



# Making Music Together

## A return to in-person rehearsals

### October 2020

*\*this document will be updated frequently*

## A Message From Our Executive Director

After extensive research, conversations and meetings, SFYSA is preparing to begin in-person rehearsals and making music together the week of November 2, 2020 (This date was initially Oct. 19 but is delayed due to a recent spike in COVID cases and transmission rates. **Please note** that all of the following information is vital to your understanding of our plans and the success and safety of our students, staff and families.

Our top priorities are (1) the health and safety of our students, staff, volunteers, and families, and (2) the fulfillment of our mission to provide an intensive and fulfilling music education for our students. We have carefully considered information made available to us from a variety of resources, chiefly education, government, and health authorities, as well as music educators across the nation who, like us, are navigating uncharted waters during a world-wide pandemic. While much remains unknown about COVID-19, and particularly about music making during this pandemic, the available information makes clear that a number of collective steps are crucial to mitigate its risks, such as using face coverings and personal protective equipment (PPE) properly, special covers and distancing for wind-instruments, practicing social distancing, and enhancing existing cleaning and disinfecting practices. We will continue to follow scientific and health guidance as it evolves.

The most significant component in a successful Making Music Together is your patience and cooperation. While safety and health are of paramount importance, we know well that our students yearn to make music together again and that their music education is perhaps more vital to them now than ever before. With every member of our SFYSA community abiding by the practices and protocol SFYSA has developed, we are

positioned to provide exciting opportunities for music making to students in a safe manner as we see our way through the pandemic together. We will take individual circumstances into account, and I am available to discuss your questions or concerns at any time. *Anyone who feels unsafe participating in-person is supported in electing to continue with our online curriculum. There will be no changes to that curriculum and it can be depended upon throughout the season.*

As we look forward to the safe return of our beloved students to our rehearsal spaces, I appreciate the challenges we all face. As we have all experienced in recent months, the information – and therefore also the recommendations – surrounding COVID-19 are very fluid. The only certainty we have is that things likely will not resemble “normal” for some time. We will need to be flexible in responding to evolving information and adapt our plans based on lessons learned as we go. And of course, we must at all times remain mindful of and in compliance with existing restrictions and guidelines put out by our local governmental and health officials.

While this pandemic has presented immeasurable challenges to all of us in myriad ways, the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association community has pulled together and offered strength and support in many creative ways since 1994. In this, our 26<sup>th</sup> year of continuous existence and excellence, I’m counting on us all to continue that spirit of optimism and cooperation as we plan for Making Music Together.

Your in music, magic and safety,

Andrea Cassutt  
Executive Director



## Student and Parent agreements for a return to Making Music Together

Below are our agreements in support of keeping each other safe. In order to participate in-person at rehearsals both parents and students need to agree to the following protocol.

### 1. Prepare and Support Our People

#### A. Daily Health Check Verification

Before entering a rehearsal facility, and in fact even before beginning the commute to any SFYSA rehearsal, each SFYSA staff member, student, and volunteer planning to enter the building must be able to answer “no” to each of the following questions:

1. Are you currently experiencing, or have you experienced, within the past 14 days, any symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing - Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

2. Do you have pending COVID-19 test results, or have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?

3. Have you had close contact\* with, cared for, or live in the same household as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or has exhibited COVID-19 symptoms (see above), within the last 14 days?

4. Have you travelled outside of New Mexico within the last 14 days?

You may only enter the SFYSA building/rehearsal if you can truthfully affirm a “no” answer to each of the questions above. If your answer to any of the above questions is “yes,” do not come to rehearsal. If your presence is expected (e.g., you are a conductor or a student and have a rehearsal, you are a parent manager or other office volunteer and someone is expecting you to serve at the SFYSA rehearsal at a certain day/time, etc.), you must contact the appropriate person on the SFYSA staff as soon as you become aware that you cannot come to the building.

### **B. Temperature Scanning**

All SFYSA staff, students, volunteers, visitors, and parents will have their temperature taken by an SFYSA staff member or trained volunteer before entering the SFYSA rehearsal building. An SFYSA staff member or volunteer will note the name of the person, verify receipt of COVID protocol agreements, note his or her temperature and will also verify that the person has answered “no” to each of the Daily Health Check Verification questions above.

*Any person with a temperature of 100.4 F degrees or greater will not be permitted to enter the building.*

\*Close contact is defined as being within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes from 48 hours before illness onset (or for asymptomatic people, 10 days prior to positive specimen collection). Centers for Disease Control (June 5, 2020). Public Health Guidance for Community Related Exposure. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>.

### **C. Hand Sanitizing**

All SFYSA staff, students, volunteers, visitors, and parents will use hand sanitizer upon arrival at the AYSP building. A contact-free hand sanitizer station will be located just inside the entry door to the building.

## **2. Observe Social Distancing and Personal Hygiene Practices**

### **A. Social Distancing**

Social distancing must be observed at all times inside the SFYSA rehearsal building. In addition to relying on individual efforts, your SFYSA staff have taken measures to

promote social distancing by altering rehearsal schedules and group sizes to decrease density, rearranging furniture and seating areas, adding signage to promote appropriate spacing, and creating traffic patterns and designated areas for student seating to minimize congestion.

