

MEMO

TO: Lionel Hampton School of Music Community
FROM: Vanessa Sielert Director, Lionel Hampton School of Music
DATE: July 29, 2020
RE: Plans for Fall Instruction



Thank you for your patience with us as we determined best practices during this time of unknown. Just like you, I am anxious for things to return to normal. I long for a time when I can make music in person with all of the musicians I have come to know through the years. I long to get on a plane and travel to a gig, perform with a symphony orchestra and give clinics and workshops at regional and national festivals. Just like you, all of my music making with others has come to a halt.

Things will be different this fall. However, we have planned to make music making and the sense of community at the forefront of what we do. As I surveyed your music faculty, the unanimous response to the question of what was mandatory in our offerings was music making experiences - including ensembles and lessons. This communication includes a lot of information. You may wish to hold onto this memo for future reference. Here are our current plans for instruction this fall:

- Face to face studio instruction
 - Music majors will receive 45 minutes of instruction with a 15-minute break between lessons to let the room “breathe”
 - Lessons will be given in spaces that allow for 12-15 foot spacing between student and teacher
 - Every studio space will be equipped with 6’ by 4 ½’ clear, vinyl barriers
 - A barrier will be placed in front of every person in the room (student, teacher and pianist)
 - Windows will be opened during instruction
- Face to face choral experience
 - One choir will meet in the ASUI Kibbie Dome, MWF at 1:30pm
 - Choral members will be distanced by 15 feet
 - Choral members will wear choral masks, provided by the LHSOM and developed by a company on Broadway
- Face to face instrumental experience
 - All instrumentalists will audition at the beginning of the semester
 - Each instrumentalist will be placed in **one** chamber ensemble

- These chamber ensembles will meet with a coach at a time to be determined, two days per week
- Room 216, 116, 117, 119, 102 and Haddock Performance Hall have all been reserved and rearranged for ensemble rehearsal at 12-15 foot spacing
- Clear, vinyl barriers will be placed in ensemble rehearsal rooms
- Windows will be opened during instruction
- Face to face classroom instruction
 - All non-performance classes have been moved to other locations on campus where students can be socially distanced
- Face to face piano class
 - All piano class students will be required to wear a mask
 - Additional sections of class piano have been opened to limit student enrollment to five in each section
- Live-streamed area recitals and convocations
 - All area recitals and convocations will occur at normally scheduled times
 - All will be performed live with appropriate select faculty and performers present
- Live-streamed recitals and concerts
 - All recitals and concerts will be given without an audience
 - All recitals and concerts will be live-streamed
- Practice rooms restricted
 - Practice spaces will be assigned
 - Several students will be assigned to each practice space
 - Students are to practice **only** in their designated space
 - Students will have the opportunity to sign up for particular practice times
- Cleaning protocols
 - Cleaning by facilities will be more frequent
 - Students are responsible for the cleanliness of their own spaces
 - Disinfectant and hand-sanitizer will be available in all locations
 - Paper towels available at all locations
 - Students supplied with soft cleaning cloths for sanitization of pianos
 - Students needing to release spit valves supplied cloths for collection
- Standard protocols
 - Masks will be worn in public spaces **at all times**
 - No congregating in or about the music building or music facilities
 - Practice good hygiene at all times
 - No parties or large social gatherings outside of class

The last bullet point is the one that we in the LHSOM cannot enforce but may be the most important of all. We each have a responsibility to our community. Our community is one of musicians. We all know that we are a special breed. We need to watch out for one another - even if we feel like we are well, we don't know enough about this new coronavirus to know all of the answers. I know that you, just like me, want everything to be back to normal as soon as possible. I ask that you do your part by thoughtfully examining all of the above guidelines in

hopes that we can really make this semester a go for students in the LHSOM. We are all counting on each other to bring our best.

I anticipate questions regarding only one ensemble per student. To this point, I will express two thoughts. For one, this is a way for us to be able to provide every student with an ensemble experience. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, we should be viewing this as an opportunity. Much the same as you find upon graduation, when in the early years of your professional career you will likely move to an unfamiliar place. Upon your arrival you will meet musicians. You will land a gig with some of these musicians, but you will likely not land several gigs immediately. The gig that you land will likely not be with your ideal ensemble, but you may make the connections you need to land the gig of your dreams. Use this as real-life experience.

As a side note, I have also been asked recently if students should continue or take time away from pursuing their degree. My answer is unequivocally - keep pursuing your passion. Just like you, I had no idea where I would land at any point in my pursuit of musicianship. I only knew that I loved music and wanted to work for that. This is a time of unknown - for me too - so why not pursue a known: music. When, and we don't know when, we do return to a more normal sense of society, music and music education will be needed more than ever. Continue toward your goal of making the best music possible.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you, masked up in a few weeks. Again, I appreciate your patience and ask for your continued flexibility as things evolve. Please mark your calendars for an all-school opening meeting **Sunday, August 23 at 6:30pm** (location TBD) when we will go over all of the details of our semester plan. I can't wait to hear music again amongst these halls. Until then, Go Vandals!