

Setting up a Podcast Webinar
April 30, 2020
Closed Caption Transcript

11:02:12 >> Hello, everyone and thank you so much for being here for today's webinar. Today Kyle King from Slam Academy is going to tell you how to set up a podcast. He's got links for you and time for questions at the end. I think you're going to get a lot of out of it. My name is Kris Kautzman, I want to welcome you to today's webinar is part of our new Stay Plugged In series. A partnership between the American composer forum, Slam Academy and Springboard for the Arts. We are goi

11:02:35 I have got a few housekeeping things I'm going to cover. I'm totally going to cheat and read my script so I don't forget. Today will be video recorded and audio transcribed. We'll make links to both of these available once we have them posted on our website. Please keep your own computer or phone muted during the session to minimize background noise.

11:03:00 And when Kyle is ready for questions, you can type them into the chat. We'll take questions until the hour is up. If any questions are not answered today, we'll follow-up offline. I'll be back at the end of the session to wrap things up and share things like webinar topics, dates and times. Kyle, thank you so much.

11:03:39 >> Kyle King: So, Kris. It's still technically morning for me. My name is Kyle King. A little bit of introduction about myself and what Slam Academy is if you haven't heard of it. Slam Academy is an electronic music school. We teach digital audio technology, arts things, we do DJing, I'm a DJ instructor, I'm the mixing and mastering instructor, I'm the music theory online.

11:04:15 We teach all sorts of audio types of things and we do classes in Minneapolis and Denver and classes online. If you're interested in any of those things, of course thank you so much to ACF for letting me do this. A little bit about myself personally. I have been interested in music my entire life. I have been a DJ for about 20 years. I have been a bass player for probably I would say 23 years, 24 years.

11:04:33 And you're currently in my studio. As you can see, I'm surrounded by a lot of music equipment. Over the course of those years as a DJ, I ran a couple of online radio shows, I've done podcasting for a number of years, I would say five + years all together.

11:04:51 I have done this quite a bit. So I recognize that this is a very specific topic, as Kris said, but I want to make sure that I leave enough time for questions, because I'm sure there's probably some specific questions that you might want to ask.

11:05:21 So first, if you're here because you've heard about podcasting or maybe you're a consumer of podcasts and you want to know more about the creation process. Essentially, it's as simple as having a conversation with either your laptop or another person and mixing all of those things together into a replayable format. There's a lot of ways to go about doing this.

11:05:44 That's the first thing I want to talk about when it comes to setting up a podcast is you need to have an idea for a format. If you're someone who really likes to share your thoughts about a particular topic, whether it be politics or music or whatever it is that you're interested in, you can still very much do that.

11:06:08 What I tend to remind people is that when you're thinking of a podcast, you're basically thinking of an audio TV show. So every show needs to have a common theme. One

of my favorite podcasts is about a podcast called 20,000 Hertz. This is an audio focused podcast where they talk about sound design and audio creation.

11:06:41 It's one that I really enjoy. It's one that inspires me creatively. So I'm hooked on it. That is a common theme that I would be very interested in so I subscribe to all of these podcasts. My podcast, for instance, is just me sharing music that I really enjoy and then occasionally talking about some of the songs, including songs maybe that my friends have written or that I, myself, have written, or I talk about ideas about music production.

11:07:10 Obviously as a music educator, I can talk about music education. There's a lot of things that I can talk about and provide perspective. There's a wide range of topics that you can do. In addition, you cannot talk at all and your podcast can be an archive, a showcase of your performances, whether it be a solo instrument performance or compositions that you've written or anything else.

11:07:35 There's a large range of things you can do. Once you have what settled, the next question is what do I need to actually start a podcast. And you can look at this with a couple of different Mindsets. The way that I like to help people figure out what they need to start is think about how much you're really wanting to invest in this kind of set up.

11:08:00 So the budget, quote unquote, is probably you can set up a podcast right now. All of you are probably have at least one pair of headphones, I see most of you wearing headphones right now, some of you have speakers as well, so you can hear what's going to be happening. And then you just need to have something to talk into.

