

## **For the Record**

*A harpist's self-help guide to self-recording*

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### ***Why Self-Recording?***

- Practicality
- Perspective
- Practice

### **Gear**

- Mics

*As a rule, go for stereo, or else use 2 mono mics. Here are a few affordable options:*

- > Rode VideoMic Pro
- > Zoom H4N Pro
- > AudioTechnica AT-8024

- Headphones

- > In a pinch, your Apple earbuds work just fine!
- > If you're looking for a step up, try the Sennheiser HD280PRO

- Software

*There are many expensive recording software programs available, but chances are all you'll need is something basic. Here are some good options:*

- > For Mac: GarageBand
- > For Windows or Linux: Audacity

### **Prep Mode**

- > Aim for the 3 out of 5 rule
- > Look out for extraneous playing noise
- > Budget in extra time

## **On Recording Day**

### - Space

—> Doesn't have to be very reverberant

—> Largest room possible

—> High ceilings, distant walls

### - Noise

—> Don't forget to turn off any fans, AC units, refrigerators, or anything else that might create background noise

### - Mic Placement

—> A good place to start is ~20-45 degrees off the column, ~5 feet high and ~5-6 feet away. But this all varies depending on your space, so feel free to play around with it and try different things! If you need more clarity in the lower strings, lower the mics, and vice versa.

## **Before You Begin:**

—> Emotionally prepare

—> Enlist a friend

—> Embrace the Red Dot

## **Post-Recording**

- Number your takes

- Take a break

- Don't worry about all the bells & whistles

- Choose the take that represents you the best (not necessarily the “most perfect” one)

*Questions? Feel free to contact me at [rachelhallharp@gmail.com](mailto:rachelhallharp@gmail.com) or contact me on Instagram @rachellehall! I'd love to hear from you!*