Sesion #4—Vamp 'Til Ready—Suggested Technical Resources for Optimal Virtual Rehearsals

Minimum Setup: A stable internet connection

A laptop, desktop computer, tablet or phone to connect with.

The Zoom app or whatever your web conferencing service of choice is.

Optional but good: an Ethernet cable for a wired internet connection and a pair of headphones, ideally with a built in microphone. Like the kind you typically get with a phone.

Adding elements: Your next step is to add a good quality microphone and a mixing board or audio interface

Dynamic VS Wide Diaphragm Condenser Mics:
Dynamic Microphones:

- less expensive

- don't easily distort or feedback

- use in close in proximity (ie speak directly into the mic) not as sensitive to background sounds (dishwasher, truck going by, air conditioner or fan)

Suggestions:

Shure SM 58
Sennheiser e935 Cardioid Dynamic Microphone

Wide Diaphragm Condenser Mics:
- be careful … it picks up room sounds like fans and other equipment

- you can stand further back from the microphone and still get good sound

- can be USB wired direct to your computer (like a podcasting microphone)

- or a microphone wired with XLR (microphone) cable to your computer through an interface or mixing board

Suggestions:
USB DIRECT to your computer
Audio-Technica Cardioid USB Condenser Mic
lots of other USB gear available online—suggested search—USB Microphones Canada

WIRED THROUGH your interface:
Audio-Technica AT2035 Condenser Microphone
AKG C214

Mini USB mixing board VS Computer Audio interface:

NB: at one time these devices were completely separate, but today the lines are blurred if not gone.

Basically:

USB Mixing board has more physical knobs for you to play with and will double easily as a control board for a small sound system.
Computer Audio Interface will have inputs to help get the microphone or guitar or piano into your computer and will come with special software to help control details like treble and bass and reverb. **Less knobs**. Both are 'plug and play' and should be instantly recognized by your computer as 'options' for you to choose to control your sound as soon as you plug it in.

Suggestions:
USB mixing board:
ART Pro Audio 6 Channel USB Recording Mixer