

HOW TO SET UP ZOOM FOR MUSICIANS

By default, Zoom is optimized for speech audio. This means the application includes built-in processing, such as noise reduction and echo cancellation. You'll need to turn off this processing for music.



BEFORE YOU JOIN

- **Update Zoom**

Open Zoom → click your profile picture → Check for Updates.

- **Use Headphones**

This stops echo and makes your instrument sound cleaner.

- **Use a Good Internet Connection**

If possible, plug in with an Ethernet cable. If on WiFi, sit close to your router.

- **Use the Best Microphone You Have**

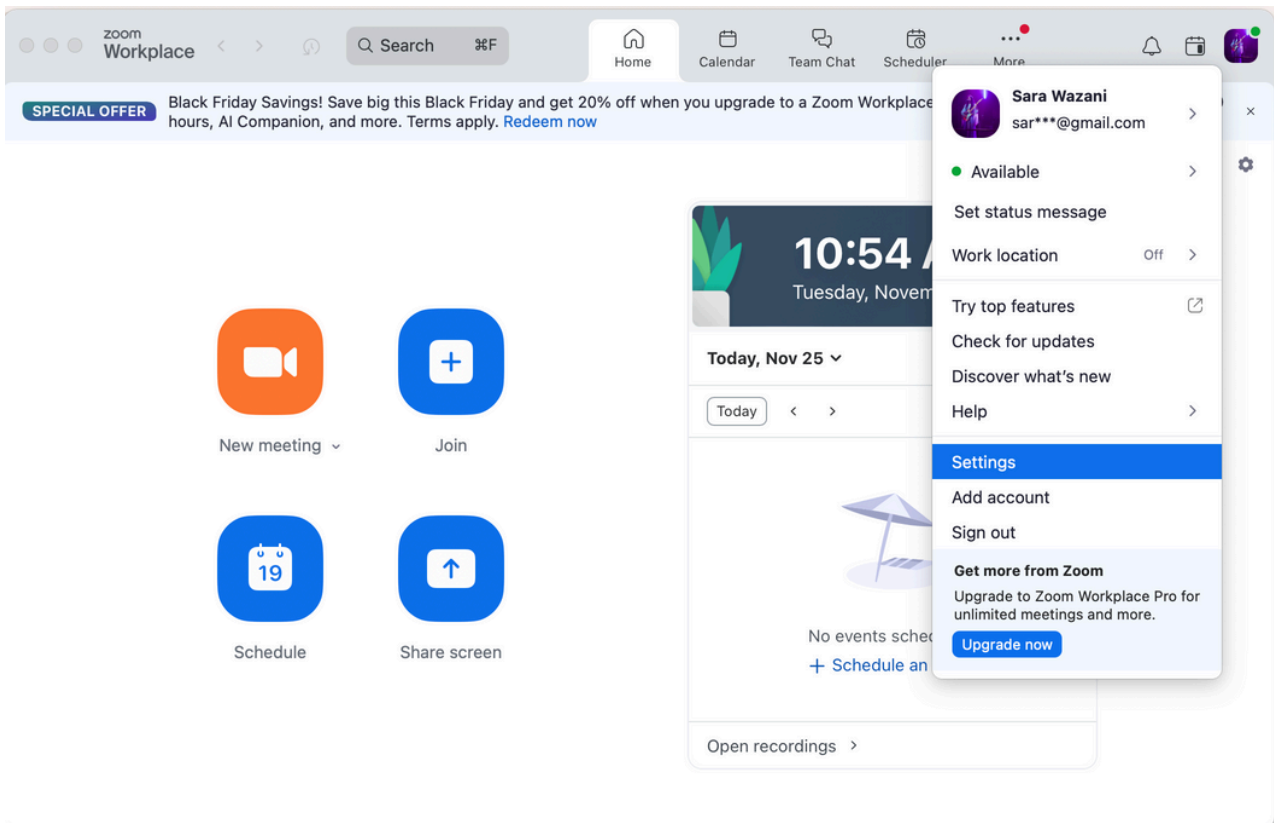
If you can, use a decent microphone (USB mic or audio interface) rather than the built-in laptop mic - you'll sound much better.

AUDIO SETTINGS FOR MUSIC PERFORMANCE

You only need to do this setup once!

