

Top Tips For Improving Recording Quality

1. Microphone/Recording device placement

The recording device should be placed as close to the mouth as is feasible without resulting in clipping, in order to capture more of the voice and less background noise. Determining how close to position the mic will be a factor in (3. Preventing clipping.)

2. Preparing your space

Ensure that air conditioners and fans are off, and there are no predictable sources of loud noises. Sing with your back as close to a wall as possible, facing the long side of the room.

3. Preventing clipping

Always sound check with the loudest part of the piece before committing to a full recording. If you hear clipping, or can see that the shape of the sound wave looks flat on top and is squared off, you can take appropriate action.

- a. If applicable, turn the gain setting (usually a knob) on your microphone down.
- b. If using a device such as a phone or a laptop, try moving slightly further back.
- c. If you notice that clipping occurs in a specific part of your range, and/or you have a relatively angled ceiling or walls, try rotating your recording position to face the wall at a slightly different angle. Reflections of your voice could potentially be making it back into the microphone, overloading it, especially if you are a high alto or soprano.
- d. Try dampening sound reflections by bunching up thick cloth behind you, such as piled towels, a comforter on a clothes drying rack, or a futon mattress thrown up against a wall.

4. Quality Control

Always listen back to your recording after you make it and check for sections that are clipping - (usually the loudest sections.) Wind noises and clipping will require re-recording.

As always, if you have any questions, or want to know how to improve your recordings, please reach out:

bnburke1@gmail.com