11:08:33 All laptops now have these built in microphones that you could talk into. Are they high quality? No. But are they a way for you to record audio? Absolutely, yes. For things that I'll show you a little bit later, you can always make that sound a little bit better. So if you're just trying to get started or you want to at least experiment with the idea of setting up a podcast where you want to talk about a particular topic, you could use what you already have right in front

11:09:02 If you want to go beyond that, this is where we are going to start getting into some of the links that I wanted to show you. Let's start with the basics. If I were to do a podcast where I'm going to talk about something but I'm going to bring in guests or I'm going to have two or more people with me, well, with most laptops and dependence nowadays, we don't have the ability to plug microphones directly in.

11:09:21 So we need to get an audio interface. And there's a couple of ways that you can do this, depending what you're going to need from your audio interface. What the audio interface allows you to do is connect multiple sound sources together like microphones, for example.

11:09:55 The one that I'm actually using right now, the one that's in front of me, my microphone is the Zoom H4. Now, this is a very cool device because not only can I talk into the two microphones that are in front of me right here, but there are two additional inputs down here in the bottom. So I can connect two more microphones into this and also record this front facing microphone. Or I can just record each one of these individual microphones on their own.

11:10:28 It doesn't have to be all four of them together. But right there, if I was only going to have two people, that's a perfect set up for me. And I'm going to post a link for this recorder

here in the chat. And because Kris was so kind to give me access to share my screen, I'm going to share my screen with you. Here is the Zoom H5. This is the link that I just put in the chat.

11:10:55 This is actually the recorder that I use professionally. So this is the one that's actually in my backpack all of the time. And the reason for that is because this is similar to the H4 in that it has two of these top facing microphones, so if I want to record a group conversation and I don't have five microphones to plug in, I'll just turn on that top part and then record the room.

11:11:19 If I want to record two microphones, I have the ability to record two microphones in the bottom of this. In addition, these top two microphones actually come off and they allow me to connect another device which allows me to connect two additional microphones for a total of four individual microphone inputs.

11:11:45 So that's the Zoom H5. The H4 that I have in front of me is actually no longer made so they're becoming increasingly difficult to find. This is a perfect example of a portable podcasting kit. So depending on the format and style of things that you want to record, this does not require a computer.

11:12:10 This would only require you to have as many microphones that you are going to want to bring with you and then headphones if you want to be able to hear what everything is being recorded as. Because this actually records directly to an SD card. So because of that, this actually will record direct to audio which we can then go into and edit later.

11:12:13 That's the Zoom H5.

11:12:44 It has other functionalities, but this is the one that I carry with me every single day. This is my everyday carry microphone recording kit. If you're wanting to do something like the tiny desk concert, for example, where maybe you have a microphone that you can do some interviews with but you also want to be able to plug several microphones into, now, you can go and get a big analog mixer like what I have over here.

11:13:12 That tends to be moreover kill than most people need and it doesn't have a lot of connectivity with my computer. Instead, that same company, Zoom -- and for the sake of clarity, the Zoom company that manufacturers these interfaces is not the same Zoom company that does the video conferencing. It's just a weird coincidence. And I'm not sure which one, honestly, came first.

11:13:43 I would think the audio company but that's neither here nor there. They make this thing called the live track L12. They make an 8 channel one. They make a 20 channel one, and then a 12 channel one. Depending on what your needs are, you can get a larger one of these. This actually works and will allow you to record to an SD card as well.

11:14:03 So this is another thing where it's similar to that more portable H5 that I was showing you before. This is portable by no means, but you can put this into a case with the power connection with all of the cords that you're bringing with you and your microphone and everything and still not have to bring a laptop with you.

11:14:38 So if you're really wanting to just capture the live recording itself and not have to worry about messing around with a laptop or software, this is a great solution. In addition, this has a USB cable connection in it. This actually will allow you to connect to a computer directly and record each of these individual channels on a separate input inside of your digital audio work station, which is something that I'll show you a little bit later if that's a term you're unfamiliar

11:15:00 This is the solution for I'm not just going to have two people having a conversation. I want to record myself and maybe a few other instrumentalists or I want to record myself playing multiple instruments, maybe walking through my studio and turning up and down the volume for each of those. This is that solution for you.

11:15:23 So it's highly highly recommended. Now, say you already have one of these interfaces but what you don't know is what microphone to use. Say maybe you're just going to have a simple set up where it is just you talking into your laptop but you don't want to use the laptop microphone. Well, there's a solution for you there as well.