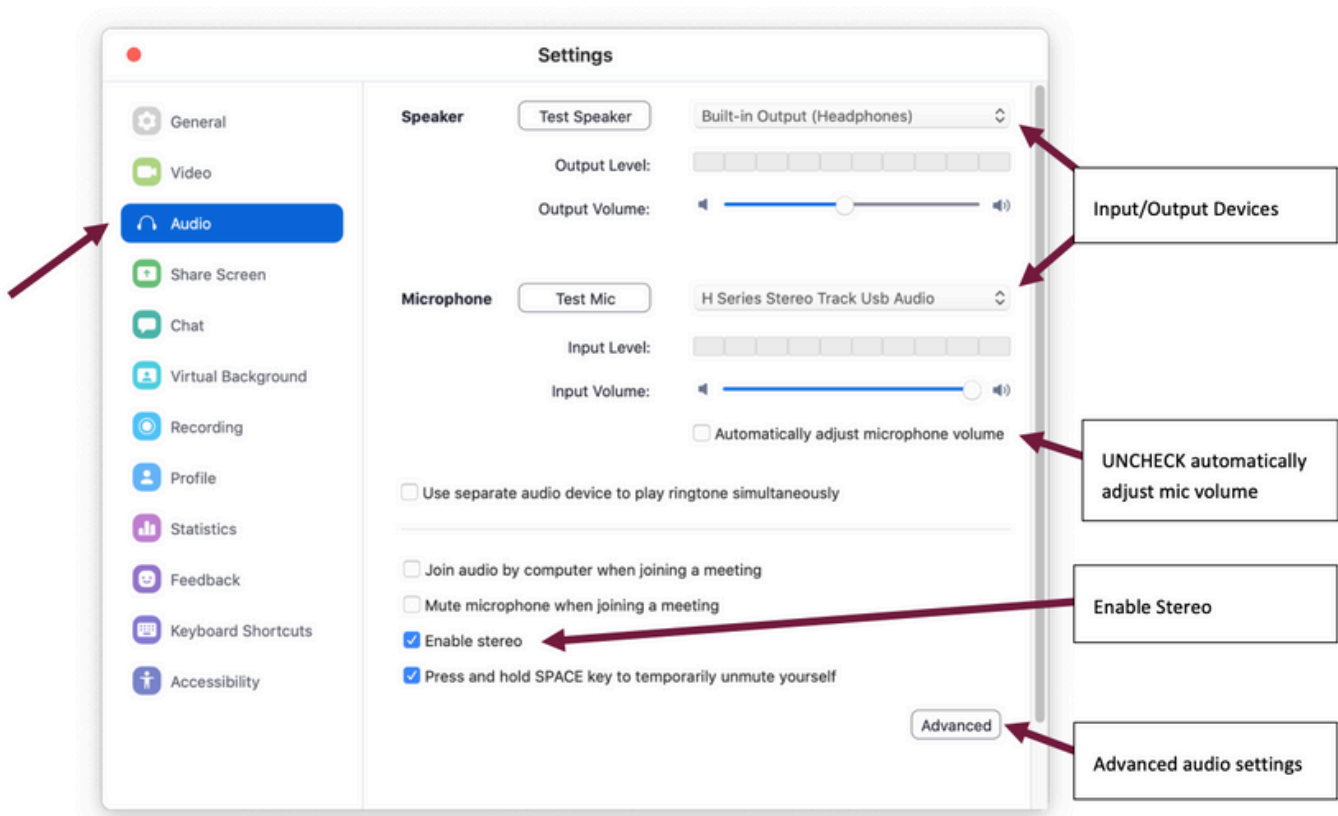
1. OPEN ZOOM AUDIO SETTINGS

- **For Mac:** Open Zoom → click your profile picture → Settings.
- **For Windows:** Click the gear icon (⚙️) in the top right of the Zoom window.



2. CHOOSE YOUR MIC AND HEADPHONES

- **Microphone:** select your USB mic or audio interface if you have one.
- **Speaker:** Select your headphones.
- **Turn off** (uncheck) “Automatically adjust microphone volume.”



3. TURN ON “ORIGINAL SOUND FOR MUSICIANS”

This stops Zoom from cutting out your guitar sound. In Zoom Audio Settings:

- **Turn on** Original Sound for Musicians

Audio profile

- Zoom background noise removal ⓘ
Recommended for most users.
- Personalized audio isolation ⓘ
Recommended for crowded environments.
- Original sound for musicians ⓘ
Recommended for studio environments.
 - High-fidelity music mode ⓘ
 - Echo cancellation ⓘ
 - Stereo audio ⓘ
- Live performance audio ⓘ
Recommended for multiple instruments or voices performing together in a meeting.

