MAKING MUSIC IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The Conservatory Department of Concordia College is taking precautionary measures which meet and exceed NYS protocols for music performance. The faculty and administration have been discussing, reading, and planning really since early summer for the possibility of in-person music-making. After consulting with Rachel Eells, Paul Schultz, Chris D'Ambrosio, and Betty Geiling, the determination was made by Concordia Conservatory Executive Director Kathleen Suss, and Conservatory Department Chair, Keith Kreindler, that music-making can resume in person for the fall semester.

CONCORDIA COMMUNITY CHOIR

• With approximately 20 members, the choir will divide into subgroups each rehearsal, one group with Choir Director George Heath in the Sommer Center Chapel, and the other with faculty accompanist Jon Klibonoff in Schoenfeld Campus Center. Within those groups, the choir will break up yet further with one small group at a time singing, distanced aggressively, while the others actively listen and follow along with their music from at least 12 feet away.

• There will be no live performances this semester, but rather the choir will record 3-4 pieces throughout the semester for use in such settings as Homecoming, church services, Concordia Open Houses, etc., and for a concert broadcast before finals week. Recordings of individual singers will be made during class time and in designated evening times with the assistance of Professors Heath and Klibonoff, and compiled into the final pieces for presentation.

• In addition to standard Concordia safety protocols:
  1. Face shields will be provided to each chorister and faculty; these will be worn at all times by those singing.
  2. Masks will be worn at all times when not singing, and it is highly recommended face shields are worn as well.
  3. Masks may be pulled down around the chin underneath face shields when singing begins.
  4. Singers will be distanced at least 12 feet apart.

Finally, music binders will be labeled and stay with each member at all times. We will "rehearse" the daily setup routine, which includes spacing out chairs for those singing and those observing, and will thoroughly clean our areas before the end of rehearsal.

continued
PRIVATE LESSONS AND CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

- Students are required to wash hands before each lesson. Hand sanitizer and anti-bacterial wipes are provided in all teaching studio/classrooms. A hand sanitizing dispenser has been installed in the front hallway of Stein Hall.

- Masks are required for all in the common areas and in the teaching studio/classroom while playing instrument except for woodwinds, brass and voice. All other instruments are required to wear a mask during teaching. Woodwind, brass and voice students may remove their mask before playing and singing and place back on upon completion. Woodwind, brass and voice teaching studios will have additional clear shower curtains for the added protection.

- As part of the regular private lesson and small ensemble, we will ask students to clean and wipe down their music stands, chairs and piano keys at the end of their lesson. Cleaning personal spaces after music making will become part of our regular lesson time.