11:15:46 A company called Blue actually makes the snowball ice. This is one I have personal experience with. It was the first podcasting microphone I ever used. This is a unique microphone because this is actually a USB microphone. So this one actually connects directly to your computer.

11:16:03 So you don't have to have a sound card. You don't have to have an audio interface. This one actually just goes directly to your computer. So you can run it into some of the software that I'm going to show you and start directly recording in.

11:16:26 So that's the advantage of using this. Another thing that's a big advantage of this, it's a very low cost way to dive in. If you know right off the bat that you are going to have a simple set up at home, this is perfect for recording voiceovers or if you have a fairly quiet room, it's a great opportunity for you to record in there.

11:16:55 Stepping up from there, if you want maybe a more serious customizable USB microphone, the most popular microphone that Blue makes is the Blue yet I. Another microphone that I have personal experience with. This is the one I used before I used the snowball but this one was out of my price range at the time. This is a fantastic microphone. This is also a USB microphone.

11:17:22 And this one comes with a little bit better of an adjustable stand and it's a fairly similar type of microphone, but the thing that I like about this is because the different pattern settings that it has in there. I'll briefly touch on microphone pattern settings after there. But having it to where it's just aimed at your face sounds tremendous on this microphone.

11:17:33 It is a little bit more costly, but if you're wanting to do a higher quality audio output, these are the kinds of devices that you want to look at.

11:18:13 And then if you're someone who is going to maybe add some microphones to an existing system that you already have or if you're looking for a high end non-USB microphone to use, I recommend the RODE NT1-A microphone. This is a really good microphone to use for multiple purposes, but it's very popular with podcasters and I actually saw this one on a lot of twitch streamers, believe it or not. So there's a lot of streamers using this microphone as well.

11:18:37 I don't have any personal experience with it but I have actually set up rooms with these microphones. They're very popular. So I can easily recommend it to people based off its popularity. So it's worth it. Now, this is not a USB microphone. This is a microphone that's using the XLR connection, the actual microphone connection.

11:18:52 So this would need to go into an audio interface, or if you have a mixer that feeds into your computer, it would need to interface with that. Those are things to look out for.

11:19:14 The microphone that I actually have that I use for my vocal booth is the AKG P420. The lettering is kind of scratched off. This is the microphone I use for my vocal recordings and I've used it for voiceovers and podcasting purposes as well.

11:19:44 This is a great microphone. It comes with a nice stand. There's a pop filter I have that's over there. I highly highly recommend using a pop filter to help kind of eliminate the semblance and pops and clicks from our voice naturally. Those are things to think about. That's going to give you the highest quality audio possible just sending in.

11:20:25 If you are looking for some headphones, there are a couple of recommendations that I have. There's a company called Sennheiser, they make a lot of really nice headphones that I've used personally. And they make a pair of headphones called the HD 300s. These are really good multipurpose headphones. But if you were wanting to buy a pair of headphones that you could buy multiple versions of so you could have them for each of the participants of your podcast.

11:20:51 If you're doing a large podcast or if you're running like that larger format Zoom mixer I was showing off, everyone will be able to plug in with the same pair of headphones and get that same experience. So I tend to look for headphones that I know still sound really good but obviously aren't hundreds of dollars. So these ones I highly recommend.

11:21:18 If you're someone who likes different kinds of headphones, that's totally fine. The cheaper that they are, the more not great the audio quality is going to be, but as long as you're okay with making that sacrifice, if you need like 20 pairs of headphones, it's okay if you don't want to spend \$50 on each pair. These are just kind of my recommendations.

11:21:49 So now you have an audio interface or you have some microphones and you're all set up and you're ready to get it recorded into the digital world. What are you going to use? I have two recommendations for you there. The first recommendation for you is probably my best recommendation for you. And that is a program called Audacity. This is a program I actually use for professional commercial projects even today.

11:22:36 I use this to record and edit audio a lot. It is not a fully featured digital audio work station like a Pro Tools would be. What this is is it is perfect for a small number, usually between one and four or five, individual audio recordings simultaneously. So if I had my H5, for example, and I wanted to record everything directly into my computer, I can go directly into the H5 and then directly into Audacity all in its individual.

