

School of Music
Penn State University
Ensemble Health and Safety Procedures
Fall 2020
Updated, August 10, 2020

The following document conforms to all Penn State University COVID-19 related policies and procedures. New information will be added as it comes to hand, so make sure to check the document regularly. You can find a wealth of university COVID related information here: <https://virusinfo.psu.edu/back-to-state>

Ensemble Directors are committed first and foremost to maintaining your health and providing the best possible instruction during a time of pandemic. For us to share in-person music-making while taking care of each other's health, it is critical that we follow the policies and procedures listed below. If you have further questions, please contact your ensemble director.

General Policies for All Ensembles

- A person must NOT attend any in-person class if you have any flu symptoms – fever, headache, cough, nausea etc., or were in close contact with an infected person in the previous two weeks. Notify your director of your absence prior to the rehearsal.
- Facemasks are always required on-campus. Clear masks (see <https://www.theclearmask.com/>) are considered facemasks and are different from face shields, which are not a substitute for face masks. Specific examples of acceptable masks are included in the main University PPE guidelines document:

https://pennstateoffice365.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/KeepTeachingSupportDocuments/_layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?e=cv9cSw&CID=1ae78390-c447-e45c-0df2-2e11b4f1f591&share=EbdMgIg-iKFJpzp_kpo7R4sBHZZuuam6s9LZZIGCg3AXAA
- Face shields may be worn in addition to a facemask, but not as a substitute for a facemask.
- Before, during and after rehearsal, observe physical distancing of at least 6ft. Unless masked and physically distanced, students must not congregate or visit with each other before, during, or after rehearsal.
- Physically distanced conversations between students and directors before and after rehearsal must occur in a sufficiently sized space away from the rehearsal area to allow the room to ventilate.
- Thorough hand washing is extremely important. Brass, wind and percussion players should be sure to wash hands for at least 20 seconds before and after rehearsals. Others can use hand sanitization stations throughout the School of Music. You may need to allow extra time before rehearsal in order to socially distance in the restrooms.
- Always use your own music – no spare copies will be provided.

- Before leaving the rehearsal space, disinfect your seat and be sure to take all your belongings with you (including water bottles. Note, water bottles will be disposed of if left in the room). Cleaning supplies will be available in each classroom and rehearsal space.
- Rehearsals will be no longer than 30 minutes (for choirs and winds) and 45 minutes (for non-wind instruments).
- Between rehearsals there must be sufficient time for rooms to ventilate; 30 minutes is the minimum, but for winds, brass and voice, as much as 60 minutes is preferable.
- No live audiences will be present for performances which will be livestreamed via the School of Music website.

BANDS

Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band

The band faculty are committed to providing meaningful and high-quality music making experiences while maintaining your health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. While this semester will look like none other, we will all work together to keep the ensembles healthy and productive. The recommendations and considerations below are based on preliminary research results specific to wind instruments and university guidelines.

Note: While it is much preferred for participation to be hybrid (in-person when scheduled, and remote, when not), it is possible to participate in band remotely. An audition will still be required for SWE and SB. If you intend to participate remotely, please contact Dr. Mitchell-Spradlin as soon as possible.

Auditions: (For SWE, SB, and Orchestra. Concert Band does not require an audition)

- Students of ANY MAJOR can audition for SWE, SB, or Orchestra.
- Auditions will occur via video submission.
- Students will upload videos as an unlisted Youtube video.
- Students will use [THIS LINK](#) to fill out the audition form and upload their audition video.
- [CLICK HERE for audition form/video submission/materials](#)
- WW and Brass Videos are due Monday, August 24th at NOON.
- Percussion Videos are due Friday, August 28th at NOON.
- Ensemble sizes will mimic that of a regular full ensemble. They will then be divided into chamber groups to meet room capacity limits.
- Students who do not place into SWE or SB are encouraged to play in CB.

Placement: (For SWE and SB)

- Students will be notified of their ensemble placement on Friday, August 28th via email. Once notified, students should enroll in the correct ensemble in LionPath.

Your Responsibility:

- Before, during and after rehearsals, observe social distancing of at least 6ft.
- Use your own music.
- Use your own instrument. Percussionists must use your own sticks and mallets.
- Arrive warmed up and ready to play.
- Utilize sanitation stations after touching equipment, doors, etc...
- Empty spit into a disposable pad (supplied) or closeable container – brass. Wash hands immediately after rehearsal or performance.
- Refrain from blowing keys – woodwinds.
- To avoid cross-contamination, cleaning of wind/brass instruments must take place in a different area from instruction/performance.

