

THE MUSIC STAND

COMPILED BY BEN RAZNICK, VP FOR TEACHER ENRICHMENT
THIS COLUMN ADDRESSES TOPICS PERTINENT TO ALL MUSICIANS – SINGERS, INSTRUMENTALISTS, AND PIANISTS

Are Hybrid Environments the New Normal?

by Ben Raznick

I had just been elected President of Denver Area Music Teachers Association (DAMTA) as the world began to reopen during the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2021. After a year of devastation and mourning loss, safety was an absolute priority when returning to in-person activities. It was also important to carry forward the tradition of DAMTA's programming and provide a space for hope and belonging for our colleagues during this difficult time. DAMTA had offered our Fall Course for over 40 years as a professional development series for our membership and music teaching community, and it was important to continue this meaningful work.

After plenty of research, myself and our board of directors at DAMTA were convinced that we should develop a hybrid setup to offer our programming in-person and online at the same time. Furthermore, we would record the sessions and archive their playback. This gave registrants three options to participate, and most importantly, we could all participate together.

I won't deny that we experienced headaches of tech glitches, but each obstacle we encountered created an opportunity for a learning curve that has led our organization to enormous success. Since our undertaking to develop a hybrid environment, we have strengthened our membership attendance and interaction, progressed towards a relevant culture of technology, and have become a resource for others who would like to do the same.

In our first year offering a hybrid model, our Fall Course income increased by 43% and our attendance data also demonstrated positive growth. We found that in our past two years of offering a hybrid Fall Course experience, on average 60% of our viewers joined us online. Our presentation with the highest amount of online viewers reached 72% of our total audience. Conversely, our average in-person attendance dropped to 40% of our total audience, with our lowest in-person attendance reaching only 28% of our total audience. I was surprised to find that many people were showing up online instead of in-person.

Because our hybrid atmosphere was rooted in the intentions to create a safe environment during the pandemic, we were happy to know that some viewers joined virtually due to precaution and health concerns. Others joined online due to accessibility or out of convenience as a way to accommodate their schedule and lifestyle. Some teachers popped-in between students, some stayed home to avoid traffic, and some joined us from out-of-state.

Our online viewers were building a community unique to our in-person audience, and both environments became a microcosm of our hybrid experience. When viewing a presentation in-person, we are accustomed to maintaining silence until the Q&A segment. However, online texting chats were busy and exciting. Viewers shared their feelings, resources and questions throughout the experience. The merging of these worlds was fun and inspiring during an interactive Q&A by displaying the grid of our online viewers on the TV monitor and opening the floor for comments from the entire audience.

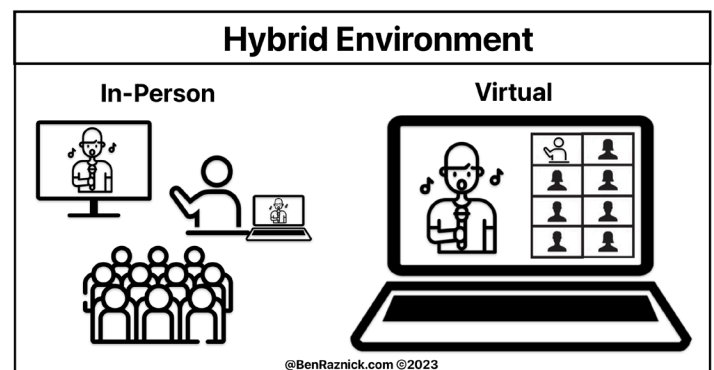
Since developing a hybrid model, DAMTA has only taken further steps to offer more of our programming in-person and online.

I hope that I have inspired you to develop your own hybrid environment, such as music studio hybrid master classes, group lessons, or student orientations and studio meetings. Similarly, I encourage local associations and music organizations to host hybrid meetings, programs and recitals to serve the community who may not have the opportunity to join in-person.

I have included 5 diagrams to help explain the hybrid setup that we have found most successful at DAMTA.

Hybrid Environment:

The In-Person and Virtual experiences both have their benefits.