11:23:13 The reason why I use Audacity is because it's free, first and foremost. That's like a big thing for me is I want to make sure I'm using free software unless it requires me to spend just a little bit amount of money because I want to see if I can make this work. It's open source, which means it's easy for people to make additions to it and help make the software better. And it's cross platform. So this software works if you're on Mac, if you're on Windows or if you're on Linu

11:23:47 I really enjoy using this because it's the same experience regardless of what kind of computer that you're using. I definitely recommend Audacity. If you are needing more functionality beyond just recording a couple of audio sources, say you want to record a band and you want to edit those recordings inside, that's when we want to use a digital audio work station.

11:24:44 I use ProTools and logic X for my audio production work. If you're not familiar with them, the digital audio work station is just imagine a studio inside a computer. This allows you to do audio editing and MIDI sequencing. There's also a digital audio studio that I use called REAPER. REAPER is another cross platform that's easy to get ahold of. You can download

REAPER and use for 30 days or 60 days, but if you're using REAPER non-commercially, you can use the free license.

11:25:20 For the evaluation purpose forever. The evaluation license runs in perpetuity. If you're someone who wants to try REAPER and see how long you enjoy using it and if you're really enjoying it, you can then pay for a commercial license. And a commercial license for an individual is only \$60. And if you've bought Logic Pro, it's \$200. Ableton Live Suite is nearly \$700. There's a lot of cost that can go into this.

11:25:53 If you're using Pro Tools, it's hundreds of dollars, including the hard way. This is a great way of getting the functionality of a Pro Tools but inside of a much more cost affordable package. I highly highly recommend checking out REAPER if you're not already using a digital audio workstation or you want to try something different. I have used this tool to produce YouTube videos and I've done professional sound design inside of REAPER as well.

11:26:31 It's a great tool that I highly highly recommend using. So now, we've got our gear. We have got our recordings. And now we are going to record in. And now what's next? Well, I'm going to show you this. I'm going to bring up Audacity here. Now you can see here in Audacity, this is the default window that I'm in. What I'm going to do is go to this little microphone icon here and I'm going to select what I want to record for my audio.

11:26:57 I have my H4 in front of me. It's what I'm talking to all of you with. So I'm going to select H4 for input. I'll make sure it's set to record my studio voice and when I hit record, as I talk, it doesn't seem to want to duplicate through. That's understandable. I know what it's going through. It's not going to let me pull the audio because I'm already using it.

11:27:20 If I were to use my audio interface, for example, and I were to hit record, now if I move to my audio interface and hit play on one of my machines here, now my audio is coming through. So now -- well, I have got to make sure that it stops recording.

11:27:47 There we go. And now I can go through and edit things. The one thing that I've used Audacity for more recently is the recording of actual -- I do field recording for my sound design projects. So I use this a lot to edit those recordings like with my microphone as well. So Audacity is a very powerful tool for you.

11:28:26 So now when it's all done and exported out of Audacity, the next thing that we have to do is figure out where it goes. There are a lot of places nowadays for us to put our podcasts. There's a lot of really popular ones. The one I used was obviously Apple. And I'm going to put this link here. This is the link for you to set up and get your podcast ready for submission to be on Apple podcasts. It doesn't cost anything.

11:28:44 I think I had to wait maybe a week or so before I got approval of my very first episode, but after that, within an hour or two of me submitting my episode was when it went live. So they're much faster about doing it once you actually get started with this.

11:28:47 A few things to keep in mind.

11:29:22 They will give you a lot of design guidelines in regards to how to set up your individual podcasts. These are a great thing to read and to study up on before you launch your podcast. It's really a good idea to learn the design guidelines for the frame of your image for whatever it is that you're uploading. So you want your podcast to have a consistent logo.

11:29:49 I have a custom version of my logo made specifically for my podcast and that would come up with every version of my podcast. If you're going to be having like different guests or you want your display page to have a numerical value, I've seen that before on a lot of them,

just recognize every time you upload a different podcast, you're going to have to upload that different image as well.

11:30:05 So getting all of this set up in Apple podcasts is how I learned. And then as I moved to other platforms, it actually got a little bit easier. That's the one for Apple podcast.

11:30:37 The second most popular one that obviously a lot of people use is Spotify. So there is the link in chat for the Spotify podcaster set up. This is a place that you can actually upload your podcast directly to Spotify. Again, there will be some time for them to validate who you are and to make sure that you're not doing anything that's violating their terms of service. And you can upload your podcast directly to Spotify.