Materials Needed for Each Rehearsal:

- Mask – a mask with a slit to facilitate instrumental performance will be provided. This mask is for rehearsals and performances only, and you will need to change into and out of the wind-instrument mask before entering the rehearsal room. Make sure you are at least 6ft away from someone when changing masks.
- Stand – all students will bring their own music stand.
- Spit pads –all students will empty spit into disposable pads (provided) that are thrown away after use OR spit must be emptied into a closeable container with disinfectant then emptied in a sink immediately after rehearsal (container not provided).
- Music –no one will share music.
- Instrument –no one will share instruments or instrument accessories; mutes, etc... Percussionists, this will require you to plan ahead.
- 80+ denier bell covering - all instruments will be required to utilize a bell cover. Provided for all instruments except horns. Horns will need to procure their own bell covers.
- HORNS: 2 packs of 80+ denier hose with the waist stretched across the bell. The hand will be inserted in the leg portion of the stocking.
- PERCUSSIONISTS: Disinfect instruments after performing, do not share mallets/sticks, follow studio and PAS guidelines. If non-wind instruments must be shared, instrument surfaces must be disinfected with approved products before handing to the next person.

Rehearsal Structure:

- Members of SWE and SB will be divided into chamber groups of 8-15 (the Blue Band Building allows for more students in the CB).
- Rehearsals will last 30 minutes with a ventilation break of at least 30 minutes between each group. These numbers may fluctuate as ventilation is further investigated.
- All rehearsals will be streamed synchronously via Zoom and recorded.
- Students will need to stagger arrival and departure times to ensure social distancing of at least 6ft. You may need to allow extra time for this.
- Chairs will be pre-set-up prior to student entry using blue dots for pre-specified spacing – a minimum of 8.5 ft for winds and brass, 9ft for trombones.
- Students will disinfect chairs prior to leaving rehearsal.

Meeting/Times:

- Week one of classes: No ensemble meetings.
- Week two of classes: SWE and SB meet virtually/synchronously during their regular rehearsal times. CB meets in person at the Blue Band Building.
- Week three of classes: chamber group rotations begin at the School of Music with SWE and SB. CB continues to meet at the Blue Band Building.

Communication:

- Students will receive consistent communication regarding rehearsal schedule, virtual elements, and ensemble updates either through Canvas, OneDrive, or via email.

Performances:

- There will be no performances with live audiences, but will take the form of livestream simulcast, or recordings, including possible virtual bands.

Please direct any questions relating to bands and wind ensembles to Dr. Tonya Mitchell-Spradlin at TMitchellSpradlin@psu.edu.

CHOIRS

Campus Choir, Concert Choir, Essence of Joy, Glee Club, Oriana Singers, University Choir

Note: While it is much preferred for participation to be hybrid (in-person when scheduled, and remote, when not), it is possible to participate in choirs remotely. If you intend to participate remotely, please let your director know as soon as possible.

Auditions – Sunday, August 23 – Thursday, August 27

- Due to the extraordinary times, only new students to University Park, or returning students who wish to change or add choirs, are required to audition during the first week of class. All auditions will be remote using the Zoom platform.
- Complete the online audition sign-up sheet and audition form before your audition.

Audition Sign-up:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1R91lpNYwwT0OQsvlPLTK_J5ZQPfTme8ODbvzp6w_dbA/edit

Audition Form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RY30fNs9iUOpwcEVUm61Lg_U13CoX01BrzdfFutSq2NUNzU5U002MEJFNEdTTzRVtk9QTVJUSV4k4NC4u

The audition will include simple vocalizations to establish range and voice part; a short sight-singing extract, and some simple ear tests where you will sing back short melodic fragments played on the piano.

You will be notified of ensemble placement by email before 5:00PM on Friday, August 28. Once you have that information, you can register for that class on Lionpath.

You can find information about each choir (including rehearsal times) here: <https://arts.psu.edu/school-of-music-ensembles/>

COVID-19 Procedures for Choir Rehearsals:

- STAY HOME and communicate with your ensemble director if you have flu like symptoms including fever, headache, cough, nausea, etc...
- Wear a face mask at all times. Procedural masks will be supplied for all choral singers and must be worn at all times during the rehearsal. Cloth masks are acceptable.
- A minimum of 8.5' social distance is required between singers, and students will seat in clearly marked, designated chairs.
- Chairs must be in straight lines facing the same direction. Rows will be staggered (like choral windows when standing on risers).
- Rehearsals will be limited to 30 minutes.

