

# **Second Life And Other Virtual Realities: A New Performance Venue For You Or Your Students**

Nowadays, live concerts take place in all sorts of venues, including virtual reality environments. Learn how to locate a virtual concert space, invite an audience, perform live for friends and strangers, and even make money!

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## **Important Terminology**

SL = Second Life

RL = Real Life

### **(1) Getting Started in SL and Customizing Your Avatar**

Linden Labs, the host of SL, offers a great PDF tutorial for getting started and for customizing your avatar:

[http://static-secondlife-com.s3.amazonaws.com/downloads/en/Second\\_Life\\_Quickstart.pdf](http://static-secondlife-com.s3.amazonaws.com/downloads/en/Second_Life_Quickstart.pdf)

### **(2) Finding Musical Events**

SL provides a great deal of information here:

[http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Live\\_Performance\\_Home](http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Live_Performance_Home)

Additional information is available here:

[http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Events\\_in\\_Second\\_Life](http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Events_in_Second_Life)

A great venue for classical music is Amadora Hall, owned and managed by Clarissima Schumann.

There are many, many places for pop music, dancing, and socializing. Our favorites include:

Solar Winds  
Sunset Jazz Club

### **(3) What You Need to Perform in SL**

There are several things that you need in order to perform music in SL. If you perform in an existing establishment, many of these items will be provided to you and the manager may guide you with respect to the rest. Here is our list:

#### **(a) A Place to Play in RL**

When you perform in SL, you are going to stream the sound of your playing in RL into SL. So, you need a location—such as your own studio—when you will play. This means that you need:

- a RL instrument
- a RL microphone
- audio input to your computer
- computer software to send out an audio stream directly to your SL audience or to a streaming server that, in turn, streams the audio to your SL audience. More about the software below.

Although it is technically possible to record yourself ahead of time and stream your recording into SL, this is frowned upon if your performance is billed as a live performance.

#### **(b) A Place to Play in SL**

You cannot arbitrarily stream audio into SL. Audio streams are controlled by landowners. If you own land, you can stream audio to your own parcel.

If you are not ready to buy land and build a performance venue, you can perform in existing venues if you come to an agreement with the owner of the venue. Venues include concert halls, clubs, and similar locations. Some clubs even have open-mic nights.

#### **(c) An Instrument with Scripted Animation**

If you plan to play an instrument, it is appropriate for your avatar to have a SL version of that instrument in hand at the time of the performance. If you play piano in an existing establishment, the instrument may be provided for you. In other cases, you'll need to shop around in SL and acquire your own instrument.

The better instruments have built-in scripting that will animate your avatar when you hold the instrument or sit at the instrument.

#### **(d) Audio Streaming Software**

In order to stream the audio of your performer to the avatars in SL, you need software that either streams audio directly to your audience or to a streaming server which provides multiple streams. Unless you have enormous amounts of bandwidth at your RL performance location, you'll probably need to stream your performance to a streaming audio server. On the other hand, if you are performing for half a dozen avatars or less, you may be able to stream audio directly.

The best streaming software option for the Macintosh is *Nicecast*, which costs \$40:

[www.rogueamoeba.com](http://www.rogueamoeba.com)

Information for using *Nicecast* with SL is available here:

<http://macaudioguy.com/streaming-audio-into-second-life-from-a-mac>

The best streaming software option for a Windows computer is *Winamp*. The basic version is free and is available at:

[www.winamp.com](http://www.winamp.com)

A video tutorial for *Winamp* is available here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtd0DwJZgYU>

#### **(e) Audio Streaming Server**

As mentioned above, it is unlikely that you can provide audio streams for more than half a dozen avatars without a streaming audio server.

Many of the performance venues provide such a server and will tell you how to use it. If you are creating your own performance venue or have permission to perform in a location that does not feature a streaming audio server, you can pay a fee to use a server. Expect to pay about \$25 USD per month for a server.

#### **(d) Tip Jar**

Many avatars in SL will pay small amounts of money as appreciation for a live performance. Usually this is done by way of a scripted tip jar.

Most performance venues already have a tip jar. If you are setting up your own venue, you'll want to shop for this object and learn how to set it up.

The March 1, 2008 edition of *Electronic Musician* had a very good article on performing in SL:

[http://emusician.com/tutorials/playing\\_concerts\\_second/index.html](http://emusician.com/tutorials/playing_concerts_second/index.html)

#### **(4) Teen Performers in Second Life**

Teens and adults are segregated with teens having their own virtual world separate from that of the adults. Here is a guide for teens who aspire to perform in SL and for adults who wish to set up educational performance for teens:

<http://olpglobalkids.org/pdfs/GKguidetoSLpresenting.pdf>

#### **(5) How to Stream Audio in SL**

Excellent information is available here:

[http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Streaming\\_Music](http://wiki.secondlife.com/wiki/Streaming_Music)

#### **(6) Videos of Various SL Performances on YouTube, Vimeo, *Et Cetera***

You can find lots of video examples of SL performances on YouTube, Vimeo, and other video websites. Just do a search for "Second Life" with some other search term, such as "live music" or "dance."

Here are some interesting videos involving our SL friends:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHmHwSORhfs&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofOrfI99Jn0>

<https://www.xstreetsl.com/modules.php?name=Marketplace&file=item&ItemID=164589>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfvGX\\_-9vlo&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfvGX_-9vlo&feature=related)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRdFDvWVSGA>

<http://exploringvirtualworlds.wikidot.com/anu-papp>