11:31:12 They have a way that you can use it specifically using tools that they've helped developed like Anchor, and like Sound trap. These are things that you can check out as well. These are alternatives to Audacity and REAPER. There's a whole lot of different audio editing Suites out there. As long as you're comfortable with it, use it. If you're looking for different solutions, these are tried and tested that I, myself, have used personally and professionally.

11:31:47 Aside from Spotify and Apple, there's also Stitcher. This is the one my sister uses to get all of her podcasts. This one is definitely more focused on the podcast side of things and less about like music creation and things. So that's where it differs from the Apple podcast. There's more music podcasts on Apple and less on Stitcher. It just depends. I find a lot more conversational podcasts on Stitcher.

11:31:55 This is another one you can go to. I'm going to put the link for this one as well in the chat so you can see the link for all of those.

11:32:22 And those are all of the podcast services that I would recommend to you. If you are someone that says, Kyle, I just want to plug in a microphone, I want to talk into it, I want to take the audio file and I want to put it up on my website so people can listen to, I don't want to mess around with any of these other places, well, you're in luck.

11:32:50 I have my own website where I can upload all of these episodes of my podcasts or just any audio recording that I want. So if you want to, you could just make your own website and say, instead of recording and editing all this stuff and putting it up on YouTube or Spotify or any other places, I'm going to put it up on my website and go and download it. You can absolutely do that.

11:33:17 Now, the service that I use to do that is square space. Some of you may have heard of square space before. It's a good way to get a website built for you quickly, and they're doing a lot of cool sales right now. If you don't have a website and you want a website it's a great way to check it out. They will set you up with so many different tools that will help you structure your podcasts.

11:33:40 These are definitely ways that I would recommend you get into it. Like I said, if you're looking for a solution that's not going all the way to each of the individual Spotify and I think even Pandora has a podcast option now. So there's a lot of different ways that you can get that.

11:34:16 If you don't want to do your own website, if that's too much work, I understand. It is a lot of work to maintain and manage a website. But there's other opportunities for you as well. A really, really popular one is sound cloud. Prior to getting my podcast approved on Apple podcast, I was uploading my podcasts on SoundCloud. This is a little bit more free form. It's not as much structure as Apple podcast or Spotify.

11:34:45 You create a SoundCloud account, you can pay for a proaccount that will basically let you upload an unlimited amount of audio. You can do hours and hours and hours. If you want to record a large number of podcasts and you want them available forever and you only want to pay one price, you don't have to worry about is it still okay on Apple podcasts or whatever, this is a great place to do it.

11:35:05 I actually follow a few podcasts on SoundCloud because it's the easiest way to do it. They have a great mobile app and so many different ways I can listen to it. It ends up being a way I listen to podcasts as well. That's a great way.

11:35:24 Another newer one and this is targeted towards the performers out there. This is M handbook XCLOUD.

11:35:30 M-XCLOUD,.

11:36:15 Occasionally you'll get live performances or mix performance of popular DJs. M-XCLOUD is for long style episodes. That means if I'm going to record an hour long performance, I'll put it up on M-XCLOUD. In addition, M-XCLOUD actually allows people to subscribe to you. So you get together your performances and you say I'm a creator. Now people can support you. So they can subscribe to you basically for \$5.50 or however much a month, and they pay you.

11:36:43 They become a subscriber and they get early access to the episodes, or you can let them listen to the archives and let them download your archives. This is a great way to interact and grow an audience if you try to do something. This tends to be more direct with its revenue generation. If that's your target is to be a full-time podcaster, this could be something that helps you get spun up pretty quickly.

11:37:07 Dovetailing into that, moving on from M-XCLOUD, there is also payetry on. PATREON is essentially a platform used by creatives that allow people to immediately and directly support your art.

11:37:45 So myself, I've considered doing a PATREON and depending on how long things stay the way they currently are, I may consider doing a PATREON. What I would do with a PATREON is let people subscribe to me at different tiers. You see this is really popular. If you are a creator, people can subscribe at different levels. They can pay you a dollar a month, five dollars a month, \$10 a month, \$20 a month. And every tier of payment a month they give you is another layer of things th

11:38:19 As a music educator and sound designer and music producer, I might say if you give me \$20 a month, I'll give you an hour private lesson over Skype or something. I'll also give you recordings of maybe my jams while I'm trying to write some music. I'll give you access to my unreleased music, play lists, all these things. So you're helping to grow a community around the art that you're creating.