- Singers need to arrive at rehearsal warmed up and ready to sing.
- No singing or talking without wearing face masks.

Rehearsals:

- Where possible, rehearsals will be a synchronous hybrid, with students participating concurrently in-person and remotely via Zoom. To help reduce the risk of infection, a maximum of 16 singers will rehearse in-person. In-person singers will rotate over 3-4 consecutive rehearsals.
- Rehearsals will begin in Week 2, and directors will advise ensembles as to the format.

Performances:

- There will be no performances with live audiences, but will take the form of livestream simulcast, or recordings, including possible virtual choirs.

Please direct any questions relating to choral ensembles to Dr. Christopher Kiver at cak27@psu.edu.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

Center Dimensions, Inner Dimensions, Outer Dimensions, Vocal Dimensions

Auditions:

- In-person auditions: August 24/25 in Room 128 MB II.
- August 24: Rhythm Section instruments for Big Bands and Jazz Combos as well as horn players interested in being in a Jazz Combo.
- Aug 25: Trumpet, Saxophones and Trombones for Big Band sections.
- Aug 26: Vocal Dimensions sign-up sheet will be posted on the Jazz Bulletin Board MB II, please bring a “pen” to print your name, email and voice part.
- An online jazz ensemble audition registration with times will be circulated to student emails, social media and School of Music website.
- Audition requirements and specifics can be found at <https://arts.psu.edu/ensemble-auditions>

COVID-19 Procedures for Rehearsals:

- STAY HOME and communicate with your ensemble director if you have flu like symptoms including fever, headache, cough, nausea, etc...
- Wear a face mask at all times.
- Before, during and after rehearsal observe social distancing of at least 6ft.
- In rehearsal and performance, physical distancing for singers and wind players must be a minimum of 8.5 feet, 9ft for trombones.
- Arrive warmed up and ready to play.
- Utilize sanitation stations after touching equipment, doors, etc...
- Refrain from blowing keys – woodwinds.
- Mask – preferably a mask with a slit to facilitate instrumental performance (provided). This mask is for rehearsals and performances only, and you will need to change into and out of the wind-instrument mask before entering the rehearsal room. Make sure you are at least 6ft away from someone when changing masks.
- Music Stand – bring your own music stand.
- Spit-valves must not be drained on to floors. Drain either into a closeable container that has disinfectant in it to neutralize pathogens, or onto a disposable puppy-pad type absorbent with a nonporous backing (provided). Sealable containers are also appropriate and should be emptied in a sink after use. It is imperative that wind players wash their hands thoroughly immediately after each practice session, lesson, and rehearsal.
- Music –no one will share music.
- Instrument –no one will share instruments or instrument accessories; mouthpieces, mutes, drumsticks etc... If instruments must be shared (piano, amps, drum kit etc), it is essential to disinfect surfaces before passing off to the next student.

- To avoid cross-contamination, cleaning of wind/brass instruments must take place in a different area from instruction/performance.
- 80+ denier bell coverings (provided) must be used (except French Horns) will be provided. An example for Trombone can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/0s5kAgBAhAk>
- Students will need to stagger arrival and departure times to ensure social distancing of at least 6ft. You may need to allow extra time for this.
- Prior to rehearsal, chairs will be pre-set for designated seating.
- Using cleaning supplies in the rehearsal room, students will disinfect chairs prior to leaving rehearsal.

Proposed Schedule:

- Week one: No ensemble meetings.
- Week two: Jazz Ensembles meet at scheduled times.
- Rehearsals will last 30 minutes with a ventilation break of at least 30 minutes. These numbers may fluctuate as ventilation is further investigated. Rhythm section players will be asked to start each rehearsal and arrive promptly for set up.
- Virtual instructional elements will be included throughout the semester including topics related to the Jazz band medium, virtual rehearsal, and virtual performances.
- All rehearsals will be simulcast on Zoom and recorded.
- Performance opportunities will be evaluated as the semester progresses and may include livestream performances and/or recorded performances.

Please direct any questions relating to Jazz ensembles to Prof. Marko Marcinko at mum385@psu.edu.

OPERA

For Fall 2020, Opera Workshop is being offered remotely.

Auditions are not required, though enrollment will be capped for graduate students in Voice Performance and Performance and Pedagogy and undergraduate students in Voice Performance. Other students may register by permission of instructor.

