What is the plan for music instruction at MacPhail this fall?

Amid ongoing developments related to COVID-19, while closely studying research conducted by experts in the fields of health, education and music from around the world and complying with national, state and local authorities and experts, MacPhail will open with a hybrid model:

- Instruction will continue remotely and online for all lessons and most classes and ensembles, including Individual Instruction Music Therapy, Suzuki (individual and group lessons). **No in-person lessons will be offered in faculty studios.**
- We will offer some small group in-person opportunities for a few of the more difficult offerings to teach online. The groups that will meet in-person are primarily performance-oriented groups using instruments. These groups will socially distance in larger classrooms or in Antonello Hall. In some cases, plexiglass separators will be used.
- All voice lessons and groups will remain online.
- All flute lessons and groups will remain online.
- Sing Play Learn with MacPhail® will remain virtual.

How was MacPhail’s plan for safe music instruction determined?

A task force made up of MacPhail’s President and COO, program directors and members of our teaching faculty has been meeting twice a week over the last two months to decide on a plan for MacPhail’s music instruction this fall. The group carefully considered recommendations, safety protocols, classroom space and traffic through the main floor. They have consulted with music schools locally and nationally and learned from other organizations that teach youth and
adults, all of which informed these careful decisions. Their plan was reviewed and approved by MacPhail’s Safety and Security team and senior leadership.

Why were these decisions made?

The impact of COVID-19 varies by state and community. All planning must take into consideration guidelines determined by state and local officials and healthcare professionals, as well as doing what is right for our unique music community. MacPhail does not claim medical, legal or scientific expertise; rather, we have reviewed the current research available to assist our directors in their planning efforts for fall. Research is ongoing and as our current situation evolves, adjustments may be made. Through it all, the health and safety of students, families, faculty and staff will always be our top priority.

Why are only some groups able to meet in-person?

The main culprit for COVID-19 transmission seems to be in-person, close contact, with risk increasing the more extended the time and the smaller the space. To keep students and faculty safe, there will be no lessons in faculty studios. Currently, these rooms are too small to ensure safety. MacPhail Minneapolis has 9 larger classrooms and Antonello Hall. These rooms are large enough to meet in-person instruction standards for certain instruments. There will be no groups with singers or flutes.

What are the minimum requirements for attending class in the building?

- **Anyone who is sick must stay home:** Students, faculty or staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, have received a positive diagnosis or have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual within the last 14 days must inform MacPhail and stay home. The individual cannot return to MacPhail until they are cleared by a healthcare practitioner and have provided documentation of that clearance to MacPhail Student Services (for students) or Human Resources (for faculty and staff).
- **Only the student may enter the building**. (parents/guardians many accompany a student if their presence is essential for instruction)
- **Screening Process:** Anyone entering MacPhail Minneapolis, must do so through the 2nd Street main entrance. A mask must always be worn inside the building. The only exception is for playing wind or brass instruments. A screener will take your temperature. If your temperature is higher than 100.4, you will be asked to go home. You will be asked screening questions consistent with applicable MDH and/or CDC guidance. If you respond yes to any question, you will be asked to leave the building. If
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You have a temperature 100.4 or below and have cleared all screening questions, you may proceed to sign-in and enter the building. Please sanitize your hands and proceed directly to your classroom.

- **Facial Coverings**: A mask covering your mouth and nose must always be worn when you are in the MacPhail building. You may remove your mask only if playing a brass or wind instrument. If you need a facial covering, please contact MacPhail Student Services via email.
- **Physical Distancing**: All students, faculty, and staff must maintain 6 feet between themselves and others.
- **Exiting the Building**: Please leave the building using the 5th Avenue exit.

**Will concerts or performances take place at MacPhail this fall?**

To comply with COVID-19 recommendations, we will not be hosting any large events in-person this fall. We are working on a plan for a few live outdoors with a physically distanced audience. We will also be using digital tools and media to deliver content to audiences in various ways, such as livestreaming to deliver performances to you at home. More information about our fall performance season will be announced as it becomes available.

**Will my tuition rate be affected by this plan?**

The MacPhail 2020-21 tuition rate is published on the MacPhail website. The tuition rate represents the correct tuition rate for the year 2020-21 and is frozen at 2019 pricing.

**Is there a possibility that the remote/hybrid model will be extended into the spring?**

We will continue to monitor and follow guidelines and recommendations set forth by the CDC, the Minnesota Department of Health, and state/local officials to make decisions about the spring semester. We will update students and families throughout the year as more information becomes available.

**Lastly, something we especially want to tell you...**

Thank you. We are very grateful to all of you for your flexibility and patience as we have shifted to online modes of instruction and interaction. We have seen and heard so many wonderful stories about the success of students’ online experience leading to wonderful growth,
development and connection during this unique time. The beautiful music created by our students and faculty *is* the essence of our community—and it is more important now than ever before.