11:38:46 PATREON is a spectacular platform. If you are serious about saying, hey, this podcast that I want to start, I think this might be one tenet of my creative expression for myself, PATREON is a great way to look at it because now you can use that podcast as your primary or a secondary option that you can provide people as a way to continue to interact with them.

11:39:32 The last way that I want to show you of ways that you can do this is with bandcamp. As an independent artist, I use bandcamp to sell my music. You can also upload podcasts as well. If you wanted to have a conversational podcast, you can put up these podcasts that people can download these things episodically. Bandcamp tends to be a little bit more focused

on album and other music-related kinds of things, but if you're doing live performance that you want to archive, you.

11:39:50 You can definitely set them up as a podcast inside of bandcamp as well. Those are the kinds of options that you have. We've talked about the gear that you need to get set up, we've talked about the software that you can use to get it recorded and get it edited, we talked about the places that you can upload it.

11:40:24 Now you just need to bring it all together. And so what I was going to show you a little bit of is the way that my set up is here so that you can get an understanding of the way that my podcast works. I will do this. I'm actually going to open up ableton live. This is the software I use for audio production and audio editing purposes. And I'm going to show you an example of what one of my podcasts would look like.

11:40:54 Just so you can get a sense of what I do when the time comes for that. I'm going to open up this Ableton session here, the first thing you're going to see is there are several audio files stretched along my time line. That is the mix of music that I'm putting together. So this is me editing each of these individual songs so they fade out and fade into each other.

11:41:43 In between each of these fades is going to be me talking. So the next thing that I'm going to do, now that I've actually edited the audio, now I'm going to go over the top of this with just my voiceover. So I'm going to add a voiceover connection in my computer here and say, okay, this is my voiceover. Now I can hit record and immediately go over the top of what I'm playing. So now it will record my voice and it's me talking over this transition.

11:42:16 You can see it's recording my audio right into Ableton here. I have got the audio that I've played around with and made sure it's grade. Then I'm going to record my voiceover top of it. Now I can edit this audio and say I want to turn up the volume. So I can go to the mixer and turn up my voiceover volume. What I would most likely do is turn down the volume of these tracks, but you can start to play around with this here.

11:42:27 Now, once I export it, I can put it up on sound cloud or Apple podcast.

11:43:06 No, this is Ableton, not Audacity. That's basically it. I did want to leave a lot of time for questions because I'm sure that there's probably going to be some specific ones. But I want to open up the chat for questions if you guys have them. Otherwise I would love to show you anything that you might specifically want to see. So let's take a look here in the chat. I'm going to pull the chat up here. Jason's got a question.

11:43:55 Opinion on Zoom H6? If you have your eye on the Zoom H6, I absolutely would recommend it. It is a very, very excellent device. It has a little bit more of inputs than the H5 has. I'll pull up the H6. This one already has four inputs in there. So you can record up to four sound sources at the same time. And additionally, similar to the H5 that I have, you can put another pair of inputs on top of this.

11:44:32 The only challenge with the Zoom H6 is the price, frankly. I believe the Zoom H6 on Sweetwater is, let's see, under the Zoom microphones here, it's definitely going to be -- they don't have the H6. They're probably sold out, honestly. It's about \$400. So that's definitely not a regular price that most people can really throw down, especially if they are not super sure how much time they are going to spend on the podcasting thing.

11:45:18 But that's great. I had another question come in about Hin denberg. From what I remember, it's specifically a radio editing software. The reason that I don't use it -- here's their website -- the reason I don't use it is because it tends to be more focused on radio

broadcasting. And the radio broadcasting world is similar to podcasting, but there is enough differences. There just tends to be more features built into it than I really ever need.

11:45:41 What I love about Audacity is its complete simplicity. I absolutely love using Audacity. If you want to check it out, it isn't free, but it is a very powerful tool. I do know some people in the radio world who use this as well. But great question. That's perfect.

