RECORDING
RESOURCES

A set of resources about recording, sound mixing, and audio equipment, specifically tailored to the needs of chamber musicians.

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"Chamber Music Scotland asked me to create some resources and to run a Friday Forum on recording for classical musicians. The outbreak of Covid-19 has seen a big increase in musicians recording at home for a variety of purposes, and at Chamber Music Scotland's first Friday Forum, they were asked if they could provide some resources.

We agreed I would cover four main points, and I'll describe the resources available here:

Microphone Types and Placement | In this video, I cover the proximity effect, microphone types and character, and stereo mic placements for solo instruments. There are also two accompanying documents. The first gives further detail on microphone characteristics and objectively looks at microphone techniques to introduce some good basic principles - in particular I hope the section on applying stereo techniques to soloists and ensemble is useful. The second document includes diagrams for basic mic placements and how to adapt these for most instrument types. I hope that across the resources you will gain a good understanding that you can then develop further through your own practise and research.

Acoustics | In this video, I discuss some basic issues to do with acoustics and what to listen out for. We also take a soundwalk of three rooms at home and I show you how I try to understand the characteristics of an acoustic. Finally, we look at how to adapt the sound of an acoustic using two of the three techniques for addressing acoustic issues: absorption (where we try to dry out the sound, in this case using a quilt) and microphone isolation (where we try to reduce the off-axis sound using a pillow wrapped around the rear of the mic).

Mixing | In this video, I introduce some of the goals we have when mixing, then cover equalisation (tone control) and the use of reverb.

Recommendations for Equipment | I have prepared a document that recommends various equipment for different applications, in particular referencing aspects of mic types, placements, and acoustics."