



GUIDELINES FOR LARGE ENSEMBLES

On July 30, the University announced that for the first month of the fall semester, curriculum delivery will be virtual/remote. Face to face ensemble rehearsals and performances will transition to a fully virtual platform. Ensembles will continue to explore the repertoire assigned.

Elements of in person meetings will be modified to accommodate limitations which may include replacing rehearsals with additional online assignment and webinars. The plans below will be followed in the event the University moves to hybrid instruction. **Text in red are updates from September 8, 2020.**

The Large Ensembles' goals for instruction during the pandemic of COVID-19 will address the following areas for blended instruction:

- The performance (both live and virtual) of larger chamber pieces, flexible instrumentation works, and selections from larger works.
- Students will participate in recording sessions that will further develop their pulse, pitch, and accuracy – rhythm, notes, and style. The recording sessions will involve small numbers of students to ensure social distancing. The repertoire may include full size and chamber ensemble works.
- Students will engage virtually with professionals in the field of music through webinars and online masterclasses.
- Students will participate in virtual sessions where they will explore score study, historically/musically significant recordings, chamber performance concepts, and basic concepts of improvisation.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

- The first rehearsal of each ensemble will be dedicated to safety protocol and procedures via Zoom. The orientation may also include videos about aerosol production and social distancing guidelines. An email with these procedures will be sent to students with the ensemble group announcements.
- Ingress/egress
 - Designate separate entrance and exit doors if there is more than one point of entry for the rehearsal space.
 - If only one entrance is available, students should enter and exit while maintaining 6ft of social distance.

- At the end of each rehearsal, please exit the room as soon as possible. It is important that we leave the room empty to air out.
- Please allow a room to remain empty with doors open for 30 minutes before entering.
- Instrumental students will be arranged in straight lines with 6ft distance between each student (see seating diagram). Trombone students must have 9ft of distance in front of their bells. Vocal students will be 12ft from one another when rehearsing inside and 9ft when rehearsing outside.
- Students should avoid playing and singing directly into one another.
- All students and conductors must wear masks at all times. This is for both indoor and outdoor rehearsals and performances.
- All Woodwind and Brass Instruments must use multi-layer covers for their bells.
- Hepa-13 air filters will be placed near woodwind instruments.
- Students should not share equipment. This includes instruments, sound equipment, and stage props.
- Percussionists and drum set players should wear gloves if the sharing of instruments is unavoidable. Sticks, beaters, and mallets should never be shared.
- Drum set players should set up their kit before rehearsal, by themselves.
- All mics, amps, drums, drum hardware, keyboards and percussion equipment are to be wiped down at the end of each rehearsal
- Students will be responsible for bringing their own stands to rehearsal.
- Chairs will be provided for rehearsals, but should be cleaned/disinfected after each use.
- Condensation/spit from instruments must be emptied into a plastic container with a disposable towel or material that is designed to absorb a high amount of moisture (e.g. a puppy pad). The container must have a lid to prevent spills.
- All doors and windows should remain open for increased ventilation.
- Portable Hepa-13 air filters will be placed in all large indoor rehearsal spaces.
- If an outdoor space is available and the weather is suitable, rehearsals may take place outside. Plan your clothing choices accordingly, and please bring water and other supplies to help you function well outdoors.
- Music will be distributed digitally via PDF. Students should print their own music or use a tablet.
- Appropriate social distancing will be observed at all times. This includes indoor and outdoor rehearsals, seating arrangements, and staging.
- The ensembles will be led by the conductor, director, staff, graduate students and/or appointed room leaders.
- The schedule/rotation for all ensembles is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. All changes will be communicated appropriately via email.
- Ensemble directors will continue to monitor and adjust safety recommendations, based CDC and University of Memphis COVID-19 guidelines

ENSEMBLE SCHEDULE & INFORMATION FOR HYBRID INSTRUCTION

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

- UMSO will hold its primary meeting times on MWF 1:30-3:30.
- G6 will be the primary space.
- The ensemble may also utilize CFA 137 for a secondary rehearsal space
- The Symphony Orchestra will be divided into two string orchestras.
- Students may meet synchronously no more than twice a week.
- Sectionals and Concepts & Listening Sessions will occur remotely via Zoom
- Indoor rehearsal segments will be up to 30 minutes in length. Rooms will remain empty for 30 minutes to air out before they are utilized again. Outdoor rehearse segments will be 30 minutes in length with a 5 minute rest period for the dispersal of aerosol.

WIND ENSEMBLE & SYMPHONIC BAND

- UMWE will hold its primary meeting times on MWF 1:30-3:30.
- UMSB will hold its primary meeting times on TR 3:30-5:30
- CFA 137 will be the primary space for both ensembles. If space is available, rehearsals may also occur outside.
- The ensembles may also utilize CFA 137, CFA 105 and MU 113 for breakout groups
- The ensemble will be broken up into smaller project/repertoire-based groups of approximately 8-15 students. Larger groups of approximately 20 may also be created, however, those groups will strictly rehearse outdoors.
- Depending on how the groups are assigned, students will meet synchronously no more than twice a week.
- Friday will be reserved for online instruction and virtual masterclasses with guest artists.
- Indoor rehearsal segments will be up to 30 minutes in length. Rooms will remain empty for 30 minutes to air out before they are utilized again. Outdoor rehearse segments will be 30 minutes in length with a 5 minute rest period for the dispersal of aerosol.