11:46:20 If you're interested in -- oh, okay, there's the question I was waiting for. Any mic recommendations for piano and speaking voice? I'm going to assume that we are talking about one microphone for both your piano and speaking voice. That's great. That's totally possible. What will happen at that point is we are going to try to find a microphone that will have different capsule types.

11:46:40 That Blue microphone that I was showing before, the yeti is a pretty good microphone that has different capsule types, but I'm not going to recommend that you get the yeti if you're going to try to record your voice and your piano at the same time.

11:47:17 For that case, I would want to use one of these microphones like the very popular Blue Spark. This is an XLR microphone. This is not a microphone built for plugging directly in. This is one that's made to be plugged into an audio interface, so it does come with a different set of challenges. But positioning is the most important thing when doing this, because the piano will be really loud, depending on the type of piano it is.

11:47:38 If it's an up right piano, you want to keep it closer to your face and further away from where it resonates. And then if you're doing like a grand piano or baby grand piano, you definitely want it closer to your face because that piano is going to be so loud, especially if it's open.

11:47:58 So you just want to keep those things in mind when you're playing around with this. Another way that I would recommend as well is this is a great opportunity for you to have two different microphones because depending on the position of that, it can really be difficult to record both of those.

11:48:30 I've done this in the past. But with something like the yeti, it does have the ability for you to record on both sides. So you see, there's this bidirectional, where you can record from the front and the back. If you have one of these, you can position it closer to your face and further away from the piano and it can work for you there. You might have to have a stand for it as well.

11:49:07 That's just something to keep an eye on. It's tough to get microphone and piano. Most situations I would say if you can do it, microphone for your face, different microphone for the piano. Jason asked: Opinion on the Blue yeti pro versus the regular yeti. From what I understand the difference between the yeti and the yeti pro, I believe the yeti pro also allows you to use XLR, which the yeti does not.

11:49:39 That's the primary difference between those. So I would say if you're someone who wants to use this as a solid USB only microphone while you're traveling, for example, and then you want to occasionally have it plugged into your home studio, the yeti pro is a great way to do that. It has that flexibility. Other than that, there really isn't much of a difference as far as built hardware of the microphone itself. It's just its interface.

11:50:11 If you're looking for flexibility, the pro is great. If you just want the USB microphone, then I would say just go with the regular yeti itself. I really like this next question. Adam's a

full-time pro voiceover actor and he's got a Newman TLM103, very jealous, and an aura lexis studio foam makeshift booth that I built, very jealous, and he's got a SM7B.

11:50:38 I'll tell you something that I probably should have mentioned to you what I was talking about the microphone recommendations. If you are someone who wants to really invest a lot of money in this, and you know that you want to do podcasting and to really see how it is, this, in my opinion, is the best microphone that you are going to buy that doesn't have 3 zeros in it.

11:51:13 The SM7B, if you're an avid YouTubeer or stream follower, this is the microphone that everyone uses. I have one but it is currently in use by one of my very nice friends. This is the de facto microphone for podcasting and streaming and all sorts of voiceover stuff. If you have one of these, consider yourself set for the microphone section of the podcast.

11:51:22 There's really not a way for you to upgrade unless you're definitely trying to spend thousands of dollars on a tube microphone.

11:51:48 But for all purposes, this is the highest end recommendation that I would make for you. So it is definitely the way that I would like to use it. It's great for podcasting. It's great for the Vlogging, it's great for video conferencing. It does a lot of things super well. That's a great question.

11:52:09 Any other questions in the chat? Ricardo says let's do this more often. I mean, you know, if you're interested, pass your information along to Kris and we can connect. I mean, I'll be doing another one of these in two weeks. Don't forget, every Friday I'm doing the happy hour thing as well.

11:52:42 Kris, I don't mean to steal your thunder. You can come back and give the finishing touch here. But there's going to be definitely some more opportunities for that as well. I want to answer this one last question. Would you remind an audio interface or recorder for piano recording and speaking voice? I would say audio interface is probably going to be your best bet, just because that's going to give you the ability to record like live into your computer.

11:53:09 And then you can make sure that it is sounding good before you hit record on your recorder and then an hour later you find out the recording isn't very good. That's where the interface and the direct audio connection is definitely preferred. Yeah, Adam, it's a fantastic microphone. Its flexibility is wonderful.