Please direct any questions relating to Opera to Dr. Ted Christopher at euc11@psu.edu.

ORCHESTRAS

Campus Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra

Philharmonic Orchestra

Rehearsals will take place on T, TH 4:00-6:00pm in Esber Rehearsal Room (121 MBI)
The orchestra will be divided in four groups: 2 string ensembles, woodwinds and brass/percussion. The repertoire for strings will include Dvorak's *Serenade*, Beethoven's *Grosse Fugue* among others. Winds and percussion will work on standard orchestral repertoire including Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 6* and Brahms' *Symphony No. 4*.

Chamber Orchestra

Rehearsals will take place on M, W 3:35-5:30pm in Esber Rehearsal Room (121 MBI).
The orchestra will be divided in two nonets and work on pieces by Louise Farrenc and Walter Piston.

AUDITIONS

Auditions are required for students interested in participating in the Philharmonic and/or Chamber Orchestras. Please submit a YouTube link of your playing with two contrasting pieces from two different composers. Movements from sonatas, concertos, suites and etudes or orchestral excerpts are acceptable.

*Woodwinds and brass applicants may submit the excerpts required for the band audition but please make sure you add at least a solo piece of your choice.

Here is the link to the audition form and where you will upload your video:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RY30fNs9iUOpwcEVUm61LizX2lqLLR5PjGjjXEPL3BUMEE2SE45MFZBOE9XVjZLTjNTWVRUMURCNi4u>

Deadlines for submitting your videos:

Strings: Wednesday, August 26th at Noon
Woodwinds, Brass: Monday, August 24th at Noon
Percussion: Friday, August 28th at Noon

COVID-19 Procedures for Rehearsals

- STAY HOME and communicate with your ensemble director if you have flu-like symptoms including fever, headache, cough, nausea, etc...
- Wear a face mask at all times. Wind and brass players will be issued one wind-instrument mask to be used in rehearsals and performances only. You will need to change into and out of the wind-instrument mask before entering the rehearsal room. Make sure you are at least 6ft away from someone when changing masks.
- Before, during and after rehearsal observe social distancing of at least 6ft.
- In rehearsal and performance, physical distancing for singers, wind and percussion players must be a minimum of 8.5 feet, 9ft for trombones.

- Bring your own music stand – Strings will not share stands.
- Use your own music – no one will share music.
- Arrive to rehearsals warmed up and ready to play.
- Utilize sanitation stations after touching equipment, doors, etc...
- Woodwinds and Brass, please refer to Band guidelines.
- Refrain from blowing keys – woodwinds.
- Spit-valves must not be drained on to floors. Drain either into a closeable container that has disinfectant in it to neutralize pathogens, or onto a disposable puppy-pad type absorbent with a nonporous backing (provided). Sealable containers are also appropriate and should be emptied in a sink after use. It is imperative that wind players wash their hands thoroughly immediately after each practice session, lesson, and rehearsal.
- Instrument –no one will share instruments or instrument accessories; mouthpieces, mutes, drumsticks etc... If instruments must be shared (piano, amps, drum kit etc.), it is essential to disinfect surfaces before passing off to the next student.
- To avoid cross-contamination, cleaning of wind/brass instruments must take place in a different area from instruction/performance.
- 80+ denier bell coverings (provided) must be used (except French Horns) will be provided. An example for Trombone can be seen here: <https://youtu.be/0s5kAgBAhAk>
- Students will need to stagger arrival and departure times to ensure social distancing of at least 6ft. You may need to allow extra time for this.
- Prior to rehearsal, chairs will be pre-set for designated seating.
- Using cleaning supplies in the rehearsal room, students will disinfect chairs prior to leaving rehearsal.

Rehearsals:

- Please check the rehearsal schedules every week on CANVAS.
- Arrive at rehearsal at least 10 minutes before starting time when possible.
- Rehearsals will last 30-45 minutes with a ventilation break of at least 30 minutes between each group. These numbers may fluctuate as ventilation is further investigated.

Performances:

- Performance opportunities will be evaluated as the semester progresses and may include livestream performances and/or recorded performances.

Please direct any questions relating to Orchestras to Prof. Gerardo Edelstein at gfe1@psu.edu.

Campus Orchestra:

Auditions are required. Campus Orchestra will be taught as a hybrid course this semester. Students returning to campus will meet for in-person rehearsals. Alternate coursework will be assigned for students who have elected not to return to campus this fall. For more details and audition information, please contact David Flowers at daflowers@psu.edu