Hybrid Setup (Beginner):

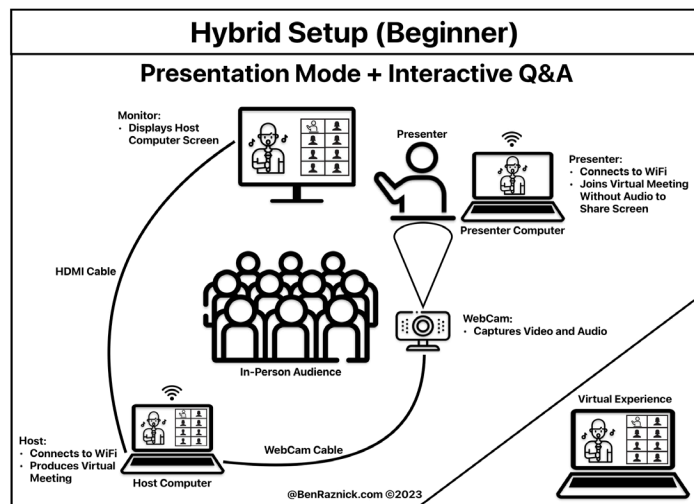
This is a more simple setup using WiFi and minimal cables. The Host Computer connects to WiFi to produce the virtual meeting, connects to a WebCam to present video and audio for online viewers, and displays the computer screen to a monitor with an HDMI cable.

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The Presenter Computer connects to WiFi, joins the virtual meeting and screen-shares the presentation for in-person and online viewers. External speakers for Presenter Computer are recommended.



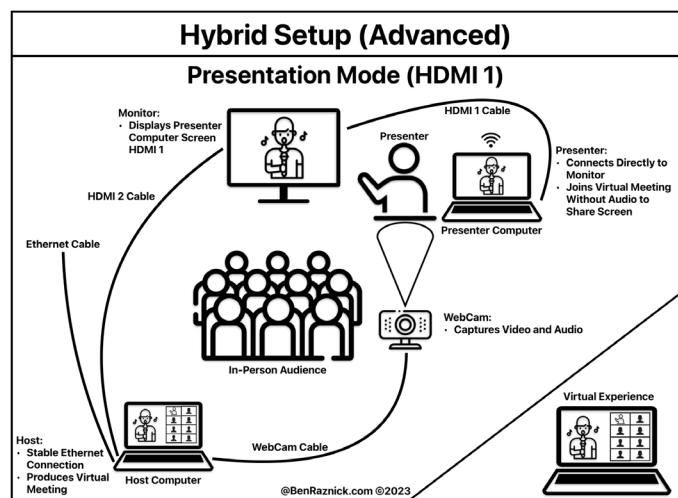
Hybrid Setup (Advanced):

This more advanced setup utilizes more cables and TV inputs. The main benefits are a stable hardware connection for all devices and a clean presentation on the monitor.

Presentation Mode (HDMI 1): TV input set to HDMI Port 1.

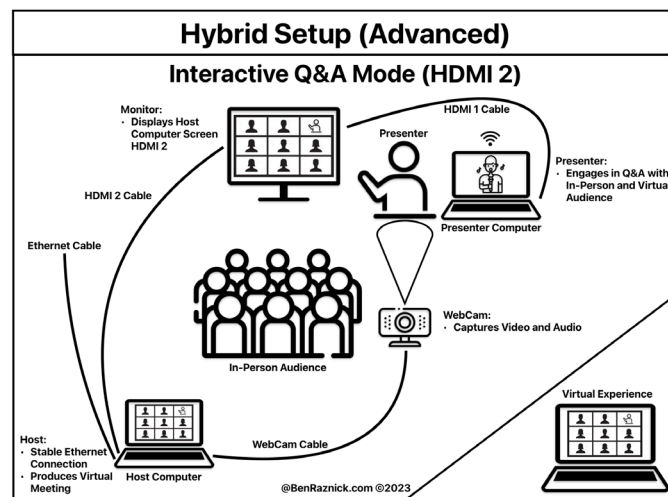
The Host Computer connects to an Ethernet cable to produce the virtual meeting and connects to a WebCam to present video and audio for online viewers.

