be selected
- **Suppress Background Noise** – set at **LOW**.

**Music and Professional Audio:**

- **Show in-meeting option to enable Original Sound** - **Check mark**
- **Echo Cancellation** - **Check mark**

**Advanced (click on button to move to this choice):**

- **Echo cancellation** - Select **Auto**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wkG7yOTRIAk> - Explanation of why these settings need to be changed. Some info. may not reflect the options in the latest version of Zoom.

**ORIGINAL SOUND ON** – a toggle option on computers in upper left hand corner of Zoom window. Leave it alone to have clearer sound for music when YOU may be heard. **Test your settings before a meeting or workshop!!** Set up a meeting for yourself.

## EXTERNAL MIC

Adding even 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 read/write messages when you are muted. Can save the chat by clicking on the 3 dots at the lower right corner of the chat box when in use.

## GALLERY VIEW OR SPEAKER VIEW

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

## PINNING ONE VIEW

Can click on photo of Ex/ leader – click on 3 dots to Pin (enlarge) to see fuller view of an instrument or instructor.

## 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/ PLAYING CIRCLES

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

**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/ organizers have developed plans to offer distance learning and entertainment.

**Dulcimer Players News** – 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/>

## ALERTS

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

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