



Making Music Together

A return to in-person rehearsals

August 2021

**this document will be updated frequently*

A Message From Our Executive Director

We are excited to be preparing to launch our rehearsals and 2021-2022 season with in-person rehearsals. **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. We will be using temperature checks, face coverings, and bell covers for wind instruments for all indoor rehearsals until other guidance is given. We will continue to follow scientific and health guidance as it evolves.

While we cannot guarantee that all of our students are vaccinated, all of our staff is vaccinated. 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 further waves of the pandemic together. We will take individual circumstances into account, and I am available to discuss your questions or concerns at any time.

Your in music, magic and safety,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea S. Cassutt".

Andrea Cassutt



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
- Fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New onset of 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 3-5 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 3-5 days?

IF REQUIRED BY THE STATE - DUE TO LOCKDOWNS

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 building. Hand sanitizer will be available at the temperature check table.

2. Observe Masking and Personal Hygiene Practices

A. Masking

All students must wear face masks when indoors at rehearsals and use bell covers over wind instruments. *“Face coverings” are defined as either cloth or surgical-style masks that cover both the nose and the mouth. Cloth gaiters and bandanas will not be allowed.*

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

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

B. Personal Hygiene Practices

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

- 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 who do not already have one 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 carefully clean and pack their instruments in the rehearsal space following rehearsal. It is important that swabbing the inside of the instrument is done calmly and without flourish to limit any droplets or aerosol spread.

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 – The filtration systems at the public schools will be augmented as needed by SFYSA purchased Medical Grade air filters.
- 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;
- 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 (____@sfyfa.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.

- If anyone in you or anyone in your family tests positive for COVID-19 please notify Alyssa in our office immediately. 505-672-5565 x202