2021 MTNA Collegiate Symposium
Best Idea Session: A Better Virtual Studio Class Method
Youtube Live and OBS instructions

Chen Liang, DMA Candidate
Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY
pianolich@hotmail.com

Preparation:

1. Activate Youtube Live Channel: If you haven't had your YouTube live channel yet, you can go to your YouTube account and activate your live channel for free. This usually takes up to 24 hours. (To save time here, you can watch the first 1'30" of this video: https://youtu.be/OLyXimS_Mtw). For Mac users, Safari might not work for YouTube live, please use Google Chrome.

2. Download OBS Studio: We are using the OBS Studio as the sound and video capture tool, which can be downloaded from https://obsproject.com It works both for pc and Mac. Install the OBS app, and leave the settings window there if it pops out.

3. Connect OBS with Youtube live:
   a. **Find your stream key** on your activated Youtube live channel. (click on "create" , the camera look icon on the right top on YouTube home page, then click "Go Live", then click "Stream" on the left side, you should be able to see your stream key along with stream URL under the "Stream Settings" column if you scroll down). Copy your stream key.
   b. **Finish stream settings in OBS:** go back to OBS, if the settings window is not there, click on "settings" on the left bottom, and then click "stream" on the right column. In the stream settings, Select "Youtube/Youtube Gaming" as the "Service", and paste your stream key to the "stream key" column. Press "Ok"

4. Camera and Mic control: all the control is done through OBS, so you don't need to adjust any mic or camera settings in Youtube.You can control your sound input level and video capture quality by using the control panel in OBS.

Streaming:

1. Start streaming: open your Youtube Live channel, click on "Stream" on the left. And then start OBS, click on "Start Streaming", you are all set!

2. Share your stream link: do not copy paste the link you see under your stream key, find your share link by click on the "share" button on the top right.

3. Scheduling a stream: Every time you start a new streaming, it will generate a new link. So for studio class, it would be more convenient if you schedule a streaming and get the link ahead of time to send to your studio members. To schedule a streaming, click on "manage" on the left column of your YouTube live page, and then click on the blue button on the right top saying "schedule stream". Once your schedule is done, then you could save the link of that specific scheduled event and pass it to your studio mates. (P.S. When you start the stream, remember to click on the stream event you scheduled, or your link won't be working properly)

Helpful video: if you need more help, watch this video: https://youtu.be/OtJHX7O3p5U

Attention: do not use the same device for both Zoom and OBS, the two will firstly eat up each others internet, and secondly, Zoom will interfere with the OBS video and mic settings, causing it to collapse. So if you are streaming through your computer, use your phone or pad for our zoom meeting.