SOUTHERN COMFORT JAZZ ORCHESTRA & 901-JAZZ

- SCJO will hold its primary meeting times on T/Th 1:00-3:00. G-6 will be the primary space. If space is available, rehearsals may also occur outside.
- 901-Jazz will hold its primary meeting times on T/Th 1:00-3:00. CFA 137 will be the primary space. If space is available, rehearsals may also occur outside.
- The ensemble will be broken up into two smaller project/repertoire-based groups of approximately 8-10 students.
- Depending on how the groups are assigned, students will meet synchronously no more than twice a week. These meetings will be on T/Th.
- Indoor rehearsal segments will be up to 30 minutes in length. Rooms will remain empty for 30 minutes to air out before they are utilized again. Outdoor rehearse segments will be 30 minutes in length with a 5 minute rest period for the dispersal of aerosol.

OPERA WORKSHOP

- Opera Workshop will meet MTWH 3:30-6:00
- G6 will be the main indoor space and will primarily be used for non-singing rehearsals. Rehearsals will take place outdoors as much as possible.
- Students will be 12ft from one another when rehearsing inside and 9ft when rehearsing outside
- The ensemble may also utilize Harris Concert Hall and G8
- The ensemble will be divided into four groups of no more than 10 students each. Each group will focus on an assigned masterwork or genre and create a performance project drawing from that material.
- Each group will meet synchronously once a week on their assigned day. (Group 1 will always meet on Monday, etc...)
- Virtual meetings of the full class will take place every third Monday from 3:30-4:20. This time will be used for guest artists, lecturers, student presentations, etc...
- Indoor rehearsal segments will be up to 30 minutes in length. Rooms will remain empty for 30 minutes to air out before they are utilized again. Outdoor rehearse segments will be 30 minutes in length with a 5 minute rest period for the dispersal of aerosol.

VOCAL JAZZ & COMMERCIAL COMBOS

- Vocal Jazz will hold its primary meeting times on T/Th 3:30-5:30.
 - MB 113 will be the primary space.
 - Indoor rehearsal segments will be up to 30 minutes in length. Rooms will remain empty for 30 minutes to air out before they are utilized again.
- Combo times and locations are TBA. Utilized spaces will be scheduled with appropriate room size and proper ventilation in mind.
 - CFA 137 will be the primary space. If space is available, rehearsals may also occur outside.
 - The schedule/rotation is subject to change due to unforeseen challenges in repertoire, guest artist availability, and performance calendar changes. All changes will be communicated appropriately via email
 - Indoor rehearsal segments will be up to 30 minutes in length. Rooms will remain empty for 30 minutes to air out before they are utilized again.
- The ensembles will be led by the director

CHORAL ENSEMBLES

- University Singers will hold its primary meeting times on MWF 1:45-3:15 PM. Harris Concert Hall is the primary rehearsal space. Students will utilize the entire space (stage and audience) to maintain a social distance of 12ft.
- Chamber Choir will hold its primary meeting times on TR 1:00-2:25. Psychology Auditorium will be the primary space. Students will utilize the entire space (stage and audience) to maintain a social distance of 12ft.
- Collegiate Choir will hold its primary meeting times on TR 1:00-2:25 and will be a virtual ensemble.
- Singers will be divided into groups ranging from 10-25 members.
- Depending on how the groups are assigned, students will meet synchronously no more than twice a week. Students will be sent rehearsal schedules to denoting virtual and face to face rehearsals.
- Indoor rehearsal segments will be up to 30 minutes in length. Rooms will remain empty for 30 minutes to air out before they are utilized again. Outdoor rehearse segments will be 30 minutes in length with a 5 minute rest period for the dispersal of aerosol.
- Students will also participate in online masterclasses with guest artists; lectures; student presentations
- Following social distancing guidelines, students will be given assigned seating. Masks will be required at all times and will be worn while singing.

EXAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS FOR ONLINE INSTRUCTION

I. Guided Score Study

- All students receive a copy of the score for the piece they are performing
- For focused study, divide the score into separate elements
 - Form
 - Melody and motif
 - Dynamics
 - Texture
 - Style
 - Tempo
- Individually or in a group Zoom, the students will examine each element to create a listening map that details how each element contributes to the piece's overall function and meaning.

II. Create Multiple Interpretations to Develop One Collaborative Interpretation

- Transcribe main melodic and/or motivic material for all members
- Each member records 4 different performances of the material while considering the following criteria
 - A performance that strictly adheres to the "ink on the page"
 - A performance that varies one or two elements of the "ink on the page."
 - A performance that varies one or two elements that are different from the previous variation
 - Thinking completely outside of the box, create a variation that is in contrast to the "ink on the page."
- Discuss, in person or via Zoom, all of the variations that have been created
- As a group, decide on two or three interpretations and experiment with them in rehearsal.
- Choose a combination of interpretations that best represents the music and the group's preferences.

III. Guided Listening

- Through listening assignments, students will be asked to compare and contrast recordings to explore specific fundamentals of musicianship.

IV. Creating a Group Narrative

- All students receive a copy of the score for the piece they are performing
- In person or via Zoom, use the score and/or listening map to develop a narrative/scene that describes the music. As a guide, consider the following:
 - Can the musical elements represent characters?
 - Do the characters evolve or are they static?
 - How do the characters interact with one another?
 - Are there elements of conflict between the characters?
 - Does the music set up a mood/feeling/atmosphere?
 - Describe it with detail: colors, temperature, and sensations.
 - How does this music make you or the listener feel?
 - How does the mood change?
 - Use moments of musical arrival to describe significant events in your narrative. For example:
 - "On the third beat of mm 72, the climber stands on top of Mt. Everest and the emotional gates open to release all of the love and joy accumulated over her 35 years of life."
 - "The instant silence and halt of time in mm 109 fills the room with unimaginable tension that weighs 10 tons."

SEATING DIAGRAM