All students arriving for rehearsal will enter and exit the designated rehearsal building through:

In Santa Fe - The Office doors on the east side of the building along Old Pecos Trail

In Los Alamos - The main entrance to the Music building or “B Wing.”

*Your ensemble director will provide specific times for arrival and departure and let you know what your rehearsal schedule will be.*

With the exception of Trained Parent Volunteers and Staff, parents and siblings are not permitted to enter the designated rehearsal building.

We have made some changes to our rehearsal schedules – just for the 2020-2021 season – so that there will be only two ensembles rehearsing in the designated building at a time. Groups rehearsing will be 20 students or fewer.

We will utilize large rehearsal areas and spread students out in those spaces. String players and percussionists will be spaced six feet apart in rehearsal rooms, and wind and brass players will be spaced ten feet apart. Large ensembles will be divided into two or more smaller groups during rehearsal times so that these distances may be maintained.

## **B. Personal Hygiene Practices**

All SFYSA staff members, students, volunteers, and parents are expected to:

- Bring and wear your face covering at all times while in the designated SFYSA rehearsal building or at SFYSA offices.
- Practice social distancing by remaining at least six feet from others at all times;
- Avoid touching common surfaces as much as possible;
- Wash hands thoroughly (for at least 20 seconds) or use hand sanitizer (with an alcohol content of 60% or greater) frequently, including before and after touching any objects or surfaces in shared spaces; and
- Avoid touching your face, mouth, eyes, and nose.

**During Rehearsals:** All students must wear face coverings during rehearsals, and some students will have additional requirements as well in order to protect themselves and others:

Stringed Instruments. Students playing violin, viola, cello, string bass, and harp must wear face coverings at all times.

Percussion Instruments. Students playing percussion instruments must wear face coverings at all times and must also either wear gloves while handling percussion

equipment, or must sanitize all equipment used during the rehearsal at the conclusion of the rehearsal (sanitizing wipes will be provided and will be located in the percussion area of the rehearsal space).

Wind Instruments. Students must wear face coverings at all times. Wind students will be provided one special mask and will need to bring them to every rehearsal.

Additionally, wind students must place a cover over the end of their instrument to capture any aerosols that escape from the instrument during playing.

Finally, wind students must also place an absorbent pad (such as a puppy pad) on the floor under their instruments to catch any condensation that accumulates inside the instrument that could spill onto the floor during rehearsal or while re-casing the instrument after the rehearsal. Spit valves may not be emptied on the floor but may be emptied onto the absorbent pads. Similarly, students who play reed instruments – clarinet, oboe, and bassoon – may not empty reed water containers on the floor but may empty them onto the absorbent pads. These will be provided at rehearsal. Each student is responsible for properly disposing of his or her absorbent pad in one of the trash containers located at the rehearsal space exit.

Students will not clean their instruments in the rehearsal space following rehearsal.

Instrument cleaning may be done in the car after rehearsal or when the student returns home.

### 3. Prepare The Rehearsal Space

We are taking the following steps to prepare our rehearsal spaces for the return of our students, volunteers, and staff members:

- Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning – SFYSA has purchased Medical Grade air filters in addition to filtration systems in the St. John's United Methodist Church and the Los Alamos Public High School. Those filters will be in designated practice rooms appropriated to the size of the room so that there is a complete air change every 15-30 minutes.

- Staff and volunteers will clean and sanitize all rehearsal areas at the end of every rehearsal day, and we have purchased additional disinfectants and adopted a more rigorous cleaning routine;

- Cleaning and ventilation of rehearsal spaces between rehearsals;

- Visitor and Vendor health screening;

- Clear, easy-to-follow traffic patterns and signage throughout the building for entry, exit, and moving within the building to reduce density;

- Increased staff and volunteer presence to ensure COVID-safe practices are maintained at all times; and

- Enhanced cleaning and response plan if/when warranted, such as in the case of anyone who has spent time in any SFYSA rehearsal space has contracted COVID-19.

We have an ample supply of disinfectant spray cleaner, disinfecting wipes, paper towels, and gloves for use by our staff and volunteers to clean surfaces between rehearsals

## 4. Communicate!

SFYSA will communicate regularly with staff, students, parents, and volunteers to ensure that everyone is aware of and understands these guidelines and procedures, as they may be modified from time to time. Your cooperation with the steps we are taking to protect everyone's safety and well-being and your active participation in these procedures is critical to our success.

Please ensure that all SFYSA email accounts (\_\_\_\_@sfysa.org) are recognized senders for your email account so that messages from SFYSA are not sent to your spam or junk mail folders. COVID-19 related communications will be labeled as IMPORTANT: please read and head

For any questions or concerns related to these guidelines or any other issues concerning the pandemic, please contact our Executive Director, Andrea Cassutt, at (505) 672-5565, ext. 101 or [andrea@sfysa.org](mailto:andrea@sfysa.org).