- **(Optional)** Turn on High Fidelity Music Mode
(if your computer is fast enough)
- **(Optional)** Turn on Stereo Audio
(if your mic/interface supports it)
- **(Optional)** ONLY if you are using headphones, in the advanced menu (bottom), Set Echo Cancellation to Low or Off.

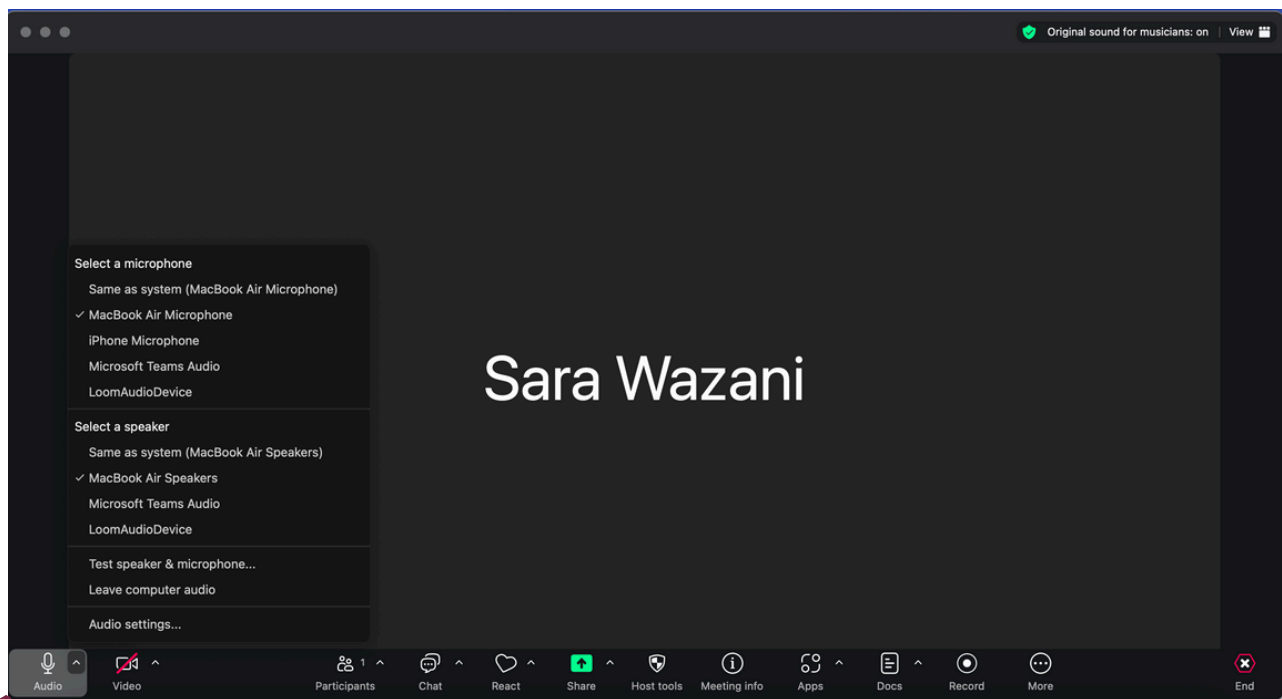
4. DURING THE MEETING – MAKE SURE IT’S ACTIVE

Although this setup only needs to be completed once, Zoom often defaults to the regular speech optimization settings when you enter the room.

Do this once you’re inside the meeting room:

Look for the button at the top-left or top-right that says:

- “Original Sound: Off” → Click it so it changes to **“Original Sound: On.”**



- If you click the arrow next to the mic icon, you can double-check that your mic and headphones are still selected.

Congratulations! We are all done.
Refer to the following page for a handy Zoom checklist.

ZOOM CHECKLIST

- Headphones plugged in and selected in Zoom
- “Automatically adjust microphone volume” off
- “Original Sound for Musicians” enabled
- If using headphones, noise suppression/echo cancellation set to minimal or off
- Test with a quick strum or speak instrumentally and ask the host if your sound is clear
- If you’re lagging, close other heavy internet apps, and use a wired connection if possible