

Midsummer Musical Retreat



Dear Members of the Midsummer Musical Retreat Community,

It is March and, as promised, the Board has reviewed the COVID Situation. We are committed to returning to Walla Walla but, sadly, must wait until 2022. 2021 is just too uncertain for any of us as individuals to make plans for large group events; and much too uncertain for MMR to be held with safety for all. We are excited for an exciting return in 2022 and hope you will all find new ways to engage in music through the coming months.

The significant considerations are:

- Unpredictable Vaccine Availability.
- Washington requirements for Performing Arts (1/11/2).
- The unpredictable impact of variants on caseloads and disease in the next few months.
- Stated reluctance of our “campers” and faculty for plunging ahead this year.

The Washington COVID-19 requirements are very specific and directly applicable to the MMR program. All of Washington, including Walla Walla, is currently in Phase 2. There is no expectation of moving to Phase 3 or 4 by a certain date. And no guarantee that we will not return to Phase 1.

The general guidelines include detailed specifics about sanitation, ventilation, signage etc.

- **Phase 2: Indoor:** Maximum capacity is 25% of the venue/space or 200 people, whichever is less. Groups with a maximum of six people are permitted. Each group must be physically distanced six feet apart and maintain six feet of separation from others at all times. All individuals in attendance must wear a face covering. A minimum of 20 feet of physical distancing is required between artists/performers and the audience. There is a two-hour time limit on all performances/events.
- **Phase 2: Outdoor:** Groups of up to 15 people are permitted, but are limited to two households per group. Groups must be physically distanced six feet apart and maintain six feet of separation from others at all times. All individuals in attendance must wear a face covering. A minimum of 20 feet of physical distancing is required between artists/performers and the audience. A maximum 200 individuals including artists, crew, and audience may be in the designated area. There is a three-hour time limit on all performances/events.

These guidelines would limit our use of Chism Auditorium, the Music Rehearsal Room, Reid Ballroom, and the Harper Joy Theater. Cordiner Hall has a capacity of 1400 so would be usable. Fermata Bar would be limited to clusters of 15 masked people.

The Discipline-specific Requirements are very informative.

- **Choral/Vocal** All group performance activities that involve singing require everyone to wear a three-layer surgical mask and maintain at least 9 feet (12 feet is recommended) of physical distance from others. Group singing/choirs are limited to no more than 15 individuals. Rehearsals may be held indoors for up to 45 minutes at a time with 30-minute breaks in between to allow for air exchange.
- **Orchestra/Instrumental Phase 1 and 2 Rehearsals:**
 - **String and percussion instruments** must maintain a minimum of six feet of physical distancing. Participants must wear masks.
 - **Brass & woodwind instruments** must maintain a minimum of 9 feet of physical distancing and use a bell cover. Participants must wear masks when not playing.

We encourage everyone to find musical activities to pursue over the coming months. Here are some ideas for you to try.

- Brass and wind players gear up with bell covers. Flutes need mouthpiece masks too.

- Plan ahead for 2022. Pre-Arrange a chamber ensemble and pick repertoire. Maybe some [ZOOM](#) score study. You could hire a coach too! • Engage with the MMR community on [Facebook](#). Find inspiration from the great things your friends are doing. Share your own triumphs!
- Explore the Midsummer Retreat [Concert Hall](#) and plunge into multi-screen recordings with your colleagues.
- If you haven't already, explore [IMSLP](#) for repertoire.
- Explore [YouTube](#) for exercises to return to playing form.
- Play along with Isaac Stern, Jan-Pierre Rampal, or Alison Balsom using the YouTube feature that slows down the performance without changing pitch.
- Engage in chamber music projects sponsored by the [Amateur Chamber Music Players](#).
- Bite the bullet and learn to use [Jamulus](#) or [Jamkazam](#). They really do work!
- Register and participate in on-line workshops.
- Take a [Master Class](#) with Isaac Perlman, Alicia Keyes or Herbie Hancock.

The Board has made good use of this year preparing for a smooth re-opening. We have written Policies & Procedures for everything we do. We have updated the Registration Data reporting. We are looking forward to A Skit Night that is better than ever! Can't wait for Check-In 2022...have been dreaming about Elbow Bumps for The Usual Suspects.

If you have any questions please reply or send an email to midsummer@musicalretreat.org.

Sincerely,
Midsummer Musical Retreat Board of Directors



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