The Presenter Computer connects to WiFi, joins the virtual meeting and screen-shares the presentation for online viewers. The Presenter Computer displays on the monitor with an HDMI cable into HDMI Port 1. Ensure Presenter Computer audio output is set to the TV monitor.



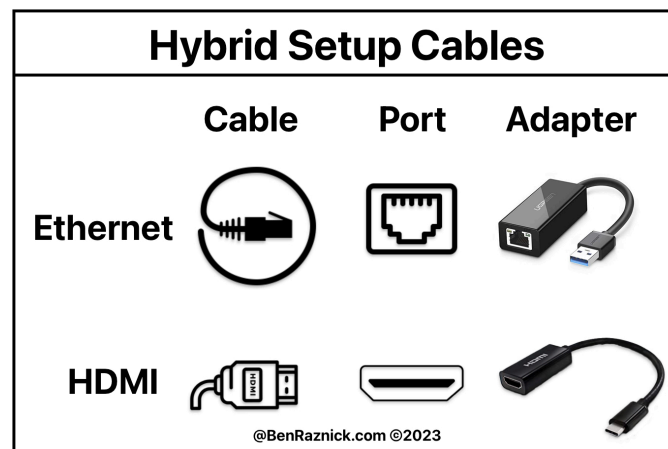
Interactive Q&A Mode (HDMI 2):

TV input is switched to HDMI Port 2. Host Computer ends screen-share of Presenter Computer. Host Computer displays the virtual audience on the monitor with an HDMI cable into HDMI Port 2. Ensure Host Computer audio output is set to the TV monitor.



Hybrid Setup Cables:

HDMI and Ethernet Cables fit into their appropriate ports. Adapters may be needed for the cable to fit into your device.



DAMTA's success in developing a hybrid model is due to a team collaboration of the DAMTA Technology Committee: Kristin Jordheim, Shana Kirk, Vince Madison, Ben Raznick & Joshua Zabatta (names appear in alphabetical order).

Ben Raznick is the President of Denver Area Music Teachers Association (DAMTA) and the newly elected Vice President for Teacher Enrichment of Colorado State Music Teachers Association (CSMTA). Raznick is a 4x recipient of Steinway & Sons Top Music Teacher Award, a Voting Member of the Recording Academy and his project, Birds of a Feather, was the winner of The American Prize.

TEACHER ENRICHMENT CORNER

BEN RAZNICK, VP FOR TEACHER ENRICHMENT
TEACHERS' TOOLKIT (RESOURCES FOR MUSIC TEACHERS)

The GRAMMY awards are presented by the Recording Academy to recognize outstanding achievements in the music industry. As the only peer-recognized music award, the GRAMMY is regarded by many as the music industry's highest honor. Compiled here are three Classical genre winners for you to enjoy from the 65th Annual GRAMMY Awards Telecast, held on Sunday February 5, 2023.

Best Opera Recording

Blanchard: *Fire Shut Up In My Bones*

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, conductor; Angel Blue, Will Liverman, Latonia Moore & Walter Russell III; David Frost, producer (The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; The Metropolitan Opera Chorus)

The first-ever performance of a work by a Black composer



presented by the Met Opera, *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* is an adaptation of Charles M. Blow's memoir by the same name. The story follows the young Charles as he navigates adolescence and struggles to overcome trauma. *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* is available to watch on metopera.org.

Best Orchestral Performance

Works By Florence Price, Jessie Montgomery, Valerie Coleman
Michael Repper, conductor (New York Youth Symphony)

This debut album of the New York Youth Symphony features four works by three African American women composers. This album is also the first time a youth orchestra has ever been represented or won a GRAMMY in this category, featuring orchestra players ages 12 through 22. The project was recorded in small groups, atypical for orchestras, to ensure that nobody contracted Covid-19.

**Best Classical Compendium**

An Adoption Story

Starr Parodi & Kitt Wakeley; Jeff Fair, Starr Parodi & Kitt Wakeley, producers

An Adoption Story is a musical interpretation of Wakeley's journey as a child losing his parents, entering the foster care system, and being separated from his sister. These circumstances eventually led Wakeley to being adopted by two wonderful parents. Later in his life, Wakeley and his wife adopted three siblings to help them avoid the trauma of being separated.