11:53:22 The Audient is a great interface. I'll pause for any more questions. But I'll let Kris hop in to give the little farewell address.

11:53:53 >> Kris: That's great! You guys, this has been such a fantastic webinar! I love all the questions. Yes, we are going to continue to do more of this. Actually, I will follow-up tomorrow with an email to all of you asking you for suggestions of what other kinds of topics you want advice on and what else you want us to cover, Slam Academy to cover, springboard to cover.

11:54:05 I'm blown away by the faculty. Really we have an amazing treasure here in Minneapolis in this school. Please check out their website if you want to learn more about them.

11:54:27 I'm going to use this last couple of minutes here to quick share my own screen. Here we go. I'm going to show you what we have got, what we've already got for webinars that are, as they say, in the can, and what we have got coming up.

11:54:47 This is ACF's website. If you click on resources, which is up here in the right-hand corner, and then you scroll down to creative development webinars, you get this page. Last fall we did a webinar for people who were considering getting a manager and what the differences between a manager and a personal assistant are.

11:55:15 The recording for this one is already up. We have got two weeks ago Kyle did a session called recording sound with your phone. It was really fun. He explored basically a lot of what he did and it was really cool was explore how, during this kind of quarantine period, you can use your phone's microphone and some really simple software to make sounds that you don't have access to because you're stuck at home. It was really great.

11:55:38 Last week we did setting up an affordable home composition studio which is jam packed with information from JP who's also a Slam Academy instructor. That video should be up on YouTube within a day or two. And then this is today. Next week, JP's back with music production 101.

11:56:05 And then in mid-May we are going to be offering creating and monetizing a live stream performance. We also have in the hopper a webinar for negotiating contracts, which might be especially timely. And we have openings to sort of continue these weekly webinars through May and possibly even into June, which is why we're so excited to hear back from you what you are interested in covering.

11:56:15 Gosh, it's 11:56. There's still time for questions. Does anybody have anything more that they want to ask?

11:56:28 >> Kyle King: I'm amazed I got through all of that in an hour. I was like worried. I knew I was going to have to breeze through a lot of it.

11:56:38 >> Kris: We're taking a look at the chat. There's one more question here about the yeti pro for video conferencing.

11:56:53 >> Kyle King: Yeah, the nice thing about the podcast mics that I have been talking about, not only are they great for podcasts, these tend to be tailored for voices. So they are totally perfect for video conferencing.

11:57:23 If you have that budget, I would say try to get the higher end microphone because the better the microphone is, the more applications that you can use it for. I have a lot of gear behind me because I didn't spend \$10,000 on microphones. I definitely could have. That's very easy to do. But if I get a microphone like this or like my H5 that I was using before, then I can use it for a multitude of applications.

11:57:44 So I definitely recommend considering, if you're going to be doing a lot of video conferencing, as we all are right now, getting a good vocal microphone will make your podcast sound great and will make you sound more clear and easy to understand in video conferencing as well.

11:58:21 Oh, I like that one. The streaming directly from an audio interface to YouTube live, believe it or not, that is something I just did a workshop on at Slam Academy. If you go check out Slamacademy.com, our YouTube is going to have more info how to set up a live stream for yourself to YouTube and to twitch and all these other places. You absolutely can and I have ways to show you how.

11:58:37 >> Kris: Kyle, would you be willing to drop your email into the chat. Adam says he has a question but it would take too long to type out.

11:58:45 >> Kyle King: There is my email. Feel free to hit me up and I will be happy to chat about this stuff.

11:59:03 >> Kris: One last thing I want to make sure we did you ever, Slam Academy's website has the link to jump in on the tech support happy hours you guys are offering every Friday, is that right?

11:59:06 >> Kyle King: Yes, absolutely.

11:59:41 >> Kris: I will follow-up with more information tomorrow morning. Again, if you have burning questions or maybe you're going to go to sleep and wake up tomorrow morning and discover oh, I know something I didn't ask about, reply to the email tomorrow, you have got Kyle's address, you have the Slam Academy website, you have ACF website. We're so so happy to support you all through this super strange time and get you really solid advice about technology.

11:59:48 It was like grade school today. It was really great to be here with everybody today. Thank you so much. Thank you, Kyle.

11:59:51 >> Kyle King: Thanks everybody so much, I appreciate it.